

1 shrlck hlms tk hs btll frm th crnr of th mntlpc and hs hypdrmc syrng frm its nt mrco cs wth hs lng wht nrvs fngrs h adjstd th dlct ndl and rlld bck hs lft shrt cff fr sm ltl tm hs eys rstd thghtfly upn th snwy frm and wrst al dtd and scrd wth inmrbll pnctr-mrks fnly h thrst th shrp pnt hm prsd dwn th tny pstn and snk bck int th vlvt-lnd armchr wth a lng sgh of stsfctn thr tms a dy fr mny mnths i hd wtnd ths prfrmnc bt cstm hd nt rncld my mnd t it on th cntry frm dy t dy i hd bcm mr irrtbl at th sgth and my cnsnc swld nghtly wthn m at th thght tht i hd lckd th crg t prtst agn and agn i hd rgstrd a vw tht i shld dlvr my sl upn th sbjct bt thr ws tht in th cl nnchlnt ar of my cmpnn whch md hm th lst mn wth whm

2 on wld cr t tk anythng aprchng t a lbrty hs grt pwr hs mstrly mnr and th exprnc whch i hd hd of hs mny extrrdnry qlts all md m dffdnt and bckwrld in crsng hm yt upn tht afrn whthr it ws th beaune whch i hd tkn wth my lch or th adnl exsprtn prdcd by th extrm dlbrtn of hs mnr i sdny flt tht i cld hld ot n lngr whch is it tdy i askd mrphn or ccn h rsd hs eys lngdly frm th old bcklitr vlm whch h hd opnd it is ccn h sd a svn prcnt sltn wld y cr t try it n indd i answrd brsqly my cnstttn hs nt gt ovr th afghn cmpgn t i cnt afrd t thrw any extr strn upn it h smld at my vhmnc prhps y ar rght wtsn h sd i sps tht its inflnc is physcly a bd on i fnd it hwvr s trnsndntly stmltng and clrfyng t th mnd tht its scndry actn is a mtr of sml mmnt bt cnsdr i sd ernstly cnt th cst yr brn may as y sy b rsd and exctd bt it is a pthlgcl and mrbd prcs whch lvs

3 incrsd tsu chng and my at lst lv a prmnt wkns y knw t wht a blk rctn cms upn y srly th gm is hrdly wrth th cndl why shld y fr a mr psng plsr rsk th ls of ths grt pwr wth whch y hv bn endwd rmmbr tht i spk nt only as on cmrd t anthr bt as a mdcl mn t on fr whs cnstttn h is t sm extnt answrbl h dd nt sm ofndd on th cntry h pt hs fngr tps tgthr and lnd hs elbws on th arms of hs chr lk on wh hs a rlsh fr cnvrstn my mnd h sd rbls at stgntn gv m prblms gv m wrk gv m th mst abstrs cryptgrm or th mst intrct anlyss and i am in my own prpr atmsphr i cn dspns thn wth artfcl stmlnts bt i abhr th dl rtn of exstnc i crv fr mntl exlttn tht is why i hv chsn my own prtclr prfsn or rthr crtd it fr i am th only on in th wrld. th only unfcl dtctv i sad rsng my eybrws th only unfcl cnsltng dtctv h answrd

4 i am th lst and hghst crt of apl in dtctn whn gregson or lestrade or athelney jones ar ot of thr dpths -- whch by th wy is thr nrml stt -- th mtr is ld bfr m i exmn th dta as an exprt and prnc a spelsts opnn i clm no crdt in sch css my nm fgns in n nwsppr th wrk itslf th plsr of fndng a fld fr my pclr pwr is my hghst rwrld bt y hv yrslf hd sm exprnc of my mthds of wrk in th jefferson hope cs ys indd sd i crdly i ws nvr s strck by anythng in my lf i evn embdd it in a sml brchr wth th smwht fntstc ttl of a study in scrlet h shk hs hd sdly

i glncd ovr it sad h hnstly i cnt cngrtlt y upn it dtctn is or oght t b an exct scnc and shld b trtd in th sm cld and unmtnl mnr y hv atmptd t tng it wth rmntcsm which prdcs mch th sm efct as if y wrkd a lv stry or an elpmnt int th ffth prpstn of euclid bt th rmnc ws thr i rmnstrtd i cld nt tmpr wth th fcts sm fcts shld b sprsd

5 or at lst a jst sns of prprtn shld b obsrvd in trtng thm th only pnt in th cs which dsrvd mntn ws th crs anlytcl rsngng frm efcts t css by which i scdd in unrvlng it i ws anyd at ths crtcsm of a wrk which hd bn spcly dsgnd to pls hm i cnfs t tht i ws irttd by th egtsm which smd t dmnd tht evry ln of my pmphlt shld b dvtd t hs own spcl dnngs mr thn onc drng th yrs tht i hd lvd wth hm in bkr strt i hd obsrvd tht a smll vnty undrly my cmpnns qt and ddctc mnr i md n rmrk hwvr bt st nrsng my wddd lg i hd hd a jezaii blt thrgh it sm tm bfr and thgh it dd nt prvnt m frm wlkng it achd wrly at evry chng of th wthr. my prctc hs extndd rcntly t th cntnt sd hlms aftr a whl flng up hs old brr rt pp i ws cnsltd lst wk by francois le villard who as y prbbly knw hs cm rthr t th frnt ltly in th frnch dtctv srvc h hs al th cltc pwr of qck inttn bt h is dfcnt in th wd rng of exct knwldg

6 which is esntl t th hghr dvlpmnts of hs art th cs ws cncrnd wth a wl and pssd sm ftrs of intrst i ws abl t rfr hm t tw prll css th on at riga in 1857 and th othr at saint louis in 1871 which hv sgstd t hm th tru sltn hr is th ltr which i hd ths mrngng acknwldgng my asstnc h tsd ovr as h spk a crmpld sht of frgn ntppr i glncd my eys dwn it ctchng a prfsn of nts of admrtn wth stry magnifiques coup-de-maitres and tours-de-force al tstfyng t th ardent

admrtn of th frnchmn oh h rts my asstnc t hghly sd shrlck hlms lghtly h hs cnsdrbl gfts hmself h psss tw ot of th thr qlts ncsry fr th idl dtctv h hs th pwr of obsrvtn and tht of ddctn h is only wntng in knwldg and tht my cm in tm h is nw trnsltng my sml wrks int frnch yr wrks oh ddnt y knw h crd lghng ys i hv bn glty of svrl mngrphs thy ar al upn tchncl sbjcts hr fr exmpl is on upn th dstnctn btwn th ashes of th vrs tbcs

7 in it i enmrt a hndrd and frty frms of cgr cgrt and pp tbcu wth clrd plts ilstrtng th dfrnc in th ash it is a pnt which is cntnly trngng up in crmnl trls and which is smtms of sprm imprtnc as a clu if y cn sy dfntly fr exmpl tht sm mrdr hd bn dn by a mn wh ws smkng an indn lunkah it obvsly nrws yr fld of srch t th trnd ey thr is as mch dfrnc btwn th blk ash of a trichinopoly and th wht flf of brds eye as thr is btwn a cbg and a ptto y hv an extrrdnry gns fr mntiae i rmrkd. i aprct thr imprtnc hr is my mngrph upn th trcng of ftstps wth sm rmrks upn th uss of plstr of prs as a prsrvr of imprss hr t is a crs ltl wrk upn th inflnc of a trd upn th frm of th hnd wth lthtyps of th hnds of sltrs slrs crk ctrs cmpstrs wvrs and dmnd plshrs tht is a mtr of grt pretcl intrst t th scntfc dtctv -- espclly in css of unclmd bds or in dscvrng th antcdnts of crmnl bt i wry y wth my hby nt at al i answrd ernstly it is of th grtst intrst t m

8 espclly snc i hv hd th oprtnty of obsrvng yr pretcl aplctn of it bt y spk jst nw of obsrvtn and ddcn srly th on t sm extnt impls th othr why hrdly h answr d lng bck lxrsly in hs armchr and sndng up thck bl wrths frm hs pp fr exmpl obsrvtn shws m tht y hv bn t th wigmore strt pst ofc ths mrng bt ddcn lts m knw tht whn thr y dsptchd a tlgrm rght sd i rght on bth pnts bt i cnfs tht i dnt s hw y arvd at it it ws a sdn impls upn my prt and i hv mntnd it t n on it is smplcty itslf h rmrkd chckng at my srprs s absrdly smpl tht an explntn is sprfls and yt it my srv t dfn th lmts of obsrvtn and of ddcn obsrvtn tls m tht y hv a ltl rdsh mld adhrng t yr instp jst opst th wgmr strt ofc thy hv tkn up th pvmt and thrwn up sm erth whch ls in sch a wy tht it is dfclt t avd trdng in it in entrng th erth is of ths pclr rdsh tnt whch is fnd as fr as i knw

9 nwhr els in th nghbrhd s mch is obsrvtn th rst is ddcn hw thn dd y ddc th tlgrm why of crs i knw tht y hd nt wrtn a ltr snc i st opst t y al mrng i s als in yr opn dsk thr tht y hv a sht of stmps and a thck bndl of pstcrds wht cld y g int th pst ofc fr thn bt t snd a wr elmnt al othr fctrs and th on whch rmns mst b th trth. in ths cs it crtnly is s i rpld afr a ltl thght th thng hwvr is as y sy of th smplst wld y thnk m imprtnt if i wr t pt yr thrs t a mr svr tst on th cntry h answr d it wld prvnt m frm tkng a scnd ds of ccn i shld b dlghtd t lk int any prblm whch y mght sbmt t m i hv hrd y sy it is dfclt fr a mn t hv any objct in dly us wtht lvng th imprs of hs indvdlty upn it in sch a wy tht a trnd obsrvr mght rd it nw i hv hr a wtch whch hs rcntly cm int my pssn wld y hv th knsns t lt m hv an opnn upn th chrctr or hbts of th lt ownr

10 i hndd hm ovr th wtch wth sm slght flng of amsmnt in my hrt fr th tst ws as i thght an impsbl on and i intndd it as a lsn agnst th smwht dgmte tn whch h ocsnly asmd h blncd th wtch in hs hnd gzd hrd at th dl opnd th bck and exmnd th wrks frst wth hs nkd eys and thn wth a pwrfl cnvx lns i cld hrdly kp frm smlng at hs crstfln fc whn h fnly snpd th cs t and hndd it bck thr ar hrdly any dt h rmrkd th wtch hs bn rcntly clnd whch rbs m of my mst sgstv fcets y ar rght i answr d it ws clnd bfr bng snt t m in my hrt i acsd my cmpnn of ptng frwr a mst lm and impnt excs t cvr hs flr wht dt cld h expct frm an unclnd wtch thgh unstsfcetry my rsrch hs nt bn entrly brn h obsrvd strng up at th clng wth drmy lck lstr eys sbjct t yr crctn i shld jdg tht th wtch blngd t yr eldr brthr wh inhrted it frm yr fthr tht y gthr n dbt frm th h w upn th bck qt s th w sgsts yr own nm th dt of th wtch is

11 nrly ffty yrs bck and th intls ar as old as th wtch s it ws md fr th lst gnrtn jwlry usly dscnds t th eldst sn and h is mst lkly t hv th sm nm as th fthr yr fthr hs if i rmmbr rght bn dd mny yrs it hs thrfr bn in th hnds of yr eldst brthr rght s fr sd i anythng els h ws a mn of untidy hbts vry untidy and crls h ws lft wth gd prspcts bt h thrw awy hs chncs lvd fr sm tm in pvrtly wth ocsnl shrt intrvls of prsprty and fnly tkng t drnk h dd tht is al i cn gthr. i sprng frm my chr and lmpd impntntly abt th rm wth cnsdrbl btrns in my hrt ths is unwrthy of y

hlms i sd i cld nt hv blvd tht y wld hv dscndd t ths y hv md inqrs int th  
hstry of my unhpy brthr and y nw prtnd t ddc ths knwldg in sm fncfl wy y cant expct m t blv  
tht y hv rd al ths frm hs old wtch it is unknd and t spk plnly hs a tch of chrltnsm in it.  
my dr dctr sd h kindly pry acpt my aplgs vwng th mtr as an abstrct prblm i hd frgtn hw prsnl and

12 pnfl a thng it mght b t y i asr y hwvr tht i nvr evn knw tht y hd a brthr untl y hnnd  
m th wtch thn hw in th nm of al tht is wndrfl dd y gt ths fcts thy ar absltly crct in  
evry prtclr ah tht is gd lck i cld only sy wht ws th bln of prbbly i dd nt at al expct t b s  
acrt bt it ws nt mr gswrk no no i nvr gs it is a shckng hbt dstrectv t th lgcl felty  
wht sms strng t y is only s bcs y d nt flw my trn of thght or obsrv th sml fcts upn which lrg  
infrncs my dpnd fr exmpl i bgn by sttng tht yr brthr ws crls whn y obsrv th lwr prt of tht  
wtch cs y ntc tht it is nt only dntd in tw plcs bt it is ct and mrkd al ovr frm th  
hbt of kpng othr hrd objcts sch as cns or kys in th sm pckt srly it is n grt ft t asm tht a mn wh  
trts a ffty gni wtch s cvlrly mst b a crls mn nthr is it a vry fr ftchd infrnc tht a mn  
wh inhrtis on artcl of sch vlu is prty wl prvdd fr in othr rspcts i ndd to shw tht i flwd hs rsng.

13 it is vry cstmry fr pwnbrkrs in englnd whn thy tk a wtch t scrctch th nmbrs of th tckt wth a  
pn pnt upn th insd of th cs it is mr hndy thn a lbl as thr is n rsk of th nmbr bng lst or trnspsd  
thr ar n ls thn fr sch nmbrs vsbl t my lns on th insd of ths cs infrnc -- tht yr brthr ws oftn at  
lw wtr scndry infrnc -- tht h hd ocsnl brsts of prsprty or h cld nt hv rdmd th pldg.  
fnly i ask y t lk at th inr plt whch cntns th kyhl lk at th thsnds of scrctchs al rnd th  
hl mrks whr th ky hs slpd wht sbr mns ky cld hv scrd ths grvs bt y wl nvr s a  
drnkrds wtch wtht thm h wnds it at nght and h lvs ths trcs of hs unstdy hnd whr  
is th mystry in al ths it is as clr as dylght i ans wrd i rgrr th injstc whch i dd y i shld  
hv hd mr fth in yr mrvls felty my i ask whthr y hv any prfsnl inqry on ft at prsnt. nn hnc th ccn  
i cnt lv wtht brnwrk wht els is thr t lv fr stnd at th wndw hr ws evr sch

14 a drry dsml unprftbl wrld s hw th ylw fg swrls dwn th strt and drfts acrs th dn-clrd  
hss wht cld b mr hplsly prsc and mtrl wht is th us of hvng pwrs dctr whn on hs n fld upn whch  
t exrt thm crm is cmnplc exstnc is cmnplc and n qlts sv ths whch ar cmnplc hv any fncn upn erth.  
i hd opnd my mth t rply t ths trd whn wth a crsp knck or lndldy entrd brng a crd upn th brs slvr.  
a yng ldy fr y sr sh sd adrsng my cmpnn ms mary morstan h rd hm i hv n rclctn of th nm  
ask th yng ldy t stp up mrs hudson dnt g dctr i shld prfr tht y rmn - th end of chptr on