Emergency Murder

Janet McGiffin

Summary

At Mercy Hospital Emergency Room, (ER) in Milwaukee, USA, Dr. Maxine Cassidy attempts to save Nanette, wife of Dr. Hank Myer who was taken ill in a rough neighbourhood, wearing a bizarre disguise.

Aaron, the pathologist at Marquette University, finds that Nanette was poisoned by a nerve agent, tetrodotoxin, a substance which Maxine had been researching at Marquette University biochemistry laboratory.

Detective Grabowski discovers that the lab is the only place where the poison could have come from. Charlie, a research assistant, and Dr. VirginiaGaust, head of department work there.

Meanwhile, Maxine treats a patient at ER, Lavelle, who knows Nanette as Mae West. Maxine has arranged a late game of tennis with Virginia but she is attacked in the changing rooms before Virginia arrives.

Maxine talks to Lavelle again; Lavelle reveals that two men stopped to speak to Nanette on the night of her death. Nanette drove away with the second one, who Lavelle identifies as Aaron. He is now a suspect.

Grabowski’s fears over Maxine’s safety are confirmed when she is attacked again outside an all-night grocery.

Meanwhile, Lavelle has mysteriously come into money and is leaving town. Maxine is curious about the white spots on Lavelle’s arm. Maxine remembers the white spots on Lavelle’s arm. Maxine visits the exact location where the taxi driver picked up Nanette – a grocery store. A woman who knows Lavelle indicates the empty room above the store is significant and tells Maxine to call her. Virginia asks Maxine to come to her house to talk. When she arrives, she hears a car engine running in the garage. She rushes in, only to be attacked again.

Later, Hank talks to Grabowski and Maxine – Hank knew that Aaron and Nanette were having an affair. Grabowski arrests Aaron.

Soon the pieces of the puzzle fall into place. Maxine calls the woman she met on North Avenue, who gives her the number connected with the room above the grocery – it is the biochemistry lab number. She also calls Dr. Kareena Singh at the North Avenue Health Clinic, who confirms that she has seen cases of leprosy. Maxine remembers the white spots on Lavelle’s arm. Everything points to the lab.

Maxine rushes to the lab and confronts Virginia with the truth – that she had been using the room on North Avenue as a clinic, where she paid people so she could infect them with leprosy. Then she experimented with her untested leprosy cure. Virginia admits everything and Grabowski charges her with murder.
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Check your reading

Chapter 1
1. a Shirley, b Maxine, c Lavelle, d Nanette
2. Student’s own answer.

Chapter 2
1. a F, b F, c T, d T, e F

Chapter 3
1. d, c, a, e, b

Chapter 4
1. Tetrodotoxin is a nerve poison which comes from a chemical found in puffer fish.
2. 1 a, 2 c, 3 d, 4 b

Chapter 5
1. The biochemistry lab was the only place which definitely had the poison. This put Maxine in a bad position. When the poison got to the lab, Maxine kept it in her desk, or the refrigerator. The lab was shared by Maxine, Charlie and Virginia. But any of the professors and research assistants could have stolen the poison.

Chapter 6
1. 1 b, 2 a, 3 d, 4 e, 5 c

Chapter 7
1. 1 e, 2 d, 3 b, 4 c, 5 a

Chapter 8
1. a O, b N, c N, d N, e O

Chapter 9
1. a Nanette, b Lavelle, c Maxine, d Virginia, e Grabowski

Chapter 10
1. a R, b W, $100, c W, a couple of times a week, d R, e W, she never bought drugs or drank alcohol, f R

Chapter 11
1. a T, b F, c F, d DK, e T

Chapter 12
1. a grocery, b 24th Street/North Avenue, c Maxine, d Grabowski, e Hank

Chapter 13
1. a Aaron, b Aaron and Nanette, c Hank, d Hank, e Lavelle

Chapter 14
1. a N, b O, c O, d N

Chapter 15
1. 1 c, 2 d, 3 a, 4 e, 5 b

Chapter 16
1. a Hank
b Aaron
c Hank and Aaron
d Nanette
e Charlie

Chapter 17
Virginia was testing her new drug on people. In the room above the grocery, Virginia paid Lavelle and twenty-five others to get leprosy. Then she gave them the new drug to see if it cured them. Virginia knew that Nanette was interested in her research, and when she visited the room on North Avenue, Virginia gave Nanette a pill poisoned with tetrodotoxin.

Chapter 18
1. e, a, d, g, b, f, c