

Evans Tries an O-level



Colin Dexter

INTRODUCTION

Evans Tries an O –Level’ is a story of a criminal named Evans. In this story, Colin Dexter, the author of the popular Inspector Morse novels, shows how an individual is able to shake the entire police department with his cleverness and ingenuity. Evans has escaped from the prison three times.

That is why he is called ‘Evans the Break’ by the police officials. The way he plans his escape for the fourth time with the help of his friends outside the prison earns for him our secret admiration for his cleverness.

SUMMARY

Evans, a kleptomaniac (a person who has a strong desire, which they cannot control, to steal things) was imprisoned thrice and all the time escaped from the prison. Now he was in the prison for the 4th time and all of a sudden developed a curiosity to appear in O-level German Examination which also was an effort to break the prison.

The Governor takes extreme precautions to ensure that he would not be fooled. Every care was taken to make Evans prepare for the exam.

A person from St. Mary church to be the invigilator.

On the day of the exam Jackson and Stephens visited Evans’ cell. They had taken away his nail scissors earlier and Jackson ordered Stephens to take

away his razor blade as soon as he had shaved.

Stephen sat outside the cell every now and then peeped into the cell. A microphone was placed in his cell.

Mc Leery, the churchman, reached the prison. The Governor ordered the officer to check the churchman so that Evans may not use any belongings of Mc Leery as a weapon. The churchman was searched along with his possessions, and the paper knife was also removed in order to prevent Evans from using it to harm the churchman and escape.

The exam started, and the Governor could hear everything said in the cell.

The Governor became suspicious after receiving a call from the examination board requesting minor changes to the question paper. Stephens stood outside the cell and peeped inside after every minute.

It was always the same but later on, he noticed that Evans had put a blanket around himself.

The exam went on smoothly. Stephen escorted the invigilator to the main gate and took a look into Evans’ cell and found the invigilator (actually Evans) wounded, informing the Governor. The latter was to be hospitalized but informed that he was alright and asked them to follow Evans. Thus he escaped the prison.

Soon the real Mc Leery was also

found by the police who was tied up at his house. On the other hand, Evans had reached hotel Golden Lion and was enjoying his freedom. When he reached the hotel room, he found the Governor in his room.

He told Evans that he had all of his men around so there was no chance for him to escape again. Finally, the prison van was called to take Evans to the prison.

As soon as the van started, the prison officer unlocked Evans's handcuffs and asked the driver to drive fast so that the police could not catch them again. Finally, Evans once again managed to escape from the clutches of the police with the help of his friends.

WORD MEANING

Secretary	assistant
Governor	administrator
Grand	royal
Cell	lockup
Admire	praise
Recruited	appointed
Nail scissors	nail cutter
Compassion	sympathy
Scheduled	planned or fixed
Vigorously	strongly
Frisk	check
Demeanour	manner

Stare	gaze
Manicured	well cared
Distinguished	differentiate
Feeble	weak
Grasp	hold
Bound	tied up
Glimpse	quick look

QUESTION AND ANSWER

1 What kind of a person was Evans?

Ans: Evans was a young prisoner at the Oxford Prison. He was known as 'Evans the Break' because thrice he had escaped from the jail. Actually, he was a kleptomaniac, i.e. a habitual thief. However, he had no record of ever having indulged in violence. He was actually a pleasant person, but very clever and cunning.

2. What were the precautions taken for the smooth conduct of the examination?

Many precautions were taken by the prison officials to prevent Evans from escaping. All sharp instruments like razor nail scissors were removed. The Governor, senior prison officer Jackson and officer Stephen were put on duty. A microphone was implanted in his cell so that the Governor could listen to the proceedings therein. Stephens, a prison official, had to keep a regular watch on Evans as he wrote the exam. In addition, the whole prison was on high alert.

Q 3. Will the injured McLeery be able to help the prison officers track Evans?

Answer: Injured McLeery, showcasing his knowledge of German, reveals the supposed plan of Evans through the superimposed question paper. He proposes to guide the officials to the whereabouts of Evans. However, this is later revealed to be a part of the Evans plan to flee to safety, as it was Evans himself who was disguised as the injured McLeery. It can be, thus, noticed that the disguised McLeery's help to the officials was fake as it was just a part of Evans's escape plan.

Q 4. Reflecting on the story, what did you feel about Evans' having the last laugh?

Evans smartly devised and executed the plan of his escape. He managed to fool everyone till the end of the story. He left fake clues to misguide the officials chasing him. Even as the Governor heaved a sigh of relief after nabbing him in the Golden Lion hotel, Evans was secretly cooking and executing another path of escape. The prison officer and the van used by the Governor for transferring Evans back to the prison were forged. The Governor was happy that ultimately he was able to track him down using his intelligence and knowledge of German. However, Evans had planned a step ahead. With his successful escape, Evans definitely had a well earned last laugh.

5. Will the clues left behind on the question paper put Evans back in prison again?

Evans escaped from the prison with the help of a clever, infallible plan. Certain clues were left behind by the shrewd fugitive which was a "careless" act according to the Governor. There was a superimposed question paper with directions to the supposed plan. However, it was soon seen that all of it was fake and part of the plan to misguide the officials. But the little German the Governor knew and the 'correction slip' did help them to track him down.

6. Where did Evans go?

After deceiving the police intelligently, Evans went to the hotel Golden Lion located in Chipping Norton.

MCQ

Q1- Name the author of the lesson.

- A) William Blake
- B) Sir Johnson
- C) H.L.Hegde
- D) Norman Colin Dexter

Ans D

Q2- Why did Evan decide to take the O level exam?

- A) to keep his hat on his head
- B) to study

- C) to add to his academics
- D) to plan an escape from the prison

Ans D

Q3- What kind of a person was Evans?

- A) Kleptomaniac
- B) pleasing personality and a tendency to mislead
- C) stealing habit
- D) All these

Ans D

Q4- Why was Evans called 'Evans the break'?

- A) because of his pleasing personality
- B) because he keeps hat on his head
- C) for escaping from prison thrice
- D) All these

Ans C

Q5- How did Evan escape from jail?

- A) by jumping the wall
- B) by befooling the watchman
- C) his friend Prison officer released him
- D) all

Ans C

Q6- Who checked the cell thoroughly?

- A) The police
- B) The Governor
- C) Jackson and Stephens
- D) Stephens

Ans C

Q7- Why did Evans request not to take off his hat?

- A) he was feeling cold
- B) to give a smart look
- C) he loved to wear
- D) Evans considered it lucky for himself

Ans C

Q8- Who was Mc Leery?

- A) Evan's friend
- B) policeman
- C) inspector
- D) the invigilator who had been appointed by the Governor to invigilate

Ans D

Q9- What precautions did the authorities take to conduct the examination smoothly?

- A) The Governor personally supervised security

- B) Evan's cell was checked thoroughly
- C) All belongings were taken away from Evan, The invigilator was frisked and a police officer was posted to keep a vigil
- D) All these

Q10- Where were the clues left?

- A) on the table
- B) in the cell
- C) on the mobile
- D) on the question paper

Ans D

Ans D

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