

No Sanity Clause

AN INSPECTOR REBUS STORY FOR CHRISTMAS

It was all Edgar Allan Poe's fault. Either that or the **Scottish Parliament***. Joey Briggs was spending most of his days **in the run-up to Christmas sheltering** from Edinburgh's **biting** December winds. He'd been walking up George IV Bridge one day and had watched a **down-and-out slouching** into the Central Library. Joey had hesitated. He wasn't a down-and-out, not yet anyway. Maybe he would be soon, if Scully Aitchison **MSP*** got his way, but for now Joey had a **bedsit** and a trickle of state **cash**. Thing was, nothing made you miss money more than Christmas. The shop windows displayed their magnetic **pull**. There were queues at the cash machines. Kids **tugged** on their parents' sleeves, ready with something new to add to the present list. Boyfriends were out buying gold, while families piled

Zurechnungs-
fähigkeitsklausel
(Wortspiel mit
Santa Claus;
Titel eines
Punk-Songs) •
Vorweihnachts-
zeit • indem er
sich ... unter-
stellte • schnei-
dend • Penner
• der ... latschte
• Mitglied des
schottischen
Parlaments •
möbliertes
Zimmer • Geld •
Anziehungskraft
• zogen heftig

Nach dem Act of Union (Vereinigungsgesetz) 1707, das die Königreiche England und Schottland vereinigte, gab es in Schottland kein eigenständiges **Parlament** mehr. Erst 1997, als Tony Blairs Labour Party, die die Dezentralisierung unterstützte, die Wahl gewann, wurde ein Referendum über ein schottisches Parlament abgehalten. Das neue Parlament konstituierte sich am 12. Mai 1999. Das schottische Parlament besteht aus 129 Abgeordneten oder **MSPs** und wird von einem **First Minister** (Ministerpräsidenten) geleitet. Es hat die Entscheidungsgewalt in Bildung, Justiz, Landwirtschaft und Gesundheit. Außerdem kann es den Steuersatz ändern.

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- Einkaufswagen • the **food trolley** high. And then there was Joey, nine weeks out of prison and nobody to call his friend. He knew there was nothing waiting for him back in his home town. His wife had taken the children and **tiptoed out** of his life. Joey's sister had written to him in prison with the news. So, eleven months **on**, Joey had walked through the gates of **Saughton Jail** and taken the first bus into the city centre, **purchased** an evening paper and started the hunt for somewhere to live.
- Souterrain eines Mietshauses • in einer Querstraße zur • Heizgerät • Münzzähler • Herd • Vermieter • sich ... einzuweichen • indem er ... nachfüllte • wenn die Wanne halbvoll war • Wachpersonal • Nachtwache • Penner
- The bedsit was fine. It was one of four in a **tenement basement** just **off** South Clerk Street, sharing a kitchen and bathroom. The other men worked, didn't say much. Joey's room had a gas **fire** with a **coin-meter** beside it, too expensive to keep it going all day. He'd tried sitting in the kitchen with the **stove** lit, until the **landlord** had caught him. Then he'd tried **steeping** in the bath, **topping up** the hot. But the water always seemed to run cold **after half a tub**.
- 'You could try getting a job,' the landlord had said. Not so easy with a prison record. Most of the jobs were for **security** and **nightwatch**. Joey didn't think he'd get very far there. Following the **tramp** into the library

Übung 56

Die folgenden Sätze enthalten jeweils einen grammatischen Fehler. Suchen und korrigieren Sie ihn.

1. Joey knows there's nothing to wait for him in his home town.
2. Joey's sister had wrote to him in prison.
3. The news about his wife are bad.
4. Joey had to look after a place to live.
5. The landlord had caught Joey using the stove as a heater.
6. Joey had tried steep in the bath.

was one of his better ideas. The uniform behind the desk gave him a look, but didn't say anything. Joey wandered the **stacks**, **picked out** a book and sat himself down. And that was that. He became a regular, the **staff acknowledged him with a nod** and sometimes even a smile. He kept himself presentable, didn't fall asleep the way some of the old guys did. He read for much of the day, **alternating between fiction**, biographies and **textbooks**. He **read up on** local history, **plumbing** and Winston Churchill, Nigel Tranter's novels and National Trust gardens. He knew the library would close over Christmas, didn't know what he'd do without it. He never **borrowed** books, because he was afraid they'd have him on some blacklist: **convicted housebreaker** and **petty thief**, not to be trusted with **loan material**. He dreamt of spending Christmas in one of the town's **posh** hotels, looking out across **Princes Street Gardens*** to the Castle. He'd order **room service** and watch TV. He'd take as many baths as he liked. They'd clean his clothes for him and return them to the room. He dreamt of the presents he'd buy himself: a big radio with a CD player, some new shirts and pairs of shoes; and books. Plenty of books.

Regale • wählte
... aus • Personal
• nickte ihm zu

wechselte zwi-
schen • Romane
• Lehrbücher •
las sich in ... ein
• Klempnerar-
beiten • lieb ...
aus • verurteil-
ter Einbrecher •
kleiner Dieb •
Material zum
Ausleihen •
vornehm •
Zimmerservice

Der Park **Princes Street Gardens** liegt im Tal zwischen der Princes Street, der Haupteinkaufstraße Edinburghs, und dem erloschenen Vulkan, auf dem die Burg erbaut wurde. Auf alten Gemälden kann man erkennen, dass der Park einst ein See, der Nor Loch, war, der die Burg umringte. Im frühen neunzehnten Jahrhundert wurde der See aus Gesundheitsgründen trockengelegt und ein öffentlicher Park angelegt. Der Park ist anderthalb Kilometer lang und bietet im Sommer viel Platz zum Picknicken. Im Winter befinden sich dort eine Eisbahn und ein deutscher Weihnachtsmarkt.

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