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Mirror to the Past

Jack Green was a normal detective. He had his own office in a police station, his apartment and he never complained to anything. But one day, he made a discovery that changed his life.

Jack was walking to his office when he remembered he had to buy some accessories for shaving. He turned left on the corner of the street and went to a little junk shop, where he thought, he could buy it cheaper. He asked: "Do you have any pocket mirrors here?" And the shopkeeper answered him: "Yes, but would you mind if they are old?" Jack answered that he doesn't mind and that he will take that one on the shelf, and then he went to his job. After Jack came home, he went to his bathroom and started shaving. He put the mirror close to his chin so he could look into it, but then he was shocked, he saw through the mirror! The things that he saw were quite blurry, but then he recognized his bathroom in flashbacks. After looking into it for five minutes, he recognized the scene from yesterday. Jack looked up and started to think what he could do with this thing.

After some time Jack was known for this. And he took advantage of it.

The next month a phone rings at about nine in the morning. Jack was commissioned to investigate a crime scene in a skyscraper with headquarters of the national bank. He went through the hall and to one of the doors. He looked at the floor. There was a man covered in blood, with knife in his chest and beaten up. The whole scene was surrounded by police officers. Jack looked through the mirror. He saw the crime scene, covered in shadows as usual as it was when he looked in it. There was the victim already dead on the ground and next to it he saw a shape of a man but he

couldn't see anything of him, just the silhouette. Next to the silhouette was a stick, probably used as a weapon. Jack looked back. He told everybody what he saw and that he wants to investigate some more. He looked at the corpse, but there was nothing unusual. There were signs of fight in the room, little blood drops next to the door and a lot of paper on the ground and some little water puddle, probably from the flower pot. "What is the victim's name?" asked Jack. "His name was Jacob Fresh." said one of the police officers. "Who was in the building last night?" "There were only three men with the murdered man" said one of the police officers. "Bank manager John Oswald, Peter Long, the security attendant and the cleaner George Wright were there." "Get them here please", said Jack. The three men came to the room and sat down on prepared chairs. "I will ask you some questions, gentlemen", said Jack. "Where were you around here, in the building, at approximately nine o'clock." "I was working as usual in my place, next to the exit", said John. Peter explained that he was normally roaming in the halls and George was cleaning every room as usual as he does. Then the three men left. "They all had time to do this crime, none of them saw the other ones", explained Jack. "I will be around". "And I will find out, who did this".

In the afternoon Jack called them again, but now, one by one. Peter was the first one. "I will now ask you some personal questions, if you wouldn't mind", said Jack. "No I would not." "Ok, what do you do in your free time?" "I play some sports, tennis or football. But not much, just if I have time" For the next thirty minutes, Jack was with Peter. The next one was George. "Hello", said Jack. "Hello", answered George "So George, what do you usually do after work?" "Well, usually I go straight to the bar" "Well, you got some cuts on your arms, how did that happen?" "That's what I'm talking about, three days ago, as I was walking from the bar, some guy attacked me." "Ok,

we will talk some more.” The final interrogation was with John. It started again by usual greetings and then Jack asked some questions. “So, did you know the murdered man?” “Yes, he was my boss. He said that he wanted to fire me, but I was trying to work well, to prevent it. I didn’t like him, but now he is dead, I kind of miss him.” “Ok, you can go, I’ll see you later.” “I will look at the body once again”, said Jack to the officers. Then he turned back, facing the crime scene. He knew that he could see things in the mirror that happened only one day ago. He has time just until night. He looked again in the mirror. But now, he saw a different image: He saw the silhouette, crouched next to the body. The man sat down next to the door, looking at his arms and then he put his head to his knees, catching breath from the fight. Then the silhouette left. Jack looked away. It hit him in the head like a rock. Now he understands. It was so clear now.

The next day, Jack made an appointment in the building. The three men were sitting in the armchairs, Jack was standing in the middle and police officers were blocking the door. “Hello gentlemen, said Jack. Now, I will tell you, who is the killer. As I looked at all the evidence, I figured out, who did this wicked crime.” “So tell us!” said John. “As all evidence says, the man who did this is... “Who?” shouted Peter Long. “It’s George Wright!” “All the evidence says that it’s him!” “The stick, it was a mop that left the water puddle next to the corpse. It wasn’t from flower pots, because it was on the other side of the room! Next one! The cuts are not three days old, they are fresh and they were made by the victim, trying to defend himself. He cut George in arms. That also explains the blood drops by the door where he sat down to stop the bleeding!” “It all points that, George killed Jacob Fresh!” “As I looked in his file, I saw that he worked for the competitive company.” “He was spying and he sabotaged some files in the company.” “He introduced himself as a cleaner, so he could work late, when everybody was

gone. Then he did his work, but one day, Jacob surprised him. George had no choice. He had to get rid of him. Otherwise he would have to give the company a lot of money. He would be fired and put in jail for a minimum of ten years. It was a big risk, but if it succeed, he would be fine.” “Well, you find out”, said George. “But it was his entire fault!” “But Jack, you didn’t count with this!” “If I killed one man, I could kill another one.” George stepped forward with a knife in his hand. George strikes. Jack quickly withdrew. And he punched George in ribs. “Guys?” said Jack. “Take him.” The police officers, who were standing by the door, caught George by the shoulders and took him to a police car. “Well, I think that this case is closed”, said Jack.

Jack walked to the street, but he noticed that he can feel something in his pocket. The mirror was broken! Jack slowly looked up in shock. “The mirror it’s, it’s broken!” Don’t worry Jack” said police officer next to him. “You solved the case, in which we couldn’t do anything.” “It will be OK Jack. Come on, let’s have a beer, I’ll pay.” With these words, Jack and the police officer slowly walked towards the bar.