

English Champions Autumn/Fall 2018 - 7

The drama continues in the 'Tufty Chronicles'

Narrator1: It was a dull, drizzly Saturday morning a week or so before Christmas. Mrs Tufty, Henrietta, and the French management team had visited the local police station and were completely surprised and worried when the desk sergeant denied any knowledge of Mr Tufty, nor knowing any police officers named Squires and Thoroughgood.

Narrator2: Mrs Tufty almost fainted and had to be supported by two members of the French management team. Henrietta started crying again and the desk sergeant looked rather embarrassed. He took their information and promised that he would send a real police officer round to the Tufty residence as soon as possible. The group returned home deeply concerned about the whereabouts of Mr Tufty.

Mr Tufty's dining room

Narrator1: Mrs Tufty, Henrietta, and the French management team sat around the empty dining room table looking glum and concerned. The tick-tock, tick-tock of the grandfather clock in the hall could be heard clearly. A fire was burning in the hearth.

Housekeeper: Can I get everyone a nice cup of coffee?

Henrietta: Yes please. I feel so angry and hungry!

Mrs Tufty: That would be lovely, Helen. And perhaps some chocolate digestive biscuits for our French guests.

Henrietta: To think Daddy would normally be coming back from his walk at this time on the days when he doesn't go to work.

Narrator1: The telephone began to ring. Mrs Tufty quickly answered it. It was Harry Hemsworth, from Independent Carpet Radio News (ICRN).

Harry: Hello Mrs Tufty, it's Harry Hemsworth. So sorry to disturb you at the weekend, but I just heard the news about Mr Tufty's and your neighbour's disappearances. My listeners are going to be very concerned by this news. I wondered if I could do a short interview?

Mrs Tufty: Hello Mr Helmsworth. Thank you for calling. I don't think it would be a good idea for me to say anything at present. Could you call back later?

Harry: Yes certainly. But do you think there might be any connection between the disappearance of your husband and that of Amerpreet Hiran?

Narrator2: Mrs Tufty said goodbye and put the phone down quickly. The housekeeper arrived with coffee and biscuits.

Housekeeper: Excuse me, Mrs Tufty, Henrietta, I wondered if you had seen Falmouth anywhere? I was just about to give him his breakfast and I realized I hadn't seen him all morning. He is normally sniffing around the kitchen at this time begging for scraps of food.

Narrator1: Mrs Tufty and Henrietta realized that they hadn't seen Falmouth either. Just at that moment a frantic barking could be heard from outside the front door. Mrs Tufty, Henrietta, and the housekeeper went into the hall and opened the door.

The entrance hall

Falmouth: Woof! Woof! Woof! Grrrrrr! Squeal! Woof!

Mrs Tufty: Falmouth, what on earth is the matter? Why don't you come inside and stop making all that silly noise.

Falmouth: (Whimpering sound)

Narrator2: Falmouth started to tug at Mrs Tufty's skirt with his mouth.

Henrietta: I think he is trying to show us something.

Narrator1: The three women put on their coats and followed Falmouth as he pulled on his lead. They must have walked about three miles along the quiet country lanes with hedgerows on either side. Suddenly, Falmouth dived underneath one of the hedges and started barking frantically.

Falmouth: Woof! Woof! Woof! Squeal! Woof!

Narrator 2: They followed Falmouth and were very surprised to see Mr Tufty bound and gagged lying under the hedge. They quickly untied him and took him home to find out what had happened. They gave him a glass of brandy to warm him and revive him. Everyone was very relieved to see Mr Tufty again, especially Falmouth.

Henrietta: You are a clever boy, Falmouth!

Falmouth: Squeal! Woof! Woof!

The living room in Mr Tufty's house (a few hours later)

Narrator1: Chief Inspector Riddle, of the Wolverhampton police, was sitting in front of the fire, sipping a cup of Lapsang Souchong tea. Mr and Mrs Tufty were sitting on either side of him.

CI Riddle: Well, I'm so sorry you have had to go through this horrible experience. I am very pleased to say that, based on your description, we were able to apprehend the two villains who impersonated police officers and kidnapped you, sir.

Mr Tufty: Well done! Good work!

CI Riddle: It wasn't too difficult. They are well known petty criminals around these parts. The good news is that while they were at the station they started to sing like canaries. The whole mystery surrounding Mrs Hiran's disappearance and your's was revealed and, I'm pleased to say, Mrs Hiran is also safely home.

Independent Carpet Radio News

Harry: ...and the top carpet industry story today. The police foiled a plot to kidnap Mr Tufty, owner of Tufty Carpets. In other news, the wife of the owner of Hiran Ceramica was discovered by police at the home of her uncle. She is in good health and has returned home. The two flooring families live close to each other, but the police are not commenting on whether the two cases are linked....

Mr Tufty's living room

Narrator1: It later turned out that the disappearance of Mrs Hiran and Mr Tufty's abduction were both instigated by Mrs Hiran's uncle. He owns a carpet factory in New Delhi and was jealous that Mr Hiran was contemplating a business partnership with Tufty Carpets.

Narrator2: Later that evening the Tuftys were surprised and delighted by a visit from Mr and Mrs Hiran and their son, Arthur. They apologized profusely for all the trouble that their family had caused and brought very generous Christmas presents for everyone. Even Falmouth received a little tartan, padded doggie jacket.

Falmouth: Woof! Woof!

Narrator1: The two families drank mulled wine and sang Christmas classics like "The Twelve Days of Christmas."

Narrator2: Just as they were about to leave, Arthur got on his knees in front of Henrietta and pulled a little box out of his pocket. He opened the lid to reveal a beautiful gold ring set with a large diamond.

Arthur: Henrietta, will you.....

Activities:

1. Practice "The Twelve Days of Christmas."
2. What was your reaction on hearing that Mr Tufty had been abducted by men masquerading as police officers? What lesson does this incident teach us?
3. What do you think Arthur asked Henrietta?

Vocabulary

Glum: looking or feeling dejected.

Drizzle: light rain falling in very fine drops.

Whereabouts: where or approximately where.

To tug: pull something hard or suddenly.

Whimper: make a series of low, feeble sounds expressive of unhappiness.

Squeal: a long, high-pitched cry.

Sing like a canary (idiom): to inform against someone to the police or other authority about their criminal or illicit behavior.

To foil: to prevent (something undesirable) from succeeding.

Imposter: a person who pretends to be someone else in order to deceive others.

Chronicles: a factual written account of important or historical events in the order of their occurrence.

Christmas Carol : The Twelve Days of Christmas

On the day of Christmas my true love gave to me

First. a partridge in a pear tree.

Second. Two turtle doves

Third. Three French hens

Fourth. Four calling birds

Fifth. Five gold rings

Sixth. Six geese (a) laying

Seventh. Seven swans (a) swimming

Eighth. Eight maids (a) milking

Ninth. Nine ladies dancing

Tenth. Ten lords a leaping

Eleventh. Eleven pipers piping

Twelfth. Twelve drummers drumming

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