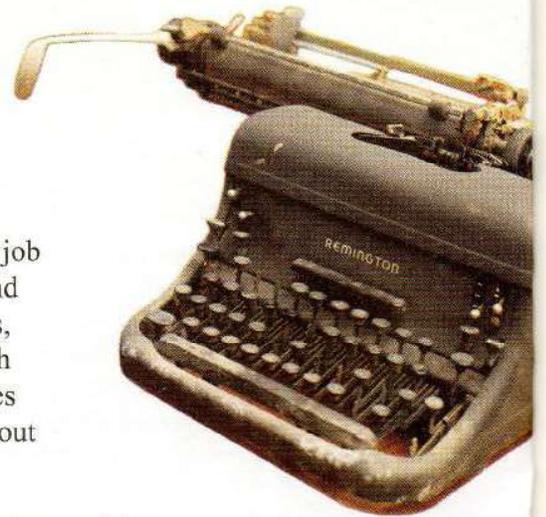


Read *Precious the detective* and answer questions 7 to 13.

Precious the detective



Precious settled quickly into a new routine. She was given a job in the office of the bus company, where she added invoices and checked the figures in the drivers' records. She was quick at this, and the cousin's husband noticed that she was doing as much work as the two older clerks put together. They sat at their tables and gossiped away the day, occasionally moving invoices about the desk, occasionally getting up to put on the kettle.

It was easy for Precious, with her memory, to remember how to do new things and to apply the knowledge faultlessly. She was also willing to make suggestions, and scarcely a week went past in which she failed to make some suggestion as to how the office could be more efficient.

'You're working too hard,' one of the clerks said to her. 'You're trying to take our jobs.'

Precious looked at them blankly. She had always worked as hard as she could, at everything she did, and she simply did not understand how anybody could do otherwise. How could they sit there, as they did, and stare into the space in front of their desks when they could be adding up figures or checking the drivers' returns.

She did her own checking, often unasked, and although everything usually added up, now and then she found a small discrepancy. These came from the giving of incorrect change, the cousin explained. It was easy enough to do on a crowded bus, and as long as it was not too significant, they just ignored it. But Precious found more than this. She found a discrepancy of slightly over two thousand pula in the fuel bills invoices and she drew this to the attention of her cousin's husband.

'Are you sure?' he asked. 'How could two thousand pula go missing?'

'Stolen?' said Precious.

The cousin's husband shook his head. He regarded himself as a model employer—a paternalist, yes, but that is what the men wanted, was it not? He could not believe that any of his employees would cheat him. How could they, when he was so good to them and did so much for them?

Precious showed him how the money had been taken, and they jointly pieced together how it had been moved out of the right account into another one, and had then eventually vanished altogether. Only one of the clerks had access to these funds, so it must have been him; there could be no other explanation. She did not see the confrontation, but heard it from the other room. The clerk was indignant, shouting his denial at the top of his voice. Then there was silence for a moment, and the slamming of a door.

This was her first case. This was the beginning of the career of Mma Ramotswe.

7. Why did Precious look at the clerks 'blankly' after they had spoken to her?
- (A) She had not heard what they were saying.
 - (B) She was pretending not to know what they meant.
 - (C) She was trying not to show any emotion.
 - (D) She was not guilty of the accusations they had made.
8. What was the clerks' attitude towards Precious?
- (A) They disliked the fact that she preferred to work on her own.
 - (B) They were annoyed because she created extra work for them.
 - (C) They resented her because she drew attention to their shortcomings.
 - (D) They were jealous of her ability to make the job look easy.
9. In the sentence 'But Precious found more than this', what does 'this' refer to?
- (A) the clerical errors in the bus drivers' wages
 - (B) the errors in the amount of change given for bus fares
 - (C) the two thousand pula that was unaccounted for
 - (D) the discrepancy in the fuel bills accounts
10. How did the cousin's husband respond initially to the idea that one of his employees was stealing money?
- (A) He refused to believe it and avoided the possibility of an investigation.
 - (B) He ignored it because he preferred to think his employees were honest.
 - (C) He was reluctant to accept it because he felt he treated his workers well.
 - (D) He demanded all the accounts so that he could identify who was responsible.
11. Which word does **NOT** describe the way in which one of the clerks had stolen money?
- (A) deception
 - (B) embezzlement
 - (C) swindle
 - (D) counterfeit
12. What is likely to have caused the clerk to fall silent during the confrontation with the cousin's husband?
- (A) He was shown the bank accounts as evidence of his crime.
 - (B) He was given an opportunity to deny the accusations.
 - (C) He was told to apologise for being rude to Precious.
 - (D) He was writing his letter of resignation.
13. Which word best describes Precious's attitude towards work?
- (A) ardent
 - (B) diligent
 - (C) tentative
 - (D) indifferent

