

Hattie Frail

Hidden Trophies

Synopsis

At Braiden House three healthy pensioners Bernie Cooper, Guy Bridges and Valerie Pacey have all been found dead in the past two days. Residents Gill and Alison are worried that something doesn't feel right and call on their psychic friend Hattie Frail who does confirm their worst fears that a murderer has struck in their peaceful home. Detective Inspector Dorking finds a few clues, but then Hattie provides an unexpected lead that Guy Bridges was one of two men to murder 15-year-old Miss Kirsty O'Hara many years ago and a gold necklace and bracelet set were kept as souvenirs.

Copyright © November 2022 revised March 2026
Written by Zoe Hunter
Edited by Peter Layzell

2nd Edition

The author asserts the moral right under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 to be identified as the author of this work.

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means without the prior consent of the author, nor be otherwise circulated in any form of binding or cover other than that which it is published and without a similar condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

Authors assert the moral right under the Copyright. All characters and events in this publication, other than those clearly in the public domain, are fictitious and any resemblance to real persons, living or dead, is purely coincidental, designs and Patents Act 1988 to be identified as the author of this work.

Scene 1

It is Wednesday 17th December 2031 at 9.25 a.m. Inside Braiden House a fellow resident, Mrs Vicky Porter, is entering bedroom number 4, belonging to a Mrs Valerie Pacey.

MRS V PORTER

(enter right)

Val, I hope you don't mind me walking in like this, but your door was already open. It's nearly half past nine, breakfast will be finished soon.

(goes through an open bedroom door and approaches Val's bed)

Val, Valerie come on wake up. Oh, my God!

(quickly exits left and knocks on front door number 5)
Help! Help! Valerie's dead! Gill are you in? Val's dead!

MS J METCALF

(opens her front door)

What's that? Valerie's dead?

MRS V PORTER

(open mouth with hands on cheeks)

Not another death, oh dear, oh dear.

MS J METCALF

Come in, while I phone up reception.

(points to her left)

Why don't you sit down just here on my sofa, but before that I'll go and put the kettle on. What would it be, tea or coffee?

MRS V PORTER

(carefully sits down on the sofa)

Tea, please. That'll do the trick, thank you.

Scene 2

It's 9. 42 a.m. and Mrs Vicky Porter and Ms Gill Metcalf are sitting down in the kitchen, drinking tea, and discussing Mrs Valerie Pacey.

MS J METCALF

So, Vicky what do you think about these three deaths which have happened recently in our beloved retirement home?

MRS V PORTER

Yes, well, all of them were found on their beds. Well, it's been a fortnight since Bernie Cooper died, from what I can recall, she had a horrific asthma attack. Then yesterday it was Guy Bridges, well...he had an insulin overdose, and this morning Valerie Pacey's gone. Hmmmm, I wonder? Now, we know she had to take blood pressure tablets, maybe she had forgotten to take them and had a stroke.

MS J METCALF

Well, she was a tiny bit forgetful, but I don't think she'd forget to take her very own blood pressure pills, and the other two were always sharp- minded, I think it's all very strange indeed.

MRS V PORTER

Yes, I do agree with you for once. Do you think we should speak to someone? Because it's really beginning to bother me, something just doesn't feel right. Do you know what I mean?

MS J METCALF

Yes, I do. I know! What if I phone my dear old psychic friend up and see what she has to say about it?

MRS V PORTER

Who's that, then?

MS J METCALF

Her name's Hattie Frail and she's a little younger than us

- she's in her sixties, sixty-seven to be precise. She's a lovely lady, and a little on the batty side; but don't say that I told you so. And in the past, she has mentioned to me about helping our local police with a few very important murder cases and such things, just recently. Now, if I contact her, I'm sure she'll be able to see if there's anything sinister goings on in this place of ours.

MRS V PORTER

Oh, I don't know, what if we're being very silly, here?

MS J METCALF

Look, I've been worried about all of this as well. Why don't I just contact her and take it from there.

MRS V PORTER

Oh, oh OK, go on then, if you want to phone her, at least we'll know one way or the other.

MS J METCALF

Yes, I think I will.

Scene 3

It's 5 minutes later and Ms Gill Metcalf is talking to Miss Hattie Frail on FaceTime on her Smartwatch and Mrs Vicky Porter is standing next to her.

MS J METCALF

Oh, thank you ever so much for helping us, Hattie.

(indicates to her left side)

This is my friend, Vicky Porter.

MRS V PORTER

Hello Hattie, nice to meet you.

MISS H FRAIL

Hello, and likewise.

(looks down)

Oh, Blackie and Kitty, I can't feed you both right now, I'm talking to my dear old friend, Vicky, you'll just have to wait.

(looks up)

Sorry about that, now how can I help you, my dear?

MS J METCALF

Hey! Less of the old, Hattie.

MISS H FRAIL

Oh, sorry, let me rephrase that, Blackie and Kitty I can't feed you both right now, I'm talking to my friend Vicky.

MS J METCALF

Well, Hattie, just recently three people have been found dead in their beds, and all three were in their late sixties, so they were the youngest out of all of us.

MISS H FRAIL

Thank you, well, unfortunately I'm in desperate need of doing some food shopping. So, before I decide if I'll need to drive over to you or not, did you know any of them well?

MS J METCALF

Yes, we were both quite friendly with Bernie, why do you ask?

MISS H FRAIL

Right, do either of you have anything Bernie's given you, or has she touched something of yours? Like a pen, scarf, or a vase, or something similar? Any item that someone can hold, just to see if I can pick up any vibes.

MRS V PORTER

Oh, wait a minute I've just remembered something, yes, that's right, I lent her my black parker pen for a few days,

last week.

MISS H FRAIL

Would you know where it is right now?

MRS V PORTER

Yes, it's in a chest of bedroom cabinet drawers.

MISS H FRAIL

Why, don't you go and get it and I'll try and have a go.

Scene 4

It's 2 minutes later and Ms Jill Metcalf has picked up the pen and is now back talking to Miss Hattie Frail.

MRS V PORTER

Here it is. Can you see it?

MISS H FRAIL

Right, yes, hmmm....so I can sense she was quite upset about something. Yes, she knew something and it's bad, very bad actually.

MS J METCALF

Really? What is it?

MISS H FRAIL

Yes, she had just recently found out that someone from this establishment was involved with one her niece's death.

MS J METCALF

Do you have any idea who this person is?

MISS H FRAIL

Wait a minute, yes. I can see, he has the letter g in his first name and there's a b in the second name. Oh, wait a minute, yes.... I can see her crying, she's with a woman, she has a v in her first name, and a p in the second name.

MS J METCALF

Oh my God! These are the other two people who have died recently: Guy Bridges and Valerie Pacey! So, Guy was somehow involved with a young lady's unfortunate death and Valerie knew all about it as well!

MRS V PORTER

About Bernie Cooper's death, what can you tell us there?

MISS H FRAIL

Well, it's in the evening, she's having a bad asthma attack, I'm now being Bernie. I'm looking for my spray; it should be in the top bedroom cabinet drawer...it's not here! Why isn't it here? It's always been just here. I'm really struggling to breathe. I can't see it. Ah, yes here it is, I'm inhaling now.... Oh no! I can't get anything out of it! It's empty! But why? I only got it last week! I'm frantically pressing the panic button, it's on the wall just above my bed and I'm thinking about reaching over for my bag; it's underneath my bed - it has my spare spray inside it.... there's a knock at the door. I can hear a muffled male voice; he's saying my name... I can't talk, oh, no everything's slipping away, I can see an approaching white light...yes, I'm now dead, I'm gone.

MRS V PORTER

Ah, wait a minute, what about this when Bernie died Valerie decided to get revenge and killed Guy, then somehow, somebody else found out about it and in retaliation they murdered Valerie.

MS J METCALF

Oh my God! Yes, I suppose that's possible, we just can't sit on this, we'll have to tell the police.

MISS H FRAIL

Yes, you're right. I'll contact the Detective Inspector straight away, he'll most probably would want to talk to

you two as well, would that be, OK?

MS J METCALF

That's fine.

(turns to face Mrs Vicky Porter)

What about you Vicky?

MRS V PORTER

Yes, that's fine with me also.

MISS H FRAIL

Right, I'll be over. But before that, I've got to feed my cats and then I'll have to get my food shopping, and I'll have to look for my cardigan, because that's where I've put my car keys. If there aren't any problems, I should be seeing you within the next hour.

MS J METCALF

What if you don't find your cardigan, how will you get ...

MISS H FRAIL

Oh, that won't be a problem, I'll have to use the spare car keys instead.

MS J METCALF

OK we'll see you then. Great, bye Hattie.

MRS V PORTER

Bye, Hattie.

MISS H FRAIL

I can't wait to meet you in person, bye for now.

Scene 5

It's 11. 14 a.m. The forensic team are working away in number 4 and DI George Dorking, Constable Claire Mills and Miss Hattie Frail are in number 26, talking to Ms Jill Metcalf in her lounge. A knock on the front door is heard.

MS J METCALF

Oh, excuse me, that'll most probably be my friend, Vicky Porter, I'll just go and let her in.

(exit left)

DI G DORKING

(turns to face Miss Hattie Frail)

Well, all this sounds very interesting, and especially now that you're involved Hattie.

MISS H FRAIL

Wow, it's quite warm in here, isn't it?

(And takes off her cardigan and places it on the sofa)

Yes, it's been quite a few months since I last saw you, how are you both?

CONSTABLE C MILLS

(slightly puzzled)

Hello Hattie, it's quite cold out there and you've only got your cardigan with you.

MISS H FRAIL

Ah, no I have already hung that up in the hallway. So, how are things with you these days?

CONSTABLE C MILLS

I'm fine, thanks for asking, I'm an auntie now, my sister has just given birth to a lovely little girl, she's called Annabel, she's amazing.

MISS H FRAIL

That's wonderful news.

DI G DORKING

And I have booked time off over the Christmas hols, so I'm hoping that all this will get solved by next week.

MISS H FRAIL

Yes, of course, so we'd better get on with it then, because I wouldn't want you to be working over Christmas, now,

would we?

MRS V PORTER

(enter right and looking straight ahead)

Hello, my name is Vicky Porter, Jill will be in soon; she's just putting the kettle on. Ah hello Hattie, nice to meet you in person.

MISS H FRAIL

Likewise, Vicky.

MRS V PORTER

(Turning to her right side)

I'm sorry and your names are.

DI G DORKING

Hello, I'm Detective Inspector Dorking and this is Constable Mills. Now, we would like to ask you a few questions if that's OK?

MRS V PORTER

Yes, of course. What would you like to know?

DI G DORKING

So, Jill told us that it was you who discovered the body, is that correct?

MRS V PORTER

That's right. Well, you see...her front door was already slightly ajar, she did leave it open sometimes. Anyway... I was just letting her know that breakfast will be finishing soon. As I walked in, I noticed her bedroom door was open, so decided to go in, then I noticed that she wasn't breathing. It frightened me so much, that I had to leave her bedroom. Then I knocked on Jill's front door.

DI G DORKING

So, did you touch her body with your hands, or the door or anything?

MRS V PORTER

No, I didn't touch anything.

CONSTABLE C MILLS

Prior to her death, had she been ill at all?

MRS V PORTER

I don't know, we... I mean Jill and I hadn't seen her for quite a while, so we can't really give a definite answer; I'm sorry about that.

MS J METCALF

(enter right holding a tray of four cups of teas and one black coffee and a plate of chocolate biscuits)
Excuse me everyone, but I have made the hot drinks.

DI G DORKING

(takes his cup of tea)

Oh, thank you. So, Vicky before you got here, we were all talking about what Hattie said earlier on the phone.

MS J METCALF

(hands over a hot cup of tea)

Yes, that's correct. So, firstly Bernie Cooper died, and we believe Guy Bridges could've murdered her. Then, yesterday he died, and today Valerie's dead too.

CONSTABLE C MILLS

(takes her cup off MS Jill Metcalf)

Thank you....Yes, so, because of Hattie's visions it looks like we could possibly have a case to solve.

MS J METCALF

(hands over a cup of black coffee)

Here, you are DI Dorking, I hope it isn't too strong.

DI G DORKING

(takes the cup)

That looks perfect, thank you.

CONSTABLE C MILLS

So, is there anything else that anyone can think of before we go and look inside Guy's and Bernie's apartments?

MS J METCALF

Yes, you'll need to have their keys.

DI G DORKING

(puts down his cup of coffee and then taking 2 apartment keys from his right jacket pocket)

Don't worry, I've already got them with me. Jill and Vicky, the forensics, are currently in Valerie's apartment, so would you mind taking us to Guy's apartment please?

MS J METCALF

Yes, of course, follow me.

Scene 6

It's 5 minutes later and DI George Dorking, Constable Claire Mills and Miss Hattie Frail have just entered inside number 27.

MISS H FRAIL

(stops in her tracks)

Oh right, yes.

(places her coat down on a nearby table)

I may already have something for you both. But I must tell you before I start, I do have a headache, so I may not be on top form today, although I will try my very best.

DI G DORKING

So, do you have any aspirin or anything like that?

MISS H FRAIL

Yes, but they're in one of my kitchen cupboards, I'll be alright; it's only a slight one anyway.

DI G DORKING

What's this about then?

MISS H FRAIL

I'm sensing that Guy is directly involved with a woman's death, a lady either in her late teens or early twenties. Yes, now...I believe he was questioned at the Appletown Police Station, but he wasn't ever charged. There wasn't enough evidence, you see.

DI G DORKING

Can you see this young woman and where did this unfortunate attack take place?

MISS H FRAIL

Right, from the style of clothing, I'm guessing it was about twenty years ago and it's a warm summers' evening. I can see Guy driving a small black van. There's another male passenger with him, and now they've parked the vehicle and they're both walking into The Pink Unicorn.

DI G DORKING

OK, thank you. So, what time is it now and can you see the victim?

MISS H FRAIL

Yes, it's now around midnight. I can see them coming out with a woman. she's got short black hair; I think she's in her late teens or early twenties. She's wearing high heels, black trousers, white blouse and a black leather jacket and she's a little bit drunk. They are all getting into the van. Guy is driving his mate, oh wait a minute, yes, I've just heard Guy say Oscar? Yes Oscar, so that must be his mate's first name. Anyway, he's with the young lady and they're sitting in the back of the van.

DI G DORKING

What's happening now?

MISS H FRAIL

Guy has just stopped his van by the massive black entrance gate to Woodsfield Park. All three are getting out and are walking towards the lake. They are taking a diversion and are heading off in amongst the trees, which are on the right. They seem to be shouting at one another.....Guy is squeezing her right arm, he's now trying to kiss her, she isn't interested, she's pushing him away, but he's starting to get really angry, he's saying 'men are much better in bed than women are'.

DI G DORKING

What are they doing now?

MISS H FRAIL

Ouch! They are both hitting her around her face, she's fallen onto the ground, she's now unconscious.... Oscar is removing her trousers. He's saying 'she's so horny - dead or alive she's still going to have us'...moving on I can now sense Guy putting her gold necklace into his inside jacket pocket, oh and I think I can see something on it - it's a name...wait a minute...I think it says Kirsty, yes, Kirsty and his mate is now removing her bracelet from her right wrist. They both seem very proud of what they've just done.

DI G DORKING

Oh! Yes! Kirsty O'Hara, I can remember this now, it was my very first murder investigation, when I was with good old Chief Detective Inspector Hendry – ah yes, you never forget your very first murdered victim and I did interview an Oscar somebody ...Oscar....Driscoll! Yes, that's the guy! But unfortunately, we couldn't get anything on him - although when he was in his early twenties, he was involved in a bank robbery, so we should still have his DNA on file.

(turns to face Constable Claire Mills)

It looks like we will need to reopen the case. Oscar could still be alive, and Kirsty's clothes should still be all bagged

up and kept in storage somewhere. Hattie, before going back to the station, would you have any idea of whereabouts that gold necklace would be?

MISS H FRAIL

(walks towards the kitchen area)

I can see Bernie - she's standing just here; she's offering to make some teas... I'm sensing Guy is sitting down on his sofa.... she's opening the cupboard door, she's chosen a red mug, she's picked it up, but there's something inside it.....I can see it's a lady's gold necklace, it has letters and yes, it's Kirsty's. Bernie's in shock, she's literally trembling, she's recognising this piece of jewellery, yes, she had bought it for her niece's birthday, oh dear! Maybe Guy's the murderer, she's aiming her Smartwatch... yes, she's taken a photo.... wait a minuteI can feel Guy's presence.

DI G DORKING

Where is he?

MISS H FRAIL

He's standing right here watching, she hasn't noticed him. Guy decides not to approach her and goes back to the sofa. Moving on, Bernie has only made one cup of tea, she has changed her mind and will not stay after all.... Hmm, so Guy's thinking his secret just might get out... he can't take that risk.

DI G DORKING

OK right, so you think Guy killed Bernie?

MISS H FRAIL

I may be able to help. Can you give me something of Guy's to hold please?

DI G DORKING

Yes, of course.

(turns to face Constable Mills)

Constable Mills would you mind getting something please.

CONSTABLE C MILLS

(picks up a pen from the sideboard)

Will this do, Hattie?

MISS H FRAIL

That'll do, thank you. Um, yes, I'm being Guy. Yes, it's me who's knocking at Bernie's front door. I'm shouting out her name. I'm asking a passer-by, it's another man I've just asked, a man called Theo 'it's Bernie she's struggling to breathe can you go and get help?' Theo has gone to get help, I've put a pair of gloves on, I've got them out of my coat pocket - I've sneaked into her apartment, and I've replaced her asthma spray in her cabinet. I've put it back in the top drawer where it should've been a few minutes ago. Yes, it was him alright.

DI G DORKING

OK, so what we've got to do now is to retrieve that asthma spray and talk to a man called Theo. Ah ha! Yes, and in here should be Kirsty's gold necklace.

(puts on a pair of forensic gloves and opening the cupboard door and looking inside a red mug)

Yes, and here it is.

(hands over the piece of jewellery to Constable Mills)

There you go Constable Mills; so, would you mind taking this to Valerie's apartment?

CONSTABLE C MILLS

Will do, Gov.

(exit left)

DI G DORKING

(turns to face Miss Hattie Frail)

And thank you Hattie for what you have done for us so far, and we will be in touch again soon, and don't forget to take those pills.

MISS H FRAIL
(picks up her coat)

Oh, thank you, detective for reminding me and I'll look forward to hearing from you soon.

Scene 7

It's 12 .01 p.m.; the forensic team are working on Miss Kirsty gold necklace. DI George Dorking is in his office and is talking to Miss Hattie Frail on the Smartwatch. PC Richard Thomas and PC Patrick O'Brien are also present.

DI G DORKING

Now, Hattie, there's no need to panic, your cardigan is here with me.

MISS H FRAIL

Oh, good, that's such a relief. I wouldn't know where I'd be without my pink cardigan, it's very sentimental to me you know. So, Gill did give it to you then because, I couldn't get hold of her just a minute ago.

DI G DORKING

That's right she did, and then she went out shopping. Anyway, I'm glad you rang, because we've just found out that Oscar Driscoll is still alive and is living in Cox Street and we've just got the search warrant. But the forensic team are still working on the gold necklace.

MISS H FRAIL

Oh, wow, your people do work quickly.

DI G DORKING

Anyway, how's your head? Has the pain gone away yet?

MISS H FRAIL

Yes, thanks for asking.

DI G DORKING

That's good news, so why don't we meet up tomorrow, say around 9 a.m.?

MISS H FRAIL

Great idea, see you then, then.

DI G DORKING

Bye, Hattie.

(looks up to PC Richard Thomas)

Ah, yes, Richard and Patrick, sorry about that, so let's go and see if we can find this elusive bracelet, then, shall we?

(slightly puzzled)

Sorry - but am I boring you?

PC P O'BRIEN

(yawns and looks up and slightly embarrassed)

Oh, s-sorry Sir, I had a late-night last night, and I was just wondering whether there will be any witnesses left, as it was a long time ago.

DI G DORKING

Yes, the witnesses....I was just coming to that. Ah! Now, just hang on there ...now at the time a gang of young lads gave some statements. Now, I can distantly remember a certain Mr Phil Matthews, who's currently serving time in the Appletown Prison for a church robbery. Now he is forty and the rest of them should be around the same age by now also. Hmm, thinking about it, I do believe we've got Guy Bridges on our books as well, I'm quite certain about a ten years ago there was an allegation of rape, but in the middle of the case, through a lack of evidence the allegation was subsequently dropped. Now, Patrick, I'd like you to go to forensics to see if they still have anything on Kirsty O'Hara and any of her belongings, which we can get re-examined, and afterwards could you and PC O'Brien go and talk to Colin about this case for us, that'd be great. Richard and I will be going to Oscar Driscoll's house, and we'll meet you back at the station when we're finished.

PC P O'BRIEN

Yes, of course, I'll get on it straight away Sir.
(exit left)

DI G DORKING

Right, come on Richard, it shouldn't take us long to get to
35, Cox Street.
(exit left)

PC R THOMAS

Right you are, Sir.
(exit left)

Scene 7

It's 20 minutes later. DI George Dorking and PC Richard Thomas are standing on the outside porch of 35, Cox Street, Appletown, they have just knocked on the front door.

MR L DRISCOLL
(opens the front door)

Can I help you?

DI G DORKING
(shows his police badge)

Excuse me, but to whom am I speaking to?

MR L DRISCOLL
I'm Louis Driscoll, so then what's all this about?

DI G DORKING
Can we come in?

MR L DRISCOLL
I'd prefer to know what's going on first.

DI G DORKING
(presents the search warrant)
OK, we didn't want to do this outside, but as you've just forced us, then here we go. It's about your dad, Oscar

Driscoll, is he in? Because we have received information that there could possibly be a stolen gold jewellery piece hidden somewhere inside this house.

MR L DRISCOLL

Oh my God! You've just missed him, he's taking Benny out for his usual walk across the fields, so they will be ages.

DI G DORKING

Right, Louis have you ever come across a gold bracelet? We believe it belongs to Miss Kirsty O'Hara.

MR L DRISCOLL

(steps aback)

What? Well, yes, I did see a gold bracelet once – it couldn't have belonged to my mum, because she left us when I was a year old. Now, if I can recall, it was inside a glass corner cupboard, it was at the bottom of a cup. If it's still there, then it'll be in the lounge. At the time, I did ask dad about it, but he refused to say anything, so I decided to leave it well alone. I've always wondered why he should have such a thing, but anyway, if you can follow me, I'll take you right to it.

(exit left Mr Loui Driscoll, DI George Dorking, and PC Richard Thomas)

DI G DORKING

Thank you.

MR L DRISCOLL

Oh, and you can rely on me, I won't be saying anything about any of this, because I'm in the middle of moving out, I've had enough of him. If I were you, I would lock him up and throw away the key!

DI G DORKING

Really?

MR L DRISCOLL

Yes really, and I don't want to talk about it if you don't

mind.

DI G DORKING

Yes, of course.

Scene 8

It's 2 p.m., DI George Dorking has handed over his card over to Louis and a bracelet over to the forensics lab and now he is sitting in his office really enjoying his lunch. A knock is heard on his door.

MISS K HARVEY

(enter SOCO officer Miss Karen Harvey)

Excuse me, Gov.

DI G DORKING

(looks up)

Oh, Karen, yes, please do come in, what do you have, anything?

MISS K HARVEY

(enter right)

Yes, Sir. We have the post-mortem results on Valerie Pacey. We came across a little blood inside her right ear, Valery had been killed by something that's very thin and pointy; it went straight through her eardrum causing her to have a stroke.

DI G DORKING

Wow, so, if you hadn't seen that, it would have looked like she had died of natural causes.

MISS K HARVEY

Yes, I believe so, Gov.

DI G DORKING

Very clever. But not clever enough. Right, her apartment is on the ground floor, so did you have any signs of a break-in, say like at the window ledge? Or anywhere else?

MISS K HARVEY

Yes, Gov, we did look at that, but we couldn't find anything.

DI G DORKING

So, we will now have to go back and interview everyone. Ah! Ha! Now wait a minute! There's also the visitors' signing-in book, we will have to know all the names in that, and I would say about a month's entries, yes - that should do it.

(puts down his cheese and pickle sandwich)

I'll ask Leroy and Richard to join me, thanks Karen.

Scene 9

It's 7. 30 p.m., the residents and staff in the residential home have all been interviewed and every visitor and their car registration numbers for the past month have also been logged. DI George Dorking, PC Leroy Russell and PC Richard Thomas are just about to get in their police cars.

DI G DORKING

Blimey, it's very dark isn't it, oh I really hate these evenings. Anyway, I didn't get anything unusual.

(looks over to PC Patrick O'Brien)

So, did you get anything, from anybody?

PC L RUSSELL

Well, no I didn't.

(looks over to PC Richard Thomas)

What about you?

PC R THOMAS

No, I didn't, but hopefully we might find something from these visitors' entries.

DI G DORKING

What about the security cameras?

PC L RUSSELL

I've asked about that, unfortunately they haven't been

working for the past month. Mr Shaw, now he's the manager, and he told me that a brand-new system should be up and running by early next month., Gov.

DI G DORKING

(puzzled)

Oh, well, then this has just made this case a lot harder to solve then, never mind, hey! Right, why don't you two call it a day, while I'll go back to the station and see if DI Hicks could find out anything on these visitors' names, that should keep him busy during the night. I'll see you both tomorrow, then.

(exit left and gets into his police car)

PC R THOMAS

Will do, Gov.

(Exit left)

PC L RUSSELL

(turns to face PC Richard Thomas)

Um, I'm afraid he won't be seeing me, because I've booked the whole day off, I'll be traipsing around the shops, oh I really hate Christmas, every year it's the same old thing.

(exit left and gets into his police car)

PC R THOMAS

(interrupts)

.....BAH HUMBUR! Well, I just love it. I'll just have to hope I'm not ill again, like last year and the year before that, and the year before that. I hope I won't be ill next week, because then I'll be able to make the office Christmas party.

(exit left and gets into PC O'Brien's police car)

PC L RUSSELL

(turns around to face PC Richard Thomas)

Oh, yes, that's right, you always seem to miss the office

Christmas parties. Well, maybe, you wouldn't know this, but last year Patrick got extremely drunk and started dancing the Cancan, he slipped then he fell on his backside and knocked himself right out.

PC R THOMAS

Ha! Really? He didn't tell me that. Did he go to hospital?

PC L RUSSELL

Yes, he did he had to stay there all night and you know how he really detest hospitals.

PC R THOPMAS

Yes, he'd rather suffer in silence then let a doctor look at him.

PC L RUSSELL

Anyway, that was also when cross-eyed Rebecca was checking me out, I couldn't get away fast enough. I just had to dash to the loo, it took me absolutely ages to come out. But Claire came to my rescue in the end.

PC R THOMAS

Claire Mills?

PC L RUSSELL

No, my girlfriend, Claire Roberts.

PC R THOMAS

Oh, yes of course.

PC L RUSSELL

Wow, I just realised something, that was our very first date, blimey! We've been going out for a year!

PC R THOMAS

So, when are you going to marry her then?

PC L RUSSELL

Oh, no, there's plenty of time for that, bye, I'll see you

Friday morning, then!

PC R THOMAS

Right, see ya, Leroy!

Scene 10

It's Thursday 16th December at 9. 02 a.m. DI George Dorking is walking into the police station.

(enter right PC Richard Thomas)

PC R THOMAS

Good morning, Gov. May I have a quick word, please?

DI G DORKING

What is it, Richard?

PC R THOMAS

I've just been told by forensics that they have found small DNA traces from a Mr Oscar Driscoll they were on and around Valerie's front door handle. But, on the visitors' list, he was only visiting James Blewit. Claire is bringing him in right now.

DI G DORKING

Brilliant! Now what about the gold necklace and bracelet set, anything?

PC R THOMAS

Um, not yet Gov. Oh, and Hattie phoned up; she should be here in a minute or two, she told me that you've been looking after a cardigan for her.

DI G DORKING

Good.

PC P O'BRIEN

Can I make you your usual black coffee, Sir?

DI G DORKING

I'd like that, thanks.

Scene 11

It's 5 minutes later and DI George Dorking is sitting in his office enjoying a big mug of hot, black coffee. A knock on the office door is heard.

DI G DORKING

Come in.

CONSTABLE C MILLS

Sorry to bother you, but I have Hattie here with me, Sir.

DI G DORKING

Yes, please do come in Hattie. Thank you, Constable Mills.

(exit left Constable Claire Mills)

And how's your headache Hattie? Has it gone away yet?

MISS H FRAIL

(enter right)

Yes, it has. Thank you for asking and, oh, and there's my cardigan.

DI G DORKING

(hands over the pink cardigan)

Here you are.

MISS H FRAIL

Thank you, that's wonderful.

DI G DORKING

So, Hattie we've made some good progress. Constable Mills is bringing in Oscar Driscoll. The forensics team have found traces of his DNA, they were found on and around Valerie's front door handle.

MISS H FRAIL

(interrupts)

.... I'm sorry, but I can't stay; I have an eye test, I'd forgotten all about it when I phoned you yesterday. I've got to rush or else I'll be late. Bye!

(exit left)

DI G DORKING

(shouts)

Hattie! You couldn't come back after that could you?

MISS H FRAIL

(heard from a short distance)

Yes, OK then, see you in about an hours' time, bye!

Scene 12

It's 9.42 am Constable Claire Mills, DI George Dorking and a duty solicitor, Mr Gregory Howard, are in Interview Room 1, talking to Mr Oscar Driscoll.

DI G DORKING

(holds out the bracelet)

So, Oscar I repeat my question.....we have reason to believe that Valerie Pacey was murdered late yesterday evening. Now, according to their visitors' records Oscar, you were there between 6.30 and 9 p.m. and you had written down James Blewit on the visitors' list. Can you give us an explanation as to why your DNA was found to be on and around Valerie Pacey's front door handle?

MR O DRISCOLL

OK, right, I must've accidently touched a door handle of one of the first-floor apartments, um thinking about it now yes, I did do that. You see, as I was leaving, there were a few people approaching me, one of them had a wheelchair

and, as you know, the corridors are quite smallish, so I had to move out of the way.

(shouts)

Anyway! I bet you didn't get any of my DNA from the inside of this apartment, did you? No, and you know why that is...it's because I was never in there!

DI G DORKING

Oscar, calm down! We will still have to speak to these people, how many were they and could you describe them for us?

MR O DRISCOLL

OK, I think there were a few people - all men. They looked like they were residents because they were all wearing pyjamas. Anyway, they were talking to each other, and I think one of them is called Jason. OK, so I suppose you'll still need to talk to this Jason bloke, to confirm my alibi, won't you.

DI G DORKING

That's right. So, Oscar, now I've got to talk to you about Kirsty O'Hara, we have some new evidence which has come to light.

MR O DRISCOLL

Kirsty O'Hara? Oh, no, no not this again. I wasn't...
(a knock at the door is heard)

DI G DORKING

Sorry, Oscar. Yes, who is it?

DC J CAMERON

(enter right)

Excuse me Sir, but may I have a quick word?

DI G DORKING

Right, I'm suspending this interview at 3.53 in the afternoon on the 18th of December 2031.

(exit left and closes the door behind him)
Yes, what can I do for you Jack?

DC J CAMERON

We've got the results on the gold necklace and bracelet set. The necklace has Guy Bridges, Kirsty O'Hara's, and Bernie Cooper's DNA, but not Oscar Driscoll's. Right, the bracelet, now this is where it gets very interesting indeed.... there's Oscar's, but not Guy's, although we do have traces from a fourteen-year-old girl called Alysha Bowers - she had been raped and murdered about fifteen years ago. She was on her way to the Appletown Drama Club at the time.

DI G DORKING

Oh, so, we must be looking for somebody else for Kirsty O'Hara then. Well, at least we'll be able to get him for this. Right, thanks Leroy, well done.

(takes the bracelet exit left and re-enters Interview Room 1 and sits down)

I'm resuming this interview; it's now 9.56 a.m. on the 18th of December 2031. So, for the record I am presenting a gold bracelet. Oscar, can you tell me if you recognise this?

MR O'DRISCOLL
(shouts)

When and how did you get that?

DI G DORKING

There's no need to shout, Oscar. Your son was only helping us.

MR O'DRISCOLL
(shouts)

What? Louis helped you. I can't believe it! I'll kill him!

DI G DORKING

Now, you mustn't talk like that about your son.

MR O DRISCOLL

Anyway, I still do have my doubts as to whether he is mine. His mother - she just suddenly packed her bags and left us for good, and Louis had just celebrated his first birthday I don't even know if she's still alive or not.

DI G DORKING

So, coming back to the gold bracelet.

MR O DRISCOLL

(calms down)

OK, OK I've got a confession to make ...I did rape her. I couldn't help myself, seeing her cute young face, and those long, burgundy, curly locks, but I never meant to kill her though, it was a pure accident - I swear on my mother's grave!

DI G DORKING

Can you tell us about it, then?

MR O DRISCOLL

OK, OK, as I was raping her, she did bang her head on a big stone, and she didn't come around. It frightened so much that I just had to run away. Anyway, after that I just couldn't face looking back and, on the news, on the following day, she had been found dead by a female dog walker.

(turns to face Mr Gregory Howard)

I've been feeling terrible ever since it happened, and that's the truth, honestly.

MR G HOWARD

(turns to face Mr Oscar Driscoll)

Regarding the death of Alysia Bowers, my client will only be accepting manslaughter charges, is that correct Mr Driscoll?

MR O DRISCOLL

(turns to face Mr Gregory Howard)

Yes.

DI G DORKING

(sighs)

OK, Oscar Driscoll, I'm arresting you for the rape and manslaughter of Alysha Bowers, you do not have to say anything, but it may harm your defence if you do not mention, when questioned, something which you rely on in court. Anything you do say may be given in evidence. OK, I'm terminating this interview, it's 9. 59 a.m. on the 18th of December 2031.

Scene 13

It's 10.07 a.m. DI George Dorking is back in his office, drinking a black coffee, enter Miss Hattie Frail.

DI G DORKING

Ah! Hattie, please take a seat. So, thank you for coming back to us after your eye appointment, how did it go by the way?

MISS H FRAIL

(places her coat and bag on her chair and sits down)

Oh, thank you for asking, yes, I now need to have reading glasses I've got a pair on order; I must be getting old.

DI G DORKING

Well, just a few minutes ago I took the opportunity of ordering your tea, biscuits and some of Constable Mills' mince pies, I hope they are to your satisfaction.

MISS H FRAIL

(smiles)

Mince pies, oh I do love those, yes thank you very much.

DI G DORKING

We know how Valerie died, the killer had pushed a thin object right into her right eardrum causing her to have a

stroke, but we don't know what the object was and who did it yet. The forensic team are currently looking into this. So, I've got one of her scarves here...

MISS H FRAIL

would you like me to do a reading?

DI G DORKING

Yes, please, if that's possible.

MISS H FRAIL

Of course, OK let me have it. Right, I'm being Valerie. No – I'm sorry, but I can't get anything with this scarf regarding her murder, I think for this case it'll be better if I was at the crime scene.... but hang on a minute! I'm sensing something else! It's dark...yes, it's in the evening, I can see her talking to Guy they're both in his apartment. Moving on, Valerie's being very polite to him, I can see Guy, he's asked me if I would like a drink, and I say 'yes'. Guy's getting up, he's going into the kitchen area. I'm now asking him if I can borrow his toilet, I hear him say 'yes of course it's down the hall on your right'. I'm in his bathroom, I'm looking for his syringe, inside one his cupboards.

DI G DORKING

Can you sense his mood?

MISS H FRAIL

I can, I'm so angry with him, yes, I can see one, I've taken it, and I'm drawing the insulin out of the bottle, I want to get back my revenge. I know he's killed my friend Bernie and her niece Kirsty. I'm now coming back to the lounge with the syringe and the empty insulin bottle, I can see Guy, he's got his back turned away from me. I'm putting one of the syringes in his right arm. Guy has collapsed, I'm dragging and lifting his body up onto his bed and have wiped the syringe clean and the insulin bottle. I've placed the insulin bottle on top of his bedroom cabinet and put the

needle next to the body's right hand. I'm going back to the bathroom to clean everything else up with one of my handkerchiefs. I'm now washing up my coffee cup, and as I'm leaving his apartment, I can see somebody's shadow. They're walking away from me, but I'm not sure if they've seen me, I'm now heading for my apartment.

DI G DORKING

Wow, so Valerie killed Guy! All I wanted was how she died, but you've just solved Guy's murder for us, now all we need to do is get some physical proof of this. I will have to speak to the forensic team, to see if they can find any of Valerie's DNA inside his apartment. Right, so, you are correct, Hattie. Guy's post-mortem did come back as him having suffered an insulin overdose. But now I need to tell you something else.

MISS H FRAIL

What's that then?

DI G DORKING

Well, around fifteen years ago a fourteen-year-old girl called Alysha Bowers was raped and murdered. She was discovered in Woodsfield Park by a female dog walker. Now, when you gave us your reading, we thought you were talking about Oscar Driscoll, so we went to his house. Anyway, his son Louis was in, and he has given us a gold bracelet, which we thought belonged to Kirsty O'Hara. But it didn't - it had belonged to Alysha and so we've just had to charge him for rape, but we believe that her death was a total accident, so we could only do him for manslaughter.

MISS H FRAIL

What about her family, are any still alive?

DI G DORKING

Her mum is, Constable Mills is talking to her right now.

MISS H FRAIL

Do you have anything else I can help you with regarding the Kirsty O'Hara case detective?

DI G DORKING

We do, would you like to have another go then?

MISS H FRAIL

Yes, OK. So when shall we do it?

DI G DORKING

We could do it now, or do you need to be somewhere else for the rest of the day?

MISS H FRAIL

I'm sorry, but I'll need to be at my good old friend Jackie's house for lunch. I just couldn't let her down again, not for the fourth time, and it'll take me about half an hour to get to hers, so I'll have to leave around midday - I'm afraid. Although, I could arrive there a little bit later, I'm sure she wouldn't mind, because she's hardly ever on time when it's the other way around, I'll only need to contact her beforehand, if that'll be any help for you.

DI G DORKING

Well, that'll be great, because we will need to go back to Braden House later.

MISS H FRAIL

I hadn't forgotten. Oh, I'd love to get this person behind bars, whoever they are.

DI G DORKING

Wouldn't we all. So, firstly we'll need to go to the evidence storage room to get the rest of Kirsty's belongings.

(picks up Hattie's light green coat)

Oh, and don't forget to take your coat with you!

MISS H FRAIL

Oh, yes, my coat, thank you, detective and I'll go and phone Jackie up right now, before I forget all about that.

(exit left)

Scene 14

It's 10. 52 a.m. DI George Dorking and Miss Hattie Frail are sitting down talking to SOCO officer Miss Karen Harvey in the forensics department.

MISS K HARVEY

Now, before we start on the Kirsty O'Hara case, we did investigate the Guy Bridges death and we did find traces Valerie's DNA on the Asthma spray, so Valerie did murder him for definite.

DI G DORKING

Great, so this case is now closed too, that's wonderful.

MISS K HARVEY

(presents clothes and shoes on a table)

So, Hattie, coming back to Kirsty O'Hara, in here are her clothes and shoes.

MISS H FRAIL

Where are the knickers then, didn't she wear any?

DI G DORKING

I can remember looking for them now. We couldn't find them, so in the end we'd concluded that was wasn't wearing any.

MISS K HARVEY

Oh, so you were also on the case back then, Gov?

DI G DORKING

Yes, I was, and it just happens to be my very first

murdered victim unfortunately.

MISS K HARVEY

Wow! Anyway Hattie, here they are.

DI G DORKING

(turns to face Miss Hattie Frail)

So, Hattie which item would you like to have?

MISS H FRAIL

I would like to hold the bra if you wouldn't mind.

MISS K HARVEY

Yes, of course.

(hands over a pink bra)

Here you go, it's all yours.

MISS H FRAIL

(takes the pink bra)

Thank you. I'm being Guy Bridges' mate Oscar, no wait a minute, so Oscar is my middle name. Hang on a minute... yes, right, the reason why I like my criminal mates to call me this name, is because I don't like Derrick? Yes Derrick, so my full name is Derrick Oscar Griffiths - no it's Griffin.

DI G DORKING

Oh, my God! Derrick Griffin, you wouldn't believe this, but he is doing time for yet another murder, and he's only got one year left to go, this is brilliant news! You don't think you could tell us the whereabouts of this gold bracelet, could you?

MISS H FRAIL

I'm now at home, I'm in my lounge. I've gone behind a scenery painting, there's a safe and I'm looking around, because nobody else knows about this, not even my wife, now I'm punching in these numbers; six, two, eight, four and the door is opening, I can see some small expensive-looking ornaments and a gold bracelet.

DI G DORKING

That's great because Rosie is still alive. Right, before we leave for Valerie's apartment, I'll just ask PC Thomas and Constable Mills if they can investigate it for us.

Scene 15

It's 11. 27 a.m. DC Jack Cameron and Miss Hattie Frail are standing inside Valerie Pacey's bedroom.

DI G DORKING

So, Hattie, what can you see? Is there something that we can work on, anything at all would be wonderful.

MISS H FRAIL

It's late at night, I'm seeing the murderer, they're dressed in black and are very fit. And unfortunately, this is one of those occasions, but I can give it a try.... right, I'm picking up female, but for some reason I'm slightly confused - now I can't see their face and hands because they have a balaclava on and are wearing leather gloves - hmm yes maybe that's it, you see when this happens, I can struggle to identify the sex of person sometimes. But I can sense them working here.

DI G DORKING

Can you tell for how long?

MISS H FRAIL

No, I couldn't possibly tell you that. But they are walking into this bedroom, hmmm ... right, I can see Valerie - she's sleeping on her left side. He or she is leaning over her, I'm not sure, but the murderer could be angry about something. Oh, right, so the weapon they used is a long hatpin.

DI G DORKING

Thank you for that Hattie. This is very useful information indeed. So, what we are looking for is a member of staff,

possibly a female, and I think the most likely motive could be revenge and the weapon is a long hatpin.

MISS H FRAIL

Yes, revenge, I agree with you detective.

DI G DORKING

Right, thanks for that Hattie.

(looks at his Smartwatch)

Oh, it's quarter to twelve, you'd better get your skates on.

MISS H FRAIL

Blimey! Yes, I'd better get a move on, it's a good job I told her that I might be late, isn't it?

DI G DORKING

Yes, it is.

MISS H FRAIL

(looks round)

Now where did I leave my bag and coat?

DI G DORKING

(looks round)

Oh, well, I think you left them in the hallway.

MISS FRAIL

Oh, did I?

DC J CAMERON

(exit left, enters the hallway and shouts)

Yes! Here they are!

MISS H FRAIL

(turns around, exit left and takes her bag and coat off from DC Jack Cameron)

Oh, good, thank you officer. I do hope you'll catch this person, whoever they may be.

DC J CAMERON

Yes, and so do we.

DI G DORKING

And we will make sure you'll be kept up to date with everything.

MISS H FRAIL

That's good, I'll be looking forward to that, bye for now.
(exit left)

Scene 16

It's Friday the 17th December at 9.05 a.m. and DI George Dorking is walking into the Appletown Police Station
(enter right PC Richard Thomas holding a plate of mince pies)

PC R THOMAS

Good morning, Sir, may I have a quick word?

DI G DORKING

Yes, of course Richard, what is it? Oh, a big plate of mince pies, so where are you taking them?

PC R THOMAS

It's about Derrick Griffin. Oh, these mince pies have been made by Claire, I was just going to take them to the front desk.

DI G DORKING

Don't do that, why don't you take them back inside, I'll be giving you all a short briefing in about 10 minutes. So, what about Derrick Griffin, you and Claire have already re-arrested him yesterday?

PC R THOMAS

Yes, but we've just had a phone call from the prison, last night he was found dead in his cell, and they found a suicide note. I it was left on his table.

DI G DORKING

Oh, right, so does his wife Rosie know about it?

PC R THOMAS

Yes, Patrick has already told her, and Hattie was right, she didn't know anything about his involvement with the Kirsty O'Hara case and about the safe behind the picture.

DI G DORKING

Right, can you get everyone who is available to hear a short briefing, and don't forget to bring anymore of those delicious mince pies and anything else that she's made too.

PC R THOMAS

Right you are, Sir.

(DI George Dorking and PC Richard Thomas exit left)

Scene 17

It's 10 minutes later, DI George Dorking is holding a short briefing with him are four police officers attending they are Constable Claire Mills, DC Jack Cameron, PC Patrick O'Brien, and PC Richard Thomas.

DI G DORKING

Thank you for coming to this short briefing. And Claire for this lovely Christmas food. First, we're going back to the Kirsty O'Hara's case. Yesterday Hattie had identified Derrick Griffin as the second person that killed Kirsty. He had always preferred this middle name, so that's why he was known as Oscar to his mates. Anyway, Richard and Claire did find the missing gold bracelet and went to see him yesterday, but he also killed himself during the night and his family have already been told. So, that case is now closed, now we're going to talk about Braiden House.

PC P O'BRIEN

This will be fun.

DI G DORKING

Yes, Patrick. Right, we have spoken to all the residents and staff, and we now know that Bernie was murdered by Guy Bridges. Forensics has his DNA on Bernie's asthma spray. And they've also spoken to Theo who did confirm his meeting with Guy on that evening when she died. Now, in Hattie's reading, Bernie had confided in Valerie about her recognising the gold necklace. And she saw Valerie killing Guy in retaliation for murdering Bernie, she had used his very own insulin to kill him. We also know this because forensics have found tiny traces of her DNA inside Guy's bathroom cupboard, on the insulin bottle and on the syringe.

PC R THOMAS

That's good, so that's two gone and one to go, then we'll be finished.

DI G DORKING

Yes, so that leaves Valerie Pacey. And we think that this case could also be related to the previous murders in some way.

(turns around and points to a person on a light-brown notice board)

Right, so this picture is victim - Valerie Pacey. Hattie said, and it was confirmed by forensics, that she had been murdered by a long thin hatpin, causing her to have a stroke. Now according to the other residents, Valerie was the sweetest person you could ever get to meet, but we've since learned that this was all an act. Now Hattie thinks the killer is - a female staff member, but she couldn't really confirm it for definite.

CONSTABLE C MILLS

That's a shame.

DI G DORKING

Yes, and I agree with you, Claire. During Hattie's reading, Valerie did see someone's shadow as she was coming out of Guy's apartment just after she had killed him. Anyway,

so, as we couldn't find anything else to suggest that it was an outside job, so this is what we're going to be using.

(turns around)

Moving on. So, this picture on my bottom left is Phoebe Clarkson. Phoebe is in her late fifties, and she is one of Valerie's nightshift carers, she has been working there for nearly ten years. She's kind, she hasn't got any criminal records. Claims she didn't see Valery that evening as she was alone working on the opposite side of the building where the other patients are living. Although I have also spoken to a friend of hers, a Ms Shelly Davidson, she's one of the residents and she said that Phoebe was secretly having an affair with Guy Bridges.

CONSTALBE C MILLS

Maybe Phoebe lied about where she was because it could've been her who saw Valerie sneaking out of the Guy's apartment and thought he was cheating on her or something.

DI G DORKING

Yes, Claire, it could be a love triangle situation, that's a possibility.

(turns around)

Right, so this picture on my top right is Mr Joe Lucas, he's the kitchen porter. Now, we didn't get to speak to him because he wasn't there, but the head chef, a Mr Chris Drake, said Joe wasn't in the kitchen at the time when Valerie was being murdered. But when he did start work, which was a few minutes later, Chris mentioned that Joe was a little well... preoccupied with something. Now, Joe is in his early forties and has been working there since December 2030, and just before that he'd been serving time in the Appletown Prison for perverting the cause of justice.

CONSTABLE C MILLS

When will he be back into work, Sir?

DI G DORKING

He should at work right now.

PC P O'BRIEN

What about the weapon, Sir.

DI G DORKING

Yes, the weapon, well, in one of Hattie's readings she sensed a hatpin being used, which still hasn't been located.

(one of the main-line phones starts ringing)

Oh, can someone answer that please?

PC J CAMORAN

(picks up the receiver)

Yes, this is DC Cameron, how I may help you? Right, Mr Shaw - now calm down and listen! A few of us are on our way, we'll be there as soon as we can.

(replaces the receiver)

DI G DORKING

What's happening?

PC R THOMAS

That was the Braden House manager, there's a lot of staff causing havoc. Apparently, Jack is being cornered in the kitchen by other members of the staff.

DI G DORKING

Right, this is it, you, me, Jack, Richard, and Claire we're needed at Braden House. Come on let's go.

PC P O'BRIEN

Will do, Sir.

(exit left)

PC R THOMAS/ CONSTABLE C MILLS

Sir.

(exit left)

Scene 18

It's 10.03 am. DI George Dorking, Constable Claire Mills, PC Leroy Russell, DC Jack Cameron, and PC Richard Thomas are inside the kitchen area at Braden House.

DI G DORKING

Joe, I'm Detective Inspector Dorking, you need to calm down. I'm not going to hurt you.

MR J LUCAS

They're saying I've killed all those people; I didn't do it! Anyway, why would I want to kill them? And what would I gain from committing these murders exactly?

DI G DORKING

Joe! You...

MR J LUCAS
(turns around)

I'm telling you....

DI G DORKING

Joe you've got to calm...

MR J LUCAS
(interrupts)

...NO! It wasn't me! It was Chris, it's him, he's the murderer.

MR C DRAKE

Why would I murder Valerie, Joe?

CONSTABLE C MILLS

Wait a minute, why did you only mention Valerie?

MR C DRAKE

Oh, um...

(quickly exits left)

DI G DORKING

(lets go of Joe Lowndes's hands)

After him!

PC R THOMAS

(grabs hold of Chris Drake from behind)

Chris Drake, I'm arresting you on suspicion of murder. You killed Valerie Pacey on the 16th of December 2031. You do not have to say anything, but it may harm your defence if you do not mention, when questioned, something which you rely on in court. Anything you do say may be given in evidence.

Scene 19

It's 7. 30 pm. DI George Dorking, Constable Claire Mills, PC Richard Thomas, DC Jack Cameron, PC Patrick O'Brien, PC Leroy Russell, and Miss Hattie Frail are all sitting down drinking their chosen beverages in The Black Pig pub.

DI G DORKING

(turns to face Miss Hattie Frail)

So, thank you for coming, Hattie.

MISS H FRAIL

That's alright, you've caught the person then.

DI G DORKING

Yes, that's correct Hattie, it was the head chef, Mr Chris Drake who did it.

MISS H FRAIL

Oh, so, right, well to be honest I am a little bit confused here, because at the time I had a slightly stronger feeling that it was more a female, rather than a male, but there you go.

DI G DORKING

Ah! But Hattie you were right, in a way because he was born a girl, and her name was Bethany. Apparently, when she was a lot younger, she'd been treated horribly by the

parents and by the neighbours and unfortunately, Chris told us that Valerie Pacey was one of them.

CONSTABLE C MILLS

What about that missing hatpin, did he tell you where that was?

DI G DORKING

Yes, he did Claire, he had hidden it in a box at the bottom his wardrobe and luckily forensics did find traces of Valerie's blood on it. So, in the end the motive was revenge after all, but for a totally different reason.

(raises his glass)

Well done everyone and happy Christmas!

IN UNISON

(all glasses raised)

Happy Christmas!

MISS H FRAIL

And Happy New Year!

The End