

Chapter 3 - The Midnight Visitor

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Q: 1

How is Ausable different from other secret agents?

Answer

Ausable was very fat and though he spoke French and German passably, he had never altogether lost the American accent he had brought to Paris from Boston twenty years ago.

Q: 2

Who is Fowler and what is his first authentic thrill

of the day?

Answer

Fowler is a writer, young and romantic. His first authentic thrill of the day is halfway across the room, a small automatic pistol in his hand, stood a man.

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Q: 1

How has Max got in?

Answer

Max got in using the passkey.

Q: 2

How does Ausable say he got in?

Answer

Ausable says he got in through the balcony

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Q: 1

"Ausable did not fit any description of a secret agent Fowler had ever read." What do secret agents in books and films look like, in your opinion? Discuss in groups or in class some stories or movies featuring spies, detectives and secret agents, and compare their appearance with that of Ausable in this story. (You may mention characters from fiction in languages other than English. In English fiction you may have come across Sherlock Holmes, Hercule Poirot, or Miss Marple. Have you watched any movies featuring James Bond?)

Answer

Ausable did not fit any description of a secret agent Fowler had ever read. Secret agents are smart, intelligent mysterious figures who work day and night, crack cases dealing with pistols, drugs in the wine and speak various languages with full confidence and clarity. They work on dangerous cases and have beautiful, smart assistants.

They are always thinking and working on their cases.

Q: 2

How does Ausable manage to make Max believe that there is a balcony attached to his room? Look back at his detailed description of it. What makes it a convincing story?

Answer

Ausable manage to make Max believe that there is a balcony attached to his room. He said that it was the second time in a month that somebody has got into my room through that nuisance of a balcony. He explained that the room used to be part of a large unit, and the next room though used to be the living room. It had the balcony, which extends under his window now. You can get onto it from the empty room two doors down. The story is convincing as it is narrated in detail and with full conviction.

Q: 3

Looking back at the story, when do you think Ausable thought up his plan for getting rid of Max? Do you think he had worked out his plan in detail right from the beginning? Or did he make up a plan taking advantage of events as they happened?

Answer

Ausable thought up his plan for getting rid of Max when there was a knock at the door. No, he did not work out his plan in detail right from the beginning. He made up a plan taking advantage of events as they happened.

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