

UNSEEN SHADOWS

Historia



HISTORIA

BASED ON CHARACTERS FROM THE NOVEL
FALLEN HEROES BY BARRY NUGENT

WRITTEN BY

RICHMOND CLEMENTS

ART BY

ALEX MOORE

COLOURS BY

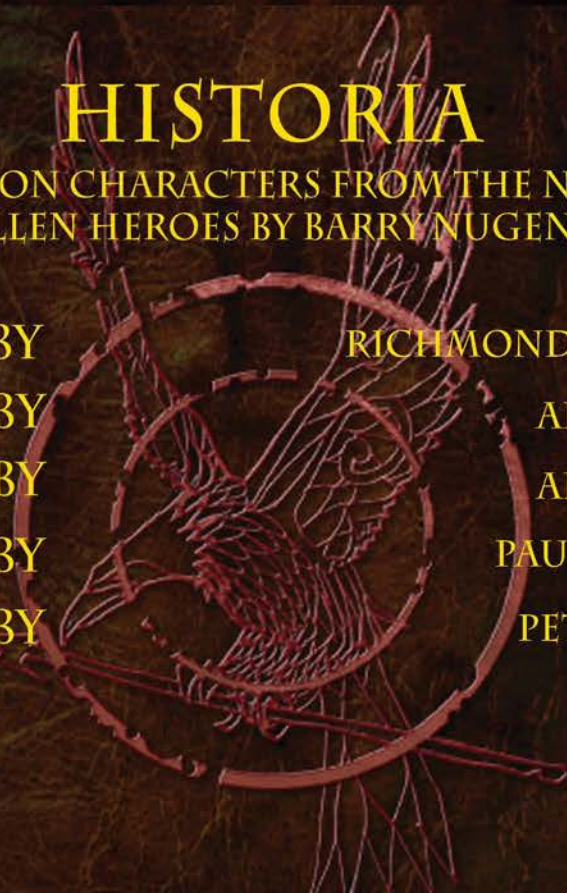
ALEX MOORE

LETTERS BY

PAUL MCLAREN

COVER BY

PETER MASON



DR. KATHRYN MONROE

Before joining TORCH Kathryn worked as a therapist at her father's Harley Street clinic. Blessed with an analytical mind and a near genius level IQ she is also a respected authority in the fields of Criminal Psychology and Behaviour Studies.

Not being a fan of red tape Kathryn will quite happily circumvent it if it means saving lives. Her skill of reading a suspect's behaviour and the almost 'Zen like state' she goes into when examining a crime scene earned her the nick name 'The Ninth Sense'.



T.O.R.C.H

The Tactical, Operational Response and Control Headquarters was formed by the United Nations Security Council after the Capital Bombings in 1970.

TORCH's main remit is to protect the United Nations from any and all threats. Its agents are comprised of men and women from the UN's member states. The current Director of TORCH is Philippe Chardon.

There was a time when these cases would send me reaching for my fave prescription drugs...But now...

"I'M ON MY WAY THERE NOW, MR CHARDON."

"NO, DIRECTOR, I WON'T KNOW THAT UNTIL I GET THERE."

...Now it's just a Wednesday.

"WELL IF I SOUND RATTY, SIR, IT'S BECAUSE I AM. BEING WOKE UP EARLY TO GO LOOK AT DEAD BODIES DOES THAT TO A GIRL."

"YEAH, SPEAK TO YOU LATER."

"SPEAK TO YOU LATER, SIR."

MISS MONROE?

THAT'S ME...

...AND YOU ARE?

DUANE HARRISON.
TORCH LIAISON FOR
THE LOCAL POLICE. THANK
YOU FOR COMING,
AGENT MONROE.

PLEASE, CALL
ME KATHRYN...

...THIS
IS QUITE A
PLACE.

YEAH,
NOTHING
BUT THE BEST
FOR THESE
KIDS.

THIS WAS
A MANSION
BEFORE,
RIGHT?

YEAH...

...SOME OLD TIME
UN GUY DONATED IT
DECADES AGO OR
SOMETHING.

TORCH : TACTICAL OPERATIONAL
RESPONSE AND CONTROL
HEADQUARTERS. THE UN SPECIAL
INVESTIGATION AGENCY.



SO, WHAT'S THE STORY?

PUPILS WALKED INTO THEIR CLASSROOM THIS MORNING TO FIND THE TEACHER DEAD.

MUST HAVE BEEN NICE FOR THEM.

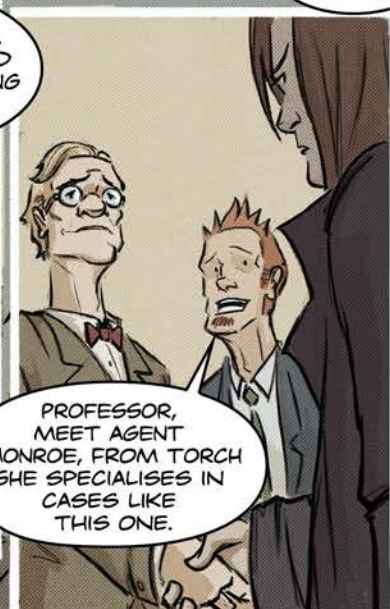
FORENSICS?




JUST BEEN TAKING PHOTOGRAPHS. DIRECTOR CHARDON SAID NOT TO MOVE ANYTHING UNTIL YOU ARRIVED AND - UH OH...

WHAT?

PROFESSOR PICKETT. THE HEADMASTER.




PROFESSOR, MEET AGENT MONROE, FROM TORCH SHE SPECIALISES IN CASES LIKE THIS ONE.



AGENT MONROE THIS MAY SEEM... INDELICATE, BUT MAY I REMIND YOU OF THE SENSITIVITY OF THE SITUATION?

SENSITIVITY?

YES...



...OUR PUPILS ARE... SPECIAL. IF WORD OF THIS WAS MADE PUBLIC...

RICH.

I BEG YOUR PARDON?

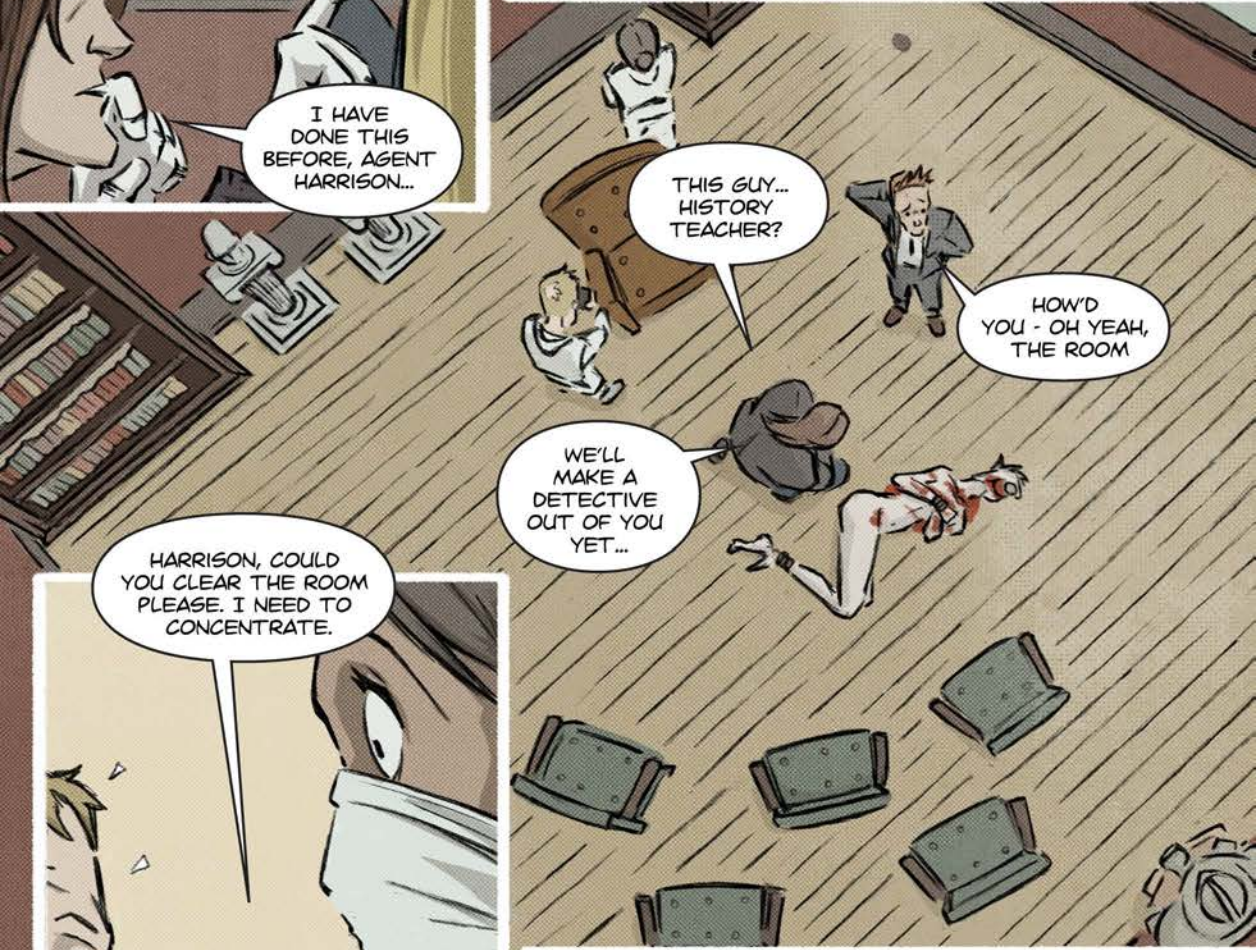
BY SPECIAL YOU MEAN RICH.

YOU WANT TO COVER UP A MURDER TO SPARE THE FEELINGS OF RICH PEOPLE.

WELL, NO, THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT AT ALL.

GOOD BECAUSE I'M NOT HERE TO DO YOUR PR OR TO SMOOTH THINGS OVER. SOMEONE HAS BEEN MURDERED. DO YOU GET THAT, MR PICKETT?

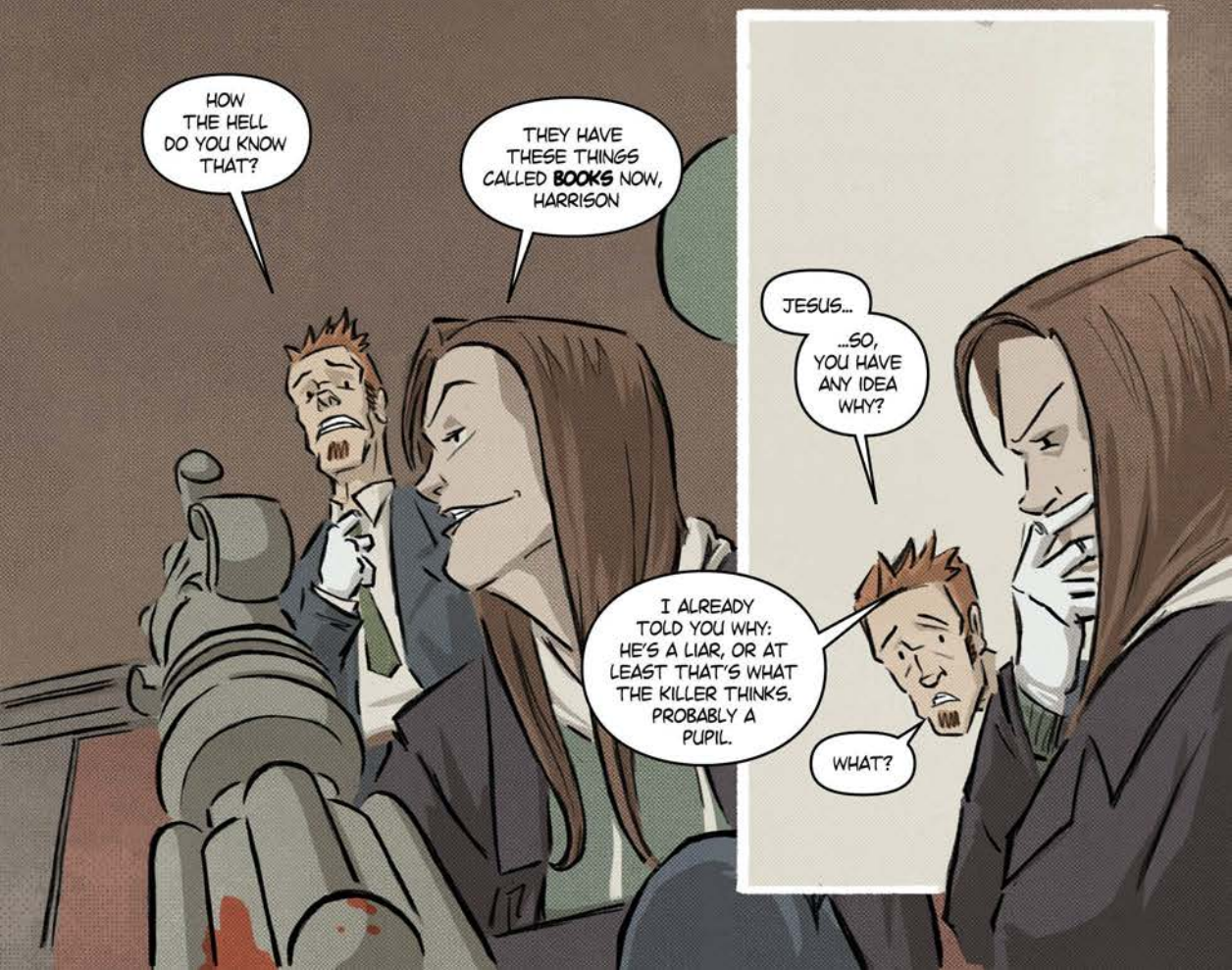
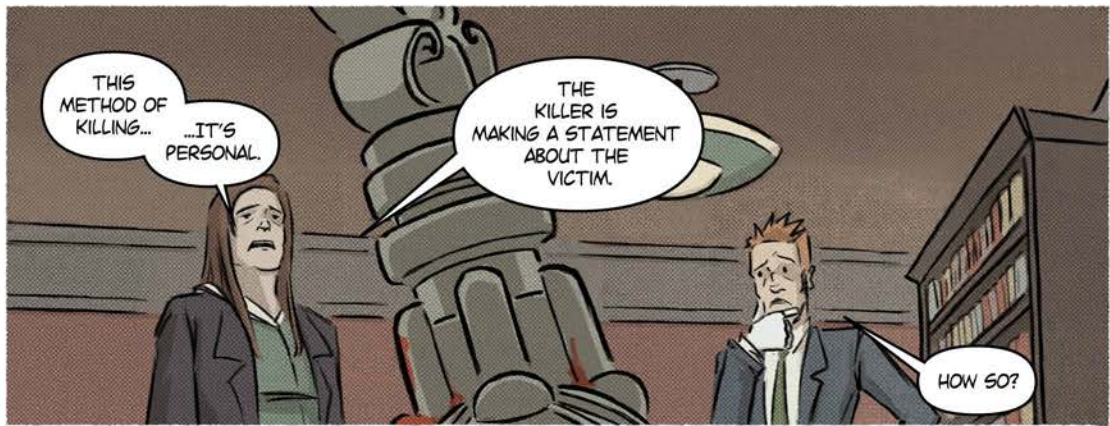


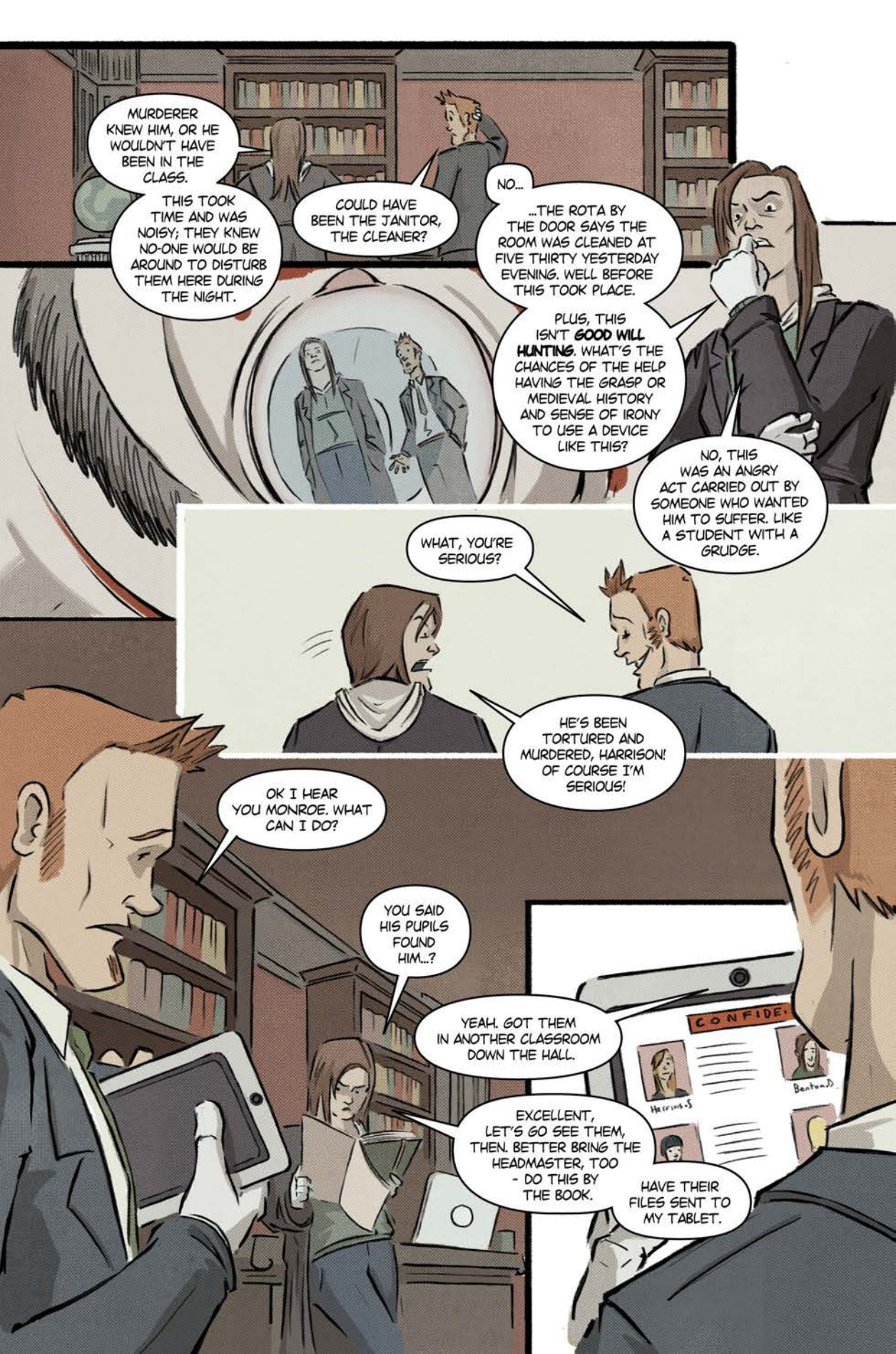




YES. THE SWORD IS MISSING FROM THAT SUIT OF ARMOUR. HE USED THAT.







MURDERER
KNEW HIM, OR HE
WOULDN'T HAVE
BEEN IN THE
CLASS.

THIS TOOK
TIME AND WAS
NOISY; THEY KNEW
NO-ONE WOULD BE
AROUND TO DISTURB
THEM HERE DURING
THE NIGHT.

COULD HAVE
BEEN THE JANITOR,
THE CLEANER?

NO...

...THE ROTA BY
THE DOOR SAYS THE
ROOM WAS CLEANED AT
FIVE THIRTY YESTERDAY
EVENING. WELL BEFORE
THIS TOOK PLACE.

PLUS, THIS
ISN'T **GOOD WILL
HUNTING**. WHAT'S THE
CHANCES OF THE HELP
HAVING THE GRASP OR
MEDIEVAL HISTORY
AND SENSE OF IRONY
TO USE A DEVICE
LIKE THIS?

NO, THIS
WAS AN ANGRY
ACT CARRIED OUT BY
SOMEONE WHO WANTED
HIM TO SUFFER. LIKE
A STUDENT WITH A
GRUDGE.

WHAT, YOU'RE
SERIOUS?

HE'S BEEN
TORTURED AND
MURDERED, HARRISON!
OF COURSE I'M
SERIOUS!

OK I HEAR
YOU MONROE. WHAT
CAN I DO?

YOU SAID
HIS PUPILS
FOUND
HIM...?


YEAH. GOT THEM
IN ANOTHER CLASSROOM
DOWN THE HALL.

EXCELLENT,
LET'S GO SEE THEM,
THEN. BETTER BRING THE
HEADMASTER, TOO
- DO THIS BY
THE BOOK.


HAVE THEIR
FILES SENT TO
MY TABLET.

CONFIDENTIAL



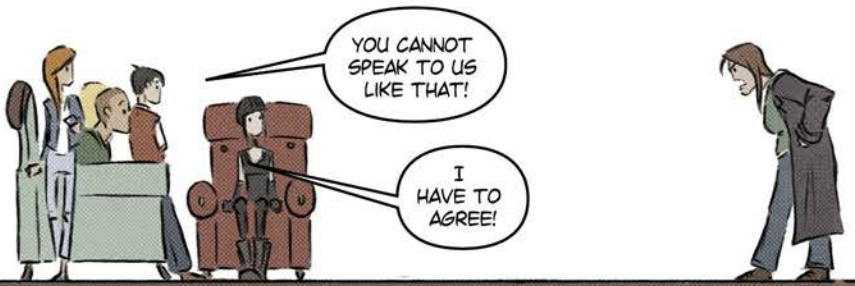


GOOD MORNING, MY NAME IS KATHRYN MONROE. I KNOW IT'S A TERRIBLE THING YOU HAVE BEEN THROUGH, BUT I'M AFRAID I'M GOING TO HAVE TO ASK YOU SOME QUESTIONS ABOUT PROFESSOR CRAMMOND.



IF YOU WOULDN'T MIND -

SHUTTING THE HELL UP!



YOU CANNOT SPEAK TO US LIKE THAT!

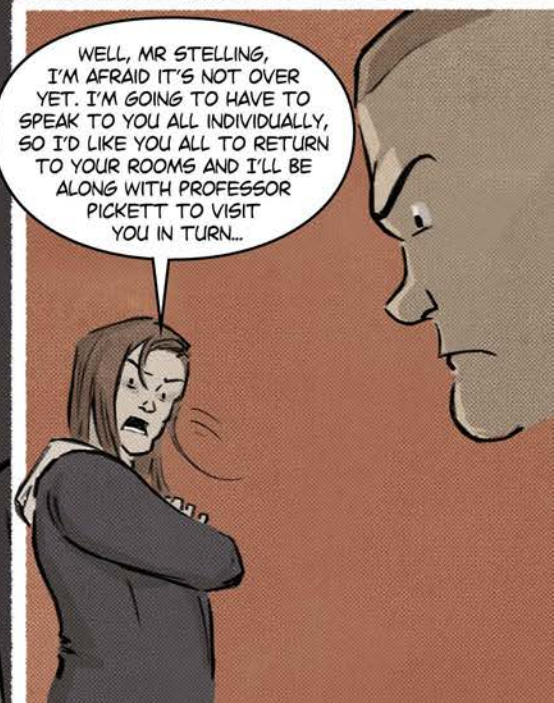
I HAVE TO AGREE!



I THINK I JUST DID. MR...?

KERT.

KERT STELLING.



WELL, MR STELLING, I'M AFRAID IT'S NOT OVER YET. I'M GOING TO HAVE TO SPEAK TO YOU ALL INDIVIDUALLY, SO I'D LIKE YOU ALL TO RETURN TO YOUR ROOMS AND I'LL BE ALONG WITH PROFESSOR PICKETT TO VISIT YOU IN TURN...



CHARMING BUNCH.

IN HERE...

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

JUST WANT TO HAVE A LOOK...



"...SEE HOW THEY ACT WHEN THEY THINK WE'RE NOT LOOKING..."



WELL? WHAT DID YOU SEE?

WONDERFUL THINGS, HARRISON, WONDERFUL THINGS...

AND IF WE PUT THIS TOGETHER WITH WHAT WE'VE JUST SEEN, WE'RE STARTING TO GET SOMEWHERE.



SABINA HANNING.

YES, PROFESSOR CRAMMOND WAS OKAY. BORING, YOU KNOW?

MADE US ALL JOIN A STUPID HISTORY CLUB - SAID WE HAD TO FOR CLASS CREDITS.



BOBBI PORTICO.

IT WAS TERRIBLE. I AM STILL IN A STATE OF SHOCK, I THINK...



ISABEL RUSSART.

IT WAS SAD, YES...

...I HOPE GETTING A NEW TEACHER WON'T HURT MY GRADES



STEPHEN WILLMOTT.

IT WAS...

...IT WAS TERRIBLE. I WAS FIRST IN THE ROOM, YOU SEE, I SAW...

...I SAW...

...OH GOD!



KERT STELLING.

LOOK, IT'S TRUE THAT THE PROFESSOR AND I DID NOT SEE...

...HOW DOES IT GO? EYE TO EYE?

AND YES, I CAN TELL YOU EXACTLY WHERE I WAS LAST NIGHT. ALL OF IT.

JUST ASK SABINA.



DAN KENTON.

I LOVED THE HISTORY CLUB. PROFESSOR CRAMMOND WAS THE BEST TEACHER I HAVE EVER HAD.



YOU STILL SURE IT'S ONE OF THE KIDS?

SURE? I'M NOT SURE OF ANYTHING, HARRISON, I GO WHERE THE EVIDENCE LEADS.

AND YOU THINK YOU'LL FIND SOME ON CRAMMOND'S COMPUTER.



WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FOR?

OBSERVE, HARRISON - HE LOOK LIKE SOMEONE WHO USED HIS COMPUTER?



CLUES, AGENT HARRISON. THAT'S KIND OF WHAT I DO.

THIS STUFF IS COVERED IN DUST...

...NOTHING'S BEEN MOVED FOR A WHILE...



APART FROM THIS ONE.

GOTTA GO. END OF MY SHIFT. SEE YOU BACK HERE IN THE MORNING, AND DON'T DO ANYTHING STUPID, YEAH?

YEAH...



DATED YESTERDAY AFTERNOON...

...WELL, THIS IS INTERESTING.

DRITCO.

BOBBI, I'D LIKE TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT SOMETHING.

ABOUT WHAT..?

HISTORY CLUB.

PROFESSOR CRAMMOND TOLD THE CLASS YESTERDAY HE WAS STOPPING THE CLUB. THEN HE PUT IN A COMPLAINT AGAINST KERT STELLING.

WHAT HAPPENED, BOBBI?

THE PROFESSOR SAID HE WAS STOPPING THE CLUB, SAID SOME OF US WERE GETTING TOO SERIOUS ABOUT IT.

DAN FREAKED AT IT, ESPECIALLY WHEN WE ARE A COUPLE OF DAYS FROM THE MEDIEVAL FAIR. KERT HAD LAUGHED AT HIM AND DAN THREW A PUNCH.

"THE PROFESSOR GOT BETWEEN THEM, AND KERT."

"AND YOU DIDN'T SAY EARLIER BECAUSE?"

"KERT WARNED IF WE SAID ANYTHING, YOU WOULD THINK HE DID IT AND HE WOULD... HE WOULD HIT US, TOO."

SO, DO YOU THINK HE DID IT? DO YOU THINK KERT KILLED THE PROFESSOR?

I THINK YOU'VE BEEN VERY BRAVE BOBBI.

THANKS TO YOU I CAN SEE THINGS A LOT CLEARER NOW.



HARRISON?
IF YOU'RE THERE
PICK UP!

I'M ON MY
WAY TO TALK
TO DAN KENTON
ABOUT KERT STELLING.
WE SAW HIM BEING
BULLIED EARLIER.



"HE MIGHT BE ABLE TO SHED
SOME LIGHT ON THIS."



DAMMIT!

MR KENTON?

DAN?



THE
KILLER'S PRINT,
FOR SURE.



TOO
SMALL TO BE
STELLING'S.

SHIT!



STELLING!



HOLY -

PLEASE...

...PLEASE
HELP ME!

DROP THE
WEAPON!



GAHH!





"STEPHEN WILLMOTT. RECENTLY ORPHANED SON OF ROGER WILLMOTT."



"THIS BUILDING IS HIS ANCESTRAL HOME. THE BOOKS ON REINCARNATION ON HIS SHELF. THE HISTORY CLUB. DEAD FATHER TRAUMA"

"IT WAS ALL IN THERE."



"NOTHING IN HIS HISTORY SHOWS HIM TO BE ANYWHERE NEAR THIS IMAGINATIVE... THAT WAS WHAT THREW ME TO BEGIN WITH"

JESUS, HARRISON, DON'T YOU EVER ANSWER YOUR CALLS!?

KATHRYN WHAT ARE YOU?



MOUTH CLOSED, HARRISON. LISTEN...

I'M HEADING AFTER THE KILLER. IT'S THE WILLMOTT BOY. YES, I KNOW, AND I TOLD YOU TO BE QUIET.



NO, I'LL GET HIM. I NEED YOU TO DO SOMETHING ELSE FOR ME...



STEPHEN.?

...I KNOW YOU'RE THERE, I WANT TO TALK TO YOU...

I'M HERE TO HELP, I PROMISE. I KNOW YOU'RE UPSET...

...BUT I'M SURE YOUR DAD WOULD-

CRASH
DON'T TALK ABOUT HIM!

HA!

I CAN BRING HIM BACK!

NO!

AHH!

AND YOU WON'T STOP ME!



STEPHEN, PLEASE, YOU NEED HELP. YOUR FATHER IS DEAD, YOU CAN'T -

I'LL KILL YOU! SHE SAID I NEEDED BLOOD!

BLOOD? FOR WHAT, STEPHEN?

THE SPELL DEMANDS SACRIFICE!

AND I NEED HIM BACK!

KILLING ME WON'T BRING HIM BACK, STEPHEN. NOT ME, NOT ANYONE...



DON'T SAY THAT! YOU'RE WRONG! YOU'RE A LIAR TOO!

I WISH I WAS, STEPHEN, I TRULY DO...

...BUT IT'S A HARD TRUTH...

I CAN SEE HOW MUCH YOU'RE HURTING STEPHEN, BUT THIS ISN'T THE WAY.

WHEN SOMEONE'S GONE THEY'RE GONE. THEY STAY WITH US IN OUR HEARTS BUT WE CAN'T BRING THEM BACK.

YOU NEED TO ALLOW YOURSELF TO GRIEVE, STEPHEN. YOU CAN LOVE AND MISS HIM, HE LOVED YOU, TOO...

BUT HE'S GONE AND YOU'RE HERE...

...PLEASE, STEPHEN...

...I CAN HELP YOU.

GIVE ME YOUR SWORD, AND I PROMISE I'LL HELP YOU, STEPHEN...



FREEZE!

DAMMIT!



DROP THE WEAPON OR I WILL SHOOT!

NO!



I'LL KILL HER I WILL!

NO.
NO YOU WON'T.



STEPHEN, WAIT A -



SHUT UP!
YOU LIED TO ME, JUST LIKE GRAMMOND!

HOW DID HE LIE, STEPHEN, WHAT DID HE SAY?

HE PROMISED THE MEDIEVAL FAIR! THEN HE CHANGED HIS MIND BECAUSE OF THAT IDIOT BULLY STELLING!



I WAS GOING TO USE THE FAIR - CAST THE SPELL THERE! BRING BACK MY FATHER!

WE HAD TO CHANGE THE PLAN HAD TO -



AHLL!

WUT!





ONE OF THEM?

THAT'S CORRECT, SIR. HE WASN'T WORKING ALONE.

IS HE DEAD?

YES, I'M AFRAID HE IS...

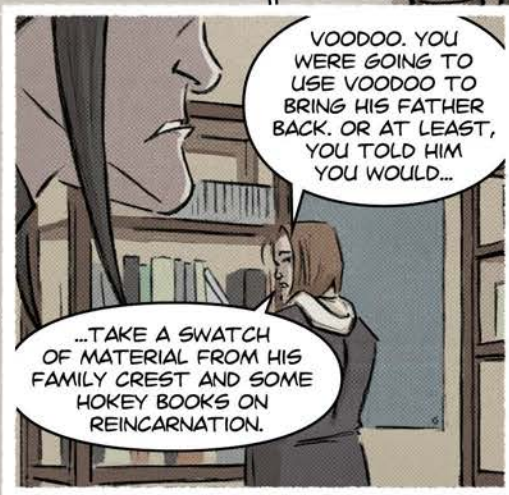


OH THAT IS A SHAME...

WHY'D YOU DO IT, BOBBI? WHY'D YOU TALK STEPHEN INTO KILLING ALL THOSE PEOPLE?

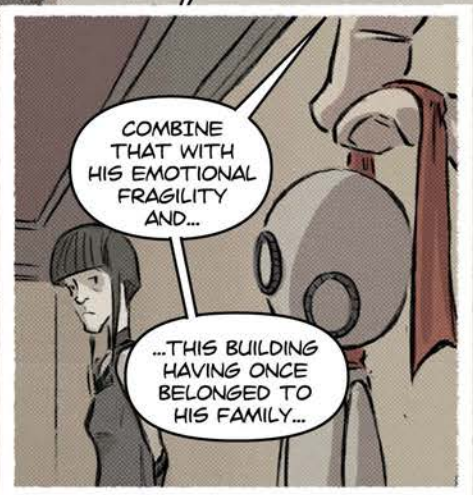
WHO SAID THAT I DID?

YOU DID, BOBBI. YOU DID.



VOODOO. YOU WERE GOING TO USE VODOO TO BRING HIS FATHER BACK. OR AT LEAST, YOU TOLD HIM YOU WOULD...

...TAKE A SWATCH OF MATERIAL FROM HIS FAMILY CREST AND SOME HOKEY BOOKS ON REINCARNATION.



COMBINE THAT WITH HIS EMOTIONAL FRAGILITY AND...

...THIS BUILDING HAVING ONCE BELONGED TO HIS FAMILY...



...AND THEN THERE WAS YOUR AMATEUR ATTEMPT TO GET ME TO CHASE AFTER STELLING.

I RESEARCHED YOU, DR MONROE. THE THERAPIST WHO RAN A HIGH FLYING PRACTICE WITH DADDY, TURNED HEROIC INVESTIGATOR FOR TORCH.

BUT THERE IS NOTHING HEROIC ABOUT YOU IS THERE DR MONROE?

TELL ME, HOW EMOTIONALLY FRAGILE WAS DADDY WHEN YOU DESTROYED HIS CAREER? WHEN HE BLEW HIS BRAI-

YOU'LL NEED TO DO BETTER THAN THAT TO GET INSIDE MY HEAD, BOBBI.



SO I'LL ASK AGAIN : WHY DID YOU DO IT BOBBI?

HONESTLY, DR MONROE, WITH AN IQ AS HIGH AS YOURS I WOULD THINK YOU ALREADY KNOW WHY I DID IT? MINE IS 155 BY THE WAY.



TO YOU THIS ISN'T A CRIME. TO YOU IT'S JUST...JUST A WEDNESDAY.


NO, DR MONROE TO ME THIS WAS MY ENTRANCE EXAM AND I PASSED WITH FLYING COLOURS.




WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

IF YOU THINK THIS STORY ENDS WITH ME IN JAIL, THEN WHY IS HE HERE?






ALL THE EVIDENCE POINTS TO WILMOT AND BOBBI'S FAMILY HAVE POWERFUL FRIENDS. I WILL NOT RISK THE REPUTATION OF TORCH ON YOUR INTUITION AGENT MONROE.




THIS IS BULLSHIT! SO WE BURN STEPHEN AND BOBBI THE PSYCOPATH GETS A FREE PASS.




HARDLY. I WILL SEE TO IT THAT MISS PORTIO GETS THE HELP SHE NEEDS. ON THAT YOU HAVE MY WORD MONROE.




ROCKWELL? IT'S CHARDON. THE DEMONSTRATION IS OVER.



BOBBI WILL BE ON A PLANE AND HEADING BACK TO YOU WITHIN THE HOUR.




I keep thinking about what Bobbi said, "This was my entrance exam and I passed with flying colours"




Was it just the delusions of a disturbed mind?



"OH SHE PERFORMED MAGNIFICENTLY."



"MOVE HER UP TO TIER 3 - I'M SURE SHE'LL GO FAR."



Or was it something else?