

# Old Times

1936  
September  
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## Who is the A.B.C. Murderer?

A series of crimes has taken place the last days. Inspector Chrome, on behalf of Scotland Yard, and Hercule Poirot, the infallible detective, are closely watching the crimes. Hercule Poirot has received a letter for each one of the crimes. But who is the "A.B.C. Murderer"?

On 21 August 1936, Alice Asher was found murdered in her tobacco shop in Andover. The police think that the murderer may be her husband, a German drunkard, who Mrs Asher was separated of, but he kept coming to her for money. Franz Ascher claimed that he did not kill her because he was drinking with his pals.

On 25 August 1936, Betty Barnard, a young waitress, was found dead. Betty was engaged to Donald Frazer. Also, her forthright sister, Megan Barnard, explained that Betty liked to flirt and sometimes quarreled with her fiancé over her playing with other men. Donald Fraser even confessed he was having dreams of murdering Megan Barnard on a beach, the same way her sister died.

The third victim, Sir Carmichael Clarke, died on 30 August 1936. He was a prominent doctor, whose wife, Lady Hermione, was dying of cancer. After her death, Franklin would inherit his brother's money, unless the doctor married his secretary. When Poirot and Chrome rushed to Churston, they met Clarke's younger brother, Franklin, along with Clarke's secretary, Thora Grey. Thora Grey disclosed that Lady Clarke recently fired her.

Thora also recalled seeing a poorly dressed man in glasses who tried to sell her stockings, Alexander Bonaparte Cust. He has a brain tumour and suffers from constant headaches and blackouts. Cust has lied to his landlady about his trip to Doncaster, where a fourth murder happened during the horse races. Local innkeepers reported that he was seen washing blood out of his clothing. The police arrested him and charged him of the committed murders. However, he had an alibi for Betty Barnard's death, and no memory of writing the letters.

For the time being we are all anxiously waiting to see whose fingerprints match the ones found on the typewriter in Cust's room and his **drawer**. If you have any information relevant to the case, please contact Scotland Yard or Hercule Poirot.

