
IN ALL THAT RAIN



One rainy day the body of Hairy Harry Hearrowitch (pronounced “Harch”) was found on a lonely dirt road about a mile from his house in Vineyard Haven. The body was reeking of alcohol, and it seemed clear that Harry either fell or was pushed into the puddle. Sam, studying the body, found no wound.

Sam knew Harry as an antique dealer who’d been accused of faking some of his best items, with the result that there were plenty of people who might have killed him—if he’d been killed. At the head of the list was his wife, Elsbeth, whom he beat regularly, as per a schedule posted in the kitchen. Next came his partner, Calvin Sackett, with whom he quarreled frequently. And finally there was Jughead Piker, whom Harry chased out of the house whenever he caught him with Elsbeth.

Sam, with all of the above in his head, went to Harry’s. After noting that Harry’s car was in the driveway, he proceeded to interview Elsbeth. She told him that this morning Harry had had \$5,000 in cash, which, according to Elsbeth, he intended to use to pay Sackett to cancel a personal loan that had just come due.

“Poor Harry!” she said. “He loved to walk in the rain and he must have gotten mugged and then left there on the road. Robbed and murdered—what an end!”

Sam, however, was less than sympathetic and suggested that Elsbeth might have wanted to get back at Harry for all the years of abuse.

She seemed shocked at the idea. “Why would I do that now?” she demanded. “Just look at me—all week long and not even a black eye!”

As for Sackett, he showed Sam an IOU with Harry’s signature. “I expected him to come here with the money, but he never showed up.”

Sam talked the case over with a couple of his officers and came to a conclusion. What do you think it was, and why?

Questions

1. Do you think that Harry went walking in the rain?
2. Why was the car in the driveway?
3. Did Sackett lie?
4. What did Sam conclude, and what did he do about it?

Solution on page 54.