

# **Tam Dyer DCS**

**by**

**Walter Brown**

## **Chapter One**

### **A difficult early morning start**

Detective Superintendent Tam Dwyer located at Divisional Headquarters for Cardiff West received a call at 0110am from central control informing him his attendance was required at 16 Ferryman Avenue Cardiff a much sought after residential area; composed of detached well maintained properties, architecturally pleasing to the eye and costing; when they first came on the market 12 years ago, in excess of £220K the price had risen considerably since then. It was alleged domestic violence had taken place possibly resulting in fatalities. The owner; as reported by the next door neighbour had gone berserk and he was inside the house refusing to let anyone enter. Four uniformed police officers were at the scene awaiting instructions.

Arriving at the house located in a street where the gutters and sidewalks were regularly swept and the lawns; with not a fence in sight, lay green and manicured to perfection. He found Sgt Davies an experienced officer 32 years old and not a man given to panic was pleased to see him. He was shocked and mystified however on learning the person inside was a man he considered to be a friend; a man who with his family had sat at his table and enjoyed a meal, discussing past and recent Rugby matches whilst their wives who were close

friends talked of children and debated the latest gossip. Mr Euan McGill the owner of this property was a Goliath of a man. Known in the town as a gentle giant; a hard worker, who enjoyed a beer and a game of darts at the Miners Arms on a Saturday night. Respected by his employers, friends also neighbours as a generous; loving, caring, devoted family man always willing to lend a hand to those in need.

“You’ve no idea at all of what may have happened within this house?

“No sir a Mr and Mrs Thomas; who live in the house to the right of this property, stated they were disturbed by hearing raised female and male voices just as they were off to their bed at around 1100 pm last night. They tried to settle down for the night but were kept awake by ongoing; strange and unusual noises coming from the McGill’s home. Mr Mc Gill a civil engineer who’s been working away at a construction site in Merthyr Tydfil was heard arriving home about twenty past midnight. Apparently that was when all hell broke loose; there was a loud thumping and banging with Mr McGill, whose voice they recognised, swearing and shouting something awful. The words they heard first were; ‘you bastard I’ll kill you; I’ll kill you, followed by a terrible groaning and clattering as if someone had fallen heavily down the stairs. For several minutes they said there was a strange uneasy silence then; clear and distinct, the words

‘Nooooo; Nooooo, it can’t be; it can’t be, my wife, my children all dead why lord; why? being repeated over and over again. Sounding more like long drawn out screams of mental anguish; followed by the hearing of loud; very deep and painful sobbing. accompanied by a heavy hammering of a fist or other object on the floor boards. Truly awful; fair made ones hair stand on end. Now thoroughly alarmed and being extremely concerned for the safety of the two children and their mother they decided to call the Police”

“Sgt Davies have you noted all of this?

“Yes sir exactly as was said to me”.

“Well done you did right in not entering the house and requesting a senior officer attend; let’s not take chances, Radio the station request as urgent an ambulance and the on call doctor. Whilst were waiting for medical back up listen to me; Mr McGill is a respected member of this community he’s never ever been known to be violent; never and my every instinct is telling me that some truly awful and very serious incident has happened within this house. I ask everyone to brace themselves for the worst possible scenario” He turned as the ambulance appeared its blue lights flashing with thankfully its siren turned off bearing a paramedics’ team closely followed by the on call Doctor”..

“Mr Dwyer, Dr Hislop where’s the patient?

Swiftly the officer explained the situation. “Dr; It may be required for you to sedate Mr McGill and in a hurry so make ready. He is a huge man of immense strength and 15 stone or more in weight. You’ll follow us in, but stay well back until we have control of the situation. Para medics wait here with your vehicle. Sgt stand guard let no one enter the house until you hear from me. Right lets check the back door first it may not be secured. Remember we need to be as quiet as possible keeping the element of surprise on our side. If he offers violence don’t hesitate; bring him down, keeping him securely held whilst the doctor applies the sedative and until its taken effect”

They found the rear door standing ajar and silently entered proceeding with extreme caution towards the foot of the stairs with the sound of; deep heart wrenching sobs of a tormented soul that had experienced a terrible; grievous mental and physical happening, echoing from above. A male person; his face totally unrecognisable from having suffered several; fearsome blows, with his chest and back looking as though it had been clawed by an angered; ferocious wild animal, lay in a twisted; untidy heap at the foot of the stairs. The Superintendent; with a finger to his lips for silence, knelt and without disturbing the body confirmed he was dead. The four officers continued slowly upwards placing each; rubber soled booted foot, with the utmost care onto each stair tread making

certain noise was kept to a minimum. Reaching the upstairs landing they paused for a moment to determine from whence the anguished sobbing was coming then moved forward entering the master bedroom. The Superintendent with a well trained eye observed the nightmarish scene before him; committing to memory each and every sad detail of the horrific scene he had encountered. A woman; her face; unrecognisable and frozen in an expression of agonising pain and pure terror, lay upon a heap of tangled and twisted bedclothes, her nipples were shredded, upper thighs badly bruised, pubic hair, body and the bed linen were heavily stained with blood. Her finger nails; now virtually non existent, were bloodied and torn explaining the deep scratch wounds suffered to chest and back by the man at the foot of the stairs. Serve the bastard right thought the Superintendent he bloody well deserved it and more besides. His eyes came to rest on the children's bruised and broken naked bodies that had bled from several knife wounds; lying in an untidy heap tight up against the wall. Judging by the smears of blood on the wall it was evident they had been thrown against it with considerable force before sliding down to reach their final resting place. He prayed their moment of suffering; terror and pain had been short, he focussed his attention on Mr McGill who had risen to his feet from a kneeling position by the bed and faced the officers. The Superintendent looked onto a face

filled with a terrible heart breaking sadness heightened by a pair of eyes deeply reddened from crying filled; not only with the wetness of tears but, also showing visible evidence that here was a person who having suffered a terrible; mind and soul destroying trauma, had completely lost all sense of reason.. In his maddened state and; with a bellow like that of an enraged bull he rushed at the officers “bring him down” roared the Superintendent, diving for the legs of McGill. Under the combined weight of the police officers the man was borne to the floor with a crash that shook the house. He continued to struggle violently striking the officers with savage damaging blows using fists; hardened by years of manual graft, causing the officers painful bruising before he was finally brought under a measure of tight control.

“Doctor quickly now we’ll not be able to hold him for long” The doctor stepped forward and injected a strong swift acting powerful sedative into the mans upper arm and swiftly stepped back as McGill started a fierce and desperate attempt to break free once more; the officers maintaining their grip not daring to let go for fear of what might happen. The man’s struggles grew weaker and weaker as the sedative rapidly took hold. Finally he was still.

The officers came painfully to their feet “bloody hell that could have been very nasty indeed he was a right handful.

That was a beautiful tackle sir glad it wasn't me on the receiving end"

"Thank you Constable Howarth but my ribs and right shoulder have taken a fair hammering and no mistake. You'll not be able to see properly soon; he caught you fair and square on your right cheekbone and its swelling rapidly. Is your arm ok Mitchell?"

"Bruised only I'm thinking sir it took his full weight when he crashed to the floor"

"Dr will you take a look at these two officers to make sure they haven't suffered a serious injury?"

"Certainly Superintendent best to be safe than sorry; I'm rather concerned about Mr McGill you might not be aware of the fact that straight jackets are no longer carried in ambulances and I feel very strongly this man should be secured in some way. That sedative will only last about an hour and we might not be so lucky trying to bring him back under control if he breaks free"

"I agree doctor ask the Para medics to stand by to transfer him to a secure mental hospital ward"

"Your officers are fine; like you, they'll definitely have some lovely coloured bruises showing by tomorrow morning and they will be painful"

“Constable Laverne guard the rear door let no one in without my say so”

“Constable Howarth see if you can find some stout rope; use it to bind his feet together and securing his arms against his sides; not to tightly mind, his blood supply must be kept flowing freely. Doctor; with safety in mind, can you safely give him another dose of sedative for his journey to hospital? I’ll be on the phone in the hallway arranging for the Duty Pathologist and Scene of Crime Investigation Unit to attend”

“Tam I’m ready to go I’ll administer the sedative when he’s in the ambulance. At the hospital; I’ll recommend he be kept sedated and strapped to a bed, in a secure ward under constant observation. If he has completely lost his sanity; which I firmly believe to be the case, nobody will want him going on the rampage putting innocent lives at risk”

With Doctor Hislop and his patient safely out of the way the Superintendant left the house for a breath of fresh air there was nothing more that he could do now. His theory was that McGill had arrived home to find his wife being raped and tortured by a complete stranger, who had also abused and viciously killed their children. Realisation that this unknown person had destroyed all that was precious and beloved by him; had driven him over the edge, he had taken vengeance on the man using his enormous fists; striking his face with a

savage force strengthened by madness then, lifting him bodily had hurled him headfirst down the stairs killing him outright. If that was the case; it would be better if he never recovered his senses and also suffered a complete and permanent memory loss. .

The newest addition to the Crime Scene Investigation Unit Charles Lomax a 26 year old sparsely built Welshman from Snowdonia always neatly dressed with dark brown hair and eyes to match; a man who spoke softly moving with the ease and quietness of a cat arrived with his team. Tam had taken an instant liking to him when they first met.

“What have you got for us Tam?”

“Hello Charles; one male; dead in a heap at the foot of the stairs with his face stove in, upstairs in the master bedroom; one adult, a female giving every appearance of having put up an incredible fight whilst being violently assaulted and raped. This fact is borne out by the heavy; deep clawing of the dead mans chest and back. Plus two children offspring of the dead woman and her husband who’s on his way to a mental hospital ward. Death was definitely caused by a terrible; physical and brutal violence which included the use of a knife. Nothing has been disturbed or touched and I’m pretty sure the man responsible for this tragedy is the man at the foot of the stairs”

“I’ll get the team started then Tam”

“Right listen up all of you; those officers who have just arrived give your names to Sgt Davies then I want one of you to first secure the back door; then take up position at the front door, keeping a log of all persons calling at this house. Names and addresses in full plus a telephone number please. Members from the Media will appear; they’re to be told a statement will be issued later today and nothing more. Sgt Langton; you shall act as senior officer. A Mr and Mrs Thomas live in the house on the right, ask them if they would kindly call at the station today and make a statement of all they heard last night let the duty officer know their coming. Constables Daniels and Selby call on the residents and apologising to the occupants for disturbing them; find out if an unknown adult male was seen loitering in the vicinity yesterday and if possible obtain a description. Sgt Davies; Constables Mitchell, Laverne and Howarth, tonight due to excellent team work we’ve suffered only a painful bruising; it could have been much worse, Sgt Davies report back to the station and arrange for the officers on SOC duty to be relieved at 2pm then you and these three officers are off duty for two days. Make sure your notebooks are completed; a full report on this incident will be required from each of you.

“Charles do you need me for anything if not I’m going home to bathe; change my clothes and try to close my eyes for a

couple of hours. The Chief Constable wants to see me at 12 noon in my office and he's a stickler for punctuality"

"That's fine Tam; the area has been secured and taped off. My team has already started work and you'll have my report around; or shortly, after lunchtime tomorrow"

## Chapter Two

### A major career change for Tam

Just before 12 DS Tam Dyer still feeling and looking like a man who had been involved in an ill matched boxing contest slowly and painfully mounted the steps of Police Headquarters Cardiff.

On his way through the reception area the desk Sergeant advised him that Chief Constable Evan Hughes and DCS Evans was waiting in his office.

“Thank you Sgt could you organise some strong black coffee to help me stay awake and also for our visitors the CC has two sugars, non for DCS Evans?”

“Certainly sir, be about 10 minutes.

Reaching his office he entered; thankfully, the window was open with a cool breeze taking the edge off of a room that was stuffy and over heated. “Afternoon sir, Hywell, coffee is on its way”

“Heard you had a bit of a rough do this morning Tam? Mr McGill the man responsible for making you so out of sorts will not be facing trial unfortunately; he suffered a massive stroke at 3.45am, followed by a second shortly after 5am he then slipped into a coma from which he never recovered. It is

extremely sad that such a well thought of kindly man should go like that; he was responsible for organising the rebuilding of that boys club in Mold, did an excellent job doing most of the work himself, there's also a lot of elderly folk for whom he did many an odd job; charging them nothing, they shall miss him and no mistake. An early detailed report would be appreciated”

“The McGill's were also friends of my family sir; he with his wife had been welcome guests at my home on numerous occasions. My wife is greatly upset over the loss of McGill's wife Eloise; who was not only her closest friend but also a trusted confidant. Euan's wife was a kind and caring woman who did a tremendous amount of charity work within the community. Her soprano voice was admired by all and will be sadly missed in the Chapel choir. Their two children were a delight and extremely well mannered and shall also be greatly missed. I'd like time off to attend the funeral if that's in order sir“

That's fine; no problem at all, you'll not be the only officer attending Tam there were many officers who knew Euan McGill and his family including myself regarding them with great respect and admiration.

In my report I shall be making a special mention of the officers who assisted me they really proved themselves and

their ability to work as members of a team. Like me they took some heavy punishment and will really feel the effects when they wake up. I've relieved them from duty for two days well deserved recuperation”

“That’s fine; no problem at all, now my reason for my being here with Hywell, You’ve no doubt heard rumours about proposed plans for a ‘Serious Crime Unit’ to cover North Wales; finally the Police Authority for Wales received full approval and the necessary funding from HM Government and since then a number of qualified and very experienced people have been deployed on bringing the agreed plans to fruition. After much deliberation; despite being just 29 years old, your service record and several letters of recommendation received; persuaded them to offer you the post as Officer in Command. This decision received my full endorsement and approval including; your promotion to that of Detective Chief Superintendent. A notice was posted at all Police HQs and stations the length and breadth of the UK inviting those who are interested to make application for a post with the SCU. Only 12 so far have met with their requirements. A civilian Ms Rosemary Symons employed at Scotland Yard for the past 17 years applied for the secretary’s post and was accepted. She started this morning organising her own office which is alongside your own. SCU has to be fully operational as from the 20<sup>th</sup> March you’ll have to be

organised and ready to go by then. It's not going to be an easy task in fact; definitely no stroll in the park, it's going to be damned tough. If you do decide to take the post; from day one it will mean the giving of total dedication to work in hand and a real determination to succeed. You will have to work your command hard and be prepared to discipline any officer that steps out of line. Patience and tact will prove to be an immensely important factor of the Post especially when dealing with members of the Home office and senior officers of local and district authorities. There is not one iota of doubt in my mind that you're the officer with the capabilities required for this very important position however; with honesty, will you be entirely happy within your self accepting this commitment knowing it is one involving immense responsibility? Should you need time to consider take the rest of the day off however; an answer is needed by 0900 tomorrow morning.

“Sir I have been paid a great compliment; by your approval and endorsement of the Police Authorities decision to appoint me, I thank you for that and I'll do my damndest not to disappoint the expectations of yourself or the Welsh Police Authority. Where shall I be operating from?

“Thank you for that Tam it is exactly the answer I wanted to hear; let me make clear, a few relative points. Your appointment is immediate DI Williams who has worked

closely with you over the past 18 months has been instructed to take over your outstanding cases. Your headquarters shall be in the very spacious detached two story unit next door. A substantial building on which work commenced three months ago, making necessary alterations and giving it a complete refurbishment. Once you have studied the plans in this folder I'm sure you will agree that it has been well thought out and entirely adequate for your needs”

“Pressure is being brought to bear on all heads of Criminal Investigation departments within the United Kingdom to reduce the ongoing increasing percentage of crime being experienced at all levels especially those classified as most serious. That is the main reason for the forming of ‘Serious Crimes Units’ Throughout England, Scotland and Wales, Where the occasion arises and borders have to be crossed common courtesies shall at all times be observed. There is also the question of a large number of cases; serious and minor, as yet unsolved. They expect those figures to be rapidly reduced. As an officer of senior rank you will be expected to handle some of the more involved cases. There is one over which I am seriously concerned; a Mrs Garret of social services has grave concerns over the safety and well being of several children; offspring of the Jackson and Colby Families. She has brought the matter to the attention of her seniors urging them strongly to take action without success.

If all she is alleging proves to be the truth one or more supposedly responsible people; has failed these children and failed them badly; I need you to keep me posted on this case Tam it could be opening a very large can of worms and Home Office assistance may be needed. This folder contains copies of her letter and several reports to me. Until the actual truth is learnt treat it as highly confidential. Should the press come to hear about this and; you'll understand why when you've read the case history, they'll have a field day and you'll be in the firing line" any questions".

"Yes I have one serious question there will be a need for two experienced competent senior officers of inspector rank to deal with crime incidents arising and is there a chance of having Sgt Davies and Catlow transferred to SCU if they accept the offer of a post? Both are 27 years old single and have attended various courses relative to CID working, Man management and First aid attaining excellent results. They have worked for me on several occasions and would in my opinion prove of real value to the unit.

"What say you Hywell it means you'll be two Sgts short?

"I have a first class officer name of Miller with experience who has requested a transfer to CID several times however; with no vacancies available, it was not possible to grant his request. Miller would be a good man for you Tam; he's the

longest serving of the three, 28 years old well educated gaining top grades in all training courses attended so far including CID work. A damn good team player with strong interests in several sports especially rugby; he does not smoke, enjoys an occasional pint and has no interest; at the moment, in the fairer sex. His own family were wiped out in a car crash and he now lives with his Grandmother who dotes on him. A lovely lady she was born and bred in Wales and has a nice property in Roffy street off the top end of Prince Edward VII avenue. I reckon he'd jump at the chance of joining your unit and it would solve a problem because he is long overdue for promotion as is Davies and Catlow will you give him a chance?

“Thank you Hywell can he be transferred at once along with Davies and Catlow there'll be plenty of work for them I'm thinking”

“Not a problem will you confirm the promotions Sir?”

“I agree with your recommendations all three officers are familiar with the assigned area and its known villains. I'll see to it on returning to my office; promotions for all three will be effective as from tomorrow, Hywell make certain the three sgts are informed reporting to Tam in the morning by 0800 smartly dressed wearing a suit and tie. Right the time is just short of 1400 we've 20 minutes before I must get back to my

office lets introduce Tam to his Secretary and see what he thinks of his new headquarters”

Tam was given a swift tour of his new station and was pleased with all he saw. It became very clear to him that a great deal of thought had gone into the design and anticipated needs of SCU headquarters and he said as much to the CC as he left the building also pointing out that a team would be required to cover reception and custody 24/7. He was advised this matter had been dealt with and officers assigned those duties.

Tams secretary; a widow in her late forties; her well kept figure dressed in clothes that had been chosen with comfort in mind, she had piercing grey eyes and was of a pleasing disposition and had made rapid progress in setting up her office. He strode in to find her testing a brand new; very impressive, word processor.

“I prefer to be on first name terms it lends to a friendlier atmosphere if that’s ok with you Ms Symons”

“Definitely Tam; Rose or Rosemary suits me fine but please, never Rosie. I’m ready to go if you wish to make a start?”

“First I’ll need to go through the appointed officers files. Then there is this Jackson family and also relatives about which the CC is most concerned; a confidential case file will

be needed and, it must be kept secure. I'm intending to establish working teams. A file must be kept on each team plus a confidential file for each team member. I shall have the team list sorted by end of this afternoon"

"Sitting at his desk he took a few moments to again observe; with real pleasure, his well appointed office suite which included a substantial conference room with a large oval highly polished table and comfortable seating for 8 persons. Then began the task of carefully selecting his teams from a total work force of 15 officers time passed swiftly and it was approaching 1700 before he laid down the last file. He stood and stretched his body still feeling the effects of the struggle with Mr McGill he called to his secretary; "how are you getting home Rosemary?

"I've my own car thank you Tam calling it a day then?

"Yes to make a start 4 teams have been selected and I shall read through the Jackson file this evening. There is a fair amount to do and I'd like to make a start at 0730 tomorrow Sgts Catlow, Davies and Miller shall be reporting at 0800. Could you on the way home purchase some tea, coffee, sugar and a selection of biscuits? I'll pick up 2 pints of fresh milk on the way in. He handed over £10:00 will that be enough?

"That's plenty see you in the morning good night Tam"

“Good night and thank you”

As he made to leave his phone rang it was Hywell... evening Tam just to let you know three PCs and one Sergeant close to retirement for front desk duties also three Sergeants for custodial duties; a real credit to the force and their seven year history as police custody officers is outstanding, shall report your office by 0800 tomorrow. Inspector Cordyne an excellent officer who gained three commendations for bravery during the last five years at the sharp end in London shall be in command of both positions. The officers appointed for these positions were selected after undergoing a tougher than usual interview by senior officers of the Welsh Police Board. Now away home to your Ursula give her my regards... keep me posted and good luck...

## Chapter Three

### End of a long and tiring day.

Tam feeling wearied by the long day and awful experience of the early morning; his thoughts dwelling on the unexpected promotion and what the future may or may not hold for him and his family was in sore need of a hot meal and, an undisturbed nights rest... He was truly grateful when he at last closed his front door; entering into a place of peace and tranquillity; a home that was welcoming and filled with a real depth of love further heightened by the appearance of his wife. A huge smile of joy lightened his face as he tenderly embraced this wonderful person; who had chosen to share his life giving him help and, moral support throughout the experienced difficult patches of their lives. His love for her as deep and as strong as when he first set eyes on her acting as secretary to the Chief Constable, and unafraid to show it at every opportunity. He held her close slowly relaxing losing the tensions of the day in the warmth of her closeness.

“Come now Tam I can tell you’ve had hard day how is Euan is he still in hospital?”

“Sorry my love early this morning he suffered two serious strokes, went into a coma then mercifully passed away. Now

don't go upsetting yourself Euan is at peace and with his family let us be thankful for that. There is much to tell you about the rest of my day and all of it good. I'll just nip upstairs and whisper good night to Pamela and Jacqueline”

“Be sure you don't waken them Tam they need their sleep and put your work to.....”

He silenced her by planting a tender kiss upon warm and responsive lips several minutes passed before she gently but firmly removed her self from his encircling arms. “Enough already your supper will be spoiling; go see the girls are safely tucked in then; sit you down with a drink and I'll put our food out its all ready”

Their supper was of roast lamb new potatoes and Broccoli with a delicious mint sauce followed by a dish containing fresh fruit salad topped by a generous helping of Raspberry ice cream. The dishes and pots were cleansed and put away before they retired to the lounge to enjoy a cooling drink: Orange for Ursula and Beer for Tam who by this time was reaching a totally relaxed frame of mind. As was their habit developed over six years of undeniable very happy life they related the happenings of their day. Tam not wishing to upset his wife did not go into full details of his findings at the

McGill house instead he told her of his selection and promotion by the Welsh Police Authority fully endorsed by the Chief Constable to command a new unit dealing with serious crime in North Wales. He also made mention of the special case entrusted to him by the CC on which he wanted to spend an hour before retiring. Now no more talking about work lets discuss this idea you've had to help the children physically develop. Your mind is set on having a slide; climbing frame and Trampoline complete with safety net, plus swings in the garden. I believe it to be a cracking idea and, with my rise in salary how about a summer house with a nice comfortable chair for you and a cot for the baby you can then spend time out in the fresh air with the baby and keep an eye on the twins. Nothing tacky or cheap mind"

The last payment on our mortgage is due next month and having experienced a substantial debt and the struggle caused to meet the payments I do not want to create a similar situation Tam"

"I totally agree the paying of the mortgage was a nightmare at times. Lets make a start on the project by making enquiries; looking at various supplier catalogues and costs involved then make our decision"

“Thank you Tam I reckon you’d agree to anything that would make me and the children happy. Just another three months to go and you’ll be nursing the baby, spoiling it just like you do the twins. Now I’m feeling rather tired; mind you don’t spend too long on that file you’ll need your wits about you tomorrow I’m thinking”

“Just an hour no more my lovely it’s an early start for me: shall be leaving here before 7 and I’ll try to be really quiet so as not to disturb any one”

“Tam you’re not leaving here without your breakfast this little one I’m carrying gets rather restless wakes me with its continuous movement. Very energetic so it is; it’s as if it cannot wait to make an appearance. How about some scrambled eggs on toast with a strong cup of tea it will give you strength for the day ahead”

“I would enjoy that to be sure; better than a ham and egg roll from the café. Do you reckon the baby could arrive early? In case I’m needed this is my secretary’s number tomorrow will let her know of the impending event and Rosemary will put the call straight through to me”

“Do not worry your self; everything is fine, the Midwife is visiting me tomorrow she’ll let me know if there is to be an early arrival. Mrs Thomas has a lifetimes experience in Midwifery I trust her to deliver our child safely just as she did the twins”

With a last kiss he wished her pleasant dreams and settled down to read the Jackson Case. Just over an hour later he locked the file in his briefcase understanding fully why the Chief Constable had said it could be opening a can of worms. What he had read in the Jackson family file filled him with disgust and deeply felt loathing for those responsible. It was a very serious issue that must be resolved without further delay. Several young persons; according to records kept by a Mrs Garret of social services, had suffered years of sexual and physical abuse through; an unforgivable failure to act, by those who were supposed to protect them. They must not be allowed to suffer further and those responsible must be punished and punished severely.

## **Chapter Four**

### **Work begins in earnest**

“Morning Tam you've made an early start then; here is your change and the till receipt. Hope you like my choice of biscuits; fancy a coffee?”

“Good morning Rosemary yes a coffee would be nice and those biscuits are fine. Will you join me then we'll discuss what needs to be done?”

“As I said before leaving I have selected 4 teams; consisting of three officers numbered and lettered for reference purposes SCU-T1 – SCU-T4 this number shall be clearly shown on all correspondence including reports relating to the cases or cases being investigated by each team. They are to be kept in the security file cabinet. The case file will be made available to all officers involved in ongoing investigations No one; accept you and I will have access to the officer's personal records without my express authority.

“Sounds fine to me Tam however; would suggest, the officers' personal records are kept in a separate cabinet. There are two in my office and you have one in here for your own use. On the case files suggest keeping a register of cases in

my office to be updated on a daily basis. A key cabinet has also been provided to which you and I; with security in mind, hold a key each and no one else”

“Excellent idea lets do that.... Come he called as a knock came at his door”

“Tam there is an urgent call on line 2”

“Please take a seat whilst I deal with this call... DCS Dwyer speaking”

“PC Langwynn sir, acting on instruction from Sergeant Colain of James Street Station reporting a serious incident of robbery and grievous bodily harm involving two shops, the off licence and newsagents located in Lindsey Crescent. Their owners and several elderly persons have suffered injury. An elderly male and his wife savagely beaten about the head and faces with a metal bar are in a critical condition they were conveyed under police escort to hospital. Paramedics are dealing with the remaining injured; non critical, preparing to take them to Cardiff General. SOCO have been advised and are on the way. Several witnesses who supplied very good descriptions of the persons responsible; believed to

be five local men and one female, have agreed to await the arrival of your officers”

“Sgt Davis will be with you very shortly. I shall require a written statement of your findings also action taken on arrival at the scene. Constable Langwynn you submitted a clear and concise report and your senior officer shall be made aware of this fact thank you”

“A rather nasty crime of robbery with violence has been committed at the parade of shops in Lindsey Crescent. Sgt Davis and Catlow take the mini bus and meet up with a PC Langwynn at the scene Sgt Davis you will remain and assist SOCO (Scene of Crime Officer). Sgt Catlow shall ferry the witnesses back here and obtain recorded also signed written statements then allow them to view mug shots of local villains. Sgt Miller; attend Cardiff General Hospital and obtain a detailed list of injuries suffered by the victims and condition reports then return to Lindsey crescent and assist Sgt Davis. Sgt Davis I will arrange for additional officers to help you. I’d like to see them under lock and key before this days out all clear...good then get to it”

“Tam the officers waiting to report are seated in the conference area and have given me their personal details.

“Excellent... Hywell good morning have you any officers spare need them to assist Sgt Davies at Lindsey crescent?”

“No problem will send three who can handle themselves; could be needed if the men responsible are the same as I have in mind, nasty; vicious buggers they are and no mistake”

“Good morning gentlemen sorry to have kept you waiting welcome to the North Wales Serious Crime Unit. Sgt Rowan.... I am aware that your due for retirement in 18 months and you accepted this post due to being seriously injured during a protest rally by a human rights faction; are you now feeling fit enough to recommence work?”

“Yes sir the doctors have given me a clean bill of health though I was left with a permanent limp”

“Excellent there are a few ground rules to take note of; when I enter this building I shall expect to see the reception area clean and tidy. PC Munro, Evans and Mace it is pleasing to see that you’re smartly turned out this morning keep it up. I do not like sloppiness of dress and also poor time keeping it will not be tolerated. Record keeping when on duty must be of the highest standard illegible written reporting will not be

acceptable. Sgt Rowan security of files and records must be borne in mind at all times. Duty starts from today draw up a duty roster and let Rosemary have a copy. I will interview each of you separately after I've studied your files. I sincerely hope all of you will be happy in your work here at SCU should you ever need to speak with me my door is always open. Any problems let me know. Rosemary could you take Sgt Rowan and his team downstairs show them the reception area and equip them with items of stationery needed.

“Inspector Cordyne; gentlemen please accept my apologies for keeping you waiting. Amoha Sarak, Abiraj Buhil, Adjit Saajan the officers stood as there names were called” Tam studied each one; their attitude was one of respect; with a steady eye and a handshake that was firm and strong, he was much impressed with their impeccable dress which included a very smart dark blue turban. They were a credit to the force and he was extremely pleased to welcome them as members of the SCU team. These men would not let him down of that; in his own mind, he was absolutely certain. “I see from your files that you are brothers, in fact a set of triplets and have always worked together on custodial duties?”

“Yes sir” Amoha Sarak answered I speak for us all; “from the age of 25 after attaining degrees in the English and Welsh

Language at Liverpool University; my brothers and I applied for a position in the Police force, serving first in Liverpool for 3 years then, Manchester for 4 years. Always working together as custodial officers a duty which all of us are happy to perform? We're all married with children and our parents; also close relatives, are living here in Cardiff and being a close knit family the decision were made to apply for SCU?"

"Being a family man myself I believe that to be an excellent reason for doing so. I sincerely hope your stay will be a long and happy one. Inspector could you write up a roster and let Rosemary have it she will provide a typed copy for display on the notice board. You will need to commence duty immediately. Before those going off duty leave let me show you round the station and the custodial area which has its own kitchen so if you wish to enjoy a hot drink whilst sorting out the duty roster please do so"

Tam returned to his office to find a DI James Rothay from Cardiff West Divisional Headquarters waiting in Rosemary's office; an A4 envelope clutched in his hand, his face showing him to be a man with a worrisome problem.

"Please come through inspector from your facial expression you are not the bearer of good tidings"

“That is true sir the Chief Constable advised me to speak with you regarding this case; he handed Tam the file, five young courting couples have been murdered over a period of eight months the killer using the same method each time. Each scene of crime was carefully studied and searched at which; apart from some very good samples of seminal fluids, very little forensic evidence was found. Despite an intensive investigation no progress has been made towards finding the guilty person. All the information available with forensic reports is in the file”

Tam opened a very slim file and gave the contents his careful attention. From the scene of crime photographs it was very clear the killing and raping had been committed by the same person. Each of the couples had suffered terribly before death finally released them from their nightmarish ordeal. The males had taken a massive blow to the head making it impossible for him to have defended himself or his girlfriend. The females had been subjected to a vicious raping her panties’ and skirt were in tatters ripped from her body as if by some wild animal. From the amount of blood matting the pubic hair; her thighs and vaginal area, she had suffered extensive internal damage. Both male and female victims had died from repeated blows delivered with great force to the

head and face making them virtually unrecognisable. The Inspector was telling the truth there was nothing from which to begin a search to find the rapist and killer of these unfortunate young people all of whom came from families well respected within their respective communities “Inspector was there any newcomers seen in scene of crime areas?”

“That is an angle which has been fully pursued; the investigating teams; spent many hours questioning Guest and Public house owners, hostels and even local businesses with no result. Being at a loss on how best to proceed is why advice was sought from a senior level”

“Having read the file I would; with certainty, say that was the correct action to be taken there is as you say very little on which to base or push forward an investigation. However I do agree it is imperative this person must be caught and it is entirely possible it may already be too late to prevent him from claiming a sixth unfortunate couple. Leave it with me a SCU team will be assigned the case and I shall keep you informed as to our progress. Leave your contact number with Rosemary”

“Thank you sir and good luck with the SCU”

“Jay its Tam Dwyer SCU; the Euan McGill case an extremely vicious and brutal case of rape & murder attended by me, as was the killing of five young couples which you dealt with. Having studied photographs taken of the crime scenes it is my strong opinion there are distinct similarities in the perpetration of the murder, rape and injuries caused. Could you arrange as a matter of urgency with Charlie Lomax for a comparison of DNA samples belonging to the man responsible for the murder of McGill’s wife and those collected by you from the young couple’s crime scenes?”

“Will do Tam results will be with you by 12 noon tomorrow be lucky”

“Rosemary, my secretary was proving to be a positive addition to the team in her late forties a widow; with piercing grey eyes a well kept figure and of a pleasing disposition. Over the coming months she would win the respect of everyone in SCU with her very tough attitude when it came to ensuring administration was carried out in a correct and proper manner. New Scotland Yard had lost a valuable team member when she applied for this post and was selected from a list of twenty plus applicants.

“Tam I have Mrs Garret of Cardiff Social Services the Officer in charge of the Jackson case”

“Thank you; Ms Garret This appalling Jackson case is now the subject of a police investigation and it is required that all original information held by your office relating to this matter is passed to me without delay are you able to do that?

“Most certainly Superintendant shall 1 o clock suit you and if you’ve questions to ask me I shall be pleased to answer them”

“That would indeed be most helpful Ms Garret however; interviewing of persons involved will not take place until I have read your file and made a serious study of its contents. I will explain more when we meet at 1 o clock bye for now”

“Tam have you noticed the time its past 12 if you care to visit the café across the road I would enjoy a fresh salad roll and whilst your away I’ll make a brew of tea”

“Excellent idea I’m on my way”

“Tam was not entirely relaxed during his lunch break his thoughts lay on the morrow when his appointed officers

would be reporting for duty. His thoughts were interrupted when Sgt Rowan advised him that Ms Garret was being conducted to his office”

“Rosemary I should like you to be present during my meeting with Mrs Garret”

“Do you wish me to make notes?”

“Yes please he rose as Sgt Rowan at his request entered with the social services officer a well dressed lady of erect posture; a picture of robust health and confidence possibly late 30’s or early forties. Mrs Garret thank you for coming so promptly this is my secretary Rosemary who will be taking notes for future reference please be seated would you like some refreshment tea or coffee?”

“Tea would be nice thank you”

“Do you take sugar Mrs Garret?”

“Thank you just the one spoon please Rosemary”

“Mrs Garret I am given to understand that you are the only social services officer assigned to the Jackson case is this correct?

“Yes sir the file I’ve brought you today is one I have compiled purely to give you a reasonable understanding of events that have taken place over the past decade. A full and detailed dossier; at present kept in a secure place known only to me, is available. Before that file is handed over an assurance from you that its contents will be treated with the utmost confidence shall be needed in writing. I ask purely in the interests of protecting my future?

“You shall have that that written assurance Mrs Garret it will be handed to you on receipt of the file. Perhaps Rosemary a tour of our new offices would prove of interest whilst I quickly read through the file then raise any point on which clarification is needed?

“Mrs Garret I have read through the file and compliment you on an excellent piece of work however; there are several extremely serious issues that must be raised and resolved on which I must first seek advice. Could you call again on Friday morning say 0900 meanwhile discussing nothing with your senior management? Should questions be asked refer

them directly to me all records and documents of the Jackson case is now officially classified as highly confidential and must be surrendered to me?

“Sir, can the interview take place at 0930 there are matters for me to attend and I shall bring the file with me?”

“Not a problem and thank you for your time” he stood “you have nothing to fear it is most clear that you have done your utmost to bring protection to those who need it most; you can do no more, it is now down to the Law”

“Good afternoon sir....Tam Dyer on the Jackson case it is my intention to interview members of Cardiff Social services who were or should have been directly involved with the Jackson case. Have I your permission to discuss the case with a home office minister and invite him to be present during the interviewing?”

“From knowledge gained of the case are you of the firm opinion there could be serious consequences for senior members of Cardiff Social services?”

“I am convinced there is positive evidence of serious negligence on the part of social services Cardiff resulting in a

major failure to protect children both male and female from 4 years old; possibly younger, upwards. A continued pursuance of this case with every means at my disposal until a positive result is achieved is in my opinion imperative”

“Take all the action believed necessary you will have my full support. At what time does the first interview commence and when?”

“This Friday morning at 09.30” Ms Garret case officer”

“Keep me advised on progress”

“Tam Sgt Davies is on line 2”

“Sgt Davies what is the situation in regard to Lindsey Crescent?”

“Sir, all stolen items including a large amount of money has been recovered. A large number of electrical items, mobile phones and other goods including credit cards; believed stolen, have also been found on the premises where 6 male and 1 female after a ferocious struggle were read their rights and detained. 2 officers were injured and had to be treated at a local medical centre for severe cuts and heavy bruising.

Strongly suggest custody officers are advised to be on their guard against a distinct likelihood of assault by those arrested. Sgt Mitchell with 2 officers is loading the van with the recovered property as we speak. 3 officers and I are departing with all suspects in 5 minutes for HQ”

“Well done Sgt are these people as violent as you are suggesting?”

“Believe me sir they are; do not take chances with them”

“Thank you for the warning Sgt; Inspector Cordyne and the on duty custody officer will be warned”

“Tam Cardiff Hospital on the phone a Sister Alwen”

“Sister Alwen.... Superintendant Dwyer speaking can I help you”

“Bad news sir; the critical cases from the incident at Lindsey Crescent have died as a result of injuries received. It was a terrible and extremely vicious attack on two vulnerable people; they never stood a chance, both were in their 80s, a Mr Colin Griffin sole surviving family member has been advised. Sgt Miller a very polite young man has noted all

personal details. I hope you catch those responsible putting them away for a very, very long time”

“That is a tragedy indeed Sister, thank you for phoning me the culprits have been apprehended they shall; or should be, severely dealt with by the court”

“Come in”

“Unfortunately some bad news the hospital has just phoned Mr and Mrs Symons died from their injuries. The metal bar used in the attack on them is now vital evidence for the prosecution Sgt Davies phone SOCO right away making them aware please”

“Blood samples were taken by SOCCO results will be known in the morning”

“Sir as the charge will now be one of murder do you wish to interview the two men responsible?”

“No not yet first I wish to know more of their background. A solid case is needed to ensure they are taken off the streets for a very long time.

“When they appear before the Magistrate in the morning a request will be made to hold them on remand. I shall expect written reports from all officers involved in dealing with the incident to be handed to Rosemary by 1200 tomorrow. “Sgt Miller did you obtain full details of injuries caused by the assault on their persons”

“Yes sir and each and every one of them suffered from what can only be described as an extremely violent and vicious attack showing a total disregard of the fact that it was elderly people; without means or capability of defending themselves, Statements taken from witness all confirm how brutal the attack was”

“Sgt Catlow did you and constables Berwyn have any problems when obtaining statements from the witnesses?

“None sir, to most of them the victims were well known meeting up with them on a regular basis at their social club for a pint and a chat. All of them; showed a real anger and disgust over what happened today and have agreed to appear in court as witness”

“All of you including the three uniformed men did an excellent job of work today thank you. Now all of you get off

home be bright and early tomorrow morning there is much to do good night”

“Rosemary time to call it a day”

“Inspector; please make sure that the prisoners have nothing in their cell with which to harm themselves or that can be used as a weapon, give them only a spoon to eat their evening meal and ensure it is removed immediately on finishing their meal. Sgt Amoha, would you prefer having someone to assist you during the night?”

“No sir the prisoners are being given wrapped sandwiches provided by the café across the road plus a carton of fruit juice. I shall check all is in order on the hour every hour and; unless they do something stupid, I shall not open the doors at all. Should the need arise Inspector Cordyne is to be contacted immediately and no action will be taken until he arrives except where it is obvious the life of the cells occupant is considered to be at risk. Those prisoners choosing to have breakfast will do so; under constant supervision, spoons only will be provided”

“I shall go home knowing the station and the prisoners are in safe hands. Good night Inspector, Sgt”.

He strode to his car happy in the knowledge his command had two good teams in place; Reception and Custody, the coming months would show how well; the detective teams he appointed tomorrow, carried out their assigned cases.

## Chapter Five

### Teams are designated and cases assigned

At 0730 Tam was seated at his desk awaiting the arrival of officers appointed by the Welsh Police Authority to the SCU. From their records it seemed that every person selected had been extremely well thought of and were highly recommended by their previous commanders. Well time would tell.

Following a knock at his door Sgt Rowan entered; “sir about twenty officers have just arrived and are in the detective’s room”

“Thank you Sgt” he rose and made his way to meet his command “Good morning gentlemen Detective Superintendent Tam Dwyer your new commander this is Rosemary my secretary who also deals with administration. Your personal past record has been assessed by me and no fault can be found in fact; I’m extremely pleased to have you as officers under my command. This morning you shall be assigned to cases that have been passed to me for closure. No time will be wasted on idle chit chat each team will be called to my office and given a specific case or task to deal with and positive results shall be expected. Now let’s get started

Inspector Bryn Hewitt, DC Marion Holmes and DC Yvette Williams follow me please the remainder can make a pot tea and get to know one another. Rosemary could you bring some tea for all of us and take notes” he strode away to his office followed by the three officers.

“Be seated please; Inspector Hewitt your team of officers are DC Yvette Williams and DC Marion Holmes. Your past records show you have all gained a vast amount of experience in dealing with cases involving children who have been; for one reason or another, failed by those persons in authority both male and female, appointed to protect them. The case I have assigned to you has been classified as highly confidential and the Home Office is to be directly involved. First you will read the file that has been passed to me by a Mrs Garret of social services it gives a clear picture of what this team will be up against. How has this been allowed to happen and for what reason, who is responsible for allowing it to continue that is mine and your specific task to find out? Nothing that you read in the file shall be discussed with other officers or members of the public especially representatives of the media. You will be present on Friday when I interview Director of social services for Cardiff a Mr Broughton, Mrs Hepplethwaite his deputy and Mrs Garret case officer who shall hand over a detailed history of the Jackson family and

their offspring this you will also study. It is my intention to arrest the parents and relatives of the children involved it is then the real work will begin. Once under arrest making use of every source available; dig deep into their past history, obtain performance and attitude reports from schools attended, interview past employers. Talk to 'Police Records Office' if they've a criminal record I want full details. Should an officer of another force start asking questions as to why you're seeking information on these persons; be polite, explaining our interest cannot be discussed making it clear if they do have knowledge of these people details would be appreciated. This also applies to members of the public and especially members of the media tell them nothing if they persist in badgering you for information ask them to call me. That is all for now Rosemary could you let them have the file and show them to the spare room adjoining your office.

"Sgt Davies, the persons you arrested yesterday are to appear before the Magistrate at 10 o'clock as the arresting officer you need to attend. Sgt Catlow and Mitchell shall also attend their evidence may or may not be required. I shall also be there to request they be held on remand until their trial takes place. All three of you take time to look at your reports correcting any faults. Mr Grimwald appreciates hearing clear and concise evidence"

“Tam its Jay Kellowan Charlie and I have just finished the comparison test of DNA and it’s a perfect match. The man who murdered and raped Euan McGill’s wife is without any doubt at all the same person who killed and raped the young couples. Parents have been informed their bodies can be released and have expressed their gratitude at being able too now lay their offspring to rest. Congratulations you did well there. A full report is on its way to you a copy has been sent to the Chief constable”

“Excellent I’ll let Cardiff West know they’ll be right pleased bye”

“Sgt Wiles, DC Lyndon Jones, DC Lance Temple please be seated the task I have for you working as a team is the seeking of past and present criminal history of those arrested yesterday for the Lindsey Crescent incident. Two shops were raided and several persons all of them senior citizens were seriously assaulted two fatally. Here are copies of the reports made by the officers involved they show that a huge amount of stolen property was found within the residence occupied by the perpetrators; including credit cards. Interview them make a determined effort to gain information of where the goods came from the owners and insurers will need to be advised. Should there be outstanding charges against them

case files are required. This could help reduce the backlog of unsolved crimes of theft not only in Wales but possibly other counties as well. Dig deep and take your time; miss nothing, any questions.....no excellent any problems speak to me”

“Tam there is a Mr Darwin Home Office on line 2 recording is on”

“Mr Darwin good afternoon how can I be of service?”

“Chief Superintendant Dwyer it’s about your request for someone from this office to be present when members of Social Services Cardiff are being interviewed. Is that really necessary surely this issue is not serious enough to warrant a Home Office minister in attendance?”

“Sir this is; with out doubt, an issue which must be taken very seriously indeed. Adult Family members who are directly involved will shortly be arrested. For this reason the case has been designated as highly confidential. My request; with approval of the Chief Constable, is for a senior Home Office minister to be in attendance at the interviews with the authority to take immediate action. Until your office is fully aware of all the facts it is advised that no contact with social

services Cardiff is made by any member of your office. Have I made the situation perfectly clear?

“You have indeed; from what you have said it is my understanding a number of children are involved, Superintendent I and a Ms De Arcy; a woman of great integrity, who takes a great interest in all matters affecting the well being of children and like myself, is well versed in Social service practices will be at your office by 9 o’clock Friday morning. Be assured; if immediate action is needed, it will be taken Bye”

“Now I must leave Rosemary; dare not be late in court, Mr Grimwald is presiding today and he does not like be kept waiting”

“Mr Grimwald did present himself as a stern and forbidding character to those who did not know him; with his deep blue eyes he seemed able to look right into a persons mind and know if they were lying or telling the truth. Many wrongdoers had stood before him their hearts and minds filled with dread knowing; if proven guilty, they could expect no mercy from him. However he was a fair minded; charitable man who studied case files and listened with great care to all the evidence given. He had never sent a criminal

male or female to prison without just cause. Members of the Police force and legal profession had the utmost respect for him and from experience gained endeavoured to ensure all presented evidence was correct in every detail”

A legal representative had been provided by the court as the accused had no money to pay for the services of a Lawyer. The Lawyer had tried his best to work with the accused and though he was present in court had been told in no uncertain terms to F.....off. It had also been decided due to their uncertain; highly volatile nature, they would remain handcuffed as they stood in the dock with four hefty policemen standing ready to act if a situation developed.

Chief Superintendant Dwyer the Chief Constable has made me aware of the enquiries being made into the past and present history of the accused. Until the investigation is concluded details of the case cannot be divulged is that correct?

“Yes your honour”

“It is alleged the charges that may be brought against the accused are numerous and are very serious including one of murder.....

Mr Grimwald was rudely interrupted by a disturbance in the courtroom. Jason and Thomas Smythe twin products of a mixed race partnership with long lank black hair, a couldn't care less attitude and a truly; evil, vicious temperament; responsible for administering the sadistic, savage beating, resulting in the death of Mr and Mrs Symons screamed out "You stupid F.....ing old Bastard those idiots wouldn't move out of the way, it was their own bloody fault they deserved to get a beating, teach them a lesson. That's right yelled the only female in the group who though only 19 years old looked twice her age with teeth in need of a good dentist and hair that had not seen a comb for some time. Her clothes were wrinkled and soiled; smelt heavily of liquor, and, urine giving the appearance of having been slept in over a long period of time. You're a load of brainless geriatric wankers she screamed; in a voice hoarsened by drug and alcohol abuse. All of the accused began stamping their feet and, using the worst of gutter language made the members of the court aware of their feelings. Police officers tried their utmost in persuading them to calm down and be silent however; over 15 minutes passed before finally order was restored and the judge could continue.

The judge though obviously extremely angry over the disturbance continued in a controlled voice and with great

emphasis “it is apparent should the accused be granted bail a serious threat to the public would exist I am not prepared to take that risk. The accused shall be held on remand in a secure prison until Chief Superintendent Dwyer’s enquiries are completed arrangements will also be made for the accused to be medically assessed both mentally and physically. Now remove them from this courtroom. Protesting vociferously with loud curses and struggling hard against the restraint of the police officers the accused were taken back to their cells.

“Sgt Davies; that display by the accused was totally uncalled for, they deserve having the book thrown at them and should they face Mr Grimwald at their trial; he will certainly not show them leniency?

“Totally agree with you sir, it was disgusting showing a total lack of respect for those in authority. I’ve been in court many times over the years and never experienced anything like it. Perhaps years of alcohol and drug abuse has affected their mental faculties beyond repair. It is a shame our mental hospitals have closed that may have been the answer for their own well being and also protection of the public?

“That would definitely have been the wisest and best option in dealing with them”

Feeling drained by the experience in court he entered his office and was greeted by Rosemary...“Tam you look absolutely worn out did the request for a remand not go well?

“Yes they were all remanded however their behaviour in court was truly awful. As for Mr Grimwald; how he held himself in check I just don’t know, he was very, very angry indeed”

“I brought in a slice of home made steak and kidney pie with a piece of rich fruit cake to follow for our lunch. You relax whilst I make us pot of tea?

“That is kind of you much prefer home made pastry it has a distinct freshness of taste and fruit cake is a real favourite of mine”

“Rosemary; tomorrow morning there are three interviews taking place and it is important that each of the interviewees signs a dated copy of all that is said during their interview?

“Not a problem Tam there is an admin matter I would like to raise which is on coping with a work load that is without doubt increasing on a daily basis. A second person with quality typing skills shall be needed plus; a young admin person for photo copying, filing etc; must be given serious consideration in order delays may be avoided”

Tam was silent for several minutes “I agree however; the difficulty lies in finding the right people, they must be of impeccable character honest and most importantly understand the need for not discussing what they see and hear within these walls; with family, or their friends and definitely not to members of the media”

“Tam does it have to be existing members of the Police Force for the clerical posts only I have a friend whose husband died suddenly from heart failure two months ago. Not being financially well off she had to sell her home and after settling all the outstanding debts was left with virtually no money at all. Like me she is in excellent health, of good education and a competent; qualified stenographer who is looking for work. Her daughter; now 18 an intelligent very sensible young lady, is well versed in office procedures having worked in an office since leaving school, and should prove a real asset.. She is also attending night school with a view to gaining a degree in

office management. Both are trustworthy and not given to idle gossip?

“Permission from the Chief Constable must be requested I’ll speak to him now; Tam Dwyer sir, assistance with the increasing admin work load especially typing is needed. Rosemary has highly recommended friends of hers a mother and daughter; I would like your permission to employ them as from tomorrow morning should they prove suitable?

“I believe it to be an excellent idea Rosemary can train them both in police procedures and if the need arises; my office staff at times stretched to and beyond their limit can also make use of their services. Let me have a full report on the Lindsey road incident; very nasty business indeed, you will be asking for a remand of all the persons involved?

“Yes sir most definitely and thank you for your approval”

“Rosemary if possible can you arrange with your friends to start at 8 in the morning bringing with them their completed application forms, CVs also references. I’ll make their acquaintance then leave them in your capable hands. Make it clear to them both that their workload is going to be heavy especially over the next few weeks possibly longer.

Interviews of social services personnel and Jackson family members will all have to be recorded then typed with complete accuracy. Then there are all the day to day activities plus; there may be additional work from the Chief Constables office: it would have proved an impossible task to cope with by your self. My unreserved appreciation for proposing the idea of employing your friends it has certainly resolved what could have been a major headache”

“That’s wonderful Tam; thank you, I will let Iona know it will be such a relief for her?

“Tam I have Director of social services Cardiff on line 1 a Mr Broughton”

“Good morning sir Detective Chief Superintendant Dwyer Serious Crimes Unit North Wales would you please arrange for Mrs Hepplethwaite to attend my office at 10.15 tomorrow and yourself at 11 o clock on a most urgent and confidential matter which cannot be delayed?

“This is most inconvenient Superintendant Monday would suit me better?

“That is not convenient sir serious questions need to be raised only yourself and Mrs Hepplethwaite can provide the answers”

“Very well however if your found to be wasting my time and that of my staff I shall have words with the Chief Constable good day to you sir”

“Mr Chalice Duty ME for you Tam”

“Good morning sir, the Chief Constable says you’re to be our medical expert in the Jackson case apologising for the short notice could we meet here in my office at 3 pm tomorrow?”

“I’ll be there, bye.

“Hello Jason my apologies for keeping you waiting; it’s been a very; long and tiring day Ursula said I’ve got to be home by 6 if I’m not my dinner will be binned. I can’t let that happen she’s preparing my favourite meal Liver and Bacon baked on a bed of Leeks topped by creamed potatoes with a covering of strong cheddar cheese and.....

“Hush Tam like you I’m worn out; famished and you’re making my mouth water; it’s a cruel man you are for certain.

Let's be quick and get off home before anything else happens”

Tam his face lit with a huge smile for his friend and colleague continued ..... I read your report and agree entirely with your decision; Daly and Piper should definitely be charged with murder on three counts plus; four charges of GBH and arson. Mr and Mrs Fairhope and their invalid daughter stood no chance it's a damned shame their lives should have ended as the result of an unjustifiable attack by these scoundrels. I doubt very much if they gave thought to the pain and suffering they were causing and richly deserve facing a long term in prison. What possessed them to treat their victims in the manner they did, for a measly sum of less than £20? The 70 year old twin sisters; Alice and Josephine Lattimer, for having the courage to come forward; identifying their attackers and also volunteering to appear in court as witnesses, should receive a letter of gratitude. Lastly; a charge of armed robbery with violence for the Tillsworth street betting shop job, Mr Hayworth turf accountant is still recovering from the beating he received and likely to remain in hospital for at least three months. What madness drove them to treat their victims in such a brutal manner in all of the cases they used the same weapon; a length of stair banister with ends shaped and bound with a rough material designed

to provide a strong grip during the assault of their victims, this fact alone proves premeditation. Did they cause you any problems at time of arrest?

“No Tam they came quiet as lambs so they did, bearing in mind they had been allegedly also carrying pistols for the PO job, didn’t bother knocking on their door or, ringing the bell. Hit the front and rear door of their squalid run down 2 up and 2 down simultaneously. DC Laverne doesn’t appreciate his own weight and strength he totally wrecked the front door and frame. Caught them completely by surprise; they were in the kitchen smoking hash and had been drinking, probably celebrating their latest crimes. Uncovered during a thorough search of the property was a fair amount of stolen goods; £2756 was alleged to have been taken from the Bookies total recovered, £2623. Three loaded pistols plus ammunition were found hidden beneath a wardrobe. They were rendered safe by Sgt Goodall an ex serviceman of the parachute regiment? They were cautioned and arrested. When it was pointed out to them during an initial formal interview; just how serious the charges against them were, with a certainty that they would be spending a very long term in prison; Daley tried to bargain with an offer to admit several other offences in exchange for having their sentences reduced. I told them it was not up to me; making it clear only the Judge trying the case could

determine the length of sentence imposed, based on the evidence given. They asked for time alone to discuss the matter. It was pointed out this was not possible a constable would have to be present in the room. After 20 minutes elapsed they requested legal representation. Mr Samuel Dickenson agreed to represent them. In separate interviews Daley and Piper were again cautioned each of them made similar statements confessing to a number of crimes some very serious indeed. Its all on tape and written statements for each offence was taken. Plus there are the witnesses they've made statements and agreed to appear in court and give evidence for the prosecution. Three of their past crimes are still under investigation; witness have been traced and statements taken however, there are several issues that need further investigation with a distinct possibility of further charges being raised. By end of next week all issues should be resolved plus; to prevent any doubts arising over their sanity a mental assessment of the accused was requested. They were totally ignorant of the pain and suffering caused showing no remorse or shame at all whilst being questioned. Files will be passed to the CPS for action when completed. The Magistrate agreed to our request that they should be held on remand until their trial. Plus a real and unexpected bonus they gave us the name of the person who sold them the guns someone who is well known to us; 'Llewellyn Tadmarsh' he

has been arrested on suspicion of selling firearms. Tomorrow I shall obtain a warrant to search his house and garden he was very apprehensive when arrested making one think there may be some very interesting finds.

“That’s an excellent report and a job well done Jason now it is time to make tracks otherwise we’ll both be in the doghouse”

“Tam my old banger is refusing to start could you give me a lift please?”

“How about having a lift with me Rosemary you’re not far from where I live?”

“Thank you Jason that is kind of you”

## Chapter Six

### Social Services staff is interviewed

“Rosemary Please ensure all necessary paper work is completed and made ready for delivery by hand to the magistrates office by 1400 today. Enclose a letter advising him warrants for search of premises and arrest of named persons are required first thing Monday morning. Speak with the registrar and request they have copies of the children’s birth and also parent’s marriage certificates. I’ll speak to DS Macklin he can make the delivery collect the warrants and also the certificates”

“Shall I include the Colby family?”

“Yes thanks for reminding me”

“Would you like a Cup of Tea Tam?”

“Good idea lets all have one please be seated may I call you Iona.....good and Tamsyn; a lovely name, welcome to you both from all that Rosemary has told me I am confident you will prove of real value to the Serious Crimes Unit. Tamsyn you’re attending night school and studying hard to obtain a degree in Office management should you need additional

time off for research purposes it will not be refused.

Rosemary I'll leave our new team members in your capable hands ensure they have everything they need. Is everything all set for Ms Garret's interview?

"Yes Tam you'll find the microphones have been tested and all that is said during each interview will be recorded. Iona and I shall have a copy typed bearing the name and position of each person being interviewed ready for them to sign.

"Now I should like to speak with the head of St Mary in the Vale school immediately please"

"A Miss Andrews deputy head on the line"

"Miss Andrews my apologies for the short notice the matter is urgent should Detective Sgt Pendlebury and DC Mason visit your school now; could you let them have all available recorded details and reports made by your teachers concerning the Jackson children? Full confidentiality will be observed. Should there be a problem my phone number is: 712983"

"Superintendent I would like them to be here no later than 10 am; the earlier the better, I've a meeting with parents'

at 10.30. Acting on your previous call all information from both the senior and junior school have been collated and shall be ready for their collection. I have also included written reports on this family which were sent to the director of social services for Cardiff'

"Miss Andrews, when was the first report made?"

"Several years ago exact dates are shown on each report"

"Would you be prepared to make a statement and appear in court?"

"Yes definitely when would you like me to call at the station?"

"Could you prepare the statement and sign it in the presence of Sgt Pendlebury and DC Mason when they arrive?"

"I can and should there be anything else you require please call me"

"Thank you Miss Andrews, your willingness to help is truly appreciated bye"

“Sgt Pendlebury, DC Holmes and DC Mason my office please.

Sgt Pendlebury, DC Mason proceed to St Mary in the Vale School ask for Miss Andrews Deputy Head she is preparing a statement you will both act as witness to her signature. There are also documents that have been made ready for collection return with them and the statement to the station hand them to Rosemary on arrival. Make sure you arrive at the school before 10am use the station car and don't be late she is expecting you, Sgt Macklin, there is paper work being prepared for the Magistrate see it's delivered before 2 0 clock today. Monday morning using the station car visit the Town hall find the registrars office and collect from the registrar a large sealed envelope do not open or lose it. The office opens at 9 am all clear?

“Yes sir”

A knock at his door and DC Holmes entered “You asked to see me sir?

“Yes please be seated “Marion this morning notification has been received that you've passed your Sgts exam with flying colours. As from Monday you are promoted to the rank of

detective Sgt congratulations it is well deserved. Have you thoughts on the future?

“No sir, I’m very happy to continue working with Inspector Hewitt he takes the time to explain fully what he wants me to do for him, never steps out of line and always accords me with the greatest of respect. So unless your wanting rid of me sir, I’d like to remain a member of your command”

“You’re a respected hard working officer and I’m glad you’ve no intention of leaving. Rosemary tells me your mother is attending hospital this afternoon; this past year must have been extremely hard for you both, cancer is a terrible disease. Would you like to be with her?”

“Yes sir I would”

“You may leave after the interviews are completed. Let us all hope the results show she is in full remission and give her my regards she is an exceptionally brave lady”

“Thank you very much indeed sir”

“Mr Darwin and Ms De Arcy of the Home office are here Tam”

“Send them through and when Mrs Garret arrives give her a cup of tea in your office”

“Mr Darwin Ms De Arcy thank you for being so prompt please come with me. From this room you can view and hear all that is said during the interviews. The first interview will be Mrs Garret followed by Mr Broughton director of social services Cardiff and finally Ms Hepplethwaite. All three will be available for your purposes on completion of their interviews. Would you like tea or coffee?”

“Tea is preferred could you arrange for some sandwiches to be sent in had no chance to stop on the way down?”

“Can do better than that a full breakfast in about 20 minutes with a pot of tea”

“DC Owen and Maitland take this and nip across to the café collect two full breakfasts and a pot of tea for our guests in room 3”

“Mrs Garret; good morning meet Detective Inspector Hewitt and Sergeant Holmes who will be assisting me throughout this investigation. I have made a careful study of the case file

you left with me and it is my firm belief that acting within the confines of your social services contract you have done everything that you could possibly do when seeking a solution to this case. As a last resort it meant ignoring your senior officers and going direct to the Chief Constable making him aware of your very deep concern for the well being of the Jackson Offspring. So that I may be absolutely certain I am in possession of all the known facts several questions must be answered. This morning your director and immediate superior will also be interviewed.

“Please state your position and length of service with Social Services Cardiff.

“Two years as a case worker dealing with minor issues; four years as a senior officer dealing with ‘Children at risk’

“On what date were you first made aware there were possible serious issues both  
Mentally and physically involving the offspring of Mr and Mrs Jackson and by  
whom were you advised?

“Mrs Theobald Physical training and sports teacher at St Mary in the Vale school first reported her suspicions to social services on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2003”.

“Was the report investigated and confirmed as truth?”

“It was investigated but not verified”

Why was this?

“Since first receiving the report many attempts have been made by me to ascertain the truth behind these allegations; all have failed for a variety of reasons, mainly failure to prove the truth of allegations being made. There was also some very strong hostility shown by members of the Jackson/Colby family when questioned”

“Mrs Garret you have; on several occasions, made senior officers aware of your deep fears for the well being of the Jacksons offspring asking for their advice and guidance and received none is this true?”

“Most definitely; Mrs Hepplethwaite my immediate superior, she was kept fully up to date on the Jackson case her initialling and dating of the paperwork confirms this fact. Mr

Broughton director also initialled the reports as having read them.

Miss Andrews's deputy head of St Mary in the Vale School has also stated that Mr Broughton was sent several reports voicing their concern for the well being of the Jackson children. I have seen these reports nine in total; however, no written evidence of action taken is to be found. Why is this?

None was authorised by Mrs Hepplethwaite or Mr Broughton even though the question of the need to take action in very strong terms was raised by me. I was advised that should I not be satisfied with office rules and procedures it would be best to seek a new position elsewhere.

“The youngest daughter age 14 years has a son of 18 months in your opinion; who is the father?

“It is alleged the girl's uncle fathered the child and the age given is doubtful and there is no medical evidence in support of the allegation”

“Are you stating categorically that no attempt was made at all by social services to have tests carried out on this teenage

girl; her child and the uncle a Mr Colby, to determine and confirm he was the father?

“That is correct sir it was a decision reached by Mr Broughton/Mrs Hepplethwaite who believed there was insufficient evidence to support tests being carried out”

“Those family members who were hostile when approached can you name them?”

Mrs Garret handed over a very thick file; “it is all in there Superintendent; every interview carried out to ascertain the truth is clearly recorded complete with names; dates and times. You will also find recorded; dates on which I spent considerable time trying to make my seniors take notice and, accept that urgent action was needed to ensure these children did not continue to endure further suffering in the way they have over a considerable period of time”

“Apart from this file and the one already in my possession are social services Cardiff holding any record of similar alleged abuse reports involving Jackson family members?”

Superintendent I have not been made aware of any.

“Do you have a firm idea as to the period of time over which these children had been subjected to abuse?

“Purely based on known facts my opinion is; that it began long before it was first brought to my attention”

“Mrs Garret has there been no attempt made at all; to have any of the children named in your report, interviewed and medically examined?

“None, again this has been due to Mr Broughton/Mrs Hepplethwaite ignoring of my reports resulting in a lack of decisive action being taken by my Superiors”

“You have stated throughout this interview; that your immediate superiors were, at all times, made fully aware of the severity of this case and; despite all the substantial evidence to hand, it did not cause them sufficient concern; to make them act in a positive manner, by having the children removed to a place of safety whilst an investigation could be carried out. Are you prepared; to repeat that statement under oath, in court?

“Yes Superintendant I am”

“Next week it is my intention to arrest Mr and Mrs Jackson and the Colby’s do you have a residence of safety where the children can be looked after?”

“That will not be a problem sir and may I take this opportunity to thank you for the swift action being taken it is a real relief for me to know; despite the irreparable physical damage already caused, these children are at last going to be protected from further harm”

“I must ask you to remain here at the station until all interviews have been concluded let us ask Rosemary if she has a cup of tea I certainly could do with some refreshment before taking on Mr Broughton”

Superintendent may I speak with Mrs Garret?

“Of course, Mrs Garret this is Mr Darwin of the Home Office?”

“Mrs Garret your very comprehensive case file is most enlightening however; should this matter come before the court it could prove to be a lengthy, very trying and upsetting experience for you. Would this worry you at all?”

“Mr Darwin the Jackson children in my opinion have been severely let down not only by their parents but also those in authority over a period of several years. Superintendent Dwyer as a result of his prompt action will see those children taken into care where they will receive the proper medical treatment for damage caused and enjoy the love and care they are entitled to. So the answer is no; it will not worry me in the slightest”

“That is most reassuring thank you. Superintendent; Ms De Arcy and I will be staying in Cardiff until Friday of next week, is it possible for you to have a copy of the Jackson case files made enabling me to study them further and also copies of interview questions and answers?”

“Rosemary; could Tamsyn have the file copied by say 2 o clock?”

“I’m sure it’s possible, all other requested documentation shall also be ready by then”

“DC Owen bring Mr Broughton to the interview room please”

“Mr Broughton I have just interviewed Mrs Garret and there is several points on which clarification is needed; your answers to my questions must be factual, is that understood sir?”

“Perfectly Superintendant so ask your questions and be quick about it, enough wasted time has been caused already by Mrs Garret not listening to her superiors”

“You were made fully aware of the shocking facts alleging abuse of Mr and Mrs Jacksons offspring?”

“Of cause I was; an appalling case being dealt with by Mrs Garret, supervised by our deputy director Mrs Hepplethwaite”

“Are you stating that Mrs Garret; despite her long years of quality service, during which much valued experience was gained is; in your honest opinion, not to be trusted or suited to her position?”

“Correct superintendant I was seriously considering arranging for her to be replaced definitely lacks initiative; is afraid to make decisions and accept responsibility”

“In view of your alleged honest opinion why was Mrs Garret allowed to continue as Case officer responsible for investigating the allegations made against Mr and Mrs Jackson and their relatives?

“It takes time to find and train a replacement Superintendent”

“The reports received from Mrs Andrews’s deputy head of St Mary in the Vale school did you not read them and become concerned about the allegations being made?

“Yes of course I did; it’s my responsibility to be aware of all child abuse reports, and ensure the appropriate action is taken”

“Mrs Garret was extremely concerned and was convinced allegations made were based on fact requesting repeatedly that urgent action be taken. Why was a decision to act; despite all the evidence presented to you, not made?

“Superintendent; Mrs Garret was the case officer and should have dealt with it or sought advice from Mrs Hepplethwaite, for her to come direct to me would have been totally out of order”

“Mr Broughton let us be absolutely clear on this; your understanding of a Social Services Director’s duties, do not include taking note of reports made by a case officer, nor giving them advice and guidance?”

“Definitely not; they would be referred first to Mrs Hepplethwaite who would then consult with me”

“As the Director for Social Services Cardiff it is not part of your responsibilities

to give advice; or guidance, even though you have been presented with

fully documented evidence by a case worker, showing, urgent and immediate

action was required. Have I understood your position clearly?

“You have indeed now is that all?”

“One last question sir; should Mrs Hepplethwaite be out of the office, what response would you give to a case worker seeking urgent help?”

“He or she would have to wait until the deputy returned I’m not there to do their job for them”

“Mr Broughton DC Owen will show you to the waiting room where it is requested you remain. My secretary will shortly have ready typed and dated copies of this interview please read it carefully then sign both copies a copy will be given to you for your safekeeping”

“Superintendent let me warn you if I’m not out of this building by 1 o’clock a serious complaint shall be made to the Chief Constable and also my superiors over your attitude towards me”

“That is your entitlement sir, DC Owen show this gentleman to room 7. DC Maitland Mrs Hepplethwaite is in room 3 bring her to the interview room please”

“Mrs Hepplethwaite good morning Inspector Hewitt and Detective Sgt Holmes are my assistants. For how long have you held your position as Deputy Director?”

“Four years Superintendent before that I worked in Bootle as a case officer. After eighteen months on recommendation by Liverpool Corporation was appointed Senior Officer for Everton and Bootle. A position I held until applying and being accepted for the Cardiff post of deputy Director”

“You are a social services officer not lacking in either; experience or the confidence, to deal with and resolve issues arising on a daily basis. Would you say that is a fair and accurate assessment of your capability?”

“Yes Superintendent that is how I see myself”

“Mrs Garret what is your opinion of her as a senior case officer?”

“An intelligent person who tries extremely hard to carry out her work in a professional manner though she tends to over emphasise the seriousness of difficult cases becoming flustered and hesitant. Not unexpected especially when dealing with child cases which can prove damned awkward when dealing with the child’s or children’s parents. In my opinion a worthy and creditable officer”

“When Mrs Garret took on the Jackson case where you concerned at all that it might prove beyond her capabilities?”

“Not at all I had complete confidence that Mrs Garret could deal with the difficulties she would be facing”

“Mrs Garret came to you several times expressing her very strong views that action; supported by well documented evidence, was needed in order these children could be protected from further harm. Did you discuss the case with Mr Broughton?”

“Yes the case was reviewed and a joint decision reached that there was insufficient evidence on which to act”

“Mrs Garret being deeply concerned for the Jackson offspring then approached the Director who referred her back to you taking no notice of her plea for an investigation to be made. Is this normal procedure?”

“Yes she had no right or, reason to approach Mr Broughton direct; it was totally out of order; a decision had been made and should have been accepted by her as final. Mrs Garret making a report to the Chief Constable was also not acceptable behaviour and the Director is seriously considering having her replaced”

“Explicit reports in which they expressed their strong concerns for the health and safety of the Jackson offspring where sent to the Director of Cardiff social services by the deputy head of St Mary in the Vale School. Again no action

was taken to prove or disprove the allegations made. Please explain why this decision was made?

“Mrs Garret advised Mrs Andrews to make those reports and was severely reprimanded by the Director for doing so”

“This reprimand was carried out even though it must be acknowledged; Mrs Garret has done her level best to persuade her senior officers, that she believed very strongly the Jackson children were in real danger; both physically and mentally and should be considered as ‘Being at Risk’ and taken from the parents. Despite her pleas for help no one bothered to pause and give real consideration as to the possibility that the claims made by Mrs Garret’s were indeed based on fact. Would you with your wealth of experience accept this as good practice?”

“Rules must be adhered to and Procedures have to be followed Superintendent a fact you must be fully aware of”

“I totally agree with you Mrs Hepplethwaite but not at the risk of preventing the removal of a person or persons believed to be in danger especially children”

“DC Maitland escort Mrs Hepplethwaite back to room 3”

“Mr Darwin you have heard the answers given to my questions. Do you wish to question the Director and Mrs Hepplethwaite further?

“Superintendent; I also have to work within a set of laid down rules and procedures however; those rules and procedures are for guidance, to enable a person make the right decision for him or her to proceed in a manner ending in a positive result. Reading the files of this case and listening with great care to the responses made; by the director for Cardiff social services and his deputy during their interviews, has left me both deeply shocked and horrified to find; children in an alleged modern caring society, can be left within a dangerous environment and even worse; allowed to suffer and be damaged by supposedly responsible, intelligent people. There will be no questions or final action taken by me until it is known precisely; how much damage has been done to these children then action will be taken to ensure; those responsible for failing them, will never; ever again have the opportunity to leave children in danger. First, I must inform the senior home office minister of my findings and seek his approval of my intentions. How will you proceed now?

“The intended plan of action is to arrest Mr and Mrs Jackson also Mr Colby and his sons on Monday. The charges to be faced by them will be determined by the findings of the medical examiner Mr Chalice. On completion of their medical the children are all being housed in accommodation suited to their needs; qualified children’s’ nursing staff are in situ ready to receive them, that has all been arranged by Mrs Garret”

“Could you possibly with the help of Mrs Garret remove the children to a place of safety and arrest their parents including relatives today?”

“I shall speak with Mrs Garret immediately it should not be a problem she will; I’m sure, be delighted to do so. The parents and relatives will; in accordance with your wishes be taken into custody today”

Thank you may I use your office to make my call?

“Certainly I’ll arrange for tea and sandwiches in say 30 minutes that suit you?”

“Thank you that will be fine; Mr Broughton and Mrs Hepplethwaite, must remain here at the station until I’m

ready to deal with them, they should also have some lunch provided. When lunch is over then I shall speak to them advising them of decisions made”

“Rosemary I need to speak with the magistrate also the registrar for births. Is the paperwork all prepared?

“Ready to go.....magistrate on line one Tam”

“Mr Felton your urgent help is needed. The Home office minister has requested that Mr and Mrs Jackson also Mr Colby and his three sons be arrested today and their properties subjected to examination by forensics. This means the warrants for authorising arrest and search are needed immediately. Inspector Hewitt is standing by to leave and call at your office with the required paperwork.

“Yes of course send him along Tam and if you need further help with this case let me know?

“Inspector Hewitt, Sgt Davies, DC Mason, Sgt Catlow and Sgt Mitchel you are to proceed first to the Magistrates office he is expecting you and will sign the warrants authorising the arrest of Mr and Mrs Jackson also; Mr Colby and his three sons. Mr Colby may be at home or at the Jackson residence. His three sons work at David Owens sheet metal works.

Brook no nonsense I want them all in custody before this day is over. Take the keys of both properties into your possession and wearing gloves ensure that all Doors and windows are secure before you leave. Return the search and arrest warrants to me with the properties keys and let Rosemary have a written report before going off duty today All clear Inspector.....good.

“Ds Macklin cancel my previous order for Monday use the office car and proceed to the registrars office collect the documents which are being made ready for your collection and return with them immediately”

“Mrs Garret, Mr Darwin wants the Jackson offspring whom he considers to be at risk removed from the parental environment without delay; is the refuge for the children ready?”

“Yes Superintendant two qualified children’s nurses and a team of SRNs have spent the last 4 days preparing for the children’s arrival. Yesterday I handed work in progress over to my deputy; a Mrs Higson, she has your secretary’s phone number should I need to be contacted. It is my intention to remain with the children and with the Nurses assistance let them know the refuge shall be their home for a little while,

and no longer having anything to fear from the grown ups who have treated them so badly. Time shall also be spent in preparing them to be interviewed making it clear, without upsetting them, that they must be brave and tell you of all the bad things that have happened to them”

“Excellent, Mrs Andrews Deputy Head is co-operating fully she has told me all of the children are at school today and will be ready to leave at 2pm. Sgt Pendlebury and DC Mason your task is to assist Mrs Garret with the Jackson offspring be gentle with these children they are bound to be frightened do your best to comfort and reassure them. Sgt Pendlebury report to me on completion of your task”

Tam sat quietly enjoying a cup of tea giving consideration of how rapidly the Jackson case had progressed. He also gave thought to Mr Darwin and his suppressed anger towards Mr Broughton and his deputy Mrs Braithwaite. Would he suspend them or call for their immediate resignation? There was no doubt in his mind an initial criminal charge for gross neglect of their duties would have to be faced by them with further charges pending. He felt no pity for them; they deserved none.

“Tam Chief Constable on line 2”

“Good afternoon sir,

“Just been speaking to Mr Darwin he is extremely shocked: disappointed and absolutely disgusted with Mr Broughton and Mrs Hepplethwaite handling of the Jackson case and has received the full backing of the Home Office to proceed as he intends. He spoke well of you and your officers Tam do you need additional help at all?

“Not at the moment sir Inspector Hewitt has left to arrest the Jacksons also the Colby’s. Mrs Garret with Sgt Pendlebury and DC Mason assisting are collecting the Jacksons offspring from school and taking them to a prepared refuge. This will give Mrs Garret and the nurses’ time to prepare the children to be medically examined on Monday. Copies of Marriage and Birth certificates for the Jackson’s and the Colby’s are being provided by the registrar’s office. Criminal Charges will have to be raised against the Director and his deputy and there is also the question of bail?

“Tam I would suggest you wait before making a final decision on charges to be made against the Director and his Deputy. They could be far more serious once results of medical examinations are known. Have you made arrangements for forensics to examine the properties concerned?”

“I am requesting they begin their examination of both properties on Monday that is when more officers will be needed to act as prevention against unwanted intrusion by the media whilst forensics is working”

“Leave that with me I’ll arrange for six uniformed officers to report on Monday and also have a word with forensics. You’re handling a very difficult case Tam and I believe quite strongly that the full story has not yet been uncovered. Keep me updated.

“Professor Chalice, DCS Tam Dwyer SCU our meeting at 3pm today is cancelled the Jackson case is progressing rapidly Mr Darwin of the Home Office requested the children be removed from their parent’s residence today. Would you be able to carry out the required medicals on Monday?”

“That will not be a problem it is my official day off and I did have a Golfing lesson booked however, due to the urgency of this sordid case that will be cancelled and an examination suite and resources will be set aside for the purpose. The suite I shall use is used for private consultations only and is detached standing to the rear of the main building. It is large, airy and very comfortable consisting of two well equipped examination rooms and a waiting room with its own entrance. This will mean complete privacy for our young patients. Could one of your men be on duty just in case the media turn up? One of my senior colleagues a partner in the practice and close friend of many years; a Mr Heilson, like me a professor of Biology and medical sciences is still a practicing MD with over 30 years experience in all ills besetting the human body; supposed to retire in six months but I doubt that he will, shall be happy to assist. The nursing staff will consist of two very senior Nursing Sisters they have been part of my clinical team for many years and fully understand the need for strict confidentiality they’ll be supported by three SRNs and two second year nurses. I would prefer obtaining samples of blood and urine from the adults before seeing the children is that ok with you?

“That suits me fine about the blood and urine samples can one of your staff call into the station to obtain them there is a medical room they could use?

“Yes and if you provide clean containers labelling them with the users name obtain the urine samples first thing tomorrow morning. I will call in at say 10am and take blood samples. If you can arrange for the children to be at my clinic for 0930am that would be excellent?

“That will not be a problem sir; type of physical and sexual abuse that has been suffered by each of the Jackson offspring and also permanent or repairable damage caused is required to be fully documented. Mr Chalice; using your undoubted and acknowledged skills as a medical practitioner, could you determine for how long a person; male or female, has been subjected to sexual and physical abuse?

“Not precisely no, it would be an honest opinion based on my findings and that would require a full and detailed medical examination of the abused. Three to five days will be needed to provide you with detailed reports on each child that will include an estimation of abuse time lengths for each period.

“Thank you that will certainly prove of real value at the coming trial of those responsible. Mrs Garret of Cardiff Social Services will ensure the children arrive at your clinic by 0930 Monday and remain with them throughout the examinations Bye for now”

“Tam Charles Lomax of forensics is requesting you contact him regarding the Jackson case I’ll put you through”

“Afternoon Tam been contacted by the Chief Constable and he says your in need of our departments expertise?”

“Yes that is correct Charles; there are two crime scenes involved, is it possible yourself and one other forensics officer preferably with a good knowledge of computers could call in this afternoon to discuss details bringing with you 8 plastic protection suits?”

“I, Jay Kellowan and Raj Patel an absolute wizard with computers will meet with you at say 3pm bye”

“Tam Mrs Lambert from the Registrars office is returning with DS Macklin she would not say why except it was urgent”

Mrs Lambert whose deportment and appearance spoke of gentility; also high breeding, supported by a quality of speech only attained through attendance at one of the finest and most reputable girls finishing school's located in the South of England; Roedean.

“Tell me ma'am are you related to the Holden Family of Holden Park; who were the victims of a devastating financial disaster brought about by the collapse of several well known banking institutions?

“Correct young man you're well informed; though you must have been very young at the time?

“My knowledge of the events resulting in tragedy for the Holden's came by way of research into the criminal mind when studying Criminal Psychology, I was writing a thesis on financial fraud at the time. Please tell me; how may I and my department be of service to you?

“Superintendent in my position as senior Registrar Officer my attention was drawn to the request for copies of birth and marriage certificates in respect of the Jackson family. It is assumed they were required in connection with an on going investigation; am I correct?

“That is true; why do you ask?”

“Because of my puzzlement over the fact no request was made in respect of triplets all female Pamela, Roxanne and Dorothy according to the dates on these certificates their ages would be 17 years and 8 months plus Alex a boy of 16 years and 2 months and Tobias 14 years and 8 months. These copies of their birth certificates are for your records”

“Mrs Lambert; are you absolutely certain the children shown on these certificates are related by birth to the Jacksons?”

“Unless the truth has not been told at time of registration yes I am; is something seriously wrong Superintendent?”

“Yes Mrs Lambert there is and; I fear the worst, look more closely at the ages of all the children. Tobias and Janice were twins and only short breaks occurred between the births of each child. Mrs Jackson must have been pregnant for a majority of her life. Did Mr Jackson have no thought for her mental and physical health?”

“From all I perceive of this disgusting case I would have serious doubts. Do you have any further questions on this issue?”

“No Mrs Lambert however your help may be needed at a later date. Thank you for taking the time personally to make me aware of these extremely disturbing facts. For the record I must ask you to write and sign a statement before you leave. Rosemary; three signed copies will be needed can you take Mrs Lambert through to your office and assist her?”

“Superintendent you’re a well mannered man facing a great deal of responsibility for one so young; your seniors must think highly of you and I wish you well, good day to you sir”

“Mrs Lambert would you like a cup tea?”

“Yes please no sugar with just a little milk”

Tam took up his phone the Chief Constable had stated he required to be kept updated; how would he respond to the information he had just received? Additional manpower would be needed; forensics would need to start work tomorrow morning and overtime worked by everyone involved. “The CC listened carefully as Tam gave details of

the latest developments including his plans for the finding of five missing children”

“Tam you precede as you have planned. Interview the Jacksons starting late this afternoon assisted by DI Hewitt and DS Owen. Go in hard do not be soft. It is imperative the whereabouts of these children is uncovered. I totally agree Forensics should commence their examination of both properties tomorrow morning. Additional officers to guard the properties will report your office 8 am tomorrow morning and work a shift roster covering the weekend including Monday drawn up by you. If you need more help contact Hywell I shall put him in the picture. Suggest you go home early have a break then return to deal with the Jackson and Colby families”

“Thank you for your help and advice sir; Charles Lomax and Godfrey Sandling plus an IT expert shall be arriving in about 10 minutes. I will phone you Monday with update”

Tam phoned his mother and asked if she could stay with Sarah for the weekend. He then called his wife telling her of his need to work late into the evening possibly longer and would be home shortly for a bite to eat.

“Charles, Jay sorry about the urgency; I can reveal this is a severe case of child abuse involving 3 girls and 2 boys over a period of many years. Making the situation worse it has just been revealed that five children are missing who; according to their birth certificates, are also offspring of the Jacksons. I shall endeavour to find out this evening the whereabouts of those children. Mr and Mrs Jackson live at 19 the avenue and Mr Colby’s and his 3 sons 73 Dawn Road, both located on the Keighley Council Estate. The Chief Constable has agreed with me your examination of both properties should commence tomorrow morning. Six additional uniformed officers from tomorrow morning shall work a shift roster acting as protection for the residences also to keep away intruders and the media. Let me know your start time an officer will meet you there with the keys. There is nothing more I can tell you at the moment?”

“Ok that’s fine Tam leave it with us we’ll make a start 9am tomorrow morning will you be making a visit?”

“Definitely Mr Darwin and his deputy Ms De Arcy of the Home Office are here and will need to be kept informed”

“Someone is in serious trouble then glad it’s not me. See you tomorrow sometime by for now”

“Rosemary can you contact DS Homes and request she report for duty today at 6pm?”

“Jason you’re to act for me whilst I’m off duty. Mr Darwin Home Office is dealing with the Director and Deputy for Cardiff Social Services. They have both been suspended with immediate effect. DS Macintosh and DC Myers are acting as escorts under guidance from Ms D Arcy, Mr Darwin’s Deputy whilst they collect personal belongings from the social services office. They are both to report here daily at 9am once the medical examinations of the children are complete charges will be brought against them. On my return Jason you’re off duty and must report for duty tomorrow by 0800 your assistance will be needed. Contact DS McIntosh and Catlow also DC Myers and Mason they are required for duty both Saturday and Sunday. Lastly find out if you can who the Jackson GP is and obtain his phone number”

“Shall I be required all day Tam?”

“In my opinion that is a distinct possibility and dependent on interview results it may also include Sunday”

“Rosemary is there a chance you could work tomorrow morning?”

“I can work until 1400 is that ok?”

“If it will help Tam; Tamsyn and I are available and do not mind working tomorrow?”

“That will prove of enormous help thank you I will see you all at 0800”

DI Hewitt your required to assist me with interviews tonight go home for a meal and report back at 6pm. “Inspector Cordyne tomorrow I need you on duty by 0500am. The arrested persons are to be issued with the suits supplied by forensics and their clothes placed in the bags provided. At 0530 have the custody sergeant visit each cell wake the occupant and obtain fresh samples of their urine. At 10am Mr Chalice will call at the station to obtain blood samples from each prisoner. Provide assistance if required. Arrange with the café to supply breakfasts. I will be returning to the station at 1700 this evening and interviewing of the prisoners will commence at 1815 any questions?”

“No sir”

“Tam its Hywell on line 1”

“Hywell just going off for a short break leaving Jason to cover for me I’m interviewing the Jackson and Colby’s this evening starting at 1815”

“That is the reason for my call the Chief Constable asked me to join you and assist with organising extra officers should they be needed. He is very concerned over this case especially the missing children will 6 be too early?”

“Not at all; being hard pressed that is music to my ears, I shall be returning here at 5 to make preparation; on your arrival we’ll have a pot of tea and I’ll bring you up to date”

“Sounds good to me see you round 5:30 then bye”

“Tam left the station glad to be away from the station for a brief respite from a day that had been a truly awful; filled with mental images of maltreated innocents, whose parents gave every appearance of having a total lacking of love; or respect for their children. Did he feel anger against those who had acted as though they were without intelligence: the capability to reason and understand, that the perverted acts

performed by them against children unable to protect themselves was totally wrong; yes he was angry, also filled with disgust and a real loathing for each and every one of them, he was determined to do all in his power to ensure they felt the full weight of the law. Senior members of social services Cardiff; for they were just as guilty, having failed to take the necessary action to protect the children involved should also be punished”

## **Chapter Seven**

### **A terrible truth is learnt**

“For the record those present at the interview of Mr Darren Colby senior legally represented by Mr Jewel are;- DCS Dwyer, DI Hewitt and DS Holmes”

Mr Colby was 61 years old; of a sallow complexion, with a face that was deeply wrinkled and bore several scars. He possessed just five teeth; they were discoloured by nicotine and rapidly decaying. His breath stank and his most unpleasant body odour was hard to dismiss.

“Mr Jewel; will you please advise Mr Colby senior that the charges he faces of rape and sodomy, are extremely serious and refusal to co-operate will not prove in his favour?”

“Mr Dwyer before you commenced this interview I tried very hard to make Mr Colby aware of his situation and that he should cooperate fully by being honest and truthful when answering all questions. It was like talking to a brick wall; nothing penetrated”

“Mr Colby I do not want you to waste my time by lying; five children alleged offspring of Mr and Mrs Jackson have

disappeared. Should you have just the smallest shred of human decency left tell me where they are to be found?

“No; I will make a full statement admitting to having had sex with the children also beating them with a leather strap and nothing more”

“Please explain what sort of sex you had with the boys?”

“Sometimes if the girls were busy I had some fun with them”

“That does not answer my question. This fun you had with the boys did it involve a full sexual act?”

“Are you bloody thick or something; of course it did?”

“Please make perfectly clear what you meant by ‘when the girls are busy’?”

“Mrs Jackson she really enjoyed herself with the young uns or anyone wearing trousers”

“Be more explicit”

“Sex games all sorts; shagging, blow jobs anything they fancied you’re a man of the world for Christ’s sake do you need me to go into detail?”

“No Mr Colby I do not. Mrs Jackson was she present?”

“Of course she was; really enjoyed herself with the young uns or, anyone wearing trousers no matter what age they were”

“Tell me what happened to the three missing girls and their two brothers?”

“Look I’ve fucking well told you all I’m going to say; your supposed to be the smart ass detective, bloody well find out, now leave me be damn you”

“Mr Colby; I will have the truth in detail no matter how long it takes me.....

“Yes but you’ll get nothing more from me nothing; do you hear me nothing, His voice rising several decibels he screamed you coppers are all the bloody same; a nosy load of bastards. Why the fuck can’t you leave us alone were not doing any harm?”

“That is definitely not true sir; you have over several years taken advantage of the very young causing, them serious physical and mental damage. You would do well in giving serious thought to your age; prison life will not, prove easy for one of your years. Interview ended at 1505 Stop the tape Inspector; “Sgt take him back to his cell and let’s have Mr Jackson in here”

The DCS was now convinced by Mr Colby’s attitude that he was lying; mortally afraid of speaking the truth; his fear so great, nothing would make him divulge the whereabouts of those missing children. Mr Jewel I’m now going to interview Mr Jackson

“Superintendent I; unfortunately, have been given the dubious pleasure of representing all members of this family”

Mr Jackson 63 years old was a tall man with sparse wispy white hair his face heavily seamed by the passage of time with close deep set eyes of a nondescript blue. His nose was aquiline; had been broken and badly set. He entered the interview room with head bowed and sat with his fists tightly clenched placed firmly upon his lap.

With new tapes inserted and the correct procedure having been followed the DCS began.

“Mr Jackson information was passed to me that 17 years and 8 months ago your wife gave birth to triplets all female followed by the birth of twin boys 18 months later. The certificates state you were the father is that true?”

“Well yes and no; you see, there were several others Megan was fond of shagging so maybe; maybe not”

“Do you know where they are now?”

“Not really sure it was a long time ago”

“Did they live at the family home?”

“Yeah most of the time”

“What do you mean when you say most of the time; where else did they stay?”

“Sometimes their uncles liked to have them over for the weekend and in the holidays for a week or two. Right fond of them they were always giving them treats and presents. Took

them down to the seaside a lot paid for everything and gave them a real good time”

“How old were they when they started staying at their uncles house?”

“Can’t really remember; maybe when they were 6 or 7 or; younger, such a long time ago”

“Mr Jackson telling the truth comes hard to you why?”

“I’m not lying you’re confusing me”

“Were all the Colby’s; your relations by marriage, involved in these day trips?”

“That’s right they shared and did everything together; made a right fuss of them, spoilt them rotten so they did”

“Did you yourself go on these trips and stay over weekends or for a few days?”

“Sometimes I needed to get away from Megan; have a break from her constant nagging, whinging and whining got on my bloody nerves so it did”

“Mr Jackson. I ask you again; how often did you join the Colby’s on these pleasure jaunts just occasionally or was it in truth on every trip and isn’t it also true that your wife accompanied you on every one them?”

“Alright clever clogs I did go on every trip and so did the missus. Why should I and the wife miss out they were our kids?”

“Mr Jackson your scared to tell the truth is it because you were fully involved in the disappearance of several children; your own offspring?”

“I’m not lying”

“I shall come back to the missing triplets and the boys later. You are the father of Janice who is said to be 14, Elizabeth 12, Bethany 10, and two boys Dameon aged 7 and Harvey 9 is this correct?”

“I suppose so; like I’ve already said my missus wasn’t to careful when she was out enjoying herself”

“The five children I’ve just named; were they also spoiled; taken on trips to the seaside, stayed at their uncle’s house receiving treats and presents for doing as they were told?”

“Of course they were; they’re part of the family and no one got left out; all treated the same they were, didn’t want anyone getting jealous now did we?”

“Where you and Mrs Jackson not worried about the relationships between the Colby brothers; yourself and your children?”

“No; why should we be, their mother and me brought them up proper, knew how to behave they did, always obedient got belted otherwise”

“Are you saying; if your sons and daughters did not agree to do as you or your relatives asked; even if acts of a sexual nature were involved, they received a beating using a leather belt?”

“Damned right they did only way for kids to learn”

“Let us be clear on this issue Mr Jackson; your children were forced; entirely against their will, into having sexual

relationships with you and your relatives, Mr Colby and his three sons, in absolute fear of being beaten with a heavy leather strap owned by you. Your wife their mother raised no objections nor spoke out in their defence. Is that the truth of this matter?

“Yes that is true their our kids; can do what we like with them”

“Thank you Mr Jackson at last the truth is emerging; returning to the question of the missing four children, I want to know where they are and if it means staying here all night we shall, now tell me the truth; where are those children. Are they dead or alive?

“Can I have a drink?

“Sgt fetch him some water” he waited till the man finished the water. Mr Jackson you were about to tell me the whereabouts of female triplets and a boy of which you and your wife were allegedly the parents please continue”

“The Colby brothers and me had been out having a few jars and was pretty far gone when we got back home. Woke the triplets and the boy up and had some fun. The kids were

crying and screaming to be left alone. That's all I can remember"

"Are you saying you have no knowledge at all of what happened to those unfortunate children?

"No I don't, can't remember fuck all I was pissed"

"Mr Jackson; that is a lie, you can recall the events of that night and your afraid to face the truth. Those poor innocent children suffered severe sexual abuse at the hands of their own family. They died not understanding the reason why their mother and father should allow them to feel such terrible pain and fear. They are dead aren't they Mr Jackson and you; your wife and family relatives were fully involved in bringing about their deaths am I right?

There ensued a lengthy silence which seemed never ending. Patiently the DCS waited for Mr Jackson to reply until; his entire being filled with a loathing and disgust of the poor excuse for a man who sat facing him, "I do not wish to keep on repeating myself Mr Jackson so let's have the truth and; I want it now?

“Yes damn you; yes” he screamed; “are you satisfied now, they were my kids, nothing to do with you or anyone else”

“I am not completely satisfied Mr Jackson. A most important question; where are the bodies hidden?”

In a voice barely above a whisper; “buried in the back garden between the apple trees at the back of the shed”

“Repeat what you’ve just said Mr Jackson and speak up so that everyone can hear you”

Mr Jackson rose to his feet and in a loud and trembling voice did as he was asked.

“Thank you; now sit down, I’ve not finished yet”

“Let’s have a very clear understanding of what happened that night Mr Jackson. You and Mr Jacob Colby with his three sons Aaron, Jason and Haydon on an unknown date whilst under the influence of alcohol; took part in forcing two male and 3 female children less than 10 years old or younger; entirely against their will and terrified of being beaten, to take part in sexual penetrative activities at 19 The Avenue Keighley, Cardiff resulting in their deaths. The bodies were

buried in the garden; at the rear of your property between two apple trees, behind the garden shed. You; and the Colby family persisted in carrying on an incestuous relationship with your remaining offspring until you were placed under arrest. Is that correct?

“Yes; now go to hell you got what you wanted and it’s the truth so let me be”

“Was your wife involved in the events of that night and has she; without being threatened by you or the Colby’s, always been a willing partner to the committing of unlawful acts of a sexual nature against her offspring?

“She was there every time; she’d have played merry hell if left out. Megan always enjoyed the parties drinking and shagging, she’s a right goer that woman of mine”

“Mr Jackson; do you understand that the most serious charges you are now facing are; of murder and the raping of under age children male and female?

“Cause I do; I’m not bloody stupid”

“Mr Jackson it is the truth that you; and related members of your family, gave no thought to the anguish, pain and suffering being caused to children you fathered or, the offspring of others by persistently sexually abusing and violating them; causing injuries from which they may never truly recover. It is also true that the acts of violence and abuse to which these children were subject was purely for your own; your wife’s and the Colby families sexual enjoyment?”

“Are you fucking daft; of course it’s true, why be bothered having sex if you don’t enjoy it. Young or old; male or female, willing or not it’s what life’s all about no good having a dick or fanny if you don’t make use of it”

Mr Jackson did you feel no sense of shame or feelings of remorse for the vile crimes committed against these young and vulnerable children?

“No; not at all, their my children and no-one is going to tell me how I should or should not raise them and that’s it I’m done answering your stupid bloody questions”

“Mr Jackson further questions will have to asked and you will supply the answers is that understood”

“Yeah whatever if it makes you happy”

Interview finished at 1617.

“Inspector; have Mr Jackson sign both tapes and date them. He is also to provide a written statement in his own hand.

“Mr Jewel if you feel in need of some refreshment now’s the time to do so. I shall be away for about an hour?

“Thank you; I feel more in need of a pick me up that Mr Jackson is a truly revolting person; never in all my years as a legal representative have I ever come across a more disgusting man. Does he not understand the meaning of parental love? Superintendent; you have my respect and admiration; how you kept control of yourself during that interview, I’m damned if I know; There is one fact I am certain of; I do not intend under any circumstance to act in defence of this family in court”

“Believe me at times it can try ones patience to the limit and beyond. But this is what I was trained for, dealing with all types of characters; some through circumstance are placed in a situation reaching a point where crime seems the only answer, habitual criminals gaining pleasure from the crimes

they commit with a total disregard for any suffering caused by them, then there is the hardened criminal who will kill or maim for money and shows no remorse at all when caught. The Jackson and Colby's; I'm open to suggestions, but I believe only a very skilled psychologist; with knowledge and experience of the human mind gained over many years, could tell into which category they would fall. I sympathise with and understand the position you find yourself in; it's very difficult indeed, if you take that decision I for one would not hold it against you"

Sgt Tamlyn and DC Bartlett just leaving are you?

"Yes sir did you want our report before leaving"

"No that's fine see me in my office at 9:30 tomorrow"

"Tam first went to the Colby residence and collected Inspector Hewitt telling him of the received confession. "I require you to work with and assist Mr Lomax. It will mean a late finish for you are you happy to do so. DS Macklin has already agreed to work late and take charge of excavation work.

“Yes I’m quite happy to work late the extra cash will come in very handy”

“Charles; Mr Jackson has just confessed to the murder of the missing boy and female triplets. The bodies are to be found buried between two apple trees in the rear garden. Inspector Hewitt has agreed to help and assist you when needed. Sgt Macklin under your guidance will be in charge of the digging party. “Shall we take a look before I leave to continue interviewing the guilty parties?”

“Tam why don’t you leave it to Bryn and I otherwise it’s going to be midnight before you get home?”

“That is true I must interview Mrs Jackson this evening the Colby’s can wait till tomorrow. Ok I’ll leave it in your capable hands any problems and you will call me won’t you?”

Charles Lomax replied “Be sure of it; now off with you and leave us men to get on with the job”

At Police HQ he informed the custody officer that he wished to interview Mrs Jackson in 15 minutes then sought out DCI Smithson finding him in the canteen. “How did it go Jason?”

“Rosemary should be just about finished typing a copy of Mr Jackson’s statement. She is adding a certification paragraph stating that it is a true copy. He can sign it to say he has read it and agrees that no alterations to the text have been made”

“Excellent now let’s show Mrs Jackson her husbands confession, with luck this shall not take long” with a hot mug of tea he made his way to IR2 where he found Mrs Jackson waiting under the watchful eye of the duty Sgt.

Mrs Jackson a 58 year old woman short in stature; overweight with frizzy greying hair, dark Brown shoe button eyes so dark they appeared almost black and heavily lined features rose to her feet as they entered; protesting vociferously in a voice coarse and cracked from years of smoking. Using language of the gutter in stating her opinion of the Police and the manner in which she was being treated. Her body odour was bad; but her breath was worse, it stank like a sewer and filled the room with its nauseous smell.

In a voice that demanded instant attention DCS Dwyer said  
“Sit down and shut up”

She sat down her mouth agape showing her few remaining broken and blackened teeth

“You can’t speak to me like that I know my rights I do”

“I’m sure you do” He pushed a copy of her husband’s confession across the table read that whilst I finish my tea.

He went across to the opened window grateful to breathe in some fresh air. He gave her ample time to finish reading then returned to his chair. Your husband made that statement of his own free will now I want you to answer some questions and I want the truth”

“Sgt; take pity on us all; open that window and let some fresh air in”

“Inspector please start the tape recorder”

“Mrs Jackson your daughter Janice not yet 15 gave birth to a child; who was the father?”

“How should I know; she’s been to bed with them all, sometimes two or three times a night”

“You’re a born liar just like your husband you do know the father of her child; it was her uncle Mr Colby; am I right or

wrong, lets have the truth now Mrs Jackson its pointless lying any more”

“Alright yes he was the father so what?

“Did Janice willingly enter into a relationship with her uncle or was she threatened and forced to do so?

“Took some persuasion had to show her the old mans belt before she would get into his bed. Janice never refused again so reckon she enjoyed herself. Loved the baby when it was born wouldn’t let anyone else look after it; not even me”

“Could you really blame her for not trusting you with her child; Janice a young teenager, your own flesh and blood forced into having sex with a man 50+ years her senior a close family relative? Did you give no thought at all to the mental anguish and physical damage being caused by your totally irresponsible attitude? For pities sake woman; a mother is supposed to love, give guidance and protect her female offspring from those who would do them harm especially when its members of the same family? You gave your daughters no love; no guidance and no protection at all, allowing the male members of your family to sexually abuse and ill treat your children; male and female, as and when it

pleased them, raising no objections at all. That is the truth isn't it Mrs Jackson?

“Who are you to talk like that to me I know how to raise my kids so don't you go trying to tell me what to do and what not to do; Janice is a woman isn't she, meant to produce children and give pleasure to men. Start them young I says; she'd had experience enough she should have learnt to protect herself” she rose to her feet “I've had enough of answering your damned interfering questions; I want to go back to my cell”

“In a voice like thunder his eyes blazing with anger Tam roared “Mrs Jackson; you'll be taken back to your cell when I've finished and not before, now sit down”

The woman sat; a startled look of apprehension crossed her face; she realised this officer was not a person to be argued with fearfully, she waited for him to begin.

“Let me repeat my last question and I want you to answer it in a loud clear voice: You gave your daughters no love, no guidance and no protection at all allowing the male members of your family to sexually abuse and ill treat your children; male and female, as and when it pleased them raising no objections at all. That is the truth isn't it Mrs Jackson?”

“In a quiet voice showing no sign of remorse she answered  
“Yes”

“I cannot hear you Mrs Jackson”

“Yes you interfering bastard; yes it’s true what you say, I never did love them, never; I fucking hate kids always have done”

It is also true that your daughters were forced into having sexual relations from a very early age?

“Yes”

“How old were they when these relationships began?”

“About 6 or 7 years”

“What about your sons where they also forced into carrying out sexual acts with your husband and the four male members of the Colby family from an early age?”

“Yes damn you yes”

“With whom did they have sexual relationships I need their names?”

“My Husband Raymond Jackson his relative; Jacob Colby and his sons Aaron, Jason and Haydon”

“Was anyone else involved such as visitors to the family home?”

“No never had visitors”

“Is it true that you also enjoyed sexual relationships with these family relatives on a regular basis?”

“Yes”

“The children at the Colby residence; whose were they and where did they come from?”

“How should I know ask Jacob sod all to do with me”

“The Triplets and your son born to you 17 years ago; your husband has stated; that they died at the Colby home in 1998, as a direct result of abnormal sexual relations with your husband; Raymond Jackson, Jacob Colby their uncle and his

three sons Aaron, Jason and Haydon whilst under the influence of alcohol. He stated you were their taking an active part in the proceedings. Is that the truth Mrs Jackson?

Her voice still showing no signs of remorse “Yes I was there came back from the pub with them. Helped them to wrap their bodies in big double size blankets and placed them in heavy duty industrial polythene bags before burying them. Is it possible to have a cup of tea if you’ve finished?

“Mrs Jackson you will now face very serious charges of murder and assisting in the rape of children between the ages of; 5 to 15 years old, It is required that you make a written confession Inspector Smithson will assist you and witness your signature”

“Jason I’ll be in my office come and see me when you’ve finished. Mr Jewell you can leave as soon as you’ve witnessed her signing the statement. Can you be here for 10:30am tomorrow?

Tam sat in his chair head back with his eyes closed giving consideration to the interviews he had just conducted. He also gave thought of the morrow; Jacob Colby and his three sons would they; knowing that Raymond Jackson and his wife had

confessed, make statements admitting their guilt of having played a major role in the deaths of four children. Who did those children found at the Colby house belong to; were their parents at this moment suffering an agony of torment through not knowing whether they were dead or alive? He was roused from his reverie by DCI Smithson calling his name.

“Its Charles Lomax Tam wants to speak with you urgently”

“Tam here Charles have you unearthed the bodies?”

“Yes; there was not much digging involved the graves were very shallow. There is a problem though I have five not four bodies. I shall not be able to give you any further information until pathology has completed all their tests. They will require additional body fluid samples including blood from the family adult members to enable DNA and other tests to be carried out. Two team members will visit first thing in the morning say 0930? Inspector Hewitt has spoken with Control and arranged for both crime scenes to be guarded through the night by four officers working in pairs operating a four hours on and four hours off shift until relieved tomorrow morning. My Team and I will be on site at 0800 and the same applies to Godfrey’s team. The Inspector would like a word with you good night see you tomorrow”

“Mr Dwyer sir, when the officers detailed for guard duty arrive request permission to stand all other personal down?”

“Inspector Hewitt before you leave make sure both houses are secured. SOC Vehicle to remain on site for use by on duty officers. I require the van with all our equipment on board returned to the station and secured in the garage with a notice attached stating it is not to be used. Your first task tomorrow will be the cleansing of the van and all tools. All officers who entered the Jackson and Colby houses are to shower before they change into their civilian clothes. Their soiled uniforms are to be bagged ready for despatch tomorrow morning but not before I’ve had a word with the laundry manager. Used protective clothing to be bagged and incinerated in the morning. All officers involved today are to report at their normal place of duty by 0900 any questions?”

“No questions good night sir”

“Good night Inspector you and the men worked well today thank you”

“They’ve found an additional body Jason which means further questioning of Mr and Mrs Jackson but first I’ll

interview the Colby's. Are you ready to go home I most definitely am? Rosemary I noticed your cars not in the park; I'll run you and Marion home. Must have a word with the duty Sgt on the way out so come on every body lets lock up and make tracks"





e you in the conference room in 45 minutes bring the DI's report with you plus the closed cases file"

He hurried off to meet the visiting officers from the Welsh Police Authority confident in the knowledge that he had done and was doing all he could to ensure the smooth running of this is first major command.

The guided tour went well as did the meeting that followed many points were raised; he did not attempt to hide anything and answered truthfully to all the numerous questions asked. He also spoke of the Jackson case voicing his concerns over the way in which the social services, the police and other local authorities had failed to protect the five children involved. He was assured that his report when submitted would be given their full attention and prompt remedial action would be taken should his concerns be justified"

Just over two hours later they left before going; everyone shook his hand making it clear that they were extremely pleased with his progress to date and wished him well for the future. The Chief Constable stopped on his way out "Tam How long before you can let me have your report on the Jackson case?"

“At least three weeks sir; a month at the outside there is far more to this case than is known”

“Keep me advised of your progress; you’ve more than proved your capability of command to the Welsh Police Authorities. I’m also extremely pleased with your attitude towards the post and the way you’re handling an extremely difficult case; well done”

“Rosemary there’s an hour before the meeting I’m going to make myself a hot drink and a ham sandwich would you like the same with a little mustard”

“Thank you whilst you’re making them and a coffee I will do the detectives notes for the Jackson case”

“You’re proving to be a real treasure will you also ask DI Smithson to see me in my office at 4.15 thank you”

“Rosemary called to Bryn and Marion as they passed her office door “let me have your individual notes; first making sure I can read them, I will quickly type two separate reports headed by your name, rank and the date when completed read them carefully make sure there are no mistakes and sign them were indicated and please hurry there is not much time”

“Tam I have DI’s Smithson’s report and the CC has arrived with three guests shall I make tea or coffee?”

“Coffee with a plate of biscuits would be nice I’ll take them on a tour first”

“Do you want me to take minutes of subjects raised?”

“Yes please see you in the conference room in 45 minutes bring the DI’s report with you plus the closed cases file”

He hurried off to meet the visiting officers from the Welsh Police Authority confident in the knowledge that he had done and was doing all he could to ensure the smooth running of this is first major command.

“Sgt Pendlebury, Sgt Macklin and DC Mason my office please. DC Holmes wait in Rosemary’s office please”

“Yes sir”

“Tam its 4:25 and DI Smithson as requested is waiting to see you”

“Hush Tam like you I’m worn out; famished and you’re making my mouth water; it’s a cruel man you are for certain. Let’s be quick and get off home before anything else happens”

Tam his face lit with a huge smile for his friend and colleague continued ..... I read your report and agree entirely with your decision; Daly and Piper should definitely be charged with murder on three counts plus; four charges of GBH and arson; lastly a charge of armed robbery with violence for the Tillsworth street Post Office job. On their previous crimes; what possessed them to treat their elderly victims in the manner they did, beating them with broom handles then setting fire to their homes for a measly sum of less than £20. Mr and Mrs Fairhope at 83 years of age stood no chance it’s a damned shame their lives should have ended as the result of a vicious; unjustified attack by these scoundrels, who are showing no signs of remorse or shame. I doubt very much if they gave thought to the pain and suffering they were causing and richly deserve facing a long term in prison.

The 70 year old twin sisters; Alice and Josephine Lattimer, for having the courage to come forward; identify their attackers and also appear in court as witnesses, should receive a letter of gratitude; I doubt very much if they gave thought to the pain and suffering they were causing and

richly deserve facing a long term in prison. Did they cause you any problems at time of arrest?

“No Tam they did not; came quiet as lambs so they did, bearing in mind they had been allegedly carrying pistols for the PO job, didn’t bother knocking on their door or, ringing the bell.

Hit the front and rear door of their squalid run down 2 up and 2 down simultaneously. DC Laverne doesn’t appreciate his own weight and strength he totally wrecked the front door and frame. Caught them completely by surprise; they were in the kitchen smoking hash and had been drinking, probably celebrating their latest crime. Uncovered during a thorough search of the property was a large amount of stolen property including the £2500 taken from the PO plus; the guns used in the raid? They were cautioned and arrested. When it was pointed out to them during an initial formal interview; just how serious the charges against them were with a, certainty that they would be spending a very long term in prison; Daley tried to bargain with an offer to admit several other offences in exchange for having their sentences reduced. I told them it was not up to me; making it clear only the Judge trying the case could determine the length of sentence imposed, based on the evidence given. They asked for time alone to discuss

the matter. It was pointed out this was not possible a constable would have to be present in the room. After 20 minutes elapsed they requested legal representation. Mr Samuel Dickenson agreed to represent them. In separate interviews Daley and Piper were again cautioned each of them made similar statements confessing to a number of crimes some very serious indeed. Its all on tape and written statements for each offence was taken. Plus there are the witnesses they've made statements and agreed to appear in court and give evidence for the prosecution. Three of their past crimes are still under investigation; witness have been traced and statements taken however, there are several issues that need further investigation with a distinct possibility of further charges being raised. By end of next week all issues should be resolved plus; a mental assessment this was requested due to attitude shown by the accused during questioning. They were totally ignorant of the pain and suffering caused sowing no remorse or shame at all. This was asked for to prevent any doubts arising over there sanity. Files will be passed to the CPS for action when completed. The Magistrate agreed to our request that they should be held on remand until their trial which is set to begin on Tuesday August 9<sup>th</sup>”

“You’ve done a truly excellent job of work keep me posted on progress. Now I’m off how about you; is Janice still enjoying the baby?”

“Yes I’ve had enough and shall be glad to get home. Baby Roseanna is 6 months now and doing grand both Janice and I love her to bits mind you; this teething business is a bit hard on us; being woken up several times during the night, especially when we’ve both had a long and busy day, Your twin girls must have tested your patience when they both woke up in the small hours now; a third member of the Dyer family is due, do you know if its a boy or another girl?”

“No we’ve both agreed to wait until the baby arrives to find out. Boy or girl makes no difference to me just so long as there are no complications and their both fit and well. Rosemary; time to call it a day lets get locked up, do you want a lift Jason?”

“Yes please and thank you”

”

“Yes Tam their completing preparation for the children’s arrival as we speak; is something wrong?”

He drove back to headquarters his mind dwelling on the news he had just received.

“As Hillary hurried away to call the refuge staff making them aware of the change in plans her every instinct told her

something was wrong; badly wrong. She was met and stopped by Miss Hepplethwaite in the corridor leading to her office; “Mrs Garret you are spending far too much time out of your office. Your deputy tells me you’re still working on the Jackson family case; I believe it was made perfectly clear to you; the evidence against the Parents and Relatives was not strong enough to proceed any further is that not so?”

“Yes ma’am it is as you say however; with respect, I must refer you to Detective Superintendent Sam Dyer in charge of the Serious Crimes Unit for North Wales the Jackson case is now a highly confidential police matter his number is 712983 I can tell you nothing more he has all the information you require”

“We’ll see about that” her upright angular body clad in clothes of severe black quivering with anger she strode away the heels of her patent black expensive leather square toed shoes striking the floor forcibly at each step emphasising her very strong feelings.

“That’s put the cat amongst the pigeons thought Mrs Garret”

Sgt Macklin; how many officers are there available?

“Seven sir, Sgt Tamlyn and DC Bartlet answered a call from Tregowan a nasty business an elderly couple had just finished drawing their pensions when they were assaulted and robbed as they left the Post Office. A call from the cottage hospital reports their condition is stable despite having suffered severe injuries and shock.

“Right listen up; there will be extra duties for everyone today. Anyone who cannot work after 5 o clock for personal reasons let Sgt Macklin know and that does not include going to the local rugby match. Sgt keep me informed Sgt Tamlyn may need assistance if he calls make sure he receives help without delay. This afternoon an extensive search and arrest operation will commence; make certain the vans have full fuel tanks. Protective gear is to be worn so ensure all equipment/clothing is in good order. Load the small van with spades picks and shovels. Any problems let me know. I’ll be in my office”

“Rosemary can you call Hywell and patch him through to my office”

. I'm in need of some additional manpower. They will in all probability have to work late into the night can you spare me two Sgts' and at least 7 PCs from 1am today?

“Tam I can understand your reasons for the action you propose to take. Now I'm thinking you'll need a few more men than you've asked for leave it with me. I'll use our spare mini bus for transport and they'll arrive at your station well before 1 o'clock. Make sure the Chief Constable is aware of your intentions”

“Will do Hywell and thank you”

Next he explained the situation that had arisen to the Chief Constable who backed his decision to act now; rather than later, with a promise of more help should he need it. Before you go Tam DI Smithson how do you rate him as an officer?

“Excellent pays attention to detail and does not rush into anything without first considering all the facts and I trust him implicitly. Hope you're not considering taking him from me he'd be sadly missed?

“Quite the opposite he's promoted to DCI as your second in command. DSgt Chalmers from Llandudno on his promotion

to DI requested to be transferred to SCU he is 27 and single.  
He reports to you on Monday Morning”

“That is good news sir comes at the right time our work load  
is increasing by the day thank you”

“Mrs Lambert is on her way up with Mrs Garret Tam”

“Thanks can you ask DI Smithson to report to my office in 30  
minutes please Rosemary”

Mrs Lambert whose deportment and appearance spoke of  
gentility; also high breeding, supported by a quality of speech  
only attained through attendance at one of the finest and most  
reputable girls finishing school’s located in the South of  
England; Rodean.

“Tell me ma’am are you related to the Pemberton Family of  
Holden Park; who where the victims of a devastating  
financial disaster brought about by the collapse of several  
well known banking institutions?

“Correct young man you’re well informed; though you must  
have been very young at the time?

“My knowledge of the events came by way of research into the criminal mind when studying Criminal Psychology, I was writing a thesis on financial fraud at the time. Please tell me; how may I and my department be of service to you?”

“Superintendent in my position as senior consultant for the Registrars Office my attention was drawn to the request for copies of birth and marriage certificates in respect of the Jackson family. It is assumed they were required in connection with an on going investigation; am I correct?”

“That is true; why do you ask?”

“Because of my puzzlement over the fact no request was made in respect of the triplets all female Pamela, Roxanne and Dorothy according to the dates on these certificates their ages would be 17 years and 8 months plus Alex a boy of 15 years and 2 months. These copies of their birth certificates are for your records”

“Mrs Lambert; are you absolutely certain the children shown on these certificates are related by birth to the Jacksons?”

“Unless the truth has not been told at time of registration yes I am; is something seriously wrong Superintendent?”

“Yes Mrs Lambert there is and I fear the worst. Thank you for taking the time to make me aware of these extremely disturbing facts. Now there is much for me to do. For the record I must ask you to sign a statement before you leave. Rosemary can you take her and Mrs Garret through to your office for a cup of tea”

Rosemary her face clearly showing the shock felt by this disclosure; “of course Tam please follow me ladies. Mrs Lambert I won’t keep you long”

“Superintendent you’re a well mannered man facing a great deal of responsibility for one so young; your seniors must think highly of you and I wish you well, good day to you sir”

“Thank you will explain reasons why when we meet bye for now”

“Jason congratulations the Chief Constable has just told me your promotion to DCI as my 2ic has been approved. Newly promoted DI Chalmers takes over your position as from Monday. There is plenty of room in here for the two of us until that spare room next to Rosemary’s office is made suitable. Are you happy with that arrangement?”

“Indeed I am; you’ll want me to continue with the Daly/Piper case, there’s still a fair amount of work to do and I’d like to see it through to a conclusion?”

“Yes that is a tricky case and it would not be fair to hand it over to someone else at this advanced stage. Rosemary; Jason is now my second in command and DI Chalmers replaces him reporting here on Monday. This afternoon you’ll be in charge of the station the adult members of the Jackson/Colby family will be coming straight here I want them to have no contact at all with each other. On my return I shall need you in the interview room whilst Jackson senior is interviewed”

“Take it easy Tam; I can sense you’re angry and upset by this Jackson case have a cup of tea before your leave”

“Yes I’ll do that and thanks”

“I’m very happy for you Jason it’s well deserved any chance of another Typist Tam there is enough work to keep two typists occupied fully all day long?”

“Socco on the line Tam”

“Charles the case I spoke to you about; further information has been received, making it urgent that arrests are made starting this afternoon and it could be two or three days before your finished are you available?”

“I’ve been expecting your call Tam the Chief constable phoned earlier and told me your plan of arrest had been brought forward. As agreed on the phone I’ll deal with the Jacksons home and Godfrey Sandling the Colby’s were tooled up and teams are ready to go give me the addresses and I’ll meet you there”

“Splendid see you at 1”

“Rosemary its 1120 I’m taking a break before leaving here at 12:15. I’m going to make some tea fancy one and how about you Mrs Garret?”

Yes I would love one tell you what I’ll nip across to ‘Tim’s Café’ and buy us all some salad rolls.

On his way to the kitchen he was stopped by Sgt Macklin “good news sir the whole incident was witnessed by a young local couple in the jewellers next door to the PO and they recognised the assailants. Two young men well known to us

got records as long as your arm. They were found drinking in their father's garden shed with the money intact arrested; cautioned and are on their way back"

"Brilliant. Let everyone know were leaving here at 12:15 sharp" He was humming a happy, catchy tune on his way back to the office with the tea.

"You sound happy?"

"Yes Rosemary I am they've caught two men believed responsible for the assault on the pensioners."

"Sounds good to me you'll be wanting the Chief Constable?"

"Yes thank you Rosemary, first ask DI Smithson to let me have his report on the Daley case.

"Sir, Tam Dwyer firstly today's incident involving an elderly couple being assaulted in the 'Tregowan' high street those responsible have been apprehended.

## **Chapter Six**

### **A Shocking truth is learnt**

The arrival of the Police and Scene of Crime Officers did not go unnoticed to prevent intrusion partial closure of roads in both directions was affected with officers standing guard. Scene of Crime Officers clad in their paper suits, gloves and over shoes well versed in this procedure also acted swiftly taping off the front and rear gardens. Police officers patrolled the area keeping sightseers well clear of the area. Motorists that stopped were politely moved on their protestations ignored

“wearing hats, gloves, protective suits and overshoes DCS Dyer; Sgt Macklin entered the Jacksons property with 2 PCs followed by the Senior Scene of Crime Officer Charles Lomax a tall; sturdily built man, with piercing deep blue eyes and a dense thatch of Sandy coloured hair that was the envy of many. Since leaving university having gained a Masters degree with honours in Forensic Sciences he had applied his knowledge and skills working for the welsh Police Authority. He and the DCS had worked together many times over the years and knew each others way of working. The parents; their vociferous protests totally ignored, were cautioned;

placed under arrest, ordered to strip and put on a one piece protective suit and shoes. A Forensic officer then took several DNA samples from both parents before being removed to a waiting vehicle. Lets give the property a once over before your lads set to work Godfrey this they did moving from room to room making notes as they went taking care not to touch or disturb anything. The house stank of stale food; urine and other unsavoury odours. To say it was just dirty would be lieing; wild animals kept their homes in a cleaner condition, anyone daring to use the kitchen to prepare food would be running a serious health risk. His face clearly showing the revulsion and disgust at what he was seeing Tam spoke "Godfrey I'm going to speak with Environmental Health department explain the situation and request someone pay an urgent visit once your work is finished here; it cannot be left like this, I dread to think or even give consideration to the type of insect life in residence. The local authority will have to thoroughly cleanse and sanitise the whole building before allowing anyone to live here again. One thing is for certain it won't be the Jacksons. For the records would you supply me with a photograph showing the condition of each room as found by us?

“No problem Tam would suggest your lads take a shower and change at the station before going home tonight. They’ll need to bag their clothes and send them to the laundry”

“Yes most definitely I’ll arrange for them to be laundered having a word with the manager of the laundry first”

“Mr Dyer you’re wanted on the radio”

“Godfrey I have to go they need me at the Colby residence then its back to the station. Sgt Macklin your in charge keep the men on their toes; speak to control and request a mobile crime scene vehicle be sent out. I want the computers and all the videos found to be bagged and labelled as being from the Jackson property”

Arriving at the Colby house he entered and found five young boys and a girl seated at the kitchen table. Inspector Hewitt I’d like your report please?

“Sir, on gaining entrée to the house four men were arrested; cautioned then stripped, of their apparel and dressed in protective suits and overshoes supplied by forensics who also took DNA samples they have been despatched to the station under escort. Mr Sandling; Scene of Crime Officer, I and Sgt

Hamble then made a preliminary search of the house its filthy dirty; I've seen cleaner pig sties, children were heard crying as we entered an upstairs room at the rear of the property but no children could be seen. On making a more thorough search a small store room was discovered; its entrance concealed by a Tall Boy, the door was locked and had to be forced. It was in this small space measuring just 3.5 by 5 feet the children were found. They were in a terrible state; crying and clinging to each other for comfort, absolutely terrified they were. At our appearance they began screaming it was awful; never in all my years have had had I heard children scream like that before. DS Holmes was called to assist she took complete charge of them and shoed us all out of the room. A good half hour passed before the children appeared. The Sgt did a good job though their eyes still showed a terrible fear they were dry eyed and clothing had been found for them to replace those wet with their urine. Their clothes were placed in separate bags; labelled with their names, and handed over to Forensics. The youngest of them; a little girl, her name is not known. Not being certain on how to proceed requested you attend”

“You did exactly right Inspector well done, Sgt Holmes will accompany me with the children to the refuge What Mrs Garret is going to say about our turning up with an additional

six children I'm damned if I know,. Marion take the children out to my car make them comfortable I'll join you shortly.

Mr Sandling was a tall; sturdily built man, with piercing deep blue eyes and Blonde hair the colour of ripened corn possibly due to having Swedish Ancestors. Since leaving university having gained a Masters degree with honours in Forensic Sciences he had applied his knowledge and skills working for the welsh Police Authority. Godfrey this small room that held the children can you ensure quality photographs are taken of the interior and also the Tall Boy. Giving social services time to settle these children could one of your men visit the refuge and take photographs of all the children. Head and shoulders will do nicely?

“Tam don't you be worrying yourself each and every room including the store room have been photographed from several different angles your Inspector insisted it be done before my team started work I'll send Simon Evans out to the refuge he's tops at photographing kids. I suppose you'd like them as soon as possible?

“Got to find out who they are and where they've come from so yes; the earlier the better, thank you”

“Inspector; give me an hour then I shall be back at HQ interviewing Mr and Mrs Jackson and the Colby’s do nothing with the garden, keep it clear of people until your hear from me”

He strode out to his car outwardly calm looking; inwardly was a different matter, he repeatedly asked himself, how could any one be so utterly bestial and cruel towards innocent children, why had this situation been allowed to continue for so long. Of one thing he was most determined; those that were responsible would pay and pay dearly for their failures.

“Closing the door he turned to the eldest child “You’re the oldest can I ask your name?”

“Its Nancy mister and I’m nearly 13”

“Thank you; now can you tell me anything about these other children?”

“These are my brothers; she pointed at two of the boys, laying her hand on one of them, this is Thomas he’s 12 in October Jonathon is 10. Adrian and Tobias are twins; don’t know how old, they came here about two weeks ago, I don’t

know the name of the little girl she has said nothing since arriving here on Monday night last week”

“Ok were going for a car ride now to meet some nice ladies who are going to look after you. You will never be coming back to this house; never”

“Lady is it true what he’s saying” piped up one of the twins.

“Marion to whom the little girl was clinging placed her free arm around the lad holding him tightly “be sure of it Tobias” no more crying now; no one’s going to hurt you any more” Sgt Holmes her face betraying her inner feelings was herself struggling to hold back her tears.

“You all right Sgt?”

“Yes sir I’m fine honestly”

The journey to the refuge was a short but silent one; he pulled up in front of a large early 1930’s house looking extremely smart from its recent refurbishment. Marion I’ll carry the little one if she’ll let me. With the child in his arms he strode up a drive paved with ancient cobble stones that would cost a small fortune at today’s prices. Reaching the new PVC door

he rang the bell. Silently the door opened and one of the nurses employed by social services in a very smart one piece outfit of a darkish blue colour with white piping to ends of short sleeves that finished just above the elbow, lapels and collar. Her shoes were sensible; comfortable looking and black with low heels.

“May I help you sir?”

“Detective Superintendent Dyer and Detective Sgt Holmes to see Mrs Garret”

“In a Brogue with a lilt that was pure Irish; making one picture Ireland in all its glory on a beautiful summer’s day, please come in sir I’m Sister Rowena” she led them into a very large and well furnished room please sit down. Mrs Garret is busy with one of the children I’ll let her know your here and she’ll not keep you long. Would you like a cup of tea or coffee and what about the little ones; do they need a drink, there is some chilled Orange or Ribena?

“How about it Nancy will you and the boys like a nice cool drink?”

“Yes please and may I have a biscuit Mr”

“Sister I’d like a coffee please black no sugar and you Sgt?”

“Same for me please”

“Mr; may we look at the books please?”

“Of course you can Nancy; she was a child who had been taught manners and respect for her elders. A developing teenager with hair the colour of a Ravens wing her eyes the colour of a cloudless sunlit sky. He prayed silently that she had not been damaged beyond repair unable to enjoy life; to know the respect of; and to be able to place her trust in a man, who would choose her for his wife providing a decent; loving secure home in which to raise a family”

Nancy and the boys were soon engrossed in a book from a book case well filled with a quality selection of children’s books to suit all ages. Sgt Holmes had found a book of Grimm’s fairy stories and was reading softly to the twins; Tobias and Adrian they were like two peas in a pod with dark brown hair and grey eyes rather small in stature with strong well formed unblemished features he estimated them to be around 6 maybe 8 years old and the little girl; a beautiful child of around 6 years of age, with straw coloured softly

curling hair and eyes of soft brown velvet Her face mirrored inner feelings of sadness and fear. Jonathon and Thomas were well developed boys with hair of a rich red which accounted for their faces carrying a host of freckles and like their sister Nancy; deep blue eyes.

“The Sister returned with a tray bearing coffee, a heaped plate of biscuits and small fancy cakes. Help yourselves Mrs Garret will be with you shortly”

Mrs Garret entered casting her eye swiftly over the children who had polished off the biscuits and cakes even the little girl had enjoyed a drink with cake and biscuits “well Tam what’s this then; surely these children do not belong to the Jacksons; are they Colby offspring”

“No Hillary; who they belong to has yet to be discovered, they were all found locked in a small attic room at the Colby’s house. Have you got room for them?”

“Don’t worry yourself Tam there’s plenty of room; you go about your work see if you can sort this sorry mess before too long. The Jackson children though still very nervous are beginning to understand they have nothing to fear. I’ll fetch

two of the nurses; they can make a start by giving them a nice hot bath and nightclothes to wear they'll be fine believe me"

"Thank you; About Tobias I'm concerned he may have suffered some real internal damage; when you see the way he walks, you'll know what I mean. Tomorrow we'll have him looked at first by Mr Chalice. I've arranged for a photographer to visit at around 4 o'clock, individual photographs of all the children are needed and the Mini Bus will be here at 8 sharp in the morning to take them to the medical centre"

"They'll be wearing night clothes for the photos and also for the examination by Mr Chalice is that ok?"

"That'll be fine it's just a head and shoulders photo that's needed and it will save time at the clinic. Give my thanks to Sister Rowena for the coffee I shall see you in the morning. Let's go Sgt"

Time being of the essence Tam made all possible speed back to the Station and his office. Sgt Lomax the duty custody officer having glanced at the DC's face remained silent when he was told to stand by and have Mr Darren Colby brought to

interview room 2 under close guard when ordered.

Understood?

“Yes sir all clear”

“Jason I’ll commence interviewing Darren Colby in 10 minutes IR2. Sgt Holmes I’d like you to oversee the interview gaining some experience”

“Mr Chalice its Tam there are six additional children for examination tomorrow they were found at the Colby house where they came from or whose offspring they are has yet to be found out. Should know more after the Colby’s have been interviewed. There is also the question of missing female triplets and a boy. Allegedly the Jacksons are their parents. I’m hoping they will supply me with the answer as to where they can be found today. Will give full details tomorrow bye till then”

“Picking up a set of photographs of the Jackson/ Colby males he made his way to the detectives’ office. Sgt Pendlebury an important task for you and DC Jameson, information on these men is needed ASAP; he handed over the photographs, access CRO see if they have a criminal history dig deep and miss nothing. Where a matter is outstanding; contact the

person in charge and on my behalf request copies of all relevant documents and reports. Do not disclose details of the Jackson case. Make doorstep enquiries find out all you can on their working life and social activities. A separate file on each man is required. When you're satisfied you have exhausted all avenues of enquiry pass the files to Rosemary marked for my attention. Have I made myself clear Sgt or are there questions you would like to ask?

“No sir, come on James; you can drive lets make a start at The Avenue first”

He thrust open the door of interview room 2 strode in and sat down facing Darren Colby. “Inspector start the tape please”

“For the record those present at the interview of Mr Darren Colby senior; legally represented by Mr Jewel are; DCS Dwyer, DCI Smithson, DC Holmes”

Mr Colby 61 years virtually bald was unshaven with a face that was wrinkled and bore many scars. He possessed just five teeth and they were discoloured and rapidly decaying. His breath stank and his most unpleasant body odour was hard to dismiss.

“Mr Colby whilst being interviewed by Inspector Hewitt it became very clear that you were hiding the truth by persistent lying. I do not want you to waste my time by continuing to lie; the evidence against you is overwhelming. You were asked to supply details about six children found at your home locked in an upstairs store room. There is also the question of four children who have disappeared without trace. Should you have just the smallest shred of human decency left; give me that information now?”

“No; I will make a full statement admitting to having had sex with the children also beating them with a leather strap and nothing more”

“For the tape please explain what sort of sex you had with the boys?”

“Sometimes if the girls were busy I had some fun with them”

“That does not answer my question. This fun you had with the boys did it involve a full sexual act?”

“Are you bloody thick or something; of course it did I fucked their ass?”

“Mr Jewel did you advise Mr Colby senior that the charges against him of rape and sodomy were extremely serious and his continued antagonistic attitude and refusal to co-operate would not prove in his favour?”

“Mr Dwyer believe me I did; it’s been like talking to a brick wall, useless”

“Mr Colby the children found at your home where did they come from?”

“I told your Inspector this morning I don’t bloody well know”

“Tell me what happened to the three missing girls and their brother where they are now?”

“Look I’ve fucking well told you all I’m going to say; your supposed to be the smart ass detective, bloody well find out, now leave me be damn you”

“Mr Colby; please listen carefully to what I am telling you; I will find out with, or without your help. The truth about the missing children shall become known to me and I shall also learn where those children found at your home came from.

This interview will be continued when I have that information. Do you understand?

“Yes but you’ll get nothing more from me nothing; do you hear me nothing, you coppers are all the bloody same; stupid, the loud voice and manner screamed the words white froth forming on his lips?”

“Interview ended at 1505 Stop the tape Inspector; “Sgt take him back to his cell and lets have Mr Jackson in here”

The DCS was now convinced by Mr Colby’s attitude that he was lying; mortally afraid of speaking the truth; his fear so great, nothing would make him divulge from whence the children had been brought or the whereabouts of the missing children. Mr Jewel I’m now going to interview Mr Jackson followed by the mother will you be representing them?

“Superintendent I unfortunately have been given the dubious pleasure of representing all members of this family”

Mr Jackson 63 years old was a tall man with sparse wispy white hair his face heavily seamed by the passage of time with close deep set eyes of a nondescript blue. His nose was

aquiline; had been broken and badly set. He entered the IR with head bowed and sat with fists clenched placed firmly upon his lap.

With new tapes inserted and the correct procedure having been followed the DCS began.

“Mr Jackson information was passed to me that 17 years and 8 months ago your wife gave birth to triplets all female followed by the birth of a boy 18 months later. The certificates state you were the father is that true?”

“Well yes and no; you see, there were several others Megan was also fond of shagging so maybe; maybe not”

“Do you know where they are now?”

“Not really sure it was a long time ago”

“Did they live at the family home?”

“Yeah most of the time”

“What do you mean when you say most of the time; where else did they stay?”

“Sometimes their uncles liked to have them over for the weekend and in the holidays for a week or two. Right fond of them they were always giving them treats and presents. Took them down to the seaside a lot paid for everything and gave them a real good time”

“Were all the Colby’s; their relations by marriage, involved in these day trips?”

“That’s right they shared and did everything together; made a right fuss of them, spoilt them rotten so they did”

“Did you yourself go on these trips and stay over weekends or for a few days?”

“Sometimes I needed to get away from Megan; have a break from her constant nagging, whinging and whining used to get on my bloody nerves”

“That is a lie Mr Jackson in two previous interviews you stated your wife always went with you. I ask you again; how often did you join the Colby’s on these pleasure jaunts just occasionally or was it in truth on every trip and isn’t it true that your wife accompanied you at all times?”

“Alright clever clogs I did go on every trip and so did the missus. Why should I and the wife miss out they were our kids?”

“How old were they when they started staying at their uncles house?”

“Can’t really remember; maybe when they were 6 or 7, such a long time ago”

“Again your lieing Mr Jackson telling the truth comes so hard to you why?”

“I’m not lieing you’re confusing me”

“I shall come back to the missing triplets and the boy later. You are the father of Janice who is said to be 14, Elizabeth 12, Bethany 10, and two boys Dameon aged 7 and Harvey 9 is this correct?”

“I suppose so; like I’ve already said my missus wasn’t to careful when she was out enjoying herself”

“The five children I’ve just named; were they also spoiled; taken on trips to the seaside, stayed at their uncle’s house receiving treats and presents for doing as they were told?”

“Of course they were; they’re part of the family and no one got left out; all treated the same they were, didn’t want anyone getting jealous now did we?”

“Where you and Mrs Jackson not worried about the relationships between the Colby brothers; yourself and your children?”

“No; why should we be, their mother and me brought them up proper, knew how to behave they did, always obedient got belted otherwise”

“Are you saying; if your sons and daughters did not agree to do as you or your relatives asked; even if acts of a sexual nature were involved, they received a beating using a leather belt?”

“Damned right they did only way for kids to learn”

“Let us be clear on this issue Mr Jackson; your children were forced; entirely against their will, into having sexual

relationships with you and your relatives, Mr Colby and his three sons, in absolute fear of being beaten with a heavy leather strap owned by you. Your wife their mother raised no objections nor spoke out in their defence. Is that the truth of this matter?

“Yes that is true their our kids; can do what we like with them”

“Thank you Mr Jackson at last the truth is emerging; returning to the question of the missing four children, I want to know where they are and if it means staying here all night we shall, now tell me the truth; where are those children. Are they dead or alive?

“Can I have a drink?

“Sgt fetch him some water” he waited till the man finished the water. Mr Jackson you were about to tell me the fate of female triplets and a boy of which you and your wife were the parents please continue”

“The Colby brothers and me had been out having a few jars and was pretty far gone when we got back home. Woke the triplets and the boy up and had some fun. The kids were

crying and screaming to be left alone. That's all I can remember"

"Are you saying you have no knowledge at all of what happened to those unfortunate children?

"No I don't, can't remember fuck all I was pissed"

"Mr Jackson; that is a lie, you can recall the events of that night and your afraid to face the truth. Those poor innocent children suffered severe sexual abuse at the hands of their own family. They died not understanding the reason why their mother and father should allow them to feel such terrible pain and fear. They are dead aren't they Mr Jackson and you; your wife and family relatives were fully involved in bringing about their deaths am I right?

There ensued a lengthy silence which seemed never ending. Patiently the DCS waited for Mr Jackson to reply until; his entire being filled with loathing and disgust for the poor excuse of a man who sat facing him, "I do not wish to keep on repeating myself Mr Jackson so let's have the truth and; I want it now?

“Yes damn you; yes” he screamed; “are you satisfied now, they were my kids, nothing to do with you or anyone else”

“I am not completely satisfied Mr Jackson. A most important question; where are the bodies hidden?”

In a voice barely above a whisper; “buried in the back garden between the apple trees at the back of the shed”

“Repeat what you’ve just said Mr Jackson and speak up so that everyone can hear you”

Mr Jackson rose to his feet and in a loud and trembling voice did as he was asked.

“Thank you; now sit down, I’ve not finished yet”

“Let’s have a very clear understanding of what happened that night Mr Jackson. You and Mr Jacob Colby with his three sons Aaron, Jason and Haydon on an unknown date in 1998 whilst under the influence of alcohol; took part in forcing a male and 3 female children aged 9 years or younger; entirely against their will and terrified of being beaten, to take part in sexual penetrative activities at 19 The Avenue Keighley Cardiff resulting in their deaths. The bodies were buried in

the garden; at the rear of your property between two apple trees, behind the garden shed. You; and the Colby family persisted in carrying on an incestuous relationship with your remaining offspring until the 4<sup>th</sup> of July 2006 when you were placed under arrest. Is that correct?

“Yes; now go to hell you got what you wanted and it’s the truth so let me be”

“Was your wife involved in the events of that night and has she; without being threatened by you or the Colby’s, always been a willing partner of her own choosing, up until the day of her arrest in the committing of unlawful acts of a sexual nature against her offspring?

“She was there every time; she’d have played merry hell if left out. Megan always enjoyed the parties drinking and shagging, she’s a right goer that woman of mine”

“Mr Jackson; do you understand that the most serious charges you are now facing are; of murder and the raping of under age children male and female?

“Cause I do I’m not bloody stupid”

“Mr Jackson it is the truth that you; and members of your family, gave no thought to the anguish, pain and suffering being caused to children you fathered or, the offspring of others by persistently sexually abusing and violating them; causing injuries from which they may never truly recover. It is also true that the acts of violence and abuse to which these children were subject was purely for your own; your wife’s and the Colby family sexual enjoyment?”

“Are you fucking daft; of course it’s true, why be bothered having sex if you don’t enjoy it. Young or old; male or female, willing or not it’s what life’s all about no good having a dick or fanny if you don’t make use of it”

Mr Jackson did you feel no sense of shame or feelings of remorse for the vile crimes committed against these young and vulnerable children?

“No; not at all, their my children and no-one is going to tell me how I should or should not raise them and that’s it I’m done answering your stupid bloody questions”

“Mr Jackson further questions will have to asked and you will supply the answers is that understood”

“Yeah whatever if it makes you happy”

Interview finished at 1617.

“Inspector; have Mr Jackson sign both tapes and date them. A witnessed statement written and signed by Mr Jackson in his own hand is required. Deal with it whilst I return to the Jackson home and speak to the SSCO he will need to make arrangements for finding and recovering the remains of those unfortunate children. Marion; can you work late tonight and assist DCI Smithson?”

“Yes mums away to help her friend who has taken a nasty fall and she has left a prepared cold supper for me”

“Mr Jewel if you feel in need of some refreshment now’s the time to do so. I shall be away for about an hour?”

“Thank you; I feel more in need of a pick me up that Mr Jackson is a truly revolting person; in all my years as a legal representative never, have I ever come across a more disgusting man. Does he not understand the meaning of parental love? Superintendent; you have my respect and admiration how you kept control of yourself during that interview, I’m damned if I know; There is one fact I am

certain of; I do not intend under any circumstance to act in defence of this family in court”

“Believe me at times it can try ones patience to the limit and beyond. But this is what I was trained for dealing with all types of characters; some through circumstance are placed in a situation reaching a point where crime seems the only answer, habitual criminals gaining pleasure from the crimes they commit with a total disregard for any suffering caused by them, then there is the hardened criminal who will kill or maim for money and shows no remorse at all when caught. The Jackson and Colby’s; I’m open to suggestions, but I believe only a very skilled psychologist; with knowledge and experience of the human mind gained over many years, could tell into which category they would fall. I sympathise with and understand the position you find yourself in; it’s very difficult indeed, if you take that decision I for one would not hold it against you”

“Tam; I’ve spoken with Iona and Marion they’re both travelling here with me in the morning. I’ve nothing arranged for this evening would you like me to stay and make a start with the Jackson/Colby statements?”

“That would be a tremendous help I’ll leave it up to you when you leave. Tell inspector Smithson you’re here. Can you phone Ursula for me she knows I’m going to be late tell her I shall be home by 9”

Sgt Tamlyn and DC Bartlett just leaving are you?

“Yes sir did you want our report before leaving”

“No that’s fine see me in my office at 9:30 tomorrow”

“Tam first went to the Colby residence and spoke with Inspector Hewitt telling him of the received confession. “I require you to work with and assist Mr Lomax. It will mean a late finish for you are you happy to do so. DS Macklin has already agreed to work late and take charge of excavation work.

“Yes I’m quite happy to work late the extra cash will come in very handy”

“Charles; Mr Jackson has just confessed to the murder of the missing boy and female triplets. The bodies are to be found buried between two apple trees in the rear garden. Inspector Hewitt has agreed to help and assist you when needed. Sgt

Macklin under your guidance will be in charge of the digging party. “Shall we take a look before I leave to continue interviewing the guilty parties?”

“Tam why don’t you leave it to Bryn and I otherwise it’s going to be midnight before you get home?”

“That is true I must interview Mrs Jackson this evening the Colby’s can wait till tomorrow. Ok I’ll leave it in your capable hands any problems and you will call me won’t you?”

Charles Lomax replied “Be sure of it; now off with you and leave us men to get on with the job”

At Police HQ he informed the custody officer that he wished to interview Mrs Jackson in 15 minutes then sought out DCI Smithson finding him in the canteen. “How did it go Jason?”

“Rosemary should be just about finished typing a copy of Mr Jackson’s statement. She is adding a certification paragraph stating that it is a true copy. He can sign it to say he has read it and agrees that no alterations to the text have been made”

“Excellent now let’s show Mrs Jackson her husbands confession, with luck this shall not take long” with a hot mug

of tea he made his way to IR2 where he found Mrs Jackson waiting under the watchful eye of the duty Sgt.

Mrs Jackson a 58 year old woman short in stature; overweight with frizzy greying hair, Brown shoe button eyes so dark they appeared almost black and heavily lined features rose to her feet as they entered; protesting vociferously in a voice coarse and cracked from years of smoking. Using language of the gutter in stating her opinion of the Police and the manner in which she was being treated. Her body odour was bad; but her breath much worse, it stank like a sewer and filled the room with its nauseous smell.

“Sgt; take pity on us all; open that window and let some fresh air in”

In a voice that demanded instant attention DCS Dwyer said  
“Sit down and shut up”

“Inspector please start the tape recorder”

She sat down her mouth agape showing her few remaining broken and blackened teeth

“You can’t speak to me like that I know my rights”

“I’m sure you do” He pushed a copy of her husband’s confession across the table read that whilst I finish my tea. He went across to the opened window grateful to breathe in some fresh air. He gave her ample time to finish reading then returned to his chair. Your husband made that statement of his own free will now I want you to answer some questions and I want the truth”

“Mrs Jackson your daughter Janice not yet 15 gave birth to a child; who was the father?”

“How should I know; she’s been to bed with them all, sometimes two or three times a night”

“You’re a born liar just like your husband you do know the father of her child; it was her uncle Mr Colby; am I right or wrong, lets have the truth now Mrs Jackson its pointless lieing any more”

“Alright yes he was the father so what?”

“Did Janice willingly enter into a relationship with her uncle or was she threatened and forced to do so?”

“Took some persuasion had to show her the old mans belt before she would get into his bed. Janice never refused again so reckon she enjoyed herself. Loved the baby when it was born wouldn’t let anyone else look after it; not even me”

“Could you really blame her for not trusting you with her child; Janice a young teenager, your own flesh and blood forced into having sex with a man 40+ years her senior a close family relative? Did you give no thought at all to the mental anguish and physical damage being caused by your totally irresponsible attitude? For pities sake woman; a mother is supposed to love, give guidance and protect her female offspring from those who would do them harm especially when its members of the same family? You gave your daughters no love; no guidance and no protection at all, allowing the male members of your family to sexually abuse and ill treat your children; male and female, as and when it pleased them, raising no objections at all. That is the truth isn’t it Mrs Jackson?

“Who are you to talk like that to me I know how to raise my kids so don’t you go trying to tell me what to do and what not to do; Janice is a woman isn’t she, meant to produce children and give pleasure to men. Start them young I says; she’d had experience enough she should have learnt to protect herself”

she rose to her feet I've had enough of answering your damned interfering questions; I want to go back to my cell"

"In a voice like thunder his eyes blazing with anger the DCS roared "Mrs Jackson; you'll be taken back to your cell when I've finished and not before, now sit down"

The woman sat; a startled look of real apprehension crossed her face as there came to mind a realisation she was in serious trouble. This officer was not a person to be argued with and fearfully she waited for him to begin.

"Let me repeat my last question and I want you to answer it in a loud clear voice: You gave your daughters no love, no guidance and no protection at all allowing the male members of your family to sexually abuse and ill treat your children; male and female, as and when it pleased them raising no objections at all. That is the truth isn't it Mrs Jackson?"

"In a subdued voice but showing no sign of remorse she answered "Yes"

"I cannot hear you Mrs Jackson"

“Yes you interfering nosey bastard; yes it’s true what you say, I never did love them, never”

It is also true that your daughters were forced into having sexual relations from a very early age?

“Yes”

“How old were they when these relationships began?”

“About 6 or 7 years”

“What about your sons where they also forced into carrying out sexual acts with your husband and the four male members of the Colby family from an early age?”

“Yes damn you yes”

“With whom did they have sexual relationships I need their names?”

“My Husband Raymond Jackson his relative; Jacob Colby and his sons Aaron, Jason and Haydon”

“Was anyone else involved such as visitors to the family home?”

“No never had visitors”

“Is it true that you also enjoyed sexual relationships with these family relatives on a regular basis?”

“Yes”

“The children at the Colby residence; whose were they and where did they come from?”

“How should I know ask Jacob sod all to do with me”

“The Triplets and Twins born to you; your husband has stated that they died at the Colby home in 1998, as a direct result of abnormal sexual relations with your husband; Raymond Jackson, Jacob Colby their uncle and his three sons Aaron, Jason and Haydon whilst under the influence of alcohol. He stated you were present and took an active part in the proceedings. Is that the truth Mrs Jackson?”

In a voice that showed not a vestige of regret “Yes I was there came back from the pub with them. Helped them to wrap

their bodies in double size blankets and shoved them into black polythene bags before burying them”

“Mrs Jackson you will now face very serious charges of murder and assisting in the rape of children between the ages of; 5 to 15 years old, It is required that you make a written confession Inspector Smithson will assist you and witness your signature is that understood?

“Yes and if you’ve finished poking your nose into my affairs I’d like a cup of tea?

“Jason I’ll be in my office come and see me when you’ve finished. Mr Jewell you can leave as soon as you’ve witnessed her signing the statement. Can you be here for 10:30am tomorrow?

Tam sat in his chair head back with his eyes closed giving consideration to the interviews he had just conducted. He also gave thought of the morrow; Jacob Colby and his three sons would they; knowing that Raymond Jackson and his wife had confessed, made statements admitting their guilt of having played a major role in the deaths of four children. Who did those children found at the Colby house belong to; were their

parents at this moment suffering an agony of torment through not knowing whether they were dead or alive? He was roused from his reverie by DCI Smithson calling his name.

“Its Charles Lomax Tam wants to speak with you urgently”

“Tam here Charles have you unearthed the bodies?”

“Yes; there was not much digging involved the graves were very shallow. There is five bodies. I shall not be able to give you any further information until pathology has completed all their tests. They will require additional body fluid samples including blood from the family adult members to enable DNA and other tests to be carried out. Two team members will visit first thing in the morning say 0930? Inspector Hewitt has spoken with Control at Asaph and arranged for both SOC to be guarded through the night by four officers working in pairs operating a four hours on and four hours off shift until relieved tomorrow morning. My Team and I will be on site at 0800 and the same applies to Godfrey’s team. The Inspector would like a word with you good night see you tomorrow”

“Mr Dwyer sir, when the officers detailed for guard duty arrive request permission to stand all other personal down?”

“Inspector before you go off duty make sure both houses are secured. SOC Vehicle to remain on sight for use by on duty officers. I require the van with all our equipment on board returned to the station and secured in the garage with a notice attached stating it is not to be used. Your first task tomorrow will be the cleansing of the van and all tools. All officers who entered the Jackson and Colby houses are to shower before they change into their civilian clothes. Their soiled uniforms are to be bagged ready for despatch tomorrow morning but not before I’ve had a word with the laundry manager. Used protective clothing to be bagged and incinerated in the morning. All officers involved today are to report to their normal place of duty by 0900 Monday any questions?”

“No sir good night”

“Good night Inspector you and the men worked well today thank you”

“They’ve found an additional body Jason which means further questioning of Mr and Mrs Jackson but first I’ll interview the Colby’s. Are you ready to go home I most definitely am? Rosemary I noticed your cars not in the park;

I'll run you and Marion home. Must have a word with the  
duty Sgt on the way out so come on every body lets lock up  
and make tracks”

## **Chapter Eight**

### **Rosemary receives help with Admin**

It was 0750 When Tam strode into headquarters “Good morning Sgt Hughes no problems during the night?”

“No sir; all the prisoners as per your orders were allowed to take a shower one at a time and given no chance to talk to one another they received fresh clothing and footwear to wear courtesy of the Serious Crimes Investigation Unit. That Mrs Jackson started to lay into PC Cummings with her foul mouth when she was told that she had no choice but to take a shower and accept the track suit bottoms and a sweat shirt even though a mite on the large size for her. Now Bob Cummings is; a well educated six foot two inches tall man with the physique of a rugby player; a game he loves to play and has the scars to prove it. He towered over her a very imposing figure of a man. The manner and the way he spoke to her all quiet and soft like but containing a very real and very strong threat was a treat. He said; very politely, “Mrs Jackson I would ask you not to make reference to my being born out of wedlock again it being a total lie. I shall become most annoyed if you do and it would not be to your liking. She never said another word but took her shower and the clothes with the meekness of a lamb”

“Laughing Tam said “I agree Bob is not a man to cross I’ve seen him in action on the Rugby field. My secretary will be arriving shortly with a mother and her daughter pass them straight through please Sgt”

“Sir; is it possible that consideration could be given to increasing number of officers to cover front desk and custodial duties. At present due to retirement of Sgt Piper and Pc Hallywell there is just one person left to act as relief?

Tam made a note in his log book “let me have a list of officers employed to work on custody and front of desk Will see what can be done but no promises mind”

“Understood sir and thank you”

Seated at his desk Tam wasted no time for the next half hour it was head down dealing with files; letters and officers reports. By his right hand was an A4 lined pad on which he wrote the names of officer teams who would be assigned newly arrived cases requiring investigation. By 7.30 his Inn tray empty; he sat back giving consideration on how best to conduct the interviews of Colby senior and his three sons they would he felt be tougher than the Jacksons..... His

thoughts were interrupted .by the arrival of Rosemary with a bright and cheery good morning then introduced her friend Iona and daughter Julia. He rose to his feet and shook their hands warmly bidding them welcome. May I have your application forms and CVs.....? “Thank you. Rosemary could you take them through to your office give me 10 minutes to read through their papers then I’ll see them both at once”

Iona Thaxby was of medium height with dark shoulder length brown hair her daughter Julia; several inches taller, with the same colour and length of hair as her mothers. Their eyes a soft grey were set wide apart in a face that spoke of honesty and a quality of breeding. Both were dressed in well chosen clothes and shoes that had been selected with care and for comfort rather than show. He read through the CVs which were impressive historically and academically. Previous employers spoke very highly of them and had supplied glowing references..

Rosemary entered with a steaming cup of tea “shall I send them in Tam?

“Yes and I’d like you to be present”

“He rose to his feet please be seated; based on your CVs and references from previous employers I am pleased to offer you Iona; the position of assistant Secretary, and Julia I’d like you to take on the post of clerical officer dealing with filing, photocopying and the post. Any problems speak to Rosemary as Senior Admin Officer. You may find your present work load heavy and exacting and I would be in agreement with your findings. The reason why you’re being offered the posts is because of my expectation that it will become much heavier. I am satisfied in my own mind that you have the ability also office skills and will be able to cope. It must be clearly understood that the work is of a highly confidential nature and must not be discussed outside of this office especially not with members of the media. To do so means instant dismissal. I would like you to start immediately or do you need time to consider?”

“My daughter and I are pleased to accept your offer of employment and there are no problems with starting this morning sir”

“One last point Julia; you missed out on going to university due to a long illness. When you recovered; determined to improve your chances of obtaining decent well paid employment, you enrolled at night school studying for a

degree in office management. That decision is to be admired and respected should you need day time release or time off for research; revision or exams it will not be a problem”

“Thank you; that is, a most appreciated and welcome offer sir”

“Tam there is a DCS Owen on line 2 he gave no details as the nature of his call but stressed it is imperative that he speak to you. Sgt Tamlyn and DC Bartlett are also waiting to make their report”

“Good morning how can I be of assistance?”

“Good morning Tam the name is Samuel Owen New Scotland Yard. I’ve travelled down from London with Mr Johnston of the Home office. Our interest lies with the six children found at Mr Colby’s residence and also the remains of a person found buried at the home of Mr and Mrs Jackson. There is a need for us to be present during the interviews. Were 20 minutes away and intend stopping for some breakfast can you delay start of interviewing until our arrival?”

“That will not pose a problem shall advise the duty Sgt of your coming and he will have someone show you direct to my office”

“Thank you Tam we’ll not tarry to long over breakfast”

“Rosemary I’m ready for Sgt Tamlyn”

“Sit down I expect your feeling rather pleased with yourselves and quite rightly so; it was an excellent result, now let’s have your report?”

Clearly and concisely the report was made, throughout in dealing with the incident the officers had acted in a correct and proper manner earning praise from members of the public who were witness to the crime being committed.

“You interviewed Ferguson and Bailey late yesterday afternoon and they never denied the charges made and gave a written statement without argument. Today your interviewing and obtaining statements from several members of the Public and tomorrow their to make an appearance before the magistrate” I intend recommending to the CPS that bail be refused and for them to be held on remand. During today make certain you forward their details to CID departments

through out the UK. You worked well together are you content to remain working as a team?

“That pleases me there is a real nasty piece of work by the name of Lawrence Aitkin he is suspected of savagely attacking several students and other members of the public before relieving them of their belongings.



Take a seat, feeling pleased with yourselves, you should be you've done a good days work now lets have your report? Clearly and concisely the report was made, throughout in dealing with the incident the officers had acted in a correct and proper manner there was no question at all about whom the guilty persons were and this would be supported by two; at scene of crime witnesses that had without being asked volunteered to make a statement and give evidence in court.

“Well done; excellent in fact, when their legal representative arrives, interview them make sure it is all recorded on tape

and statements given are signed and witnessed. Mr Stanhope and his wife are coming in tomorrow morning give them all the assistance needed when making their statements which must also be signed and witnessed. Hand the case file with your own notes taken during the day to Rosemary. Ferguson and Bailey will attend a preliminary hearing due to the serious nature of the incident a recommendation will be attached to the file before it goes to CPS that they are held remand. Are you content to remain as a team?

“Yes sir, no problems there”

“Good carry on and again thank you for a good result”

“Superintendent Rothy on the line”

“Tam Dyer how can I help you?”

“Jim Rothy out of Melvyn have spoken with the Chief Constable and he has given permission for me to hand one of my cases over to you there are several points I wish to discuss before handing over the file when can we meet?”

“Jim could you make it this evening say about six will have no time at all tomorrow?”

“Fine perhaps we could have a bite to eat whilst I talk you through it?”

“How about a fish supper at my place I’m not too fond of discussing in public, Matters-in-progress”

“Suits me let me have your address and I’ll be there about six?”

“Sgt Hamble’s team my office please”

“Do you fancy a free fish supper this evening plus overtime?”

“I have a rehearsal with the Chapel choir at 8 sir will I be finished by then” asked DC Haydon?

“Yes should be finished by 7”

“No problem then sir”

“I have a meeting with DS Rothy at 6 o clock my place he has a case for us here’s the address also £10.00 purchase four

large pieces of cod with chips. Do not be late I hate cold food and bring your notebooks”

“Tell your Mam if it is her lamb special I’ll not eat breakfast and will be there at 11 how’s that?

“Fine Tam how would you feel about taking me to church we could walk back by the lake build our appetites up weather looks grand according to the forecast?

“Shall look forward to it pick you up at 9 got to go now say thanks to your Mam for me bye”

“Rosemary it is coming up to 3 can you see I’m not disturbed for an hour unless urgent”

For the next hour it was head down dealing with accumulated paperwork.

“D Sgt's Brewer, Issacs and Jackson also DC’s Jacoby, Winter, Hanlowe, and Haines report my office please.

“Tomorrow afternoon and Friday there are three cases on which I need factual information. Sgt Brewer - DC Winter the

Trevane case watch out for this one Aitken is a real nasty piece of work he savagely beat two 18 year old students and other victims before relieving them of their belongings use your handcuffs whilst you search his premises. Sgt Jackson and Hanlowe there is a brother and sister name of Delaney involved in a spate of robberies where excessive violence is used make sure you're well prepared again I would recommend handcuffs whilst searching for evidence. Sgt Issacs – DC Jacoby on the Downey case I want you to search for stolen property at the lock up garage belonging to our suspect a man named Thomson. A man with a known reputation for drugs and violence keep him restrained at all times Haines I want you to interview Mrs Downey she has suffered three successive burglaries on each occasion she has required hospital treatment. Should incriminating evidence be found during the searches first caution then arrest the suspects. In carrying out arrests make sure all the correct procedures are met. I shall expect your full reports to be on my desk Monday morning by 0900 any questions?

Emma her daughter had always been a real close friend; as a child she had lived next door to my parents and had the run of the house. She moved away got married and was very happy until a car accident took away her husband and two year old son leaving her confined to a wheel chair and unable to fend

for herself she now lived in a hospice for the terminally ill where staff made her life as happy as possible”

With our glasses charged Rothy commenced telling me of the case he would like to hand over.

“Three young courting couples have been murdered over a period of eight months the killer using the same method each time there is little forensic evidence and despite intensive doorstep enquiries no clue as to whom the murderer might be. Family, friends and fellow students have been interviewed and again nothing. He handed over the file it’s all in there have a read through and then ask questions”

“Will do first let’s eat and have another glass of wine. Sgt; sorry no beer, feel free to sample some wine red or white or if you prefer tea you’ll find everything in the kitchen”

It did not take me long to read the very slim file and I passed it over to Sgt Hamble, “our new DI starts Monday he will be taking charge of this case but I want you and DC Haydon to do some preliminary work read the file with care review all the known facts then sit down and discuss your thoughts with Mr Tobutt”

“Haydon it is now 7.10 enjoy your choir practice”

“Jim there is one question to which I would like an answer if possible; Sgt pay attention make a note, has there been any newcomers such as travelling salesmen to the area?”

“Must admit that is an angle which has not been looked at or pursued”

“There is your first task Sgt residents newly settled in the area also travelling salesmen check them out. It will be long and tedious but I want it done and done fast this person or persons may strike again. Jim I’ve an early start and very busy day ahead of me tomorrow so I’ll bid you goodnight I shook his hand and thanked him for bringing the file over”

“Sgt you did well in reporting to me thank you for giving the children something to eat. The local authority are sending someone to fix the front door should be here soon. When

Forensics finish; secure the property, have some lunch and will see you back at the station” Talk to no-one especially the press understood?

“Understood sir,

“Rosemary – Tam would your friend Iona; if her interview proves successful, make an immediate start? If she is agreeable I’ll see her at 7.30 also would you mind coming in early tomorrow?

“Will 7 suit you?”

“Lovely, see you at 7 then bye”

“Hillary these are the children take charge of them must have a word with the Doctor Tobias come with me; please don’t be frightened no one here is going to hurt you” Mr Chalice I’m very concerned over this young man I fear he may have suffered some real damage; see the way he is walking, obviously suffering pain”

“Gently the Doctor lifted Tobias onto his examining couch Nurse help the young lad take of his clothes” at this the

young boy burst into tears; curled into a foetal ball and sobbed, please don't hurt me anymore?

“Nurse Tabetha took the boy into her arms holding him tight and explained “I have to remove your clothes so the Doctor can see how to make you better. Come along now pretend you're a soldier who's been hurt in a big battle and needs help.

“He's not going to hurt me?”

“If he dose I'll bash him hard ok”

Clinging tightly to the nurse's hand he allowed the doctor; working with utmost care and gentleness to make his examination on completion he said “young man I'm afraid it's a spell in hospital for you after a few weeks rest you'll be good as new”

Tobias said: “it was that man he made me sit on his lap holding me really tight he did something it hurt so much I started to scream but he put his hand over my mouth” then he started to sob; deep pain racked sobs, again, the nurse gently held him it's over now hush my little one; no-one is going to

hurt you now, no-one. Holding him close to her breast with head bowed so her own tear filled eyes could not be seen”

“Tam I will finish my examinations first in case any of the others need hospital treatment. It will be sometime after 3 by the time I’m finished can I come to your office, give you my verbal report a copy of the audio tape and also photographs?”

“You have recorded and photographed all that has been said and seen here today that is excellent; I appreciate that very much”

Tam left the clinic filled with a deep rage against those who had perpetrated unspeakable acts against such young children taking away their innocence to satisfy their own perverted needs. Back at the Station House he spoke first with Rosemary. “The men have really done well to-day, produce a strong note of thanks I will sign it personally and would you get Hywell on the phone for me.

“Hywell – Tam your officers DC’s Evans and Green did really well today in an exacting situation. I would like it placed on record that Sgt Miller showed tremendous self discipline, control and initiative, on finding himself dealing

with children who had suffered terrible abuse at the hands of those he arrested. Thank them all for me would you?

“What’s up Tam you sound as though you’re ready to beat the hell out of somebody?”

“That is so right, just going to get myself a cup of tea; sit quietly for ten minutes and cool off, speak to you later”

“The Clarion is on line 1 a Mr Leyton he appears to have knowledge of today’s arrests Tam”

“Good afternoon Mr Leyton if you’re after information on today’s events a press release will be made at a later date. The case being investigated is extremely sensitive; for legal reasons and to protect those involved, it is impossible to release any information at this stage. Should you wish this confirmed ring the Chief Constable? Be warned should even the slightest hint of today’s happenings be seen in print you could find yourself in serious trouble. Have I made myself clear?”

“Mr Dwyer that is very clear I understand perfectly do you wish me to pass the message on to the other papers it will

keep them quiet for a little while however they will need a release soon?

“Your help will be appreciated; everyone will be advised when a release is to be made thank you for the call.

He read and signed the thank you note went and pinned it to the notice board before entering the detectives office finding it deserted except for Sgt Brewer and DC Issacs who were just about to leave. “Had your lunch Sgt?

“Yes thank you were making a start on the Trevane case now hope to have a fair bit done this afternoon. Confidentially; on this morning’s job, I hope you nail those bastards sir”

“Should all the evidence be provided in support; it will happen?”

“Mr Chalice is waiting in your office Tam”

“Would you like some tea Doctor?

“Yes please no sugar and very little milk”

“Could you make some tea Rosemary strong for me?

“Tam, Rosemary could we dispense with the Dr and Mr Chalice it’s Philip or just Phil to my colleagues and friends?”

“Certainly and thank you for all you’ve done today purely for reference purposes I shall record the verbal report on today’s findings”

“Starting with the mother, physically she is a bit of a wreck brought about by years of over indulgence in liquor, smoking, abnormal and normal sexual activity also low hygiene standards. Medically her heart and lungs are wasted and deteriorating rapidly. Should the mother continue with her present lifestyle I would estimate a remaining life span of no more than two years?”

“The parent of the child is in fair shape physically she has suffered anal sex abuse over a very long period and irreparable muscle damage has been done. She is also pregnant about four months I would say”

“The remaining female has suffered damage to vaginal and anal tracts some repair may be possible; she needs to be examined by a specialist and soon, it is also my opinion

counselling is needed to deal with mental trauma brought about by experiences”

“On the two boys they have both experienced anal sex and damage has been caused it may be possible to effect some repair to the anal muscles. Both have suffered mentally by their experiences and will need a long period of counselling a full recovery is doubtful”

“The children from the Colby address also suffered severe sexual abuse. In addition; their was evidence of biting round the nipple and genital areas, plus some one has laid into them with a heavy belt with a large buckle their bodies especially the buttocks are badly bruised look at these photographs you can clearly see the imprint of the buckle. Tobias poor lad he is in hospital now he suffered worst who ever abused him was a real brute. This may help; he said the man who hurt him had a twisted nose?

“That’s all I can tell you, my written report will contain more detail and also results of the blood samples plus who the actual father of the girl’s babies is.

“Have been in touch with Mrs Jackson’s GP and sent him a letter with details recommending he arrange specialist

appointments for the children as a matter of urgency. I shall also as a matter of professional etiquette have to send him a copy of my report advising him a police investigation is ongoing under your direction and therefore it must be treated in utmost confidence. I have given your office number in case he wants to make contact”

“Phil what are your feelings on this case?

“From my talks with Hilary who is exceedingly upset by all she has seen today I would venture that local authorities have been very slow in re-acting to alleged reports made. Has the school been visited yet?

“Yes it would seem from interviews carried out and a statement made by a Miss Andrews they are of the same opinion”

“It is my intention to visit social services office and ask a number of questions purely to confirm statements received. Phil I have a great deal to do before I can call it a day your tremendous help today is truly appreciated. Let us hope and pray some good will come from this sad case. Could we meet socially sometime in the near future?

“Yes I would like that; I’ll say cheerio and don’t go working your self into the ground there is a long way to go yet”

“Rosemary can you arrange for copies of these photographs; head and shoulders only, distribute to all stations in the UK requesting anyone who has knowledge of the children to contact me. Supply my home number as well stressing the need for urgency and confidentiality”

“With photographs of the males found at the Colby home he went to the detective’s room where, he found DCs Pendlebury and Mason enjoying a brew of tea he joined them very nice just how I like it. an important task for you both; these are photographs of male persons involved in the Jackson case I need to know their background; have they a criminal record, contact Criminal Records Office (CRO) also send copies to all heads of CID and Interpol stress the need for urgency and confidentiality. Should you encounter difficulty in obtaining information let me know immediately. Have you any questions?”

“No sir”

“Tam began sorting through and dealing with a mass of accumulated paperwork, working solidly with only minor

interruptions finally at 4.30 his in tray empty he turned to his secretary it has been a long and tiring day for both of us and tomorrow is also an early start. Tell your friend Iona not to worry herself over the interview her completed application form tells me she is going to be: like yourself, an asset to the team. Being friends sharing an office should not pose any problems. A second desk, computer and telephone are being installed this evening. I would like you to leave all confidential files from your desk in here both doors will be locked on leaving. The small room alongside your office is to become a secure storage area for confidential files. Shelving is being installed this weekend and security locks fitted and that's it any thoughts or opinions on arrangements and changes to be made?

“None at all it sounds like we are making progress. Iona and I have been the very best of friends for a long time she will be good company, some one to discuss problems arising with and also should one of us be ill the position will be covered”

Tam made an early start arriving at his office well before 7 he had suffered a fitful night his sleep disturbed by intrusive thoughts of yesterday. His mind dwelling on pictures of a teenage girl her innocence stolen from her by brutal sadistic men. Of Tobias a mere 9 years old who could not understand what had been done to him or the reasons why? Were the accused of low mentality? Not possible; all were employed or allegedly, actively seeking work. No he was firmly convinced the sexual acts perpetrated against the children were purely for their own personal gratification. Sitting at his desk reading the results of preliminary interviews made he determined to play a lead role in further interviews planned for today.

“Please call me Tam and thank you for accepting I am confident you will prove a valuable asset in the smooth running of this Command. Rosemary will you show Iona where everything is and make a start on teaching her police procedures?”

A knock came at his door and DC Wendle entered “you wished to see me sir?”

“Yes tell me DC Wendle do you wish to remain a member of this unit?”

“Yes sir”

“My attention has been drawn to your dress and I am in complete agreement with the comments made your shoes are filthy, shirt and trousers have not seen an iron, in fact; you are downright scruffy, detectives of the Serious Crime Unit are expected to maintain a reasonable standard in their appearance and also in recording of facts. This notebook of yours is abysmal I have seen junior school children write better have you any excuse?”

“No sir,

“This is a warning; you’re a good detective of that I have no doubts however, when you’re engaged on a case appearances and legible note taking is all important. Consider; called to give evidence in court and you had to refer to your note book, could you read this scrawl? No; a defence lawyer would tear your evidence to pieces possibly a case would be lost and wrong doers returned to the streets to commit more crime. Take heed, smarten yourself up and I don’t want to see your notebook on my desk again unless it is entirely legible understood?

“Yes sir,

“Now a report has been made of a person believed to be mid-European selling drugs outside Tregowan School. Observe make notes and if you can catch him in the act arrest him, use handcuffs. Call for assistance; do not make a personal search unless you have a witness, All clear?

“Yes sir,

Picking up photographs taken of the Jackson family male members he made his way to the detective's office. "Sgt Pendlebury a job for you and your partner, information is required on these men" he handed over the photographs access CRO (Criminal Records Office) see if they have a criminal history. Where a matter; in which they are suspected of being involved is outstanding, contact the person in charge and on my behalf request details. Do not disclose details of the Jackson case. Make doorstep enquires find out all you can on their social activities. A separate file on each man is required. When you're satisfied you have exhausted all avenues of enquiry pass the files to Rosemary marked for my attention. Have I made myself clear or are there question you would like to ask?

"No sir, all clear we'll make a start right away"

"Darren I do not want to waste time you know the score the evidence against you is overwhelming. Since your initial interview you've had plenty of time to discuss your situation with Mr Jewel. You were asked at that interview to supply details in regard to the children found at your home address you refused; should you have a shred of decency left, give me the information now?"

“No, I will make a full statement admitting to having sexual relationships with the children also using the belt and nothing more”

The DCS sat back in his chair baffled by his adamant refusal.

“Mr Jewel did you advise Darren that a continued refusal to co-operate would not prove of help in his defence”

“Mr Dwyer having stressed the importance of co-operating with the police many times to no avail I believe it pointless to pursue this line of enquiry except; by other means”

“Darren are you in fear of a reprisal.....he was rudely interrupted

“Look I’ve f\*\*\*\*\* well told you all I’m going to say now leave me be.

The DCS was now convinced by the man’s reaction that he was mortally afraid; his fear so great, nothing would divulge from whence the children had been brought. No point in continuing interview terminated at 1105 “Mr Jewel thank you for your assistance are you representing other members of this family?

“I have been elected to act for all of them

“Sgt let Darren complete a statement using his own words on completion go through it with him once he has confirmed his agreement have him sign it with Mr Jewel and yourself as witnesses to his signature then take him back to his cell and fetch Mrs Jackson to Room 1 all clear?

“Yes sir”

Mrs Jackson entered protesting vociferously, her voice coarse and cracked from years of smoking, using language of the gutter in describing her opinion of the Police and the manner in which she was being treated. Her breath also stank like a sewer and it filled the room with its nauseous smell.

“Sit down and shut up” said the DCS quietly in tones that carried the quality of a razor sharp knife.

She sat; her mouth agape showing broken and blackened teeth, “you can’t speak to me like that I know my rights”

Q Mrs Jackson your daughter not yet 15 has borne one child the father has proven to be James Colby. She is now bearing a second child; do you know who the father is?

A How should I know; she's been to bed with them all sometimes, two or three times in one night"

Q Did she do so willingly or was she threatened and forced to do so?

A Start them young I say reckon she enjoyed herself didn't here any complaints"

Q Did you give no consideration at all to the mental and physical damage being caused by your totally irresponsible attitude?

A She's a woman isn't she; meant to produce children and give pleasure to men?

Q For pities sake woman she is still a teenager; is it not your responsibility to love, give guidance and protect her from those who would cause her harm especially, when its members of the same family?

A No; if could not learn to protect herself it was her hard luck.

Q This is also your thinking in regard to your sons?

A Bloody right to; can't be there to protect them all the time, have to be hard in this world take the knocks and fight back, besides got to look after myself and the men folk they bring the money in.

Q Mrs Jackson were these children your own flesh and blood?

A Of course; who do you think they belonged to; the fairies?

Q The children at the Colby house; where did they come from?

A How should I know, sod all to do with me. Ask my old man.

Interview terminated at 1205 Sgt take her back to her cell. Mr Jewel thank you for your time there will be no further interviews today, On Monday starting at 0900 I shall be

interviewing the children at which your presence will not be required.

Mr Dwyer, were I able to refuse acting for the Jackson family I most definitely would. However as the elected legal representative I shall do my best for them even though it must be accepted as solid fact they are not worth it. You have my sympathy sir.

“I’m sure there will be no difficulties between us however, should you need to speak with me please arrange a time through my secretary”

Tam walked from the interview room his body tensed from the strain of keeping a tight rein on his feelings. How could; this women have suffered the pain of childbirth and be so devoid of natural parental feelings, the need to protect her young, to nurture, to love and cherish a most precious gift.

“Back to his office Rosemary a cup of tea is much needed but I must go through the Jackson file can you make one, then we must discuss the interview planned for this afternoon with social services?”

“Sgt Isaacs and Sgt Hamble are waiting to see you”

“Sgt have we a problem with Mr Thompson?”

“No sir, quite the reverse he’s admitted his guilt and confessed to several more outstanding unsolved items. All the stolen goods well over a £1000 worth has been recovered. A majority has been identified by the owners several of whom are on holiday or away on business. Notices have been put through their letter boxes requesting they make contact on returning. Mr Thompson has no legal representation and he is appearing before the court next week on Tuesday”

“Well done Sgt is the case file all complete?”

“There is nothing outstanding sir Rosemary kindly assisted by typing reports and statements all have been signed and witnessed. My notebook has your signature. Hopefully with his form he should be off the streets for several years”

Don’t go yet. Sgt Hamble good news I trust?

“It could be sir; there is a book salesman name of Jack Holmeshaw; a silent withdrawn character, not well liked. CRO has a record of him in connection with suspected exposing of himself to teenagers, it was never proven. Using an acquired photograph it has been established he was in the

vicinity of the crime scenes at the time and on the dates in question. From discreet enquiries made it has been learnt he works a specific route and assigned areas. Time allowed in each area is three days. He's due back in Mr Rothy's area Tuesday of next week and with your permission I should like to set up 24 hour surveillance"

"Sgt Issacs I want you and your partner to join and assist Sgt Hamble with this case. On Monday report my office at 7.30 the new DI will be here he is taking over the case. I shall brief him on your findings and recommend this proposed surveillance be adopted. Please make sure all your notes are available. You have both worked extremely hard at your assigned tasks gaining positive results. Well done and thank you. See you Monday morning.

"Rosemary has the Downey file been passed to CPS?

"Not yet, DC Jacobs has kindly offered to deliver it first thing on Monday morning"

"Tell me, is it possible to listen in to the proceedings this afternoon and for yourself or Iona to type it up verbatim ready for Head of Social services to acknowledge all is correct by appending her signature?"

“Iona as a trained stenographer has the speed and is very experienced in that field. I will set the intercom, plug in the headphones and make sure it is working ok”

“Those photographs have been dealt with?”

“Yes forensics worked late last night preparing them and they were sent via internal mail in sealed envelopes marked most urgent and confidential to all heads of CID”

“Excellent”

“There is over an hour before social services arrive can I suggest a break. The tea is brewing and Iona has nipped across for some salad rolls.

“I agree let us three relax and enjoy a cuppa, it has been rather hectic this morning and still a great deal to do before the day is over” The interviews with Mr and Mrs Jackson had raised many questions to which the answers must be found before this case could be considered ready for CPS.

## Chapter Seven

Mrs Hepplethwaite thank you for offering to come here today, it is fair to warn you today's meeting will be recorded as was my initial interview with Mrs Garret. Only questions pertinent to the Jackson and Colby families will be asked. Do you wish to raise any objections?

"I have no objections but do have a question before you proceed. Why are you paying so much attention to this case?"

"Purely to arrive at the truth"

"Mrs Garret on your recent interview in this office and the questions asked do you wish to make changes to any of the answers given."

"No sir, I stand by the replies given."

"Did you advise Mrs Hepplethwaite on the subject matter?"

"Yes sir in full"

"Thank you please could you wait in the secretary's office"

Mrs Hepplethwaite a tall angular women with an overlarge beaked nose and permanent look of disdain on her face spoke “Well Superintendent do you wish to hear what I have to say on this matter?

“Please answer my questions in order I might gain a clearer understanding of how you handle cases of this nature then if there is anything you can add to help in resolving this case it will be appreciated.

Q. You are the appointed head of Social services for this town and surrounding area

A. Yes I am and have been successfully for the past seven years”

Q When did you first receive reports of possible child abuse in the Jackson household

A About nine months ago.

Q You heard nothing earlier than that?

A Definitely not.

Q Are you absolutely certain?

A Yes.

Q Has Mrs Garret kept you informed of progress made and new developments at all times.

A Certainly though I do not insist on her doing so she is highly competent in her work

Q The Colby family related to the Jackson family by marriage were you aware of Children living at this address?

A No”

Q Mrs Hepplethwaite please reconsider your answer and tell me are you

Absolutely certain you knew nothing of children living at this address?

A I am positive

Q Your office receives a report of alleged child abuse what action do you take?

A It is passed to Mrs Garret's section marked for her attention

Q Do you as head of social services review cases in hand on a regular basis?

A Not really, my staff are responsible and well trained"

Q Who decides type of action to be taken when a child is known to be at risk?

A Mrs Garret

Q Please be patient Mrs Hepplethwaite but I must be certain; you're telling me that once a file has been passed from your office to the children at risk department you take no part in the making of decisions at all?

A That is correct the responsibility lies with Head of section in this particular case Mrs Garret

“Thank you that is all for the time being you’ve been most helpful. May I call on you should further assistance be required?”

“Certainly here’s my card you can contact me direct on that number”

“Iona have you completed the typing?”

“Mrs Hepplethwaite could you please read and append your signature if satisfied all is correct”

“Thank you now I will sign to say I’ve witnessed your signing and would you like a copy sent to your office?”

“Yes I would thank you”

Tam a Mrs Lambert from the Registrars office is in reception asking to speak with you in connection with the Jackson file.

Have her brought to my office.

Mrs Lambert a lady whose deportment and appearance spoke of gentility; also high breeding, supported by a quality of

speech only attained through attendance at one of the finest and most reputable girls school.

“Tell me ma’am are you related to the Pemberton Family of Holden Park who were the victims of a devastating financial disaster brought about by the collapse of several well known banking institutions?

“Correct young man you are well informed; though you must have been very young at the time.

My knowledge of the happening came by way of research into the criminal mind when studying Criminal Psychology. I was writing a thesis on financial fraud at the time. Please tell me; how may I and my department be of service to you.

“Superintendent in my position as a senior consultant for the Registrars office my attention was drawn to the request for copies of birth certificates relating to four children from the Jackson family. It is assumed they were required in connection with an on going investigation; am I correct?

“That is true; why do you ask?

“Because of my puzzlement over the fact no request was made in respect of the triplets; all female aged now 17 years and 3 months. There is no record of a death certificate having been issued. Here are their birth certificates”

The DCS sat back in his chair stunned and visibly shaken by her revelation.

“Mrs Lambert please; do not take offence, are you absolutely certain the children shown on these certificates are related by birth to the Jackson family at present subject of Police investigation?”

“Absolutely; there can be no doubt at all, is there something seriously wrong?”

“Ma’am I’m very much afraid there is. No other children were found at either of the two addresses when arrests were carried out of males suspected of physical and sexual acts against children. In fact; attempts are in progress to discover who five of the children belong to and how they came to be living at one of the houses”

Rosemary who had been recording all that was said her face clearly showing the shock felt by this disclosure asked; “Mrs Lambert would you like some more tea?”

“Yes please. I do enjoy a well brewed cup of tea and yours was exactly to my taste”

On her way to the kitchen she handed her notes to Iona can you type up these notes for me; just going to make a fresh pot of tea, would you like one?

“Please, took advantage of the intercom being still connected and I’ve nearly finished was that ok?”

“Thank you, perhaps it will prove beneficial to leave it connected I’ll clear it with Tam.

“Mrs Lambert information given and received has been recorded and is at this moment being typed your signature is required confirming all is correct. It will be treated as confidential and respectfully it is asked; that no one else is made aware of our interest in the children named on these certificates”

“You have my word; is it a very sad and distressing case, your secretary seems most upset?”

“Indeed it is ma’am extremely shocking and distasteful. I fear it will get worse before the full truth is known I cannot say more for legal reasons”

“That is understandable; now I’ve finished my tea and must be going, here’s my card for future reference. Good bye and good luck with your case”

After escorting his surprise guest to her car he returned and sat in silence contemplating his next move. First advise the Chief Constable he dialled the number. “Sir, Tam here a development in the Jackson case, a Mrs Pemberton from the Registrars office called in and the news is not good. We now have a set of triplets to find all related to the Jackson family aged 17 years and 3 months. No death certificates have ever been issued. My intention is to undertake further interviews of the parents tomorrow and carry out an extensive search of the house and garden on Monday” It may mean overtime for all those involved dependant on how long it takes”

“Thank you for keeping me informed. I am impressed by the manner in which you’re handling the issue and shall not

interfere unless you specifically request my assistance  
however do keep me informed on progress; this is a very  
nasty case, it has to be resolved and soon”

“Mr Jewel there has been developments and I need to  
interview the parents tomorrow morning. Shall 8 be ok  
finished by 10 at the latest 1030?”

“Mr Dyer shall be in your office by 8 o clock and a 1030  
finish will be fine, no later though have a golf match arranged  
starting at 12 sharp”

“Thank you”

“Sgt Hewitt shall need you and your partner tomorrow  
morning DC Marion this also applies to you 0730 sharp”

“Yes sir”

“DI Tobutt – DCS Dyer Serious Crime Squad, I need you to  
report for duty at 0700 on Monday and are you a Rugby fan?”

“Yes I do enjoy a good game of Rugby and Monday shall  
report at 7 o clock.

“Tomorrow would you share dinner with me its quality fish, chips and mushy peas washed down with a glass of red or white wine? There is a good match on TV at around 3 o clock so if you could come to my place for 1 o clock that will give us time to get to know each other and also; there are several matters I must discuss with you”

“Sounds good to me sir, shall look forward to meeting you let me have the address”

“Tam gave his address said see you tomorrow bye for now”

“We’ll say good night Tam see you Monday?”

“Tam looked at his watch and saw it was gone five, where had the time gone? Can I offer you both a lift time I was leaving also?”



## Chapter Eight

“No the site is still secured there waiting on word from us before going in and cleansing the house and grounds”

“See you Monday morning then bye till then.

“Sir the statement is ready for your approval”

“What’s your tea making like?

“Not bad would you like me to make a brew?

“Yes please I reckon all of us could do with a cuppa”

He read through the statement taking his time making sure nothing had been missed satisfied he placed the completed statement before Mr Jackson and asked him to sign it he and Sgt Hewitt then signed it as witnesses to his signature.

“Sgt take him back to his cell than join us in the canteen DC Marion has made us all a brew. I’m sure you would like to join us for a cuppa Mr Jewel?

“Mr Jewel it is my intention to ask that all of the Jackson family including the Colby brothers are held on remand until the day of their trial. Are you likely to object at all?”

“I shall raise no objections at all. To be honest my feelings are such; that if it were possible I’d send them all on their way to hell this very day. But, please don’t quote me on that”

“Have no fears on that score my feelings are the same now drink your tea then go and enjoy your Golf and every time you strike the ball think of it as one the Jackson family or Colby brothers”

“What an excellent idea it might not be for real but it will relieve some of the feelings”

Sgt Hewitt I shall need you and your partner on Monday morning first at the crime scene then whilst I am interviewing the children I need you here by 7.30 sharp?

“No problem sir”

“Same here sir”

Tam decided he would clear up some of his paperwork and went to his office an hour went by and his tray was empty again. Much of his anger caused by the interview with Mr Jackson had now dissipated and he felt in a much better frame of mind. His phone rang it was Ursula with a request for him to call in at their intended new home. Be there in 20 minutes nothing wrong is there?

“Not at all just need a hand with a piece of furniture a bit too heavy for me”

“Ok wont be long bye” he picked up his brief case first ensuring he had everything he needed. On his way out he stopped at the front desk Sgt Dewar you have my home phone number call me if needed. Keep your eye on the Jackson family; we want no problems arising with them.

“Very good sir, I’ll pass the message on to my relief, have a nice weekend”

“Thank you I will, don’t forget the match tomorrow”

“Arriving at the cottage he stood gazing at his future home, just the garden needed some attention then it would look a real picture. Entering the cottage reception room he stopped

in utter amazement; there were colourful rugs scattered over the polished floor, several lovely watercolour paintings adorned the walls and a very comfortable suit of furniture had been installed. The large open fire complete with ingle nook and a mantel of 200 year old oak was laid ready to light. It looked and felt like a real home, cosy and welcoming

Ursula took him by the hand and led him from room to room showing off all that she and her mother had accomplished.

“Do you like it? Asked his fiancé”

“It’s fantastically beautiful, you and your mother must have worked extremely hard to have achieved all of this; words cannot really express my feelings but, I do know how to say thank you, come here my lovely several minutes later still holding her close he whispered; I’m a very lucky man indeed, I love you and always will”

“Tam have you booked anywhere for the honeymoon?”

“Not yet did you have somewhere special in mind?”

“No, it’s just that there has been such a lot of expense already and I was thinking a weekend in Cornwall would be fine

leaving some additional cash in the kitty for the garden and other bits and pieces. What do you say?

“Sounds good to me in fact; if you’re not keen on the idea of going away after the wedding, how about staying here and saving for a holiday in the summer?”

“She threw her arms round him holding him tight; “thank you my husband to be, thank you” now if you will just help me to move this table into the dining room I will be off Mam and me, are going into town today to do some shopping and will see you tomorrow for church and that walk along by the lake you promised”

“Making sure all was secure they left the cottage he said good bye with a fond kiss saying “Christmas day cannot come soon enough for me you’re the finest present any man could wish for”

Fish, Chips and mushy peas for lunch; a glass or two of good red wine followed by a long chat with his newly appointed DI, get to know him and then watch the Rugby match that will do me nicely for this afternoon he thought as he drove home. His DI was waiting for him sitting on the garden wall. Rather shorter than Tam with the build of a Rugby player a

game which he had obviously played many times; this fact supported by a pair of large cauliflower ears. The two men shook hands firmly and from the start became friends a friendship that was to deepen over the coming years. It's Tam and yours is James or do you prefer Jimmy?

“Jim or Jimmy will do nicely”

“Come on in then Jim we'll have our meal then make ourselves comfortable for the afternoon, do you like red or white wine?”

“Dry red for me thank you”

“Swiftly Tam laid the table and piled the plates with the still very hot portions of food and filled the glasses with a strong dry Italian wine a favourite of his with its rich fruit flavour and strong bouquet”

“Here's to us then Jim and a long happy partnership”

For nearly two hours they talked of the cases in hand Tam taking time over detail and answering the many questions put by Jim who was shocked as many people had been by the

Jackson case. Their talking done their glasses refilled they settled down in companionable silence to enjoy the game.

## Chapter Nine

At 7 o'clock on Monday morning DCS Dwyer strode into the station house to be met with a smart salute from Sgt Evans resplendent in white turban and immaculately dressed.

“Good morning Sgt Evans, my compliments on your turn out anything to report?”

“Good morning sir, there have been several messages; he handed over two sheets of paper those marked in red are for urgent attention. DC Wendle came in five minutes ago he is waiting to speak with you”

“Thank you, DI Tobutt is due in at 7:30 please direct him to my office”

“Yes sir”

In the detectives office finding DC Wendle busily writing at his desk who sprang to his feet on seeing the DCS his attire was much improved with trousers recently pressed and well polished shoes. “Good morning Wendle is something wrong; has your mother had a relapse?”

“The DC looked surprised at the question; his mother was in the final stages of terminal cancer and resident in a local hospice and he had not spoken of it to anyone, she is reasonable well sir, sleeping most of the time and thank you for asking. Regarding the selling of drugs at the school no arrest was made. A householder kindly let me use her front room for observation purposes. There is drugs being sold and I believe it may be more involved than just someone selling to the children. At 08:15 on Friday a Daimler saloon containing three persons stopped several yards from the gate, A well dressed gentleman left the car carrying a large well secured parcel which he handed over to the pusher who handed him a bulky envelope. This procedure was repeated again during the school lunch break. Several male and female persons also visited the area during the day. I have it all recorded on photographs including the registration number of the car. I’ve nearly completed my written report which contains all details”

“No-one is aware you were observing and taking photographs? The householder did you ask her to be discreet over your use of the front room and the reasons for doing so?”

“She is not a busybody sir, minds her own business and is a strict chapel goer”

“Excellent finish your report then hand it to Rosemary for typing I shall have to seek guidance on this matter before proceeding you made good use of your initiative and your dress is much improved well done and keep it up”

Sgt Hamble – DC Haydon my office fetch your notes on the courting couple murders striding out into the corridor he almost collided with his DCI “morning Jason come along to the office I’ll introduce you to the Sgt and his assistant who will be helping you on the case. This is your office it connects to mine and here’s the admin office they’ll be in at 9 take a look at your space then join me.

He quickly introduced the officers then asked the Sgt to update them on progress made.

“It has been confirmed Jack Holmeshaw was also in areas where a male fitting his description was seen exposing himself. Have also spoken to colleagues just returned from holiday who described him as a; weirdo, the sort of person who makes your skin crawl. He has received several warnings on his conduct towards female employees. His employers say they are considering letting him go; his sales input has been decreasing over the last twelve months and he is fast becoming an expense they can do without. The

planned surveillance is all set. DCs Wendle, Haines, Holden and Jameson have said they are prepared to work as teams. This will give us cover over 24 hours in three shifts of 8 hours duration.

There are two routes he can take to reach here tomorrow and it is intended to cover them both. Once he is on site and under our scrutiny one team will remain on duty and be relieved by the one already off duty. Mobiles are being set to alarm status. All teams will report for duty at scene of crime if one should occur. The next sales area is one where the only crime that has been committed so far is one of exposure should we also cover that one sir?

“Well Jim that is every known fact for this case it is now yours; all I ask is that your keep me posted on progress, lets hope this guy is the one were looking for and we can nail him before anyone else gets killed. Sgt you’ve done a good job of work thank you” Should I be needed this is my mobile number” Jim the Sgt will give you a guided tour of the Station House and all the assistance you may need” Should be back by 3 o clock 4 at the latest”

“Initial examination, gather all the forensic to be found then back to the morgue and carry out the PM. (post mortem) A

report of our findings should be on your desk by 11 on Tuesday morning. One thing I would ask, can we leave the site protected from busybodies as we might have to pay a return visit and some one trampling all over the place would prove of no value.

“Yes thank you no problem”

“DC Haydon I want you to finish duty at 1400 today and relieve the DC on security duty here at 2200 tonight. DC Winter off duty at 1600 and relieve DC Winter at 0600 tomorrow morning no one is allowed on site without express permission from me understood?”

“Phil, have to go now got to interview the children, before I go how is Tobias doing?”

“Just great; Senior Nurse Tabetha has taken a real shine to those children from the Colby household, has seen them several times taking in some books, sweets and fruit, She and her husband were denied the pleasure of children; both were found infertile due to a genetic disorder”

“Speak to you later you know where I am if you need me”

“Sgt Hewitt you have the tape recorder?”

“Yes sir and two dozen tapes”

“Let’s go and make a start then we’ll have to be gentle with these youngsters they’ve suffered far too much in their young lives”

Mrs Garret was waiting to greet them at the door of a very old Victorian building which had been much modernised. The modernisation had been done by craftsmen for it had in no way spoilt its grand appearance. “Good morning Tam – Sgt Hewitt the children are waiting please follow me”

“Good morning Hilary the children are well and not too apprehensive about this morning?”

“Not at all; as you suggested, I spent time talking to them and carefully explained that you were coming to listen, that you meant them no harm and only want to hear the truth of what happened at the Jackson and Colby residences”

They entered a small; well appointed reception room. It was light and airy with comfortable seating giving visitors’ a

lovely warm feeling of being welcome. The children were seated on two very large settles the DCS said “hello” a huge smile on his face. He was pleased at the change in them the withdrawn look had retreated from their faces and they looked much happier and brighter. He drew a chair closer to the children and his Sgt did the same with a small table between them on which the tape recorder was placed.

“Starting with Nancy, take it in turn to tell your story and when you speak; speak clearly, so that all you say will be picked up by the recorder. I will be listening carefully to what you say and may at times ask you to stop and repeat something. If you need help or need to go to the bathroom raise your hand. Take your time and tell us everything it will help to put those bad people away for a long, long time” All ready Sgt?

“Make a start then Nancy” and so began nearly four hours of listening to children tell their personal story of all that had befallen them at the hands of the Jackson parents and Colby brothers. Tears were shed and comfort given to those who were upset by the memories recalled. When it was finally over Tam thanked the children and made it very clear that from now on their lives had changed; new and happier homes

would be found, which contained only love and understanding.

“Hillary there should be no need to trouble them again, are they remaining here for the time being?”

“Yes, however if the children’s’ families are not found Nurse Tabetha and her husband have indicated very strongly they want to be considered initially as foster parents for those found at the Colby house with a view to adoption.

“All five of them that would be a brilliant new start for the children. They shall have my whole hearted support if needed and the others?”

A large 5 bedroom residence sadly in continuous use owned by social services with a resident house mother shall become vacant again at the end of the month. The Jackson children are to be the new occupiers. Due to the trauma suffered a Senior Nurse registered in psychiatric work and of vast experience in dealing with this type of case will visit with them on a daily basis providing counselling, training in child care and also domestic sciences for Tara. Education for the boys and Helen shall be intensive private tutoring over a twelve month period to raise their standards they will then

join a local school. Their health and progress will remain closely monitored until they reach school leaving age. Helen at her request is to be trained in IT specifically the use of a word processor she would like to become a PA for a large import and export business where her job criteria will include travelling world wide. She accepts that much hard work and study is needed; I feel very strongly that she has the intelligence and the determination to succeed if given the chance.

“That really is good news; somebody has certainly pulled out all the stops; tell me who has been responsible for this splendid work?”

“I was given the task and told to get on with it”

“Hilary you have gained my respect and admiration; I trust we shall work together again but, never on such an awful case as this. Please keep me posted as to progress and thank you once again for all your help today now I must be going”

Back at the Jackson house Forensics had virtually finished their work on site. A technician advised him remains had been found and conveyed to the mortuary and Mr Chalice had left a message requesting the area be kept secured. The

house search was also complete and the team of officers had returned to the Station house. DC Hawtry no-one is allowed to enter this site at all. This is my home phone number should you have any problems this evening call me all clear?

“Yes sir”

“Sgt I will drop you at the station please give the tapes to Rosemary say I should like the statements to be typed as a separate item for each child. Call me at the mortuary if needed”

“What have you found so far Phil?”

“Tam the skeletons have been assembled; how they died is proving difficult and will required a more detailed study. I cannot possibly let you have a report until at least Wednesday. What can be said without doubt from visible evidence on the lower abdominal bone structure in the genital area on two of the victims; some considerable force was used? The youngest child died of a broken neck due to applied pressure. Come I will show you.

The DCS went forward with Mr Chalice and using his knowledge of Biology was able to follow and understand the reasoning behind the conclusions reached.

“I must concur with your findings Phil which means murder has been committed can you after such a long time determine who was responsible for their demise?”

“The odds are against us however we may be lucky as they had been well wrapped up individually in layers of sheeting and were also encased in a tarpaulin so there may be a chance of finding DNA samples. We’ll do our best but don’t bank on it”

“Will you let me know if you strike lucky?”

“I know how important this is to you be assured you’ll be phoned immediately”

“Thank you, will be in my office till about 5 o clock this evening”

Tam knew that tomorrow during the scheduled interviews he would have to concentrate on the Colby brothers he was

determined those responsible for the deaths of those children would be found.

“Sgt Jackson’s is waiting to speak with you on the Delaney case, Sgt Brewer the Trevane case and DC Wendle sale of drugs. The DI is out following up fresh information received on the courting couples. Your brief to the Chief Constable on Head of Social Services reaction to reports received; in respect of the Jackson/Colby children, is waiting for your signature, you did say it was urgent.

“Give me five minutes to read and sign it then someone will have to deliver it by hand. The crap is about to hit the fan on that issue and heads are definitely going to roll. Ask Wendle to step in and when I’m finished hearing his report he can use my car and act as mailman”

“Good afternoon James you’re looking rather worried have you been spotted whilst keeping an eye on the activity at the school?

“No sir, he handed over an A4 sealed brown envelope marked highly confidential, you should read this at once it is rather serious and no one else has seen it”

“Take a seat whilst I view the contents”

The DCS swiftly read the hand written report and studied the attached photographs he looked at DC Wendle his face grim; “you did exactly right in bringing this matter to my immediate attention and in not letting others see the contents. Please continue your daily surveillance. The lady who is allowing you to use her front room is she discreet, not given to idle gossip?”

“Mrs Hollwayne is a very nice person indeed; in her late sixties and keeps herself to herself. Visitors are few and far between. Has never mentioned her own family though there are photographs of children, my impression is one of a very personal tragedy.

“Does she like flowers?”

“Buys fresh every few days sir”

“Good take this and buy her a nice bunch as a thank you and ask if you may continue your daily surveillance for another 14 days. Let us see what or who turns up next. Now speak to Rosemary she has some mail which must be delivered to the Chief Constable use my car and remember I need it when I’m

finished for the day. On your way out ask Sgt Jackson – DC Hanlowe and Haines to join me”

“Yes sir,

Tam picked up the phone to speak with DCS Evans “Hywell its Tam I have a very serious problem requiring urgent action and I need advice can you call in here today say around 4:30?

“Will do, give Iona my compliments and ask her to make a good strong brew; no sugar for me, be there just after 4 o clock.

“Hello David - Daniel, I’m sorry to have kept you waiting. I’ve read your reports and I am exceptionally pleased with the way in which you have handled the Delaney case. DI Summers from Mold had matters outstanding in which Harold and Ivy Delaney were involved they are now resolved due without doubt to your hard work. He also spoke to me on the excellent co-operation and help received this has been noted for future reference. Now I believe there is a problem in obtaining someone to legally represent the accused and also that they may be responsible for many more crimes; even crossing borders into other counties?

“That is correct sir, Harold and Ivy have no fixed address and have been on the road; never stopping in one place for more than two days, sleeping rough for the past two years. No – one seems willing to accept responsibility for providing them with legal aid. Head of CID Llandudno, Weston – Supermere, Cardiff, Llangollen, Aberystwyth, Bangor, Prestatyn and Pwllheli are also involved as they believe; having studied their mode of working that a number cases unresolved cases could also be attributed to them. Photographs and relevant details have been despatched to all those with or without an interest in Harold and Ivy which may jog some ones memory extending enquires to cover Cheshire and Denbighshire. It has been agreed they should be held on remand”

“They have been busy; ok I will seek advice on the question of legal aid and let you know when the matter is resolved. The file will not be passed to CPS until all matters have been finalised in the meantime carry on with your good work keeping me posted on future progress. If Sgt Brewer and DC Winter are in the station with my compliments ask them to join me.

“Iona message from DCS Evans he sends his complements will be arriving here just after 4 and would like a strong brew of tea and no sugar”

Iona with a heightened colouring of her cheeks asked:

“Would you like a sandwich or biscuits with the tea?”

“Ham or cheese would be nice thank you”

“Take a seat Peter, John how is your wife coping with the baby your first I believe?”

“Isobel is fine, the baby a real beauty with a mass of curly hair, brunette almost black in colour and blue eyed. We’ve decided to call her Kathleen after her grandmother”

“That is good my congratulations to you both. Peter up-date me on the Trevane case”

“Joshua Aitken was in bed when arrested there was a show of aggression but being still half asleep he posed no problem and was soon handcuffed. During the search of his flat conducted in his presence; a great deal of evidence was found including a very large quantity of class A drugs this was later confirmed to be heroin, amphetamines and ecstasy.

Contact was made with the drugs squad and they interviewed Aiken on three occasions regarding his source of supply; on the information supplied by him, several arrests have been made in Cardiff and London. He has made a full statement on the theft of personal possessions with assault occasioning bodily harm admitting to fifteen different incidents. Three of them were theft of money from business premises. Owners of items found in his flat have been notified of their recovery and also that they could not be returned until after the trial as they would be needed as evidence. Owners of the businesses were advised and they provided a list of items stolen plus a large amount of cash. Actual money acquired from persons mugged and also that gained from the sale of stolen goods; a considerable sum, was used for purchasing the drugs. One of his victims now has the use of only one eye which is also defective due to the force of blows used in the assault most of them landing on his face. He is a real mean and nasty character who shows no remorse for his actions. He is being held on remand and Iona is preparing the file for despatch to CPS”

“Sound good to me. A letter has been received from a senior member of the drugs squad and I can tell you they are absolutely delighted. Two main dealers, also several senior distributors have been arrested and are now awaiting trial.

Plus, a refining and manufacturing centre has been closed down. For his own safety Aitken will not be attending as witness for the prosecution. A first class result; well done and thank you for all your hard work. As a complete change I would like you to look at a spate of car thefts which have taken place over the last three months. It seems an organised; well led gang with its headquarters based in Merthyr Tydfil is targeting newly purchased cars across the whole of Wales and stealing them at the first opportunity. You will find all the information known in this file. Use one of the unmarked cars and do your best to nail these blighters. DCs Latrice and Culver are available they've proved themselves on numerous occasions as highly capable detectives with plenty of initiative let them form part of your team. Make yourselves known by local CIDs to avoid problems and also in case you need their help. Make a start first thing in the morning and good luck”

Tams phone rang it was his DI, Tam were onto this Holmeshaw character he has made two attempts at picking up couples so far. His car has a tracker attached and were following him now; looks like it could be a late night finish.

“Where are you now and do you need further assistance?”

“Cardiff he’s targeting youngsters from the university will call you if back up is needed”

“Assuming he’s the guilty person ensure he does not have the chance to kill someone else. On the question of a very late finish; should an arrest be made lock him up and everyone to report in by 12 o clock, be lucky?”

“Will do Bye”

“Rosemary there is half hour before Hywell arrives no interruptions unless it’s urgent”

Tam started on his In Tray containing several files indication that new cases needed his attention with a weary sigh for indeed it had been a hard day never mind; he was seeing Ursula tonight at her mother’s house that meant a decent supper instead of the usual scratch meal. Cheered by the thought and a happy smile lighting his face he set to work. He was concentrated on the last file; the case of male partners, who had fallen out, in the resulting argument one of them had received serious injuries to the face and head. He was now in a deep coma at the local hospital intensive care unit with his chances of survival virtually zero. His concentration was broken by the sound of a cheerful voice

asking him if he still wanted to talk. “Hywell, so glad you could come though the news I have will not fill you with any pleasure only real anger at a betrayal of your trust. Iona can we have the refreshments please. Rosemary, Hywell and I must not be disturbed until finished”

“This sounds very serious and if I may say so; rather mysterious and worrying”

“Please take a seat, sample Iona’s excellent brew enjoy a sandwich then I shall enlighten you”

“Now, to make you fully aware of a situation that has arisen one which I have never had experience of and it involves two officers under your command. DC Wendle has for the past week been engaged on a surveillance viewing the activities of a drug pusher outside of Tregowan School. Today he came and handed me this envelope. No-one, apart from my-self has seen its contents. DC Wendle on my instruction is continuing the surveillance”

Hywell took the proffered envelope removed the contents only his face showing the extent of his feelings at what he read supported by photographs. “You are quite correct in assuming I would be angry he said in a tightly controlled;

emotionally charged voice and worse, betrayed, especially by Sgt Wendover it was on my recommendation he was promoted. I thank you for bringing this matter to my attention before proceeding further. What is your next step?

“The Chief Constable and other departments will have to be advised several will become directly involved at time of arrest however; if you and he agree I should like to wait and see if further meetings with the passengers seen in the Daimler car take place during the next seven days before taking action The owner is a Mr Lai Chi San resident of a very well to do area of Cardiff, owner of two factories in Port Sunlight and also a senior member of the local council. Identification of the passengers has not been made yet”

“I know the CC is in his office let me call him and ask”

A brief outline of the issue was given and the Chief Constable agreed to the proposal but emphasised after seven days the proper procedures must be acted upon and the two officers cautioned, charged and placed under arrest.

“Tam we go with your plan next Tuesday Wendover and Bolton are off duty. Officers from the Drugs squad will be needed. Several teams will be required for searching homes;

factories and offices this will be a major operation and is going to take careful planning can I suggest a conference of those who will be involved two days from now. Where to hold it that is the question there will be at least twelve to fifteen officers and it must be secure?

“Hywell I have no qualms about taking responsibility assisted by yourself in planning this intended operation however; with the information known and possible new evidence yet to come, would it not be advisable a more senior officer should take over?”

“After several minutes of deep thought Hywell said “Tam your right; must be feeling my age, not thinking straight at all, too much is at stake, one mistake and we could find ourselves supporting the Dole queue lets arrange a meeting with the CC advise him of all the facts and take it from there. I’ll phone him now”

“Sir its Hywell, Tam and I have been discussing the case, due to its serious implications could we as a matter of urgency meet with you at your office tomorrow morning?”

“I will see you both in Tams office at 9 o clock accompanied by a senior drugs squad officer and will require a record of

the discussion to be kept. You have not disappointed me by your decision in fact it shows a real sense of responsibility. Until the morning Bye”

“You heard all that Tam, tomorrow we’ll have an early breakfast together say 7 o clock at Tim’s’ then; between 8 and 9 make sure everything is ready for the CC. Rosemary and Iona could you start at 8 in case of copying being needed and files not found? Now lets call it a day Ursula finished early apparently your going to supper tonight?”

“Yes and I’ve been looking forward to it all day. Would you like a lift home ladies save waiting for the bus?”

“I’ll take them Tam don’t keep your intended waiting”

“Hywell was looking rather pleased at the idea of acting as chauffeur and Tam wondered why; perhaps his friend had taken more than just a liking to Iona, good luck to him”

## Chapter Ten

Hywell were engaged in earnest conversation discussing the continuing rise in both petty and serious crime when the Chief Constable arrived accompanied by three high ranking uniformed officers and two very smartly attired civilians.

“Tam tea or coffee would be nice while our guests make themselves known and will you pass copies of your findings with photographs to each officer

“Rosemary, could you organise tea for seven I would like you to minute the meeting and Iona to make a typed recording of all that is said”

Silence followed whilst each man read the file and studied the photographs.

There followed nearly four hours of meticulous planning; each part of the intended operation was fully discussed, nothing being left to chance. A large number of police officers from several county forces including the cities of London, Liverpool, Cardiff, Manchester and Birmingham would be involved plus forensic teams. Operational Plans for these large Cities had already been completed. It soon

became apparent as the meeting progressed that this case was not just a local issue. Intelligence gathered together by DC Wendle and other members of the Serious Crimes Unit had only acted as the trigger for an intended major operation following year long surveillance and planning by specialist teams consisting of officers from Custom and Excise, Interpol and International Narcotics throughout the United Kingdom. A large shipment of drugs had been tracked from Asia by undercover narcotic agents it was now in passage through Ireland and would be conveyed across the Irish Sea for delivery at a location on the coast of the Bristol Channel. Actual final points of delivery within the UK were also known they were not disclosed for security reasons.

The man or woman going about the business of providing for a growing family; meeting monthly or annual bills, ensuring offspring are given the best possible chance of succeeding in life, despite the cost to themselves do not know of the faceless men and women who daily; face a terrible knowledge that the drug barons whom they are seeking to bring to justice, should they be discovered, would think nothing of brutally and without consideration of the consequences cut short their lives. The annual cost in money and human resources endeavouring to remove the evil drugs trade from our society runs into billions of pounds but the

price is cheap when you consider the thousands of lives which have been ruined and lost by the taking of highly addictive drugs. There is also; the additional heavy financial burden, created by the provision of specialist medical staff and establishments to help those who have become addicted and wish to be relieved of their soul destroying addiction.

Hywell and Tam were not taking part in any of the planned raids their role; dealing with the arrest of officers alleged to have been dealing with known suppliers of A class drugs. Local people; men and women, some of high repute were also to be arrested for the same reason and brought to the Station house for the purpose of being charged, interviewed and statements taken. Operation Clean Strike would commence three days hence at 0400 hours. They would be further interviewed by senior officers from the department for International Narcotics UK and Interpol.

“Good morning Bryn – Marion sorry to have kept you waiting; having studied the Jackson case file I’m not happy with progress being made what is the problem?

“It’s because there is no real evidence which can be used to press charges against the adult members of this family; the mother whom I believe most strongly is lying refuses to accept the accusations made against her husband and relatives vehemently denying all the allegations being made. The children are petrified with fear and refuse to answer questions. The three girls are silent shadows of how girls their age should be; one has a

Eleven weeks had passed and the Serious Crime Unit North Wales (SCUNW) was firmly established with several on-going investigations. The Chief Constable with other senior members of the Welsh Police Authority was expected to arrive shortly to view our headquarters and progress made.

and let me know when the CC and guests arrive”





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