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INTRODUCTION

A young girl and her dog Jess are being naughty in her bedroom and her father takes the dog and locks it in the shed, Rachael lets it out at night because it is crying and once again brings it up to her room, her father has had enough and takes the dog outside and shoots it, what happens next over many years is every time someone upsets Rachael the dog appears as a monster and kills the person, unknown to her a young policeman Joss discovers from a professor that an Egyptian Queen from 3 thousand years ago has somehow bewitched the dog, there follows many deaths related to the dog and the link is Rachael she has no idea and the police cannot find the link but discover lots of evidence that finally find Rachael is the controller of the dog through her thoughts and deeds, and she must dispatch the dog back to where it came from.

JESS

“Where can that dog have gone, Beth, have you seen Jess, I can not find that bloody dog anywhere.” Samuel asked his wife.

“No Samuel, I have not seen Jess for some time.” His wife replied. All the time Samuel looked in every room, then he said.

“I know where he is.” And climbed the stairs to Rachel’s room. “Quick Jess under the bed and hide daddies coming.” Rachel pushed the dog under the bed.

“Shush don’t make a sound.” Rachel said to the dog, as her father entered her room.

“Where is the dog Rachel.”

Her father asked as she looked at him with a blank expression, hoping he would not ask again.

“Where is he Rachel I won’t ask you again?”

Her father stood angrily looking at Rachel hoping he did not scare her too much then the dog moved under the bed and her father knew where the dog was and reached under to get him out.

“Daddy don’t put him outside please it is raining.”

“Rachel dogs are supposed to sleep outside not in here with you, now come on, you.”

The father grabbed the dog that gave a whimper and dragged it out into the hall and downstairs.

“Samuel what are you doing to that dog.” His wife asked.

“What does it look like I am taking him outside if that is okay with you?”

The sarcastic looked warned his wife not to question his judgment, he then went outside and sometime later came back soaking wet.

“That should keep him quiet.”

“What have you done to the dog Samuel?” Beth asked.

“Just locked him in the shed he will be alright till the morning, now I must go and dry myself.”

Later that night when everyone was asleep Rachel silently went downstairs and out into the garden it was still raining slightly, she only had her night dress on and housecoat.

“Jess where are you.” She whispered, but no sound came back.

“Jess, come on, where are you.” Still nothing and then she heard the dog scratching on the shed door Rachel went over to the shed and opened the door.

“Come on boy.”

The dog rushed out and knocked Rachel over onto her back in the mud, then jumped all over her in excitement.

“Jess stop it?”

The dog stopped and sat down while Rachel got up, by now she was covered in mud.

“Look at me, you silly dog.” Jess then jumped up once more and nearly knocked her over again.

‘I said stop it you silly dog, now come on let’s get you inside.’

Rachel grabbed the dog collar and took him towards the house, all the while they walked through muddy puddles till they got inside the house, Rachel grabbed a towel and started to wipe the mud off her and then Jess, then still holding the collar took him upstairs very quietly hoping no one had heard her but no sound was heard.

She went into her bedroom and told the dog to lie down, but Jess had other ideas and jumped on the bed.

“No bad dog get down.”

Rachel said very quietly as she dared, but the dog just rolled around on the bed and shaking his legs

“No Jess get down.”

But the dog just rolled around and played with Rachel then she started to laugh and that was when her father came into her room and saw the sight that greeted him. Mud and paw marks all over the bedspread and sheets and Rachel covered in mud.

“What the hell is going on?” The father asked.

Rachel looked at her father and knew he was angry then her mother came into the room, the sight that greeted her made her gasp.

“Rachel what have you done.” Rachel never spoke Jess just laid on the bed that by now was covered in muddy paws.

“Right that is it.”

Her father grabbed the dog and dragged him out of the bedroom and downstairs, Rachel ran to her mother.

“I am sorry mother we were just playing.”

“Rachel you are naughty girl what was you thinking bringing Jess up here.” Her mother asked Rachel never spoke just looked up at her mother her sweet face lined with tears.

“Come, let us change these sheets and get you to bed.”

As they were making the bed the gunshot rang out and Rachel knew her father had shot Jess, she screamed and began to run towards the window and looked out to see her father burying the lifeless dog, the rain dripping of his hat he must have felt her eyes on him and looked up at Rachel’s window to see his daughter looking down. Rachel ran back to the bed and buried her face in the pillow and cried.

“Did you have to do that?” His wife asked.

“Yes, he was no good anyway, and Rachael went a bit too far tonight, maybe she will learn to obey her father.”

The rain battered down all night Rachael cried till she fell asleep, the next morning when Rachael came down for breakfast her father had gone to work.

“Why did daddy have to kill Jess mother he was only a little dog.”
She asked.

“I don’t know baby but you were a naughty girl last night and maybe it was part your fault, you should have left Jess in the shed and maybe it would not have happened, now eat your breakfast before it goes cold, and then go and catch the bus for school.”

Rachael did as she was told and got her things and left the house to walk to the bus stop at the end of the lane for school, as she passed the grave of Jess she cried and said

“I am sorry Jess it was my fault you are dead please forgive me.”
Then she walked to the end of the lane just as the bus was coming but she could feel something following her she turned but no one was there, the bus pulled up.

“Good morning Rachael? Mrs. Shultz the bus driver said.

“And how are you today.”

Rachael never spoke she just went and sat down next to her best friend Vicky and sat in silence. Mrs. Shultz just shrugged her shoulders and drove off,

“What is wrong Rachael?” Vicky asked.

“My dad shot Jess last night.” Rachael replied.

“What your dad shot your dog why.” Vicky asked.

“Because he is horrible and I hate him.” Was Rachael’s reply and never said another word all the way to school.

The school day over they got back on the bus to go home, the bus started dropping off the children one by one till about six were left Rachael, Vicky the sisters Vonda and Rita, Billy Taylor and Troy Preston who was the local bully, he got up and sat behind Rachael and Vicky and started to pull Vicky's hair.

"Leave me alone Troy or I will tell my dad." She shouted.

"Ho you tell your dad will you and I am supposed to be scared am I." Troy replied.

"Leave her alone." Rachael said.

"And what will you do little girl set your dog onto me." Troy's face was close to Rachael's.

"Go away you bully." She said. "I hope something bad happens to you Troy Preston."

"Woo scary." Troy taunted Rachael.

The bus pulled up and Rachael and Vicky got off, 'see you in the morning girls Troy shouted. 'Troy Preston sit yourself down please? Mrs. Shultz shouted this Troy did when the rest of the children had got off Troy was the last one his house was way back in the woods and a long walk the bus pulled away and Troy began to walk home as he reached a very thick wooded area he had a strange feeling he was being followed but when he turned nothing was there, and he carried on walking then he heard the breathing and turned to see a huge animal part dog part wolf he took to his

heals and hoped he could reach home before the animal could catch him but he was no match for the beast, with one paw the beast brought Troy down and as he turned on his back the animal ripped his throat out and dragged him into the woods. His parents did not usually worry their son didn't come home from school as sometimes he would stay at his friends and with seven other children in the family they had other things on their minds.

Rachael did not talk much at the dinner table as she was said her dog did not run to greet her she looked at her father and then at the floor.

“What is the matter girl cat got your tongue.” Her father asked.

“No just don't want to talk to you.” Rachael replied.

“Don't come that tone with me young lady now go to your room.” Her father said angrily pointing to the stairs. “And when you have some respect for me you can come down, now go.”

” Rachael got up from the table and skulked upstairs to her room and lay on the bed and cried. That night when all was quite Rachael heard a scratching noise on the door and wondered what it was, but was to afraid to go down, but still it scratched and then she got up the courage to go down and open the door.

“Jess is that you.” The dog came to her and rubbed up against her legs she very quietly took the dog upstairs and he lay on the bed looking at her.

“Jess how can you be here daddy shot you and buried you in the garden.”

She could not understand where the dog had come from, then she heard her mother coming along the corridor and when she opened the door Jess was gone, and Rachael never knew how or where he had disappeared to. “Are you okay darling did you have a nightmare.” Her mother asked, Rachael just nodded maybe it was just that a nightmare.

“Come on get into bed and I will tuck you in.”

Her mother got Rachael into bed and kissed her goodnight then left, Rachael could not understand what had happened but she went to sleep anyway.

The next morning while having her breakfast Norm Mitchburn came with the post and gave it to Rachael’s mother. “Did you hear about young Troy Preston, never came home last night his parents thought he had gone to one of his friends but he should have come home because it was his sisters birthday and his dad told him to be home if not he would skin his hide, they went looking for him and found him ripped up by some animal it must have been a big bugger because he was really badly ripped up, ho sorry Beth did not mean to upset you at all, anyway must dash.” Norm smiled and left.

Rachael’s mother came back into the kitchen with the mail and put it on the sideboard. “What is wrong mummy?” Rachael asked. Beth did not

“speak right away.” Mummy did you hear me.” Rachael asked again. “Oh Troy Preston is dead seems some animal killed him last night.”

Rachael could not believe it only yesterday he was tormenting her and now he is dead. “Did not like Troy Preston he was a bully.” Beth looked at her daughter ‘still he won’t be bullying any more will he, you eat your breakfast the bus will be here shortly.” Rachael caught the bus and Mrs. Shultz said good morning Rachael how are you this lovely morning.” Rachael

Mrs. Shultz heard her mutter something and went to the back of the bus where Vicky was sat Rachael sat down and said. ‘Troy Preston is dead.” Vicky looked at her and said.

”What Troy is dead how.” Vicky asked

‘Some animal killed him last night in the woods he ate him all up.” Rachael smiled ‘servers him right big bully.”

They never spoke on the way to school anymore when they arrived the police were at the school already and Mr Thomas the principal was talking to them, and then they went inside. When all the children were assembled in the hall Mr Thomas got up on stage and it all went quite.

“Children and staff we have some bad news, last night Troy Preston did not return home his father and brother went out to try and find him and alas they did find him and he had been attacked by some wild animal the police are now out hunting whatever it was that is of course if they find whatever killed him, we will now say a prayer for troy.”

They said a prayer and all went back to their classrooms Rachael and Vicky sat not saying a word to each other, could it be what I said to Troy on the bus home Rachael thought, no what can that have to do with me.

“Okay children open your books at page ten.”

The school day ended and the bus ride home was to say the least pleasant without Troy but also very strange, Rachael got off and walked towards her house and felt something behind her when she turned Jess was stood there wagging his tail.

”Jess is that you.” She asked the dog came running up to her his tail still wagging.

“You were not a dream it is really you, but how daddy shot you and buried you in the garden how can you be still here.”

She walked towards the house and her mother came out to meet her and smiled.”Hello baby had a nice day.”

Rachael smiled at her mother not knowing if she could see Jess. “Yes mummy it was okay, it was sad about Troy even though he was a bully.”

Her mother then said.”Come in and get ready for dinner your father will be home shortly.”

Rachael followed her mother into the house all the time she had not asked why Jess was with her, and that puzzled Rachael somewhat, but when she looked down Jess had disappeared from her side.

”Mummy is there such things as ghosts.” Rachael asked her mother looked at her very strange.

“Why do you ask my love?” Her mother replied.

“Oh nothing someone at school said they had seen a ghost we all laughed.”

Then she went silent again and carried on into the house and up to her bedroom to take off her school clothes, when she changed she came to down for dinner her father had not come home yet and she wondered why. The table was set and Rachael and her mother sat waiting for Samuel to return home from work.

The fog was now coming down slowly has Samuel started the drive home he was feeling tired as the sawmill had now got a new contract with the government for the housing development now going on in Charlottetown the next town to where the Brandon’s lived and he had to do extra hours which was good for the money but not so good for the body, his eyes were very heavy he had been up now 12 hours and have the trouble at home with Rachael and his wife was not the easiest of situations, he thought it was a bit of an overreaction towards Jess but what could he do the harm was now done, maybe he may buy Rachael a new dog when she gets older and more responsible, his eyes closed for one second and he saw the dog in the middle of the road, swerving to try and miss it he lost control and slid down the embankment the truck it came to stop about fifteen feet

down the hill the passenger door was jammed on a tree, Samuel shook his head and the blood dripped down his face he touched his head and found a large gash where he had hit the steering wheel.

”Bloody animals why don’t people look after their dogs,”

He tried to force open the driver’s door which was jammed and he got onto the passenger seat and with all his strength left in him pushed with both his feet the door swung open and fell onto the ground.

‘That will need more than a couple of screws.’ He said to himself then slowly he climbed out and proceeded to climb up the hill and slid down then got his footing and once again started up the hill when he reached the top he put his hand over the edge and the animal grabbed it and pulled him up over the top, the huge red eyes shone in the mist and Samuel knew he was in trouble.

“Where is your father he is never this late home.”

Beth said to Rachael but she had a feeling something was not right and she felt a shudder run down her back, they waited for nearly another hour but Samuel did not return home Beth rang the sawmill and the night watchman said everyone had left at six and there was no one there one him, Beth was then worried and rang Samuel’s brother Donny just in case he had made a detour to see him.

“No Beth he did not come here I haven’t seen him since last month, have you rang the police or would he have gone for a beer with some of the other guys from work.” Donny said.

“I don’t think so Donny wouldn’t he not ring me to tell me.”Beth replied.

‘Sorry Beth cannot help, he will be home soon I am sure.’ Okay Donny thank you.” Beth hung up.

‘Sir I have just had a call regarding the body of a man found on South road well they think it’s a man.’ The desk sergeant looked at the inspector.

“What do you mean they think it’s a man?” The inspector asked. “Hard to say sir, I think you had better get out and have a look.” The inspector rang a number and asked for detective Peter Ryan. “Peter could you join me outside we have some weird call we need to check out.” Then he hung up.

Driving out to south road inspector Colin Parnell was very quite then said to peter. ‘The caller said he saw the skid marks of some car going over the edge of a road side verge he stopped to see if he could help only to find a body near the top all ripped up by something really big, he was not game to hang around so he rang the station, seems very strange to me don’t you think Peter.’ Peter said nothing and then replied

“Could it be a bear?” “Beats the hell out of me peter but we will soon find out.”

The road block came into view and Colin pulled in and shown his badge to the constable and they let them through.

“Okay where is it.” Colin asked.

“Over there sir not a very nice sight I have to warn you.” Colin and Peter walked to where the body lay covered by a sheet Peter lifted the sheet and was nearly sick.

”What the hell did this.” Colin stood looking at the body of Samuel. “This is no bear attack I have never seen anything so brutal in all my years on the force, do we know who he is constable.”

“Driving license says Samuel Brandon 17 force river road, about six miles from here sir.” The constable replied.

“Take the body back to the morgue and then put your report in, we had better go and see his family, shit this is the part I hate.” Colin said.

The two men went back to the car and headed for Samuels home, it took them about fifteen minutes to find force river road and number 17 they drove up the drive only to be met by a woman and a little girl.

“Looks like they were expecting someone else to come home.” The car stopped and the two policemen climbed out, Beth knew something was wrong as they walked up the drive to the house. “Mr.’s Brandon we have some bad news can we come in please, my name is Colin Parnell and this is Peter Ryan.”

Beth let them in and told them to sit down. “We have some bad news your husband Samuel was found dead this morning on south road he had crashed his truck into a tree, we have no idea how he got out but his body was found at the top of hill.”

Beth burst out crying so did Rachael. “Where is his body? Beth asked.

“We have had the body taken to the morgue for examination there is something else we have to tell you, the body had been badly mauled by something wild at the moment we don’t know what until the post mortem, we will let you know when it has been done.” Peter said.

“Something wild what do you mean.” Beth asked.

“It is hard to tell at this point in time but we will know soon enough, in the meantime we are very sorry for you loss and we will get in touch later.”

They got up to leave then Rachael spoke.

“Is it the same as Troy’s.” they all looked at her. “What do you mean young lady who is this Troy?”

“One of my daughters school friends.”

“He is not my friend.” Rachael shouted. Her mother looked at her. “As is was saying Troy Preston one of the boys from my daughters school was killed by a wild animal some weeks ago, they live about two miles further on than us Thomas lane back among the woods perhaps you should talk to his parents.”

“Did you hear about this Peter? Colin asked.

“No sir but I will check it out it may be connected but who knows the husband of this lady was nowhere near here but it seems strange two attacks in the same district.” Peter replied.

“Okay Mrs. Brandon we will leave you alone and once again we are very sorry.” They got up to leave once again and when they had left Beth sat down and cried.

Jess never returned after the death of Samuel and there were no new deaths Rachael thought it was just a dream, and it could not have been Jess when she left school with many A levels her day came when she would go off to college.

“Let me look at you, your father would be so proud of you now have you got everything.” Beth asked.

“Yes mother stop fussing I will be fine and it will be no time at all when I am home for summer break.” Rachael replied.

“Okay I know I am fussing but I am going to miss you, come on let’s get you to the station.”

They drove out of town not saying much to each other, Rachael thought of what her mother had said earlier that her father would be proud of her it would have been nice for him to see her go off to college but it was not to be, they pulled into the station and parked the car then went to the ticket booth and bought the ticket one way to Rochester where Rachael would be going to college.

“Here you are my love here is your ticket now look after yourself and ring me when you reach the city, the college bus will be waiting at the other end now don’t miss it.”

“Mother will you stop worrying I am seventeen years old not six I know the bus is waiting at the other end, I have read the manifest over and over again I will be fine, now let’s go and get a coffee till the train arrives.”

They both went into the café and ordered coffee it was not long before the announcement came to passengers going to Rochester to board. “Right here I go.” Rachael picked up her bag and with her mother in tow went to her platform.

“Okay mother this is where we say goodbye and I will phone you when I arrive.”

“Good bye baby I will miss you.” Beth kissed her daughter with tears running down her cheeks now she was losing her daughter to college as well as her husband and she felt very alone.

“Mother I love you and I will be fine.” Rachael kissed her mother gave the ticket to the collector and walked onto the platform and before she got on the train waved to her mother and was gone.

The journey to Rochester would take about four hours so Rachael settled in with the book she had bought at the newsagents stand each carriage held about twenty people so there was plenty of room for everyone, a young man saw Rachael on her own and asked if he could sit next to her, she gave him a strange look as there were plenty other seats, he stood waiting for her invite but Rachael said nothing and he sat down anyway.

“Hi my name is Greg.” Rachael never spoke and kept on reading her book.

“What is your name.” he asked. Rachael once again ignored him.

“Okay be like that.” He said, this time Rachael did answer

“What is it what do you want me to say, you sit here next to me when there are all these seats I never asked you to sit here, so if you don’t mind I am reading.”

She went back to her book, the lad shuffled in his seat got up and moved to the next one leaving Rachael alone with her book, the journey was not disturbed again and the intercom told of the next station being Rochester, Rachael looked around but the boy had gone, she got her bag waited till the train had stopped and then got off, handed her ticket to the collector and went to find the bus she had to catch to go to the college, it took her a few minutes to spot the bus and went over there was a woman standing with a board asking people there names and then telling them which seat was theirs, Rachael went over to her. “Hello.” The woman said.

“And your name is.” “Rachael Brandon.” The woman looked at her list.

“Oh yes seat 22 on the left.” Rachael boarded the bus and found her seat and settled in and then to her surprise the same boy that was on the train got on the bus and stopped at her seat.

“Well now look who is here the lady with no name, is it not a small world.” He smiled and sat down.

“Seems that we are going in the same direction.” Rachael never spoke at all, and felt very uncomfortable, the college came into view it was enormous not like the small school she attended back home the bus pulled up and everyone started to get off.

“Now people please stand on the pavement until everyone is off the bus I will take you in and you can sign in and be given your dorm rooms.”

They all got off and waited then the lady headed the line into the college and up to reception.

They were all allocated their dorm rooms and told which way to go when Rachael got to the floor where she was to live another girl was trying to find her way as well and they both went to the same door.

“Hi my name Libby Turner it seems we are sharing.” She unlocked the door and went in.

“My name is Rachael Brandon which bed is yours.” She asked.
“Which one would you like Rachael?” She replied.

“I will take this one.”

“Fine then this one is mine.” They both unpacked and the bell rang, then the voice came over the intercom.

“All new students please assemble in the main hall for the introduction, those who don’t know where the main hall is please follow the staircase down to the first level and turn left you will see the sign you have ten minutes.”

The two girls left their room and headed for the Main Hall the college was very busy and students passed them on their way to class some gave them the once over some lads looked at them more than once Rachael was aware of how some lads looked at her and Libby but thought nothing of it, then they came to the Main Hall and went in it was very crowded so there must have been a lot of new students on this campus, after all the introductions they were all dismissed to return to their dorm until class he next day, 7am came and the bell rang for them to get up, they dressed and went down for breakfast and found the cafeteria after asking the way and joined the queue up for breakfast.

“Morning ladies.” Someone said they turned to see Greg smiling Libby smiled back but Rachael just ignored him, they ordered breakfast and sat down Greg sat down on the next table.

“He is cute, do you know him.” Libby asked.

“No Libby I do not he was on the train and then on the bus with me he is rather pushy.” Rachael replied.

“Well he can push me anytime.” Then she laughed.

“Just eat your breakfast you are here to learn.”

“Yes mother.” Then she smiled.

“Sorry I have no right to tell you what to do.” Rachael said. They finished their breakfast and checked there diary for their first class. “What are you studying Libby I forgot to ask you?” Rachael asked. “Accountancy

my father wants me to join the firm, I wanted to do design but no accountancy is his choice for my life, what is yours.”

“Corporate law no idea why but my teacher advised me go that way, so you see we both have been told what to do.”

The bell rang for class Rachael got up to leave. ‘See you at break Libby good luck on your first day.’ Then she left Greg sat down next to Libby. “What is your friend’s name.” he asked,

Libby looked at him. “If you need to know that ask her not me, excuse me I have to go.” She got up and left but smiled on the way out.

Rachael checked her map of the campus and found her class she entered it was almost full she found a desk and sat down. The teacher entered. “Morning students my name is Alexis Cale but you can call me sir.” There was silence then he smiled.

“Just joking, this college prides itself on interaction between pupils and staff so our doors are always open, now your books should be at page one.”

Each lesson lasted two hours with a break every half an hour and tea or coffee was served it gave the students the opportunity to get to know their counterparts and their names four o-clock came around very quickly and class was over.

“Okay folks good first day hope it was not to boring I want you all to read this book.” He held up a book.

”You can all have a copy as you leave the introductions in it are very informative and I want you to inwardly digest, okay see you in the morning.”

The weeks passed and now it was nearly half term Rachael had been at college five months and it had passed so quickly, she had rang her mother and told her she would be home at half term for three weeks and was looking forward to seeing her, one evening Libby asked Rachael if she would like to go into town to the mall and have a look around the shops, they caught the college bus and arrived in Rochester about 2.30 the bus driver said he would be leaving no later than five o'clock and told them not to be late, Libby and Rachael went into the mall they had never been in somewhere so large a far cry from the little towns they lived in, there were many shops and they walked around looking at them all then they sat down and had lunch, time passed and it was late but they never checked the time and then Rachael said. “The bus we will miss the bus.”

They took off running along the mall and got outside as the bus was half way down the street. “We have missed it Libby what are we going to do.” Rachael said.

“There must be some other buses that go past the college.” Libby replied. The bus station office was just closing when they arrived at the door.

“Please could you tell us if there are any buses that go to or past Rochester campus?” The man looked at his log.

“There is one due in about an hour he returns back after a break and passes near the campus but you will have to walk the rest of the way.”

So they had to wait for the next bus, after the break they boarded the bus and were on their way.

“Okay girls this is as far as I go you will have walk from here it is not far should take you fifteen minutes.”

They got off the bus it was now nearly six o-clocks and was getting dusk they started to walk and after a few minutes a car came into sight Libby started to flag it down.

“What are you doing? Rachael asked.

“We cannot walk any further it is getting dark.” Libby replied.

The car slowed down and stopped just passed them when they got to the car there were two men inside Rachael knew this was wrong, the door opened and one man got out.

“Are you lost girls?

He asked. “Do you pass the college campus? Libby asked.

“Sure get in we will drop you off.”

Reluctantly the two girls got in and the car took off but turned off the main road and down a dirt track and stopped.

“Now college girls we will take you to the campus but first you have to pay us, we know you lot are a bit on the free love thing so how about some.”

Libby saw her chance and opened the door and ran, Rachael saw her chance went for the other door the man grabbed her and she poked him in the eyes and scratched his face and while he could not see she took her chance ran but did not know which way and ended up running the wrong way into the woods, the man caught up to her and pushed her over,

“Now where were we?”

He began to undo her coat then he heard the snarl he looked around and saw the dog, fear in his eyes he took off running but did not get far as the animal took his feet from under him he rolled over to face the beast that was all he saw as the animal took off his head and then started on his body. Rachael took off running back to the road where a car nearly ran her over, he braked just in time the driver got out he looked at her Rachael saw it was Greg she ran to him.

“Please take me home.” Greg put her in the car and headed for the campus just a hundred yard further on he saw the other girl.

“Stop the car that is Libby.”

Greg pulled up and Libby was a bit hesitant till she saw Rachael. “Libby get in.” she sat in the back.

“What happened? Greg asked. They told the story of missing the bus and the men.

“You have to go to the police.” Greg said.

“There is no point as we don’t know who they were and we were in no position to get the registration number were we.” Rachael replied but did not tell them about the animal, back at the dorm Libby said. “I am sorry Rachael it was my entire fault.”

“Don’t blame yourself you had no idea they were creeps now let’s get some sleep tomorrow is a busy day.”

Rachael found it hard to sleep that could not have been Jess it is impossible it has been nearly ten years she could not have still been alive, well not here anyway. Then she fell asleep but could not get the beast out of her mind.

The phone rang in the police station in Rochester the desk sergeant answered, “Yes of course I will get someone there right away.” Then he hung up and went upstairs to Detective Roland Bostow and knocked on the door. “Come in.” The voice answered the sergeant went in, “Roland we have an incident on the road out of Rochester not far from the campus they have found a body back from the road in the woods.” He handed Roland he paper.

“Okay get someone to bring my car around and tell Joss to meet me outside.” He put his coat on and went downstairs to meet Joss Archer and new young recruit just out of the police academy with a great future so his port folio read. “Hello sir.” He said

“Hello Joss here your drive it will give you some chance to see your surroundings.” Roland threw him the keys they climbed in and were on their way.

“Where are we going sir? Joss asked.

“We are going to look at a body in the woods so I thought of you seeing as you need to cut your teeth on something so I thought a nice body would do the trick.” He laughed.

“Thank you sir” Joss replied. “And something else my name is Roland not sir.”

“Sorry sir I mean Roland I was taught at the academy to respect my superiors.” Joss said.

“Fine but you are in the real world now not the academy so Roland is my name.”

They drove on for some time till they came to the turnoff into the woods there a police blocked the way Joss pulled up and wound the window down and shown the police his badge, the car was moved and down the lane they drove.

“See that badge will get you anywhere something they never taught you in college.” Roland smiled.

They pulled up to the place where a constable stood watching over a sheet covering the body, they both got out.

“Okay son you take a look it will be good practice.” Joss walked over to the sheet and spoke to the constable who lifted the sheet Joss went

white and was sick, Roland thought it cannot be that bad and went to have a look.

“Oh my god.” and turned away quickly he gathered himself and went back to take a better look and lifted the sheet

“Jesus what the fuck did this, where is his head constable.” Roland asked.

“Over there in that bag sir.” Pointing to a bag not far from where the body lay.

“Have you arranged for the coroner? Yes sir he will be along shortly, in fact here he is now.”

A car arrived at the scene the pathologist got out Roland knew it was George Harper the man came over to Roland.

“Roland what have we got.”

“Hi George, not a very nice site worst one I have seen in a long time.” Roland replied.

“None of them are very nice so let’s have a look.” He lifted the sheet.

“My word you were right what the hell did this.” George asked.
“We have no idea it looks like a pack of wolf but seeing there are no wolves around here it is hardly the answer.” Roland replied. “Where is his head? Roland pointed to the bag.

“Right the first thing is to get whoever this is back to my lab and see what we can do, constable please inform my men to bring round the

van and load the body, I will let you know Roland in a couple of days when I have examined the body.” George returned to his car the van picked the body up and they all left.

“It is okay son you had every right to be sick that was a nasty sight, I was nearly sick myself.”

Half term came and Rachael said goodbye to Libby they had not much to say about the night they were picked up Greg had said they should have gone to the police but Rachael said no and told him not to say anything to anyone. “I am going home for half term and I don’t want to think about it at all.”

The train pulled into Claremont and Rachael’s mother was waiting at the exit she smiled and Rachael ran to her. “Hello baby I have missed you so much.” She hugged her daughter, they went to the car park and found the car and were on their way home.

“Well how was it? Beth asked.

“Good I have learned a great deal my roommate is called Libby she has two brothers and lives at home, my teacher is called Alexis Cale and is very nice and the school is very nice also.” Then she stopped. “What is wrong? Beth asked

“Oh nothing I am just tired.” Rachael replied.

“Okay sit back we will be home soon.” They never spoke after that and as the house came into view Rachael was looking out of the window

and sat at the side the road was Jess his eyes followed hers and then he was gone, Rachael could not believe what she had just seen and said nothing as they arrived home.

Roland picked up the phone. "Hello George, why do you want to see me, what now."

"Yes Roland something is not right can you come down to the lab." George asked.

"Yes of course be down shortly." He rang Joss and asked him to meet him downstairs, they drove out of the station and arrived at the lab parked the car and went in.

"Hi George you know Joss." The young detective shook hands.

"We were not formally introduced the other day I was too busy being sick." Joss said.

"Okay come over here and look at this." George uncovered the head of the victim, this time Joss was okay.

"Look at the right hand side of his face." Roland looked closer so did Joss he did not want to be classed as stupid in the eyes of these two.

"What are we looking for George? Roland asked.

"Those scratch marks are human someone did this just before he died, and I am betting they are off a woman, this person was with a woman before he was attacked by whatever it was, so he was in fact attacked twice

and one of them was human, I have no idea in what context it was, but he pissed off someone.” George looked at both of them.

“Bloody hell you mean if we find the woman or the person who did this we may have some answers.” Roland stated.

“Well your guess is as good as mine but the blood congealed at the same time as the attack so we have to assume the person saw what did this to him.” George answered.

“Could the person have owned the beast and set it on him, for something he did as retribution say for I don’t know killing her pet cat.” Joss said. George looked at Joss and said.

“Whatever killed him could not have been owned by anyone maybe the other person escaped before it got them and left Charlie here to cope on his own, he died about 6.30pm the day before he was found by the jogger, but my job is to tell you that and your job my friends is to find what did it and why, and who owns the nails that did this”. George pointed to the scratches.

Driving back Joss said. “How did they get there, you know the man and woman if it was a woman there was no car and no tire tracks in the woods, so there must have been another person or the woman took his car, but it must have been parked on the highway and what were they doing down the lane in the woods, why don’t we have a search party look for any evidence as we assumed at the time he was on his own, but now we know he wasn’t.” Roland looked at Joss.

“You clever lad you may make a good detective yet.”

The area was once again closed off and sixteen police officers scoured the area where the body was found, they found a patch of ground away from the body that had been flattened by something or someone and then they found a button Roland was called over.

“Sir what do you think of this.” The policeman showed him the area and the button, Roland shouted Joss over.

‘Take a look at this and tell me what you think it is.’ Joss bent over and examined the area very carefully.

“I would say someone lay here not for long but them two marks are shoe heels probably Cuban heels, perhaps women’s, I think our friend tried to rape someone here and they escaped.” Joss said. “Very good my thoughts as well but how did they get here and how did she escape, we know he had scratch marks on his face and here is a button probably off her jumper but where the bloody hell is the car and was he alone.” Roland said.

“If he was with another man would he not have come to help him or have his turn, and another point where is his id would he not have at least a driving license on his person or money in a wallet I am sure the animal did not eat that as well.” Joss replied.

“Very good point my lad go and see George and ask him if the body had anything on him, meanwhile I will get back to the station and see if anyone has any more information on the body.”

The holiday over Rachael was packed and waited for her ride to the station she had enjoyed her stay with her mother but wanted to get back to school away from Beth's questions, after saying goodbye she boarded the train back to Rochester, catching the bus for the campus it was not as crowded as when she first came, there were two lads with uniforms on from some football team but she never took notice of the name, they gave her the once over and she sat down, one of the lads came over and sat down in front of her and turned around. "Hello what is your name? He asked

Then she saw the name it was Rochester High, she never spoke and looked after the window.

"Come on don't be shy I won't bite." The bus suddenly came to a stop the driver said.

"Brophy get back to your seat and leave her alone." The driver was looking through his inside mirror as he spoke. "Did you hear me back to your seat or do I have to take you back."

The lad Brophy hesitated and then stood up. "We will meet again be sure of that."

Then he went back to his seat to his mates who all had a laugh the journey ended and the three lads got off and Rachael could see they were all in the team, just as Rachael was about to get off the driver said. "Take no notice of them football jocks they call them I just call them louts, oh by the way did you get home all right the other night as you never came back

to the bus I thought you must have gotten a lift, you see I count the passengers that I take from the campus so they get back okay.” He waited for her reply.

“Of course we got home okay and thank you for.” And she pointed to the lads.

“Think nothing of it young lady.” Then Rachael got off Libby had come to meet her.

“Had a nice break with your mother Rachael.” She asked. “Yes it was good to see her, how about you.”

“Oh I stayed on in the dorm I will go home after the end of term, and I met someone.” Then she smiled.

“Do I know him? Rachael asked.

“I doubt it he plays football for the high school his name is Garry, not that Garry but another Garry he is really nice and cute.” She smiled once more.

Rachael unpacked and lay on the bed thinking of Jess and why she had seen him should he not be dead it has been nearly ten years and father shot him, but I swear I saw him or maybe another dog who looks like him, she lay on the bed and fell asleep the bell woke her up for dinner and she made her way to the cafeteria she could not see Libby so she got her own meal and sat down, then another girl said,

“Can I sit with you please?” Rachael looked up and saw a blond girl standing with her tray.

“Sure I don’t own the table.” Rachael replied and carried on her meal.

“My name is Betty, Betty Thomas.” She said Rachael looked at her she seemed very scared and nervous.

“Oh yes Rachael Brandon please to meet you, are you okay.” She asked the girl had her head lowered and then said.

“You see him over there with his gang the one with the blond hair.” Rachael turned to see the boy off the bus Brophy he smiled. “What about him.” Rachael asked.

“He raped me two months ago.” Rachael did not know what to say. “Have you been to the principal? Rachael asked.

“Yes the police came but all his mates said I was easy and they all had their turn, they didn’t it was just him, but no one believed me so now he torments me and I am scared.” Rachael meal was now ruined she had no appetite after what the girl had told her.

”What are you going to do? Rachael asked.

“Now everyone knows and no one will talk to me as he is rich and the captain of the team, so I am an outcast.” She started to cry. “It’s okay Betty I will be your friend I have another friend called Libby she is very nice you will like her, now eat you meal and we can go and see Libby.”

With this Betty smiled, after the meal Rachael said when we leave don’t look his way just ignore him.”

They got up to leave and just as they were about to get to the door Brophy and a couple of his mates blocked their path no one came to their aid.

“Well if it is no miss snotty your mate the driver is not here now is he, and look who is with her Betty the slag.” Rachael looked at him although he was much bigger than her with hatred in her eyes. “Get out of my way or I will report you to the board.”

“Oh will you now, let me tell you something miss snotty my father is head of the board of governors of this campus so go ahead.” Rachael pushed past him Betty followed.

‘See you later miss snotty.’

With that all his mates laughed, as soon as class was over Rachael found Betty and introduced her to Libby, the boys had not bothered them for nearly two weeks until one night Rachael, Libby and Betty were returning from a seminar in the main hall and had to cross open ground to the dorms it was getting dark and the girls hurried along but they had their way blocked by Brophy and three of his mates.

“Good evening girl’s nice night for it are you in a hurry.” He asked.

“Leave us alone or I will tell Garry.” Libby said.

“Oh so you are Garry’s little bit on the side are you, well we share everything in our team including the tarts.”

They grabbed the girls Brophy put his hand over Rachael mouth and they dragged them behind the football stands, Brophy took Rachael the

farthest away from the rest and pushed her on the floor. “Now we will see how brave you are.”

The noise behind him made him turn the red eyes lit up in the dark and the animal grabbed him and started to drag him away his screams were heard by the other players they left what they were doing and ran to see what was wrong and saw the beast carrying Brophy away.

Joss entered Roland’s office. ‘Sir we have another one.’ Joss said. “Another one what? Roland asked.

“Someone else has been attacked at the campus about an hour ago the police are already there they have just called it in.” Joss replied. “Okay get the car.”

They arrived at the campus and the police were all over the entrance was blocked Joss flashed his card and they let them in.

“Who is the duty officer? Roland asked.

“Over there sir with the principal, his name is Captain Casey.” Roland and Joss went over to Casey.

“Captain Casey.” Roland said Casey turned around.

“Inspector Roland Bostow and Detective Joss Archer, what have we got.” He asked.

“Hard to tell we just had a report something had taken one of the football players.” Casey replied.

“Taken what do you mean taken.” Roland asked.

“Like I said hard to tell an animal attacked one of the players a Bret Brophy and carried him off into the woods seems a bit crazy to me.” Casey replied.

“Any witness.” Roland asked. “Them six over there sir we will have to find a room to interview them I was just about to ask the principal do you want to sit in with us sir.” “My name is Roland and yes Joss and I will sit in.”

A room was made ready and one by one the six were interview. “My name is Sergeant Casey Stone and this is inspector Roland Bostow and detective Joss Archer and your name is.”

“John Taylor.” he replied.

“Okay John can you tell us what happened.” Roland listened to John and then said.

“You say you were behind the oval for some fun with three girls with their consent I hope.” John said nothing but lowered his head. “Go on.”

“We heard this scream it sounded like it came from behind us, we rushed over and saw something taking Brett off into the woods.” John said.

“You saw something as in what something.” Casey asked.

“It looked a like a big dog or a wolf.”

“How big? Joss asked. “Big as in 50 kilos?”

“No at least 260 it carried Brett away like a rag doll and he was about 145 kilos.”

The other two lads had the same story the size varied, then it was the girls turn, Casey introduced them all and then asked her name.”Betty Thomas sir.” She replied.

“Okay Betty you don’t have to call us sir, now in your own words.” Betty told them about Brett and his mates abducting them and how they split up and about the scream but she never saw the animal as she was getting cloths arranged.

“You are telling us the four of them tried to rape you three girls.” Roland asked. Betty lowered her head and knew the last time she complained no one believed her.

“As this happened before to you Betty? Joss asked. She nodded her head but said nothing.

“Brophy I thought I recognized his name you took him to court and the case was thrown out because they all said they had been with you is that right Betty.” Casey said Betty nodded her head.

“You know of this lad Casey.” Roland asked.

“Oh yes I do, his father and brother own the biggest company in Rochester they employ nearly all the town our man Brett was born with a silver spoon in his mouth, and according to daddy could not do any wrong, and with his high priced lawyers his son could do anything and get away with it he thought all the girls at college were his own harem.” Casey answered.

“Well it seems he slipped up this time, do is parents know.” Roland asked.

“Not yet we were just going to do the interview and then go around tomorrow and see them.” Casey replied.

“Can you go and sit with the others Betty and send in Libby please.” Casey said to Betty she went out and closed the door.

“Poor kid she has been through a lot, but one consolation Brophy won’t bother her anymore.” There was a knock on the door Casey said come in, and Libby appeared.

“Sit down Libby and tell us what happened.” The story Libby told was just like Betty’s and then it was Rachael’s turn but her version was somewhat different because she was with Brophy at the time of the attack. “Okay Rachael what is your surname.”

“Brandon.” She replied.

“Tell us in your own words what happened.” Rachael told them what the other girls had said and what Brophy was going to do to her then the dog came and she pushed Brophy off and ran away then the dog attacked him but she did not see what happened next.

“You had better inform your parents all of you because when it gets to court it will be all over the newspapers, right you go back to the dorm with the other girls and get some sleep we will want to talk to you again in a couple of days send the three other boys in please.” Casey said, Rachael

got up and closed the door then the boys knocked on the door Casey told them to come in.

“Right you three pieces of shit we are going to charge you with attempted rape and abduction and you had better get a lawyer because you are going to need it.” Casey pressed a bell and three officers came in.

“Take these to the cell and lock them up.”

“Right gentlemen I think that is it I feel like a drink would you like to join me.” They all agreed and went to the nearest bar.

Casey went around to see the Brophy’s and told them what had happened and what they were doing to the girls and how they had arrested the three other lads, Brophy senior protested but Casey could not have give a shit and left them to it, driving out of the gate he did not see the dog check it out and go back into the forest.

The local paper the Claremont gazette had a story about the killings in Rochester Colin Parnell read it with interest it had no phone number of who to contact as the story just said enquires were still ongoing he picked up the phone and rang a number.

“Hello Peter, Colin Parnell could we have a meet say two this afternoon I have something very interesting to show you.”

“Yea sure Colin do you want to come here and we can have lunch, right two then see you.”

He hung up Peter Ryan was not in the police force anymore he had landed a cushy job as head of security at a large corporate company and loved every minute of it, the pay was six times what he got in the police force and now married had two great kids, at five to two his phone rang with the message someone was here to see him, he went out of his office and down to reception. "Colin my old partner how are you this fine day." Peter asked.

"Great to see you Peter, nice place." Colin looked around.

"Wait till you see my office, come on." He took Colin in the lift up to the 15th floor and stepped out, "Wow what a view." Colin said.

"Come on this is my office." Peter opened the door and a lady sat at a desk.

"Maria this is a very good friend of mine could you get us some coffee please." The woman said yes sir and left Peter took Colin into his office. "I see what you mean very nice."

"Okay my friend what do you want to see me about." Colin handed him the paper and he read it." Maria came in with the coffee and left.

"This cannot be the same animal surely, how long is it nine years wouldn't it be dead by now, and besides it is what 350 miles from Claremont, and the story is not front page news." Peter said. "Don't you think it strange that someone was killed in the same way as Samuel Brandon on a lonely road and there was no witness? Colin replied. Peter was deep in thought and then said. "But I am not in the police anymore so

why come and see me, although it is nice to see you but what can I do.”

Peter asked.

“It is a cold case regarding Samuel Brandon and the lad Troy now it rears its hugely head once more, I need to go and see the officers in Rochester and I know your company has security at the campus and I thought you could introduce me to them so they may not think I am some sort of loony, knowing what I know, we know the thing that killed Troy and Samuel is no ordinary dog and now it as appeared a long way from here.” Peter said nothing and rang a number. “Okay I have just booked a lunch at my favorite restaurant we will eat and talk I am intrigued.”

Charlton Brophy rang his lawyer. “Harcourt I want my son cleared of this outrage, be in my office nine o'clock in the morning.” Then he hung up. “Nice to speak to you as well.” Harcourt said the phone.

Nine sharp Harcourt entered Charlton’s office. “Sit down and tell me how we can get my son off the charge.”

“But sir you son is dead how can that affect him now.” Harcourt said.

“Family honor we cannot let my family be dragged through the mud because of some tart, no we have to make a stand and find out how we can discredit these girls from testifying against my son.” Charlton Replied

“We have to wait for the coroner’s report first and then the other lads will be prosecuted after the findings it may take at least three weeks.” Harcourt said.

“Well you had better get started then had you not report to me when you have something, now I have a meeting to attend I will bid you good morning.”

Harcourt got up to leave and Charlton never raised his head from his desk when he left. Dalton Harcourt was a good lawyer top of his class at Harvard then studied at Cambridge before going into practice on his own times were good for the first six years and then after he got married things went wrong when his childhood sweetheart he married got sick and all his time was spent looking after her and the money went with hospital bills and caring for her nearly sent him broke and then after 15 months Sara his wife died and Dalton went into a deep depression and started to drink, and one night walking home again drunk he got run over by Brett Brophy who was also drunk, and when the police came Brophy and his mates had put Dalton into the driver’s seat to appear as though he was driving, he was thrown into jail because he had no recollection of why he would be in a car so he confessed as he did not care, Charlton had found out through one of his clients the whole story and Brophy had confessed to his father, they duly hired a lawyer and got Dalton out of jail then Charlton had given him the job of company lawyer and Charlton found out he was good and he did not drink after that but he did not like Charlton very much but his salary

made up for it, he did not know about Brophy and his mates putting him in the driver's seat on the night he went to jail that was a family secret so he just assumed Charlton took pity on him and was good to him but Charlton Brophy was not good to anyone only himself and when he wanted something he usually gets it.

The campus was very sedate and no one talked about the night Brophy was killed, Betty was relieved that she no longer had to suffer torment from Brophy and his team mates and her Libby and Rachael became good friends, Rachael studied very hard and through all her studies instead of going out she read books and papers just to keep her mind active and not think about Jess and whether it was him who had killed Brophy, then the coroner gave the verdict of death by something or someone unknown, and then the trial of the three lads on Brophy's team came up and all three girls had to be witnesses, the day came when the Rochester county court was in session. "All rise this court is now in session Judge Carolyn Percy presiding."

They were all seated, "Counselors please make yourselves known." The judge said.

"Kitty Monahan for the prosecution I am employed by the campus as the girl's lawyer." She sat down and Dalton stood up. "Dalton Harcourt for the defense."

Roland and Casey gave evidence and then it was the three girl's turn Betty was first Kitty said what had happened and then sat down Dalton stood up.

“This girl has been in this situation before haven't you young lady, you took these three lads to court including the victim for the same lame excuse.” The judge intervened.

“Mr Harcourt please keep your remarks to yourself I will have any smut in my court. “

“Sorry your honor but it seems that this girl has some vendetta again my clients.”

“Mr Harcourt I will not warn you again the evidence will see if your remarks are relevant anymore and I will hold you in contempt.”

Harcourt was very careful after that, Libby gave her evidence and then it was Rachael.

“Did you not approach my clients and the deceased on the bus last month to try and talk to them? Harcourt asked.

“No I did not Brett Brophy sat in front of me on the bus and harassed me.” Rachael replied.

“You are telling the court a well brought up young man as Brett Brophy was harassing you on the bus, I don't think so I believe you were the harasser.” The judge once again pulled Harcourt up. “I will not warn you again Mr Harcourt you are treading on thin ice, I think we will have a

recess until three this afternoon and I suggest you get your act together this is your last warning.”

The judge got and left the court, Casey asked Rachael if she would join him in the café across the road and bring Kitty with her. “Rachael it seems it is three against one I know it seems wrong but these lads have got away with it before and unless we have a case they will walk again.”

“What about the bus driver.” Rachael replied.

“The bus driver what has he got to do with this case.” Casey asked.

“I had just got off the train and boarded the bus, Brophy and his mates were already on board then Brophy came and sat facing me and started to harass me the driver stopped the bus and told Brophy to get back to his seat and he did, can you not ask him.”

“Rachael you are marvelous Kitty who is this driver who works for the campus.” Casey asked.

“His name is Norman something I will find out and let you know.”

”Make it quick we have to be back in court soon.” Casey replied.

The court was now back in session Kitty had found the driver and took him to court. “Your honor I have a new witness for the prosecution.”

“Then bring them in.” Norman Rossiter was called into the witness stand and sworn in.

“Mr Rossiter you are the bus driver for the campus could you tell the court what happened on the day you picked up Rachael Brandon.”

Norman told his story and then said. Brophy said just before he went back to his seat.

“We will meet again be sure of that.” “Thank you Mr Rossiter your witness” Kitty said to Dalton he got up now he was in the thick of it and had nowhere to turn.

“Do you not have a drinking problem Mr Rossiter and has not your wife left you.”

“Objection Kitty shouted what has that got to do with the case.” “Objection sustained and Mr Harcourt you were warned and I hold you in contempt, this case has I see it has some undercurrents and I have no idea why Mr Harcourt is council for these three boys when the one who caused all the mayhem is dead.” The judge said.

“Mr Brophy asked me to be their lawyer because he believes they are innocent of the crime, and if it would not be for these three girls is son would be alive.” Dalton replied.

The court erupted and the people in the public gallery nearly all students shouted and screamed abuse at Dalton, Rachael and the other girls could not believe it, the judge made the security clear the court and said to Dalton.

“This court will resume next Wednesday at ten and Mr Harcourt I would advise you to get your facts in order, because I see this as being a miscarriage of justice and it will not happen in my court the prisoners will remain in custody, until then the court is adjourned.”

Roland and Casey could not believe it the case against the boys was open and shut and now Brophy has made it some kind of vendetta against three innocent girls.

“What the fuck is he playing at Casey he knows his son is a piece of crap and yet he has no remorse for anyone and thinks the world revolves around him and his family he must have something on that lawyer for him to try and get them off on some loophole, come on I need a drink.”

Dalton knew this was wrong and the three lads were guilty, what was Charlton trying to prove his son was dead yet he is trying to clear his name it does not add up he caught a taxi and went home.

The limo arrived at the gates of Charlton's house and the chauffer got out and pressed the button for the gate to open and was grabbed by his arm and dragged into the bushes Charlton did not know what to do and locked the door, then the beast attacked and could not smash the window Charlton saw his red eyes and fear took over him and he crouched on the floor trying to hide the animal jumped onto the roof and paced up and down Charlton could hear his footsteps then it went silent it seemed like ages since the attack and Charlton thought it had gone he slowly got up and looked around nothing stirred the drive was silent if he could get to the drives seat he would be alright and could get up to the house the glass panel in between the driver and the back passenger area was down and Charlton began to climb over but forgot the door was open and it was too

late when the beast grabbed him by the head and dragged him out and carried him away his scream echoed along the driveway but no one came to his rescue.

Roland and Casey were just on their second beer when the phone rang in Casey's pocket and he took it out flipped the lid and answered it. "Where, okay we are on our way." He put his phone in his pocket.

"Brophy has been attacked at his house." They left their beer and drove over to Brophy's street off course it was blocked once more but Casey's knew his car and let him through.

"Nice area. " Roland said.

"Money my friend and plenty of it." They arrived at the gate the limo still with the door open and an ambulance attending someone.

"What's happened Harry." Casey asked the sergeant.

"The chauffer over there says he was attacked by something that dragged him into the bushes over there and then left him he passed out and when he came round he remembered the car and came back but his boss Charlton Brophy was nowhere to be seen, so he rang the police."

"This case is pissing me off what has this animal got against the Brophy's he did not kill the chauffeur so it was personal if you could call it that, first Brett and now his father what the hell is going on, we will have to get a search party and search them woods over there." Casey walked into the road and saw the blood traces he called Roland over. "I think we will

find Brophy in those woods but it can wait until tomorrow I am going home anyone want a lift.”

Roland got back to his station the next day and Joss was waiting for him. “What did you find at the court hearing? Joss asked. “Bullshit that is all Brophy’s lawyer is one smart bastard he tried to say the girls had caused Brett’s death the judge went ballistic and the court went wild the judge had to get security to clear the gallery so it is adjourned until next week Casey is tearing his hair out over this animal it killed Brophy last night, funny it attacked Brophy’s chauffer but left him and went back for Brophy, they are getting a search party out tomorrow to look for the body, bloody good luck to them, what has been going on while I have been away.”

“I have been researching into the occult and things to do with animals mainly dogs.” “Oh yea.” Roland said sarcastically Joss looked at him.

“Anyway I met up with a professor yesterday and he told me some stories regarding dogs from ancient times and what they did for their owners, in Egypt there was a queen named Norgassa and she wanted her people to do anything she asked, it worked okay for many years and then she got greedy and wanted the traders that travelled through her country to pay taxes, they were pissed off and when she sent her collectors to collect the taxes they killed them this enraged her and she sent her army to slaughter them all but her army had not counted on the desert heat and they

all perished that left her vulnerable, so she asked her priest how she could punish the army that had destroyed hers, but they could not help her then one day a man arrived at the queens council and said he could help, his name was Saladin an ancient priest of the occult and if she gave him her soul she would be able to control her two dogs and could make them invincible, but first she had to have them destroyed, this did not sit right with her and she had the priest put to death, but did not realize he could not die and he came back and killed her dogs but doing this turned them into his slaves he then sent them to kill Norgassa but the silly priest had not counted on the love the dogs had for her and they ripped him apart instead and that was the only way the priest could die with something he had created himself, and from that day Norgassa had control of her dogs and anyone that crossed her or were any threat to her died a horrible death.”

Joss waited.

“What the bloody hell has that to do with this case, it is all mumbo jumbo and it happened in Egypt three thousand years ago not last week in Rochester what did you do get pissed with this professor or were you smoking silly weed with him.” Roland replied.

“We have an animal lurking somewhere out there, no one knows what it is and people are scared the professor has not come up with the answer but neither have we.” Joss said.

“Did this professor tell you how we can kill this thing? Roland replied. “Yes he did.”

“And how do we kill it.” Roland asked.

“We cannot kill it he said it is immortal the only way is for the owner of whoever is in control to send it back to where it came from.” Joss replied.

“Good have we got a post code for Egypt? Joss laughed.

“Not that easy first of all we have to find out why it is here, the link is the Brophy’s and their deaths.”

“No it is not, what about the man in the lane what is the connection to him and who the hell is he.” Roland said.

“No id no money no wallet nothing to tell us who he is, or was and what was he doing in that lane.” Just then the phone rang Joss picked it up.

“There is an inspector Colin Parnell downstairs he wants to see you.” Joss said.

“Then tell them to bring him up.” Roland replied.

Colin entered Roland’s office his hand outstretched in greeting.
“Hello my name inspector Colin Parnell from Claremont.”

“Roland Bostow and this is my partner Joss Archer, okay Colin what brings you to Rochester.” Roland asked. Colin produced the news paper and gave it to Roland.

“Bad news travels fast, but what has it to do with Claremont.”

“My partner and I had a case about ten years ago relating to the deaths of a young school boy and a man, they had been killed by some animal, the boy in the woods near his home and the man on the highway

not far from town, they had been ripped to piece by whatever it was, then nothing happened and the case went cold until I read that article in the Claremont Gazette and naturally thought it a good idea to come and have a talk with whoever was in charge, my partner is now head of security at Piermont and has given me an introduction as it were as I did not want you folks to think I was a nutter.” Then he smiled.

“Far from it Colin, things are happening here we have no idea of what, my partner here thinks it is some queen that lived in Egypt

Three thousand years ago and had a dog that could not die, and killed anyone who crossed her, and the only way to get rid of it is to send it back to where it came from but we cannot find the post code for Egypt.”

Then he burst out laughing, Joss was not amused.

“We have three bodies one we have no idea who he is and a father and son by the name of Brophy the son was trying to have his way with one of the students while his mates tried it out with her friends then this animal took the lad Brophy in his mouth never attacked the girl and took him to the woods he was about 145 kilos and this thing just picked him up and carried him away, the father got taken out of his limo some time later but the one thing we cannot figure out is the chauffer also got taken but the animal just left him and went back for his boss, we are now getting a search party to find the two bodies if we can, and that is where we are at my friend.” Roland said.

“The girls have been interview what did they say.” Colin asked.

“The other two could not tell us much the girl with Brophy just said she did not see much as she was trying to get away the three boys are up in court next week for abduction and attempted rape, you can stay and watch if you want to, and have a snoop around go and see the manager of Piermont and see what he has to say, after all they are suppose to protect the students are they not, any problems just tell them I sent you, mind you if your partner is there boss you should have no bother, in the meantime would you like some lunch.”

The next day Colin went to Piermont’s security office and introduced himself then handed the manager the letter off Peter he read it and said. “Anything we can do for you please ask.”

“I need to know your schedule for patrols and staff and areas your patrols monitor and where your CCTV cameras are mounted and I need access to your control room and someone to handle the machines I am staying at the City park hotel in town my room number is 45 anytime night or day you can contact me there and here is my card with the phone numbers, get someone to drop off a copy tomorrow at the hotel, oh also can you get a copy to Roland Bostow at the police precinct and inform him it is from me.”

Wednesday came the day of the court all were gathered and the opening speeches were made, Harcourt was very cautious about how he conducted himself, Kitty gave as good as she got, then the jury were told to listen to the evidence and decide if the three boys were guilty of abduction and attempted rape, then the judge said “The jury were not to be swayed by the fact that the Brophy company was most of the peoples employer and not to be swayed by the lads age, if they act like grownups they should be tried as grownups, the jury will retire for their verdict.”

It did not take long for them to decided the lads were guilty and the judge gave them ten years each, the gallery applauded the decision and now the men of the town knew the time had come for the female students to feel safe on campus no more will the law tolerate the girls being used. All the time Colin looked at Rachael and could not remember where he knew her from, later on in Roland’s office while having a drink Colin asked the names of the three girls, Joss got the file out. “Betty Thomas Rachael Brandon and Libby Turner.”

“Did you say Rachael Brandon? Colin asked.

“Yes why do you know her? Joss asked.

“I was looking at her in court she is older but I swear she is from Claremont.” Joss checked her address.

“17 force river roads Claremont, is that it.” Joss replied.

“You are not going to believe this, she is the daughter of the man we found dead on the highway his name was Samuel Brandon, can I have a word with her.” Colin asked.

“I suppose so but why don’t you go to the campus and speak to her, you have the authority off your partner and meanwhile we will go and try and find two bodies.

Colin went to the campus and approached the principal and requested to see Rachael Brandon, the principal lent Colin his office there was a knock on the door and Rachael entered.

“Hello Rachael do you remember me, please sit down.” Rachael sat down and looked at Colin.

” No I am sorry I do not know you.” She replied.

“I was the investigating officer when your father was killed, you were just a small girl then and you have grown into a nice young lady. How is your mother? Colin asked.

“She is fine and went home yesterday after the trial.” Rachael replied.

“It is the trial I want to ask you about, can you tell me what happened as all I have is the report off the police, my friend you know the other policeman Peter Ryan who came to your house with me.” Rachael shook her head.

“It does not matter but he is the boss of the company that employs the security for the campus and as asked me to come down see if we can do anything better to make sure this never happens again, and to make the campus a safer place for women.” Colin made up the story to try and put Rachael at ease.

“Do you know of any more women that have had trouble with the pupils or town folk mainly males and have not had the opportunity to speak out.” Rachael never spoke but looked at the floor and Colin realized she was uncomfortable with the question he did not want to press her any further.

“Here is my card if you know of anyone or they want to talk to me please give them my card, I think we can leave it for today you can go back to your class, and I hope you do well, by the way what are you studying.” Colin asked.

“Corporate law.” Rachael replied.

“Very impressive how is it going.” Colin asked.

“At the moment it is going fine, now can I go please.” Rachael asked. “Of course Rachael and it was nice to see you again.” Rachael left and Colin said to himself she is hiding something.

35 police officers scoured the wood facing Brophy’s home for six hours but found nothing it was as if the body and the animal had

disappeared, then they went to the woods that surrounded the campus and still no bodies.

“They cannot have just vanished we have found no trace of clothing blood nothing I thought we would have found something.” Roland said to Casey but Casey was deep in thought.

“Look around.” Roland did but had no idea what he was looking for.

“What does an animal have when I kills its prey?” Casey asked.
“Beats the shit out of me.” Roland replies.

“It has a lair a place it takes its prey to, somewhere its brood live and it feeds it, but look around there is nowhere this place is a park where people come to jog play ball take the kids for a walk it’s not the bleeding Serengeti it’s a park there is no animals lair it does not add up this thing has taken two bodies and there is no trace what so ever, you found the guy in the woods on the path he was ripped up but you found the body, there was proof not here what is so different about the Brophy’s why can we not find them it would take a large animal to eat two grown men and leave no trace no skin blood or bones, this is weird and it is getting to me, call off the search we won’t find anything.”

The search called off Casey and Joss went back to the police station Colin was waiting for them.

” How did you get on at the college? Casey asked.

“I had a talk to Rachael Brandon about her father but she did not remember much but I am not so sure, and Brophy but she could not shed any light on the matter, but deep down she is hiding something what I have no idea, come gentlemen I will take you to dinner I have had enough.” At the restaurant Colin, Roland, Casey and Joss ordered their meal and while they were eating Joss said.

“When you went to tell old man Brophy did you have to press some intercom to ask them to open the door?” He looked at Casey.

“Yes there is an intercom on the gate post up to the house and they let you in why.” Casey replied.

“They must have some sort of camera fitted in the intercom to see who is at the gate don’t you think a CCTV.” Joss replied, the three men thought and then Roland said.

“You clever lad, you see the young have a different view of the world what with computer programs and such and mobile phones that take pictures not like us old farts.” Casey looked at Roland. “What the hell are you two talking about? Casey Asked.

“The gate has a camera to see who is there.” Roland replied. “And.” Casey again asked.

“The camera must have taken photos the night Brophy died we need to get whatever they record who is at the gate off them it may show us something or it may show us nothing but what have we got so far, nothing.” Roland said.

Casey took his phone out and rang a number, “Norm its Casey get a patrol car around the Brophy mansion and get the tape out of the CCTV camera that is in the intercom at the gate and bring it to the station in the morning I will see you then.” He hung up.

“Joss my son I am going to buy you the best drink you have ever had, now what will it be.” Casey asked.

“Just a beer please Casey.” Joss replied.

“Just a beer well I am going to buy you the best beer sold in the house, another one for you Roland.” Casey went away to the bar. “Well done Joss we would never have thought of that.” Roland said.

“You would have in time.” Joss replied and smiled.

“Yes I would but in time.” Casey returned.

“There you are Joss the best in the house and now a toast to Joss.” They toasted Joss who was a bit embarrassed at all the patrons staring wondering what was going on.

The next day Colin Casey Joss and Roland sat in the office waiting for the engineer to set up the tape.

“It’s like waiting for the film to start in the cinema.” Roland joked, the engineer finished and showed Joss how to use the tape player as he was the youngest and the old farts had no idea, he started the tape it started with Harcourt arriving and departing then some woman came and went then the chauffer getting out and pressing the bell, then something grabbed him but

it was all a shadow then Brophy being dragged out of the limo and carried away.

“What the fuck is carrying him can you see anything it’s like he is floating in mid air there is nothing there, rewind it.” Joss did and it was just the same.

“What is going on how can something not be there and yet carry a man away, it makes no sense, do you think it is the tape is it knackered.” Casey said.

“No Casey we saw Brophy being carried so how can the tape be knackered, my friend something is very wrong here.” Joss stopped the tape and they all sat in silence.

“Play it again Joss from the start.”

The tape was rewound to the beginning and they sat watching many people arrived and left and then Casey came in on the tape when he came to tell Brophy his son had been killed and as he left and the gate closed he saw something.

“Stop the tape and take it back a bit just before I left.” Joss rewound it Casey said “Stop”

He looked across the road, “Can you blow that up more.” This Joss did and there watching Casey was a dog not a big dog but a dog. “What the hell, why is a dog watching the house it is as if he is casing the joint, tell me I did not say that.” Casey said.

“Play the tape.”

Roland asked just as Casey passed the dog it disappeared into the woods, and was gone, silence once more reined in the room no one spoke for ages Joss had an idea the professor was right, how he had no idea but tomorrow he was going to see him again.

Joss arrived at the museum and went to the reception and asked to see Professor Khalid.

“He is a busy man what is it you need to talk to him about.”

Joss remembered what Roland had said about his warrant card and he shown it to her. “Police business now can I see him.”

The lady coughed and went away returning with Professor Khalid. “Detective Archer you are back.” Khalid held out his hand Joss shook it.

“Now how can I help you? Khalid asked.

“Could we go somewhere private there is something I need to ask you?”

Khalid led Andrew to his office and asked him to sit down. “Now what is this something you have to ask me?”

“Last time I came to you it was just in interest but now it has become more of a case, we have five dead people that have been attacked by some sort of animal which we believe to be a dog, a very large dog if I may add, and it has come to light that ten years ago a young lad and a man were also killed the same way, and the strange thing is the first ones killed the place was some 350 miles away and we have a police inspector from

the other crimes in our team trying to discover what killed them, you must have read about Charlton Brophy and his son Brett in the newspapers the night Charlton was killed or taken we don't know if he is dead as we have found no body his chauffer was also taken but not killed the animal left him and went back for Charlton, we have footage of the attack from the intercom camera on the gate, now this is where it becomes bizarre the camera shows the attack and Brophy being carried away but does not show what is carrying him, the picture has Brophy floating in the air it is like the thing that has him in its jaws is invisible." Khalid listened intently and then said.

"The reason the animal is invisible is because the camera cannot pick up it up in the flesh, you see in Egyptian they did not have technology." Khalid smiled.

"The reason being it was thought seeing the animal in the flesh as it were puts the fear into the victim just before they died and then they would not go to their maker and roam in limbo for eternity, or so the prophets for tell but of what help I can be is your guess, you see the beast is lead by the one he obeys and you have to find the person and tell them to send it back only they can do that." Khalid said.

"How do we find this person? Joss asks

"First of all you have to find out why the beast is here and why it is killing only the ones chosen, as you said the chauffer was not harmed, so you see the person may not even know he or she controls the animal their

for the animal is choosing the victims for them and does that by the way the victim hurts the person in control unknown to the person, they may not realize the killings are because of them, maybe through thought or some action against the controller to put it in another word, and maybe there thoughts drive the animal to dispatch the perpetrator in retribution for their actions towards the controller and therefore protecting them.”

“Bloody hell that is some story.” Joss replied.

“It is not a story detective Andrews because as you see you have a situation just like that and unless you find the controller every time someone upsets them in any way a death will eventuate and it will not stop until the animal is freed.” Khalid said.

“Could you come to the precinct and see my boss there is a video tape I would like you to see and maybe explain it to him, that is if you are not too busy, it would be a great help.” Joss said.

“Leave me your card and I will get my secretary to make an appointment to come to Rochester and talk to your boss and take a look at the video.” Khalid replied. Joss gave him a card.

“We will send a squad car to pick you up, a plain one of course don’t want anyone to get the wrong impression do we professor.”

“Precisely detective Andrews I will see you shortly.”

“Joss I would like you to go back to Claremont and have word with Beth Brandon see if she can spread any light on her husband’s death see if

he had any secrets you know if any of his work colleges had it in for him or did he owe money to someone and they had him killed meanwhile Casey and I will have a talk to Colin Parnell he may have forgotten something who knows.”

“Okay the professor is coming in tomorrow to see the video can we get someone to pick him up at the museum.” Joss said.

“Yes I will get Casey to send a squad car for him.”

Roland replied. “Just one thing can you ask him to send a plain car the professor may not come if it is a squad car.” Joss said.

“Yes point taken, anyway you get off and I will see you tomorrow.”

Joss knocked on the door of Beth Brandon and waited Beth opened the door and looked at Joss. “Mrs. Brandon Joss Andrews from Rochester police.” He showed her his warrant card.

“Could I ask you some questions please?”

“Of course please come in.” Joss followed her inside

“Would you like a drink of anything? She asked.

“No thank you I am fine, I just want to ask some questions about your husband and daughter, did your husband Samuel have any enemies say at work or in town or anyone who would want to harm him.”

“No detective my husband was well liked and had many friends, what are you implying.” Beth said.

“Nothing we now have five bodies and no case we are just trying to piece together what happened here and back in Rochester as we have no clues except some animal killing these five people, and we don’t know if they are connected in any way.” Joss replied.

“I am sorry your job must be hard and very frustrating.” Beth said.
“It is okay we have to ask questions otherwise we get nowhere and at the moment that is where we are nowhere, now tell me about your daughter Rachael did she have any enemies maybe at school or some kid that did not like her.”

“No Rachael was well liked her grades were good and to all teachers she was a good student.” Beth replied.

“There was one incident on the bus coming home one day after school one of the boys bullying one of her friends what was her name, oh yes Vicky, Rachael stood up to the lad but he took no notice till the driver told him to sit down, and then he was the one killed in the woods, he was called Troy Preston his family live not far from here, his dad was a bit of a bully at school when we were kids so Troy must take after him.” Beth stopped.

“Okay Mrs. Brandon that will be all for now, your daughter has been through a lot first her dad and then Brophy and his mates but the law prevailed and justice was served, I will bid you good bye and let you know if we find anything regarding your husband.” Joss got up to leave.

“Oh buy the way did Rachael have dog.”

This took Beth by surprise. “Yes but why do you ask.” Beth said.
“Oh no reason children should have pets when they are growing up I had a Labrador called Jasper, anyway must go.” Joss got in his car drove away towards Rochester.

Professor Khalid arrived at the precinct and the officer took him up to Casey’s office and went in. “Sir this is Professor Khalid from the museum.” Then he left.

“Please take a seat Professor could we get you anything.” Casey asked.

“Yes please tea would be nice.” Casey rang the phone and ordered tea and coffee.

“This is inspector Roland Bostow, Colin Parnell and Joss of course you know and I am Captain Casey Barnyard, I believe Joss here has had a long talk with you and what he says blows us away that is the reason we have asked you here to help us understand.”

“I will endeavor to make you understand what is happening and what you may be able to accomplish once you understand Captain Barnyard.”

“Please call me Casey.” Casey replied.

“Okay Casey where would you like me to start.” Khalid asked.

“How about starting at beginning?” Casey replied.

“I have told the story of queen Norgassa to your detective we have no way of knowing how the Egyptians work and how life three thousand years ago played out, we have over the last two hundred years learned something of how their life worked, what we have found out they worshiped dogs as gods hence you see men with heads of dogs and also other animals with heads of men on paintings in temples and tombs, and of course statues namely the sphinx the body of a lion and the head of a pharaoh, if anyone of you has ever been to Egypt to the valley of the kings you can see evidence of a culture far advanced than any human culture ever discovered, each brick of the pyramids is so precise you can just get a piece of paper in between each one and they are within 2 centimeters all the same size and all carved by hand, we have lasers that can just get that close invented three thousand years later, so you see we have just scratched the surface. I was born in Cairo with all that wonderment around me it was not until I went to college I realized how important the Pyramids were I have been studying Egypt for over fifty years and like I said we have just scratched the surface, there is more underground than on the surface something like the icebergs, when the pharaoh was buried all his possessions were buried with him servants, gold, animals even the high priest everything to help him in the afterlife, I can see by the look on your faces these things I am telling you seem very unreal.” No one spoke for some time.

“No on the contrary professor we are fascinated well I am.” Casey said the others nodded. “Please carry on.”

“Now we come to the animal killing people at random, and yet they are all connected in some way and until you find how you may get more killings I have a hunch someone you have interviewed or contacted in some way is the controller a word I use loosely as the person in question does not know they control the animal, it seems it has a sense the person is in danger or needs help animals cannot speak English or any language for that matter, they pick up vibes or signals, if you have a dog and you are sad what does it do it comes up and comforts you, when you are happy he will wag his tail, if you are frightened he will protect you, he has no way of knowing only vibes from you, maybe you gentlemen have had the same things happen in your career you know something is not right and you act on that I will call it vibe just the same as the dog, the evidence points to one thing but you think the evidence is wrong ,but we humans have logic animals don't they can only relay on their senses, and that is what we are dealing with, some way your evidence is not pointing to what you think it is and finding the common denominator between the killings is going to be very hard to find, unless like I say someone you have already had contact with is the common denominator in this case.” Silence again reined.

“Well professor that was some intro when we went to school it was all there, we learned all about Egypt and countries outside our little world but forgot as we grew up the importance of it all, and as we got older it

really did not seem to matter, we carried on our little lives to the best of our ability, but here today you have opened up new possibilities and we thank you.” Casey got up and shook his hand they all in turn did the same.

“Now I must leave you as I have my own work to do.” Casey called for the car and the Professor left.

“Well lads seems we have to look over all our notes and see if we can come up with the missing link, we will all meet here tomorrow morning bring everything we have on the case and let’s get some results, who is going to join me for dinner, they all did.

“Okay we have five bodies let’s start with the one in the lane, no id no money nothing on him, he must have come in a car so where is it, he may have had an accomplice where is he or her.” Casey said.

“What about Samuel Brandon and Troy Preston were they not the first.” Joss replied.

“Yes they were I worked on the case but never got anywhere.” Colin said.

“You are right of course the kid and Brandon were killed nearly ten years ago so why are we getting killings now and not only that here in Rochester. Casey replied.

“I cannot get it in my head what the Brophy’s have to do with the kid and Brandon and the guy in the lane, where they clients of Brophy’s, no that cannot be right the kid was what nine or ten Brandon may have had

dealings with Brophy but not the kid, what the hell are we missing here, we have to find out about john doe in the morgue see if he has any DNA on file or finger prints, come on lads let's get going on this before we retire, lets meet in two days and see how we are getting on or not."

Colin went to Piermont's head office in Rochester, Roland went to the morgue, Joss went to missing persons to look through files and see if anyone else had died the same way, and Casey went through is old files looking for a link, they met in the office two days later.

"Got a name of john doe from DNA his name is Jeff Colby and is a convicted rapist served ten years for raping two teenagers and was let out last month for good behavior." Roland said.

"What is wrong with the system when someone like Colby get let out we put them in and they let them out, he should have hung, the bastard."

"Nice work Roland now we have a link my friend, go and see if Colby was a client of Dalton Harcourt Brophy's pet brief and where did Colby serve time and who with, he may have had one of his cellmates driving the car, okay anyone else."

"I have been to Piermont's head office and went through their CCTV and found nothing out of the ordinary then I asked if they had a record of any staff that have been sacked for any reason, one name did come up Greg Parson a young man about 22 he was sacked because he

missed putting on his resume that he had done time for carjacking 18 months and had been released in may this year, he lives in Rochester on the fielding estate number 42 kings road. “ Colin finished.

“Now we are getting somewhere good work Colin, Roland and Joss you go and see this Greg Parson’s and see if he knows Colby, my gut feelings tell me he does, Colin and I will go and see Harcourt nice work.”

Roland and Joss pulled up outside the address of Parson all was quiet and then someone came out of the house they assumed it to be Parson’s.

“You follow him on foot and I will follow in the car.”

Joss got out and started to tail Parson’s he crossed the road and caught a bus Joss caught the same bus and sat three seats behind him the conductor came around for the fares but Joss had no money on him he took out his warrant card and made a sign for the conductor to keep quiet this he did, the journey took about 15 minutes Joss hoped Roland was keeping up with the bus he looked through the back window and saw the car, Parson was very nervous and fidgeted a lot in his seat Joss realized he had been inside for nearly two years and must have got stir crazy, mind you do the crime do the time Joss thought to himself, then Parson rang the bell for the bus to stop at the next bus stop and he got up to get off, Joss followed him and when he reached the sidewalk he pounced on him and shoved him to

the floor, Parson struggled and a passerby grabbed hold of Joss and tried to get him off.

“I am a policeman get off me.”

The man left Joss alone and he waited for Roland and waited Parson took his chance and stood on Joss’s foot he let go and Parson took off. “Shit.”

Joss shouted and took off after him Parson rang like a frightened hare in and out of the pedestrian’s lining the street then he ran across the road just then a car hit him and over the top he went when Joss got to him he was still alive but badly hurt Joss rang for an ambulance and a crowd gathered. “Please get back this is a police matter.” Just then Roland arrived.

“Sorry Joss the traffic was bad, how is he. “ Roland asked.

“No idea the ambulance is on its way.”

Parson was taken to the local hospital Joss asked Roland to follow he was going with Parson in the ambulance, Parson was unconscious so Joss could not speak to him Parson was put under police guard until he was well enough to answer questions.

Casey and Colin arrived at Harcourt’s office and went in they asked to see Harcourt the receptionist was a bit curt so Casey shown his warrant card, she left and came back.

”Mr Harcourt will see you now.” She led them into his office and left.

“Yes gentlemen what could I do for you.” Harcourt asked.

“Have you ever had dealings with a Greg Parsons and Jeff Colby?”
Casey asked.

“The names don’t spring to mind why what have they done.”
Harcourt asked.

“Colby was a rapist who served ten years and Parsons was a car thief and he served 18 months.” Colin replied.

“I am sorry I don’t recall the names but I will look in my files and if anything comes to light I will let you know.”

Harcourt finished and looked at Casey.

“Were you not the investigating officer in the case against Brett Brophy?” Harcourt asked.

“Yes I was why do you ask.” Casey said.

“You are asking me about a rapist and you were on the case against Brett for rape of a girl called Betty Thomas and then in court last month regarding three of Brett’s friends for the same crime, is this what you are good at Captain Casey or do you just get all the dregs of the world as your cases.” Harcourt smirked Casey was seething inside.

“These dregs as you put it are dregs we put them away and shit’s like you let them out, so don’t talk to me down your fucking nose Harcourt the only reason you have a job is because your boss or should I say ex boss took pity on you when you were a drunkard and nearly killed that family, oh yes I do get all the dregs and you are one of them, now any information

you find you get it of me fast or I am coming around for you.” They got up and left Harcourt flustered.

“Shit you gave him a serve nice one.” Colin smiled.

“They get on my nerves cocky bastard they are just like you and me my friend only they bend the law and we straighten it.”

Roland and Joss went back to the hospital Parson was awake and they needed to interview him, he looked all beat up and covered in bruises just showing,

“Mr Parsons my name is inspector Roland Bostow and this is detective Joss Andrews do you know a man named Jeff Colby.” Roland said, Parsons never answered he just looked blankly at Roland,

“Well do you or don’t you.” Roland asked again.

“No never heard of him.” Parsons replied.

“Where were you going when detective Andrews apprehended you and why did you run.” Roland asked.

“The pool hall and I ran because I thought he was some weirdo on drugs anyway you should not be interviewing me without a lawyer.”

Parsons knew the law.

“Why mister Parsons do you have a lawyer.” Joss asked.

“Might have.” Parsons said.

“Would he be Dalton Harcourt? Joss replied. Parsons was shifty and they knew he had something to do with Harcourt.

” I am saying nothing till I see my lawyer.” Then he shut up.

“Fine Mr Parsons but we will be back.” They left Parsons Room and went outside.

“He knows something I don’t know what but I will bet my pension on it.”

They got in the car and headed back to the precinct Casey and Colin were already waiting for them.

“How was Parsons did he say anything.” Casey asked.

“Yes he wants his lawyer.” We mentioned Harcourt and he clamped up he knows something what we have no idea, how did you go on with Colby.” Roland asked.

“He did time in Brenthurst we are going there tomorrow to see the governor and maybe get some more information, in the meantime who would like a drink.”

Colin and Casey parked the car outside Brenthurst and rang the bell one of the guards appeared Casey produced his warrant card and the guard opened the small door and they entered.

“We have come to see governor Prentiss we have an appointment.”
“Please follow me.”

The guard said this they did and knocked on the door of the governor. Come in the voice said back the guard entered and then left.

“Gentlemen what could I do for you.” He asked.

“My name is Captain Casey and this is inspector Colin Parnell we would like some information on one of your ex cons Jeff Colby he was released in April his year.”

The governor went to his filing cabinet and took out a file.

” Please take a seat. This they did and Prentiss opened the file. “Yes Jeff Colby did ten years for rape and was indeed released in April not a nice person but the parole board thought different so what can I do.” Prentiss said.

“Did he have anyone sharing his cell with him? Colin asked

“Not at first but has he got more calm as it were we put him in general population and he shared a cell with Greg Parsons a small time car thief and we thought he may learn the error of his ways if we put him in with a hardened criminal, he was released in May of this year.”

“That is what we wanted governor Prentiss and we thank you for your time.” They went to the door and the guard let them out.

“Bingo now we are getting somewhere Colby and Parsons are connected now he needs a lawyer.”

Casey Laughed and sent Roland and Joss back to the hospital.

Back at the hospital Parsons was once again questioned this time he did not hold back as he knew he had been caught out.

“Yes I was in with Colby he protected me he had been inside eight years and was in what is called the soft wing only for first time offenders

and people like me car thief's, why he was in there I have no idea seeing as he was a rapist." Parsons said.

"The Governor thought he may make you wish you were never in there that is why he was put in with you." Roland said.

"Well it did work I wished I had never seen Colby but 18 months later he was released first and me later and I thought I had seen the last of Colby but it was not to be, somehow he found out where I lived and said if he would not help him he would kill me."

"What do you mean help him? Joss asked.

"He knew I worked at the campus for Piermont security how I have no idea he knew where I lived and where I worked, he said he wanted me to lure girls so he could rape them, he was not kidding when he said he would kill me, I was to get the bus in Rochester pretending to be a student just starting college and I would find out where they went and then we would pick them up and he would rape them, they would not talk because they knew he had been inside so they would keep quiet." Parson said.

"Did you know Colby was dead? Roland asked.

Parsons went quiet then nodded his head.

"I got on the bus and was to meet girls, but only the ones who lived in the dorm away from home he said Colby they would not tell their parents for fear of being taken out of college so he assumed, and try and make them believe I was a student, one day she and her friend sat in the cafeteria and because I worked for the security I could go anywhere and so

I joined them for lunch the girl I met on the bus was very standoffish but her friend was a bit more friendly, she told me later on they were going into town the next day because it was a day of rest for students so I followed them and kept them under surveillance at the mall, they were that busy they missed the bus and I rang Colby and he came with his car and told me to drive, we waited and then they started to hitchhike and that was a good opportunity to act, we pulled up and Colby asked them if they wanted a lift to the college knowing they would not reach it, he sat in the back and I drove off and turned into a lane one of the girls got out and ran the other Colby grabbed and she scratched his face and escape but ran up the lane, I panicked and did not know what to do, then I heard the scream and set off there is no way I was going to be a part of this, but then I knew Colby would find me and kill me so I went back, when I got up the lane I saw Colby lying on the floor and when I got near him he had no head it made me feel sick but I held it back and stole his identity hoping he would not be linked to me then I drove off about mile down the road I saw one girl and stopped and knew who she was, she cried and told me to take her home and then further on the other girl came into view and I picked her up as well, I told them to go to the police and report it then they would think it was not me, then I got caught lying on my resume and was sacked.

“What were the girls names do you know.” Joss asked.

“The girl I spoke to was named Libby.” Parsons said.

“Libby Turner.” Joss asked.

“No idea I just knew her first name.” Parsons replied. “Describe the other girl.” Roland asked.

“Pretty with light brown hair and green eyes and freckles.” Parsons replied.

“Right Greg Parsons I am arresting you for procuring females and attempted rape you may not say anything but what you do will be taken down and used in evidence against you, when you are well enough you will be taken to the local precinct and held until your trial, is that clear.”

Parsons nodded his head, Roland and Joss left and returned to Casey’s office.

“We think we know who the victim was in the lane with Colby.” Roland said.

“You do who is it? Casey asked.

“Rachael Brandon.”

Are you kidding me, Rachael Brandon how did you find that out? Casey asked.

“Our friend parsons we have just arrested him for procuring females and attempted rape.”

Then they told Casey what Parsons had admitted Casey was silent then said.

“We will have to interview her, poor kid nearly raped twice she must think Rochester is a den of thief’s and rapists, but we will have to tread very softly with her, if she is the controller we could be in deep shit,

not that I believe all professor Khalid said but we have to be cautious, we need her mother here as well Joss can you go to Claremont and pick her up, stay the night in an hotel and come back in the morning, you may have to tell Beth Brandon the whole story of Colby, Parsons the dog and professor Khalid and the Brophy's and Joss."

"Yes" Casey." Joss replied.

"Good luck you are going to need it, Roland you make sure that piece of crap in hospital gets to jail and Colin and I will go and see our friend Harcourt, this is getting deep."

On the journey down to Claremont Joss had to rehearse the story he had to tell Beth Brandon it was not going to be easy and he knew Beth was intelligent and this would be hard for her to grasp what with the attempted rape of her daughter twice and the story of the dog would be very hard for her he reached the house on river road and drove in Joss got out of the car just as Beth came to the door. "Good afternoon Mrs. Brandon could we talk." Beth looked at Joss and realized who he was.

"Detective Andrews you are back, what can I do for you? Beth asked.

"We need you to come to Rochester as we have to interview Rachael once more and you need to be there." Joss replied.

"Please come in." Beth went inside and Joss followed.

“Please sit down detective, can I get you anything.” Beth asked.

“No thanks and my name is Joss.” He replied.

“Okay Joss what can I help you with.” Beth asked.

“I am about to tell you a story that you may not believe or you may not want to believe, we have got no idea if it is fact but it all points to the fact that it could be true, and I am not explaining myself so here is the story.” Joss began and Beth listening intently there were a few gasps and hands to mouth and a few good gods the story lasted about an hour and after Joss had finished Beth sat silent not moving or saying a word, then she spoke.

“You believe my daughter is possessed by some queen who lived in Egypt three thousand years ago and she is in control of a dog that kills people and all she has to do is think of the person and the animal kills them, bloody hell you must think I live in the twilight zone, who do you think you are coming here with the prosperous story expecting me to believe it do you think I am stupid.” Beth was annoyed and stared at Joss.

“I know it is hard for you to take it all in but we are at a cross roads in the investigation and your daughter seems to fit in with it, both attempts on her person one by Colby and one by Brett Brophy the death of Brophy’s father because he tried to undermine their integrity, the friend Libby the boy Troy I don’t know how your husband fits in to this there are four bodies not including your husband’s that were attacked and killed and somehow your daughter is link in some way.” Joss replied.

He was now struggling to put across the evidence but Beth was not having any of it and could not believe this story she went quite once more.

“Mrs. Brandon even if the story is farfetched as you think it is spare a thought for the police department the officer who investigated Troy and your husband’s death inspector

Colin Parnell still has a cold case on his hands and would very much like to solve it if possible before he retires, but you still have to come to Rochester and sit in on your daughters interview and I am sure she would like you there, and in the meantime could you tell me where the nearest hotel is as we will have to leave in the morning it is too far to go tonight.” Joss said. Beth then said to Joss.

“There is no need to go to the hotel I have plenty of rooms here and besides I am sick of eating alone, so if you would like to stay the night you are welcome.”

This took Joss back a bit but he realized here is a woman who has lost her husband and nearly lost her daughter she obviously feels alone.

“Okay if it is not too much trouble.” Joss replied.

“Detective if it was too much trouble I would not have asked, now you go and bring your bag in and I will show you to your room.” Joss went out to his car took his bag out and went back into the house Beth led him to the room Rachael slept in and was told where the bathroom was.

“Dinner will be ready in about half an hour you have a shower and I will see you downstairs.”

Joss had a shower and got changed he just dressed casual as he did not have to dress for dinner as he was not in the hotel then he went downstairs.

“There is a beer on the table, I take it you drink beer.” Beth asked.
“Yes thank you very much Mrs. Brandon.”

“Please call me Beth.”

Then she went into the kitchen and was busying cooking tea, Joss had a walk around the lounge room it was so cozy and warm the looked at all the family photos and saw Samuel with Beth on their wedding day they looked very happy and then a picture with Rachael he was a good looking bloke no wonder Beth loved him, then a picture of Rachael and Beth on holiday on the beach and then he saw it, the picture of Rachael with her dog then he knew that was the dog outside Brophy’s house when Casey drove away the one in the CCTV footage, he nearly choked on his beer.

“Are you alright Joss go down the wrong hole did it.” Beth asked.
“Something like that? Joss replied.

“Dinner is ready I hope you like pasta.” Beth smiled.

“I like anything that is nice Beth.”

“I have to go to the bathroom.”

Parsons said to the officer guarding him, the officer called the nurse and told her Parsons wants to go to the bathroom, Parsons protested but the officer said it was either her or he would take him, Parsons got out of bed

and went into the bathroom with the nurse just as she turned and locked the door Parsons attacked her with the bedpan and hit her on the head and knocked her out, then he opened the window as luck had it a fire escape ran the length of the building, he climbed onto the window ledge and reached out then he slipped and somehow caught the ladder the pain in his side nearly made him sick but the adrenalin over road it, he pulled himself up to the ladder and climbed on to is then rested for a minute the pain was really bad and he held his side but escape was his only driving force he slowly made his way down the ladder but dressed in hospital gowns he needed clothes and saw a window open but no one was in the bed so he climbed in and looked in the wardrobe and found some cloths gathered them up and climbed back onto the fire escape and then went down to the ground no one saw him which was good, he dressed in the cloths in the alleyway put the gowns in the bin and boldly walked out of the hospital, the officer wondered why they were taking so long but the nurse was with him so he thought it was okay but alarm bells rang after 15 minutes and he went to the door and knocked on it but there was no answer so he broke it down and found the nurse unconscious and Parsons gone.

Casey was not amused and went mad when he was told he put out an APB on Parsons. "Find that bastard or I will have someone head." Casey shouted to his officers and then closed the door to his office and picked up the phone.

“Tell me about yourself Joss seeing as how we are here and nothing to talk about.” Beth smiled.

“I was born in a small place called Broughton my father was a real estate agent and my mother was a psychiatrist.” Beth interrupted him.

“You say they was what do you mean.” She asked.

“They were both killed on holiday on the Bahamas some idiot full of dope made a wrong turn up some road and pushed them over the cliff.” Beth gasped.

“Oh how awful you must have been devastated losing both of them.” She replied.

“At first I was then thought my parents would not like me to mourn them too much, so I gave up my training at the solicitors and went into the police academy did my fifteen weeks training and they let me out.” Beth looked at him he then smiled.

“Just a joke I was top of my class and they wanted me to train for detective so I went back and did three years in the academy again and became a detective two years ago and they partnered me up with Roland who you have met when we came here to see you, he is a top detective and a top person and I have learned a lot from him, now it is your turn.

“We all went to the same school Claremont high, Samuel was on the football team, I majored in literature I met Samuel at a dance just before we graduated it was love at first sight he was very shy and seemed a bit aloof, Rachael takes after him in some ways but she is more fiery and

knows what she wants, we dated for two years and then got married Rachael was born a year and half later we moved into this house and was very happy, then Samuel lost his job and things got a bit scary, then after a year he got the job at the sawmill not what he wanted but he had a family to support, then he got promoted and we saw less of him as the work got more and more and he had to be on the job to see the orders went out on time, the money was good but he got depressed and more angry that is when.” She stopped. “Would you like another beer? Beth asked.

“No thanks I had better get some sleep we need to be away early to get to Rochester, so I will bid you good night.”

Joss left Beth washing up and went to bed, he heard her come to bed and about two hours later he heard her crying. Morning came and Beth shouted Joss down for breakfast, he got dressed and went into the kitchen. “Good morning Joss did you sleep okay.” Beth asked.

“Yes very well thanks the bed was really comfortable.” Joss replied there was no reason to ask why she was crying it had nothing to do with him, after they headed out to Rochester.

They arrived at the precinct at 11 in the morning and went to Casey’s office, he was sat reading the paper when Joss came in with Mrs. Brandon he put the paper away and smiled.

“Hi Joss and Mrs. Brandon welcome once more please take a seat, would you like some coffee.” She nodded he knew Joss would like some so

he ordered three cups, they came shortly after and Casey gave one to Beth and one to Joss.

“Mrs. Brandon has Joss explained to you why we want to interview Rachael.” Casey asked.

“Yes Captain but please call me Beth.” Beth replied.

“Okay Beth before we bring Rachael from school there is a few things we have to discuss, we know this is a real humdinger of a case and very strange and weird but we now have evidence all though not concrete that something is happening in this town and it happened ten years ago in Claremont, as you know we have inspector Colin Parnell here from Claremont who is helping us with our enquires, and I assume you have been given all we have on the case from Joss here.” Beth nodded.

“ I will send someone to pick up Rachael from school after lunch so I would like you to join us for lunch and we can have a chat.” Casey smiled once more, he had no idea how to start the interview but it had to be done, they had lunch and went back to Casey’s office and had only been in ten minutes when Rachael was brought in she saw her mother and ran to her.

“Hello baby how are you.” She asked.

“Okay mother but I have no idea what they want me for. Rachael replied.

“Rachael could you please sit here and Beth you sit next to her.” Casey said.

“Okay we will start first of all this is not a interrogation it is to see and to put together the evidence we have if you need a break or it is too much please say so you are under no obligation at this point, first of all did you know a lad called Greg he said he met you on the bus when you first came to the college.” “Yes.” Rachael replied.

“Well our Greg we found out worked for the security of the campus and used to procure young girls who had just come to college from out of town the ones that lived in the dorm so no one knew them, he got into their space and pretend to be a student, he sat at your table one day did he not and you would not talk to him.” “Yes I did not like him he was creepy.” Rachael replied.

“You were right he is creepy his real name is Greg Parsons and he has done time for stealing cars, and was sacked by the security company but somehow kept coming into school and spying on girls, he went to jail and ended up in Brenthurst where he met his cell mate a man called Jeff Colby, Colby employed Parsons for a better word like I said to procure young girls so Colby could rape them. “ Beth was shocked.

“What has that to do with my daughter? She asked.

“We will get to that shortly, your friend Libby unknowingly said you were going into town at school recess day, you knew nothing of this Rachael but Parsons followed you and kept you under surveillance at the mall and when you missed the bus he was delighted and informed Colby then the two of them followed you and your friend Libby tried to hitch a

lift Colby and Parsons pulled up you had no idea it was Greg as you could not see him, reluctantly you got into the car but they had no intention of taking you to the college and turned off into a lane, Libby escaped but Colby got you didn't he and you scratched his face and escaped and he caught you and tried to rape you, is that right Rachael." Casey asked, Beth looked at her daughter why had she never told her.

"Yes it is true, I am sorry mother I did not want to tell you as you may have taken me out of school and I need to pass to help you." Rachael replied.

"That is the exact reason Parsons chose girls from out of town." Joss said.

"Now Rachael tell us what happened next, just take your time." Casey said.

"Colby as you say tried to rape me but something happened he got up and ran as something scared him, then I heard the scream and ran as fast as I could till I got to the road, then a car came and it was Greg, seeing as I knew him somewhat it got into the car and then we picked Libby up father along, he told us to go to the police but we kept it quiet as we did not want feel stupid. " Rachael said.

"He told you to do that as he wanted you to think he was not part of Colby's scam and it worked, then he got sacked and you did not see him again, we caught him a couple of days ago but he escaped but we will find him." Casey replied.

“I hope you do Captain he is an evil man what happened to Colby?” Rachael asked. Casey looked at her.

“I thought you might tell us that Rachael.” Joss asked.

“Me how do I know it is a strange question to ask me, I ran as fast as I could and I never saw him again.” Rachael replied.

“Colby is dead he was killed by something we don’t know what, did you not see anything chasing him.” Casey asked Rachael. “Chasing him no I did not see anything he just got up and ran.” Casey did not know what to say next then Joss spoke.

“What was your dog called Rachael.” Rachael looked at him very strangely.

“My dog was called Jess why do you ask.”

“What happened to Jess Rachael? Joss asked. “He died.

” She replied.

“How did Jess die Rachael? Joss asked Casey knew where he was going and left him to it, Rachael lowered her head.

“Go on baby tell Joss what happened.” Casey looked at Joss as if to say on first name terms are we.

“My father shot him and buried him in the garden.” Beth now knew where Joss was going the story told her maybe true and the death of Jess has caused it all

“Have you seen Jess since he died? Joss asked Casey looked at him and did not like where this was leading but left it.

“Yes I see him a lot he comes to me in my dreams but has come to me a few times in real life.” Rachael replied.

“When was the last time you saw him.” Joss asked.

“At school last month I was looking out of the window and he was sat on the lawn he looked at me and then ran off into the woods that was the last time I saw him.” Then she stopped.

“I think we need a break can I have a word Joss outside? Casey and Joss left the office and Rachael hugged her mother.

“What is going on young man this is getting bizarre? Casey asked. “When I went to see Beth the first time? Casey put his hand up. “What is this Beth and Joss shit you are a police officer and we don’t use first names unless asked, what went on in Claremont.” Casey asked. Joss looked at him.

“You are right I am a police officer and a good one we had a long talk and she asked me to call her Beth and nothing went on as you put it, I tried to get her to tell me things and not be afraid and it worked I saw a picture on the table of Rachael and a dog it was the same dog that was in the CCTV footage when you went to see Brophy I am sure of it and that is why I asked her if she had seen it and the dog was there when the Brophy’s were killed, don’t you see the dog killed Samuel Brandon for killing it, why I don’t know yet but it is something that girl is no telling us, they need to see the footage she has to know her dog has metamorphosed into that beast and it picks up her fears and thoughts and acts on them, and you are

right it is bizarre but it is the truth she has no idea why and we have to find out one way or another.” Joss finished. Casey thought a moment and then said.

“What if we upset her and she goes off and the thing comes and gets us.” Casey said.

“It won’t we are not a threat to her we are trying to help her.” Joss replied.

“I hope you are right and I am sorry for thinking you know.” Casey said.

“It’s okay Captain.” He held his hand up again.

“Casey my name is Casey then laughed.

“How do you know this much about human behavior? Casey asked.

“My mother was a psychiatrist you pick things up.” Then he smiled.

“Oh yes very funny, now let’s get in there we many have to leave it for now and resume tomorrow I will ring the campus and ask them to put Mrs. Brandon up with Rachael that way they don’t feel alone.” Casey said.

“You see you do have feelings. “ Joss laughed.

“Cut it out I have a reputation to uphold. “ They went back into the office and Casey went to ring the campus Joss spoke to Beth and Rachael.

“Captain Casey is arranging for you to stay with Rachael at the campus as we need for you to come back in the morning and finish this interview in the meantime would you and Rachael like to join us for dinner tonight Casey and I.” Joss asked.

“That would be very nice Joss thank you.” Rachael just smiled,
“Okay I will arrange for transport back to the campus and we will pick you
at seven.” Joss replied.

“Okay Mrs. Brandon if you would like to go to the desk outside one
of my women constables will take you to the campus.” Casey said they got
up to leave and Beth said to Casey. “See you tonight.” Then they left.

“What did she mean see you tonight? Casey asked.

“We are taking them out for dinner tonight you and I it is the least
we can do, and besides you need to get out more.”

“Oh do we, and what makes you so sure I need to get out more.
Casey asked.

“Believe me you do see you at six thirty our date is for seven, and
dress up.” Joss walked away laughing.

Joss and Casey arrived at the campus at seven and waited for Beth
and Rachael they did not have to wait long as they appeared right on time
they walked towards them and Casey went. “Wow they look sensational.”

“Down boy remember you are a police captain.” Joss replied. Casey
got out and met them.

“Good evening ladies you look very nice, shall we.” He opened the
door and let them in Joss turned to greet them.

“You both look very nice.” He said.

“Why thank you young sir.” Beth replied they drove off and Casey told Joss which way to go they arrived at the restaurant and parked the car.

“This looks nice.” Joss said.

“It is a place of a friend of mine he used to be a policeman but found he was better of cooking than policing, shall we.”

Casey got out and opened the door for Beth Joss opened the door for Rachael who smiled at Joss they went into the restaurant and were just going to go to the reception when they heard someone shout they turned to see a man in a suit approached them.

“Casey my old friend I had no idea till I read the guest list it was you, how are you.”

“Daniel it is nice to see you as well, I would like you to meet Beth Brandon and her daughter Rachael and Joss Andrew a college of mine.”

Daniel did his introductions and said.

“Your table awaits you please follow me.” They followed Daniel to the window seat.

“Here we are I reserved it just for you the river view is the best table.”

Daniel beckoned the waiter over and said something to him he went away and came back shortly with a bottle of champagne.

“My friends this is for you on the house, my food waiter will be along in a minute you enjoy.”

The wine waiter poured them a glass each and went away to return with a silver cooler on a stand and put the bottle inside.

“This in nice Casey you don’t mind me calling you Casey do you, Captain Casey is a bit over the top, in surroundings like this. “ Beth smiled.

“No of course not tonight we are friends having a meal.” Casey replied.

They stayed for about three hours and then drove the two ladies back to the campus.

“We had a lovely night gentlemen and thank you very much and we will see you tomorrow.” Beth smiled they said goodnight and left.

“That is some nice lady my friend Joss some nice lady, I had a quite word with her when you went to the bathroom and told her to tell Rachael the whole story as she needs to know what she is in for.” Casey said.

“You see you can be gentle. “ Joss laughed.

Roland came into the office early in the morning but Casey had not arrived yet Casey’s phone rang and he picked it up. “Captain Casey’s office inspector Roland speaking.” Roland said.

“Inspector Roland sergeant Porritt speaking we have found Parsons in the old derelict housing squat on fining street.”

“Then bring him in sergeant.” Roland replied.

“We cannot sir he is dead, one of our patrols had a complaint of noises last night and came to investigate and found Parsons we knew it was

him as the cloths he was wearing from the hospital matched the clothing he stole, it is a good job we had a description because we cannot identify him any other way.”

“What do you mean sergeant?” Roland asked.

“We cannot find his head.”

Roland did not speak for some time.

“Cordon the place off and don’t let anyone near it and ring for the coroner we will be down shortly.” Roland hung up just as Casey arrived.

“What’s wrong? Casey asked.

“A patrol found Parsons this morning in the some squat on fining street where ever that is, he is dead they knew it was him because of the clothing he wore from the hospital, the reason why is he has no head.”

Roland replied.

“Shit you just ruined my day, last night I had a great night but this has just crapped it up, get hold of Joss and ask him to meet us here and then we will go down together.”

They arrived at the squat the place was abuzz with police cars a ambulance and the coroner and his truck; they went into the squat there was George again looking at the body.

“Morning George here we are again.” Casey said.

“Indeed Casey here we are again, it is just like the others but this one has no head like at all we found Colby’s but not this ones, which to me

sounds strange why would it take his head, he died about two this morning the marks on his body means he put up a fight but had no chance, I will take the body but we know the answer Casey don't we." George replied.

"Yes George we do, I wish the council would pull this mess down it is full of dope addicts and scum of the earth."

"It would not make any difference Casey they would move somewhere else, anyway have to go." George replied.

"Yes thanks George we will be seeing you." Casey said.

"Not to soon Casey my workload is full at the moment." George replied. On the way back to the precinct Joss said.

"We now have to show Rachael the CCTV footage outside Brophy's house."

"Are you crazy the girl will have nightmares seeing Brophy being attacked? Casey said.

"No not the attack the one where you went to see Brophy and the dog, I saw a picture of Rachael and her dog in the house when I went to pick Mrs. Brandon up I am not 100 percent sure but that dog on the CCTV was its twin and we have to show Rachael and see if I am right if not then it does not matter." Joss replied

They arrived back at Casey's office. Roland was deep in thought and Joss said. "What's up boss?"

“You interviewed Mrs. Brandon and Rachael the other day yes, did Rachael say anything about Parsons you know anything derogative.” Joss and Casey thought then Casey said.

“Rachael said Parsons was evil and nasty but what do you mean Roland.

“She said that and a couple of days later we find Parsons with no head, could this thing pick up on her thoughts as well as actions and should we not inform Harcourt he may be in danger.”

“How is he involved? Casey asked.

“Harcourt was Brophy’s lawyer he tried to get the lads off that tried to rape the girls, okay Brett got killed but why Brophy, he got killed because he employed Harcourt, we now know Parsons has something to do with Harcourt now he is dead, because Rachael found out about him and Colby, she said he is evil, so her thoughts must be picked up telepathically, professor Khalid so much as told us this and if that is true Harcourt is in real danger if we don’t want another body on our hands he has to be told.”

“Bloody hell Roland you may be right but Harcourt is not going to go for that, he is a cocky bastard and besides he won’t believe one word of it.” Casey replied.

“He will if we show him the CCTV of the attack on Brophy.” Joss said.

“And how do we get him to do that, I insulted him last time he is not going to trust me.” Casey replied.

“Can we not get him in on a trumped up charge and keep him locked up for 24 hours and then show him.” Roland said.

“Yes maybe we can and you can bring him in, you and Joss go and get him, meanwhile I will ring Colin in Claremont and tell him what we have found he must be kept informed, okay you go and get Harcourt he will love you two.”

Roland and Joss arrived at Harcourt’s office and told the reception they needed to see Harcourt she of course was having none of it so Roland went into the office without knocking.

“What is the meaning of this and who are you.” Harcourt asked.
“Inspector Roland Bostow and this is detective Joss Andrews we would like you to accompany us down to the precinct we have some questions to ask.”

“Questions what questions.” Harcourt protested.

“We will tell you when we get there now please if you would not mind.” Roland replied.

They took Harcourt downtown to the precinct and into Casey’s office, when Harcourt saw Casey he knew he had been set up. “What is the meaning of this Captain you have no right to bring me here.” Harcourt said.

“On the contrary Mr Harcourt last time we met I asked if you knew a Greg Parsons and you said you didn’t but now I know you do so you are here because you obstructed the course of an investigation and now

Parsons is dead so I have had you brought in to interview you once again.”

Casey replied.

“You are talking nonsense Captain and I demand you release me?

Harcourt demanded.

“Or else Mr Harcourt are you going to call your lawyer, of course you are a lawyer fancy me forgetting, seeing as you won’t cooperate you can spend a night in the cells and maybe tomorrow you will be in a better frame of mind.” Casey rang the bell once more a constable appeared.

“Please take Mr Harcourt down stairs and lock him up.” Harcourt protested once more but they ignored his please.

“We cannot hold him for long Casey.” Roland said.

“I know but it may be long enough to save his life, and I hate paperwork, come on let’s go and get a drink.”

The lady sergeant sat at her desk it was 1.30am and very quiet then she heard a scratching on the door and went to have a look and there sat a dog all wet.

“Hello what is wrong are you lost?

She opened the door and let it in, the dog sat there wet and looked at her she said.

“You stay here and I will get you a drink and a towel dry you off. “ She left and went into the back room and returned some time later the dog was still sat there.

“Here we go now let me dry you off and you can have a drink.” She dried the dog and gave it drink, then the dog scratched on the door to go out and the officer let the dog out and smiled.

“That is my good deed for today.”

She finished her shift and told the next shift all was quiet then she went home. The next officer went down to check on Harcourt and saw he was not moving then he rang the warning bell. Casey was awakened by the phone call and rushed to the precinct and down to the cells the doctor was already there.

“What is going on? Casey asked.

“I am afraid your prisoner is dead Captain.” The doctor replied.

“Dead of what may I ask.” Casey asked.

“By the look on his face I would say fear, this prisoner died of fear, his asthma pump is lying on the floor he must have had an attack and dropped his pump and died, but the coroner would tell you better.”

“I have never heard of anyone with asthma dying of fright shortness of breath but would that cause fear.” Casey asked.

“I am just the police doctor and no I have never heard of anyone dying of fear, now I am done here I have informed the coroner he will be along shortly now I bid you good day Captain.“

“Sir what is that on the bars.” The duty officer said Casey looked at it and it looked like saliva and then he saw the claw marks on the floor.

“Get whoever was on duty last night and ask them to come down here.”

Casey said.

“She went off duty sir.” The constable replied.

“I don’t fucking care get her out of bed and get her down her now.”

The constable rushed off, Casey got one of the plastic bags from the desk and scraped the saliva into the bag and put it in his pocket, just then the sergeant rushed in.

“What is wrong sir? She asked.

“What is wrong sergeant your prisoner is dead when did you last check on him.” Casey asked.

“Just before I went off duty he was asleep and breathing sir, I went upstairs and waited till my shift was over about ten minutes my relief came and I went home.”

“No one came to see the prisoner.” Casey asked.

“No sir he was all alone.” She replied.

“Nothing sir oh apart from a dog I gave it some milk as it was scratching at the door and was all wet so I let it in and went to get it some milk and a towel when I came back it was sat there I dried it off and give it some milk and let it out as it was scratching to go out again, then I waited for my relief and went home.”

“What kind of dog was it?” Casey asked.

“What kind of dog what do you mean sir.” She asked.

“What fucking kind of dog big small brown black male female what kind of dog.” With this outburst the sergeant looked at Casey. “Forgive me sergeant this case is getting to me, what kind of dog.” Casey asked again,

“Brown and white with a long tail and marks on its body like this may seem daft sir but they looked like bullet holes, I know that cannot be true as the dog was alive not dead.” Casey then knew it had happened again.

“Thank you sergeant you can go home and once again forgive my outburst.”

The sergeant went home and Casey went up to his office it was no use going home, then he had a thought and went to the front desk and asked for the CCTV film from the front camera the desk sergeant gave it to him and he returned to his office and put it in the machine he had watched Joss and after the third attempt the film started to roll almost at the end the camera picked up the dog and it was the same dog that was outside Brophy’s mansion, now it had got all of them, Casey fell asleep in his chair till Roland and Joss arrived and he woke up.

“Bad night Casey had too much to drink. “ Roland asked.

“Sit down you are not going to believe this.” Casey ran the tape and Roland and Joss just sat there saying nothing then Joss spoke. “What happened to Harcourt?”

“Harcourt is dead the doctor said he died of fear, did you know he was asthmatic we found his pump on the floor there was saliva on the bars and claw marks on the floor and I will bet it was that dog.”

Casey pointed to the dog on the film.

“He probably had a heart attack some people with asthma die trying to get the pump into their lungs.” Joss replied.

“Is there nothing you don’t know? Casey said.

“Just saying my mother was a doctor.” Joss replied.

“We have got to get Rachael to send her dog back to where it came from how I have no idea.”

Rachael and her mother arrived about an hour later the police woman brought them in.

“Mrs. Brandon please take a seat you sit there and Rachael sit next to your mother, before we start we have something to show you on a CCTV film we were looking into who arrived and left the Brophy mansion and saw something we thought you should see, okay Joss let’s see it.”

Joss rolled the tape nothing was said until Casey asked him to stop. Rachael can you see that dog, Joss please enlarge the photo.”

This Joss did and Beth said.

“Oh my god it cannot be it has been dead ten years.” Then Casey said to Rachael

“Is that Jess? Rachael said “Yes it is Jess.” She replied her mother looked at her.

“It cannot be Jess he is dead, are you sure.” She asked.

“Yes mother it is Jess he has been around me for years, he came to me in my bedroom when daddy shot him it was three days after, you heard him and entered my room but he was gone.” No one spoke for some time.

“The lawyer Dalton Harcourt died in custody last night, we believe he had a heart attack brought on by fear he was asthmatic and was in the cells for questioning late last night Jess somehow got into the cell area he could not get Harcourt but frightened him to death so now all the people linked to you Rachael are dead, did you say something to anyone when your father shot the dog.” Casey asked. Rachael thought and then said.

“I said to my best friend on the bus going to school that my dad had shot Jess and I hated him, I did not mean it mother it just came out.” The she burst out crying her mother went to hug her.

“It’s okay my love you did not know.”

They gave Rachael and Beth some time then Casey said.

“Rachael did your mother tell you the story of Norgassa.”

Rachael looked up at Casey with red eyes and nodded her head.

“Then you know what we have to do you somehow you have to get Jess to go back to where he came from, only love can get him back and your love for the dog is the only way, somehow you have to attract Jess to you and send him back, do you understand.” Casey said.

“And what do you suggest Captain.” There was no kindness now in her voice.

“One of us must go with her and try and get Jess out of the woods and send him back, only your daughter can do this, there is no danger to her but I don’t know about the one who goes with her, one of my senior officers will accompany her and hope nothing happens, which one I have no idea.” Casey said.

“Can I make a suggestion Captain?” He looked at Rachael.

“I would like to accompany me detective Andrews he is young and I can tell Jess he is now my protector and I have no need for his protection anymore and he can go home.” Joss looked at her and she said to him.

“Would you come with me Joss?” This time she never said detective her smile said it all.

“Of course I would be proud to go with you.”

Beth looked at her daughter and knew this young man had something she liked.

“We will go tomorrow night at dusk.” Casey said.

“No Captain it will have to be today at dusk the sooner the better, I don’t want no more deaths to be because of me, it seems anyone who upsets me in anyway dies this has got to stop now.” Casey knew this young girl had some guts.

“Then tonight it is then.” He looked at his watch.

“There is no point going back to the campus we may as well eat here I will send someone out to pick up something give me your order of what you like and they will get it.”

They ate in silence and Rachael went over to Joss and sat down beside him. “You did not mind me choosing you did you.”

“I am glad you chose me I would hate anything happening to you, and I am proud you chose me, when this is all over I would like to take you out to dinner if you would like.” Joss said.

“I would love to.” Rachael smiled.

“Okay folks it is time Joss you take Rachael and I will follow with Beth, Roland I need you to stay here to many of us my change the situation.”

The only place they could think of going was the woods across from the Brophy mansion.

“How do you know Jess is in here? Beth asked.

“I don’t is just a guess.” Casey replied then Rachael said.

“He is here I can feel him, Joss hold my hand.”

Joss held onto Rachael’s hand and they entered the wood Beth and Casey stayed well away, into the woods they walked and then Rachael said to Joss. “Stay here.”

“You cannot be serious.” Joss replied.

“Please stand there and don’t move whatever you see don’t move.”

Rachael walked about 50 meters in front of Joss and then it happened the bushes parted and this huge animal crashed through and headed for Rachael and stopped two yards away its red eyes shown in the twilight its teeth shone and saliva dripped from its teeth, Joss was riveted to the spot and could not move then Rachael held out her hand and Joss saw something that will stay with him the rest of his life the beast began to shrink and in a few minutes was a dog once more, then Rachael beckoned Joss who walked very slowly to her and stood next to her.

“Kneel down at his height.” Joss did this and Rachael did the same and Jess came up to her.

“Hello baby where ever you have been you need to go to the white light.” Then the woods lit up Joss could see a bright light behind the dog.

“You don’t have to protect and love me baby I now have someone to do that now, this is him.” The dog sniffed Joss and licked his hand.

“Now baby go to the white light go no you are free now, I love you.” The dog turned around and went towards the light but before he entered he looked around and barked then was gone the white light also. Joss never spoke.

“There it is all over there is no more fear.” Rachael said.

“Did you mean what you said about someone to love and protect you? Joss asked.

“Of course I did we don’t want he coming back do we.” Then she smiled. “Come here.”

Joss kissed her then they walked out of the forest Beth saw them and ran over to her daughter Casey went over to Joss.

“It is over Rachael sent it back I don’t want to ever go through that again I have never been so scared, Rachael was something else, and that animal was so huge it is no wonder it carried a grown man away and then it shrunk to a normal dog before my eyes I think I need a drink.”

Six years after the incident with the dog Colin Parnell passed away he had closed his last cold case at the funeral was Joss and his wife Rachael and daughter Bethany and the new partner of Joss and many police members were present as Colin was well liked Peter

Ryan came too and gave a eulogy the funeral finished they were all walking away from the grave to their cars when Joss was approached by the police commissioner Joss was now an inspector.

“Inspector Archer could you spare a minute.” He asked.

“Yes, sir Norman and you take Rachael to the car I will be along in a moment.”

Just as Norman was leaving with Rachael the commissioner said.
“Bring your partner inspector, he will have to start soon”

“It’s okay love I will see you back at the car.” Rachael said.

“How is Casey?” The commissioner asked.

“He is great he could not be here today he has too much on with his restaurant in Portugal, we were there last week in his villa, it was great to see him again? Joss said.

“And how is Beth coping with him as she got him trained yet? He asked.

“You know Beth sir, she would not want to change him one bit.” Joss replied.

“And how is Roland.”

“We are going to see him next month in France, he and his wife have a great place in Provence, but I am sure you did not want to talk about my family and my life sir.” Joss asked.

“Precisely inspector the case you were on with Casey with the dog thing.” Joss looked at him.

“Yes, sir about six years ago, but it was all cleared up.” Joss replied. “That was then inspector but I am afraid it has happened again and we want you to head up the investigation, see me in my office Monday give my regards to Rachael.” Then he left Joss was gob smacked it cannot be happening again, then he realized Queen Norgassa had two dogs.

THE END

