



EINFACH BESSER ENGLISCH



AUDIO

Spotlight

Spotlight

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18



unEXpected

NEW
YORK

TAKE A TOUR OF SECRET NYC

Spotlight Verlag

Introduction

[1] **David:** Welcome to the January 2018 edition of Spotlight Audio. I'm David Creedon from Britain. Join me now for a 60-minute expedition around the English-speaking world — with stories, language tips and exercises.

We've all heard of the big New York attractions, but there's also a wealth of more off-beat things to see and do. In the travel section, we introduce you to the quirky side of New York City.

Spotlight's favourite detective, Ms Dorothy Winslow, is back again with an exciting three-part mystery story.

And in A Day in My Life, we learn what it's like to be a female truck driver crossing the United States for a living.

In the Spotlight

[2] Sharing too much?

David: Do you travel with Uber instead of a taxi? Or use Airbnb instead of staying at a hotel? The sharing economy has been revolutionizing many areas of commerce. Now some

traditional businesses want to profit from the new trend. Listen to find out more.

For shoe fetishists, Designer Shoe Warehouse (DSW) is a dream come true. The huge retail space sells brand-name shoes at low prices, and is a must-shop for any visitor to the US. The company is now making big, disruptive plans: it wants to take part in the sharing economy made famous by accommodation service Airbnb and taxi alternative Uber.

"Today's customer craves more than just a transaction — they want an experience," DSW's chief operating officer Michele Love told the press. The experience the shop plans to offer is that of being able to buy shoes, store out-of-season shoes, have shoes repaired — and even rent shoes instead of buying them.

chief operating officer

➤ leitende(r) Geschäftsführer(in)

crave sth.

➤ sich nach etw. sehnen

disruptive

➤ störend, tiefgreifend

for a living

➤ als Beruf

off-beat

➤ ungewöhnlich, ausgefallen

quirky

➤ kurios

retail space

➤ Verkaufsfläche

As DSW's Christina Cheng told *The Washington Post*: "When it comes to prom or a wedding or a special event, people are usually looking for a very specific shoe ... that they probably won't ever wear again."

Examples from other firms lend credence to the idea: department store Nordstrom now has a shop with staff who will choose your outfit, cut your hair and serve you drinks — but not sell you clothing or other goods. And Apple is adding meeting rooms to its retail spaces, hoping to make the "brand experience" even better.

Source: Spotlight 1/2018, page 10

A Day in My Life

[3] Michelle Kitchin, long-haul truck driver

David: In A Day in My Life, we meet Michelle Kitchin. The 54-year-old lives in Grand Rapids, Michigan, and works as a long-haul truck driver. She transports goods between Michigan and California. Her schedule sees her out on the road for eight days at a time, and then at home for three. In the first part of the interview, Kitchin talks about the challenges she's faced in her job. A Cadillac is a large and expensive US make of car. Air-ride suspension

provides a smooth, constant ride for large vehicles like trucks and buses. And "dock plates" are flat metal ramps that bridge the gap between a truck and a dock or warehouse floor.

I think my size is probably one of the challenges. You know, a lot of the equipment, prior to now — the trucks now are like Cadillacs and everything is air ride, everything is adjustable — but quite a few years ago, just driving them, just steering them was a lot of work. Some of the trailer doors are hard to open and close. Some of the dock plates... Some of the places that you go, they want you to put the dock plate in, and I can't even get them to move.

adjustable

► einstellbar

at a time

► auf einmal

credence: lend ~

► Glaubwürdigkeit
verleihen

department store

► Kaufhaus

long-haul truck driver

► Fernfahrer(in)

prior to now

► früher

prom

► Abschlussball der
Highschool

steer

► lenken

suspension

► Federung

warehouse

► Lagerhaus

David: In the next part of the interview, Kitchin discusses what truck drivers are paid for the work they do. The expression “piecework” describes work that’s paid for by the amount done and not by the hours worked.

It goes by experience [in] most companies. But if I were to change company, I would probably start at the low end again. We get paid piecework, so no, it’s not good pay. There’s a lot of time that we absolutely do not get paid for. It’s free. Where do we go? We’re stuck in our truck. Do we complain? If we complain, it’s an industry standard. There’s no way to say, “Well, I’ll go over here because they pay better,” because it’s basically the same. We’re all [on] piecework.

David: In the final part of the interview, Kitchin talks about her plans for the future. Does she plan on retiring at some point?

I do, but probably not till [my] mid or late sixties, because I get a little bored. Like if I have a big garden, maybe, but I get a little bored in the winter because I’m not really a snow person, so I’d have to go some place warm in the winter, but I don’t really think I want to retire yet.

See Spotlight 1/2018, pages 16–17

Britain Today

[4] New towns for a new year

David: Have you ever driven through the British countryside? If so, perhaps you noticed that some places have quite unusual names — villages like Pity Me, in Durham, and Barton in the Beans, in Leicestershire, actually do exist. In Britain Today, Colin Beaven advises the planners of new towns not to follow in this tradition. After all, it can’t be easy telling people you come from real places like Crapstone or Scratchy Bottom.

Britain needs more homes. You can add a few flats and houses to every town and village as the population grows, but there comes a point when you simply need more towns.

It’s been done before. Milton Keynes, a big new town halfway between Oxford and Cambridge, was built in the 1960s. The name belonged to a local village and was no doubt

beans

► Bohnen

bottom *ifml.*

► Po, Hintern

crap *vulg.*

► Mist, Scheiße

scratchy

► kratzig

chosen because it sounds a bit classy. Milton was a poet in the 17th century, and Keynes was an economist in the 20th.

We could use this formula again. For the literary half, J. K. Rowling could be a candidate. She wrote the Harry Potter stories. Then we would just have to wait for an economist called Rocking. That would give us a nice new town called Rocking and Rowling. What a fun place to live! It's not that implausible. Many British towns and villages have names that end in "-ing". In the south, there are Woking and Worthing. Further north, there's Kettering, and in Scotland, there's Stirling. They all sound a bit like verbs.

Parts of London sound like verbs, too. Tooting and Barking have stations on the Underground: one is on the Northern Line, the other is on the District Line. If they ever built a line that linked the stations directly, they'd no doubt call it the Gerund Line.

If you build a new town, it certainly needs a station. Far too many railway stations were closed in the 1960s, when they were no longer thought to be economical. A new town also needs a name that sounds positive; for example, an energetic gerund like Jogging, Skiing or Working. There are villages in the east of England called Great Snoring and Little Snoring, but they'll never be chosen as the site of Britain's next megacity. They'd always be as sleepy

as they sound.

In any case, you wouldn't want passengers who arrive in a new town by train to hear an automatic voice say: "Next stop: Snoring". Telling people to stop snoring isn't very welcoming. Indeed, English-speaking visitors to Munich have this problem when they take the S-Bahn from the airport. As we snooze to get over our jet lag, we are woken to be told: "Next stop: Unterföhring".

"I wasn't interfering! I was fast asleep till you woke me. And don't try to tell me I was snoring."

The word "stop" does make announcements on trains sound like New Year's resolutions. Perhaps that's why Britain's trains use a different phrase: "The next station is Barking," we're told.

On New Year's Eve, though, when you can traditionally use London's public transport free

classy *ifml.*

• nobel, exklusiv

interfere

• sich einmischen, stören
(klingt ein bisschen wie Unterföhring)

New Year's Eve

• Silvester

resolutions

• hier: gute Vorsätze

sleepy

• verschlafen

snooze *ifml.*

• kurz schlafen, ein Nickerchen machen

snore

• schnarchen

of charge to help get you home safely after the celebrations, the announcements could follow Munich's example. It would help passengers to focus on the lifestyle changes they're planning for the year ahead: "Next, stop smoking; next, stop drinking; next, stop snacking", and so on. On reflection, Rocking and Rowling's not a good name for a town. Imagine hearing: "Next stop: Rocking and Rowling". That's not good advice: you should never stop rocking and rolling.

Source: *Spotlight* 1/2018, page 15

Travel

[5] Quirky New York

David: For tourists, New York City has a lot to offer: Central Park, the Statue of Liberty, Times Square... It's a long list. But not everything great in New York is so well known. In the January issue of *Spotlight*, Claudia Hellmann lets you in on some of the Big Apple's best-kept secrets — the hidden attractions, cool sights and quirky things to see and do in the city that never sleeps.

You're going to hear two excerpts from the travel feature. I will ask you some questions before each excerpt. As you listen, try to answer the questions. After each excerpt, you'll

hear the answers. Let's start now with a section about the pub where George Washington ended his war campaign during the American Revolution. Here are the questions.

- 1) What was the name of the secret society that used to meet in the pub?
- 2) Which room did Washington celebrate in after the British troops left the city?

Let's start our tour in the south of Manhattan at the old Fraunces Tavern, which dates back to the very early days of New York. The yellow-brick house looks small today, dwarfed by the shining high-rises that surround it. When it was built, in 1719, it must have been a pretty big mansion. Originally the home of the daughter of New York's first native-born mayor, Stephanus Van Cortlandt, it was bought in 1762 by Samuel Fraunces, who turned it into the Queen's Head Tavern, named for Queen

ahead

- voraus liegend

Big Apple

- Spitzname für New York City

brick house

- Backsteinhaus

dwarf

- klein erscheinen lassen

excerpt

- Auszug

high-rise

- Hochhaus

mansion

- Villa, Herrschaftshaus

Charlotte of England. Today, more than 250 years later, it is still a tavern with, as you would expect, plenty of character and — less expected — an upstairs museum. The tavern is rich in Revolutionary history and has kept the look and feel of days gone by, with wooden tables, long benches, and creaking floorboards. It is easy to picture the comings and goings of colonial New Yorkers here all those years ago, when this was a cornerstone of New York social life. Despite its loyalist-sounding name, the Queen's Head was used as a meeting place by the Sons of Liberty, a secret society formed to protect the rights of the colonists and fight taxation by the British government. During the American Revolution, it continued to be an important meeting point. It is most famous as the place where, on December 4, 1783, a week after British troops evacuated the city, George Washington invited his officers to a farewell dinner in the Long Room. In the early days of the United States, Fraunces rented out rooms at his tavern to the new government, so it served as home to some of the very first government offices. All this history is documented in the small museum at the tavern, a great way to combine your visit with an excursion into New York's past.

David: Were you able to answer the questions? Here are the answers.

1) What was the name of the secret society that used to meet in the pub? It was the Sons of Liberty.

2) Which room did Washington celebrate in after the British troops left the city? It was the Long Room.

In the next excerpt, you'll hear about an earth-filled SoHo loft. Here are the questions.

1) In what year was the work of art created?

2) What has to be done to the earth every week?

An artwork of a very different kind is Walter De Maria's *Earth Room* installation. In 1977, the pioneer of land art filled a loft on Wooster Street with some 200 cubic meters of soil to a depth of 55 centimeters. The reclusive artist died in 2013, but his *Earth Room* is still there. Easily missed, it is a place of wonder. The dark

cornerstone

► Grundpfeiler

creaking

► knarrend

farewell

► Abschieds-

floorboard

► Holzdiel

reclusive

► zurückgezogen lebend

soil

► Erde, Boden

taxation

► Besteuerung

earth — unchanged since the 1970s — has been specially treated so that almost nothing will grow in it. It is also watered, weeded, and raked once a week. Not surprisingly, therefore, visitors are greeted by the slightly musty smell of wet earth. What is this artwork all about, then? That's for you to decide. *The New York Times* once called the earth-filled room “a sight so surreally, deliriously startling as to be simultaneously ridiculous and sublime.” Whether you feel attracted, repelled, or just confused, you will probably never see anything quite like it anywhere else.

David: Were you able to answer the questions? Here are the answers.

- 1) In what year was the work of art created? Earth Room was created in 1977.
- 2) What has to be done to the earth every week? The earth has to be watered, weeded and raked once a week.

Source: Spotlight 1/2018, pages 20–27

Everyday English

[6] Tidying up

David: In Everyday English, we're looking at words and phrases about tidying up and getting rid of things. In our first dialogue, we meet Hank and his wife, Brooke. Hank is complaining that Brooke's desk is untidy. In English, the word “messy” is only used as an adjective. It means “dirty” or “untidy”. “To drive someone insane” is to annoy someone very much. A “clear-out” is a process by which you empty and clean by getting rid of things. As you listen, try to answer this question. Why is Brooke's desk so untidy?

get rid of sth.

- etw. loswerden

musty

- modrig, muffig

rake

- harken, rechen

repel

- abstoßen

ridiculous

- lächerlich

startling

- erschreckend, schockierend

sublime

- außergewöhnlich, grandios

weed

- jäten

Hank: How can you work at your desk? It's so messy! That would drive me insane. I need order.

Brooke: Yeah, I know. It's just that I'm working on several projects at the moment. I've been so busy that I haven't had a chance to tidy up.

Hank: Why don't we have a good clear-out this weekend? If you made some space on the shelves behind your desk, it would be easier to keep it tidier.

Brooke: I've been meaning to do that for ages, I just never get round to it.

Hank: Can I help you?

Brooke: Not really. You don't know what I can get rid of.

Hank: Look at all this paper! It's been here for years by the look of things. If it were up to me, I'd throw the whole lot out!

David: Here's the answer to the question. Why is Brooke's desk so untidy? She's been too busy to tidy up. In the second dialogue, we return to Brooke, who's finally got around to cleaning up. A "pile" describes a number of things that have been placed on top of each other. You can bring glass, plastic and paper to "recycling banks". And "moving boxes" are used to transport household items when moving house, for example. As you listen, try to answer this question. When does Brooke plan to get rid of the things she doesn't want?

Brooke: You're going to be so proud of me. Look at my desk!

Hank: Wow! You can actually see it now. What about the mess on the floor, though?

Brooke: Yeah, I know. I'm dealing with it, OK? I've sorted everything into piles. Now I need to get some boxes, because some of the piles are for the charity shop, some for friends and all that paper over there is for the recycling bank.

Hank: I think we've got some moving boxes in the garage. Do you want me to get them for you?

Brooke: Oh, would you? That would be great! Then we can put the boxes in the garage, and I'll get rid of them on Monday. I feel so good about having tidied everything up.

Hank: I'll go and get those boxes. And then I'll make you a cup of tea.

David: Were you able to answer the question? When does Brooke plan to get rid of the things she doesn't want? The answer is: on Monday.

Source: Spotlight 1/2018, pages 46–47

clear-out

► Ausräumen,
Entrümpeln

deal with sth.

► etw. erledigen

move house

► umziehen

moving box

► Umzugskarton

up: be ~ to sb.

► nach jmdm. gehen

English at Work

[7] A tour of the office

David: Each month, business communication expert Ken Taylor joins us in the studio with tips on using English at work. This time Ken has tips on giving foreign visitors a tour of your workplace.

Ken: Hello. This is Ken Taylor from London. Imagine you've been asked to take a group of international visitors on a tour of your workplace. Here are three tips on how to make the tour a successful one. First I'll give you the tip, and then you'll hear a good example from a tour that Jack is leading.

First tip: Before you start the tour, have some small talk with the group to get a feeling for their language levels.

Jack: Before I start the actual tour, can I ask if any of you have been here before? ... And where are you all from exactly? ... Did you have the chance to see anything of the city yesterday when you arrived?

Ken: This short period of small talk helps you get used to the group's English. And you begin to build a friendly relationship with them. All this helps take the pressure off you having to

perform as the tour guide.

Second tip: Learn your first "official" input or introduction by heart. Listen to Jack again.

Jack: Right! Let's start. Our company was founded in 1912, and we're now in the entrance hall of the original, rather beautiful, art deco building. Originally, the company was focussed on producing electric light bulbs and fittings. But now, of course, we're a major producer of electronic components.

Ken: Jack knows exactly what he wants to say to start the tour. By learning these sentences by heart, he's able to concentrate on speaking clearly and with energy, and on getting eye contact with the group. If you get the start right, it helps boost your confidence.

Third tip: Involve the group in your tour. Jack does this by asking some questions comparing their organization to his. Listen.

Jack: And that's a key part of our marketing process. Is that the same with your company? ... And do you also use social media in the same way?

by heart: learn sth. ~

► etw. auswendig lernen

light bulb

► Glühbirne

fittings

► Ersatzteil, Fassung

Ken: Encourage participation because you can then get a feeling for what really interests the group. Now it's your turn. First of all, think of three small-talk questions you could ask a group of visitors. You can stop the track while you think. Ready? In the pause, start by saying, "Before I start the actual tour, can I ask...?" and then ask your questions. Then you'll hear Jack again. OK? Speak now.

Jack: Before I start the actual tour, can I ask if any of you have been here before? ... And where are you all from exactly? ... Did you have the chance to see anything of the city yesterday when you arrived?

Ken: Now prepare the opening four or five sentences of your tour. You might like to give a brief history of your organization like Jack did. Pause the track while you prepare. OK? You speak in the pause, and afterwards you'll hear Jack's model again.

Jack: Right! Let's start. Our company was founded in 1912, and we're now in the entrance hall of the original, rather beautiful, art deco building. Originally, the company was focussed on producing electric light bulbs and fittings. But now, of course, we're a major producer of electronic components.

Ken: Now think of two questions you could ask the group to compare your organizations. Again, pause the track while you think. Speak in the pause. Again, you'll hear Jack's version afterwards.

Jack: And that's a key part of our marketing process. Is that the same with your company? ... And do you also use social media in the same way?

Ken: Good. Well done. Don't worry if your responses were different to Jack's. What's important is to have some small talk first to break the ice and tune your ears to each other's way of speaking. Then to start in a confident way having learned your first few sentences by heart. And to try to involve your visitors by comparing organizations. If you can do these three things, your tour is likely to be a successful one.

brief

• kurz

tune

• einstimmen

David: If you have a question for Ken, send it by e-mail to language@spotlight-verlag.de. If Ken chooses your question to print in *Spotlight* magazine, you'll receive a free copy of his book, *Dear Ken... 101 answers to your questions about business English*.

See *Spotlight* 1/2018, page 49

Replay

[8] A look at recent news events

Tania: Welcome to Replay, the listening exercise in which we look at a recent news story, its background and language. In this edition:

The crisis in children's mental health in Britain is even more serious than anyone realized.

[9] Children's mental health: not an optional extra

Tania: In Britain, more and more school pupils are suffering from mental health issues. A 2017 report by the Children's Commissioner for England states that 580,000 young people are receiving some form of social care or assistance for mental health problems. In fact, statistics from the NHS's Child and Adolescent

Mental Health Services (CAMHS) show that half of such problems appear before the age of 14, with three-quarters of long-term mental health conditions present by the age of 24. CAMHS also says that three in four children with a diagnosable mental health condition don't get access to the support they need.

Schools are increasingly expected to help identify children at risk of mental illness, yet teachers often don't have enough training in recognizing or managing such problems. Prime Minister Theresa May has said she wants to improve support for young people with mental illness, which she described as one of the "burning injustices" in society. But what changes must she make to turn the tide? In an editorial from Britain's *Guardian* newspaper, the writers say that well-being must be put back where it belongs — at the heart of what schools do. In a moment, you can listen to the first part of the editorial. Before that, let's look at some of the language used. "Spots" are small marks or lumps on a person's skin. When these

condition

► hier: Leiden, Krankheit

editorial

► Leitartikel

lump

► Schwellung

NHS (National Health Service) UK

► staatl. Gesundheitsdienst

turn the tide

► das Blatt wenden

suddenly appear, it can be called an “eruption”. And when something can’t be understood or explained, it is “inexplicable”. Now listen to the first extract.

Adolescence is notorious for its moments of misery....Almost every adult looks back on the eruption of spots and the inexplicable weight gain, the exam pressures and the mishandled relationship crises with sympathy for their earlier selves. So it is no surprise to discover that ... many teenagers have felt low. The shock is just how low, and how many. Nearly one in four 14-year-old girls and almost one in 10 boys the same age, say they have felt inadequate, unloved, or worthless....

Source: © Guardian News & Media 2017

Tania: As the statistics show, girls are more likely to suffer from mental health problems than boys. Many of these problems relate to fights with friends, body image and pressures coming from social media. In the last decade, cases of hospital admittance because of self-harm have risen by two-thirds among girls. Before you listen to the second part of the editorial, let’s look at some vocabulary. When you “add colour” to something, you make it seem true or probable. And the noun “anxiety” describes a worry or fear about something.

Adding colour to these findings comes a second, much smaller but still reliable survey by Girlguiding. Previously, the survey of over 1,000 girls from the ages of seven to 21 had identified high levels of anxiety about body image and the taboos associated with talking about being depressed. This year’s report looks at the pressure girls are under to conform with gender stereotypes....

Theresa May wants children’s mental health to be one of the issues on which she is judged. So here are some of the big things she should make sure are thought about.

Source: © Guardian News & Media 2017

Tania: In the final part of the editorial, the Guardian writers list some of the things Prime Minister May should do to improve the mental health of young people in Britain. The writers mention Ofsted, which is the Office for Standards in Education, Children’s Services and Skills. It’s the department of the

hospital admittance

- ▶ stationäre Aufnahme

mishandled

- ▶ falsch gehandhabt

self-harm

- ▶ Selbstverletzung

British government responsible for inspecting schools and regulating children's social care services. Here's some vocabulary you'll need to know. When organizations, projects or other such things don't have enough money to work properly, they are "underfunded". And "to turn somebody away" is to refuse to give someone help or support.

First, although schools cannot make up for what happens in families, they can help children find ways of surviving it. But schools, pressed for time and resources will struggle to prioritise mental resilience unless it becomes one of the ways that they are assessed. ... Schools need the help and support that allows them to put wellbeing at the heart of what they do. Ofsted needs to develop ways of assessing it. Government needs to measure progress: the millennial cohort survey broke new ground asking teenagers to describe for themselves their feelings. Above all, child and adolescent mental health services, despite repeated promises, are still so underfunded that nearly a quarter of children referred are turned away. Being a teenager may always have low moments. But it should never have been allowed to get as tough as this.

Source: © Guardian News & Media 2017

[10] Words and phrases

Tania: Let's see if you can remember the meanings of some of the words and phrases from the text. I'm going to give you a definition. Do you know the word or phrase that fits? Ready?

When organizations, projects or other such things don't have enough money to work properly, they are... underfunded.

When spots suddenly appear on the skin, it can be called an... eruption.

When you make something seem true or probable, you... add colour to it.

To refuse to give someone help or support is to... turn them away.

What noun describes a worry or fear about something? Anxiety

When something can't be understood or explained, it is... inexplicable.

cohort survey

• Kohortenstudie

mental resilience

• psychische Belastbarkeit

With that, we end Replay for this month. We hope you've found our explanations useful. Till next month: goodbye.

See Spotlight 1/2018, page 73

American Life

[11] Our neighbors to the north

David: They're two of the largest countries in the world, and they also happen to be neighbours. Canada and the United States have a lot in common, but as Ginger Kuenzel writes in American Life, there are also some big differences.

Put a stereotypical Canadian next to a stereotypical American, and you probably won't be able to distinguish one from the other. English is generally the first language in both countries — with the exception of Quebec — and yet, there are definitely characteristics that set residents of Canada apart from their neighbors to the south. Let's start with language.

One easy way to identify Canadians is to ask them to say the word “out,” which will sound quite a bit like “oot.” The other giveaway is Canadians' use of “eh?” for emphasis, as in: “I was driving down the road, eh? When a truck cut me off, eh?” What's more, Americans might

ask to use the “bathroom” or “restroom,” but Canadians will ask for the “washroom.”

The currency is also different, though both countries use the dollar. In the US, we call a dollar a “buck,” while in Canada, it's referred to as a “loonie.” Both the \$1 and \$2 denominations (the latter known as a “toonie”) are coins in Canada, whereas in the US, they are, with some exceptions, bills.

One of the biggest differences between Canada and the US, however, is the health-care system. The US continues to be divided on whether universal health care is the way to go, while Canadians decided long ago that it definitely is.

Most Canadians are very happy with their system. As one Canadian told me: “We really can't understand why Americans would be opposed to universal health care. I am very grateful to the architects of the Canadian system for allowing Mum to receive the care she needed

apart: set ~ from

► sich abheben, unterscheiden

currency

► Währung

distinguish

► unterscheiden

giveaway ifml.

► verräterischer Hinweis

latter

► letztere(r, s)

without bankrupting the family.” Meanwhile, in the US, many continue to struggle to pay outlandishly high medical bills, or even just their rising insurance premiums.

While both Canadians and Americans like to show their patriotism by proudly displaying their flag, my sense is that Canadians are less nationalistic than Americans — if one defines a “patriot” as someone who is proud of his or her country for what it does, and a “nationalist” as one who is proud of his country no matter what it does.

Of course, I cannot conclude without a mention of ice hockey and all things maple. The Canadian flag sports a red maple leaf, and the Toronto ice hockey team is known as the Maple Leafs (not the “Maple Leaves”). In a country as far north as Canada, it’s no surprise that ice hockey is the number one sport.

Although Americans do like ice hockey, and most large cities have their own team, there is no chance that it will ever replace American football, baseball, or basketball, which rank in that order as the sport of choice. And that’s about all I have to say on this topic, eh?

Source: Spotlight 1/2018, page 18

Peggy’s Place

[12] Annie, get your gun!

David: Now it’s time to visit our favourite London pub, Peggy’s Place. After all the recent drama, things are starting to settle down between Peggy and her husband, Phil. But it’s never peaceful for long at the pub, and news of a young visitor soon has our friends in a tizzy.

Peggy: I really haven’t got the time for this!

Phil: I don’t know why you’re getting in such a tizzy.

Peggy: Surprises like this just aren’t my thing. Full stop! Simone should have told me at dinner yesterday.

Phil: You can’t blame your granddaughter for that.

Peggy: No, I suppose you’re right, but Jane could have mentioned it to me.

Helen: Hi, everyone!

maple

► Ahorn

outlandishly

► haarsträubend

premium

► Prämie, Beitrag

sport

► zur Schau stellen

suppose

► vermuten, annehmen

tizzy: have sb. in a ~

► jmdn. in helle Aufregung versetzen

Peggy: Hello, love! What'll it be?

Helen: Something warming.

Peggy: I tell you what: Sean has some sweet-potato soup left. You could have it here at the bar.

Helen: That sounds perfect — and I'll have a glass of red to go with it.

Phil: Maybe Helen has some ideas for your visitor.

Peggy: Yes, I bet you know lots of good things to do with a teenager visiting London for the first time.

Helen: No, not really. Sorry! Who is this, anyway?

Phil: We're taking in an American student for a month.

Helen: Don't get me wrong, but aren't you both a bit too old for student exchanges?

Peggy: We're actually doing this as a favour to Simone's teacher. They have an exchange programme set up for the 16-year-olds, but the father of one of the families here is sick, so she asked us if we could step in.

Sean: I think it'll be exciting. The kids are all from New York. It'll be fun talking to ... what's her name?

Phil: Annie.

Helen: When's she arriving? And is she staying with you?

Peggy: That's the thing. She's coming tomorrow and, yes, she is staying with us. Jane could

never cope. It wouldn't be so bad, but we are expected to entertain the kids ourselves over the holidays.

Sean: There are loads of things you can do. On Monday, there's the New Year's Day Parade. It goes right through Piccadilly Circus and Trafalgar Square, so she'll get to see the sights, too.

Helen: And there are at least five ice rinks you can take her to.

Peggy: That's true. There's a lovely one at Hampton Court. We took Simone there one year.

Sean: When's Burns Night? I've done that a couple of times. Great whisky-tasting event.

Phil: Not sure that's quite the right thing to do with a 16-year-old.

Helen: Does she have any hobbies?

Peggy: They gave us a questionnaire that Annie had to fill out. It's under the bar. Phil?

Phil: Here, let's have a look. It says she is very interested in politics. She has three older brothers who are all members of the New York Young Republican Club. Her whole family are

cope

• schaffen, meistern

ice rink

• Schlittschuhbahn, Eishalle

loads of ifml.

• unheimlich viel

questionnaire

• Fragebogen

members of the NRA, and Annie is a junior family member.

Sean: Hmm! She doesn't sound like a typical New Yorker to me — at least not what I imagine New Yorkers are like.

Helen: Does it say anything else?

Phil: Yes. She came top of the class in all subjects last year, and she was voted the person most likely to succeed by her classmates.

Peggy: She sounds a bit scary, don't you think?

Phil: OK, her favourite food is steak and fries.

Sean: Well, that sounds normal at least.

Source: Spotlight 1/2018, page 14

Short Story

[13] “The barrow king — a Ms Winslow investigation” — Chapter 1

David: Have you already met Spotlight's amateur slueth, Dorothy Winslow? Retired from the British diplomatic service, Ms Winslow enjoys visiting her niece, Lucy, in the German village of Heroldstein, where her crime-solving skills are often in demand. In our new three-part mystery “The barrow king”, the story of an ancient curse leads Ms Winslow to discover a web of lies and corruption.

A single candle lit the faces of the small group as they stared at the pointer moving across the letters of the Ouija board in the middle of the dining-room table. The rest of the room was in darkness.

“Frau Winslow, come and join us,” said Angelika Moser, hostess of the small dinner party being held in her house. “You can ask the spirit a question in English.”

Dorothy reluctantly left the sofa and sat down next to her friend Armin von Weiden at the table. She had preferred sitting on the outside, watching the rest of those in the room ask questions of the spirit medium, Madame Isadora, who was leading the séance. Frau Moser

ancient

► uralt

classmate

► Klassenkamerad(in)

curse

► Fluch

hostess

► Gastgeberin

likely

► wahrscheinlich

Ouija board

► Hexenbrett

pointer

► Zeiger

reluctantly

► ungerne, widerstrebend

scary ifml.

► beängstigend,
erschreckend

slueth

► Detektiv(in)

spirit medium

► Geistermedium

wanted to know when her daughter, Charlotte, would give her the grandchildren she longed for; Lena Bauer, the local hairdresser, had a question about the honesty of one of her assistants; whereas Hilde Fuchs had lost her cat. Dorothy was visiting her niece Lucy again in the village of Heroldstein in the Rhineland-Palatinate. That morning, Frau Moser had dropped by the house to return a book and invited Dorothy to join the séance she had arranged. Dorothy had met several people who claimed to be in touch with the supernatural and found them interesting. Mostly, they were mistaken, but once or twice, she'd seen things that were difficult to explain, so she was curious to meet Madame Isadora.

Before dinner, Armin told Dorothy what he knew about her.

“Isadora was always a bit wild. When she was 18, she ran away to Paris, where she worked as a cabaret artist for many years. It was a big scandal in the village at the time, and her father never really forgave her. He owned a lot of land here and, even though she looked after him when he was ill, he left her only the house on the main road just outside Heroldstein. The land and the money went to her cousin.”

Dorothy had seen the house when out walking. It was a beautiful old building with a garden, but in bad condition.

“So, she's quite poor,” Armin continued. “But

she makes a living by running séances at parties or telling the fortunes of people who visit her. Madame Isadora is something of a celebrity around here.”

Isadora looked perfect for her role, Dorothy thought. She was about 60 and wore a long, elegant dress, a necklace with an astrological sign and several shiny rings. Her big dark eyes, ringed by black eyeliner, turned to Dorothy.

“So, Frau Winslow,” she said in a deep, smoky voice, “put your finger on the pointer next to mine and then ask the spirit your question.”

For a moment, Dorothy couldn't think of anything, and then something occurred to her. Near Isadora's house stood a small hill, or barrow, which Armin said might be the grave of a local chieftain from Roman times. Nobody

barrow

► Grabhügel

chieftain

► Stammesführer

claim

► behaupten

curious

► neugierig

drop by

► vorbeischaun

fortunes: tell ~

► vorhersagen

long for sth.

► sich nach etw. sehnen

necklace

► Halskette

Rhineland-Palatinate

► Rheinland-Pfalz

run

► hier: anbieten

knew. A spirit should be able to answer that. “Who is buried in the barrow... the *Grabhügel*... next to Madame Isadora’s house?” she asked. The group around the table made little noises of surprise, and Isadora’s eyes became even bigger. For a moment, there was nothing, then slowly, the pointer began to move among the letters on the board.

“U ... N ... H ... E ... I ... L” it spelled.

There was a moment of silence and then, in a sudden movement, the pointer flew across the room and the candle went out. There was a scream, then chaos, until Frau Moser turned on the lights, revealing Madame Isadora lying on the floor, looking very pale and still. Dorothy got to her first.

“Oh mein Gott!” screamed Frau Moser. “Ist sie gestorben? Auf meinem Teppich?”

Lucy giggled when her aunt told her the story the next morning. Fortunately, Isadora had only fainted.

“I see Frau Moser has her priorities right,” said Lucy. “How’s the carpet doing now?”

“It’s recovering. We gave the poor lady a glass of water, and then Armin drove her home. But in all the excitement, nobody explained to me what this word *Unheil* means.”

“Well, it means ‘disaster’ or ‘evil’, which fits in with a local legend about the barrow. But Aunt Dot... do you think that maybe Madame Isadora pushed the pointer to spell that word?”

“Why?”

A lot of people in the village were putting pressure on her, Lucy explained. A property developer from Munich wanted to buy Isadora’s house and the land around it to build a housing estate. The local council was in favour of this because more families would be good for the village school. The regional government was thinking of closing it as the classes were so small. But Isadora had refused because they planned to flatten the barrow, which she said would bring bad luck to Heroldstein.

“Who owns the land around her house?”

“The council owns the land where the barrow is, and her cousin, Tobias Zöllner, owns the fields behind it. He’s happy to sell, and he’s

faint

- ohnmächtig werden

flatten

- einebnen, abtragen

giggle

- kichern

housing estate UK

- Wohnsiedlung

pale

- blass, bleich, fahl

property developer

- Bauträger(in)

recover

- sich erholen

persuaded the council to do so as well. But the developer wants Isadora's property because it's next to the main road."

"Hmm. I can see why everybody's upset. But why should she spell out that word?"

"To get local people on her side. Everybody in the village will hear about what happened last night."

Dorothy looked thoughtful.

"Let's take the children and the dog for a walk, Lucy, and have a look..."

Source: *Spotlight* 1/2018, pages 28–33

[14] "The barrow king — a Ms Winslow investigation" — Chapter 2

There was definitely a special atmosphere about the place. As Dorothy sat on the grass at the top of the barrow, she found herself looking over her shoulder to see if there was anything there. Not that Freddie, Roland and Trotsky the dog seemed worried as they chased each other up and down and occasionally brought back interesting things they found.

"Could we visit Madame Isadora, Lucy, dear?" said Dorothy after a while. "I'd like to see how she is."

"Why don't you go?" said Lucy. "The children will need their tea soon." So Dorothy walked

down to the house alone.

When closer to it, she could clearly see the sad condition of the building. The roof needed repairing, and the garden had run wild. It was depressing in the pale light of the winter afternoon. For a moment, Dorothy thought about going back. Isadora was probably well, and it would be nice to have tea with the children. Then she pulled herself together and was about to knock when the door was opened by a man in his fifties. He looked surprised to see Dorothy, but just muttered something and pushed past.

"Guten Tag, Frau Winslow," said Isadora, coming to the door. "I'm afraid my cousin has no manners."

They sat together in the drawing room. It was cold, there were marks on the ceiling where rainwater had come through, the teacups were

chase

• jagen

drawing room

• Salon, Wohnzimmer

manners

• Manieren

mutter

• murmeln, brummen

tea UK

• hier: (frühes) Abendessen

upset

• aufgebracht, verärgert

chipped and Dorothy saw a mouse run across the carpet to a hole in the corner.

“Tobias is very determined that I should sell,” said Isadora. “He says I can live with him and his poor wife if I accept this company’s offer. I said I would rather be run over by the bulldozers when they try to build those houses here. It would be much less painful.”

Dorothy laughed. “Heroldstein must seem very quiet after living in Paris,” she said. “Don’t you miss it? I was there as a diplomat a long time ago, but I still try to visit at least once a year.”

“Of course,” sighed Isadora. “But it’s so expensive. I wanted to go back after my father died, but it isn’t possible to live there without a lot more money than I have. But anyway,” she sat up straight in her chair, “now I have to protect the village from the curse of the Barrow King!” “Ah, the Barrow King,” said Dorothy. “Tell me about him.”

According to legend, Isadora said, the barrow was the grave of a great king who had ruled the area thousands of years ago. He had promised that if his grave was ever destroyed, he would punish the local people.

“As a spirit medium, I have a duty to help the spirits warn ordinary humans when they’re making a mistake. And since the local council doesn’t respect the barrow, I have to try to stop the project — or at least delay it.”

“Even if it annoys your cousin?” asked Dorothy.

“Especially if it annoys my cousin. Did you know that he’s also a member of the council? He gets his way around here far too easily. It’s good to frustrate Councillor Zöllner sometimes.”

Dorothy left shortly afterwards, but instead of going home, she went to visit Armin, who was cataloguing some Stone Age arrowheads that had been donated to the small museum he ran. She asked him about the barrow.

“There was an archaeological dig there many years ago,” Armin said. “They never found anything, so the council has no obligation to protect it. And they’re desperate to get more families living here for the local school and shops.”

arrowhead

► Pfeilspitze

chipped

► angeschlagen,
beschädigt

determined

► entschlossen,
bestimmt

donate

► spenden

sigh

► seufzen

Stone Age

► steinzeitlich

would rather

► würde lieber

“Well, it would be nice if Freddie and Roland could go to school in the village. How much do you suppose Isadora’s house is worth?”

“Not much, as it’s in such bad condition. Of course, the property developers will make a fortune if they can build there.”

“I wonder...” said Dorothy, and fell silent. Armin looked at her expectantly.

“What?”

“You have such good connections, Armin. Do you think you could find out a little bit more about this property developer? And I will try to learn something about what Isadora did in Paris before she returned to Heroldstein. It might be useful to know...”

When she got home, she found Lucy and the children in great excitement.

“Treasure!” squeaked Roland, pulling Dorothy’s arm. “I found treasure on the hill!”

“It wasn’t you, it was Trotsky,” said Freddie, pulling the other arm. “He dug it up.”

“But I took it to Mummy,” answered Roland, his eyes filling with tears.

“Boys, stop it now!” said Lucy. “Let Aunt Dot have a look!”

In the middle of the kitchen table was a clump of very solid earth, and sticking out of the sides were several blackened discs. Lucy had removed one and cleaned it with water and a toothbrush. Dorothy looked at it through the magnifying glass that Lucy gave her.

“S ... P... Q... R,” she read. “*Senatus Populus Qui Romanus!*”

“Yes,” said Lucy. “These are Roman coins!”

Source: Spotlight 1/2018, pages 28–33

[15] “The barrow king — a Ms Winslow investigation” — Chapter 3

“*Was will die Alte?*” said Tobias Zöllner to Armin. Ms Winslow, who was sitting next to Armin with her handbag on her knees, smiled politely and pretended she understood no German. They were in the kitchen of Tobias’s farm. It was a large, comfortable room, and the warmth from the wood stove in the corner contrasted strongly with the cold and damp in Isadora’s house. They were not offered any tea, however. Armin explained they wished to discuss the building project and that maybe they had a

clump

► Klumpen

expectantly

► erwartungsvoll

magnifying glass

► Lupe, Vergrößerungs-
glas

squeak

► quieken, kreischen

suppose

► annehmen, vermuten

treasure

► Schatz

wood stove

► Holzofen

solution that would persuade Isadora to sell. “Wie denn?”

It was a question of meeting her needs, said Armin. Firstly, she had to feel confident that the barrow would be treated with respect. Secondly, she needed enough money to leave Heroldstein and return to Paris. The money she’d been offered was not enough. Tobias shrugged. That wasn’t his problem.

“Oh, doch!” said Dorothy, putting some papers on the table.

They’d done some research, Armin said, and there was something strange about this deal. The price offered for the land by the developer was only €250 per square metre, although the average price for the area was closer to €500. As Tobias was an experienced businessman, Armin continued, accepting this low price was surprising. Why was he leaving money on the table? Tobias said nothing.

Armin pointed to the papers he’d received from the company registry office in Munich. “Was the reason, perhaps, because Tobias was a company director of the Munich property developers Biedermann Immobilien GmbH?” he asked. Had he accepted a low price, encouraged the council to do the same while also putting pressure on Isadora, just to increase his own company’s profits? Even though he was going to make so much money from building on the land? What would people in the village think

about that? Would the council still give planning permission? There was a long silence as Tobias thought about this.

“Was wollen Sie denn?” said Tobias finally.

“You have to make a deal with us because otherwise you’ll get nothing out of this project,” said Dorothy, leaning forward. “And this is why...”

Dorothy stood up as Isadora came across towards her table in the Salon de Thé Angelique in the rue de Rivoli. She looked healthier and more cheerful than when Dorothy had first met her six months before. She told Dorothy about her life in Paris, how she’d found herself a small apartment, got in touch with her old friends and was even thinking of returning to the stage again.

“And I owe it all to you. I don’t know why the developers suddenly offered so much money for my house or why Tobias became such a champion of the barrow, but I do know you were behind it. What’s happening in Heroldstein now?”

Trotsky’s discovery had been all over the local papers. There were pictures of Lucy and the

company registry office

• Handelsregister

shrug

• mit der Achsel zucken

children sitting on top of the barrow and holding some of the silver coins. The journalists were also full of praise for Councillor Zöllner, because he was the first to say that the barrow should be carefully excavated and restored so that people could visit the burial chambers. And then the council quickly agreed that the housing development could go ahead with a different plan, made possible because Isadora was now willing to sell.

“An archaeological team from the University in Speyer has started work on the barrow,” said Dorothy. “They think it will be a long job, but Lucy says they’re optimistic they’ll find some interesting stuff this time.”

They drank tea and talked for a while about the people they knew. Dorothy was just going to ask for the bill when Isadora touched her hand. “I have to confess something to you, Frau Winslow. That séance at Frau Moser’s house...” “You staged it? Oh, I suspected something that evening. The fingers on your left hand had black marks on them from the candle. Later on, I found out that you did similar illusions in your cabaret performances. We all looked at the flying pointer instead of you.”

Isadora blushed. “That’s right. I thought that if I was difficult about selling the house and made people in the village afraid, then the developers would have to leave the barrow and increase their offer to me, because otherwise

they couldn’t build anything. Your question about the barrow was very lucky for me.”

“It was clever of you to think of a suitable word so quickly for the Ouija board,” Dorothy said. “Unheil was perfect. Very sinister!”

Isadora looked surprised. “I beg your pardon?” she said. “That wasn’t me. I assumed you spelled it out. Didn’t you?”

Dorothy shook her head. “I didn’t even know the word.”

For a moment, it seemed to Dorothy that the salon with all its customers disappeared and she felt herself transported somewhere cold

assume

- annehmen, vermuten

beg: ~ sb.’s pardon

- jmdn. um Verzeihung bitten

blush

- erröten

burial chamber

- Grabkammer

confess

- beichten

excavate

- ausgraben

housing development

- Siedlungsbau

praise

- Lob

restore

- wiederherstellen, restaurieren

sinister

- finster, unheilvoll

suspect

- ahnen, vermuten

and dark. Then the door opened as a young couple came in and the sun came out from behind a cloud.

“Do you know,” said Dorothy, shivering slightly. “I’ve heard that they serve a delicious hot chocolate here. Would you like to stay a bit longer and have a little chat?”

Source: Spotlight 1/2018, pages 28–33

Conclusion

[16] David: Thanks for joining us for Spotlight Audio. You’ll find more information about becoming a regular subscriber to either our CD or download at www.spotlight-online.de/hoeren Join us again next month, won’t you? Until then: goodbye.

shiver

• zittern

subscriber

• Abonnent(in)

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