

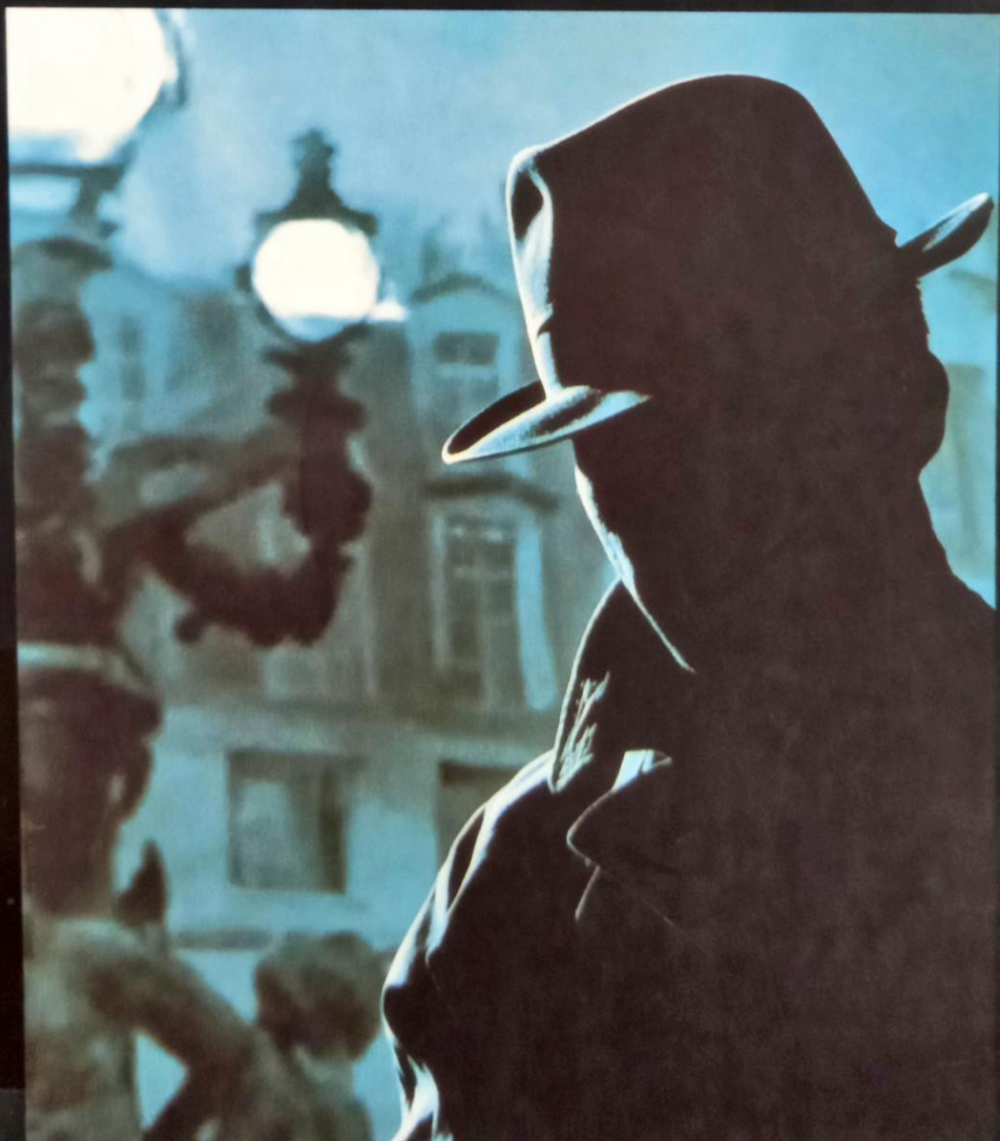
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AS THE INSPECTOR SAID

AND OTHER STORIES

RETOLD BY JOHN ESCOTT

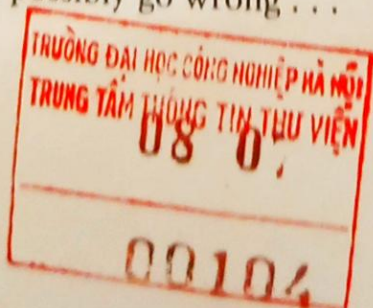


AS THE INSPECTOR SAID

and Other Stories

Criminals always think they are cleverer than other people – cleverer than the detectives, cleverer than the people that they plan to rob or murder. But the criminals in these five stories are not always successful, and they meet some very surprising difficulties.

Sonia's boring little husband is only interested in his books and old silver. He has no idea what his wife and her lover plan to do – or does he? . . . A burglar whispering secrets on a train – how could he know that a thirteen-year-old girl can read his lips from the other side of the carriage? . . . Dunstan Thwaite decides he must do something about the man who is blackmailing him – it will look like an accident, of course . . . And Flambeau, the most famous thief in Europe, thinks it will be so easy to steal the Blue Cross from Father Brown, who is only a simple little priest . . . But perhaps it is safer not to do the crime yourself. If, like Mr Elliston, you pay another man to do the murder, nothing can possibly go wrong . . .





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As the Inspector Said
and Other Stories

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As the Inspector Said

and Other Stories



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CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	i
As the Inspector Said . . . <i>Cyril Hare</i>	1
The Man Who Cut Off My Hair <i>Richard Marsh</i>	6
The Railway Crossing <i>Freeman Wills Crofts</i>	21
The Blue Cross <i>G. K. Chesterton</i>	34
Cash on Delivery <i>Edmund Crispin</i>	49
GLOSSARY	55
ACTIVITIES: Before Reading	58
ACTIVITIES: While Reading	60
ACTIVITIES: After Reading	62
ABOUT THE AUTHORS	67
ABOUT BOOKWORMS	69

AS THE INSPECTOR SAID ...

Cyril Hare

It is impossible to say when Charles Darrell and Sonia French first decided to murder Sonia's husband, Robert. Robert was nearly twice as old as Sonia, and he married her ten years before Charles Darrell came into her life. For eight of those years, Sonia was bored with her husband, although he did not seem to realize this. He was more interested in his books, and the silver which he bought.

Sonia and Charles were lovers for six months before things became difficult. People were beginning to talk, and it could not be long before Robert found out about them. 'Robert will never give me a divorce,' thought Sonia. 'And Charles and I have no money of our own.' But Sonia knew that Robert's silver alone was worth enough money to make life very comfortable for her and Charles.

By a strange accident, it was a policeman who gave them the idea for their murder plan. The inspector made a surprise visit to the Frenches' house one evening. Charles was also there. He often came in for a drink.

'There have been several burglaries near here,' the inspector told Robert, 'and we haven't caught the burglar. We know who he is, and it can't be long before we catch him, but we're very worried. He carries a gun, and we're almost sure he has killed a man. Now this house is in a very lonely place. Mr Darrell is your only neighbour. You also have a lot of valuable silver.'