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Komarov Case

At the beginning of 1922, people began to disappear in Moscow. For some reason, it was happening mostly to local horse dealers or peasants who came from the suburbs of Moscow to buy horses. However, the thing is that the potential buyers neither bought horses, nor did they return home.

At the same time, strange and unpleasant things were being discovered during the night. In the barrens of Zamoskvorechye stinking gray bags with naked corpses of men were found among the ruins of abandoned houses and half-built public bathhouses on Shabolovka.

After several similar discoveries, Moscow Criminal Investigation Department was put in a state of high alert. The thing was that all the bags with the dead bodies bore the traces of the same pattern. Apparently, the same blunt instrument was used to crush the victims' heads and the corpses were corded in the same way – always skillfully and carefully – arms and legs pulled together to the stomach very firmly, “for a full due”, shall I say.

The criminal investigation began to work persistently on this strange case. But it took a lot of time, and more than thirty people found their last

shelter in dirty bags among piles of bricks in Zamoskvorechye.

The investigation proceeded slowly but steadily. The knots of the bags were quite peculiar – they were very typical for people accustomed to harnessing horses. So maybe a cabman was a murderer? Moreover, there were traces of oats at the bottom of some bags. Most likely it was a cabman. Twenty-two corpses have already been found, but only seven of them have been identified. It's also been found out that all the victims came to Moscow for some horse business. No doubt now – it was a cabman.

But it was the only lead. Nobody had any clue about what was happening from the moment when a victim came to buy a horse to the moment when he was found dead. No traces, no talks, no meetings. In this respect, the case was truly exceptional.

So, the cabman. Corpses were found in Zamoskvorechye, then again in Zamoskvorechye, and again there. So the murderer must be a cabman, who lives in Zamoskvorechye.

The wide agents network was inspecting the horse markets, teahouses, cabstands and taverns. They were all trailing a cabman from Zamoskvorechye.

And again, another corpse was found, this time with a baby linen wrapping his crushed head. The circle of suspects immediately narrowed – now agents were looking for a family man whose wife had recently