



**THE
ADVENTURES
OF
HUNTER LEE**

Short Stories Collection

By 9A

**from Profiled Secondary Language School
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Acknowledgements

This short stories collection was written by the students from 9a of Profiled Secondary Language School Dr. Ivan Bogorov, Dimitrovgrad, Bulgaria as a class project. The aim of the project was to learn the use of past tenses while creating an eBook. Sometimes studying grammar can be challenging and that is why teachers need to use a different approach teaching it. The stories are result of the students work and their imagination. We hope that you enjoy our work.

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An Adventure with Many Endings

It was a cold rainy night in the dark city of Manchester. Hunter Lee was sitting on his desk, drinking whiskey and smoking a cigar. He was staring at a family photo which had been taken just before the WWII started. This made him feel sad because that was the last time he had seen his parents. They had been killed in the bombings of Manchester and sadly for him at that time he was fighting in Egypt and couldn't say a final goodbye to them.

Hunter Lee was a tall Polish man with fair hair and deep green eyes. Actually, his real name was Hubert Lisowski but he had to change it when he was young because his parents immigrated to the UK. Lisowski was too hard for his fellow classmates in Manchester and that's why he chose to be called Lee. As a kid he wasn't that strong, but he had witnessed the consequences of the WWI and decided to join the British military forces. The army had helped him build the body of an athlete. However, the WWII had left some traumatising scars to his psyche. He became a loner and started to prefer to be on his own rather than spend time with fellows from work. Maybe that was the reason he had decided to become a detective.

He wasn't that famous but once he had managed to gain the attention of the national press by solving a tangly murder case. Since then, he started getting reached out from people for help.

Mr. Lee was still looking at the family portrait when he heard a loud knock on his door. He was surprised as it was almost midnight and no person in their right mind would knock on someone's door at that time. If someone wanted to contact him, they usually called or looked for him at the office. That's why he grabbed his pistol from the safe and went on to check what was going on. As he was drawing near to the front door the knocking disappeared. He rushed forward to open the door but there was no one there. He looked around but saw no signs of people. He was about to close the door when he noticed the end of a brown envelope under his rug. There was a letter in the envelope, however it was coded. The code contained different cut out articles from old newspapers. Hunter had to put the different cuttings into the correct order so that he could solve the message. He tried many different combinations, but the text still didn't make any sense. It was too late and the whiskey had already taken control over his mind and that's why he decided to

leave it for the next morning. He finished his drink and cigar and went to bed. He had some troublesome sleep but eventually he started dreaming about the crime fiction which he had read to help him sleep while he was in Egypt. Suddenly it struck him. He remembered that one of the detectives in those novels had to put the text upside down and read it the other way around in order to find the extra word in each paragraph. After that the code was a piece of cake. Hunter woke up and started decoding the message. It said: **“Meet me at the ruins of the old library tomorrow at midnight.”**

Lee started contemplating whether he should go or not. He ran over the whole night through his head. Why would someone leave him a coded message at that time of the night? Perhaps that person was in danger, or it was someone who wanted to avenge him for his past deeds. The question that came up was why someone would want to meet him as such a deserted place that late at night. He thought everything carefully. The options were two. It was either someone who needed help indeed or it was someone who wanted to murder hunter.

After all, he decided to go as curiosity was taking over and he had sworn to help anyone in need. Hunter had faced death many times, so he wasn't afraid of it. He got to the safe and grabbed some bullets for his Webley. He left the gun on the desk and went on to finish his sleep because he had to be ready for action.

Alternative Ending 1

After a while, Hunter woke up, still wondering what would happen at the mysterious meeting. He went on with his daily duties until it was finally time. He got ready, put his pistol on his belt and drove to the ruins. There was a figure of a woman dressed in all black wearing a fancy chapel waiting for him. As he was approaching her, she turned around to face him. Her beautiful eyes swept him off his feet. He wondered what that gorgeous creature could have to tell him so discreetly. That's why he was shocked to learn about her suspicion of her husband's murder.

“He hasn't come home in three days.” – she said – “Please grant me your help, Mr. Lee.”

“But where did she know his name from?”

“I need more details, my lady, and I will help you.” said Hunter.

“He is a good and honest man. Taller than me with dark hair. Last time I saw him he was going to work.”

“Where does he work?”

“In the Jack Ross accounting firm.”

“Does he have any enemies or people that wish him bad?”

“Not that I know of.”

“His name please?”

“Daniel Curt.”

“And your name, miss?”

“You can call me Mrs Curt. I am ready to pay a big amount of money for you to solve the case. There is just one condition. You have to work alone. I don’t want any federal agents working with you. They are all corrupt misfits these days.”

“I’ll see what I can do for you.”

Once the meeting was over, they both went home. Hunter tried not to think much about the suspiciousness of the lady, but he couldn’t help himself. He went to bed knowing that the first thing he would do the next morning was to go to the workplace of the man.

The clock hit 6:00 a.m., waking the detective up. He drank his morning coffee with a cup of whiskey as that was the most pleasant way of starting a rough day for him. He got ready, got on his Bentley Mark VI and drove to the accounting firm. It was sunny and there were people chatting outside of the building. Everything seemed fine. He went inside through the huge wooden door. The lobby was beautifully furnished. The workers were all well-dressed and polite. He saw a tall man sitting on one of the couches, reading a newspaper. Hunter approached him, sat next to him and said:

“What is your name sir? Do you work here?”

“And why would you need that information?, asked the man.

“Do you know Daniel Curt?”

“Of course, I know him and how does that concern you?”

“I was wondering if you’ve seen him in the last three days.”

“I last saw him here around noon four days ago. Has something happened?”

“That is what I’m trying to figure out. Well, thank you for your help. Have a nice day.”

Mr. Lee got up before the man could ask any more questions and went out through the back door to smoke a cigar. He saw a strange door next to the one he got out from. It looked as if nobody had been here in a while. The door handle was rusty, but it wasn't locked. He went inside. The only thing in front of him was a long, dark hallway.

Something about the looks of it tempted him to see where it led to. There were old papers on the floor and the lights didn't work. He took out his flashlight and continued down the corridor. After walking for a few minutes, he noticed a stain of dried blood on the floor. He knew his gut was telling him something the moment he stepped through the rusty door. He put his other hand on his pistol and carried on walking. The only thing he could hear was dead silence. It wasn't long until he saw a blue door in front of him. What was waiting for him inside? Now was the moment to find out. He opened it and at first there was nothing strange about the little room it led to. And then it hit him - the smell of a rotten corpse, that he had so frequently sensed during the war. He rushed inside only to find him. Daniel was lying on the floor, face down behind a huge wardrobe. Lee couldn't identify the cause of death at first. Then he turned the corpse to face him and saw a deep cut on the neck of the man. The detective wasted no more time and called a connection of his to help him get the dead body out of the building to a safe location.

He contacted a trusted pathologist of his to see if there would be any DNA on the body. Meanwhile, he started wondering how to contact the lady to let her know of the death of her husband and see if she could be of any help with solving the case. He had to go through the archives of the accounting firm in order to find the address of the Curt family. That was no easy task since the company always made sure of the security of its workers. He couldn't let anyone else know about the death of Daniel since Mrs. Curt didn't want the police to know, which was also suspicious, but he couldn't worry about that at that moment. The archives were where he had to get to.

He went to the reception of the building and said he was looking for some accountant named Josh Milton, since he had heard of him before and knew that he worked there. The lady politely showed him the way to his office. Instead of going inside, though, Lee waited for some time to make sure he was alone in the hallway and found his way to the storage room of the facility. It was easy to find it, but he needed a key to get in. That's when he heard someone approaching. His bright mind

had to think of something really quickly. And that's what it did indeed. Hunter took off his suit and put on a white T-shirt that he saw hanging on one of the doors in the hallway. He took his shoes off as they were visibly expensive and put on the old pair of shoes that were right below the shirt. He had been lucky. He made himself look like a cleaner that couldn't get in the storage room in order to clean in. The person that was coming his way saw him and asked:

"What are you doing here? Who are you?"

"I'm the cleaner." – Hunter responded. – "I have lost my key to the room and my broom is supposed to be inside. I was just heading to the reception to get a key, but since you are here, could you unlock the door for me, please?"

"I don't see your badge. Every employee in the firm has one. I haven't seen you before, either." the person said.

"I'm new. I just started a few days ago and the boss hasn't given me my badge yet. My shift is running on, I might as well go to the reception now."

"Don't go. I'll unlock the door but make sure to not forget your keys again, nor your badge. The boss is strict."

"Thank you, sir."

"That was easy," Lee thought. He got into the room and started going through the documents until he finally found the information of Daniel Curt. He got the address, put his suit back on and left the building unnoticed. He wrote a letter to Mrs Curt naming the place and time when he wanted to meet her. He made sure the letter would get to the address and waited for the time of the meeting.

Meanwhile, he got a call from the pathologist. He told him that the victim had his throat slit but that wasn't all. There was poison on the knife used. "Why would you need poison if you'll be slitting someone's throat?" Hunter said to himself. Maybe that wasn't the initial intention of the killer. Maybe he had intended to just scratch Daniel with the knife and cause slower death.

"What is the poison?", Lee asked the pathologist.

"Arsenic."

The detective wondered who could have been. He was waiting for the lady to show up at the place he had told her. When she finally came, he said:

“I’m sorry to inform you about the death of your husband. I found the body in the office building. His throat had been slit.”

“Oh, lord, why would you do that to me?”, the lady asked, supposedly turning to God.

“I’m sorry for your loss.” the detective tried to comfort her.

“Who could have done it? He didn’t have enemies. Why would someone want my husband dead in a basement?” cried she.

But he never mentioned anything about a basement. The suspect was now clear. But he couldn’t jump into conclusions.

“Do you maybe have a tissue in your bag?”, asked the clever detective, with the intention of pushing her bag over so he could see what was inside.

“Yes, let me check.”

And boom. He acted out a slip and pushed her. The purse was on the ground and the things inside it were spread around. He kneeled to help her gather her things. Then he saw a small bottle of arsenic. It was all clear. It was time to find the reason. Why would she want her husband dead.

Lee acted as if he didn’t know and invited the lady over at his home to tell her the details about the case and told her he would need her help.

They got in his Bentley and as he was driving, he pulled over to a road that was clearly not his address. He got the woman out of the car, discreetly got the handcuffs he was carrying and told her to turn around and put a cover on her eyes so she wouldn’t see his place of residence. She was naïve enough to trust him. He cuffed her, pressed her against the car and said:

“Why would you kill him?”, he asked.

“What? This is all nonsense. You’re a crazy man!“, she yelled.

“I saw the poison. I also never mentioned a basement. I know it's you. You’ll only make things worse if you don’t speak now.”

“I had an affair” – said she – “I truly love him. I hated my husband; life was so boring with him. Now I can embrace the love of my life.”

“Why would you need to kill him?” – yelled Hunter – “He hadn’t done anything wrong.”

“Yes, he had. He found out about my affair and didn’t say anything. I realised he would want to have revenge. He was going to kill my lover. I knew it! I saw the gun.”

“So, you killed him instead? You think you are so clever, don’t you?”

“I don’t care! The man I live for is alive. That is all that matters to me.”

“How did you do it yourself? Why did you want me to investigate? I solve difficult cases, why would you think I wouldn’t catch you?”

“I’m not speaking without a lawyer.” insisted the woman.

“That is stupid of you! The judge won’t do you justice.”

Lee got her in the car and drove her to the police station. Maybe she wanted to impersonate someone else for the murder but didn’t succeed. He explained the case to the police officers and told them to question her. He left the evidence and the records from the pathologist. His job was done.

Alternative Ending 2

He had a nightmare in which he had got killed by the mysterious woman and woke up at noon disturbed and full of adrenaline. He went through his morning routine and got prepared for the meeting. He was sitting in his room while waiting, wondering if he should call the police for help. He decided to tell them, but they didn't take him seriously, though they did give him officer Williams, a novice to go with him just so he could stop wasting their time.

Williams was the average rookie policeman that asked lots of questions. When he arrived at Hunter's doorstep he knocked at the door. When Lee opened the door, he noticed the boy's unusual appearance which gave him a bad vibe. Hunter invited him in for a cup of tea and explained the situation and asked him for assistance. The boy agreed to help plan out how the meeting would go. Williams’s plan was simple. Lee had to go and meet the lady while he would be around the corner eavesdropping on their conversation just to be safe. Lee accepted the idea and they waited until midnight.

At 12 o’clock they got into Hunter's car and drove to the old library where the mysterious lady awaited his arrival. He went out of the car and approached her while Williams was waiting in the car for the right moment to get close. Her face wasn't visible due to the lack of light in the area. Her calm voice seemed familiar to Lee but he couldn't put his finger on who that was. She thanked him for coming and says that she needed help solving her husband, Will Hutson's recent death.

She believed that the local mafia had done it and wanted Lee to help her. He agreed to assist her and went home with Williams.

After they had gone back to his house, Hunter told the rookie police officer to look for information in the archives of the police to which he agreed, because he was ready to help in the investigation. On the next day Williams went in the police station with the intention of getting the keys to the archives which were stored in a separate room that only the security had the key to. Since it was a Saturday, the bathrooms were locked and the keys for them were in the same room as the ones for the archives. He decided to lie about needing to go the toilet and got the keys for the key room. from the security guard. After entering the room, he grabbed both the toilet and the archives keys. Williams went the basement where all the documents were stored and started looking for useful information. He stumbled upon documents about the chief of the police and about how he had worked with the mafia not so long ago. The officer decided to head back to Hunter's house to inform him about his findings.

After he had arrived there, he and Hunter sat at the table and took a look at the documents. They found out that the chief of the police had been mentioned in a lot of drug trafficking, murders, and robberies as a suspect. When they read everything, Lee asked Williams to look up information related to Will Hudson to find out more about his life.

When the policeman went to the police station again, he was caught by the mafia members because they had found out that he had taken the secret documents. They took him to one of their abandoned lairs and began torturing him to find out what, why and who he had been working with. He didn't tell them from the beginning, so they were forced to physically abuse him. They doused it with water, then ran it through two wires. They did this for a whole minute and finally the policeman could not stand the tension and told them about the whole plan.

After they had found out, the mob went and broke into Lee's home, who was in the bathroom at the time. When he came out of the bathroom, they hit him in the back of the head and he fell unconscious. They picked him up and took him to their Boss's home. When the mobs arrived, he was still unconscious, so they injected him with adrenaline, which woke him up immediately. At

first, he's a bit dazed and didn't know where the hell he was. When he regained consciousness, he found himself strapped to a table and quickly realized what it was all about. Something like a doctor came into his room and injected something into his left arm. After that he felt very cheerful and began to talk with the doctor.

When the man left the room Hunter heard a man's voice asking him how he was feeling. Lee was on drugs and started talking to him about how nice the weather was and how nice he felt today. This voice informed him that he had just been injected with truth serum and that he would answer truthfully all their questions.

After a short questioning, they got what they wanted. When the effect wore off, the mob boss came in, bringing Williams with him. He introduced himself and untied Hunter from the table. The Chief then told them that this mysterious lady was his ex-wife who he had been looking for 2 years. The reason he broke up with her was that she always wanted money and luxury, but he didn't always give her because he wanted to save some of the profits. And so, one day he caught her putting poison in his wine glass and immediately kicked her out of his mansion and remembered that at the exit door she swore that one day all his money would be hers. From that day on, she did not appear anywhere, there was no sign of her. After hearing those words, Hunter put everything together and came to the conclusion that everything the mysterious lady had said was a lie and she only wanted to get in his place. Then the detective came up with the idea to organize and catch that liar. They agreed to go to the same place where they met to look for where this woman might be.

When they were already in the library, they started looking everywhere for any clues, but unfortunately, they found nothing. They were disappointed, and as they were leaving, Williams tripped over what looked like a handle sticking out of the ground. When he stood up, he called the others to show them what he had found. After the others had arrived, Hunter pulled back the lid and underneath it was a tunnel that led down. As he was descending, Lee smelled the woman's perfume and immediately called the others because he knew she was here. Everyone was already downstairs and realized they were in an underground evacuation bunker. In it they found furniture and food. There was a huge wardrobe there, the door of which was broken and kept swinging.

When the policeman decided to look at what was in it, the mysterious lady jumped out of the door, holding what looked like a knife. She immediately grabbed Williams and brought the blade to his neck. She wanted them out of her home immediately or she would cut his throat. After those words had expired, the boss went out on the ladder and began to climb it. During that time, Hunter managed to sneak behind an old bed and when the woman approached him, he attacked. In the brief scuffle, Lee managed to free his friend and knock out the lady. The lady was then dragged out of the hole and put behind bars, her sentence being death by guillotine.

From that discovery onwards, the policeman, the chief and the detective had almost always been together and ready to help each other when needed.

Alternative Ending 3

On the next day he woke up earlier than usual. He was a little bit nervous, but he was trying to stay calm. He got out of bed and made his usual morning cup of coffee. Hunter sat outside on his porch drinking his coffee while thinking about the mysterious letter from last night. This thought drove him crazy. He started to ask himself questions about the situation. Who sent the letter? Why did they send it exactly to him? Why did they want to meet him at that time and place? So many questions with no answer. Lee zoned out for a second but the thought that he had to be prepared for everything that's going to happen interrupted him.

It was a whole day full of expectations, excitement, and curiosity. It was time to meet the mysterious person. He got dressed in his favourite black suit which was his father's. He put on his shoes, locked the door and waited for the taxi to arrive. When the taxi arrived, he got into it and deep blue eyes met his gaze. He told the lady his destination and 15 minutes later he was already there. When he was about to pay her, she looked at him with a smirk on her face and said: "Nice to meet you, Hunter..."

He looked at her in astonishment. After a minute of silence, he realized that this was the person who sent the letter.

"But why would you send a letter to me?"

"My husband, Arthur Benson, was killed two weeks ago. During that time, I couldn't sleep, and I've developed an eating disorder and I couldn't eat properly for a long time. The only thing I could

do was think about his death and our special memories. We met each other 10 years ago and fell in love immediately. I've never met someone like him. There was something special about him, but I couldn't tell what. I just felt it with my heart. It was love at first sight.”

“I'm so sorry for your loss. You don't deserve to go through this pain.”

“I was wondering if you could help me find who killed my husband. We should meet again at the same place and time tomorrow, so you can tell me if you had found anything about his death.”

The woman had a mental breakdown in front of Hunter. He was trying to comfort her. Through tears, she explained her story about the love of her life. The woman was lowkey strange though. She expressed inappropriate emotions. This made Hunter doubt about her health. However, Lee knew that he had to help the poor lady.

As he was walking home, he noticed his mailbox was full of newspapers. As always, he grabbed them and was about to throw them away. Suddenly, he saw a familiar name on one of the articles. He walked inside his house and poured a glass of his favourite Irish whiskey. He started reading the newspaper and concentrated only on this case. The article's name was **“The biggest millionaire, Arthur Benson, was found dead in his own home”**. The article said *“Arthur was found dead in the middle of his house with several stab wounds. His wife reported him dead to the police after coming back home from a vacation. After further investigation, the police didn't find any evidence”*. Hunter didn't realize that it was almost 4 a.m. He was so concentrated on the case that he lost track of time. He decided not to go to sleep but to continue his investigation. Lee read over 10 articles from old newspapers about the man, just to see if there was anything suspicious.

In the morning, Hunter heard a knock on his door. It was his neighbour, Mason, that brought him some cake because it was his daughter's birthday that day. Hunter told him to come in and poured him a glass of water just in case he was thirsty. They both sat down on the couch in the living room and started talking. Lee asked his neighbour if he had heard about the Arthur Benson case. The neighbour didn't know what Hunter was talking about, so he asked him to explain. The detective showed him the newspaper where the article was, but Mason was still confused. He explained to Hunter that he didn't get a newspaper like this in his mailbox and that it's probably fake.

Some time passed, and Mason left Lee's house. He was thinking about what Mason told him all the time, so he decided to go to the police and see if the newspaper was fake. Lee grabbed his coat and went to the police station. As he walked in, he was greeted by a police officer who offered him help. Hunter showed the newspaper to the police officer and explained him the whole story about the lady he met. After some investigation, the officer told him that the newspaper was indeed fake. He wanted to help Hunter catch the lady, so he searched for her criminal record. When he found it, he showed it to Hunter. After all the stuff they read about her, they knew she had something to do with her husband's death. A few minutes later, Hunter remembered that he was supposed to meet the lady again at midnight.

Hunter and the police officer were already there, waiting for the lady to show up. The officer was hiding, so she couldn't see him. A few minutes later, Hunter saw her coming.

"Did you find out something about who murdered my husband?", she asked.

"Actually, yes. I spent a lot of time working on the case, so in the end I contacted the police, and we found something interesting about the situation."

"What is it?" the lady seemed to be a bit nervous.

Hunter noticed that she was nervous, so he just asked her straight.

"Why would you do it? Why would you kill your own husband. The man that you told me you loved with your whole heart. The man who you fell in love with immediately."

The woman didn't answer him, so he continued.

"The police officer and I saw your criminal record. You've committed so many crimes. I thought you would be innocent."

"I did it for my own good. That man ruined me mentally. I became a schizophrenic and he wanted to take me to the psychiatry, because he thought I was crazy. That's why I knew I had to kill him. My life would've been completely ruined if I had gone to the psychiatry."

"I see. That isn't a reason to kill him, though." Hunter said.

The police officer walked towards them. He handcuffed the lady and took her to his car.

In the end, the woman went on trial in the court. They decided that she would be staying in jail for 20 years for murdering her husband.

After everything was done and the problem was solved, Hunter and the police officer decided to go on a vacation so they can take some rest. The whole thing that had happened seemed to be really exhausting for them, especially for Hunter. He and the police officer got really close after the vacation and they started working together.

Alternative Ending 4

The time had come. He put on dark clothes, got his gun which was still staying on his desk, tied his shoes and got out of his place. He headed for the destination. After something that felt like an hour, he got to the meeting point.

He arrived and started looking around until he found something like a half-opened cabinet with a bright light shining from the inside. He went there and saw a mysterious lady sitting on an old sofa. She smiled and introduced herself by the name Mrs Qwerty. He felt that the mentioned name wasn't even close to the way she was actually called. "Hunter Lee," he said. "I know," she replied. Something was off about her. He couldn't recognize the expression on her face. Was it because of her hair or because of the hat that was covering her face. Nobody knew. The way she was talking was as mysterious as her appearance. She started talking. Just as if she had known him for eternity. She told him that her husband was killed by a Russian mafia boss named Kiryazov and he was after her. The conversation ended when she passed him her phone number on a yellowish sheet of paper. After that he left the library and started going home.

On the road he heard some hard footsteps coming towards him and before he had the chance to turn around and see who the person was, he was shot in the leg and when he tried to escape, he was stabbed in the back. Then he fell to the ground and passed away without seeing the face of the person who had done that.

After a few days he woke up in a hospital with two people in the room. The first person was a nurse and the second one was an unknown police officer. After the nurse had left, the policeman

introduced himself as a “head” of the police department. After the introduction the policeman asked what happened and Lee started talking freely. He told him that he had been shot without knowing who the person was or what his intentions were. The officer believed him or at least looked that way.

Lee was introduced to a trustworthy police officer called Cooper. Cooper was instructed to protect Lee until his full recovery. In a few days Hunter Lee was out of hospital. During his stay he got to know Cooper and knew he could be trusted. Unfortunately, Lee couldn't solve the case with the mysterious woman and it almost had him killed. That's why he had to take a long break. The good thing was that Lee and Cooper had become friends and they were about to face many new adventures ...

Alternative Ending 5

After he had slept for 5 hours, he woke up because of the nightmares he had. Hunter started thinking about the meeting with the anonymous person. The detective prepared for action the whole day. After the clock struck midnight Hunter dressed himself and hid his gun in his pocket before stepping outside the door. Hunter arrived at the designated location and entered the library/ He saw a dark figure standing in front of the window near the shelves with crime novels. He got close to the mysterious shadow and saw a woman with dark coat, black scarf, and red lipstick. He looked deep in her eyes and asked her what she needed from him. She introduced herself as Alice and said that she wanted him to help her find who had murdered her fiancé. He asked Alice why she wanted help from him and not from the police. Alice stuttered because she didn't have an answer for that question. But she said that she had a clue who could it be. Hunter started questioning her about the mafia men and what it got to do with her fiancé. They talked about one hour and agreed to meet again the next day at the same time in the same place.

Hunter got home and started thinking about the murder case, but it was too late and he decided to go to bed. In the morning Hunter Lee went outside for a walk and a cup of coffee. While walking he lit up a cigar and sat on a bench. As he was walking, he started thinking about the lady and how familiar she looked to him. After she told her name he started thinking about her more often. While sitting on the bench, he saw a familiar looking lady. That was her, that was the woman he had met last night. And next to her was a tall black man with a black coat. Hunter saw the man whispering

something to Alice. While she was turning her head around, she saw him. Alice started panicking because Hunter would recognize the mysterious man. She was right, he did recognize him and he knew that the guy was related to the local mafia. Hunter was scared that Alice would get hurt and started walking towards them. As he was walking, he saw that the man disappeared. Hunter couldn't find him because of the crowd. Hunter asked her what he had told her. Alice started talking with shaking voice and said that he had been asking for directions. Of course, Hunter Lee didn't believe her but decided to ignore it and save the questions for the midnight meeting. Alice hurried to go home because she was anxious that Lee might find out her secret.

Hunter went back home and started solving the mysterious case. Two hours went by and during that time he was thinking but he couldn't find anything without some kinds of clues. So, he decided to ask Alice to search her house for some clues. He went to sleep to get some rest before the meeting.

Hunter went to the same place and waited for her. After ten minutes she showed up. And the talking began. Hunter asked her to search her home, but Alice refused and told him that there was nothing special and nothing that would help him solve the case. Hunter became suspicious so he decided to start popping questions one after one. After answering his questions, she agreed to let him have a look at her place. After arriving there, she took her keys from her bag and was about to open the front door when Hunter Lee saw a man coming closer to him. The man wanted to talk to him, but suddenly Alice took her gun and shot Hunter in the knee. Everything went so fast that the neighbour didn't realize what happened. Alice called the police and in the time of 2 minutes they arrived. The neighbour had disappeared before the police could see him. Hunter had already passed out from the pain and the loss of too much blood, so she took her chance and told the police that he shot himself just to blame her, so that he could take revenge on her. The police believed her without even asking her about why he would want to take revenge. Before going to the police station, they rushed him to the hospital and left it for after Hunters recovery.

About two weeks after Hunter's recovery, the police came and took him without even questioning about the incident and put him straight in jail. Hunter was confused but there was no evidence to help him get out of jail.

However, there was one police officer that wanted to help him and wanted to prove that he was innocent. Unfortunately, the other policemen believed the opposite. That police officer decided to visit Alice and interrogate her about what had happened. He went to her house and hid in the bushes so as to get her by surprise. After two hours of waiting, he finally got her. She was coming back with some groceries when he jumped out of the bushes. She was so afraid that she dropped her bag. That was the same bag from which she had taken her gun out, however this time the gun was on the floor and she was exposed. The police officer arrested her immediately and took the gun. It was taken for investigation to a ballistic expert who proved that Hunter Lee was shot with the same gun. That was one of the few times when Hunter got lucky. He was released thanks to the good work of a persistent cop.

Alternative Ending 6

He didn't sleep well last night but was still ready for the meeting. He walked through the cold, filled with ruins city of Manchester. He couldn't stop thinking about the person he would meet. As he was walking into the old library, he felt the horrors that had happened during the war.

Then he felt the presence of another person. It was the person that had sent the letter. Interestingly enough, it was a woman. She was dressed in black and had a veil covering her face.

"Are you the person that sent the letter to me?", asked Lee.

"Sure, I am the one that sent it." said the mysterious woman.

"Why did you want to meet here?", asked Lee.

"I didn't want us to be seen or heard by 'other people'."

"What do you mean by 'other people'?"

"I meant the goons of the local mob. They are after me.", said the woman with sadness and fear in her voice.

"Why are those pieces of trash after you? Have you angered them by any means?", asked Lee.

"I have evidence that the local mob killed my husband out of jealousy." said the mysterious woman.

"I got photos of the murder."

"Show me." said Lee.

The photos were disturbing and a bit ruined, but a person could recognize the victim and murderer. Lee was sceptical at first whether the photos were actually real but with a closer look he saw the two people in them. Lee finally understood why the mob was after her. But he had another big problem. The head of the police department was one of the most corrupted people in the city. The mob had a very big influence over the important people in Manchester.

He had to say goodbye to the woman and think what his next move was going to be. From that moment on he had to be careful not to reveal his true intentions towards the mob. He went back to his office and as usual he poured a glass of his favourite Irish whiskey. He wasn't sure how to pull off the arrest. Then an idea came to his half sober mind. He remembered that he had a friend in the police department. His name was Cooper. Cooper was a friend from his childhood. He was a smart kid from the countryside. He was a loyal policeman and not corrupt as the others from the department. Lee thought that he could help him arrest the mob. However, he still had no idea how he was going to change the mind of the head of the department. He went to visit Cooper during his shift. As he was walking towards the police department, he saw Cooper.

"Haven't seen you in years, how are you?", asked Lee.

"Doing pretty good, how about you?", asked Cooper.

"Been better, but still doing great.", said Lee.

"Let me guess you got a job for me, don't you?", asked Cooper.

"You are god damn right I do your old son of bitch." said Lee.

"I'm in!" said Cooper.

"Good, because the job is not going to be easy." said Lee.

"Take a look at those photos yourself."

As Cooper was looking at the photos handed to him by Lee, he knew that the job wasn't going to be a smooth one.

"Hand these photos to the head of the department." said Lee.

Cooper went inside the police department and started walking towards the office of his boss. As he opened the old rusty door, and saw the fat, bold person he referred to as 'boss'. He closed the distance between the two of them and handed him the evidence.

"The hell is this?", asked the fat commissioner.

"These photos are the evidence that the local mob has killed an innocent man." said proudly Cooper.

"I don't believe these are real." said the commissioner.

"How could these be fake?", asked Cooper.

"The two people on these photos could be different people, you know." - said the commissioner with a smirk. - "Who even gave you these photos?"

"Hunter Lee, the private detective. We are working on a case he got recently."

"Hunter Lee, you said, huh."

"So, are we going to arrest that piece of trash or not?"

"Get out of my office!"

"But the evide..."

"GET OUT OF MY OFFICE COOPER!" shouted angrily the commissioner.

Knowing damn well now that the commissioner was corrupt, Cooper decided to join Lee and help bring the mob into justice. Cooper returned to Lee and they both decided to go gather some evidence that the corrupted commissioner wasn't going to deny.

The same night both of them went to the local club that the mob liked to visit. When they walked inside, they saw all of the drunk peasants. The smell of alcohol and the smoke that had been formed by all of the cigarettes was making them look at this place with disgust. They approached the bartender for some information about the mob.

"Good evening gentlemen, may I recommend you some of my finest whiskey?", asked the bartender.

"No, thanks. We were actually wondering if you can tell us something about the local mob?", asked Lee.

"I'm afraid you two had come into the wrong place. No mob had ever stepped in here gentlemen." said the bartender.

"Don't be afraid we don't bite.", said jokingly Cooper.

"If you two aren't going to order something to drink, you know where the door is.", said the bartender.

"Well then we would want some your finest Irish whiskey." said Lee.

When the bartender went to the back of the club, Lee caught a glimpse of a person that was wearing some expensive looking clothes. The bartender returned with the whiskey.

"Who is the good-looking guy in the back?", asked Lee.

"Wha-? No one. Why are you asking?", said the bartender with fear in his voice.

Lee knew that the mob was having a drink in the back. He pulled out his gun and pointed it at the bartender.

"Listen closely. You are going to get us in the back and leave the club. Okay?"

"O-o-kay!"

Lee and Cooper went together in the back and bust through the door revealing the mob drinking alone.

"Finally got you sick animal. How could you kill that innocent man?", asked Lee with anger.

"What person are you talking about?", asked the mob confused.

"Don't you act a fool now! I have evidence of you killing him." said Lee.

"And where is the evidence?", asked the mob.

When the mob asked that question, Lee remembered that he gave them to Cooper but he never returned them.

"Cooper where is the evidence?!", asked Lee.

"You told me to give them to the commissioner. That corrupted man hasn't returned them back.", told him Cooper.

"So, you illegally trespass here, assault me and try to put me under arrest without evidence? That's pathetic detective." said the mob.

Out of nowhere a group of policemen with the corrupted commissioner in charge came through the door.

"Arrest these scums!" ordered the commissioner.

"But we got the mob right here. Arrest him!" insisted Cooper.

"He ain't done nothing wrong." replied the commissioner.

"We showed you the evidence you corrupted son of a gun!" screamed Lee.

The commissioner said nothing and they took Cooper and Lee to prison. As both of them have been rotting in there for several hours. They didn't know what to do anymore other than just wait for a miracle to happen. Out of nowhere a familiar figure showed up in front of Lee's prison cell.

"What the hell are you doing here?", asked Lee.

"Getting both of you out this shit hole." said the mysterious woman.

"But why?"

"Because your case isn't finished and that scum isn't behind bars."

"Well then I suppose I owe you one."

"Let's leave that for later."

Cooper, Lee and mysterious woman walked out of there and had one last job to do - to arrest the mob. The woman had already made a plan. First off, they were going to get the evidence again from the department and second expose the mob in front of the press.

They returned to Manchester and Lee decided that he should be the one to grab the evidence from the department. He went to the department and snuck inside from a back window into a random empty office. He opened the door slowly to take a look around, it was half empty. Only some officers were there for their night shift. He started making his way through the miserable, smelly department and up to the commissioner's office. Cooper had told him before at what time he usually left so he opened the door without any worries. He got to searching through the drawers of the desk and after a short period of time, he found them. As he was taking the evidence, he heard footsteps coming towards him. Lee had no choice but to jump from the second-floor window. He prayed to God and made an excellent jump onto the soft, green spring grass. He wasn't hurt and made a run for their hideout. He got back and then it was showtime.

They wanted to celebrate their success and the future arrest of the mob so they all decided to go get a drink from the local pub. They sat down and ordered some Irish whiskey. The mysterious woman excused herself. She was actually gone for a while. After some time, they heard some loud bang from the back of the pub. Cooper and Lee went to investigate. What they found was absolutely horrible. It turned out that the woman saw the mob drinking in the back again and decided to do what she was supposed to do a long time ago.

"WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING WOMAN?", asked Lee confused.

But the woman did not answer his question.

"What were you thinking? Why was all this for?"

The woman realised there was no other way out decided to confess.

"It was me."

"What are you talking about?"

"Me and my husband were poor. He wasn't making any money and was only drinking all day. I knew the mob had a lot of money so I decided to fake all of the pictures so that when he goes to jail, I can become the new gang leader and take all of his money."

"So, you sent the letter too?"

"Yes!"

"You know you'll have to rot in jail now, maybe forever."

"That won't happen."

When she said those words, she pointed the gun at her head and killed herself. Cooper and Lee were standing there covered with the blood of the woman. They realized that they had just seen the devil commit suicide in front of them. That night would be remembered as the night when the devil went back to the pits of hell.

The Diner Murder – by the authors of Alternative Ending 1

It was a rainy morning in Manchester. Hunter went out with a view of getting a newspaper from the local newsstand. As usual, there was his lovely friend Caitlyn, working inside. They always had bizarre conversations, but Lee always left with a smile on his face. As he was walking back home, he heard a gunshot from around the corner. "What is going on at that early time?", wondered he. He knew he had to check. Once he went inside the diner, he saw the dead body of a woman – possibly the waitress. He looked around but there were no visible witnesses. Shortly after, the police arrived. Luckily the officer knew him and asked him to work on the case as they were short on detectives at that time. He agreed. A new mystery for him had just begun.

The next day, Lee started investigating early in the morning after having asked the owner of the diner to close it. He had it all to himself and had made sure no evidence would be lost. He started by taking fingerprints from the door handles and tables. Sadly, he found nothing except two fingerprints, one of which was that of the waitress, whose name was Jennifer and the other was of an old man, who was supposedly drinking his morning coffee at the time of the murder. He walked around, carefully observing all details. His attention was brought to some bloody footsteps leading to the back door. Maybe they were the footsteps of the murderer. Lee heard a knock in the front door and went to check who it was. To his surprise, it was the old man whose fingerprints were on one of the tables. He wanted to talk to the detective as he remembered exactly how the killer looked

and had been able to escape. Hunter knew a good illustrator and reached out to him so the old man could explain how the killer looked to him.

Once that was done the detective had a clear image of the man's face. It was time to find him. But how could he find a single man in a city of thousands? He went to the diner again. The only thing he hadn't checked were the trashcans next to the back door. He got digging in the trash with the hope of finding something helpful. And there was a cloth covering something. He took it out. There was a gun swaddled in it. He carefully took it to the closest weapon shop to check if maybe the gun was bought from there. His luck shined once again. He got the name of the owner of the gun and the bullet found in the body matched perfectly. The old man had told him that the killer and the waitress had a dispute, regarding money that she owed him. They were arguing loudly until he heard the gunshot and ran out of the diner as fast as he could.

He got the name of the man who owned the gun and easily found his address. He drove there and as he was drawing near the front door of the house he heard a man shouting.

"She got what she deserved! She owed me the money and I told her she would not get away without paying and she still refused to pay me! I can't believe I did it."

Hunter knew that was the killer speaking so he rushed inside, pointing his pistol at the man. There was no one else in the room with him, meaning he had been speaking to someone on the phone.

"You are arrested for the murder of Jennifer Ross! Put your hands behind your head!"

"I didn't mean to kill her," – he fell to his knees crying – "I was drunk and she got on my nerves. I had left her live in one of my apartments, but she stopped paying rent and refused to leave. She kept saying she would give me the money but never did. I got angry. I just wanted to scare her. I'm not a killer, it was an incident."

"You have the right to remain silent. Everything you say can and will be used against you." said Lee, while arresting the man.

Hunter was surprised at how simple this case was but there were other mysteries waiting for him now.

Jack's Murder – by the authors of alternative ending 2

Detective Hunter Lee had been on the job for over a decade, and in that time, he had seen some of the most gruesome and horrifying crimes that a person could imagine. But even he was not prepared for the scene that greeted him when he arrived at the house where a child had been killed by having his head chopped off with an axe. The image of the young victim's lifeless body, with his head separated from his neck, was one that would stay with Hunter Lee for the rest of his life. The child's name was Jack, and he was just seven years old. He had been playing in the yard of his family's home when he had been lured into the house by an unknown assailant. The killer had then struck Jack with a sharp axe, separating his head from his body. The scene was one of pure horror, and it was clear that the killer was both skilled and determined. Hunter Lee knew that he had a difficult task ahead of him. The killer had left no fingerprints or other physical evidence at the scene, and there were no witnesses to the crime. The only clues that Hunter Lee had to go on were a few strands of hair that had been found on Jack's clothing, and the fact that the killer had entered the house through a broken window.

Over the next few weeks, Hunter Lee threw himself into the investigation with a fierce determination. He interviewed every person who had been in the area at the time of the crime, and he combed through every piece of physical evidence that had been collected from the scene. But for every clue that he found, he hit a dead end. As time went on, Hunter Lee began to feel a sense of frustration and hopelessness. He knew that the longer the killer went free, the more likely it was that they would strike again. But no matter how hard he tried, he could not seem to make any headway in the case.

Then, one day, a break in the case came from an unlikely source. A neighbour of the family, who had been out of town at the time of the murder, came forward with a piece of information that turned out to be crucial to the case. The neighbour told Hunter Lee that on the day of the murder, they had seen a suspicious-looking man walking around the area. The man had been wearing a baseball cap and a pair of sunglasses, and he had been acting strangely. The neighbour had not thought much of it at the time, but when they heard about the murder, they realized that the man they had seen could have been the killer. With this new lead, Hunter Lee was able to piece together a picture of the killer. He realized that the killer had likely been stalking the area for some time,

watching the family and waiting for an opportunity to strike. And he was able to use the hair that had been found on Jack's clothing to link the killer to a particular area of the city. From there, Hunter Lee began to narrow down the list of suspects. They used a combination of forensic evidence and witness testimony to build a case against one particular individual, a man named Robert Peters. Peters had a history of violence and had been known to be in the area around the time of the murder. But it was not until Hunter Lee was able to link a fingerprint found on the broken window of the house to Peters that he knew he had his man.

The case against Peters was strong, and he was eventually brought to trial. It was a long and difficult trial, but in the end, Peters was found guilty of the murder of Jack. He was sentenced to life in prison, and the city breathed a collective sigh of relief. For Hunter Lee, the case was both a triumph and a tragedy, but he couldn't shake the feeling of sadness that lingered with him, because another child had been taken too soon, and no amount of justice could bring him back.

Daniel's Revenge – by the authors of alternative ending 4

A year after Lee's hospitalization ...

Lee woke up after the typical nightmare about his parents. Despite still feeling tired, he got out of bed, because he knew that he had a lot of work to do. After that, he decided to put on his clothes and make his routine as every single morning. He stood up, cleared his mind, took a breath and headed for his office to take a look at cases he had previously solved or left unsolved. However, he couldn't concentrate over what was in front of his face simply because of what his weird dreams contained. The day passed with thoughts related to the dream he had. There was something very odd about it. He saw a familiar face. Apparently, it was an old friend of his which he hadn't talked to since they were kids.

The night was about to come but the flow of overthinking did not stop until he decided to stand up and refresh his mind. He grabbed his coat, which he hadn't put on for a very long time and took his gun with himself just in case. The only thing that he had to find was the key for his Ford Anglia. He took them and went to open the door. He got into the car and went to the local park which was habited by young adults accompanied by their children. Its 22:30. A strange, depressing and thick

fog had formed above the city. He parked his car somewhere around the entrance. A bizarre feeling had possessed his already corrupted by traumas mind. Nice, polished benches revealed themselves amongst the fog which attracted his attention, so he went there to have a seat. His mind had fallen into a tranquillity until he decided to check the mailbox. While looking at the letters which were obviously not addressed to him, he spotted a specific one having his name written on it. "FOR HUNTER". It was horribly dark and he was unable to read it but since he was a smoker he kept a lighter in his pocket. The light caused by the tiny flame helped as much as it could. There were some book titles which he was unfamiliar with and certain page numbers. At first it seemed like a joke made by a child.

He couldn't help his curiosity and the next day he went to the local library. It took him a solid period of time to find the book he needed but a wave of petrification struck him forcefully. They were criminal books all based on a true story. On each page there was a marked name of a person who had been chased by the police at some point but was never caught and charged for the crimes they had made. A single name caught his attention. "Tommy Gray".

"So the letter intrigued you and you came?"

A single colossal silhouette appeared behind him. Hunter turned to see who he was. It was a person somewhere between 185-190 centimetres tall, bald head and wide shoulders. His name was Daniel Lucas. At the moment that name was stated, he thought of the dream he had a couple of nights ago. This was the so called "old friend"!

He said with amaze "Old fellow, is that you!?"

Lucas agreed. The necessity of help was written on his face.

"I'm seeking revenge. My parents were killed when I was still young and since that day, I have been looking for the bastards guilty of their death."

Hunter agreed without a second thought. But he was wondering how Lucas got to know that his old fellow was a detective.

Four weeks ago...

An unidentified person told Lucas all he needed to know as well as the easiest way to contact Lee.

“The only person who could help you is Hunter Lee. A detective whose name is well-known in these deep seas of crime, unsolved cases, bloodthirsty people and much... much death” said the distorted voice on the other side of the phone.

They didn't even say their name. The only pieces of information Lucas could get was the whereabouts of Lee, some public inexhaustive information and that was it.

Lee looked Daniel straight in the eyes and said that he knew what he felt. The desire to punish the unpunished ones. He was very familiar with his condition since he lost his parents at such significant fragile age. Lucas told him more about the case and why he had made Hunter read all of that. Tommy Gray was the person in charge of killing Daniel Lucas' parents decades ago. The sad truth was that this person disappeared some time ago. No trace was left. The only thing Lucas could and wanted to do was to take revenge on this guy he hated with his whole heart. He wanted him... IN JAIL! Hunter asked him what he wanted to begin with. Daniel said that there was a place where Gray's son used to live. This place had evidence about all of his crimes including the one that caused a heartbreak in Lucas' life.

They got into Lee's car and went on to search for the place which they had talked about 35 minutes ago. The streets were emptier than ever. It's 2AM already. They arrived. The apartment was located in the most dangerous district of the town. To be specific – there wasn't a block of flats lacking criminals. Moments before they got into the building Lucas said that if anything bad happened, they would have at least tried. He couldn't bear the thought of the person responsible for his parents' death not being behind the bars. The moment came. They were seconds away from getting into that building. It was locked. The only way to get in there was by breaking the door. They had no other choice but to do it. It took three kicks for the door to open. It was a total mess. When they got into the dwelling, they took a table and put it in front of themselves just in case somebody appeared and pulled a gun. They heard footsteps right behind them when suddenly an unknown guy stabbed Hunter into the leg. Luckily, the detective shot the attacker into the arm and managed to save himself from the following stabs. This was the guy who they had come for. Hunter managed to stand up, although the pain from the stabs was agonising. His leg was shaking and

unstable, but he and Daniel arrested the criminal. They wanted to receive an adequate explanation about the committed crimes.

The dynamic duo got into the car and put the arrested one on the backseat. When the headlights flashed, they saw three men wearing black suits, carrying tommy guns pointed directly at the car. Lee pressed the gas and managed to get away from these mafia members. However, he lost control over the car and crashed into a tree. Hunter passed out for a while. When he woke up, he saw his friend bleeding through his chest. The passenger on the backseat was killed. It would've been a relief but comparing it to the horrifying cataclysm it didn't mean anything. Lee lost a friend.

“Lee, I have accomplished what I mostly desired. My mission is completed. Run!”. Unfortunately, those were Daniel's last words.

Lee burst into tears, got out of the car, did his best not to lose balance because of the injury he got and started running. He kept going deeper into the woods. Later on he lost track of the path he took. The first night was hell and torture multiplied by agony sadness and guilt. He found a shelter-like place where he could spend the night at with the intention of avoiding those who were after him. His leg couldn't function properly at all. The wound got infected. Despite all the pain, emotional and physical, he fell asleep. On the next morning, hoping it was all a dream, he opened his eyes. No...it was real. And it was just getting worse. The rainy morning did not stop him from looking for the nearest hospital. Luckily, at the moment when he put a foot...knee and a hand on the first street he saw, an ambulance encountered him, picked him up and he was immediately sent to a hospital.

Three days had passed since the incident. The physical pain might have faded away with the time passing but the severe trauma that had been inflicted on him along with the lost friend brought him sleepless nights. Hunter was quieter than he ever was. Despite the pain and sorrow, there was a relief that Daniel Lucas took revenge for his parents and his soul found peace.

Riddles – by the authors of alternative ending 6

December 24 1955, the city was empty. There were no people on the streets. It had been raining for a whole week, the city was dark and it was getting darker and darker day by day, night by night. Hunter Lee was in his office drinking his favourite Irish whiskey and looking at a picture, a picture

taken on the exact same day 15 years ago, when the city was bombed. He had just poured a glass of whiskey when suddenly the landline started ringing, He wasn't going to pick it up because it was late at night, but whoever it was, he didn't stop calling . Finally, Lee picked up the phone and said: "Hello, who is this?" It was detective Murphy, an old friend of his. They met at a bar near Hunter's office. He said that Lee should come fast and that there was a new psychopath in town. Lee asked him why he was suitable for the job. He was told that he would see for himself when he got there. He left the half-drunk glass of whiskey and left his office.

He wasn't feeling drunk, so he went with my car. When he got at the place police officers were waiting for him at the entrance of the building which was a big 5 storey block. When he went inside it, there were police officers all over the place. He thought that the things must be very serious if it needed that much security. He went into the apartment to investigate the crime scene. Mr Murphy was there waiting for Lee at the door. When Lee asked Murphy who had been murdered he answered that it was Mr. James, the head of the police department. When Hunter walked into the room and when he saw it, he froze. There was blood all over the place. The body of Mr James was lying on the ground, with his head chopped off. With the blood messages written on the walls of the room, messages that said things like: "No more lies", "Soon it will be over", "Do you like my art" and "This is what happens to corrupt people". Whoever did this was a fucking psychopath, no questioning there, but Mr James corrupt? He was such a good and reasonable person. Lee was accidentally part of something bigger.

He was in shock when he was handed a letter. The letter had something written on it, it said: "To H. Lee". Lee was stunned. He started asking himself questions, why him, was he next, what was the meaning of all that? Hunter opened the letter, in it there was a piece of paper, the paper had a riddle on it. It said: ***"I grew up from a seed, as tough as a weed. But in a mansion, in a slum, I'll never know where I come from. Do you know what I am?"*** Lee didn't know what it meant, but he wasn't going to give up. He had to solve this mystery.

He went back to my office where he went to bed. But he couldn't sleep, all he was thinking about was that riddle and what it meant. He was angry, so he got out of the bed and started thinking about it. He couldn't figure it out so he put on some clothes and his coat and went out. He went to the

nearest library to get books that could help him solve the riddle. He just got to the library on time. It was just about to close, but he asked the lady to let him take some books. After he had taken the books to his office, he started reading them. The hours passed like nothing, the sun started rising, he had been awake the whole night and still he had nothing on the riddle, but then it hit him. "I grew up from a seed, as though as a weed". Something, no, no. Someone. It's a person. "But in a mansion, in a slum". A rich person or a poor one. "I'll never know where I come from?" He didn't know. Someone who didn't know where he's from. Ah, an orphan! An orphan? Hunter questioned himself, what an orphan had to do with a killer. He started thinking that maybe it was not an orphan, maybe it was something else, but everything else didn't make any sense. All he could think of was the town's orphanage. Maybe in there, he could find more answers.

He went to the orphanage early in the morning. He went inside and met Mrs Martinez, a friend of his. They met 15 years ago when he helped a kid who had lost his parents from the bombs dropped on the city a long time ago. Martinez asked Lee what he was doing there and he explained that he was working on a murder case and that the answer might be in the orphanage. She got spooked and asked why there and whether any of the children were in danger? He told her that none of them were in danger and there was nothing to worry about. He asked her if it was ok for him to look around. She said that there was no problem. And he started walking through the hallways looking around for something suspicious. He was walking past the bedrooms and then he saw something strange. All the kids were going out to play except one, he was writing something, a letter, the kid knew Hunter was watching him. He finished writing the letter, sealed it and put it under his pillow. After that he looked at Hunter in the eyes, walked past him through the door and went to play with the other kids. For a moment Hunter thought it was nothing, but he went to check the letter anyway. He expected it to be for a friend or a family member, something personal, but when he pulled out the letter from under the pillow, there was a text that said, "To H. Lee". Hunter was in shock again. He knew what was going to happen. He opened the letter and inside it there was another riddle: ***"I have branches, but no fruit, trunk, or leaves. What am I?"*** This time Hunter knew the answer from the books he had read earlier. The answer was a BANK.

Hunter rushed to the bank to see what was happening there. He went to one of the bank clerks to ask him for a possible account of his name. The clerk said that there was indeed an account opened

on Hunter's name. Hunter was given a key for a safe and he went on to find it, when he finally found it, he opened it, but it was empty. Hunter thought he was going crazy, but then a letter fell from the top of the safe. Hunter felt really stupid maybe the lack of sleep had shown its effect. Lee quickly opened the letter and there was another riddle again:

*"I start out small, but as you watch,
I become big and can make quite the pop.
I'm used for fun, or for destruction,
And often require a careful construction. What am I?"*

Lee got it really fast. The answer was a BOMB. A bomb? What, he got it, but a bomb. He started freaking out, telling everyone that there was a bomb in here. Everyone started panicking. People were running around the buildings, exiting it and trying to get somewhere safe. Then Hunter saw him a technician exiting through the back door. He immediately knew it was him, the person who had planted the bombs. Hunter rushed to get the door, but because of the chaos he had caused he couldn't reach it. Finally, the police arrived and secured the area around the bank. All the people were safe outside the bank. The police sent a bomb squad unit into the bank, to find and disarm the bombs, but when they got in there the unbelievable happened. The whole bank exploded. It collapsed, leaving only ruins, fire and big smoke coming out of it.

When Hunter thought it was over, that his opponent won, Hunter saw him, he was just standing there on the road next to a small alley. Hunter started chasing him, but he was seen, and the criminal started running. Hunter was slower but his endurance helped him get the offender.

"It's over." Hunter said.

"What's over? Don't you see? I've just won." said the criminal.

"Give me your weapon and surrender." Hunter insisted.

"You really don't get it? I did what I wanted." laughed the criminal.

"Why did you do that?" Hunter asked angrily.

"Don't you remember me Lee, I was that kid you had helped 15 years ago."

"It's you! Why would you do something like that?"

"Because this city is disgusting and the people in it are all awful, except you Lee. You were the only person that helped me."

“I can help you again just put the gun down.”

“No, it's too late, everything is already done. Now I have to tell you my final goodbye.” said the heartbroken boy while putting a gun to his own head.”

“Don't do it!” shouted Hunter.

[Shot]