

1. A group of pensioners live in fear of out of control local street gangs that sell drugs and deal stolen goods from street crime. They only go out in the mornings while the gang members are still in bed and feel trapped in their homes for the rest of every day. The SCENE finds three of them in Bernie's greasy spoon café near the old market.
2. Characters
3. MAUREEN METCALFE- NEIL's wife – 69 years old
4. NEIL METCALFE - MAUREEN's husband – 70 years old (was in the army with Don)
5. DON HURST - Friend of NEIL's from school – 70 years old (stayed in the army and moved on to 'security work as a contractor)
6. CAROLE 'QUEENIE' COLE - widowed friend of MAUREEN – 69 years old (ex 'sauna keeper' – knows a lot of people)
7. All four of them were friends from school.
8. ALEX BOYD – Police Sergeant (in his 20's)
9. KAREN HAYES – Police Constable (in her 20's)
10. ALEX DUNCAN – ALEX BOYD's grandfather – around 70 years old
11. Very brief appearance of John 'Skip' Kelly and Helen 'Hellie' Crier.

**12.Intro from NEIL.**

13.Getting old has its compensations. Bus pass, free prescriptions and eye tests, spoilt only by needing them. It still beats the alternative. You mostly plan your day by what you want to do. The bad side of it is when you find how many things are out of your control – or anyone else's.

14.SCENE 1

**15.FX subdued greasy spoon café noise. Tray being put down on the table.**

16.NEIL        Here we are, three teas and two muffins, no sugar, courtesy of Big Bernie, of this fine establishment.

17.QUEENIE    Café. Thanks NEIL. Those muffins are nice but too big for one each.

18.MAUREEN    And we can share out and have a bit of each QUEENIE.

19.QUEENIE    Thanks MAUREEN. God we sound old.

20.NEIL        There could be a reason for that.

21.QUEENIE    Rubbish. We may be nearly 70 but we go swimming every week, we go dancing and the gym.

22.MAUREEN    Just have to be at home for tea time.

23.NEIL        It's bloody wrong. They should get that lot off the street.

24.QUEENIE    They're kids NEIL and the police have their hands tied. Not like our day when a Bobby would give you a good clump if he caught you out of line.

25.MAUREEN    The parents would sue for compensation and the copper would lose his job.

26.NEIL        Still doesn't help us MO. If you do want to go out at night, you have to get a taxi door to door.

27.MAUREEN    And that's dear if you can't share like us.

28.QUEENIE    So what can you do? We call the coppers and nothing much happens even if they turn up – and that's not often.

29.NEIL        Well I wrote to DON.

30.QUEENIE    DON? Where is he? We haven't seen him for years. I got a card a couple of years back and nothing since.

31.MAUREEN    We got a card back then too. We kept it. DON put an email address in it and NEIL sent one to him.

32.QUEENIE    What - did he reply?

33.NEIL No. But it didn't bounce back. So it must have got to him.

34.QUEENIE If he ever looks at them. I did a course at the library. Skype-ing the kids is good but I only open some emails if I know who they're from.

35.MAUREEN They send you so much rubbish

**36.FX Bar flap sound and walking to the table.**

37.DON I even read some of the rubbish MAREEN but I'm careful with the answers.

38.QUEENIE Bloody hell – Don't you ever warn anyone?

39.NEIL Where did you spring from DON?

40.DON Bus got in few hours ago and Bernie here was OK for me to get some kip in his back room upstairs.

41.NEIL How far you come?

42.DON Portchgal (Portugal). Long way on a bus.

43.MAUREEN Why not by air? Much quicker.

44.DON Got a bus pass and no problems with luggage.

45.NEIL So you can help us with these druggies?

46.DON I'll listen to what you got to say. That email made it sound like the end of the world.

47.QUEENIE Fair play DON. You were the man a few years ago but we're all a bit past it now. I Don't see you taking 'em on with a baseball bat in the street.

48.DON Nor do I.

49.NEIL Do you want a tea?

50.DON Be very kind Neil, no sugar.

**51.FX scrape of a chair as DON sits down and NEIL goes for tea.**

52.DON So what's going on QUEENIE.

53.QUEENIE We took up the council offer to give up our houses on the estate and go to the sheltered flats, next door to each other. For the first couple of years it was good with the odd few shops local and the community centre next to the church.

**54.FX clink of mug**

55.NEIL Just like I said in the email.

56.MAUREEN Then they ran out of places to put people and we got younger ones moved in and some are 'ex-offenders'. With the cuts they took away the warden and we have to pay for a personal alarm button for a 'response team member' to turn up when they feel like it.

57.NEIL And the young ones they moved in can make your life a misery with music, banging and fights.

58.QUEENIE Or just plain robbin'.

59.MAUREEN You remember MOLLIE? Got mugged. Wouldn't let go of her bag. Got a kicking and never came out of hospital.

60.NEIL It's all the street gang thing and drugs. I told you what happened to MOLLIE.

61.DON Always been gangs round here. You and me were in one.

62.NEIL Not with guns and drugs.

63.DON True. We would 'ave if we could though. Where are the dealers and what do they do.?

64.NEIL They hang about in set spots and wait for the kids, and others, to buy the stuff off them.

65.DON And the kids rob to pay for it. (statement not question)

66.NEIL More or less. We get the mornings quiet 'cos they Don't get up and about till around two.

67.DON That's kids for you. We never got up till lunchtime Sundays either and I'll bet this lot don't have jobs. That'll mean they're up till all hours as well.

68.NEIL Bloody right. Thursdays and Fridays we need earplugs to get some sleep.

69.DON But you can't blame the kids. Coppers look fools if they try and do anything.

70.QUEENIE You're quick. I've always liked that about you DON.

71.DON So we just stop the drug sellers.

72.NEIL That would help.

73.DON And rattle a few parents to keep 'em on a tighter rein.

74.NEIL Kids or drug dealers?

75.DON Both – Pillock.

76.QUEENIE You serious?

77.DON Kids have to learn it somewhere. The ones in the gangs and the ones doing the selling.

78.MAUREEN Sounds good DON. Don't get me wrong but how do we do it? We tried writing to the council.

79.DON Other ways – if you're up for it.

80.NEIL Try anything.

81.QUEENIE I remember you of old DON HURST.....

82.DON No real change. Older and more cautious maybe.

83.MAUREEN Don't worry QUEENIE – regular meals and free heating inside the nick.

84.QUEENIE Police cells a couple a times was enough for me. Home time  
now.

85.SCENE 2

86.NEIL Christ this bag's heavy. Ow! And bloody hard too.

87.FX Clunk and rattle off bag

88.DON That's why we need a cab.

89.MAUREEN QUEENIE and me'll get do this bag

**90.FX Rattle and clunk of bags, slam of cab doors.**

91.NEIL Beaumont Gardens if you would.

**92.FX Cab drives away**

93.QUEENIE So what's your place like DON? Have you got a place?

94.DON Small town, big village if you like. 5 minutes to the harbour.

Some fishermen. They're getting older now too. Small boats, couple of  
fellas. Been out a few times. Quiet. I even speak Portchguese. No  
tourists really. Couple a nice cafes. I use one next to the church square.

95.NEIL Cheap wine and sunshine?

96.DON Oh yeah. Don't drink much though.

97.QUEENIE You never did.

98.DON Stops you thinking straight.

99.MAUREEN You look well though.



100. DON Get out and about. The weather doesn't keep you in there so it's easy. You look OK yourselves.

101. QUEENIE That's easy. Leisure centre things are very good and the bad kids get kicked out.

**102. FX Cab stops**

103. DON This it? I'll get the fare.

**104. FX unloading and slamming door**

105. NEIL Thanks DON. We're on the third floor, 32 and 33

106. DON You said they were next door?

107. NEIL Only one side of the road in flats.

108. MAUREEN We'll take this bag. The lifts do work but we need a key code to get in.

**109. FX some struggling with bags and doors – beeps as numbers pressed etc.**

**110. FX door slams shut (not too hard)**

111. SCENE 3

112. DON What a performance getting up here.

113. QUEENIE Your fault. DON HURST, you must have the world's heaviest Y fronts

**114. FX Zip opening and clink of bottles**

115. DON Don't worry. Couple of bottles for you.
116. NEIL Did you come by air? Do they let bottles through?
117. DON I said 'Bus'. I didn't even show my passport – well only the cover. Would've been tricky by air.
118. NEIL You could be right. But bloody 'ell it's a long way on a bus.
119. DON You want a job done – do it right. I've even got a bus pass. Now, where do I stay?
120. MAUREEN We have a very nice put-u-up.
121. QUEENIE And I have a very nice double bed so you can move your bag in.
122. DON Very fair QUEENIE – I would be.....
123. QUEENIE Just get your bags next door. Then you and NEIL can go for a pint and look around while MAUREEN and I sort out something to eat.
124. SCENE 4
- 125. FX slam of the front door – walking – lifts etc.**
126. NEIL Nice flats inside. They really are. Repairs are done; lifts work; well built, so the heating is cheap. Just that. Right across the road

from the flat, there, selling his stuff in that alley. Kids going past on bikes, collecting, buying, delivering.

127. DON What do the coppers say?

128. NEIL Not much they can say. Lift one and another one's there in an hour. The PBI of the drug trade.

129. DON Much trouble between the different drug sellers?

130. NEIL Now and again. Quiet now but there has been the odd drive by shooting but usually late at night. Shot up a kebab shop once.

131. DON Handy.

132. NEIL What are you planning?

133. DON You'd get 10 years just knowing what's in my head. Just pretend it's the provost marshalls like in Aden.

134. NEIL Mouth shut and a straight face.

135. DON And when you do talk, make it rubbish.

136. NEIL I never saw nuffing. Honest. (laugh)

137. DON Good lad. Know anyone in those other flats.

138. NEIL In every one. We do a bit of shopping for mates who can't get out. MOLLIE used to live in that block there.

139. DON I shagged her once you know; a few times actually. Very tidy she was too. Hard to think she's gone. Hope the ones who did it buy

off that lad standing there. Can you get into her block? (all said rather thoughtfully - quietly)

140. NEIL No problem.

141. DON Is the layout the same as your block?

142. NEIL All 3 blocks the same.

143. DON Good. Might be handy – now where's this pub?

144. NEIL About 100 yards up on the old side. Our side with the flats is the new side. He stands near that alley for a quick exit if the coppers arrive. If he hides in a back yard in the terraces there's not a soul would say.

145. DON So do they have support?

146. NEIL No. everyone hates 'em but they're scared of.....

147. DON No no no. The bad guys support team. Their back up if he gets leaned on.

148. NEIL There's a blue Astra at the moment. Comes round now and again. Probably when he rings for them. He's always on his phone.

149. DON That's kids all over. Same in the village.

150. NEIL Where is the village?

151. DON Not important.

**152. FX Steps and no talking.**

153. DON Does he have quiet time in the evening?
154. NEIL Between 9 and half 9. Before that it's cars and after it's more younger ones.
155. DON So we want a wet night. He'll go into the alley more to be out the weather.
156. NEIL Don. You can't be serious about getting him? This is England.
157. DON You're right. I wouldn't need to do it elsewhere.
- 158. FX footsteps stop door swings open**
159. NEIL Here we are, The Old Tap House. I'll get them in.
160. DON Lime soda with ice. I'm not a well man and here to see old friends.
161. SCENE 5
162. QUEENIE Potatoes are on and sausages in the oven MO.
163. MAUREEN they cook better that way. I Don't like fried. I'll set the table.
- 164. FX setting table**
165. QUEENIE The veg can go in the micro and the tater water can do the gravy.
- 166. FX still setting table**

167. MAUREEN Well QUEENIE, what do you make of him.
168. QUEENIE Older, but no different and still playing with guns I'll bet.
169. MAUREEN But what do you think he'll do?
170. QUEENIE Hopefully quite a lot staying at my place. I'd be disappointed if he didn't.
171. MAUREEN (laughs) really? Do we want glasses?
172. QUEENIE Really. It's been a while. And yes, it's a special occasion. I've got a wine box.
173. MAUREEN What do you think he's been doing?
174. QUEENIE Going to the pub with your NEIL.
175. MAUREEN No. while he's been away.
176. QUEENIE Him and NEIL were in the army for a long while but then they finished. Your NEIL came back. He went off doing stuff. Security work he called it. He wouldn't be far from trouble if I know DON HURST.
177. MAUREEN He was always quiet and considered though.
178. QUEENIE That came from total self-confidence. He just knew he was the best.
179. MAUREEN He never settled with a family, like NEIL.

180. QUEENIE I've no idea. It's easy with the ones who talk a lot. DON thinks about every word he says but he's still good looking.

181. MAUREEN Do you think that's why he came back? When he heard about MOLLIE?

182. QUEENIE Could be. They did have a thing going once.

183. MAUREEN She did have children and she did marry PETER.

184. QUEENIE And put crudely, DON used to 'shag 'er bandy'.

185. MAUREEN Oh QUEENIE. You shouldn't say it that way.

186. QUEENIE It's true. DON is still a man and they're still at the pub so shall we have a glass now?

187. SCENE 6

188. DON Lovely dinner girls. I'd forgotten how good bangers and mash is and nice glass of wine with it.

189. QUEENIE You're welcome to more. Plenty in the box.

190. NEIL Got to be careful with your health now though DON.

191. DON That was for the benefit of those lads in the pub NEIL. Keep it that way for everyone outside these walls – and Bernie at the café of course.

192. MAUREEN Why?

193. DON It suits me to be a bit shaky and plucking up courage to go to the doctor. Gall stones maybe.

194. SCENE 7

**195. FX TV in Background**

196. QUEENIE So what will you be doing about our problem? I'm surprised – very surprised you came back.

197. DON MOLLIE.

198. QUEENIE So MAUREEN was right. She thought that was it. Were the rumours true?

199. DON Depends on the rumour.

200. QUEENIE Don't get clever. The boy. Her eldest.

201. DON (Beat) Er..

202. QUEENIE You don't need to say. So you're here to get even. After nearly fifty years you come back to get revenge.

203. DON Justice. Couldn't before. PETER was a good sort. He must have known and I wasn't going to mess it up. I was moving about with the army - and other mobs. No place for a family.

204. QUEENIE You were back from time to time.

205. DON But not to upset her or the family. I've more respect than that.



206. QUEENIE You could have come back before, when PETER died.
207. DON Didn't know he had till I got the email from NEIL. When I heard I decided to have the bastard that caused it.
208. QUEENIE Not the kids?
209. DON They're just kids. I want the one at the top and I want him scared. Then - I want him dead.
210. QUEENIE Simple as that?
211. DON Simple as that. And I'll need to walk your dog a bit. I'll have a word with NEIL first.
212. SCENE 8
213. NEIL So I meet you in the pub?
214. DON About 20 past 9.
215. NEIL Why Don't we just go down together?
216. DON On Monday, Wednesday and either Thursday or Friday if either of them are wet.
217. NEIL We live next door. We can go down together.
218. DON And I'll have the dog.
219. NEIL But DON...

220. DON You're a good mate NEIL but my way - and that lad at the alley was fine when you saw him. We don't go together because the dog walks slow and I have to pick 'is shit up. You go first and get me one in.
221. NEIL OK. We do it a couple of times and the lads in the pub expect it. Normal.
222. DON Exactly. They know I'm a bit shaky and can only just keep up with the dog. All easy and play it straight. Keep to a routine, even a new one -and then people expect it.
223. NEIL And get seen by the lads at the bar.
224. DON They get to see you – the 'you' you want them to see.
225. NEIL How will you hit this lad?
226. DON On a wet night when he's likely to be further down the alley out the worst of it. Make sure he's on his own, after his delivery.
227. NEIL At about 9 O'clock.
228. DON Before trade picks up for 10. They'll find him then. We're in the pub.
229. NEIL What will you do to him. He's a big lad.
230. DON Don't ask and I don't need to tell you.
231. SCENE
- 232. FX Muffled door slam**

233. DON That's NEIL gone on time.
234. QUEENIE I don't know why you want to go out on a night like this. Dark, cold and throwing it down.
235. DON Perfect night for it QUEENIE. See ya. Come on Albert.
- 236. FX door slams.**
237. SCENE
- 238. FX Rain and steps.**
239. DON You take your time son. Sniff every post if you want but save some for when we get to the alley dog.
- 240. FX Rain and steps.**
241. SCENE.
242. KELLY HELLY - You took your time. I'm out of weed. Couldn't do a regular. Really pissed 'e was.
243. HELLY I'm here now SKIP. We stopped for chips. God I need a wee.
244. KELLY Go back down there by the wall.
245. (Beat)
246. FX Steps
247. KELLY What you staring at? Fuck off.
248. FX PHUTTT sound of staggering PHUTTT

249. HELLY What you – No –
250. FX PHUTTT
251. HELLY Please don't? (in pain)
252. FX PHUTTT
253. FX Steps
254. SCENE
- 255. FX of police crime scene. Radios cars etc.**
256. ALEX B Hi KAREN. God it's wet and horrible.
257. KAREN That would be the rain ALEX.
258. ALEX B Well spotted detective constable HAYES (affectionate)
259. KAREN Quicker than you detective sergeant BOYD.  
(affectionate)
260. ALEX B So what happened? Do we know?
261. KAREN Found about quarter past 10 by kids on bikes. We don't know exactly who by; the stories change as to who said what. What we do know is John 'Skip' Kelly. Dead. 2 holes in him. One in the chest and one in the head. Lying flat out. Helen 'Helly' Crier about a metre and a half away. She was behind the wall where the alley got wider. Crouched up against the wall. 2 shots again. One in the head and one to the body.

She had her jeans and pants round her knees. It looks like they were both shot at pretty close range.

262. ALEX B Anyone give any ideas?

263. KAREN Several – but none useful.

264. ALEX B No sound of shots, complaints rung in about shouting or noise?

265. KAREN None. It's been steady rain all night and I expect people stayed in.

266. ALEX B 4 shots though. We get calls from here when kids kick a can in the street.

267. KAREN I think we should let the boys and girls get on with their jobs and not interfere.

268. ALEX B You mean you've been here long enough and want tea at a nice warm police station?

269. KAREN Something like that. Our elders and betters get paid more money to get wet than we do.

270. SCENE

271. QUEENIE That boy across the way was you, wasn't it?

272. DON What do you think?

273. QUEENIE And the girl as well. You shot her while she was crouching. Hiding?
274. DON Having a pee out of sight. I thought she'd gone but she saw the dog and me when her boyfriend went down.
275. QUEENIE Don't say 'went down'. It sounds almost respectable. 'Shot down' is what it was. Dead in the street.
276. DON Yeah. Dead. War does that to people.
277. QUEENIE We're not at war, we just want them moved on.
278. DON Ask MOLLIE if it's a war.
279. QUEENIE That's not fair.
280. DON Wars aren't fair. It's my job to make sure we win. I do things my way and we win. (beat) These other fellas cause trouble and think they know it all. We are the living proof they don't. I'm after whoever's behind this. And I will get him.
281. QUEENIE No matter who's in your way?
282. DON In one! Keep casualties to a minimum and chop the 'ead off.
283. QUEENIE How long will it take? How many will it take?
284. DON About three weeks and probably less than a dozen all in. (matter of factly)

285. QUEENIE A dozen? That's a fair break at snooker!
286. DON And if you want to pot the black you have to pot a few  
reds on the way.
287. QUEENIE Is this what you do for a living?
288. DON Yeah – and I've had a lot of practice. People pay good  
money to get things done.
289. QUEENIE But it's murder. Money for murder.
290. DON It's also stopping posh scum killing a lot of innocent  
people. Ordinary people like us. In the army the politicians sent us off to  
fight for their big money interests. There were times we were just  
protecting international bloody loans for chinless wonders and parasites.  
When I work for myself I can pick and choose.
291. QUEENIE What gives you the right to pick and choose?
292. DON This time – MOLLIE.
293. QUEENIE So you've been Robin Hood and Zorro rolled into one  
all this time. Any plans for a sainthood?
294. DON Don't get carried away. It's for money but you can still  
choose. I wasn't going to shoot down Mother Theresa, was I?
295. QUEENIE No one would want any one like that done in.

296. DON Maybe not her but you'd be surprised. A few 'found dead in their home' and 'the police do not suspect foul play's' would come as a shock if folks knew the truth. It's an industry.

297. QUEENIE Here? – England?

298. DON Not so much but we're not immune.

299. QUEENIE But here.....

300. DON Done right, by a professional, for the right one's this time – us.

301. SCENE

**302. FX office background noise**

303. KAREN Better with a cuppa?

304. ALEX B So true KAREN. It gets right through you out there.

305. KAREN You were only there 20 minutes. I was there an hour.

306. ALEX B So you know what I mean. Thanks.

307. KAREN Found either of them ALEX.

308. ALEX B No trouble really. I keep forgetting you've not been here long. **(FX clicking screen)** Skip Kelly – here he is.

309. KAREN Taking without consent 4 times with caution.

310. ALEX B At 14



311. KAREN 2 Definite stabbings and one suspected. Several opportunist break ins and robberies. Some pretty violent.
312. ALEX B Be fair. Only if the kids hung onto their phones too long.
313. KAREN All by 16 and now by 20 an established thug with two lots of 6 months inside for another list.
314. ALEX B A tender youth, nurtured by the system.
315. KAREN And the girl?
- 316. FX clicking of keys**
317. ALEX B Another easy one is our Helly Crier. Bit of shop lifting and street work, couple of drunk ands with some distraction robberies of the elderly.
318. KAREN To finance a pharmaceutical lifestyle.
319. ALEX B That began at 13 with cheap vodka.
320. KAREN Lovely couple.
321. ALEX B Tragic really. Just cannon fodder for the local gangs.
322. KAREN Don't forget the suppliers of the booze, weed and pills.
323. ALEX B There won't be many of us on this. The thought is it's turf war and one of them will shoot his mouth off soon enough. With a couple of briefings and a press conference with the grief stricken parents we'll be up to our armpits in leads.

324. KAREN You cynic. It'll still be a terrible shock to the parents.

They never really accept what their kids are into.

325. ALEX B Your right and I'm glad you're here to put me straight.

Really. This job gets you cynical when you see this.

326. KAREN Up from London I've seen more than you but I've had

to see more of the families as well.

327. ALEX B And when we've had this tea we're out again seeing

some more. And as a special treat, door to door in the flats opposite the alley, first thing in the morning.

328. SCENE

**329. FX Knock on the door – pouring rain.**

330. QUEENIE Who is it?

331. KAREN Police.

332. QUEENIE You're not in uniform.

333. MAUREEN Probly a scam.

334. KAREN I'll hold my card to the eyepiece.

335. MAUREEN How do I know it's real? I've never seen one before. Go away or we'll call the real police.

336. ALEX B We are the police.

**337. FX Dialing**

**338. FX Carpet steps to the door**

339. NEIL Call them anyway and check the name.

340. MAUREEN I am.

341. DON (quietly) This is priceless.

342. ALEX B We do need to talk to you.

343. QUEENIE When we say you can.

344. DON Perfect.

345. ALEX B (quietly) This lot are not going to have seen anything  
are they?

346. KAREN (quietly) It could happen in their front room and they'd  
say nothing.

**347. FX Door opens**

348. QUEENIE You are real then. The police station says so.

349. KAREN You're very wise to check. We had no answer next  
door so....

350. NEIL That's 'cos we're here.

351. DON Come inside. It's wet out there and the tele's on the  
blink.

352. ALEX B (very quietly) Oh God.

- 353. FX door shuts**
354. KAREN I'm detective constable HAYES
355. ALEX B And I'm detective sergeant BOYD.
356. QUEENIE I'm Mrs COLE, that's NEIL and MAUREEN METCALFE  
from next door and Mr HURST who's visiting
357. NEIL Hello.
358. KAREN So we can chat to you all at once.
359. QUEENIE MAUREEN and me will put the kettle on. You all sit  
down and ask your questions to the boys first. Tea? Cake?
360. ALEX B That would be very nice, thank you. One sugar for  
constable Hays and just milk for me please.
- 361. FX door shuts - filling kettle – rattle of mugs – opening and  
closing fridge.**
362. (talking quietly)
363. QUEENIE That pair are shaggin' then.
364. MAUREEN QUEENIE!
365. QUEENIE Stands to reason. Men don't know how women have  
their tea or answer for them like that unless they are. And who do you  
think he is?
366. MAUREEN He had the look.

367. QUEENIE Can't be that many BOYDs in the police.
368. MAUREEN And he's got the look.
369. QUEENIE MOLLIEs grandson and ALEX DUNCAN's as well.
370. MAUREEN And ALEX DUNCAN – ex-copper - was a bright lad.
371. QUEENIE Still is.
372. MAUREEN He knows all of us and DON. Same class as DON  
and NEIL
373. QUEENIE I wouldn't get too excited. Tea and cake with OAP's  
talking rubbish will melt their brains quick enough.
374. MAUREEN They aren't stupid. They let the girl do the softening  
up while they listen to what we say.
375. QUEENIE We're a good excuse to come out the rain. Half hour  
here of nothing but us talking rubbish and he'll be staring at her legs  
with his mind in her pants. He's a man. She's the one to watch.
376. MAUREEN You have such a low opinion of men QUEENIE  
COLE.
377. QUEENIE I just know 'em.
378. SCENE
379. NEIL So, is it about the dead kids over the street? Very sad.

380. ALEX B Yes it is. Did you hear anything or notice anything on Thursday night?
381. NEIL We went to the pub about nine. Your tape was all over the road when we come back.
382. DON Not together. I had to take young Lightning – he's there under the table. Getting old and goes slow. And he smells a bit but you might've have noticed that. Yeah.
383. ALEX B And when was that?
384. DON After nine as well.
385. NEIL B I went a couple of minutes before to get them in.
386. ALEX Did you notice the lad?
387. NEIL He's always – was always there. I assume he was there but it was raining so I wasn't looking out for him exactly.
388. ALEX B And you Mr HURST? Did you notice him?
389. DON Not deliberately like. He's not someone to chat to exactly and I had my eye on the dog. He wees little and often and needs his mess picked up. He goes pretty slow and if he stops and you keep going, he's been known to fall over.
390. NEIL The pub is about as far as he can manage.

391. DON I can go further than that now NEIL – now I've got me  
stick

392. (both laugh)

393. KAREN Did you hear any noise?

394. NEIL If you mean shots, no. and we did 10 years in the army  
together, so we wouldn't miss them.

**395. FX Door – rattle of trays**

396. MAUREEN Here's the tea

397. QUEENIE Here's the cake, help yourself to a plate.

398. KAREN Thank you.

399. ALEX B Yes indeed and the cake looks nice.

400. DON Thanks. I made that. Good to know I can still be  
useful.

401. QUEENIE Would you be ALEX DUNCAN's boy – I mean  
grandson?

402. ALEX B Yes (guarded)

403. MAUREEN We were all at school with him at Pit End – that's  
what we called it.

404. NEIL So MOLLIE COURT was your gran and PETER BOYD  
your other granddad? They were there at Pit End with us too.

405. DON Very sad about your gran and not far from here.
406. ALEX B Yes it is and now we have this
407. DON Unfortunate when someone gets killed. Any progress?
408. KAREN We can't say at the moment.
409. QUEENIE What exactly happened?
410. KAREN The lad and the girl were both shot. So we are trying  
to find anyone who heard anything on Thursday between nine thirty and  
ten thirty
411. QUEENIE I looked out the window when DON went with Albert to  
the pub and he was stood over the road then.
412. KAREN Can we speak to Albert?
413. QUEENIE You'll have to wake him up – he's asleep under the  
table.
414. ALEX B You said the dog was Lightning.
415. DON I think it's called 'ironic humour' son, and that's not  
the cat's name.
416. SCENE
- 417. FX car sounds as couple are driving away.**
418. KAREN It's so cold and wet. I needed that tea they gave us.
419. ALEX B And they all knew granddad.



420. KAREN Everyone knows someone. Turn the fan on, I want heat out of this thing.
- 421. FX car fan**
422. ALEX B We train to talk to people. We train to handle situations.
423. KAREN We did. I got the right side of the women, you did the man to man bit.
424. ALEX B They were so good with the answers. We could have written them before we went in.
425. KAREN That cake's gone to your head. - At last. Heat.
426. ALEX B I would swear to God they played us.
427. KAREN Nonsense. They are nice old folks. Retired and living in a difficult place. None of the residents will admit to seeing or hearing anything. Probably didn't. If they all had their TVs on and their hearing aids off it could have been a bomb and they'd have missed it.
428. ALEX And the young ones are probably customers. They just say how great the victims were.
429. KAREN Now you're being cynical again.
430. ALEX No. I'm going to ask granddad about them.

431. SCENE

**432. FX phone ringing – answered**

433. ALEX D Hello – DUNCAN speaking

434. ALEX B Granddad, it's ALEX.

435. ALEX D ALEX. Good to hear you. How's that KAREN?

436. ALEX B She's fine but I've met some people you may  
remember from school.

437. ALEX D And who would they be?

438. ALEX B A couple called METCALFE, a DON HURST and 'QUEENIE'  
COLE?

439. ALEX D In connection with the killings?

440. ALEX B I doubt it but they live opposite where it happened.

They did a mean cup of tea and piece of cake on a cold wet day for us.

Do you remember them?

441. ALEX D Oh yes. And they have no connection with the killings?

442. ALEX B I can't see them gunning down two young violent  
criminals in the street and getting away with it at their age. If you see  
what I mean?

443. ALEX D (thoughtful) I can see why you might think that.

444. ALEX B I don't mean anything wrong by that. They remembered you and Grandma MOLLIE.

445. ALEX D They would. They have a colourful past from when we were young. And they live opposite. Did they see or hear anything?

446. ALEX B Not that they said. DON and Mr METCALFE...

447. ALEX D NEIL.

448. ALEX B That's right. They were in the pub around the time. Mr HURST had taken Mrs COLE's dog for a walk.

449. ALEX D Not 'Mrs' – more a courtesy title. She used to run the local 'sauna club'.

450. ALEX B Well the two ladies were watching TV at Mrs COLE's at the time of the shooting. They live next door in the flats and very nice 'QUEENIE' COLEs flat was.

451. ALEX D It would be. And DON HURST has moved in?

452. ALEX B Just for a holiday. Apparently he's not well, thinks it's gall stones.

453. ALEX D He's certainly got some of that. Tell me where they are and I may go to see them myself.

454. SCENE

455. DON NEIL has shown me the next one QUEENIE. Not the same gang apparently. Bottom end of the high street, about 25 yards up from the roundabout.
456. QUEENIE So why are you telling me this?
457. DON 'Cos this time I need help.
458. QUEENIE To hold him down or pull the trigger? (shocked)
459. DON Neither – stab 'im. Long Stiletto. No mess, no fuss.
460. QUEENIE I'll be the judge of that. Why?
461. DON Create confusion. Set 'em at each other's throats. They then go for each other and the coppers have too much to handle. By the time they sort the wheat from the chaff we're long gone.
462. QUEENIE But to kill some-one we've never met. Can't we just scare him?
463. DON Do we look like we could scare him?
464. QUEENIE Not really. But to kill some-one who's done nothing to us is a bit.....
465. DON Done plenty. The money for every deal he does comes from somewhere. What they do to get it did for MOLLIE and Christ knows who else.
466. QUEENIE You've got a point.

467. DON And it will get back to his boss.
468. QUEENIE To kill some kid won't scare one of the big bosses much.
469. DON More than you know QUEENIE. They Don't trust each other a lot and will see it as losing control. They need to be in total control or their lot start playing up. Their organisations run on fear and money. The next big fish in the pond is waiting for a chance to take over and they know it.
470. QUEENIE So we have to kill this kid.
471. DON And it needs an elderly couple to do it – and get away with it.
472. SCENE
473. DON (All said calmly) OK QUEENIE, this is what we'll do. Walk toward him then one go either side, hold his arm and walk into the alley. He'll go the first couple of yards into the alley, all suprised, then try to push back. By then the knife will be in, just under his ribs and then I pull down and push up and wriggle it. That tears the diaphragm and gets to the heart. He'll be shocked and have trouble breathing cos you go through a lung on the way. A rag round the bottom of the blade keeps

the blood from going everywhere. You've put the other rag up to his mouth so he can't call out.

474. (beat)

**475. FX switch to actually doing it Gurgling and gasping – shuffling of feet.**

476. DON That's good. Hold onto him and keep the cloth pushed over his mouth. Keep him going up the alley while he's still on his feet.

**477. FX quiet traffic sounds in the background. Gurgling and muffled gasping**

478. DON He's going. Hold on. His feet will go soon. They all start running when they go. Bit like a headless chicken trying to get away. Nervous response.

**479. Pause FX muffled gurgles/gasps**

**480. FX rapid shuffling of feet**

481. DON That's him going, maybe ten seconds. And the thin long knife leaves very little blood. We can clean anything with peroxide at home.

**482. FX Light slumping sound**

483. DON Leave him propped up, sat on that bin. Close your coat in case of marks. Latex gloves into the plastic bag with the rags. I take care of the knife. Now out of the alley at the other end.

**484. FX walking**

485. DON Walk steady girl. You're shaking like a leaf.

486. QUEENIE First time I ever fuckin' killed someone.

487. DON Remember you done this for MOLLIE. Don't look round.

For the cameras back on the main road, we're just out shopping. Those boys pick their spots well – no cameras around where he was. So far as the monitors are concerned we are out shopping. Walked down the street to the bottom and came up the other side at the corner. All the bit by the alley is blind. Almost as if it was deliberately left blind to let them trade.

488. SCENE

**489. FX Crime scene background sounds**

490. KAREN So what's the story this time? I got stuck calming down the girl who found him sat on a bin. Have a coffee.

491. ALEX B Thanks. Single stab wound and very little blood. He was a young lad. Normally there's blood everywhere and a double figure number of wounds when this lot have a go.

492. KAREN How's the boss taking it?
493. ALEX B Badly. Looks like war's going to break out. 2 dead one side, 1 from another and lots of threats. I think he'll be asking for outside help pretty soon.
494. KAREN CCTV?
495. ALEX B None for this end. Our street trader friends know where cameras are and pick blind spots.
496. KAREN While we go door to door for witnesses.....
497. ALEX B Who tell you how tragic it is - but see the whole thing as a bit of street cleaning.
498. KAREN Even that poor girl HELLIE got marked down as drug addicted violent whore, shot while giving the lad a knee tremble or a blow job. And that was from the pensioners in the block opposite and some of our coppers.
499. ALEX B At the pub the rumour is that he fired the gun in his pocket accidentally while he was having the BJ and that was why no-one heard it. They were laughing like drains.
500. KAREN Lots of help there then.
501. ALEX Not much more here either I'll bet.
502. KAREN Probly say he tripped and fell on something sharp.



503. ALEX B Coffee was good though, now back to see what the boss says.

504. SCENE

**505. FX restaurant sounds**

506. ALEX B This is all very nice granddad.

507. KAREN Very good indeed.

508. ALEX D Since your grandmother died and your parents moved away it suits me here at the Carvery. It's good to have a Sunday roast but not worth doing it for one or taking the whole day over it. And you must have a lot of news from what I see in the papers.

509. ALEX B So you've followed it?

510. ALEX D I miss the job. All my life in the force, then private investigations and security. Retirement is pleasant, don't get me wrong - but you miss the challenge.

511. KAREN And this certainly is. A double figure number of incidents and 3 deaths.

512. ALEX D Haven't these gangs rubbed along for years though - why the sudden change?

513. ALEX B No idea. Maybe someone does something silly and the whole thing escalates.

514. KAREN Keeps the thugs off the streets.

515. ALEX D How's that?

516. KAREN Lot's of employment as they get taken on as heavies.

Never seen them so well behaved. They only 'thug' to order at the moment, not free range.

517. ALEX D A silver lining then.

518. ALEX B Too many hours for us though and the deaths don't fit.

519. ALEX D Why not?

520. ALEX B All the small incidents are easy to pin. You know the people. Lots of clues, information and shouting crowds of teenagers. The killings were in a different league.

521. KAREN Almost nothing to go on, no weapons, no known people, no witnesses. Even wet weather to keep the crowds down and the pavements clean.

522. ALEX D That would be the girl then.

523. KAREN Why?

524. ALEX D (slightly thoughtful) Out of sight. Having a wee.  
Witness. Has to go. Not planned. And not a young lad doing it.
525. ALEX B You don't think so?
526. ALEX D Since you told me I thought about it. Teenage girl. Not ugly. Pants below her knees. Hormones and surprise would get the better of him. Can't imagine him just shooting her out of hand. She would have had time to move. Maybe stand up and start pulling her jeans up.
527. ALEX B So not a young person. (thoughtful)
528. ALEX D No – man or woman. Adult. With a job to do?
529. KAREN Professional?
530. ALEX D Stranger things have been known.
531. ALEX B One from each side?
532. ALEX D And start a war. To make room for a new organisation?
533. KAREN Our boss would not like that.
534. ALEX B But the organised crime teams may know a lot that could help us.
535. KAREN And then the organised crime team take all the credit.
536. ALEX D Senior, local officers Don't like that one bit. I didn't.
537. SCENE

538. NEIL That blue Astra is there DON. Three in it. Smoking their heads off and eating chips.
539. DON Thought they might be. Since the opposition kid got the needle they'll be there to keep an eye on their 'branch' opposite your flats. It would look bad if they lost the new boy.
540. NEIL Like Clint Eastwood in those Spaghetti films. Pick them off from both sides and they're at each other.
541. DON Let's hope the coppers are too young to know it.
542. NEIL Bruce Willis used the same plot a lot more recently.
543. DON No cameras round there. No fools these kids.
544. NEIL That'll be their bosses.
545. DON And handy for us.
546. NEIL You've done two and one of them with QUEENIE. Can I do this one?
547. DON No.
548. NEIL MOLLIE was my friend as well.
549. DON No.
550. NEIL You the boss?
551. DON It's my hand grenade – so yes.
552. SCENE

**553. FX knocking on QUEENIEs door**

554. QUEENIE Use you key DON (shout)

555. ALEX D If I was DON I might.

556. QUEENIE OK (steps and door opening). MAUREEN, you were right.

557. ALEX D Hello QUEENIE. You look well – and what was MAUREEN right about?

558. MAUREEN That you would be round when you heard from your lad.

559. ALEX D You were right then.

560. QUEENIE So get in and have some tea.

561. ALEX D DON and NEIL here as well?

562. MAUREEN Out getting a paper.

563. ALEX D Ah.

564. QUEENIE He's a nice lad. The girl KAREN is his girlfriend then?

565. ALEX D Not much gets past you does it?

566. QUEENIE Not a lot – years of practice. And you?

567. ALEX D Retired and resting?

568. MAUREEN Well it's good to see you. Sugar? Still two?

569. ALEX D Not any more, just one. Cut down to keep the weight off.
570. QUEENIE You were never fat.
571. ALEX D You made a big impression on my grandson.
572. MAUREEN Named after you.
573. ALEX D Very kind of his parents. Tragic what happened to MOLLIE. Long time since I last saw her but still tragic. DON must have taken it hard?
574. QUEENIE We all did.
575. ALEX D No more than us, especially young ALEX. They wouldn't let him work on it in case he 'tried too hard' on the young kids.
- 576. FX small, clearly heard explosion.**
577. ALEX D I'll take that as my queue to go. Ask DON to give me a ring so we can meet and catch up. Young ALEX has the number.
578. SCENE
579. NEIL (narrating) from about fifty yards away I gave a quick 'all clear' wave and DON had set off with the dog from where Albert had been happily sniffing the wall. He walked slowly up past the car where the young lads were. He moved closer by only a foot. I never saw him do it. Smoothly done. I went into an alley 'cos I knew what to expect. He

went past and did the same on the other side. He said it went in the back window and onto the floor. The lad in the back may even have got a hand to it by the time it went off. The windows blew out. There was no-one else in the street but it must have cracked a couple of panes. Quieter than I thought, being inside the car. In the films they always catch fire. Not in real life, but an awful lot of smoke.

580. SCENE

**581. FX key in the door**

582. QUEENIE DON HURST – you bloody fool.

583. MAUREEN We just had ALEX DUNCAN for tea. He’s no fool that man. Wants you to ring him. Little ALEX has the number. And he has yours!

584. QUEENIE Did it work?

585. DON Did what work?

586. NEIL Did you hear the bang?

587. MAUREEN So did ALEX.

588. QUEENIE They sent a boy to do a man’s job last time. This time they sent the real deal.

589. DON He’s not a copper now. He’s as old as we are.

590. NEIL You'd better see 'im though. He knows you. He knows us.

591. MAUREEN And he made it plain he knows what we all think about MOLLIE as well.

592. QUEENIE That's as read. Young ALEX wasn't allowed on the case.

593. DON Then I'd best ring him.

594. MAUREEN And pretty quick.

595. SCENE

596. DON You were a bit quiet QUEENIE.

597. QUEENIE Well I helped you kill that you boy on those bins. ALEX knows exactly what's going on.

598. DON He probably suspects but he's not going to convince anyone we did a thing. You need evidence and then you have to convince a court. The jury would never convict, they'd be cheering too loud. CPS wouldn't touch it. Too expensive, for a clear lose and bad publicity.

599. QUEENIE You've still got that gun.



600. DON With its silencer. Good German engineering. They won't find it. It's not here. Nor's the knife. (thoughtful) Good knife that. Done some service that has.

601. QUEENIE Stop now DON and you phone young ALEX for that number. Find out what he knows.

602. SCENE

603. FX office noise

604. KAREN Back at last. You've been a while.

605. ALEX B With capaccino

606. KAREN I thought it was a bomb, not a celebration.

607. ALEX B It was – both. The tit for tat took out 3 of our best customers. The Rowley boys and their cousin Bennie 'The Brick' Harrison – we think. They were waiting round the corner to the first shootings – Kelly and Hellie. We assume they were to make sure no-one upset the new vendor. Camera blackspot of course, as usual. Probably a fragmentation grenade in the back. Bits everywhere. Spam in a can they said.

608. KAREN Sounds charming. Where would any of ours get one of them? Army surplus?

609. ALEX B Not with defence cuts – none to spare (laugh)

610. KAREN (giggle) Stop that. This is a massacre, not a party.
611. ALEX B You're right. The boss is going mental. Three more stabbings in the last four days and one shooting.
612. KAREN But the charmers we got for two of the stabbings deny all knowledge of the bins killing or the first shooting. No blood stained locals, footprints, weapons. Not like the others.
613. ALEX B Angus upstairs says he saw a knifing like ours in Glasgow. He's telling us all at the briefing tomorrow.
614. KAREN Why call him Angus? He's not even Scottish.
615. ALEX B He worked up there. Anyway, he said they used a long thin blade, stiletto. Wrapped a cloth round the stab handle to stop the blood spurts. He said that two did it so they could hold the victim while the cutter wiggled about till the lungs and heart were 'compromised'. Twenty seconds all in. They left him sat up too. In a pub toilet.
616. KAREN I'll bet whoever went in there next didn't wait to sit down before he started.
617. ALEX B Now who's being crude? They didn't catch the killer there either. We're getting the update in detail in the morning.
618. SCENE
619. **FX walking and office sounds**

620. KAREN I've never seen the boss look that rattled before.
621. ALEX B Keep your voice down. He's not that far away. I've never heard of the lab boys being so fast before. Less than 24 hours for a full report.
622. KAREN That's the advantage of your 'spam in a can'. The car enclosed most of it. Most of the bits still there.
623. ALEX B And that doctor? 'The wounds from the grenade were not immediately fatal to those in the front seats'.
624. KAREN But were 'supplemented by the blast wave that gave dramatic internal injuries to both head and body of all concerned'.
625. ALEX B 'But enclosing the blast meant little damage to windows of any surrounding properties'
626. KAREN 'Although there may be future claims as there may have been vibration damage to double glazed window unit seals'
627. ALEX B Such obvious comments in posh language and no bloody help.
628. KAREN With no fingerprints on any of the fragments.
629. ALEX B And I'll bet, no witnesses.
630. KAREN Would you miss that lot or want to get involved?

631. ALEX B I'm not arguing with you but we'll be out door knocking again.

632. KAREN Maybe there'll be more tea and cake.

**633. FX Bernie's greasy spoon**

634. ALEX D Mornin' DON. I haven't been here at Bernie's for years. I got you tea and a toast. Thanks for the phone call.

635. DON Very thoughtful. They must be getting desperate, you're as old as me and I know I'm past it.

636. ALEX D You're not conning a bunch of kids now DON. We're both still 19 up here. Just takes longer for the arms and legs to catch up.

637. DON Wrong there. It's knowing how to be slow enough.

**638. FX slurp of tea**

639. ALEX D You've got that off pat. Your health issues – crap I call it. I bet you're fit as a butcher's dog.

640. DON How can you think such a thing? Here I am 70 and poorly. Strangely light headed if I move too fast with tricky knees. And the pain – I think it's my gall bladder – stones maybe?

641. ALEX D Bollocks more like. My grandson's and one of his DCs didn't catch on to you quick enough. They didn't know who or what they were looking at, at all.

642. DON You may be right.

**643. FX tea drinking and toast eating**

644. ALEX D So you admit.....

645. DON I said 'may'. Now I need some information from you.

646. ALEX D I'm the copper. I want the answers first.

647. DON Not any more. You're a pensioner like the rest of us.

Not quite, I still work part time - but you've noticed that. Who actually supplies the stuff these kids have been selling? Name and address. No passing things on to your grandson. I don't want any of his lot hurt if they try to get in the way. And they will get hurt.

**648. FX tea and toast again**

649. ALEX D They're doing their job.

650. DON They mean well but they have to pussy foot around and have trouble with real life. It seems to come as a shock to them. They have too many rules.

651. ALEX D And you have none I suppose?

652. DON Good toast, buttered while still warm. You and I both had the same rules. The guilty get punished. The more they do, the harder they get it. I still have those rules.

653. ALEX D So you shot 2, blew up 3 and knifed 1. That's not getting even. It's a bloody rugby score.

654. DON Or at least a fair break at snooker. If I knew anything about it.

655. ALEX What?

656. DON Not important. So. Name and address.

657. ALEX D If I do, what happens then?

658. DON I'll let you guess.

659. ALEX D You won't get away with it. (beat) I sound like a cheap film. It's too late now anyway.

**660. FX tea and toast**

661. DON Not a problem. Your recorder won't have got this or if you have a wire, that won't work either.

662. ALEX D What? I'm here on my own.

663. DON This is a small box. Very handy. Runs with a 9v battery for couple of hours. Blanks out signals and generates a static signal.

Yanks gave it to me a couple of years back. I say 'gave'. They just didn't get it back. Or ask. I just try to be careful. So name and address.

664. ALEX D Why are you going to all this trouble? The police are going for him as well. They'll get him one day.

665. DON True. He'll probably get 15 years and be out in 5 to several million in some obscure bank. Oh yes; and while he's in, he'll be treated like Lord Muck with every whim answered. With his money I expect he could even have dancing girls. He'd still have his business on the outside running smoothly along. Not like MOLLIE. Remember MOLLIE?

666. ALEX That was very sad but muggers did that.

667. DON To pay the dealers who get the stuff that his boys bring – from him. He's going down – to use an American expression.

668. ALEX You haven't seen MOLLIE for 40 odd years.

669. DON True again

670. ALEX So why?

671. DON Got called away with the army. We'd been – close. Very close.

672. ALEX So her eldest?

673. DON Married your son. MOLLIE got married to PETER. He was a good man. Unimaginative but good.

674. ALEX Was.....?

675. DON Stop now.

676. (beat)

677. ALEX Eddie Thompson. Lives in a big place.

678. DON I didn't expect it to be a coal bunker. Lots of trees and things?

679. ALEX And cameras, electric gates, and some staff who aren't picked for their cooking skills. Dorney House. Outside town in its own grounds.

680. DON I remember it. See how easy that was?

681. ALEX I used to say that at the end of interviews as well.

682. DON And don't you go telling your grandson. He seems a good lad and would try too hard.

683. ALEX Like that girl?

684. DON What girl?

685. ALEX The one who got in the way when you put 2 bullets in her boy friend?

686. DON I don't know what you mean.



687. ALEX I know why you're doing it but it isn't the right way.

Someone else will take over. They won't stop selling the stuff.

688. DON But I will feel so much better. Your lad would sleep easier too but don't you dare tell him.

689. ALEX What's to stop me?

690. DON My little box. It blanks out the others but it will have recorded all the help you just gave me if anything goes wrong. I'll have the bastard. (beat) Nice cup of tea. You enjoying retirement? I'm even thinking of it myself.

691. SCENE

**692. FX TV with Eastenders in the background**

693. QUEENIE Eddie Thompson. Should have guessed. His dad used to be to be very nice. Bit of a regular for the girls at the sauna. We used to have an arrangement for his house parties. They used to get paid on the number of his cards they collected from the guests. He reckoned it stopped some of his associates feeling left out. He used to give them out as currency.

694. DON Was the dad in drugs as well?

695. QUEENIE No. he had a building company and needed to get planning permission. The parties used to be two or three times a year.

Once he had pics of silly, naughty boys he always got permission or help with building regs. (laughs) The girls had to be quick at turning away at the right moment.

696. DON Why?

697. QUEENIE In case their faces ever struck a chord. Most embarrassing, especially for the married ones.

698. DON Makes you think. Would you know someone who knows his boys? The ones he has at the house?

699. QUEENIE Connie still runs my old parlour. She also lays on the girls for do's. If he still does the kind his dad did, she probably will.

700. DON And parties so he can keep the heat off with the tried and tested.

701. QUEENIE It kept his dad in business for a lot of years. Can't see why it would fail now. If Eddie needed help he'd have alibies or 'help' coming out his backside.

702. DON If anyone found out would it mess it up for you with Connie? I don't want to spoil things for you.

703. QUEENIE Course not. Connie has plenty of work on. These hostess gigs happen all the time and she knew MOLLIE.

704. DON Don't you dare tell her why or we'll both be in clink –  
with NEIL and MAUREEN for company.
705. QUEENIE If it's the way it was when I ran them, I always kept a  
few copies of the pictures myself. Dated now of course. Connie's a bright  
girl. Leave my friends out of it or you star on a Facebook page and  
Twitter. That's all she'd need to say.
706. DON And you say I'm rough.
707. QUEENIE Men like to think they are but for real payback a  
woman wins every time.
708. DON I'll remember that.
709. SCENE
- 710. FX Door opens, steps in**
711. NEIL You're like a bloody alley cat. Out all night and knackered  
all day. You look terrible.
712. DON Been watching the target. A week is normally enough.  
May do a day or two more.
713. NEIL Give you a hand with the camo net?
714. DON Yeah. Can it go in your drier again? Rain kept off but the  
dew'll make it rot.
715. NEIL Sure. And the jacket?

716. DON Great.

**717. FX loading and running drier.**

718. NEIL That would have saved us some grief in the old days.

719. DON These are still the old days for me. Plenty of work available for the keen.

720. NEIL Those who know what they're doing. Tea?

721. DON Kind – I've had breakfast – bread and cheese.

**722. FX pouring tea and sitting down.**

723. NEIL Will it be a hard job?

724. DON They're all hard if you don't do 'em right. Hopefully not.

Between 10 and half past he goes to his office. One lad drives and the other helps him into the car. You know, looks around and wears dark glasses. Spotted the cameras. They don't look much beyond the garden and about 20 yards around the boundary.

725. NEIL What are his boys like?

726. DON Tough enough but not much between the ears from what I've found out. They look the part but no real training. No danger of patrol sweeps. They don't look further than the cameras. Local but not talent.

727. NEIL He must still expect trouble.

728. DON Yeah but from business rivals. They might send a kid on a bike with an Oozi. Bags of bullets and no direction. That would only give a warning between friends.

729. NEIL But not from you.

730. DON No, only a pillock gives a warning. Do it once and do it right. Reality is they don't want to rock the boat. Between themselves they just keep their kids in line. (thoughtful) I'll be lucky if I get 3 good shots off in the time I'll get. Smokeless powder, flash guard. Best with just one round.

731. NEIL What will you use?

732. DON East European sniper rifle. Brought it on the bus. They don't check buses much. Only brought 10 rounds. Special rounds. Good to 1500 yards – or is that metres?

733. NEIL Don't you have to get all the distances right. Markers and things.

734. DON Back then for us but the sight has a little computer in it. Not cheap but sooo good. Uses GPS like a sat nav in a car, but better.

735. NEIL Expensive.

736. DON It's like anything else. If you want to do the job; get the tools.

737. NEIL Did....do you ever think about the people you've killed.....  
or their families.

738. DON Do you?

739. NEIL That was the army, we were in wars.

740. DON No different, just the wars are getting smaller. More  
professional. What do you want? Big, quarter of a million dead like  
Congo or 1 dead before it can start?

741. NEIL You been in the Congo?

742. DON No, too messy. (beat) Just say your company wants  
resources from the Congo, or wherever, cheap. (beat) Pay some local  
warlord to go up a gear and keep things going for your benefit. (beat)  
You get big profits buying from him – cheap while the place is in chaos.  
(beat) Now, we blow away the CEO's right hand man, preferably when  
they are standing next to each other. (beat) He's still alive taking the  
decisions and goes right off the idea of starting trouble. (beat) Till the  
next one tries it on. (beat) Result; one upset family in a rich country but  
a lot of less unhappy people in a poor country. It doesn't take a genius to  
work it out. And that's what I do.

743. NEIL When do you do this?

744. DON That's the big question.

745. SCENE

**746. FX phone call - ring and answer. Sound of being taken in a fast moving car.**

747. ALEX ALEX, what time are you getting here to go for lunch.

You're cutting it very fine. They stop serving in half an hour.

748. ALEX B Sorry grandad. There's been a shooting. Double shooting and everyone's been dragged in. it's getting out of hand.

749. ALEX D (quietly) who got shot?

750. ALEX B I can't tell you that yet but it will be on the news pretty soon.

751. ALEX D Is it drugs related?

752. ALEX B I can't say anything about it just now.

753. ALEX D Was it a kid on the street or something else?

754. ALEX B I'm really not allowed to say. Catch it on the news. Must go. We're on our way to the hospital.

755. ALEX D Did the victim survive?

756. ALEX B Still can't say, bye grandad – we'll talk soon.

757. KAREN Did the victim survive? Not with half his back blown out.

758. ALEX B And the body guard with his shoulder and neck ripped through.

759. KAREN Not your average drive by, from a kid on a bike. Lethal bloody bullets. One shot each.
760. ALEX B Couldn't have happened to nicer pondlife though.
761. KAREN If this is a takeover, the new crew must be a real piece of work.
762. ALEX B I hadn't thought of that. Shit. It'll be a bloodbath.
763. KAREN Or they'll all roll over for the new master.
764. ALEX B I bloody would. That was a very professional job.
765. KAREN Which begs the question of why we're still on with it.
766. ALEX B Because the big boys don't want it.
767. KAREN Surely it's organised crime and on a different league to rival locals arguing over turf?
768. ALEX B Their chances of catching the killer could 'be writ large on a gnat's bum' as my dear grandfather would say. A hired gun like that could be, not miles but countries away by now. Think of the money involved.
769. KAREN You could be right. For a 2 or 3 million a year business, they could easily hire a gun and a good one at that.



770. ALEX B £100.000 or more would be a cheap investment.

Probably more. The killer could be in Eastern Europe, Africa, anywhere by now.

771. KAREN And with a cunning shuffle of passports he never left home in the first place.

772. ALEX B Or she. Can't run down the fairer sex. You're a better shot than most male officers. Remember the recoil from modern sniper rifles is lower. With a bipod to support it, anyone could have done it.

773. KAREN So not taking it on means the big boys don't look silly and the failure is all kept here.

774. ALEX B In one, unless it suits their agenda. Our chances of promotion only stay afloat if no-one pushes the plunger.

775. KAREN They can't blame us can they?

776. ALEX B Let me think – 1 drug dealer and lady friend shot at close range – 1 car of muscle blown up – a second drug seller expertly stabbed in broad daylight and all with no witnesses or leads. Now a big player and bodyguard done with explosive bullets from God knows what range by a professional hit man. That doesn't include the 'little' tit for tat stuff.

777. KAREN We're screwed.

778. SCENE

**779. FX restaurant sounds again**

780. ALEX D Sunday and the carvery, wonderful. I've been very keen to hear the news from the pair of you. So how far have you got and what have you got?

781. ALEX B No far and not much

782. ALEX D Shame.

783. ALEX B This drugs war stuff has unrelated people with high skills and no local connections or motives.

784. ALEX D There's always a motive.

785. ALEX B In this case it's money and the future earnings of a very lucrative business.

786. ALEX D There must have been a spark.

787. ALEX B London has taken over and said they have 3 suspects for the last shooting; in Latvia, Angola and Somalia. Triggered by the start of the gang war. Eddie Thompson's local rival is on record as making some very heavy threats. They are saying there is evidence of over a quarter of a million being hidden away by the other side to get rid of Thompson in laundered accounts

788. ALEX D And what do you think?

789. ALEX B I'm biased. I hate them all after what happened to grandma MOLLIE. Killed for a tenner, if that, to go into the back pocket of some dealer. No concern of mine now. KAREN was relieved as hell when we got pulled off it. She reckons they can have all the glory they want, don't you?

790. KAREN There's more to this than meets the eye Mr DUNCAN. The London team reek of politics and the local stuff just reeks. No witnesses and everyone we speak to tighter than wet knots. Even MOLLIE's friends like QUEENIE and her boyfriend, NEIL and MAUREEN, everyone. There are other agendas here and frankly, we're best out of it. I think the hit man lead will also tie up loose ends in other investigations for the organised crime crew.

791. ALEX D I suspect you're right. On all points.

792. ALEX B That boyfriend of QUEENIE's seems a nice guy. Very straight forward and down to earth. Did you know him well?

793. ALEX D I knew DON at school, very, very –straightforward and really knows his earth.

794. KAREN You can tell you're all local. (laughs) That DON even looks a bit like you ALEX.

795. SCENE

**796. FX quiet country noise of birds and breeze in trees**

797. NEIL How about this place? Pool, sun, gentle breeze.

798. MAUREEN This is nice. This Portugal is so warm and pretty, not too hot. Shame MOLLIE never got the chance to be here to see it

**799. FX steps**

800. NEIL Shhhh – here come DON and QUEENIE with the drinks.

801. DON I heard – and you are right. Timing all wrong is all. It would've been good.

802. QUEENIE Will young ALEX ever find out about you?

**803. FX rattle of glasses pouring of drinks**

804. DON Oh yes. Old ALEX could never keep his mouth shut long. That young girl of his may even work it out for herself.

805. NEIL Aren't you worried about that?

806. DON Why?

807. NEIL They'll send someone to get you.

808. DON And risk all the evidence of what I've done over the years coming out? It's all written down with pictures and things. I could even claim I was paid by HM Government to do Eddie Thompson as an

example to others. Even if they bump me off it's all set to come out.

They may even still need me to do the odd favour. No. we're fine.

809. MAUREEN Will ALEX find this place?

810. DON I bloody hope so. I've left it to him in my will – with conditions.

811. QUEENIE Conditions?

812. DON That you ugly mob can use it while you're able. It's big enough. 4 good bedrooms, pool, double garage, nice patio...

813. NEIL The wages of sin?

**814. FX sound of clanking gate**

815. DON The wages of keeping a lid on embarrassing things.

Anyway I've just about retired now.

816. QUEENIE Only just about?

**817. FX quiet steps**

818. DON There's still work out there and who would suspect a sick old fool of 70?

819. ALEX B Me. Granddad ALEX did an interesting dot to dot for me.

820. KAREN It was fascinating.

821. ALEX B Any chance of some of that Sangria?

822. Epilogue from NEIL

823. Getting old has its compensations. Bus pass, free prescriptions and eye tests, spoilt only by needing them. It still beats the alternative. You mostly plan your day by what you want to do. The bad side of it is when you find how many things are out of your control – or anyone else's. It just depends on having a mate who may be able help.

