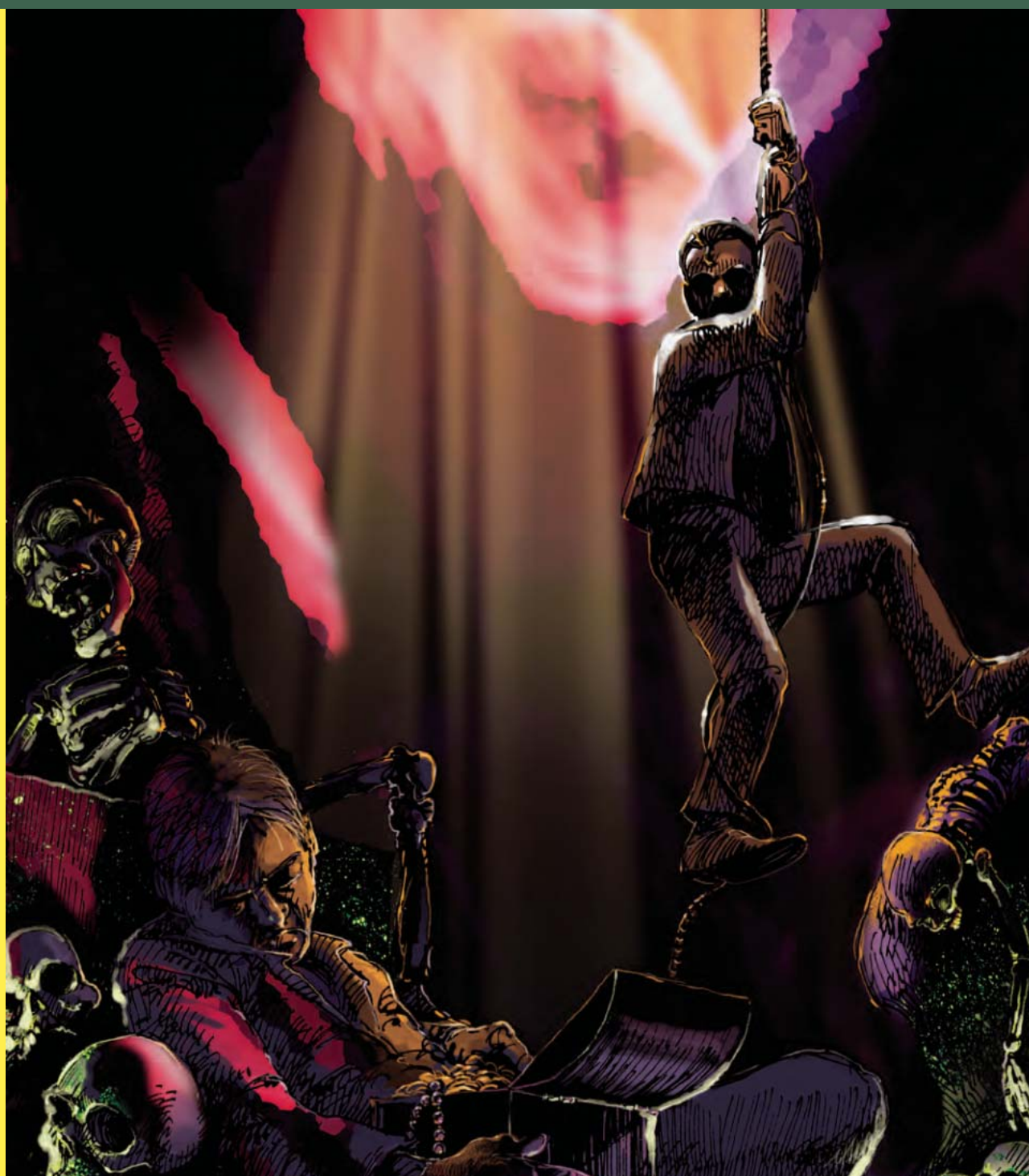


# SKRADZIONY TESTAMENT

# THE STOLEN WILL



# THE STOLEN WILL



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# CHAPTER 1

## CRIME AT THE NOTARY'S OFFICE

“What are you thinking about?” Tom Wills asked the famous detective. “I get the impression that you’ve just read something really interesting in the newspaper. Is there some intriguing story that we should look into?”

Harry Dickson put down the paper.

“I’m afraid you are wrong, my boy. I have just noticed an obituary, which brought back some memories.”

“Have any of your relatives died?” Tom said worried.

“No, not at all . . .”

“But this death has had a great influence on you?”

“That is true. It was a man whom I met by accident and whose life was full of adventures.”

Tom Wills picked up the newspaper and looked, intrigued, at the detective.

Dickson knew his assistant very well so after a quiet moment he said:

“He was a slave trader!”

“A slave trader?” Tom repeated rather surprised. “Slave trading is forbidden all around the world.”

“He stopped doing it twelve years ago, but don’t be so shocked: there are still areas in Africa where slaves are sold in public places. I met this man because I did him a favor and in return he told me the story of his life. Now he is dead . . . But what’s this?” the detective asked. “It seems that somebody has come to visit us.”

Indeed, somebody rang the doorbell and Tom ran to let the person in.

A tall man came in. His face showed worry and excitement.

“My name is O’Brien, I’m a notary,” he introduced himself in a loud voice. “May I see Mr. Dickson immediately, please? It is a matter of great importance.”

Soon the mysterious guest was standing in front of the detective.

“This young gentleman has probably told you my name. I’ve come to you, Mr. Dickson, in connection with a matter that my life and honor depend on. I’m begging you to help me.”

Harry Dickson observed the guest for a moment and then said:

“Mr. O’Brien . . . I’ve heard that name from old Mr. Firmont, the slave trader.”

“Firmont!” the man exclaimed. “You said Firmont but I . . .”

“ . . . have come to talk about his case,” the detective finished with a smile.

The notary looked at Dickson with great admiration.

“That’s incredible!” he finally said. “I’ve been told a lot about your intuition but would you allow me to put it to the test?”

“If it makes you feel better . . .”

The notary hesitated for a moment.

“You said, Mr. Dickson, that you knew Mr. Firmont?”

“Yes, that’s true. I met him only once many years ago but I got to know him very well.”

**notary** notariusz

**impression** wrażenie

**look into** zbadać

**notice** zauważyć

**obituary** nekrolog

**bring back memories**

przywoływać wspomnienia

**relative** krewny

**worry** martwić się

**influence** wpływ

**by accident** przypadkowo

**adventure** przygoda

**pick up** podnieść

**slave trader** handlarz

niewolników

**forbidden** zabroniony

**do somebody**

a favor wyświadczyć komuś

przysługę

**in return** w zamian

**indeed** rzeczywiście

**excitement** podniecenie

**immediately** natychmiast

**matter** sprawa

**mysterious** tajemniczy

**in connection with** w związku z

**depend on** zależeć od

**beg** błagać

**exclaim** wykrzyknąć

**case** sprawa do rozwiązania

**admiration** podziw

**incredible** niesamowite

**I’ve been told** powiedziano mi

**allow** pozwolić

**put somebody to a test**

wystawić kogoś na próbę

**hesitate** wahać się

**confidence** pewność siebie  
**in order** w celu  
**concerning** dotyczący  
**will** testament  
**Oh, my goodness!** O mój Boże!  
**marvellous** cudowny  
**learn** *tu*: dowiedzieć się

**something has gone wrong** coś poszło źle  
**I guess** wydaje mi się  
**appoint** mianować, wyznaczyć  
**take care of** zaopiekować się  
**rob** okraść  
**clairvoyant** jasnowidz  
**reply** odpowiedzieć  
**sleeve** rękaw  
**puzzle** zagadka  
**though** jednak  
**belong** należeć  
**truly** naprawdę  
**trust** zaufać  
**guard** strzec  
**interrupt** przerwać, przeszkodzić  
**attention** uwaga  
**add** dodać  
**deceased** zmarły  
**jewellery** biżuteria  
**treasure** skarb  
**hide (hid, hidden)** ukryć  
**warn** ostrzegać  
**take care with** uważać na  
**heir** spadkobierca  
**deny** zaprzeczyć  
**make an appointment** umówić się  
**put aside** odłożyć  
**in case** na wypadek jeśli  
**pile** sterta  
**shelf** półka  
**increase** zwiększyć  
**bleed (bled, bled)** krwawić  
**extremely** nadzwyczaj  
**get somebody wrong** źle kogoś zrozumieć  
**I can't help laughing** Nie mogę powstrzymać się od śmiechu  
**share** dzielić się  
**conclusion** wniosek  
**precious** cenny

"All right, so can you tell me why I have come here?"

Dickson looked at him and said with confidence:

"You have come to see me in order to ask for advice concerning the slave trader's will."

O'Brien opened his eyes wide.

"Oh, my goodness! You are marvellous!"

"I believe that the will was stolen last night. I learned from the newspaper that Mr. Firmont has died. But you are not interested in his person but the document presenting his final will and testament. The fact that you are so nervous must mean that something has gone wrong. I'll tell you more. I would guess that you had appointed someone to take care of the will but he was attacked and robbed."

"Oh my God!" O'Brien exclaimed. "Are you a clairvoyant?"

"No," the detective replied. "The blood on the sleeve of your jacket explained this puzzle to me. It's not your blood, though. It belongs to the person who was attacked."

The notary sat down on a chair truly surprised. "You've guessed everything. Mr. Firmont trusted me with his will and I put it into my safe. Yesterday, in the morning, one of his relatives came to me, informed me of his death and asked me to guard the will more carefully. But . . . are you listening to me?" the notary interrupted his speech when he noticed that the detective was looking somewhere else, not at him.

"I have never listened to anybody else with greater attention," Dickson replied. "Please, continue."

"The relative added that the deceased left a great fortune, mostly in gold and jewellery. Nobody knows, however, where this treasure is hidden. He told me also that the reading of the will should take place today. He warned me once again that I should take great care with the document because there were people, among the heirs, who were ready to do anything to get the treasure."

"Is it true that they will read out the will today?"

"Oh no, not at all!" O'Brien denied. "I also thought that it was strange because nobody else has contacted me to make an appointment for this date."

"I believe you found the document and put it aside in case the reading would take place soon."

"Of course. I didn't remember at first where I had put it, but finally I found it under a pile of other documents in my safe. I put it on a separate shelf and to increase security I asked one of my assistants to spend the night in my office. In the morning I found him in bed bleeding heavily."

While listening to the notary's story Dickson started putting on his coat.

"We've got to go there immediately. This case is extremely funny!"

The notary jumped.

"Funny?" he exclaimed. "In my opinion you have used the wrong word, Mr. Dickson!"

The detective smiled.

"Please, don't get me wrong but I can't help laughing. This story brings me much satisfaction but unfortunately I can't share my conclusions with you yet. Let's go, each minute is precious!"

A taxi, which was waiting in front of the house, took them to the notary's office. Harry Dickson ran fast upstairs.

"Show me the room in which your assistant stayed overnight."

"The first room on the right," the notary explained. "Wait a moment, I'll unlock the door."

"That won't be necessary," the detective said. "It's already open."

He went in and carefully took a look around. The burglars had made a hole in the door with a sharp tool. Then one of them had put his hand through the hole and opened the lock. The assistant had been asleep so they hit him over the head with something heavy, took the key, easily opened the safe and stole the will. The detective thought for a moment and asked:

"Has any money or anything precious been stolen?"

"No, absolutely nothing. Anyway, the amount of money in the safe was rather small. The criminals were definitely looking for Mr. Firmont's will."

"I have no doubts about that, either," said the detective. "And where is the young man, your assistant?"

"I ordered someone to take him home and call a doctor."

"Isn't the wound dangerous?"

"I've already told you that Jamesson, that's his name, was all covered in blood."

The detective picked up a piece of wood which had been broken off the door and examined it slowly.

"How long has Jamesson been working for you?"

"For a year. He's a clever and intelligent young man. I guess you are considering whether we should suspect him. Well, I can assure you that he's an honest man. But . . . what are you doing?"

Harry Dickson bent down and was looking at the hole in the door.

**fast** szybko  
**overnight** na noc

**unlock** otworzyć

**take a look around** rozejrzeć się

**burglar** włamywacz

**hole** dziura

**tool** narzędzie

**steal (stole, stolen)** ukraść

**anyway** w każdym razie

**amount** ilość

**doubt** wątpliwość

**wound** rana

**break off** odłamać się

**examine** zbadać

**consider** rozważać

**suspect** podejrzewać

**assure** zapewnić

**honest** uczciwy

**bend down** schylić się



The detective picked up a piece of wood which had been broken off the door and examined it slowly.



## CHAPTER 2

### A POISONED ARROW

“This microphotography camera is incredible!” Dickson said. “It’s very useful in my work.”

Saying this the detective picked up a photo and held it up to the light.

“Perfect! The blood cells are clearly visible. Big pale circles with a hollow in the middle. It’s pigeon’s blood.”

Tom, who was busy in another room developing photos, came in. He was holding a few more pictures.

“They are all good,” he said. “It’s amazing how the blood cells of various animals differ! A person who doesn’t know the miracles of microphotography doesn’t realize how characteristic the blood cells are because they cannot see them.”

“Of course,” the detective agreed. “It’s scientifically proven that the shape of blood cells depends on the species.”

“Here you are. This is the photo you asked for.”

“Let’s take a good look at it. It’s a photo of the blood from the notary’s office. Are you sure that you haven’t made a mistake, Tom?”

“Don’t worry. I developed this photo last. Its edges are still wet.”

The detective moved closer to the window.

“This blood has been taken from the bed on which the poor assistant spent last night. It’s actually the last trace of him. We should compare it with other samples that we have.”

“That’s impossible!” Tom Wills cried suddenly.

“What’s wrong?” the detective asked impatiently.

“This cannot be Mr. Jamesson’s blood,” Tom said.

“Why? I swear I took it from his bed.”

For a moment Tom stared at the detective not knowing what to say but then he smiled and shouted:

“Hurray! I can solve this puzzle.”

“Well, then?” the detective asked.

“The whole incident had been very cleverly prepared. This is pig’s blood. The assistant only pretended that something had happened to him. He made a wound on his cheek himself and poured pig’s blood all over his bed to make it look more serious.”

“Wonderful, my boy! I regret that I didn’t take you with me yesterday. I noticed that Jamesson had made the hole in the door himself, again pretending that somebody else had broken into the office.”

Tom Wills listened carefully.

“So, you are sure that the will was stolen.”

“I have no doubt about that. Mr. Firmont’s relatives knew very well about his fortune and they had been trying to find it for years. They suspected that the place where the treasure is hidden must be described in the will. That’s why they delegated somebody to start working in the notary’s office and then they were patiently waiting for Mr. Firmont’s death.”

Tom Wills was observing his boss in a strange way, as if he knew a lot more about the case.

**arrow** strzała

**hold up** *tu*: podnieść

**blood cells** komórki krwi

**clearly** wyraźnie

**visible** widoczny

**circle** koło

**hollow** zagłębienie, wklęsłość

**pigeon** gołąb

**develop photos** wywoływać  
zdjęcia

**amazing** zdumiewający

**various** rozmaity

**differ** różnić się

**miracle** cud

**realize** zdawać sobie sprawę

**scientifically proven** naukowo  
dowodzony

**shape** kształt

**species** gatunek

**Here you are** Proszę

**edge** krawędź

**trace** ślad

**sample** próbka

**cry** *tu*: krzyknąć

**impatiently** niecierpliwie

**swear** przysięgać

**stare** gapić się

**pretend** udawać

**pour** rozlewać

**regret** żałować

**delegate** wyznaczyć

**in a strange way** w dziwny  
sposób