

## The Case of the Gas-Filled Study

When you arrive at the home of millionaire Teo Ah Heng, his frantic housekeeper lets you in.

“Something terrible has happened – I’m sure of it!” she cries. “There’s a smell of gas coming from Mr Teo’s study. I pounded on the door, but I couldn’t get any answer – and it’s locked. Please hurry – it’s this way.”

You run through the house after the woman, as she leads you to the door of Mr Teo’s study. You try several of the keys you have brought, until one of them opens the lock. The door is hard to push open, because a small scatter rug has been wedged under the bottom crack from inside the room.

You rush across the gas-filled room to unlock the window and push it open. Clumps of cotton have been stuffed into the cracks around the window.

The housekeeper squeezes through the partly opened door and screams when she sees Mr Teo’s lifeless body. He is sprawled in a leather-covered chair, with a black scarf knotted tightly around his neck. After turning off the gas, which is whistling loudly from a pipe in the fireplace, you find a note on the desk. It reads, “Tan Ah Biao is the man to arrest for my murder.”

You ask the housekeeper, “Who is Tan Ah Biao?”

“Oh,” she says, “he’s that gambler. He came into town a few days ago. I remember Mr Teo saying that Tan cheated him in a poker game. Mr Teo swore he would get even. He had his share of bad temper – but I never saw him so worked up as he was after that poker game!”

She looks at the note and asks, “Do you think maybe Ah Biao heard about Mr Teo’s threats – and then he came here.....?”

“No,” you say. “Tan Ah Biao definitely didn’t kill Mr Teo.”

***Why are you sure of that?***

