

A Quaint English Murder

By

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A retired detective breaks his village's community when
he is encouraged onto the case of a respected member's
murder.

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PART 1LETTER

There is the faint sound of a scratching pen on paper. RANDOLPH Bramberly, an older Yorkshireman writes.

BRAMBERLY

(V.O) Dear Andrew. I hope you're doing alright. The best you can where you are. I have been thinking about old times again recently. You used to love my stories of when I was a detective. Here is one you would enjoy from I think it was 1972.

INT. HOTEL - DINING ROOM

Pop goes the champagne. It pours over into glasses of people laughing. The room is busy with a sea of posh voices and clinking glasses. The crowd's words are spoken through their upturned noses.

BRAMBERLY

(V.O) Big-time banker Nigel Gillingham was throwing a large party for his engagement to what would have been his second wife, Grace. It was an expensive do and the end of a long tiresome case.

An older man with a woman with a much younger voice enters.

SUITED MAN

I can see why Nigel threw this event all the way out here.

POSH WOMAN

Yes quite.

The room starts to settle down and everyone finds their seats.

HEADWAITER

Dinner...

He stops at the sound of someone pushing open the entrance doors. Bramberly stumbles into the room. The crowd turns to see him with a scornful gasp. His strong Yorkshire accent stands out.

BRAMBERLY

Oh, bugger am I late? Don't mind me.

Bramberly decides to walk around the edge of the room. He squeezes through the small gaps against the walls and chairs.

BRAMBERLY

Coming through.

One woman jumps up with a squeal as he tries to pass behind her and knocks her chair. The next lady along stands and tucks in to let him pass.

BRAMBERLY

Ta, love.

The room stays silent as he slowly approaches the only empty seat. Now begrudged whispers die down as they wait on the Headwaiter. He now clears his throat and is about to speak when the sound of a napkin being unfolded loudly comes from the obvious side of the room.

Bramberly tucks it into his shirt and in much dismay slurps the soup in front of him loudly.

BRAMBERLY

That's some good grub. Could do with some salt though.

The Headwaiter coughs. Bramberly places his spoon back down.

BRAMBERLY

(Whisper)

Apologies.

HEADWAITER

Dinner...

(pause)

is served.

The Headwaiter takes a breath of relief and leaves. The clinking of spoons now fills the room as people begin to finally tuck into their soup.

A microphone buzzes on.

SINGER

Let's start the evening with a song from the new James Bond picture.

Instruments begin to play. A woman begins to sing 'Diamonds are Forever.'

FADES OUT

INT. HOTEL - LOBBY

The song is muffled in the lobby outside. NIGEL nervously hums as he slowly creaks open a door to hear the song. A woman struts her heels down the stairs behind him, GRACE.

GRACE

Are you ready darling?

NIGEL

You know, a little nervous.

GRACE

(Flirty)

Don't worry soon we can get back to the hotel room.

(beat)

What's wrong?

NIGEL

It doesn't matter.

INT. HOTEL - DINING ROOM

Bramberly is stuffing his face with the amazing food on offer.

BRAMBERLY

What say you two? Gunna put a bun in your oven?

GENTLEMAN

Mother is always on the lookout every time we visit.

They chuckle.

GENTLEMAN

She always says it's the proper thing to do. I rather suppose it is.

LADY

What say you, any children to speak of?

BRAMBERLY

Got one lovely lad. Just been sent off to Ireland.

*His voice drifts off as his happy demeanour
slips to melancholy for just a moment.*

BRAMBERLY

Got to say this is a lovely bash. Don't you think?

GENTLEMAN

Quite. So how do you know the happy couple?

BRAMBERLY

Ah, no I don't.

The double doors open and everyone settles down.

HEADWAITER

Your host for this evening, Nigel Gillingham.

*The music stops and they step up to the stage.
Nigel takes the microphone.*

NIGEL

Thank you everyone for coming to this very special event. Of course, you all know I am the lucky man that has asked for this beautiful lady's hand in marriage. So let's raise a toast to my ever-brilliant fiancée, Grace. Here, here.

EVERYONE

Here, here.

*From the familiar corner of the room, one person
is loudly clapping longer than the rest,
Bramberly. He gets up from his chair. The room
is silent, it is his now.*

BRAMBERLY

Very lovely, touching even.

NIGEL

Do I know you?

BRAMBERLY

I was just wondering if I was able to borrow your pen?

NIGEL

(confused)

I guess.

He takes it out of his pocket. Bramberly steps up onto the wooden stage and takes it from him.

BRAMBERLY

Ta.

GRACE

Could you please explain who you are?

BRAMBERLY

Certainly. I'm Detective Bramberly of County Police and I am putting you, Nigel Gillingham, under arrest for the murder of your son Micheal Hurrican.

The crowd gasps in shock. Police officers start to enter each door around the room.

Nigel scoffs.

NIGEL

I don't have a son and even if I did I certainly didn't murder anyone.

BRAMBERLY

Funny that. I noticed straight away that the victim had a small hole just above his right ear or as it's also known as preauricular sinus. A rare genetic defect passed down from mother to daughter, father to son. Could you kindly remove your glasses?

Nigel hesitantly removes his glasses and Bramberly inspects with a hum.

BRAMBERLY

As I thought you have it too.

Bramberly begins to step down from the stage.

BRAMBERLY

Now I'm not certain why you killed your son but I am certain that is who he is. What strikes me is since the beginning of this case, I have been told that he was murdered by a small blunt object to the jugular or as I *could* say, this very fountain pen.

Bramberly proceeds to slowly take off its lid. The room gasps again.

GRACE

Don't be ridiculous, you can't kill someone with a pen.

BRAMBERLY

Believe it or not, it isn't too difficult if you have enough strength and anger and oh, he did. You came to see your son and what did you expect when you turned up? After years of abandonment, having to look after his sick mother and you swan into this hotel where he worked with your shiny shoes and expensive convertible. Of course, he wasn't going to be happy to see your face!

Nigel sighs in anger.

NIGEL

I am his father he should have shown me respect!

BRAMBERLY

Respect should be earned.

NIGEL

Even if he was my son you can't prove anything.

Bramberly chuckles.

BRAMBERLY

Officer, did you locate the sign-in book?

OFFICER

Yes sir.

He hands it over and Bramberly begins to flick through its pages.

BRAMBERLY

You're a successful man surrounded by yes men all day. You held a ball just for an engagement! Your second may I add. So I ask this, is that why you had the audacity, the cheek, the absolute nerve of it to sign in to this hotel with the murder weapon? Blood is red but after a while dries to a nice dark brown now would you like to explain to me why your signature from this morning with this very pen is written in half blue, half brown ink?

(Beat)

If you could take him away?

The officers around him start to place on handcuffs.

GRACE

(Screaming)

No, don't take him away!

Bramberly pulls out his chair to sit back down.

BRAMBERLY

So do you think we'll get little choc-ies and coffee to end the meal?

FADES OUT

OPENING TITLE MUSIC

INT. CORNER SHOP

(1985)

The bell on the door rings as it's opened. KATTY sits behind her counter.

KATTY

Morning, lovely. Have you seen this in the paper?

BRAMBERLY

No, because I haven't bought my paper yet.

KATTY

Your city sarcasm continues to stick out in this village.

BRAMBERLY

(Sarcastic)

Well aye and I've only been living here for ten years so what does the paper say then?

Katty sighs disapprovingly and turns the pages to show him the article.

KATTY

See here. Teenagers in our village making graffiti all over the place. You should find out who they are.

BRAMBERLY

I'm retired. I'm not about to go catching some bloody nuisances. Anyway, more importantly, is the mining strikes.

KATTY

I hope it's not like last time with the three-day week. I suppose you'll be supporting them.

BRAMBERLY

I don't see any harm in asking for fair wages but I won't be shouting about it, you know what they're

like round here.

KATTY

What's that supposed to mean?

BRAMBERLY

Don't worry love.

KATTY

Well, that's 33 pence.

He shuffles around with some change and Katty sorts it into her till.

BRAMBERLY

Have a lovely day.

EXT. VILLAGE

Bramberly strolls along the sounds of a quaint English village morning.

BRAMBERLY

(V.O) Now, of course, it's 1985 and I am retired and living in this small village as you know.

A bike bell rings for his attention. REVEREND GREEN cycles past.

BRAMBERLY

Eh up Vicar.

REVEREND GREEN

Lovely day.

LETTICE

(OFF) Oh, Bramberly!

Bramberly groans and continues walking. You can hear Lettice's little legs shuffle up behind him.

LETTICE

You never got back to me about donating a prize for the raffle at the fete.

BRAMBERLY

Oh darn, it must have escaped me, Lettice.

She is a little out of breath as she tries to keep to Bramberly's fast pace.

LETTICE

And we all noticed you haven't purchased any raffle tickets either. You never know, you might be lucky and win.

He stops walking.

BRAMBERLY

That's the thing Lettice. No one spends a career with murder like I have and believes in things such as luck.

LETTICE

Oh.

A voice is shouting that gets louder as they approach, DANIEL POTTS.

DANIEL POTTS

(OFF) Save the library! Save the library! Don't let them take it from us. Save the library!

LETTICE

You're not still here are you Daniel?

DANIEL POTTS

It's important that they don't close such a vital service to our village.

BRAMBERLY

Indeed however don't you think it defeats the point of a library to be shouting outside it all day?

DANIEL POTTS

I hadn't thought of that.

Bramberly walks away.

BRAMBERLY

(OFF) Lovely morning!

EXT. CAFE

NICKY places a cup and saucer on a table outside.

NICKY

Yes before you ask it is Yorkshire tea and none of that southern rubbish as you say.

BRAMBERLY

Ta.

He picks up the tea and takes a sip. A car pulls up across the road. ELLIE CRYER steps out the open door.

NIEL is getting heavy suitcases out of the car boot with groans.

NEIL

(OFF) You know I'm just a landlord, not your chauffeur.

MS CRYER

(OFF) You can't possibly expect me to carry my cases.

NEIL

(OFF) Well..

MS CRYER

And I will be leaving early tomorrow I've got an import flight to catch to Los Angeles.

Her heels can be heard strutting off into the B&B pub. BRIDGET and Lettice stop to watch next to Bramberly. Gossiping as always.

LETTICE

That will be Kenneth's sister-in-law, you know?

BRIDGET

Oh, the actress.

BRAMBERLY

(Sarcastic)

She seems a real delight.

He takes another sip of his tea.

BRIDGET

Will you be going to the party later?

BRAMBERLY

Of course. Got my special tweed ready. Will you be going in your usual set of curtains?

They both laugh.

LETTICE

We'll see you later then.

INT. POTTS HOUSE - LOUNGE

MRS ALISON POTTS rushes into the room and slams down a large crate of heavy wine bottles. LORD POTTS wakes with a start.

MRS POTTS

Will you stop sitting down and help me get your party ready?

LORD POTTS

But I'm too old now. Wait till you turn 60.

MRS POTTS

You'll be lucky if you reach it yourself at this rate. Could you at least go through this wine and see which ones we will offer later?

LORD POTTS

Of course, I will darling.

He gets up from his armchair.

MRS POTTS

With less attitude.

LORD POTTS

Have you seen this one? It's the year we got married.

MRS POTTS

I'm surprised you remember.

LORD POTTS

See they say wine ages well over time but I just think it stays pretty much the same.

MRS POTTS

Well, I like good wine. I'm my mother's daughter.

LORD POTTS

That's true.

MRS POTTS

Wine can go bad though when tampered with.

LORD POTTS

They call that corked, dear.

MRS POTTS

Yes, I know. Have we checked they aren't? You can never seem to look after anything for long enough.

A grandfather clock chimes for the hour.

LORD POTTS

Oh is that the time? I should be at the village council meeting.

MRS POTTS

I thought you weren't going today.

LORD POTTS

I've changed my mind. See you later.

He kisses her on the cheek and rushes out the door.

INT. VILLAGE HALL

REVEREND GREEN

First off an apology from Lord Potts who cannot attend today because he is very busy organising his party later. So I will be running the community meeting instead.

There is a small groan.

REVEREND GREEN

Anyway, the important agenda is the village fate this week. We have almost reached our fundraising goal.

There is a small clap that stops when the doors open.

BRAMBERLY

Sorry, I'm late. I just had to have my bacon butty, like.

He shuffles in and takes a seat.

REVEREND GREEN

Right so Lettice...

He's interrupted by the door opening again.

REVEREND GREEN

Who is it now? Can't you see I'm trying to run this meeting?!

LORD POTTS

Not very well by the looks of things.

REVEREND GREEN

(Embarrassed)

Kenneth, I didn't think you were coming.

LORD POTTS

I found myself the time now don't let me take over.
Continue.

REVEREND GREEN

Okay so as I was saying Lettice, we all thought you
should draw the raffle.

LETTICE

Oh, how lovely but I couldn't. You are the people
that have put in such effort for this glorious
weekend to come.

REVEREND GREEN

That is very kind of you nevertheless we have chosen
you to do it.

LORD POTTS

Hold on Vicar, I reckon if Lettice doesn't fancy it
this year we should ask our famous detective friend
to join in for once.

KATTY

Oh, that would be exciting.

LORD POTTS

What do you reckon Bramberly?

BRAMBERLY

Ummm...

NEIL

Go on mate.

BRAMBERLY

Alrighty then.

LORD POTTS

Now, what about the library?

Another small groan.

KATTY

He's a bloody nuisance your brother.

LETTICE

Now let's be nice he is just trying to help save a

much-needed public resource.

BRAMBERLY

Why's that fete money not going to that?

LORD POTTS

There are more important things to fund at this moment.

REVEREND GREEN

Didn't it use to get private funding?

LORD POTTS

I think you're mistaken.

KATTY

Bramberly does have a point you know.

NEIL

If my pub was low on funding I wouldn't be asking others to help.

BRAMBERLY

The pub isn't a public service though.

NEIL

It is for some.

There is a chuckle.

LORD POTTS

Continue Vicar.

REVEREND GREEN

Right then next on the agenda...

FADES OUT

INT. POTTS HOUSE - KITCHEN

MRS AUDREE NIVEN is washing up the dishes.

MISS NIVEN

The cake! The cake has arrived.

She opens the back door to PROFESSOR PETER JOBINS.

MISS NIVEN

Quickly make space. Move, move!

People hurriedly move stuff off the table and a large cake is dropped onto the empty space.

PROFESSOR JOBINS

I hope he likes it.

MISS NIVEN

You weren't meant to bring it till later.

PROFESSOR JOBINS

Yes, but I got a phone call to say it was ready.

MISS NIVEN

But what if he sees it?

PROFESSOR JOBINS

Let's be honest he already knows about it.

MISS NIVEN

(Sarcastic)

Yes, great surprise this is.

PROFESSOR JOBINS

This food looks nice.

She slaps his hand as he reaches for some.

MISS NIVEN

You'll get some later.

PROFESSOR JOBINS

Is Alison around?

MISS NIVEN

Just in the lounge, I think.

PROFESSOR JOBINS

Thank you. I will see you later.

He opens the kitchen door to leave.

INT. RETIREMENT HOME - GAMES ROOM

*A chess piece is moved across the board.
Bramberly is playing with BRENDEN, Irish.*

BRAMBERLY

Checkmate.

BRENDEN

Blimey, you've done it again. How'd you do that?

BRAMBERLY

If I told ya I wouldn't always win.

Nicky walks up to them.

NICKY

Then he wouldn't be able to brag about it.

BRAMBERLY

Nicky, come to visit your Gran?

NICKY

Yeah, she's still hanging in there.

BRAMBERLY

Ta for another perfect cup of tea this morning.

BRENDEN

Assam that's the good stuff. Not the Yorkshire rubbish you drink.

BRAMBERLY

I'm not going to hear any more against my tea.

NICKY

It was good to see you two again.

She walks away.

BRENDEN

Lovely girl.

BRAMBERLY

Now back to me winning this game.

BRENDEN

You just can't help being a detective, can you?

BRAMBERLY

Pardon?

BRENDEN

You need to win. Do you ever think you left too early?

BRAMBERLY

I left at the right time. Those days are far behind me. I'll stick to chess, like.

INT. RETIREMENT HOME - CORRIDOR

NICKY

Bramberly's here again.

NURSE

He visits a lot.

NICKY

Does Brenden not have any family visit?

NURSE

They're all still in Ireland.

NICKY

Poor guys. They must be as lonely as each other.

INT. BANK

It's busy inside for a small space. Scratches of pens signing checks. Bramberly hums in the queue. As he is waiting he also hears some others talking. KIERAN PRICE and Lord Potts.

BANK ASSISTANT

So if you could just
sign here. Also here
and here. That money
will go straight into
your savings account.
Is that everything
with us today?

MR PRICE

If you're completely
certain Kenneth then I
can contact them today
for you.

BRIDGET

Yes, dear.

LORD POTTS

Yes, Kieran. I've made
up my mind. I want
this over and done
with.

BANK ASSISTANT

Thank you, and have a
nice day.

MR PRICE

I'll let you know at
the party later. Happy
Birthday by the way.

BRIDGET

Thank you.

LORD POTTS

Thanks. See you later.

BANK ASSISTANT

Next. Hello. Sir.

BRAMBERLY

Ey up love.

Bramberly approaches the desk.

LETTER

BRAMBERLY

(V.O) I've been struggling recently with staying away from the bottle. It's been about 18 months now since I've had a drink. It's hard to know where I fit in with this village, really. Just need to take each day as it comes I suppose. You've never met him but Brenden says hi.

INT. POTTS HOUSE - KITCHEN

The kitchen is busy with people plating up buffet food. Chopping salad and buttering bread. Items are coming out of ovens and people washing up metal tins. ANNABEL POTTS enters.

ANNABEL POTTS

Stop worrying Audree and come enjoy the party. I'm sure the kitchen staff know what they're doing.

MISS NIVEN

I know, I just want to make sure your father's birthday goes smoothly. It's a big one.

Someone picks up some knives from in front of her.

MISS NIVEN

Be careful with those cheese knives, they're very valuable.

ANNABEL POTTS

Right, come on. I think we can leave everyone to it.

INT. POTTS HOUSE - LOUNGE

The room is busy with guests talking amongst themselves. This is a civil party. Lord Potts, burst into the room.

LORD POTTS

Hello. Welcome. Thank you for coming. It's great to see you.

He notices someone across the room, Mr Price.

LORD POTTS
Mr Price.

MR PRICE
Have you seen the news? More strikes. Crikey not again, surely.

LORD POTTS
Word in the house is Thatcher will sort it out. Put them Yorkshiremen in check.

MR PRICE
Jolly good.

LORD POTTS
I have something else to ask you.

They both wounder away together. Reverend Green approaches PROFESSOR PETER JOBINS in the corner of the room.

REVEREND GREEN
Jobins how are you this evening?

PROFESSOR JOBINS
Yes, I'm fine thank you, Vicar.

REVEREND GREEN
(CLOSE) I'm sure she's around here somewhere.

PROFESSOR JOBINS
(CLOSE) Make sure you don't say a word.

REVEREND GREEN
Of cores.

Lord Potts is talking to Mr Price across the room.

MR PRICE
(CLOSE) It all went through so it should be sorted.

DANIEL POTTS
(OFF) There you are.

They both stop talking suddenly as Daniel approaches them.

DANIEL POTTS
When are we going to sort this out?

LORD POTTS

Can we talk about this later? It's my birthday!

DANIEL POTTS

But what would mum say?

LORD POTTS

Bugger off and enjoy yourself probably.

They both chuckle mournfully.

LORD POTTS

Now, where's my wife?

INT. POTTS HOUSE - CONSERVATORY

Mrs Potts blows her nose from a small number of tears. She lets out a startled noise when the door opens.

MS CRYER

This is where you are.

MRS POTTS

Yes. I've just been getting out the way a bit.

MS CRYER

Come on. Let's go back. The cake will be out soon.

MRS POTTS

I think you would both rather I stay here out the way.

INT. POTTS HOUSE - LOUNGE

MISS NIVEN

Keep going.

She chuckles as she pushes Lord Potts along.

LORD POTTS

Where are we going?

Miss Niven pulls out a chair.

MISS NIVEN

Now sit here. We have a surprise.

Some rushing footsteps make their way in.

MRS POTTS

So is everyone ready? It's the big one dear.

LORD POTTS

But you don't have to keep reminding me.

There is a small chuckle. The switch turns off the lights and the room erupts into a familiar tune. The loudest voices are closest to Lord Potts: Annabel, Daniel, Ms Cryer, Miss Niven, Reverend Green, Mr Price, Professor Jobins and Mrs Potts.

EVERYONE

Happy Birthday to you. Happy Birthday to you...

Suddenly a vase smashes from being knocked over. Everyone stops singing.

MR PRICE

Careful girl!
(Beat)

MISS NIVEN

Happy birthday...

EVERYONE

Lord Kenneth. Happy Birthday to you.

The cake is placed on the table and with one large breath, all the candles are extinguished.

There is a loud scream from Lord Potts and he falls to the table.

People gasp in horror as Mrs Niven turns back on the lights.

MRS POTTS

(Screaming)
Kenneth!

DANIEL POTTS

He's been stabbed.

The panic crowd stops as the front door is heard opening.

BRAMBERLY

Sorry, I'm late. Hope I didn't miss anything.

EXT. POTTS HOUSE - FRONT

Sirens sound loudly outside the house. A car pulls up and the door swings open. A man steps out and is greeted by an officer. They walk together.

POLICEWOMAN

Sir, the murder victim is still inside. The crime scene has been cordoned off and the immediate family and friends are in the conservatory.

FORENSICS

Preliminary forensics report, sir.

They hand him the paperwork and walk off.

POLICEWOMAN

I have to warn you the retired Detective, Randolph Bramberly was a guest at the party.

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

(Excited)

Bramberly? Inside?

POLICEWOMAN

Yes sir.

INT. POTTS HOUSE - CONSERVATORY

Ms Cryer is crying loudly.

MS CRYER

It's just so awful.

MRS POTTS

Will you shut it, girl? He was my husband.

REVEREND GREEN

Now let's not be too hostile. A very terrible thing has happened tonight and we just have to wait for God's guidance.

MRS POTTS

Yes of course, sorry Vicar.

PROFESSOR JOBINS

Rubbish, God isn't going to help us with anything.

MR PRICE

Ah but no need to worry. We're lucky to have the

great Detective Bramberly with us.

ANNABEL POTTS
(Offended)
Lucky?!

MRS POTTS
What does that mean?

MISS NIVEN
Don't worry. I'm sure he didn't mean it that way.

MR PRICE
Well, lucky for the sake of justice.

INT. POTTS HOUSE - LOUNGE

A door opens.

DETECTIVE MATHEWS
I asked them to give me a moment with you alone. It's
an honour to meet you, Detective.

BRAMBERLY
You're the Detective here son. I've just preserved
the scene for you.

He walks past him.

DETECTIVE MATHEWS
You can't go.

BRAMBERLY
So your first murder then? Why did city send you?

DETECTIVE MATHEWS
Only one on duty but Cheif thinks I'm ready to step
up.

BRAMBERLY
Well then, you'll have to step up fast, son. You have
a room of people closest to the victim. It's now your
job to reassure them and determine what you can from
your first impressions.

(Beat)
I am retired, okay? Those years of detection are
behind me.

DETECTIVE MATHEWS
What did happen? Cause as I recall you retired early.

Bramberly opens the door to leave.

BRAMBERLY

I think it's best you don't leave them any longer.

INT. POTTS HOUSE - CONSERVATORY

DANIEL POTTS

(Slurred)

I think this is terrible. Just terrible.

He goes to sit down but falls off his chair.

ANNABEL POTTS

Careful!

DANIEL POTTS

(Slurred)

Sorry.

He bursts out laughing.

ANNABEL POTTS

I think he needs some water.

MRS POTTS

I think he should have thought about that before he drank the whole cupboard.

PROFESSOR JOBINS

Don't worry I'll get him home.

The door opens.

BRAMBERLY

You can carry him home in just a moment Professor.
The detective has a few words.

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

Good evening, I'm Detective Mathews. I should start by saying I'm very sorry for your loss. We are however treating Lord Potts's death as suspicious.

Mrs Potts scoffs.

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

Ummm, yeah so if you could remain in the village until the end of the investigation.

MS CRYER

I have to be in

MR PRICE

Are we suspects?

Florida soon for an
audition on the
weekend.

REVEREND GREEN
I think we should
trust the detective.

PROFESSOR JOBINS
You would say that
he's not going to
suspect a vicar.

REVEREND GREEN
What are you
insinuating?

BRAMBERLY
Quiet!

ANNABEL POTTS
What are your opinions on this Bramberly?

BRAMBERLY
I think it's important to listen to the detective.

ANNABEL POTTS
Aren't you going to help?

BRAMBERLY
Thank you love but as I have already said I'm
retired.

MRS POTTS
Screw that. You have to help us, please. We... I need
to know who killed my husband. We are friends with
the great Detective Bramberly. That has to count for
something.
(Beat)

BRAMBERLY
Ummm... It seems as though you have given me little
choice.

ANNABEL POTTS
So you'll help?

LETTER

BRAMBERLY
(V.O) It appears my past is coming back to haunt me
now. I somehow agreed to help this poor family find

the killer. I hope it all goes well. What's the worse that can happen?

Miss you lots son. Love from Randolph Bramberly.

PART 2LETTER

BRAMBERLY

(V.O) Dear Andrew, there's been a murder and the village seems to think I am still able to help. I will do the best I can. Mrs Potts forced my hand a bit at the party, I couldn't say no.

Detective Mathews seems nice enough if not a little naive. I hope this is a good idea for me. It's been such a long time since I've done this. I will act like I know what I'm doing. That should work.

It's the village's fete now. God help me.

EXT. VILLAGE COMMON

Children scream as they throw balls at carefully balanced coconuts. Elderly people shake their donation buckets, 'Do it for the village.' The bell of the hammer-hit dings. Sausages and burgers sizzle on the BBQ. It's the summer so this is the village fete.

Detective Mathews hurries over.

DETECTIVE MATHEWS
Coffee?

BRAMBERLY
I just drink tea.

DETECTIVE MATHEWS
Ah.

He throws one cup in the bin.

DETECTIVE MATHEWS
So shouldn't we be looking at the murder scene?

BRAMBERLY
I said I would be at this fete. The village should come first if we want them to cooperate. Look here's the Professor.

They get to the coconut shy. Jobins throws a ball and hits the coconut clean-off.

DETECTIVE MATHEWS
Good shot.

PROFESSOR JOBINS
Well, they have to teach you something in the army.
Throwing was always one of my specialities. So
Bramberly any ideas who did it?

BRAMBERLY
How could I have possibly worked it out yet? I'm good
but not *that* good.

PROFESSOR JOBINS
Oh, here he comes the new village leader, the Vicar.

*The Vicar steps up onto a stage with a
microphone.*

REVEREND GREEN
(D) Attention everyone. The raffle is about to be
drawn. Attention. Time for the raffle.

*Everyone huddles around and the crowd quietens
down.*

REVEREND GREEN
(D) As everyone is probably aware Lord Potts will not
be able to make the announcements at our fete. His
lovely wife is here to say a few words about the
tragedy that has occurred.

The microphone is passed over.

MRS POTTS
(D) Thank you, Vicar. My husband, Lord Kenneth Potts
was a respected man. A man of the community. A
community he kept very close to his heart. He adored
it here in this village with all these lovely people.
Kenneth would have loved to have seen all your smiley
happy faces today. So let's keep smiling.

*She chuckles to hold back the sadness in her
voice.*

REVEREND GREEN
(D) Thank you for the kind words. Now to welcome up
on stage to draw the raffle this year our very own
real detective Randolph Bramberly.

Everyone claps as he steps up.

BRAMBERLY

Now, now. Calm down. It's only me.

REVEREND GREEN

(D) So is it true you are working with the police on this investigation?

BRAMBERLY

(D) I'm just helping out a little, but right now let's just do the raffle.

REVEREND GREEN

(D) You must be excited to get your teeth back into your old career and do the Lord's work of bringing justice to this family at this time.

The crowd is silent now. He hesitates.

BRAMBERLY

(D) It's like putting on an old pair of socks.

REVEREND GREEN

(D) Ever the mystery. So the first ticket then.

The tombola drum is spun.

REVEREND GREEN

(D) What number will be picked? Bramberly chooses the first ticket.

The drum is stopped and the hatch is slid open. He pops in his hand and shuffles around for a ticket. He unfolds it.

BRAMBERLY

(D) Number twenty-two.

MISS NIVEN

(Excited)

Me! I have twenty-two. That's mine!

She rushes up onto the stage.

REVEREND GREEN

(D) Congratulations, Audree. You have won a meat voucher from the Gates Butchers shop but don't eat it all at once, we've seen you at the pubs Sunday roast.

The crowd chuckles.

REVEREND GREEN

(D) So next ticket.

The drum spins again.

FADES OUT

INT. POTTS HOUSE - KITCHEN

Steam from the kettle hums as it boils. It is poured into a cup and passed to the table.

BRAMBERLY

Grand.

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

Thank you, kindly.

BRAMBERLY

Now Audree I've lived in this village for a long time but I've never asked. How long have you worked for the Potts?

MISS NIVEN

Oh, it must be coming up to 20 years. I was brought in when Mrs Potts became pregnant with Annabel but I've been in the village since I was evacuated here.

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

So you know this house very well?

MISS NIVEN

Certainly but may I add, what's happened to Kenneth is unspeakable.

BRAMBERLY

Kenneth?

MISS NIVEN

(Embarrassed)

Of course, no. I shouldn't call him that while working. It's just I've been here so long, they're like my family.

Her voice begins to shake with sadness.

BRAMBERLY

The birthday grub, including the cake, was organised by yourself as a surprise?

She chuckles lightly.

MISS NIVEN

It should have been a surprise but in the end, even Lord Potts knew. It wasn't small enough to conceal.

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

Thank you, Miss Niven.

BRAMBERLY

If you don't mind me asking. Being a lass of your wise age, have you never tied the knot?

MISS NIVEN

Never found the time. I've focused on helping this family bring up Annabel.

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

You're very close to the daughter?

MISS NIVEN

Her parents are busy people. Always entertaining important guests. Sometimes they struggle to find time to show how much she means to them. Her dyspraxia which she shares with her Uncle means she's always been a little closer to him. Mrs Potts has never really had the time to help with all that at school you see. Talking of which.

She gets up from her seat.

MISS NIVEN

I must take up Mrs Potts's tea. Will that be all Detective?

BRAMBERLY

Just one last thing. You're probably wondering why we have questioned you first.

MISS NIVEN

It was a worry of mine.

BRAMBERLY

Maids and cleaners tend to get around a household more unnoticed than others. I just wanted to ask if you had heard anyone or know of anything that might be of help to us.

She sits back down.

MISS NIVEN

It would be indecent to gossip.

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

I would just like to remind you this is a murder investigation. All information must be put forward to the police.

MISS NIVEN

(CLOSE) I did hear something rather unexpected and definitely private. Lord Potts had been courting with Ms Cryer.

(Beat)

Last night I heard Lord Potts inform his wife that he was to leave the household but not to be with either her or Ms Cryer.

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

And what time did you hear this?

MISS NIVEN

It must have been about 6:30 as that is when I went to retrieve more plates from the outhouse.

BRAMBERLY

What are your thoughts?

MISS NIVEN

Personaly? I was a little upset but not enough to kill the man if that is what you mean.

BRAMBERLY

In that case, let's have a natter with Mrs Potts. We'll meet her in the lounge.

MISS NIVEN

Certainly.

She takes the tray of tea and leaves the room.

BRAMBERLY

Interesting that isn't it?

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

What is?

He slowly gets up from his chair.

BRAMBERLY

You didn't see? You have a lot to learn, boy.

INT. POTTS HOUSE - LOUNGE

BRAMBERLY

As I hear the whole thing happened like this: Lord Potts was seated at the head of the table to await what should have been a surprise cake; All party-goers were in this room except some kitchen staff and myself. At the head of the table stood: Mrs Potts, Annabel Potts, Miss Niven, Daniel Potts, Ms Cryer, Reverend Green, Professor Jobins and Mr Price. All with the same opportunity to stab the man in the side of the neck.

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

The weapon was not left in the victim. It was reported to be a small curved blade.

BRAMBERLY

Precisely. The lights were switched off and the room was in total darkness except for the candles on the cake. It was brought from the kitchen and placed down on the table.

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

You've forgotten about the vase that got knocked over and smashed on the way by the people carrying the cake.

BRAMBERLY

I haven't forgotten. I just wanted to see if that coffee did any good at waking you up. However, talking of the vase I think I've noticed something.

He steps slowly across the room a picks something up.

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

What's that?

BRAMBERLY

A cheese knife or you could call it a small curved blade.

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

It's clean.

BRAMBERLY

The killer must have wiped it and dropped it here.

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

Or maybe they put it in the vase and then it got

smashed revealing it to us.

BRAMBERLY

Good idea however the vase was smashed before the stabbing.

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

Oh yeah.

BRAMBERLY

But why would they leave it here? Wouldn't you take it away with you and wait for us to notice the missing cheese knife from the table?

Footsteps come down the stairs.

MRS POTTS

How's the investigation going?

BRAMBERLY

Good timing.

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

We just have a few questions.

MRS POTTS

Of course, meet me in my husband's study. I'll get Miss Niven to bring you some tea.

BRAMBERLY

Don't trouble yourself, love. We already had a cuppa with her just now.

MRS POTTS

(Surprised and worried.)
Oh... I'll see you both shortly then.

She leaves the room.

BRAMBERLY

That has seemed a little worried her cleaner may have nattered, don't you think?

Detective Mathews hums in agreement.

BRAMBERLY

Let's go find out.

INT. POTTS HOUSE - STUDY

MRS POTTS

Take a seat.

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

I think it would be best if you also took a seat. We have some news that might come as something of a shock to you.

BRAMBERLY

I've noticed that's your husband's chair. You are respectively nervous about sitting in it. You choose this room though. It's up to you how quickly you feel like replacing him.

MRS POTTS

I'll stand. Nothing will surprise me, honestly. Especially if it's about my husband's affair.

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

You know?

MRS POTTS

I was informed yesterday afternoon when Kenneth was at that council meeting by Professor Jobins.

BRAMBERLY

Interesting you knew just before the murder.

MRS POTTS

Randolph, how long have you known me? How many times have we had you over for drinks? You can't really think I could be a killer.

BRAMBERLY

Unfortunately, we must suspect all those with a motive and yours is a strong one.

MRS POTTS

Honestly, that's unbelievable. I asked you to find the killer, not waste your time finding out about my private affairs. I was with that man for 30 years, I loved him!

BRAMBERLY

I have seen many people kill for much smaller motives than love.

INT. LECTURE HALL

Scratches of writing on the chalkboard.

PROFESSOR JOBINS

A black light gives off harmless, highly energetic, ultraviolet light that is invisible to humans. Certain fluorescent substances absorb ultraviolet light and re-emit it at a different wavelength, making the light visible and the material appear to glow.

He flicks the light switch and a class of students laugh in awe at the glowing whites around them.

PROFESSOR JOBINS

As you can see here. Some of you have very white teeth.

The class chuckles. Jobins turns the lights back on and the bell starts to ring and students begin to shuffle around to put their things away.

PROFESSOR JOBINS

So just make sure you finish the questions I gave you last lesson for next week.

The crowd start to leave.

PROFESSOR JOBINS

Annabel a word if you would?

The class finish leaving the door.

PROFESSOR JOBINS

Are you sure you're alright with returning to class? You can have the day off if you need it.

ANNABEL POTTS

(Flirty)

And what? Sit at home with mum? I would rather be here with you.

PROFESSOR JOBINS

You've got to be more careful. Especially at college.

There is a knock at the door.

PROFESSOR JOBINS

I'll see you later. Enter!

ANNABEL POTTS

See you later.

The door opens.

BRAMBERLY

Miss Potts?

ANNABEL POTTS

Randolph.

She closes the door behind her.

BRAMBERLY

Is Annabel in your class?

PROFESSOR JOBINS

Yes. We were just discussing if she wanted a day off after what's happened. What would you like Detective?

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

We just wanted to ask a few questions.

PROFESSOR JOBINS

Ask away.

BRAMBERLY

Right, so thing is, we've been told that you chatted away to Mrs Potts about an affair between Lord Potts and his sister-in-law Ms Cryer. Is she telling porkies?

PROFESSOR JOBINS

Regretfully it's true.

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

How did you know?

PROFESSOR JOBINS

That's where it gets complicated for me, you see?

BRAMBERLY

By that, I take it you mean damaging for your reputation.

PROFESSOR JOBINS

(CLOSE) You think you can see right through people don't you Bramberly?

BRAMBERLY

(CLOSE) So how long have you been having an affair with your student Annabel Potts?

(Beat)

I would say the clues are pretty much slapping us around the face. Don't you Detective?

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

Uhhhh, yeah? Sure.

BRAMBERLY

Open your eyes. You can't see for looking.

Jobins coughs to get back their attention.

PROFESSOR JOBINS

Well, I think you're very much mistaken.

BRAMBERLY

Am I mistaken in seeing her hand reach for yours at the party when I entered? Am I mistaken by the knowing look you shared when everyone congregated in the conservatory? And am I mistaken by the note she just left on your desk, signed with a kiss?

Jobins panics and picks up the note from the table and scrunches it into his pocket.

PROFESSOR JOBINS

That's private!

BRAMBERLY

It's relevant to our case if it involves how you found out about Lord Potts's affair!

There is some laughter from some students in the corridor.

PROFESSOR JOBINS

(CLOSE) Could we keep it down?

BRAMBERLY

Aye, if you tell me what you know, like.

PROFESSOR JOBINS

The truth of the matter is, I was being blackmailed by Potts about my own affair.

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

Blackmailed? Didn't he have enough money?

PROFESSOR JOBINS

You would think so but he could be a sadistic bastard when he wanted to be. He found out I was seeing someone but not that it was Annabel.

BRAMBERLY

Ah, so you decided you would find out something about him to stop the blackmailing?

PROFESSOR JOBINS

Yes. It wasn't too hard. We all have our flaws.

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

But why did you tell Mrs Potts, wouldn't that risk him exposing you?

BRAMBERLY

Good question.

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

Thank you.

PROFESSOR JOBINS

It's unknown but I came clean to my own wife last week so I actually went to plead with Kenneth to do the same.

BRAMBERLY

Clearly, he didn't so you decided to take the matter into your own hands?

PROFESSOR JOBINS

(Little offended.)

Well, I just felt as though it was unfair to keep this from Alice.

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

We would like to speak to your wife if we can.

PROFESSOR JOBINS

That won't be possible I'm afraid, she isn't around at the moment. She went to stay with her sister after the news.

BRAMBERLY

You say you told your wife before the murder but how can we take your word when you have lied to us before?

PROFESSOR JOBINS

I think it is unjust to speculate on matters you

cannot prove. The fact of the matter is I love Annabel.

BRAMBERLY

That Professor I do believe.

EXT. CAFE

A tea cup is placed on the table.

BRAMBERLY

This family, this village is twisted in love like a tangled rope tightening into a knot that can never be undone. We must untangle these people Mathews if we want to find the truth.

He takes a sip of his tea.

BRAMBERLY

Mathews... You don't have any relation to any other officers, do you?

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

Yeah, my Father is the chief.

BRAMBERLY

So you followed in his footsteps, like?

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

More pushed me.

BRAMBERLY

Bet you reckon this case will impress him.

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

I do hope so. He's not an easy person to make happy.

BRAMBERLY

What father is, eh?

He laughs.

BRAMBERLY

Don't look so worried were not all miserable bastards. You're young, the job hasn't cracked your spirits yet.

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

You're a dad then?

He takes a long sip of his tea to finish it off.

BRAMBERLY

Oh blimey, is that the time? I have to meet up with a friend.

He gets up from the table.

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

Oh.

BRAMBERLY

Don't worry. I'm sure you can find something to do.

Bramberly walks away. The church bells start to ring in the distance.

EXT. CHURCHYARD

The vicar hums to himself as he cuts the grass and flowers. He stops as he hears footsteps approaching.

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

Vicar, how are you doing?

REVEREND GREEN

Another beautiful day of our Lord. Are you christened?

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

Yes, my mother insisted before she died but I have not practised much in life.

REVEREND GREEN

Give justice to the weak and the fatherless; maintain the right of the afflicted and the destitute.

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

What do you mean?

REVEREND GREEN

Psalm 82:3. I believe the village is behind you and Bramberly. Please bring justice to the Potts family.

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

We will do our best.

REVEREND GREEN

There is something I feel as though I should tell you.

DETECTIVE MATHEWS
Yes?

REVEREND GREEN
Lord Potts's daughter and Professor Jobins.

DETECTIVE MATHEWS
We are aware.

REVEREND GREEN
Are you aware of their engagement?

DETECTIVE MATHEWS
No, we weren't.

INT. RETIREMENT HOME - GAMES ROOM

BRENDEN
How can they stand Bovril?

BRAMBERLY
It's just gravy. Have it on a Sunday lunch but not to drink.

BRENDEN
Still better than your manky tea.

BRAMBERLY
Every time. Why do I bother to come to see you?

BRENDEN
I always thought for a little bit of friendly advice so if you want to hear it from me this time, you're doing the right thing, helping this family.

BRAMBERLY
I sometimes feel as though I may just be getting in the way, like. I'm not who I once was. I'm trying to get back into it but it just feels like a performance of myself from yonks ago.

BRENDEN
Ah, then you don't need me to tell you, you have to find out who you are now.

LETTER

BRAMBERLY
(V.O) I thought about going to the corner shop today. I hope it's not stupid to say it scared me. I haven't had that thought in a while. The stress you see, it's

getting to me. These people act proper and polite but I can see them for what they truly are, hiding, scared from showing feelings and using that to hurt others around them slowly and quietly. The thing is I'm not sure if it's getting to me a bit too. I don't want to go back to like I was before I retired. Lost and alone.

INT. MISS NIVEN'S HOUSE

MISS NIVEN

Just think about it. I'm more than happy to co-sign. Your mother never needs to know.

ANNABEL POTTS

She never understands me. Not her or Father.

MISS NIVEN

They have only done what they think is best for you.

ANNABEL POTTS

I don't care I just wanted a father who was around!

She collapses into an armchair.

ANNABEL POTTS

But now that's never going to happen.

MISS NIVEN

You still have your mother dear.

ANNABEL POTTS

You know you and uncle Daniel have been there more for me than they have been.

There is a knock on the door. Miss Niven stands up and opens it.

MISS NIVEN

Detective?

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

Sorry to intrude. I went to find Annabel at the house and Mrs Potts informed me she would probably be here so I've walked across this entire muddy field to your home to have a quick word. Isn't it a bit odd to have your house on the Potts' land?

MISS NIVEN

The house came as part of the job. That way I was never too far away when Annabel was a baby.

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

That does make perfect sense.

MISS NIVEN

Now, would you like to come in?

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

Yes, thank you.

She closes the door behind him.

ANNABEL POTTS

Don't worry Audree knows everything you will find out about me.

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

In that case, I wanted to ask about your engagement with Professor Jobins.

ANNABEL POTTS

What about it?

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

How long for?

ANNABEL POTTS

Engaged, only a month. It was wonderful till, you know.

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

Why keep it secret from your parents? This is a big thing for them.

ANNABEL POTTS

Not that I put up any fuss but it was more Peter's idea. He's rather close to my father so he thought this may upset him.

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

How long have they known each other?

ANNABEL POTTS

They served together in the army before he got married.

MISS NIVEN

It would have been Malaysia 66 I think.

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

Do you not now regret not getting his blessing while he was still around?

ANNABEL POTTS

(Angry)

Can everyone stop guessing how I feel about my father!

She storms out of the house and slams the front door.

MISS NIVEN

We all have to remember she still is only 19.

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

A little young to be marrying Jobins don't you think?

MISS NIVEN

We can disagree all we like but I've known Annabel all her life. She definitely loves that man.

INT. PUB - ROOM

Some clothes are thrown onto a bed.

BRAMBERLY

Ms Cryer, stop packing your bags. We have told you, you must stay while we're investigating.

MS CRYER

I'm not staying in this dump any longer. Maybe my sister can cope with living in the middle of nowhere but I'm somebody, you know?

BRAMBERLY

I understand.

MS CRYER

I've already told you I have a really important audition. My agent says I've got to go. My taxi will be here any time now.

BRAMBERLY

Even if I had an important haircut in Spain next week I couldn't go if I was part of a murder investigation.

Her flustered packing continues to the point of Bramberly's patience.

BRAMBERLY

Will you stop packing?!

(Calmer)

and let me ask a few questions.

They both sit quietly on the bed.

BRAMBERLY

That's better. Everyone is calm now, like. I will try and put this as delicately as I can but we have recently been chatting about a close connection between yourself and Lord Potts. A very close connection. If you get me.

MS CRYER

How do you know?

BRAMBERLY

I couldn't say.

MRS POTTS

(OFF) Where is she?!

MS CRYER

Is that Alice?

Ms Cryer leaves at the sound of the commotion.

BRAMBERLY

What is it with this family?

INT. PUB

NEIL

Please calm down Mrs Potts.

MRS POTTS

Just tell me where she is.

DANIEL POTTS

Are you okay?

MRS POTTS

Just get back to your pint.

There are some sniggering girls in the corner.

FEMALE COLLEGE STUDENT

Is that Annabel's mum?

The vicar, Jobins and Price are sitting together.

REVEREND GREEN

I think Alice is in a little distress.

He gets up.

NEIL

She is probably just in her room. Here have a drink.

He places it on the bar.

PROFESSOR JOBINS

What's all this about Alison?

MR PRICE

I can go up and knock for her if you want.

The door swings open.

MS CRYER

No need I'm here.

DANIEL POTTS

There she is.

MR PRICE

(Sarcastic)

Yes, thank you.

MRS POTTS

You bitch!

The pub goes silent now.

MRS POTTS

This is all your fault. You've always wanted to take whatever I had ever since we were children. I could keep a brave face and stay civil while you slept with my husband but when it comes to my money I have little tolerance. None of this would have happened if you kept your legs shut.

MS CRYER

Yes, I slept with him but I did nothing with your money.

MRS POTTS

Well, look at this.

She gets out a screwed-up piece of paper. The doors open.

ANNABEL POTTS

Mum there you are.

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

We saw you rush off in your car.

MISS NIVEN

What's happened?

She begins to cry into Amber.

BRAMBERLY

Ey up, give it here.

He takes the piece of paper.

MRS POTTS

Where's that drink?

She takes a large gulp.

REVEREND GREEN

What is it?

BRAMBERLY

Mr Price will know, it's a letter from him.

MR PRICE

Ah. The thing is recently Kenneth asked me for advice on some solicitors in order to change his will.

MS CRYER

He never told me this.

MR PRICE

I don't think he told anyone.

DANIEL POTTS

Did he change it?

MR PRICE

Yes. I sent the last signature off on the day of his party.

MISS NIVEN

What was it?

ANNABEL POTTS

What changed?

MR PRICE

I don't think I'm meant to say.

PROFESSOR JOBINS

Bramberly. What does the letter say?

BRAMBERLY

That seems even more private. I shouldn't...

REVEREND GREEN

But if it's a concern of the family they should know.

DANIEL POTTS

I should know what my brother has said.

MS CRYER

You need to tell us.

BRAMBERLY

Umm...

DANIEL POTTS

Go on tell us.

Mrs Potts screams.

MRS POTTS

My arms!

ANNABEL POTTS

What's wrong?

MISS NIVEN

Her arms they're stiff as rocks.

BRAMBERLY

Pass me her drink.

Bramberly dips his finger in her drink and licks it. He spits suddenly.

BRAMBERLY

Bitter.

(Beat.)

Strychnine!

ANNABEL POTTS

Mother!

She falls to the floor.

BRAMBERLY

I need your strongest drink. Now!

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

Everyone stay back.

BRAMBERLY

It's not going to be pleasant love but I need you to down this.

PROFESSOR JOBINS

Does he know what he's doing?

BRAMBERLY

(Angry)

If we don't get the poison out her airways will close up. Now drink up.

He pours the drink into her mouth with several gulps. Just as he hoped Mrs Potts suddenly vomits.

MISS NIVEN

That's it. Bring it all up.

BRAMBERLY

You should be alright now love.

ANNABEL POTTS

Thank you Bramberly.

BRAMBERLY

(V.O) That was a close one. Lucky. Strychnine poison is a nasty way to go. Anyone of our suspects had the chance again to put it in her drink. Poor Alison in just a few days has been poisoned, lost a husband, found out about an affair and after it all been left nothing in the will. Annabel is getting the lot: the house, the money, the investments. A little is going to his brother Daniel but still, can you believe the man? Write again soon. Your loving father, Randolph Bramberly.

CUT OUT

PART 3LETTER

BRAMBERLY

(V.O) Dear Andrew, Lord Potts is being buried today and we are no closer to working out who killed him. Maybe I'm not as good as I used to be. Detective Mathews seems to believe in me. He reminds me of you a bit but I shouldn't think like that again. With so much on the thought of death at the moment, I seem to be missing you more than ever.

INT. CHURCH

The congregation is singing a hymn.

REVEREND GREEN

We, therefore, commit this body to the ground, earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust; in sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life.

There is some sobbing and crying.

INT. PUB

NEIL

You were there and saw as much as I did.

He continues to clean around them.

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

So you're saying you didn't see who put the poison in her drink?

NEIL

It was a busy evening I could have been anyone.

BRAMBERLY

Including yourself.

NEIL

You better watch yourself Bramberly. The more you keep stringing up accusations and trouble in this family, this village. It won't be long before they will turn on you. Now if you don't mind I need to close up to join the wake.

BRAMBERLY

It's lucky Mrs Potts is up and about so soon.

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

A little more than luck I think.

NEIL

Will you be coming?

BRAMBERLY

Nah, we have an appointment at the bank.

INT. BANK - OFFICE

MR PRICE

As far as I can see it he didn't have much money left anyway. Not in the way of savings.

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

How so?

MR PRICE

The usual for a man who thinks he's always in control.

BRAMBERLY

Gambling. I guess every time he went up to work in London.

MR PRICE

He would come back a little poorer, yes.

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

Who else knows of this?

MR PRICE

No one, just like the will. He only mentioned it to me however he used to be the money focal point of this village. If you were to ask around I'm sure you'll find a few places that have now dropped in significant funding.

The phone starts to ring.

MR PRICE

Gentleman if you would.

The detectives stand to leave.

BRAMBERLY

Ta for your time.

EXT. VILLAGE

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

Is this where Daniel lives? His brother has that nice big house and yet he lives in this state.

BRAMBERLY

Clearly, Lord Potts was someone who clung to his money even when he had some.

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

Why are we here?

BRAMBERLY

If Potts funding was slowly getting pulled from places. I bet Daniel can tell us more about the Library closing.

They knock on the door and it opens.

BRAMBERLY

Hello. In light of more evidence can we have a natter? I heard the kettle a few yards back.

DANIEL POTTS

I guess.

INT. DANIEL'S HOUSE

The tea pours into the mugs from the pot.

DANIEL POTTS

Gambling! I knew he was a worthless bastard.

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

You weren't aware of this at all then?

DANIEL POTTS

No. I guess it makes sense.

BRAMBERLY

Ey up, why's that?

DANIEL POTTS

Well, Kenneth and I recently lost our mother.

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

I'm sorry to hear that.

DANIEL POTTS

(Slowly becoming angrier.)
She was very ill for a long time. I became a full-time carer. Kenneth refused to help with a single penny for her care. His own mother!

BRAMBERLY

Still a sore subject, like?

He sits down to control his breath.

DANIEL POTTS

He wouldn't even help pay for her funeral. He gets this big service today and what did she get? A small cremation then a pint and packet of crisps. She deserved better. She deserved better from him.

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

We actually came over though to ask about the Library.

BRAMBERLY

We want to know if it was funded by your brother.

Daniel sighs in realisation.

DANIEL POTTS

I can't confirm anything but there is said to have been a significant donation coming to the library from someone they won't diverge that was suddenly withdrawn. It is sighted as one of the major reasons for its imminent closure.

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

That's got to be Lord Potts.

DANIEL POTTS

All this time I've been campaigning and he was the reason.

BRAMBERLY

Well it seems now he's gone you can enjoy a large junk of his money. Better late than never I guess.

INT. POTTS HOUSE - LOUNGE

MRS POTTS

Back again I see. I suppose I should thank you.

BRAMBERLY

You're very welcome.

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

Miss Niven showed us in.

MRS POTTS

And what bad news have you brought this time?

BRAMBERLY

Well, how much do you know of your husband's money?

MRS POTTS

Why would I know? I don't talk about such things.

BRAMBERLY

So then you wouldn't be aware of his need for card games?

MRS POTTS

Gambling?

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

It seems his vast fortune that now Annabel is to almost solely inherit is not nearly as lucrative as it once seemed.

MRS POTTS

Why are you telling me this?

BRAMBERLY

First the affair and now a gambling addiction. We have to ask if you knew.

MRS POTTS

What are you implying? So then I stabbed my husband? How absurd. Do you think I poisoned myself as well?

BRAMBERLY

It would eliminate suspicion.

MRS POTTS

How dare you insult me in this way.

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

I assure you we didn't mean to insult.

MRS POTTS

You have! I've been very patient with you but you have. Every time you've spoken to me. And you Bramberly coming in here trying to be high and mighty and above the rest of us but who are you? A working-class Yorkshireman that doesn't fit in here. Someone who doesn't belong in this village. Sticking out like

an unwanted smell. You should be striking in the mines with the rest of them.

Get out my house!

INT. CORNER SHOP

The bell on the door rings as it's opened.

BRAMBERLY
Ey up.

KATTY
That poor family. It's not good losing a loved one. You're not helping much.

BRAMBERLY
I'm getting that idea from most people in the village now. And a first-class stamp.

KATTY
You buy them all the time but I never see you posting a letter.

BRAMBERLY
33 pence is it?

He takes the change from his pocket and it goes straight into the till drawer. No response.

BRAMBERLY
Good seeing you then.

EXT. VILLAGE

BRAMBERLY
Morning Vicar.

He cycles past him.

LETTICE
Yes, I heard. Nothing to his wife.

BRIDGET
Everything to the daughter. That's just not proper.

LETTICE
Some to his poor brother though apparently.

BRIDGET
That's nice.

Bramberly walks past them.

LETTICE

Look it's Bramberly.

BRIDGET

Must be in a hurry to solve it *finally*.

LETTER

BRAMBERLY

(V.O) The village has turned on me now. It was only a matter of time I guess. They're all scared. Scared some more of their secrets will be revealed. I feel more alone than ever though. That's how I felt last time. When your mother left me.

INT. POTTS HOUSE - LOUNGE

MISS NIVEN

How could you do this to me!? How long have I been in your service?

MRS POTTS

Calm yourself down, this is not very professional of you.

MISS NIVEN

But my house.

MRS POTTS

Well, that has changed now. With Annabel soon going to university and me on my own. You can keep the house but your services are no longer required.

Miss Niven takes a deep breath to calm down.

MISS NIVEN

I will see myself out.

ANNABEL POTTS

Mother, what was all that about?

MRS POTTS

Nothing dear but I do need a word.

ANNABEL POTTS

Is this regarding Father's money?

MRS POTTS

You are of course going to give it back to me to

control for you.

ANNABEL POTTS

So you can keep some for yourself.

MRS POTTS

I am your Mother and he was my husband.

ANNABEL POTTS

And how was your marriage going?

MRS POTTS

How dare you speak to me like that! Especially with you galavanting with older men.

ANNABEL POTTS

Galavanting? I love him.

MRS POTTS

We will soon see about that.

INT. MISS NIVEN'S HOUSE

Miss Niven opens up her front door and takes off her coat. She puts down a heap of shopping bags and takes out the milk, placing it in the fridge.

MISS NIVEN

(Under breath)

The cheek of the woman. I can't believe her.

There is the sound of someone from another room.

MISS NIVEN

Hello? Anyone there?

The person is heard creeping into the room.

MISS NIVEN

Oh, it's you. How'd you get in?

The person raises a gun and 'bang!' Miss Niven falls to the ground.

EXT. VILLAGE COMMON

A taxi pulls up and the person inside closes the door behind them. It's raining.

TAXI DRIVER

That's 30 pounds love.

*She hands over the notes and the car pulls away.
She quickly runs out of the rain into a phone
box and puts in some coins.*

REBECCA SMALL

Yes, I'm here. I think this could be a good article.
There's been another murder and you never guess who
they have helping them out? Randolph Bramberly
straight out of retirement, can you believe it? Yes,
I'll see if I can crack him.

EXT. MISS NIVEN HOUSE

*Sirens sound and police gather. There is a crowd
gathered outside. Bramberly and Mathews
walkthrough.*

BRAMBERLY

Move aside. Let us through.

REBECCA SMALL

Randolph Bramberly you're helping the police on this
case?

BRAMBERLY

No comment.

LETTICE

What's happened?

BRIDGET

Is she alright?

LETTICE

You have to tell us something.

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

We can't make any statements at this time.

POLICEWOMAN

Please stand back now.

REBECCA SMALL

So you know who lives here?

LETTICE

Oh yes. This is Audree's house. She works for Lord
Potts. Did you hear about the murder?

REBECCA SMALL

I did. Please tell me more.

INT. MISS NIVEN'S HOUSE

They walk in the door.

BRAMBERLY

We have to make sure we don't talk to the press and definitely not that woman outside.

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

Do you know her?

BRAMBERLY

Unfortunately, she used to work for the London Standard. Unless she's still there. Take it from me, the press is never your friend.

The door to the room creeps open. Bramberly sighs deeply.

BRAMBERLY

Do we know the time of death?

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

The gunshot was heard by the Vicar at two, as the church is neighbouring this house. He called the police immediately.

BRAMBERLY

I can see the gunshot was obviously the cause of death. Do we have the weapon at all?

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

No, but preliminary says the bullet wound shows a simple hand pistol was used. Probably a 19mm calibre.

BRAMBERLY

A service pistol I reckon. Hold on what's all this on the table?

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

Don't know. Some sort of paperwork.

Bramberly rustles through the pages.

BRAMBERLY

Oh aye, this is interesting reading. See here. Lord Potts was in the process of trying to buy the extra land between his field and the church to create new

housing but that would include knocking down this very home occupied by the now late Miss Niven.

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

Ah but if you look here. The Vicar also put in a bid for the land.

BRAMBERLY

I think it's time we go to church. Don't you think, Mathews?

EXT. CHURCHYARD

The vicar is scrubbing away at a gravestone. He stops at the sound of footsteps.

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

Having problems with graffiti, Reverend?

REVEREND GREEN

Those bloody youths. No respect.

BRAMBERLY

Maybe you need to extend the space a bit.

REVEREND GREEN

Ah, you know about that then.

INT. CHURCH ROOMS

Tea is poured into cups.

REVEREND GREEN

I apologise for not telling you sooner. That and the change in will.

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

You knew about the changes?

REVEREND GREEN

Yes. I didn't think it was relevant.

Bramberly jumps up from his chair.

BRAMBERLY

What is it with the people in this village?! Everything to do with Lord Potts is relevant. We *must* be told all the facts.

REVEREND GREEN

Well, you are not exactly the village's number one

fan as of this moment.

He sits back down slowly.

BRAMBERLY

Well aye, that isn't helping either.

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

Please tell us what you know.

REVEREND GREEN

It's pretty simple I wanted to extend the cemetery to allow more people to be buried in the village.

BRAMBERLY

A noble gesture but are you sure you didn't want to one-up your main rival on the council?

REVEREND GREEN

You must be joking Bramberly.

He takes a sip of his tea.

BRAMBERLY

I rarely joke, Vicar.

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

That's true.

Bramberly coughs disapprovingly.

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

Sorry.

EXT. CHURCHYARD

The large doors close behind them.

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

Bramberly.

BRAMBERLY

Yes, detective.

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

The graffiti that the Vicar was scrubbing from the gravestone. When was it done? Cause if it was done around the shooting they could have witnessed who came in or out of Miss Niven's home.

BRAMBERLY

Oh! Good thinking.

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

We better find those youths.

BRAMBERLY

I'll catch you later, got somewhere to be.

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

Want a lift?

BRAMBERLY

Nah, it's alright lad. Only going to the care home round the corner.

INT. PUB

The pub is fairly empty. Mathews approaches the bar.

NEIL

Drink?

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

Just an orange juice.

MS CRYER

Sure you don't want something stronger, Detective?

Ms Cryer walks over to him.

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

Not when on duty, Miss Cryer.

MS CRYER

It's Ms I didn't marry several men to be named Miss and don't forget it.

Neil places the drink on the side.

NEIL

Anything for you madam?

MS CRYER

I'm good. Now, when can I leave this boring village?

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

You *would* have had your passport returned to you this evening however with a new investigation now open for Miss Niven you will now have to wait till Tuesday or

the investigation is complete.

MS CRYER

Can't you see how inconvenient this is for me? I have places to be.

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

Well... Ummm... we are still investigating...

MS CRYER

I need my passport back. They've already rescheduled my audition once. I need it.

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

Ummm...

REBECCA SMALL

I think the Detective has made himself quite clear that it won't be returned to you until the investigation has finished.

Ms Cryer huffs and struts away.

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

Thank you.

REBECCA SMALL

You're welcome. Always happy to help out the police.

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

That's not what Bramberly says.

REBECCA SMALL

And how come he is involved in all this?

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

It was at the request of Mrs Potts that he assist me.

REBECCA SMALL

And how much do you really know about him?

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

He's a legend back in city. He solved the trickiest of cases before he retired early.

REBECCA SMALL

And that's the thing. There is no record of why he retired. No one seems to know the reason. I couldn't even work out where he moved to until it came down the grapevine he was helping you here. Could you help me solve my own mystery?

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

I'm not sure I should.

There is a pause as Mathews takes a sip of his drink.

REBECCA SMALL

Where is the old bugger anyway?

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

Oh, he goes off to the old people's home once a day.
Not sure why.

REBECCA SMALL

Nice speaking to you champ. See you around.

She jumps up and rushes off.

INT. RETIREMENT HOME - GAMES ROOM

BRENDEN

Go fish.

BRAMBERLY

See you're much better at this one.

BRENDEN

Used to play it as a nipper.

BRAMBERLY

I reckon we go back to chess, like.

BRENDEN

Of course, you would.

Bramberly stands up from his chair.

BRAMBERLY

That graffiti on the wall outside that window. That wasn't there yesterday.

BRENDEN

Bloody boys.

BRAMBERLY

Do you know them?

BRENDEN

Yeah, it's old Freddy's grandkids.

BRAMBERLY

Freddy down on Pound Road?

BRENDEN

That's the guy.

BRAMBERLY

Seems like that chess game will have to wait. I can always count on you, Brenden.

He rushes out of the room.

BRENDEN

Oh, goodbye then.

The nurse now comes in with Rebecca.

NURSE

Here he is. Are you sure you know Brenden?

REBECCA SMALL

(Irish accent)

Oh yes. Long lost relative.

NURSE

I must warn you he is very ill at the moment. Low blood pressure. I'll leave you alone.

REBECCA SMALL

(Irish accent)

Thank you kindly.

INT. LECTURE HALL

Annabel blows her nose from crying.

ANNABEL POTTS

I don't think I can do it anymore.

PROFESSOR JOBINS

You've got to finish your O levels. What would your mother say?

ANNABEL POTTS

I'm not talking about that. I still want to go to university.

PROFESSOR JOBINS

But I thought we talked about this. You said yes. You're going to stay and marry me.

ANNABEL POTTS

With Father and now Audree.

(She bites her tongue)

And the way Mother found out about us, putting me and her even further apart. I don't think I can go through with it.

Jobins walks close to her and holds her hand.

PROFESSOR JOBINS

(CLOSE) What are you trying to say?

ANNABEL POTTS

(CLOSE) I can't marry you.

He steps back and throws a bunch of things from the table across the room. Some stuff smashes. Annabel screeches in shock.

PROFESSOR JOBINS

(Shout)

Unbelievable!

His anger calms quickly and he sinks back down.

PROFESSOR JOBINS

Unbelievable...

ANNABEL POTTS

I'm going.

She rushes out of the room and the door slams behind her. Jobins stands breathing slowly to himself.

EXT. FREDDY'S HOUSE

They step out the front door.

BRAMBERLY

Thank you, Freddy. We'll wait around for your grandson to come home.

He closes the front door and they walk away.

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

Wait there he is!

GARRY

(OFF) Uh oh.

BRAMBERLY
Go!

They both start to run.

BRAMBERLY
Don't wait for me. Keep going!

A metal bin is knocked over. Their heavy breathing continues as they run. Garry hits a garden gate but it won't open.

GARRY
Oh, open. Why won't you open?

He keeps trying but the gate doesn't budge. Mathews is heard coming towards him.

DETECTIVE MATHEWS
Right stop there kid. Show me what's in your bag.

Garry huffs and opens up the zip to show the clanging spray painting bottles. Bramberly paces up behind. He is completely out of breath.

BRAMBERLY
Is it him?

EXT. CAFE

Cups are placed down.

GARRY
Just promise me you won't tell my grandad.

BRAMBERLY
That's not our intention Garry. We just want to get some idea of what happened yesterday.

GARRY
What about it?

DETECTIVE MATHEWS
You were around in the churchyard spraying the gravestones when the gunshot happened right?

GARRY
Maybe, what's it to you?

BRAMBERLY
We won't press charges and you tell us what you saw.

DETECTIVE MATHEWS
Now Bramberly.

BRAMBERLY
No Detective this is more important.

Garry takes a deep breath.

GARRY
Now I don't want no suspicion or nothing.

BRAMBERLY
Aye son, just tell the truth and we'll believe you.

GARRY
I was just spraying up the posh twats stones, I'm telling you. Then I hear a gunshot and a man running out of that old lady's house. He throws the gun right at me. I heard the vicar talking on his phone to the police and panicked so I took the gun. It's a nice piece. You hear me?

BRAMBERLY
Did you see who it was that ran out of the house?

GARRY
No, I couldn't make him out.

DETECTIVE MATHEWS
And you're certain it was a man?

GARRY
I know what I saw.

BRAMBERLY
And where is the gun now?

GARRY
Well, I saw all the police cars and I threw it in the skip by the Chinese.

Bramberly tuts.

BRAMBERLY
Well, thank you for disposing of the evidence so effectively. Be on your way.

Garry gets up with his bag.

DETECTIVE MATHEWS
Leave the paint.

Garry empties it with a loud clank onto the floor and rushes off.

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

What do you make of all that?

BRAMBERLY

The killer discarded the murder weapon so carelessly, I wonder if we will ever find it. The bins have been collected this morning.

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

God, I'm getting hungry. Better call it a day and head back.

BRAMBERLY

All the way to city? Come back to mine and I'll cook us up some chops.

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

Oh no, I couldn't...

BRAMBERLY

Come on, boy. I won't take no for an answer.

INT. BRAMBERLY'S HOME - KITCHEN

Bramberly is humming as he throws some chops in a pan with a sizzle.

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

(O.S) You alright!

BRAMBERLY

All good! Time to boil the potatoes.

INT. BRAMBERLY'S HOME - FRONT ROOM

The sounds of him cooking are muffled in the next room. Mathews walks around the room. He picks up a frame.

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

(Under breath)

So that's your son then. Looks young. The troubles were a while ago though I wonder what he's doing now?

He places down the frame and opens the drawer.

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

(Under breath)

What's this? Letters?

He shuffles through them.

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

(Under breath)

None have been posted.

BRAMBERLY

(O.S) You know it's been a while since I've cooked for anyone.

Mathews quickly closes the draw.

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

You're not one for guests then? What about your son?

BRAMBERLY

No, not really.

Bramberly picks up the frame of his son and places it in the draw.

BRAMBERLY

It's nice to have company though.

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

Can I smell something?

BRAMBERLY

Bugger the chops!!!

INT. BRAMBERLY'S HOME - KITCHEN

They rush into the kitchen. You can hear the smoke.

BRAMBERLY

Bugger bugger bugger!

He quickly throws it in the sink and runs the tap. With a sizzle, the smoke stops. Mathews is laughing.

BRAMBERLY

Well look at that now we're both going to be hungry.

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

(Still laughing.)

Yeah, but you running around. You know what. I'll pay for a Chinese.

BRAMBERLY

I'll get it.

He picks up his keys and leaves the front door.

INT. CHINESE

BRAMBERLY

Thanks, Harry.

He takes the bag and the bell on the door rings as he leaves.

INT. BRAMBERLY'S HOME - FRONT ROOM

Mathews is snoring sound asleep. The front door opens.

BRAMBERLY

(O.S) Right got it.

Bramberly comes into the room and sighs at the sight of Mathews. He takes a blanket and throws it over him.

BRAMBERLY

There you go, lad.

He turns off the lights as he leaves the room.

MORNING

Bramberly opens the curtains briskly.

BRAMBERLY

Wakey, wakey. Rise and shine. I've had an early morning epiphany and we can't be late.

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

(Half asleep)

What is it?

BRAMBERLY

Cause of the strikes the bins are getting collected this morning instead this week so if we're quick we might find our gun.

DETECTIVE MATHEWS
Let's go then.

They both jump up.

EXT. CHINESE

Mathews is rummaging around the skip looking for the gun.

BIN MAN
Right Sir we need to take this away now.

BRAMBERLY
Just wait. This is a police matter.

DETECTIVE MATHEWS
Now remind me why is it your not in this bin with me?

BRAMBERLY
I'm not climbing in there. My back will break. My knees are aching just thinking about it.

BIN MAN
If we don't take it away in the next 10 minutes it will have to stay.

BRAMBERLY
How are you doing in there?

DETECTIVE MATHEWS
No need for your help anyway. I've found it.

BIN MAN
Finally.

Mathews climbs his way out and hands it over to Bramberly. The bin men take away the skip.

DETECTIVE MATHEWS
What do you make of it?

BRAMBERLY
It's a standard service handgun. It takes the same calibre as the coroner suggested. I reckon this was issued to Lord Potts when he served. How did the killer get hold of it?

A police siren takes their attention away as the car pulls up and parks right next to them. More police cars join. The doors open and CHIEF

INSPECTOR HARRY MATHEWS steps out.

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

Father, what are you doing here?

CHIEF MATHEWS

Take the evidence away from that civilian. Son, what the hell are you doing?

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

I don't understand we had this almost solved. We found the second murder weapon.

CHIEF MATHEWS

What is all this 'we'? You're the detective. I thought you were ready to step up.

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

I am, I just got some help. This is Bramberly.

CHIEF MATHEWS

I know who he is.

BRAMBERLY

Ey up it's been yonks since I saw you last.

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

You know each other? Why are you here?

CHIEF MATHEWS

Do I have to spell everything out to you? I'm taking over this case and I'm hoping the damage you've caused isn't permanent!

BRAMBERLY

(V.O) I think things may have gotten a lot worse for me now, son. I don't believe in luck but I'm starting to question if I might be needing it. Your loving Father, Randolph Bramberly.

PART 4LETTER

BRAMBERLY

(V.O) Dear Andrew, it turns out I can't keep my past behind me. Eventually, it always comes back like a cancer. I don't know how Mathews will take this. His father is the one I mentioned to you before I retired. It's good to see he is doing well now, after what happened. He reminded me a lot of you when he was younger. That was the problem I suppose.

INT. PUB

CHIEF MATHEWS

So my sources have gotten me a copy of tomorrow's news. Let me read it out to you, son, and see what you think. 'Randolph Bramberly, who many may recognise as the famous Detective who solved such cases as the missing Picasso painting and the murder of St John Francis has recently come out of early retirement to help the now incompetent police solve a new murder. Lord Kenneth Potts of the House of Lords was reported murdered...' Yardy yardy ya... Here's the best bit. 'However, speaking to the village has revealed the dark secret behind Bramberly's retirement'

CUT TO:

EXT. CAFE

Bramberly is sat outside as always.

NICKY

Here.

BRAMBERLY

Ta, love.

He takes a big sip from the cup. Lovely.

KATTY

Will you be going to the Live aid party at the Potts later?

BRAMBERLY

I wasn't told about it.

BRIDGET

It's not proper having a party after the last one.
I'm still shaken.

KATTY

Ooo, yes. Well, it's at 6 if you're interested love.

*They both shuffle off. The pub door across the
road swings open and Mathews storms out in a
huff.*

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

(Shouting)
I need to talk to you!

He gets to the cafe.

BRAMBERLY

Ey up, take a seat.

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

No! I'm not taking a bloody seat.

BRAMBERLY

Right, how much did he tell you?

REBECCA SMALL

Only the truth Randolph.

Bramberly jumps up from his seat.

BRAMBERLY

What have you written? What do you get out of this?

REBECCA SMALL

Me? I get a front-page article about a bent detective
who took a bribe and was found out, only to be put
into a comfortable retirement and not punished like
he should have been.

BRAMBERLY

That's not the whole truth.

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

What is it then? Tell me the truth for once.
(Beat)

BRAMBERLY

I can't.

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

Right, come with me.

He drags Bramberly with him inside the cafe.

INT. CAFE

Mathews locks the doors shut.

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

Excuse us, Nicky.

She picks up something from the side and leaves.

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

Now we are alone I'm going to tell you how I see it. You lied to me. The moment I met you. I looked up to you. Trusted you with this case and the whole time you must have known that if the reason for your retirement ever came to light it would jeopardise all evidence of its credibility, being found by a bent cop.

BRAMBERLY

I understand but I tried not to get involved to start with.

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

But you were more than happy to get stuck in later on.

BRAMBERLY

The whole thing swept me up before I even knew it was happening.

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

Well, thank you very much for your input now my Father has taken over the case and I'm only Assisting.

BRAMBERLY

What about me?

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

What about you? Do you think my father is going to let you anywhere near any of this? I should be grateful I haven't lost my job and you should thank god you haven't been arrested.

There is a knock at the door.

LETTICE

Are you open love?

NICKY

Right, you two. Out of the way.

She walks through and unlocks the door.

NICKY

Sorry, Lettice would you like your usual green tea?

LETTICE

That would be lovely.

BRAMBERLY

Mathews, I'm sorry.

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

I don't want to hear it.

He walks out the door.

BRAMBERLY

Don't go. Let me explain.

LETTICE

I think he's gone, dear.

BRAMBERLY

Just bugger off Lettice you nosy old cow.

He storms out of the cafe.

LETTICE

Oh, I don't think that was needed.

NICKY

You are a bit nosy though aren't you Lettice?

She is audibly shocked.

INT. DANIEL'S HOUSE

PROFESSOR JOBINS

It's great to see you, Daniel.

DANIEL POTTS

Yes. What an unexpected visit.

PROFESSOR JOBINS

I'm going to cut right to the chase. Being the father figure in Annabels life I want you to help me to get her back on my side.

DANIEL POTTS

I'm not really one to talk about love my friend. The hope of that life ended for me many years ago.

PROFESSOR JOBINS

I'm sorry to hear that but I still have a chance.

DANIEL POTTS

As far as I can see it Annabel wants to start her life now maybe she feels you would hold her back.

PROFESSOR JOBINS

Oh yeah, I get that. I just need to pop to the little boy's room on the way out.

DANIEL POTTS

Upstairs on the right. I'll see you at the party later.

He leaves the room and goes up the stairs.

EXT. POTTS HOUSE - FRONT

CHIEF MATHEWS

So the gun you found you believe is a service pistol like the one Lord Potts would have been issued in the army?

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

That's what Bramberly said.

CHIEF MATHEWS

He isn't a part of this case and officially never has been you understand?

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

Yes, Father.

CHIEF MATHEWS

Well then let's finally get this case solved. Find who had the gun and then we'll find the killer.

They knock on the door.

ANNABEL POTTS

Hello?

CHIEF MATHEWS

I'm Chief Inspector Mathews. Is your mother in?

ANNABEL POTTS

No, she's gone out for more party decorations.

CHIEF MATHEWS

No worries anyway.

He pushes his way past her.

INT. POTTS HOUSE - LOUNGE

CHIEF MATHEWS

Did your Father ever keep a gun?

ANNABEL POTTS

Where's Bramberly?

CHIEF MATHEWS

Just answer the question.

ANNABEL POTTS

I wasn't meant to know about it but he kept it in a drawer in the study. I saw him a few times with it when I was a child. He sometimes just sat and held it. I suppose he was reminiscing his army days.

CHIEF MATHEWS

So the study.

He walks off.

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

Thank you, Annabel.

ANNABEL POTTS

Bit pushy isn't he? Any relation?

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

Unfortunately.

INT. RETIREMENT HOME - GAMES ROOM

BRAMBERLY

Where's Brenden?

NURSE

He's asleep at the moment. He's gotten worse recently. Sleeping much more.

BRAMBERLY

I'll just say hello. I won't wake him.

INT. RETIREMENT HOME - BEDROOM

Bramberly creeps through the door and talks quietly.

BRAMBERLY

I just wanted to tell you I don't blame you for telling the journalist about my past. I know it was you, only you know.

I feel so on the outside of the village at the moment. Like when I first moved here but you've always been here for me mate. With my son serving in Ireland and all the troubles they've had over there I suppose I felt wrongly hostile towards the Irish.

But from talking to you first at the pub and then getting to know you we really aren't that different. Neither of us fully fits into this posh community. I think having you to talk to is what's kept me sober. Ta for that.

Brenden starts to make noises as he wakes up.

BRENDEN

You talk too much. you're always so busy. You should stop and just think once in a while.

BRAMBERLY

Wouldn't that be nice? Now get back to sleep mate.

INT. RETIREMENT HOME - CORRIDOR

He closes the door.

NURSE

You know some family came to visit the other day.

BRAMBERLY

Family? That's not likely love.

NURSE

Yes, she said she was his niece Rebecca.

BRAMBERLY

Right. Let me know if anything happens.

NURSE

Of course.

INT. POTTS HOUSE - STUDY

The drawers of a desk are open and closed. The Police are now looking through the stuff in the office.

ANNABEL POTTS

This is where he kept it I promise.

CHIEF MATHEWS

Well, it's rather suspicious that it's gone missing don't you think?

Someone opens the door.

MRS POTTS

What's gone missing? Who let them in?

ANNABEL POTTS

Sorry, Mother. They asked about Father's gun.

MRS POTTS

How do you know about that?

CHIEF MATHEWS

Do you know where it is?

MRS POTTS

Annabel dear if you could leave the room, this is more of a delicate matter.

ANNABEL POTTS

No. I've had it with everyone leaving me out, lying and keeping secrets from me.

Mrs Potts hums disapprovingly.

MRS POTTS

Last month my husband was a little drunk and rather saddened by the death of his Mother. Daniel was round and they had one of their arguments about money and such. The next thing I knew Kenneth had taken out his old pistol and was waving it about. In the state he was in Daniel took it from him and he agreed to look after it since.

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

So the gun is still with Daniel Potts?

CHIEF MATHEWS

Well clearly. Come on let's go.

They both leave.

ANNABEL POTTS

Were you ever going to tell me about this?

MRS POTTS

Why would I need to? It was a one-time matter. It was just lucky your uncle was there.

ANNABEL POTTS

Uncle Daniel has always been there for us.

INT. PUB

Bramberly walks into the fairly empty pub. Rebecca is at a table in the corner, writing notes. He sits down.

BRAMBERLY

I didn't think you could be so cold. It's almost impressive.

REBECCA SMALL

What do you want now Bramberly?

BRAMBERLY

A drink.

REBECCA SMALL

Isn't it a little early for that?

BRAMBERLY

Depends on the situation. For me, I've just been humiliated to the police and soon the whole country and on top of that, the information was obtained by tricking a sick old friend of mine by some slimy, cold journalist. So I'm thinking scotch.

REBECCA SMALL

You only brought this on yourself.

BRAMBERLY

(Shouting)

You don't know anything!

Ms Cryer rushes into the room.

MS CRYER

They're searching Daniel's home. Alison is there now.

REBECCA SMALL

At least someone has done something.

They go to leave.

MS CRYER

Aren't you coming?

BRAMBERLY

Nothing to do with me anymore.

INT. DANIEL'S HOUSE

Police are opening draws, boxes and rummaging through his belongings.

DANIEL POTTS

Be careful with that! What are they looking for?

CHIEF MATHEWS

If we tell you, you may lie to us.

MRS POTTS

Is this really necessary?

CHIEF MATHEWS

This is a murder investigation. Maybe the last Detective didn't stress enough the seriousness of that fact but I am not the same. Now I need you to stay out of my officer's way.

The front door opens. Rebecca and Ms Cryer come in.

CHIEF MATHEWS

No. Get them out. No more visitors thank you.

REBECCA SMALL

Is it true you are searching for the murder weapon?

CHIEF MATHEWS

We are certainly not talking to the press. Out!

OFFICER

Could you both leave the premises?

REBECCA SMALL

Fine. I'll be outside.

The officer closes the front door behind them. Mathews walks into the room.

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

I've found something.

CHIEF MATHEWS

That's not what we are looking for. Keep searching.

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

It's the jacket he was wearing on the night of the murder.

DANIEL POTTS

What about it?

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

I found this in the inside pocket covered in blood.

CHIEF MATHEWS

Good work son.

DANIEL POTTS

Let me see that!

CHIEF MATHEWS

I am afraid this is now evidence.

An officer comes down the stairs.

OFFICER

We found the gun box, sir. Hidden under the bed.

DANIEL POTTS

Of course, it was hidden. If you told me I could have shown you my brother's gun but you'll see it is quite safe inside.

They open the box.

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

It's empty.

DANIEL POTTS

Where is it?

CHIEF MATHEWS

Sitting in evidence where it was discovered discarded in a skip outside the Chinese.

Chief Mathews takes out his handcuffs.

CHIEF MATHEWS

Daniel Potts, I am arresting you on suspicion of the

murder of Lord Kenneth Potts and Miss Audree Niven.
You do not have to say anything but anything you do
say will be taken down and may be given in evidence.

He walks him out of the house.

MRS POTTS

You can't. You don't know it's him.

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

Please stand back. Don't make this worse for anyone.

EXT. DANIEL'S HOUSE

*The front door opens and Daniel is escorted in
handcuffs towards a police car.*

REBECCA SMALL

So is that it Chief have you made the arrest?

CHIEF MATHEWS

No comment. Get out of the way.

REBECCA SMALL

Detective, how does it feel to finally find the
killer?

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

A statement will be released at the correct time.

*Mrs Potts steps out the front door to see the
police cars drive away.*

MS CRYER

I can't believe it. Can you?

MRS POTTS

I can't believe a lot of things that have happened
recently. I guess you won't be staying for the Live
Aid party now.

MS CRYER

Do you still think that's a good idea?

MRS POTTS

It might bring the community back together not that
you've helped.

MS CRYER

Well, I'm sure you'll be happy not to see me for a
while.

Mrs Potts doesn't reply and walks away.

INT. POTTS HOUSE - CONSERVATORY

PROFESSOR JOBINS

So what do you think?

ANNABEL POTTS

You'll pay for the whole thing?

PROFESSOR JOBINS

All three years.

ANNABEL POTTS

And you'll come visit me every weekend?

PROFESSOR JOBINS

I promise. Now can I give you this back?

He opens up a ring box.

ANNABEL POTTS

Oh, I don't know. Aren't I little young for a ring?

PROFESSOR JOBINS

But it shows how much I love you.

ANNABEL POTTS

I know. We'll announce it at the party later.

She chuckles and the door bursts open.

MRS POTTS

Have you heard about your Uncle?

ANNABEL POTTS

No, what's happened?

LETTER

BRAMBERLY

(V.O) I can't do it any longer. I've tried really hard to stay away but the darkness keeps creeping back in. Just one bottle. I'll only have one drink from it I promise. It will just help calm me down and relax me again. Stop me from thinking so much about this case. I'll be okay.

INT. CORNER SHOP

Bramberly places a bottle on the counter.

KATTY

Bad luck with the whole thing.

BRAMBERLY

Ta love.

KATTY

Is it true? What the papers are saying?

BRAMBERLY

I would rather buy my drink and get home, if it's all the same to you, Katty.

KATTY

At least you stopped the graffiti, Detective.

BRAMBERLY

I'm retired remember?

He puts the coins on the counter and takes his bottle.

EXT. VILLAGE

ANNABEL POTTS

(OFF) Bramberly! Bramberly!

She runs up to him until he stops.

BRAMBERLY

It's over. They found the killer.

ANNABEL POTTS

No. It can't be Uncle Daniel I just don't believe it.

BRAMBERLY

You don't have to believe it. You just have to accept it.

ANNABEL POTTS

I've spoken to Detective Mathews he said they'll allow you to talk with him. It's what my Uncles asked for.

BRAMBERLY

What does he want to talk to me for?

ANNABEL POTTS

He's innocent. Please let him explain.

BRAMBERLY

You care a lot for your Uncle?

ANNABEL POTTS

He's been like a father to me really. I can't have him go. Not with everything that's happened.

BRAMBERLY

I will speak with him but I can't promise it will change anything.

ANNABEL POTTS

Thank you.

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

So Daniel Potts what was your relationship like with your late Brother?

DANIEL POTTS

You've already asked me this with Bramberly.

CHIEF MATHEWS

And I want a clear picture of how you killed him.

DANIEL POTTS

I didn't kill him. I'm telling you.

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

Are you able to explain the blooded tissue found in your pocket?

DANIEL POTTS

It wasn't me I didn't put it there.

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

So you were framed?

DANIEL POTTS

Yes.

CHIEF MATHEWS

That could seem plausible but what about your missing gun that was most likely used in the shooting of Miss Niven?

DANIEL POTTS

That gun has been sitting in the box ever since I took it from Kenneth.

CHIEF MATHEWS

And we only have your word for that?

The door opens.

CHIEF MATHEWS

What is it?

OFFICER

Someone is here to speak with the suspect.

CHIEF MATHEWS

What do you mean?

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

That would be down to me.

CHIEF MATHEWS

Let's speak outside.

INT. CITY POLICE STATION

They close the door behind them.

CHIEF MATHEWS

What is the meaning of this?

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

The suspect asked to speak with Bramberly.

CHIEF MATHEWS

This I cannot allow.

BRAMBERLY

Unfortunately for you as a private detective in hire by the Potts family I am entitled to speak with my client regarding the case.

CHIEF MATHEWS

Son, I do not appreciate being undermined in this way.

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

I'm sorry father.

CHIEF MATHEWS

I'll allow 5 minutes with the suspect no more. Do you understand?

BRAMBERLY

Why wouldn't I?

He opens the door.

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM

Bramberly comes in and sits down.

DANIEL POTTS

Bramberly it is so good to see you.

BRAMBERLY

Ey up, we don't have much time to talk so tell me why I'm here.

DANIEL POTTS

I need you to prove my innocence.

BRAMBERLY

And are you? This is very important. Are you innocent of your brother's murder?

DANIEL POTTS

Yes. I'm not a killer. I didn't go to the army like Kenneth. I sware on... on Annabels's life, I did not kill anyone.

BRAMBERLY

The missing gun. The blooded tissue. The money he owed you for the funeral. You and Annabel are the only people left on the will. It's all pointing in your direction. I can see where the police are coming from.

DANIEL POTTS

No, you have to believe me.

The door opens.

OFFICER

Bramberly we have a call for you.

BRAMBERLY

Can it wait?

OFFICER

They say it's urgent.

INT. CITY POLICE STATION

He picks up the phone.

BRAMBERLY

Bramberly speaking. Yes. What's happened? That can't be right I only spoke to him this morning. Ah, I understand. Thank you for getting hold of me. I will arrange to visit when I can. Goodbye.

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

What was it?

BRAMBERLY

Just death knocking on the Irish door.

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

I'm sorry.

BRAMBERLY

Ta if you let me be for a little moment.

He walks away.

CHIEF MATHEWS

So son let's crack this man and we can finish this and go home.

EXT. CITY STREET

Bramberly walks down the steps. He takes the bottle from his pocket and unscrews the lid.

BRAMBERLY

This is to you, Brenden. I'm sorry son. I can't hold on any longer.

He stops and starts to shake. The cars continue to pass. His breathing becomes intense.

AUDIO FLASHBACK

BRENDEN

You should stop and just think once in a while.

BACK TO SCENE

He starts to control his breathing. Bramberly makes the sound of the traffic fade away around him as he stops to think.

AUDIO FLASHBACK

MISS NIVEN

Oh, it must be coming up to 20 years. I was brought

in when Mrs Potts became pregnant with Annabel.

MRS POTTS

Nothing will surprise me, honestly. Especially if it's about my husband's affair. I was informed yesterday afternoon when Kenneth was at that council meeting by Professor Jobins.

BRAMBERLY

A cheese knife. The killer must have wiped it and dropped it here. The vase was smashed before the stabbing.

PROFESSOR JOBINS

I was being blackmailed by Potts about my own affair. The fact of the matter is I love Annabel.

ANNABEL POTTS

They served together in the army before he got married.

MISS NIVEN

It would have been Malaysia 66 I think.

We all have to remember she still is only 19.

MR PRICE

As far as I can see it he didn't have much money left anyway. Not in the way of savings.

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

Is this where Daniel lives? His brother has that nice big house and yet he lives in this state.

DANIEL POTTS

He wouldn't even help pay for her funeral.

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

It seems his vast fortune that now Annabel is to almost solely inherit is not nearly as lucrative as it once seemed.

BRAMBERLY

A service pistol I reckon. Hold on what's all this on the table?

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

Don't know. Some sort of paperwork.

DANIEL POTTS

That gun has been sitting in the box where you found

it ever since I took it from Kenneth.

DANIEL POTTS

I'm not a killer. I didn't go to the army like Kenneth. I swore on... on Annabels's life, I did not kill anyone.

BRAMBERLY

This family, this village is twisted in love like a tangled rope tightening into a knot that can never be undone. We must untangle these people Mathews if we want to find the truth.

BACK TO SCENE

He tightens his grip on the bottle and throws it across the street. It smashes on the ground with an angry scream.

INT. CITY POLICE STATION

Bramberly bursts through the double doors.

BRAMBERLY

Detective a word.

He clicks his fingers and keeps walking.

BRAMBERLY

I know who the real killer is but I need your help.

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

I can't be seen doing this investigation with you anymore.

BRAMBERLY

Well, I need to tell you the facts.

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

I just can't be dealing with you right now.

BRAMBERLY

(Shouting)

Will you listen?!

(Beat)

..because I need to tell you... my son... is dead and has been for many years.

Mathews sits down.

BRAMBERLY

Years ago, when you were just a lad, a budding young cop stepped up to be a detective. I saw so much of my son in him. Some now might say too much. Well, he made a mistake as far as I could see. He allowed himself to take a bribe. This was discovered by my Chief at the time and rather than letting this new cop's future go to nothing I took the blame. Took early retirement and swept the whole thing under the rug. Now I didn't want to tell you this but that young cop was your Father.

CHIEF MATHEWS

(OFF) Now that isn't the whole truth, is it?

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

But the rest is true? You allowed this?

CHIEF MATHEWS

It was all the old Chief's idea. He wanted Bramberly gone.

BRAMBERLY

That's not right.

CHIEF MATHEWS

You were turning up late. Half gone, still drunk. Your son's death hit you and that divorce destroyed what was left. Retiring you was the best option.

BRAMBERLY

I was the best detective this station ever had!

CHIEF MATHEWS

You were but then drink ruined that. Now, what are you? Spreading lies. Interfering in police matters. Sticking your big nose where it doesn't belong.

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

Stop! I won't have this any longer. I'm no longer going to have you talk down to others that don't deserve it. You're a cruel, bully of a cop and not even half the Detective Bramberly can be.

CHIEF MATHEWS

I won't have you speak to me like this in my Police Station!

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

That's fine because we're about to leave and arrest the real killer.

EXT. CITY STREET

They both walk down the steps together.

BRAMBERLY

Ta, Detective. Very Kind.

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

Where are we going?

He is scratching some writing on the paper as he talks.

BRAMBERLY

I need you to gather all the remaining suspects in the college and do this list of things. I will meet you there.

INT. LECTURE HALL

Everyone is sitting in the hall, waiting.

PROFESSOR JOBINS

Why have we been gathered here in my classroom?

MRS POTTS

You know full well I have a party to organise so this better be important.

MR PRICE

Have they arrested the killer already?

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

If you wait just a moment then you will find out the truth of the matter.

REVEREND GREEN

Patience is a virtue in justice.

The door opens and Bramberly strides in.

BRAMBERLY

I would say patience is a virtue in all of life but you're not wrong Vicar when it comes to the work of a Detective.

ANNABEL POTTS

What have you discovered Bramberly?

BRAMBERLY

I have been able to sort out our pesky killer.

MRS POTTS

Who did it?

BRAMBERLY

Please let me explain from where it all began. Your husband, Lord Kenneth Potts, tragic untimely death. Each one of you in this room had the opportunity to stab Lord Potts with the cheese knife but only one participated in that fatal blow. So from the top. The lights go out, everyone starts to sing happy birthday.

AUDIO FROM THE NIGHT, SINGING.

The only light comes from the cake as it is brought into the room, giving the killer the chance to grab the cheese knife from the table and when the candles are distinguished and the room goes dark. Lord Potts is stabbed in the neck.

The bit that doesn't make sense is how did the murder weapon end up across the other side of the room? I forgot one vital moment in my tale.

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

The smashed vase.

BRAMBERLY

Exactly. The killer threw the knife across the room as a distraction and as a clever piece of misdirection for some dim-witted policeman to ponder over.

But then we must ask what knife did they use to stab the victim if they have just thrown it across the room? I wager they had a second identical knife from their own cheese set.

MRS POTTS

That's not possible. Lord Potts brought those knives back from Australia when in the army. They are hand-crafted. Unique.

BRAMBERLY

Well exactly. You would notice the same colour and grain of the wooden handles for each set. Which I bet you didn't realise, did you, Professor?

There is a small gasp.

PROFESSOR JOBINS

What are you possibly insinuating? Why would I kill my best mate?

BRAMBERLY

As we know he didn't approve of your relationship with his daughter.

PROFESSOR JOBINS

But I was going to be with Annabel whatever her father might say.

BRAMBERLY

That might be your thought, you do love her but I think Annabel mentioned she wanted her father's blessing, especially considering her inheritance. You had the chance to marry Annabel and have a cut of the money together to start a new life.

ANNABEL POTTS

But none of us knew about the will till this week.

BRAMBERLY

Well, Mr Price knew and somehow so did the Vicar. Isn't it true that you, the Vicar and Mr Price are common drinking buddies at the local?

MR PRICE

Yes, and I could have let it slip while drinking.

BRAMBERLY

But what about the Brother? Daniel gets a cut unless maybe he's in prison for murder. Leaving Annabel with the full share of the inheritance. What's unfortunate is you probably didn't realise how little money is left. Still, the happily married couple would get the house.

PROFESSOR JOBINS

This is all silly you can't prove anything.

BRAMBERLY

You served in the army with Lord Potts?

PROFESSOR JOBINS

Yes, we all know that.

BRAMBERLY

Malaysia 1966 I think Miss Niven told us. Annabel how old are you?

MRS POTTS

Now there is no need to go there Bramberly.

ANNABEL POTTS

What do you mean Mother? I'm 19.

BRAMBERLY

And 19 years ago Lord Potts came back from the army in high spirits and knocked up your Mother causing the two to get married and save face. However, the dates don't line up, do they? You had to already be pregnant before he returned home.

ANNABEL POTTS

What does he mean? Tell me.

MRS POTTS

While your Father was away we were still only really talking. Daniel stayed because of his dyspraxia they wouldn't let him join.

BRAMBERLY

I didn't notice the connection of your shared dyspraxia as it's not conclusive proof but you've always thought of your uncle as a father figure turns out you weren't far off.

ANNABEL POTTS

Who knew?

MRS POTTS

Only me. Not even Daniel. I made up my mind when Kenneth came back and I made it clear to Daniel who I was to marry.

MR PRICE

But if Annabel isn't Lord Potts's real daughter then she isn't entitled to the inheritance as written.

PROFESSOR JOBINS

This is getting more far-fetched by the minute.

BRAMBERLY

Of course, you knew Alison, that's why he attempted to poison you that night at the pub with strychnine. Something I'm sure isn't too difficult to order as a chemistry teacher. Oh, and Miss Niven worked it out. When needing to do all the paperwork in order to get Annabel into university I think she spotted the discrepancy in the birth certificate and that is why she had to go.

AUDIO FROM THE GUNSHOT

BRAMBERLY

The gun used was a clever touch. Knowing that both you and Lord Potts owned the same pistol you could easily frame whoever had possession of it. You just had to make sure the police found it by throwing it willy-nilly then visit Daniel and take the other gun from the box under his bed so it was missing. With the added touch of the blooded tissue planted when you took Daniel home drunk from the party. Everything was designed to point in one direction, away from you.

PROFESSOR JOBINS

This is all conjecture. You have no proof.

BRAMBERLY

Detective.

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

Yes, Bramberly.

BRAMBERLY

Did you find everything on my list?

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

You mean did I find an identical gun and a full set of cheese knives in Professor Jobbins's home?

BRAMBERLY

That is exactly what I mean.

PROFESSOR JOBINS

So I own identical stuff. We've been friends for years.

BRAMBERLY

Identical? Almost. Let's take a look at those knives.

They are placed on the table and opened up.

BRAMBERLY

One of these things is not like the other. One of these things has a slightly different colour wood to the handle.

He picks it up.

BRAMBERLY

Blood is so hard to get rid of. It runs, it pours, it

stains almost everything and we know the weapon was only wiped clean. We've seen the blooded tissue so there is no way of telling this was the knife that stabbed Lord Potts. Unless...

So now is the time to tell you why we are here specifically in this college today. Detective the lights.

The lights get switched off and there is a small gasp.

BRAMBERLY

In darkness, the truth is revealed. Jobbins you are a very good thrower. I see you every year at the coconut shy. I'm sure you killed in the name of your country but this week you killed in the name of just one person, yourself. You are a clever man so that is why it takes just one cleverer to know that blood can often still be seen using UV light. So when I switch the UV light on...

Mathews turns on the UV light.

REVEREND GREEN

The blood on the knife I can see it.

The lights get turned back on.

BRAMBERLY

If you could do the honours now Detective.

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

Peter Jobbins, I am arresting you for the murder of Lord Kenneth Potts and Miss Audree Niven. You do not have to say anything but anything you do say will be taken down and may be given in evidence.

ANNABEL POTTS

How could you do this?

PROFESSOR JOBINS

I did it for us so we could have a life together.

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

Officers take him away.

They escort him from the room in his handcuffs.

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

Thank you everyone for your time and corporation on

this case. All passports will be issued back to you in due course.

MS CRYER

Too bloody late.

Annabel is crying.

ANNABEL POTTS

Mother, I'm sorry.

MRS POTTS

Come here, darling. It's over now.

ANNABEL POTTS

We should get back for the party.

MRS POTTS

Let's not do the party. We'll go get your uncle and watch it just as a family for once.

ANNABEL POTTS

Thank you.

BRAMBERLY

Did you do the last thing on the list?

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

Rebecca has arranged the press for a statement outside. What are you going to say?

BRAMBERLY

Oh no, I won't be saying a thing. As you have rightly pointed out any evidence related to me will not stand in court. This is your moment to step up, son.

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

But what about you?

BRAMBERLY

I think I'll go away for a bit. Let this blow over.

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

It was a pleasure.

BRAMBERLY

Thank you, Detective.

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

No thank you, Detective.

They both chuckle.

DETECTIVE MATHEWS

Here we go then.

Mathews opens the door to the sound of busy journalists and flashing cameras. The sounds stop as the door is closed.

LETTER

BRAMBERLY

(V.O) Dear Brenden. I am going away for a while now. I thought maybe the new air would do me good. I miss coming over to talk to you, you always had something interesting to say.

When I first met you, you suggested writing these letters and that has helped me through my battle with drinking. This tragic event has made me think it's time I told you something you already know. Something I've kept from myself.

My son is dead. He died in service in Ireland many years ago and I need to stop pretending that didn't happen. Just like I need to accept that you're not with me now either.

Thank you mate. All the best. Randolph Bramberly.

P.S. Checkmate.

THE END