

# The Three Investigators in The Mystery of the Stuttering Parrot

- As transcribed by LaFlamme -

*Disclaimer: The audio quality of my recording is not the best, meaning: There are some jumps in a few locations on the source tape. I will try to fill the spaces, which are about 1-2 seconds long, to the best of my ability using the English book.*

*\*eerie intro music\**

**Narrator:** „Alfred Hitchcock presents: The Three Investigators in: The Mystery of the Stuttering Parrot. Written by Robert Arthur and dramatized by Edward Kelsey. My name is Alfred Hitchcock. A teller of tales of terror and merchant of mystery. The trio of youths that call themselves The Three Investigators are Bob Andrews, Pete Crenshaw and Jupiter Jones, all of whom live in the town of Rocky Beach, on the shore of the Pacific Ocean some miles from Hollywood. In a contest, sponsored by a local auto agency, Jupiter won the use of a gold-plated vintage Rolls Royce sedan, for a period of thirty days, complete with Worthington, the chauffeur. Having thus acquired transportation, Jupiter and his two friends immediately established the firm of The Three Investigators, to solve whatever mysteries they could come upon. Their base of operations is the junkyard run by Jupiter’s uncle and aunt. Their headquarters is an old trailer equipped as an office and hidden from public view behind towering piles of junk. Listen now and you will learn what lies behind The Mystery of the Stuttering Parrot.”

**Pete Crenshaw:** „I must say, Jupe, have you ever heard of a parrot with a stutter? You don’t think Mr. Hitchcock is playing a joke on us, do you?”

**Jupiter Jones:** „I don’t think Mr. Hitchcock plays jokes, Pete. He said that his friend, Mr. Fentriss<sup>1</sup>, the actor, lost his parrot and he thought we might be able to find him. It seems to me immaterial whether the parrot stutters or not.”

**Worthington:** „We are now approaching Mr. Fentriss’ residence, Master Jones.”

**Jupe:** „Thank you, Worthington.”

**Worthington:** „There appears to be a small, black car already parked in the driveway, Sir. With your permission, Master Jones, I shall pull up here, allow you to alight onto the pavement.”

**Pete:** „The what?”

**Jupe:** „He means the sidewalk, Pete. Thank you, Worthington.”

**Worthington:** „Thank you, Sir.”

---

<sup>1</sup> The audio play continuously calls Malcolm Fentriss „Frentiss”. I took the liberty to correct the name to the way Robert Arthur intended it.

**Jupe:** „Wait here for us, Worthington.”

**Worthington:** „Very good, Sir.”

**Pete:** „It’s a strange looking house, Jupe.”

**Jupe:** „Yes, somewhat unusual.”

**Pete:** „Looks like a house full of locked rooms that shouldn’t be opened.”

**Jupe:** „A very good description, Pete! But knock on the door now, and maybe one of the locks will be undone.”

*\*knocks\**

**Pete:** „Mr. Fentriss is coming.”

**Jupe:** „Mr. Fentriss.”

**Claude Claudius:** „What?”

**Jupe:** „We are The Three Investigators and we have come...”

**Mr. Claudius:** „Sorry, I can’t see you now; I’m in a great hurry.”

**Pete:** „But Mr. Hitchcock sent us! He said...”

*\*motor starts, car drives off\**

**Pete:** „He’s not very polite.”

**Jupe:** „He was in a great hurry. He’s left his front door open.”

**Pete:** „We’d better shut it for him.”

**Jupe:** „And call back later.”

**Malcolm Fentriss:** „Heeeeeeeelp!”

**Pete:** „What was that?”

**Jupe:** „Sounded like a call for help.”

**Mr. Fentriss:** „Heeeeeeeelp! Heeeeeeeelp! Heeeeeeeelp! Heeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeelp!”

**Pete:** „Where is it coming from?”

**Jupe:** „Somewhere inside the house.”

**Mr. Fentriss:** „Heeeeeeeelp!”

**Pete:** „Who could it be? Mr. Fentriss lives alone. And we’ve just seen him go out.”

**Jupe:** „But was that Mr. Fentriss? Come on, Pete. We must investigate.”

\*

**Mr. Fentriss:** „ Heeeeeeeelp! Heeeeeeeelp!”

**Jupe:** „Whoever it is calling for help, he’s in that room behind the shut door.”

**Pete:** „Well, let’s rescue him.”

**Jupe:** „Carefully! We don’t know who or what is in that room. It may be a trap! I’ll open the door very slowly. Be ready to run!”

**Pete:** „You bet, Jupe.”

*\*creaking door opens\**

**Mr. Fentriss:** „Help me!”

**Jupe:** „But there’s just one man in here, on the floor, bound and gagged! It’s all right, Sir, we will soon release you. Come on, Pete, I’ll loosen the gag and you untie his hands.”

*\*Mr. Fentriss coughs\**

**Mr. Fentriss:** „Oh, thank you, boys. Thank you.”

**Jupe:** „It’s fortunate that we’ve heard your cries for assistance.”

**Pete:** „Good job Mr. Fentriss forgot to shut the front door behind him, otherwise we’d never got in.”

**Mr. Fentriss:** „I am Fentriss. The man you saw leave is an imposter. A thief. When he heard you coming up the drive he tied me up and rushed out.”

**Jupe:** „I thought as much.”

**Mr. Fentriss:** „I am most grateful to you, but who are you? How do you happen to be here?”

**Jupe:** „Our card, Sir.”

**Mr. Fentriss:** „Mhm. The Three Investigators. We investigate anything. ???.”

**Pete:** „Mr. Alfred Hitchcock sent us, Sir. He said you needed some help to recover your parrot.”

**Mr. Fentriss:** „That was very nice of Alfred. I will be very happy to have you boys undertake the case for me. I feel I can trust you. I have already been to the police, but they hinted that as I am an actor I was simply seeking publicity.”

**Jupe:** „But what about the man who bound and gagged you?”

**Mr. Fentriss:** „I suspect that it was he who stole my Billy.”

**Pete:** „Billy?”

**Mr. Fentriss:** „My parrot. Billy is short for William. William Shakespeare. You know who he was, of course.”

**Jupe:** „Yes, Sir. The world’s greatest playwright. Hamlet is probably his best known play.”

**Mr. Fentriss:** „Yes, many it is the time I played Hamlet. Oh, I was a great success as Hamlet. To be or not to be, that is the question. A line from Hamlet. My parrot used to quote it over and over again.”

**Pete:** „He must have been a very educated bird.”

**Mr. Fentriss:** „Oh, he was! He quoted it in a very good British accent. There was only one drawback.”

**Jupe:** „Drawback?”

**Mr. Fentriss:** „The poor bird stuttered.”

**Pete:** „Yes, Mr. Hitchcock told us. Very strange.”

**Mr. Fentriss:** „Most. When the bird quoted the line he said, ‘To-to-to be or not to-to-to be, that is the question’.”

**Jupe:** „How long did you have the parrot, Sir?”

**Mr. Fentriss:** „Barely three weeks. I bought it from a Mexican peddler who called at the door. A Miss Irma Waggoner, who lives in the next block, sent him. She bought a parrot from him, and when she heard Billy quote Shakespeare she felt sure I would be interested.”

**Jupe:** „And you were. Was this man a regular parrot peddler?”

**Mr. Fentriss:** „I really don’t know. When I saw him he had just two cages on his cart. One held Billy, the other contained some curious-looking darkish bird, all bedraggled, which, he said, was a rare black parrot.”

**Jupe:** „Did the peddler tell you his name?”

**Mr. Fentriss:** „No, but he was very anxious to sell the parrot. I bought it for only fifteen dollars. No one else wanted it, because it stuttered.”

**Pete:** „You think the peddler had stolen the parrots, Jupe?”

**Jupe:** „I doubt that he would’ve been selling them on the open street if he had. However, it is obvious that he was not the original owner and trainer of Billy.”

**Pete:** „How do you figure that?”

**Jupe:** „Mr. Fentriss says Billy spoke with a British accent, and the peddler was a Mexican.”

**Pete:** „Oh, sure.”

**Jupe:** „Now, Mr. Fentriss, tell me all you can about the disappearance of the parrot.”

**Mr. Fentriss:** „Well, my boy, about three days ago I went for a stroll, leaving my door unlocked. When I returned Billy was gone. There were tire marks in my driveway and I don’t own a car. Obviously someone had driven up, entered the house, and stolen Billy in my absence.”

**Jupe:** „I see. Well, now that we have the background please tell us about what happened today, about the man who tied you up.”

**Mr. Fentriss:** „Oh, that fat scoundrel! Told me that his name was Claudius, and he was from the police to help find my lost parrot. He asked if anyone else around here had bought a parrot at the same time, and when I told him about Miss Waggoner he seemed very interested. And he asked what my parrot said exactly.”

**Jupe:** „And what did you tell him?”

**Mr. Fentriss:** „That it always said, ‘My name is Billy Shakespeare. To be or not to be, that is the question’.”

**Pete:** „You didn’t tell him that Billy stuttered?”

**Mr. Fentriss:** „No, I thought the police would simply laugh at the idea of a stuttering parrot.”

**Jupe:** „So, Mr. Claudius was very interested in the bird’s speech. Anything else, Sir?”

**Mr. Fentriss:** „He asked me if the peddler had other birds to sell. When I mentioned the bedraggled dark bird he became very excited. ‘That must be Blackbeard’, he said out loud. Hmm, at that point I became very suspicious. ‘You are not from the police’, I said. ‘I believe you are the infernal scoundrel who stole my Billy. Return him at once, or it will be the worse for you.’ That’s what I said.”

**Jupe:** „And then?”

**Mr. Fentriss:** „Oh, then we heard a noise outside. Mr. Claudius rushed to the window; apparently saw you boys coming up the drive, swiftly overpowered me, bound and gagged me and rushed out. Then, fortunately, you found me.”

**Jupe:** „It seems almost certain that Mr. Claudius stole Billy Shakespeare and came back here, because he needed more information. Our first job then is to locate Mr. Claudius.”

*\*knocks on the door\**

**Pete:** „Gee whiskers, what’s that?”

**Mr. Fentriss:** „Someone knocking at my front door. Who could it be? I am expecting no one.”

**Jupe:** „Answer it, Mr. Fentriss. We’ll be right behind you.”

*\*steps\**

**Irma Waggoner:** „Oh, Mr. Fentriss, I am so sorry to disturb you.”

**Mr. Fentriss:** „Miss Waggoner, please come in.”

**Miss Waggoner:** „Oh, you have company. I’ll come back later.”

**Jupe:** „We were just leaving.”

**Mr. Fentriss:** „These two young men are investigators. They are going to assist in the recovery of my parrot.”

**Miss Waggoner:** „Really? Oh my, isn't that a coincidence. I've come over to see if you had any news about Billy, because my parrot has disappeared, too!”

**Mr. Fentriss:** *\*flustered\** „What?”

**Miss Waggoner:** „I went out to buy her some sunflower seeds and when I came back she was gone. Oh, I shall miss my Little Bo-Peep!”

**Jupe:** „Did Little Bo-Peep talk, Miss Waggoner?”

**Miss Waggoner:** „Oh yes! In a perfect British accent she would say, 'Little Bo-Peep has lost her sheep and doesn't know where to find it. Call on Sherlock Holmes'. Isn't that a curious speech to teach a parrot?”

**Jupe:** „Yes, Ma'am. When did you notice your parrot was missing?”

**Miss Waggoner:** „Just a while back. I was feeling a little shaky already because I was nearly knocked down as I neared my home by a little black foreign car going terribly fast.”

**Pete:** „Claudius!”

**Jupe:** „Yes. Mr. Claudius drives a small, black, foreign car.”

**Miss Waggoner:** „Mr. Claudius?”

**Jupe:** „Yes, Miss Waggoner. We believe that this Mr. Claudius has stolen Billy Shakespeare and, from what you tell us, he's stolen Little Bo-Peep as well.”

**Miss Waggoner:** „But why?”

**Jupe:** „That is what we shall endeavor to find out. Come on, Pete, back to the Rolls.”

\*

**Worthington:** "Ah, Master Jones, have you concluded your business?"

**Jupe:** "I think it's just beginning, Worthington."

**Worthington:** "Indeed, Sir. Do you wish to return home now, Sir?"

**Jupe:** "Yes. We've got a lot to think about."

*\*screaching tires, then a running motor\**

**Worthington:** "Look out, Sir! A very careless driver; he almost collided with the Rolls."

*\*car door opens\**

**Adams:** "What a stupid place to park, you big ape!"

**Worthington:** "My Man, you were racing recklessly. If you had damaged the Rolls, it would have gone hard with you."

**Adams:** "Watch yourself! I don't take lip from servants."

**Worthington:** "Don't call me a servant or I shall chastise you soundly."

**Adams:** "Why you..."

**Victor Hugenay<sup>2</sup>:** "Adams! Get back into the car!"

**Adams:** "But..."

**Hugenay:** "Do as I say! Ah haha, I am sorry that my driver was so careless. Now may I speak to your Master?"

**Jupe:** "You wanted to speak to me?"

**Hugenay:** "You are the owner?"

**Jupe:** "It's mine for the moment. I may make a change later."

**Hugenay:** "Ah, I see. May... may I ask, are you a friend of Mr. Fentriss, whom I was coming to call on?"

**Jupe:** "I'd believe I can say we are friends, yes. We've just been visiting with him."

**Hugenay:** "Ah, then perhaps you can tell me how his parrot Billy Shakespeare is?"

**Jupe:** "Still missing."

**Hugenay:** "Ah. I'm sorry to hear it."

**Jupe:** "We are on our way to the police to ask what progress they've made. Shall we tell them you are interested in helping find it?"

**Hugenay:** "Oh, no no no no. No need to mention me to them. I won't even bother Mr. Fentriss. I think we will be on our way. Adams? Take me back to the hotel!"

*\*door closes, motor revs up, car drives off\**

**Worthington:** "You handled that situation very well, Sir."

**Jupe:** "Thank you, Worthington."

**Pete:** "Look, may I ask what all this is about? Those men in the car were tough customers, the kind I'd hate to meet in a dark alley."

**Jupe:** "Yes. That man Adams carried a weapon in his shoulder holster. Didn't you see him start to reach for it?"

**Pete:** "A weapon, huh? And used to using it."

**Jupe:** "His employer restrained him. I wonder why he should want a gunman driving his car."

---

<sup>2</sup> Hugenay speaks with French accent. I decided to skip the phonetic spelling and just use traditional English instead.

**Pete:** "What I wonder is why we have to get mixed up with such characters. All we started out to do is find a lost parrot."

**Jupe:** "True."

**Pete:** "So far we've run into a sinister fat man, a man with a foreign accent who has a hired thug driving his car, heard about a mysterious Mexican peddler and another missing parrot. What exactly is going on?"

**Jupe:** "In the course of time I have no doubt that our investigation will reveal the answer. In the meantime, Worthington, take us home."

\*

**Narrator:** "Jupiter and Pete talked over the case with the Third Investigator, Bob Andrews. They decided that the first thing they must do was to try and trace the fat man, Mr. Claudius. They had a description of his car and Pete could remember the last two figures of the registration number. Back at their headquarters, they used a method which Jupiter called 'his ghost-to-ghost hookup'."

**Jupe:** "First I will telephone five friends and ask them if they've seen the black car. Assuming they haven't, I'll ask them to call five friends, pass along the description and ask those five each to call five more, and so on, until we get results. Each individual call would be given our telephone number. Anyone who can give us information is to call us back here tomorrow."

**Pete:** "Shouldn't we offer a reward?"

**Bob Andrews:** "That's right, that'll keep everybody more interested."

**Jupe:** "An excellent point, Bob. But, what can we offer?"

**Pete:** "How about offering a ride in the Rolls Royce? Any boy in town who likes cars would enjoy a ride in a gold-plated Rolls."

**Jupe:** "That's good, Pete! Okay, let's get phoning. With any luck tomorrow should bring us news of Mr. Claudius."

\*

*\*moaning, clanking of metal\**

**Pete:** "Shouldn't we be trying to find Mr. Claudius?"

**Jupe:** "Time is getting on, Pete, but we received no information. We can think and talk while we work and earn a little scrape yard money at the same time."

**Pete:** "I felt certain that some boy would have seen that car of Mr. Claudius."

**Bob:** "Shhh. Don't talk too loud, there's somebody coming."

**Jupe:** "It's only a little Mexican boy. He's got a box with him. Probably wants to sell some junk. Can I help you?"

**Carlos Sanchez:** "You are Señor Jupiter?"



**Jupe:** "My name is Jupiter Jones."

**Carlos:** "My name is Carlos. Last night my friend Esteban came to my house. He say a Señor Jupiter Jones wish to know about the black Ranger car and he say there is a reward."

**Pete:** "You bet there is. Have you seen the black car?"

**Carlos:** "Oh yes! I see the car. I see the fat man. But where he now is I do not know. Seven days ago I see them."

**Jupe:** "Where?"

**Carlos:** "The fat man, he called Mr. Claudius. He come to my uncle Ramos about the parrot."

**Pete:** "The parrots! Was it your uncle then who sold Billy Shakespeare and Little Bo-Peep?"

**Carlos:** "Si. And the others too. All the parrots with the strange names."

**Jupe:** "Strange names? Can you remember the names of the others?"

**Carlos:** "Si, there was Sherlock Holmes, and Robin Hood, Captain Kidd and Scarface."

**Bob:** "That's six parrots. Was there any more?"

**Carlos:** "Si. The dark one. Blackbeard the Pirate. The one who talks so good."

**Bob:** "Blackbeard the Pirate! That's the one Mr. Fentriss said Mr. Claudius got so excited about. Whiskers, Jupe! Do you suppose all seven parrots are involved in this case?"

**Jupe:** "We'll find out. Carlos, you say the fat man came to see your uncle Ramos a week ago to get these parrots?"

**Carlos:** "Si, he came for them."

**Jupe:** "And your uncle didn't let him have them."

**Carlos:** "No, señor. Uncle Ramos had already sold the parrots. The fat man, he would pay one thousand dollar for them, but Uncle Ramos not have them, and cannot remember who he sell them to."

**Bob:** "So Claudius has to go looking for them all over town."

**Pete:** "And he steals them when he finds them."

**Bob:** "Gee, he must want them awful bad!"

**Jupe:** "If only we knew where he lived."

**Carlos:** "You want to know where the fat man live?"

**Jupe:** "Yes."

**Carlos:** "Oh, now I understand! When the fat man leave my Uncle Ramos he promise him much money if he remember where he sell all the parrots. He gave him this card."

**Jupe:** "It's a visiting card. And it's got Mr. Claudius' address on it."

**Carlos:** "You have what you want?"

**Pete:** "We certainly have."

**Carlos:** "Then I will have my reward? The ride in the beautiful Rolls Royce auto?"

**Jupe:** "We'll take you home in it. Pete, phone for Worthington!"

\*

**Worthington:** "Where to, Master Jones?"

**Jupe:** "We are taking our young friend Carlos back home, Worthington. He will give you directions."

**Worthington:** "Very good, Sir. Master Carlos, will you be so good as to ride in the front with me?"

**Carlos:** "Si, but can I take this box into this beautiful auto?"

**Jupe:** "Of course, let me help you with it. What's in it?"

**Carlos:** "Blackbeard the Pirate."

**Pete:** "The black parrot?"

**Carlos:** "Si. A lady, she bring it back to my uncle. She say it is not a parrot. Everyone say it is a starling. So she want her money back. So Uncle Ramos give her back five dollar. I was going to take it to Mr. Claudius after I talk to you."

**Jupe:** "May we see the black parrot?"

**Carlos:** "Of course! He is in the cage. I put the cage in a box because he is talking all the time. See, I open the box."

**Blackbeard:** "Arrrr, I am Blackbeard the Pirate, and I've buried my treasure where dead men guard it ever. Yo-ho-ho and a bottle of rum!"

**Jupe:** "That's no starling! That's a mynah bird. They can be taught to talk even better than parrots."

**Bob:** "And Blackbeard is the bird that Mr. Claudius most wants to get his hands on."

**Jupe:** "Carlos, could we keep this bird for a while? We can't afford to pay you as Mr. Claudius might, but we don't trust him."

**Pete:** "We're sure he's a crook."

**Carlos:** "Si, of course you can keep Blackbeard for a while. You are my friends."

**Jupe:** "Thank you, Carlos. Come on, let's get in the car."

*\*car doors slam shut\**

**Worthington:** "Which way, Master Carlos?"

**Carlos:** "Straight ahead, and then turn to the left, three miles along the main Highway."

**Worthington:** "Very good, Sir."

*\*motor starts, car drives off\**

**Jupe:** "Where did your Uncle Ramos get the parrots in the first place?"

**Carlos:** "Is a long story. One day a tall, thin man came down the road to our house. This man is named John Silver, and he say he come from England. He is weak and sick and have not much money. He ask Uncle Ramos to let him stay, and my uncle say, 'All right'. Señor Silver have only some clothes in a sailor's bag and a metal box, long and flat and wide. This box has strong locks on it. Mr. Silver sleep with it under mattress."

**Bob:** "What was in the box, Carlos?"

**Carlos:** "That is what my Uncle Ramos ask. Mr. Silver, he laugh and say, 'This box hold piece of the rainbow'. We thought of gold underneath it."

**Jupe:** "A most mystifying description. Go on, Carlos."

**Carlos:** "Mr. Silver is very sick. I ask him why he does not take pot of gold from under rainbow he said he has in box and go to good doctor. He tell me he do not dare."

**Bob:** "Not dare? Why?"

**Carlos:** "He say if he try to sell pot of gold he have to tell his real name and how he get it. He is in America not legal and would be deported back to England and put in jail. So he has to live here as long as he can."

**Pete:** "But what about the parrots?"

**Carlos:** "One day Mr. Silver bring home six young parrots with yellow heads and the black bird. The yellow birds he keep in cages and teaches them to talk. The black bird he call Blackbeard and he'd ride on his shoulder all the time. He teaches them all special words and gives them funny names."

**Jupe:** "You don't remember what he taught the parrots?"

**Carlos:** "No, too hard for me. Then, one night, Mr. Silver, he go away. He take metal box with him. He is gone three days. When he come back he is very weak. Very sick. And he has no metal box. He say he has hidden it. He say he will die soon, but he does not give us metal box with piece of rainbow in it, because it would give us much trouble. Instead he write long letter, he give it to me to mail."

**Jupe:** "Do you remember the address on it?"

**Carlos:** "No, Señor Jupiter, but it had many stamps."

**Bob:** "Possibly mailed to somewhere in Europe then."

**Carlos:** "Mr. Silver say that soon a very fat man come. He will give us one thousand dollar and we will give him the talking birds. He says that it is his best joke ever. He say it is a joke that will make the fat man sweat very hard. He go to sleep laughing at his joke. Then in the morning he does not wake up."

**Jupe:** "But the fat man didn't come, did he?"

**Carlos:** "No. Because Mr. Silver is our friend we arrange that he be bury in a little churchyard down the street. We have no money, but we promise to pay soon. But two weeks go by and fat man does not come. So Uncle Ramos take the birds from door to door to sell them for the money we need."

**Pete:** "And then the fat man, Mr. Claudius, finally came."

**Carlos:** "Yes. He is very angry that we sell the parrots. In the end he go but leave the card with his address. He tell Uncle Ramos to let him know if he can remember where he sell parrots, but Uncle can not. It is too bad. One thousand dollar would be most nice to have."

**Jupe:** "Thank you, Carlos. It's a very interesting story."

**Pete:** "But what does it mean?"

**Bob:** "It means that the parrots are important enough for Mr. Claudius to make him pay a thousand dollars for them."

**Pete:** "And break into houses and steal."

**Jupe:** "When we brought Carlos home we must start with checking our facts. Frankly this case has taken on aspects that puzzle me."

**Pete:** "They don't puzzle me a bit. They just baffle me completely."

**Jupe:** "There's one thing we're sure of."

**Bob:** "What's that?"

**Jupe:** "We have the bird that Mr. Claudius is most anxious to obtain: Blackbeard the Pirate."

**Blackbeard:** "Arrrr, I am Blackbeard the Pirate. I've buried my treasure where dead men guard it ever. I never give a sucker an even break, and that's a lead pipe cinch! Ha-ha-ha-ha-ha!"

\*

**Narrator:** "When the Three Investigators returned to their Headquarters Bob telephoned the address given on Mr. Claudius' card, only to be told that he no longer lived there. So Jupiter used his ghost-to-ghost hookup to find out from boys in the neighbourhood if they knew of anyone who had recently bought parrots. They had several positive replies."

**Jupe:** "Well, let's see what new information we've got. We've learned that a fat man has been going from door to door and he's located two more parrots."

**Bob:** "Captain Kidd and Sherlock Holmes."

**Jupe:** "Right."

**Bob:** "And he managed to buy them."

**Jupe:** "So now he has four parrots. Billy Shakespeare and Little Bo-Peep, which he stole, and Captain Kidd and Sherlock Holmes, which he bought. We have Blackbeard and – from our ghost-to-ghost hookup – we've got the addresses of the owners of the two remaining parrots."

**Pete:** "Scarface and Robin Hood."

**Jupe:** "We must endeavor to buy those parrots for ourselves. Tomorrow, I have to take charge of the scrap yard as my aunt and uncle have to go away for the day. So, Pete and Bob, you will have to do the buying. First thing tomorrow, take Worthington and the Rolls and try to purchase Scarface and Robin Hood."

\*

**Bob:** "Well, this should be the address of Scarface, but it doesn't seem to be anyone at home."

**Pete:** "Ring the bell again, Bob."

*\*doorbell rings\**

**Bob:** "I'm afraid we're going to be unlucky. We'll just have to come back later."

**Scarface:** "I never give a sucker an even break."

**Pete:** "What was that?"

**Bob:** "It's the parrot, Scarface. Look there, in the cage, in the open window."

**Scarface:** "I never give a sucker an even break."

**Bob:** "Oh, that's all we need."

**Pete:** "What do you mean?"

**Bob:** "We don't really need the parrot, just what they say. The whole mystery seems to be some kind of treasure hunt with the parrots speaking the clues."

**Pete:** "You're right, Bob!"

**Bob:** "So I'll just make a note of what Scarface says and then we can get Worthington to take us to Robin Hood's address."

**Scarface:** "I never give a sucker an even break."

\*

*\*car driving by, door opens\**

**Man:** "Yeah? What do you two boys want?"

**Bob:** "We're sorry to bother you, Sir, but we wonder if you've bought a parrot recently?"

**Man:** "Have I bought a parrot? Oh, I bought a parrot, you better believe it."

**Bob:** "Could you tell us what it says, Sir?"

**Man:** "Would if I could. That Mexican guy who sold it me, it called itself Robin Hood and rattled off a string of words. It hasn't spoken a single word since. My wife is disgusted. She'd rather have a canary."

**Bob:** "Would you sell it, Sir?"

**Man:** "You can have it for what I paid for it. 25 Dollars."

**Bob:** "I've only got ten."

**Man:** "Ah, that'll do. Here, take the bird."

*\*parrot screeches\**

**Bob:** "Thank you, Sir."

**Man:** "Ah, I'm glad to be rid of it."

*\*door slams shut\**

**Bob:** "Come on, Pete, let's get Robin Hood back to the Headquarters to see if we can get it to talk."

**Pete:** "I'm sure Worthington parked the car just around this corner. I can't see him anywhere."

**Bob:** "That's strange. Worthington is always very reliable."

**Pete:** "Perhaps Jupiter needed him urgently and called him up on the car phone."

*\*car slows down, motor running\**

**Olivia Claudius:** "Hello boys, are you looking for that old Rolls Royce? It drove away a few minutes ago."

**Bob:** "It was supposed to wait for us."

**Mrs. Claudius:** "Oh, what a shame! Perhaps I can give you a lift? At least to where you can get a bus."

**Pete:** "Thanks a lot." *\*car door opens\** "Come on, Bob, we'll get a bus over at Wilshire."

**Bob:** "Right. Thank you, Ma'am."

*\*car door closes, motor revs up and the car drives away\**

**Bob:** "Excuse me, Ma'am, but Wilshire Boulevard is behind us."

**Mr. Claudius:** "We're not going to Wilshire Boulevard, my fine lads."

**Pete:** "It's the fat man, hiding under the rug!"

**Mr. Claudius:** "Mr. Claudius to you, boy. I've had all the interference from you I'll stand for, do you hear?"

**Pete:** "He's got a dagger!"

**Mr. Claudius:** "How observant of you, my boy."

**Bob:** "How did you get rid of Worthington and the Rolls?"

**Mr. Claudius:** "I telephoned him and said I had a message from you. I told him to return to your Headquarters. Now my wife will drive us to **my** Headquarters. Keep still, both of you. A single move will be your last."

\*

**Mr. Claudius:** "In here, both of you. And take your parrot with you."

**Bob:** "What are you going to do with us?"

**Mr. Claudius:** "That depends how well you cooperate."

**Mrs. Claudius:** "Don't cross him, boys, I beg you."

*\*parrots screeching in the background\**

**Mr. Claudius:** "Put your parrot with the others and sit down on that couch, where I can see you. That's right. Now, my sly and sneaky scalawags, I intend to learn a few things. I now have five of the seven parrots that John Silver trained. I shall get the others. But first I wish to know, how did Hugenay come to hire you and how much does he know?"

**Bob:** "Hugenay?"

**Mr. Claudius:** "Don't pretend you don't know him. Hugenay, the Frenchman. One of the most dangerous art thieves in all Europe. I'm positive he's on my trail."

**Bob:** "I don't know who you're talking about."

**Pete:** "Wait a moment. Is this Mr. Hugenay about medium height, with dark hair, French accent and a little mustache?"

**Mr. Claudius:** "That's him! So you **do** know him!"

**Pete:** "We don't know him. Jupiter and I met him outside Mr. Fentriss's house the day we met you. He went off when Jupiter suggested going to the police."

**Mr. Claudius:** "Yes, Hugenay would be anxious to avoid the police. But I don't understand, when you're not working for Hugenay why are you interested in these parrots?"

**Pete:** "We are just trying to get Mr. Fentriss's Billy Shakespeare back for him."

**Mr. Claudius:** "Is that all! I was so sure you are working for Hugenay. The other day when I drove back to our old address I saw Hugenay on the corner watching me. Then, when I entered our apartment, I was certain it had been searched."

**Mrs. Claudius:** "Yes, Hugenay is after us, there is no doubt. But he doesn't know about this place."

**Mr. Claudius:** "I hope."

**Mrs. Claudius:** "Claude, I don't think you need that dagger anymore."

**Mr. Claudius:** "No. I'm sorry, boys. I have such a terrible temper when I get upset. I can't control it. I threaten people and having Hugenay on my trail I become almost distracted."

**Mrs. Claudius:** "The time has come to act sensibly, Claude. These are clever boys who are not trying to do you any harm. I suggest you apologize to them."

**Mr. Claudius:** "Hmm, yes, you're right. Boys, may I offer my humble apologies? The trouble with me is my temper. I should stay calm but I can't."

**Bob:** "We accept your apology, Mr. Claudius. But what about Mr. Fentriss and Miss Waggoner? You stole their parrots and you tied Mr. Fentriss up. And well, that's breaking several laws."

**Mr. Claudius:** "I shall try to make it up to them. But let me explain and perhaps you will understand. John Silver was playing a joke on me, you see."

**Pete:** "You knew Mr. Silver?"

**Mr. Claudius:** "Mhm. About two years ago I employed John Silver in my business of buying and selling rare objects of art in England. Silver was highly educated but very eccentric, as you will realize. One day he paid a lot of money for a very ordinary picture of two parrots on a branch. I lost my temper. I called him a fool and I discharged him. Silver told me that he was sure the parrots were painted on top of an older, much more valuable painting. And he was right. When he cleaned off the picture of the parrots there was an absolutely lovely little picture of a shepherdess tending a baby lamb. It was obviously by a great painter and worth several hundred thousand dollars."

**Pete:** "Gee whiskers!"

**Mr. Claudius:** "Now we come to the unfortunate part of the story. John Silver said that because I had discharged him the picture now belonged to him. I told him that he had bought it with my money while in my employ, it was mine. He offered to share it with me."

**Pete:** "That sounds fair. After all he found it."

**Mr. Claudius:** *\*winces\**

**Mrs. Claudius:** "It was fair, but Claude does fly off the handle if anyone opposes him."

**Mr. Claudius:** "Yes, I threatened him with arrest. So he took the picture and left the country. I didn't know where."

**Bob:** "He came to California and stayed with Carlos's uncle Ramos."

**Pete:** "It must have been the picture he had in the flat metal box. He called it A Piece of the Rainbow with a Pot of Gold at the End."

**Mr. Claudius:** "An excellent description. It's a beautiful painting. At last I received a letter from Silver saying when I read it he would be dead. It also explained that he had trained six parrots and a mynah bird, each to repeat a message. I was to come to America and pay a Mr. Sanchez a thousand dollars for the birds. Then I must make them speak and solve the riddle of their message before I could find my lost shepherdess."

**Pete:** "I guess this way his way of punishing you for the way you treated him."



**Mr. Claudius:** "Exactly. But no harm would have been done, except that I was away when his letter arrived. For by the time I got to America Mr. Sanchez had already sold the parrots. Now I have to find all the parrots and solve the message before Hugenay."

**Mrs. Claudius:** "Yes, Hugenay found out about the picture and he's on our trail. He'll stop at nothing."

**Bob:** "So that's why you stole Mr. Fentriss's parrot."

**Mr. Claudius:** "Yes, but it's all been for nothing. I have five of the seven birds, but I know only the message Mr. Silver taught Billy Shakespeare. The rest won't talk for me. They won't speak and they act as if they never will."

*\*parrots screeching in the background\**

**Bob:** "Well, Mr. Claudius, I think we can help you. If you promise to pay Mr. Sanchez the thousand dollars when you recover your picture."

**Mr. Claudius:** "Of course! I always intended to do that."

**Bob:** "Great. Now, we know what Billy Shakespeare says, Miss Waggoner told us what Little Bo-Peep says, we overheard what Scarface says and we've got Blackbeard back at our Headquarters. He talks like anything."

**Mr. Claudius:** "That still leaves Robin Hood, Sherlock Holmes and Captain Kidd, who just sit there, not saying a word."

**Pete:** "Perhaps, if we wrote down what we knew, it would make more sense."

**Mr. Claudius:** "Good idea! Oh, the letter gave the order in which the parrots' speeches are to be taken. Here it is."

**Pete:** "Good. That should help. So the speeches should go like this: Little Bo-Peep has lost her sheep and doesn't know where to find it. Call on Sherlock Holmes."

**Bob:** "To-to-to be or not to-to-to be, that is the question."

**Pete:** "I'm Blackbeard the Pirate, and I've buried my treasure where dead men guard it ever. Yo-ho-ho and a bottle of rum!"

**Bob:** "Then Robin Hood, Sherlock Holmes and Captain Kidd should say something."

**Pete:** "And finally Scarface, I never give a sucker an even break."

**Mr. Claudius:** "But I don't understand it. It doesn't tell me a thing. Nothing at all."

**Mrs. Claudius:** "If we could get the three missing parts to the message they might shed some light on what puzzles us. Without them we can do nothing."

**Bob:** "I have an idea. We have the parrots, but they won't talk. Why don't we take them to Mr. Sanchez? He helped John Silver train them. They may talk for him."

**Mr. Claudius:** "That's a very good idea!"

**Bob:** "And once we have all the messages I'm sure Jupiter Jones could work out what they mean."

**Mr. Claudius:** "Quickly then, let's take these parrots over to Mr. Sanchez right away."

*\*Parrots screeching\**

**Hugenay:** "Stand where you are and do not move. I am an excellent shot."

**Mr. Claudius:** "Hugenay!"

**Hugenay:** "Mais oui, it is I. Madame, get the parrots and take them to the car. Lester, tie up these interfering people so they cannot follow us."

**Lester:** "Okay, Mr. Hugenay."

**Mr. Claudius:** "You'll never get away with this!"

**Hugenay:** *\*laughs\** "Oh, but I shall. Now that I have the parrots and all that you have written down I shall get away with everything."

\*

**Jupe:** "It was fortunate Hugenay and his gunmen didn't make too good a job of tying you up, Bob. I would have had no idea where you and Pete were."

**Bob:** "They didn't bother too much, Jupe. They just wanted time to get away with the parrots."

**Pete:** "If only they hadn't taken the parrots. I'm sure we could have got them to talk."

**Jupe:** "We don't need the other parrots."

**Pete:** "What?"

**Jupe:** "While you've been on your exciting adventures I've been listening to Blackbeard here. He's a very clever bird! He hasn't only learned his speech, he's learned all the others' too."

**Bob:** "What? Robin Hood and Sherlock Holmes?"

**Jupe:** "Yes, and Captain Kidd. Listen, I'll start him off. Little Bo-Peep!"

**Blackbeard:** "Krawk. Little Bo-Peep has lost her sheep and doesn't know where to find it. Krawk. Call on Sherlock Holmes. To-to-to be or not to-to-to be, that is the question. Krawk. I'm Blackbeard the Pirate, and I've buried my treasure where dead men guard it ever. Krawk. Yo-ho-ho and a bottle of rum! I shot an arrow as a test, a hundred paces shot it west."

**Jupe:** "That was Robin Hood."

**Blackbeard:** "You know my methods, Watson. Krawk. Three sevens lead to thirteen."

**Bob:** "That must have been Sherlock Holmes."

**Blackbeard:** "Look under the stones beyond the bones for the box that has no locks. Krawk."

**Bob:** "I suppose that was Captain Kidd."

**Jupe:** "Yes."

**Blackbeard:** "I never give a sucker an even break, and that's a lead pipe cinch!"

**Pete:** "That's it alright, the whole message, you clever old Blackbeard."

**Blackbeard:** "I'm Blackbeard the Pirate. Krawk."

**Pete:** "Now there's just one thing left. Just one teensy-weensy little thing."

**Bob:** "What's that, Pete?"

**Pete:** "All we have to do is figure out what the message means."

**Bob:** "Oh yeah." *\*sighs\**

**Jupe:** "Well, while you two have been enjoying yourselves getting tied up with Mr. Claudius I think I have solved the message."

**Pete:** "What! You know what it all means?"

**Jupe:** "Part of it. The first part, Blackbeard's own message, tells us where the treasure is: Where dead men guard it ever. That must be a graveyard."

**Pete:** "Could be. But where?"

**Jupe:** "Well, the first part of the message, Little Bo-Peep, obviously refers to the painting. It was of a shepherdess, you told me. But what about the rest of the speech? Call on Sherlock Holmes. You noticed anything odd about that?"

**Bob:** "Sherlock Holmes is just a character in a book. We can't call him in on that case."

**Jupe:** "That's just it! The message doesn't say, Call *in* Sherlock Holmes, it says, Call *on* Sherlock Holmes. Call on him at his house! And where did he live?"

**Bob:** "London. In Baker Street in London."

**Jupe:** "Yes! So, to call on him we'd have to go to Baker Street. But look at part two of the message: A very famous line of Shakespeare, but the parrot was taught to stutter. To-to-to be or not to-to-to be. You get it? To-to-to be. 222B Baker Street."

**Bob:** "Gleeps! An address. Of a graveyard?"

**Jupe:** "I went through all the books in our reference library and I finally found that in the town of Merita Valley there is an old disused graveyard at the corner of Baker and Valley streets. And the address of the service entrance is... 222B Baker Street!"

**Pete:** "Whiskers, Jupe! What about the rest of the message? Have you figured that out, too?"

**Jupe:** "No. The rest of the message consists of directions to find the actual spot once we've reached the graveyard. We have to go there to puzzle them out."

**Pete:** "Tomorrow morning. We go first thing, in the car."

**Jupe:** "Well, Mr. Hugenay is probably figuring out the message too at this very moment. We can't waste any time. We have to go there immediately. Tonight! Bob, phone for Worthington and the Rolls. Pete, you get the flashlights. We're off to Merita Valley to find that deserted graveyard."

\*

**Worthington:** "Ah, just ahead, Master Jones. 222B Baker Street."

**Jupe:** "Keep going, Worthington, right around the corner."

**Worthington:** "Very good, Sir."

**Jupe:** "We don't want anyone see us going in through the main entrance to the graveyard at this time of night."

**Pete:** "Gee whiskers, Jupe. I don't fancy going into a graveyard at all. At this time of night."

**Jupe:** "There is nothing to be scared of, Pete. Right, Worthington, stop and let us out here."

**Worthington:** "Very good, Master Jones."

**Jupe:** "Wait for us here, Worthington, we may be quite a while."

**Worthington:** "Yes, Sir."

*\*door closing, steps, hooting owl, chirping crickets\**

**Jupe:** "Come on, you two."

**Bob:** "It's a long way out of town, Jupe."

**Pete:** "A really deserted spot."

**Jupe:** "Ah, just as well. We don't want any curiosity seekers hampering our hunt. Let's get over this wall and make our way back to the side entrance."

*\*steps, owl still hooting\**

**Jupe:** "Well, here we are at our starting point. 222B Baker Street."

**Pete:** *\*stuttering\** "What do we do now?"

**Jupe:** "Wait, I got the messages written down on this paper." *\*crumpling paper\** "Ah, Part 4 of the message says, I shot an arrow as a test, a hundred paces shot it west. So, I'm sure Mr. Silver means for us to go hundred yards in that direction. So, let's pace off one-hundred yards west. You do it, Pete, your legs are longer."

**Pete:** "Right. One, two, three, four..." *\*steps\** "Ninety-seven, ninety-eight, ninety-nine, one hundred."

**Bob:** "That's a hundred paces. Now what, Jupe?"

**Jupe:** "Next part of the message says, You know my methods, Watson. Three sevens lead to thirteen."

**Pete:** "Look! There's three headstones standing together. Look at the names! S.E.V.E.R.N. Josiah, Patience and Tommy. Severn."

*\*some animal howling in the background\**

**Bob:** "Well, they could be the Three sevens, but how do they lead to thirteen?"

**Pete:** "Follow the line of the headstones. One ends on the stone over there. What does it say?"

**Jupe:** "Nothing. It's a blank."

**Bob:** "Look on the other side!"

**Jupe:** "Here lie thirteen nameless travelers struck down by Indians."

**Pete:** "Thirteen! The three Severns led us to thirteen alright."

**Bob:** "What's the next part of the message?"

**Jupe:** "Look under the stones beyond the bones for the box that has no locks. Stones beyond the bones. So it can't be gravestones."

**Pete:** "There's a pile of stones over there, where the wall has fallen down."

**Bob:** "Maybe if we look under them."

**Pete:** "Come on, you two, give me a hand."

*\*grunting\**

**Pete:** "The painting must be hidden under these stones."

*\*more grunting\**

**Hugenay:** "I do like to see boys who don't mind working."

**Bob:** "Hugenay!"

**Hugenay:** "We meet once more. I think it is now time for us to take over. Men, grab them!"

*\*cries, fight sounds for a short while\**

**Hugenay:** "No, no, no, my men are too powerful for you boys. Lester, keep them covered. Adams, dig into those stones until you find the pretty shepherdess. Oh, don't feel so badly, boys, you couldn't hope to beat me. I have outwitted guards at the Louvre in Paris and at the British Museum in London. It was simple to follow you in your magnificent Rolls Royce."

**Jupe:** "You'll never get away with it, Hugenay."

**Hugenay:** "Aha! The most clever Monsieur Jupiter Jones, a worthy opponent indeed. Adams, have you not found anything yet?"

**Adams:** "I've found this bit of lead pipe."

**Hugenay:** "That is nothing, you fool. Throw it down!"

*\*pipe falls onto the ground\**

**Hugenay:** "We are looking for a flat metal box. Look more to that side.

**Jupe:** "Listen! When I say, 'Now!', Bob and I will knock over the man Lester and you, Pete, grab that piece of lead pipe and all run like heck back to the Rolls, you understand?"

**Pete:** "What do you want that old piece of lead pipe for, Jupe?"

**Jupe:** "I'll explain later."

**Hugenay:** "What are you boys whispering about? It is no use, you cannot conspire against me anymore."

**Adams:** "I've found it! A flat metal box with padlocks on it."

**Hugenay:** "Ah, that is what we are looking for. Give it to me."

**Adams:** "Success at last!"

**Jupe:** "Now, Bob!" *\*shouts\** "Grab that pipe, Pete, and come on!"

*\*running steps\**

**Adams:** "I'll get you kids!"

**Hugenay:** "It's alright, Adams, let them go. They have lost and we have won. The Three Investigators have failed." *\*laughing\**

*\*running footsteps\**

**Jupe:** "Back in the Rolls!"

*\*slamming of car doors, the Investigators are out of breath\**

**Jupe:** "Home, Worthington! Quick as you can!"

**Pete:** "If not quicker."

**Worthington:** "Very good, Master Jones."

*\*Rolls Royce starts and accelerates\**

**Bob:** "Gee whiskers, we made it."

**Pete:** "We may have got away, but Hugenay's got the painting."

**Jupe:** "Has he?"

**Pete:** "What do you mean, Jupe?"

**Jupe:** "Remember the message, look for a box that has *no* locks."

**Pete:** "Golly, the box they found had padlocks on it."

**Jupe:** "Exactly! And what was the very last part of the message?"

**Bob:** "That was Scarface. I never give a sucker an even break."

**Pete:** "It means John Silver was cheating. So where is the painting?"

**Jupe:** "Blackbeard added a little more to Scarface's message."

**Bob:** "So he did. And that's a lead pipe cinch."

**Jupe:** "Look inside that lead pipe you're holding, Pete."

*\*unscrewing noises\**

**Pete:** "There's a cap screwed on at each end. , that's it. There, ugh, that's got to undo. There's that's it. Why, there is something rolled up inside the pipe."

**Jupe:** "Careful with it, Pete."

**Pete:** "It's a painting! It's the painting of the shepherdess. We've got it, Jupe, you're a genius."

**Jupe:** "Well, if you like to put it that way."

*\*laughing\**

*\*clock ticking\**

**Narrator:** "And so the parrots were recovered and the lost masterpiece found. Mr. Claudius paid the one thousand dollars to Mister Ramos Sanchez and The Three Investigators embarked upon a new adventure."

**Eerie Voice:** "A chilling tale from the tomb."<sup>3</sup> *\*music\**

---

<sup>3</sup> My assumption is that there were plans to release an audio play of "The Whispering Mummy", but the series was abandoned after the first two episodes.