

exclaimed. 'I really can't imagine why anyone would want to hurt Arthur Mowbray. It doesn't make any sense at all.'

'Not at the moment, perhaps,' the Inspector agreed. 'But we'll find out everything in the end, I can promise you that. That's why I've been talking to Mr Pryce. He's told me quite a lot about the company.'

The Inspector thought he saw Patricia Markham exchange a quick glance<sup>1</sup> with Mr Pryce while he was speaking. She looked worried.

He stood up.

'I won't take up any more of your time just now, Mr Pryce,' he said. 'We can continue our conversation later.'

He turned to Miss Markham.

'At some point I shall have to ask you some questions as well,' he said to the young woman.

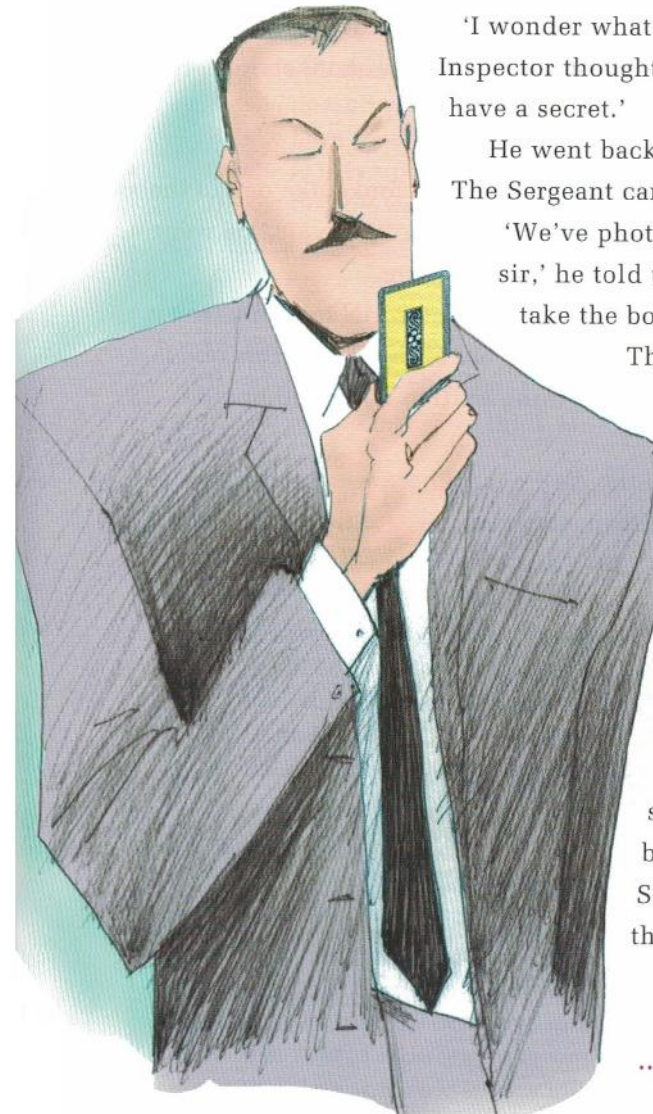
Patricia Markham looked at him in surprise.

'Me, Inspector?' she asked.

'Of course,' the Inspector told her. 'I want to talk to all the directors, Miss Markham.'

The Inspector left Mr Pryce's office, and closed the door behind him. He stood outside the door for a moment. He could hear the two directors talking. They seemed excited and nervous, but the Inspector could not hear what they were saying. They were talking in low voices.

<sup>1</sup> glance : short look.



'I wonder what that's all about,' the Inspector thought. 'Those two seem to have a secret.'

He went back to the dining room. The Sergeant came up to him.

'We've photographed everything, sir,' he told the Inspector. 'Can we take the body away now?'

The Inspector looked down at the body on the floor. How small the old man looked!

'All right,' he told the Sergeant. 'Pick him up, and carry him away.'

Gently<sup>1</sup> now!

Two policemen stepped forward and began to lift the body. Something fell out of the dead man's hand.

<sup>1</sup> Gently : Carefully.