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Episode 2  
(Complete with GREEN Amends)!

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8<sup>th</sup> June 2016!

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A beautiful Caribbean day on a lush, sprawling estate. NSE GUESTS are arriving at a garden party in the grounds as NSE WAITERS circle with trays of canapes and champagne. A small stage with a screen is set up in front of chairs. A welcome banner announces: SAINT MARIE LITERARY FESTIVAL.

The guests are collecting passes and printed copies of the Festival Programme at a welcome table. ESTHER MONROE (24, Anglo-Caribbean, pretty, bookish) is handing them out. But her face is tense, unsmiling. Attention clearly elsewhere.

ANNA WOLF (45, professorial but glamorous, confident, one half of an academic power couple) approaches.

ANNA  
(low to ESTHER)  
Don't forget to smile please.  
(to guests)  
Do have a drink and enjoy the  
gardens, we'll be starting very  
soon...

OLIVER WOLF (44, senior academic, handsome but middle-age just beginning to encroach) heads up with two glasses of champagne.

1 CONTINUED:

1

ESTHER

No thanks.

OLIVER

Come on, you've been working all week. Time to enjoy yourself.

But Esther turns away, her face falling. She's anxious. Why?

GO TO: Anna is with the NSE Journalist and an NSE PHOTOGRAPHER, near the stage.

ANNA

A three-day celebration of Caribbean literature in all its forms. Tours, readings, book signings.

Anna spots a Caribbean woman in her 60s approaching (this is SYLVIE BAPTISTE, striking-looking, charismatic). Accompanying her is PATRICIA LAWRENCE (mid 40s, British, a book editor).

ANNA (CONT'D)

And of course our star guest - Sylvie Baptiste. This is her family estate. And the setting of her most celebrated novel, 'The Flame Tree'.

SYLVIE

Welcome. A pleasure to be hosting the first year of this wonderful festival.

As Sylvie goes to take a glass of champagne from a tray, Patricia intercepts quietly.

PATRICIA

(her hand stopping  
Sylvie's)

After the reading. Please.

SYLVIE

Remind me not to invite you to my next party.

But she leaves the drink - a twitch of a smile on her face - and gives her handbag to Patricia, who steps back out of the way. Sylvie goes to pose next to Anna for the photo. As The photographer snaps away.

GO TO: Oliver is stood next to Patricia as the photos are taken. She is nervously checking through some cue cards.

OLIVER

You all ready for your talk, Patricia?

(CONTINUED)

2

1 CONTINUED:

1

PATRICIA

I think so. If I can just stop my hands from shaking. It's usually Sylvie who does this sort of thing. I'm more used to being behind the stage, not on it...

Oliver offers a reassuring smile.

OLIVER

You'll be great.

Patricia clocks Oliver is distracted by something - his eyes going to Esther.

PATRICIA

Esther seems a little...stressed. Is she all right?

OLIVER

Probably just tired.

But as Oliver glances over at Esther, we see he doesn't look quite as certain as he sounds.

CUT TO:

2 EXT. SYLVIE'S ESTATE. GARDEN. DAY 1 [13:10]

2

We're close on Esther standing alone, her face drawn and anxious. In the b/g, Anna is still over with the photographer but Sylvie has broken away and now approaches.

SYLVIE

Esther?

Esther snaps back into the present to see Sylvie next to her. It does nothing to lessen her anxiety.

ESTHER

Ms Baptiste.

SYLVIE

(low, pointed)

I was wondering if you'd had a chance to think about our little chat.

ESTHER

I have. And the answer's still no.

Esther checks her watch and hurries away - leaving Sylvie annoyed and perturbed.

CUT TO:





7

CONTINUED:

7

Anna squeezes his hand back.

ANNA  
(to OLIVER)  
Where did Esther go?

OLIVER  
(shrugging - no idea)  
Maybe I should go and look for her.

ANNA  
Not now, love

GO TO: We're close on Patricia stepping forward on stage as she now opens a copy of 'The Flame Tree' to a bookmarked page, and begins reading.

PATRICIA  
Let me read you the text at this point...  
(reads from book)  
Iris walked towards the edge of the cliff.

CUT TO:

8

OMITTED

8

9

EXT. SYLVIE'S ESTATE. CLIFFTOP. DAY 1 [13:30]

9

We're now on a cliff-top - the same one we just saw on the slide. A dramatic view out to sea now visible in front of us. As Patricia reads, the camera tracks forwards towards the edge of the cliff.

PATRICIA (V.O)  
Her heart was burning in her chest, with fear, or with desire - she did not know and perhaps it did not matter. She heard his voice in the garden behind her, calling her away from the cliffs.

As she speaks we follow the camera as it pans over the edge of the cliff... down the sheer drop...

PATRICIA (V.O) (CONT'D)  
But she wanted to see over the cliff, over the water, all the way to the horizon and beyond it-

And we see Esther's dead body lying at the bottom of the cliff...

CUT TO:

(CONTINUED)





10

CONTINUED:

10

DWAYNE

Love shack?!

On Humphrey's blush... as JP gets off the phone.

JP

Body of a young woman's been found.  
On the beach at the Malbonne  
estate.

FLORENCE

Malbonne?

(awestruck)

That's Sylvie Baptiste's home...

CUT TO:

11

EXT. BEACH. DAY 1 [15:00]

11

Humphrey and Florence are heading down the beach.

FLORENCE

She wrote a novel we all studied at  
school. Set on Saint Marie.

HUMPHREY

'The Flame Tree'?

FLORENCE

You've read it?

HUMPHREY

Heard of it of course, but I had no  
idea it was set on the island.

FLORENCE

It's about an Englishman who falls  
in love with an Islander, Iris, a  
former slave. He marries her  
against her will. When she realises  
she's enslaved again, in a  
different way - she kills herself.

Esther's body comes into view - lying face down on soft sand  
beneath the cliffs, no blood visible, NS PARAMEDICS already  
there with Dwayne.

HUMPHREY

How?

FLORENCE

(stunned, seeing the body)  
She jumps from the cliffs.

CUT TO:

Humphrey crouches next to Esther's body, looks up at the cliffs above. In the b/g, Dwayne heads back from talking to the paramedics.

FLORENCE

Exactly the way Iris kills herself.

DWAYNE

Paramedics say her injuries are consistent with a fall from this height.

(glancing up)

JP's up on the cliff top near where she fell cordoning it off...

Humphrey nods - good.

HUMPHREY

And do we know who she is?

DWAYNE

Her name's Esther Monroe. She's a PhD student currently living in England...

FLORENCE

(recognises name)

Esther Monroe...

Florence moves to look at her face.

FLORENCE (CONT'D)

I went to school with her...

HUMPHREY

Really?

Florence nods, a little thrown.

HUMPHREY (CONT'D)

Was she a friend?

FLORENCE

For a while. But she and her family moved to England when we were teenagers. A long time ago now.

HUMPHREY

I'm sorry, Florence. You okay to

carry on 12 0 0 12 322 257 Tm /TT9 1 Tf (CONT'D) uj 0t Tj

12

CONTINUED:

12

Florence gathers herself, but - despite her assurances - it's clear it's been a bit of shock.

HUMPHREY  
(to Dwayne)  
So who found the body?

DWAYNE  
Her tutor, Anna Wolf, and Anna's husband Oliver. They went looking for her after she disappeared from an event up at the house.

HUMPHREY  
Event..?

DWAYNE  
Literary festival. Readings, lectures, that sort of thing. If you can call that a festival.

Humphrey crouches and examines Esther's watch.

HUMPHREY  
Watch is smashed and stopped at 1.25. I think we can take that as time of death.

Humphrey looks at Esther's face.

HUMPHREY (CONT'D)  
Do you know how old she would have been?

FLORENCE  
She was a year below me. So twenty six.

Humphrey takes it in.

HUMPHREY  
So young.

Dwayne offers a sympathetic look to Florence. Humphrey stands.

HUMPHREY (CONT'D)  
Okay, Dwayne. We can release the body. Then let's take a look up top.

CUT TO:

12A

EXT. SYLVIE'S ESTATE. CLIFFTOP. DAY 1 [15:20]

12A

Humphrey, Florence and Dwayne approach JP on the cliff top. Police tape has been

(CONTINUED)  
10



JP holds out a blank envelope. Humphrey takes it. He opens the envelope and removes and unfolds a printed letter. He reads it...

HUMPHREY

'To My Family. I'm so sorry. I tried but I couldn't do it any longer. Please forgive me. I love you. Esther.'

It's signed with a handwritten 'Esther'. Humphrey takes this in. Florence takes the letter...

FLORENCE

Poor Esther.

HUMPHREY

Yes...

(beat)

It's odd, though...don't you think?

FLORENCE

What is?

HUMPHREY

That she chose to write the letter on a computer. Print it and then sign it. Something rather impersonal - almost formal - about it. Wouldn't you say?

Florence isn't sure - a bit thrown by it all. Humphrey looks down at the contents of the bag laid out on the ground. Then back at the letter in Florence's hands. Something starting to niggle, ever so slightly. He crouches down and picks up the pen and looks at it. JP and Florence exchange a look,



HUMPHREY

So who did she know?

DWAYNE

Anna, her husband Oliver, Sylvie Baptiste and her assistant Patricia Lawrence.

HUMPHREY

(to Dwayne and JP)

Okay. Then talk to the other guests, confirm whether Anna's right about that. And also, the laptop cable in Esther's bag would imply she has a laptop. See if you can find it hereabout...

Dwayne and JP nod and head away as Humphrey and Florence reach a pale Anna and Oliver, supporting each other. Sylvie and Patricia there too.

HUMPHREY (CONT'D)

D.I. Humphrey Goodman. I understand you both found Esther?

Oliver and Anna nod.

ANNA

Do you have any idea what happened yet? I mean - was it accidental, or did she...

HUMPHREY

We found a note.

ANNA

(hand going to her mouth)

Oh, God.

Oliver squeezes Anna's hand - both clearly deeply shaken.

HUMPHREY

I know this is a difficult time. But I need to ask you a few questions.

(they nod)

When did you all last see Esther alive?

ANNA

I noticed her leaving the garden, at about...

PATRICIA

Quarter past one.

13

CONTINUED:

13

FLASHBACK: As seen in Scene 3, Esther is seen leaving the garden.

HUMPHREY

You're sure?

PATRICIA

Quite sure. I was on stage about to start my talk.

SYLVIE

I saw her then too.

OLIVER

So did I.

HUMPHREY

Leaving the garden alone?

They nod.

HUMPHREY (CONT'D)

(to all of them)

And where were you for the next ten minutes?

ANNA

(a little thrown)

In the audience - listening to Patricia.

(re Oliver and Sylvie)

All of us were.

FLASHBACK: as in scene 7, Anna, Oliver and Sylvie are in the front row of the audience listening to Patricia talking.

HUMPHREY

Can you tell me about how Esther seemed in the last few days? Her mood, behaviour?

OLIVER

She'd barely left her hotel room since we arrived five days ago.

HUMPHREY

Do you know why?

ANNA

She was working late every night. On a new chapter of her thesis. It's on 'The Flame Tree'. She was doing some research here on the island.

HUMPHREY

What sort of research?

(CONTINUED)





13

CONTINUED:

13

Anna and Oliver look at Sylvie - a little shocked.

HUMPHREY

You say you were still all present at Patricia's talk at 1.25. Are there other guests who can confirm this?

SYLVIE

Ask anyone else in the audience. There were a hundred people there and we were sitting in the front row.

OLIVER

But...you're not thinking...  
(hesitant)

Esther...jumped, didn't she? She wasn't...[murdered]

HUMPHREY

We're not ruling anything out just at the moment.

The four react to this, a little shocked.

HUMPHREY (CONT'D)

Thank you. We'll be in touch with any further questions.

On the four suspects - suddenly unsettled.

CUT TO:

14

OMITTED

14 \*

(CONTINUED)

15 EXT. SYLVIE'S ESTATE. GARDEN. DAY 1 [16:30]

15

The festival is resuming in the b/g. Humphrey and Florence are joined by Dwayne and JP.

JP

So, sir, we've had a look round and there's no sign of Esther's laptop that we can see.

Humphrey takes it in - interesting.

DWAYNE

We've also spoken to most of the guests. And it's true they only know Esther from meeting her when they arrived earlier this morning...

JP

A couple noticed Esther leaving the grounds during Patricia Lawrence's talk.

HUMPHREY

Any of them see anyone following Esther...?

JP

(shakes head)

Apparently everyone stayed in their seats for the duration of the talk.

Humphrey churns this over in his head.

FLORENCE

What are you thinking, sir?

HUMPHREY

I'm thinking that if, as I suspect, that suicide note was faked and Esther was pushed to her death. Then, as there seem to be only four people at the festival who knew her, it has to be one of them that did it...

DWAYNE

But if they were all in full view at the time it happened... it can't be, can it?

15

CONTI NUED:

15

HUMPHREY

No, Dwayne. It can' t. You' re right.

Humphrey is a little concerned now that it doesn' t seem to make sense.

JP

Maybe it was sui ci de?

Humphrey thinks a moment, still not sold on it.

15 CONTINUED:

15

HUMPHREY

We need that note dusted for prints as soon as possible.

Nods all round - sounds like a plan.

HUMPHREY (CONT'D)

Also. Dwayne. JP. Find out if anyone else was present on the estate at the time of death. Apart from the guests I mean. Any staff, neighbours, anyone who might have witnessed anything.

(remembering)

There was a small bungalow over the way, I noticed. Be worth checking that out.

JP and Dwayne nod.

HUMPHREY (CONT'D)

In the meantime, Florence, let's take a look at Esther's hotel room. If she's pretty much been holed up there since she arrived in Saint Marie, it might give us a clearer idea as to what Esther's been up to this last week.

FLORENCE

Good idea, sir.

HUMPHREY

And we should phone Esther's parents...

Florence nods - knew this was coming.

FLORENCE

I'd like to do it, sir. If that's alright with you.

HUMPHREY

Of course.

Humphrey offers her a supportive look.

CUT TO:

16 EXT. LIZZIE'S BUNGALOW. DAY 1 [16:50]

16

Dwayne and JP approach the bungalow and knock. The place looks a little neglected - there are flower pots etc that are untended and overgrown with weeds.

(CONTINUED)

JP

I've never been to the Baptiste estate before, Dwayne. To think this is where the book actually takes place. Really brings it to

16

CONTINUED:

16

DWAYNE (CONT'D)  
Excuse me! Can we take your name-?  
(she shuts the door in his  
face)  
Nice to meet you too!

They exchange a shrug and move to go on their way.

DWAYNE (CONT'D)  
(shaking head)  
Some people, eh...

JP is looking back and spots Lizzie looking out at them through the window. He catches her eye, intrigued. What's going on with this woman?

CUT TO:

17

OMITTED

17

Humphrey joins Florence in the lobby area outside the hotel room where she is just finishing off on her mobile phone.

FLORENCE

...of course we will. And again,  
I'm so sorry. We'll speak soon. Bye

She hangs up.

HUMPHREY

How were they?

FLORENCE

Shocked and devastated. Of course.  
And they refused to believe Esther  
would kill herself. They were aware  
she was stressed about her studies.  
But not to the extent that she  
would...

She doesn't need to finish the sentence.

HUMPHREY

Well. That tallies with our  
thinking.

(beat)

The receptionist said she saw  
Esther arguing with a male English





18 CONTINUED:

18

Florence moves to search through the piles of papers on Esther's desk.

FLORENCE  
(smiling sadly)  
We'd play pirates. Make my brothers  
walk the plank.

HUMPHREY  
Then she moved to England?  
(Florence nods)  
Did you keep in touch?

FLORENCE  
Wrote a few times. But that was it.  
Until today I hadn't thought about  
her for years.

Humphrey nods, understanding...

FLORENCE (CONT'D)  
Anything on her phone?

HUMPHREY  
I've only had a quick look through,  
but it seems to me that Esther  
liked to keep herself to herself.  
Hardly any personal texts or  
photos, even.

FLORENCE  
(a little saddened)  
Really?

Humphrey offers a sympathetic look.

HUMPHREY  
Any sign of a laptop over there?

Florence shakes her head.

FLORENCE  
No. There isn't...

They look at each other.

FLORENCE (CONT'D)  
Someone's taken it, haven't they..?  
Why?

HUMPHREY  
I don't know, Florence. But as we  
now not only have a suspicious  
suicide note, but also a laptop  
that's gone missing, I'm sorry to  
say that  
(MORE)

we' re treating Esther' s death as  
murder.

On Florence - starting to confront the truth of it all.

CUT TO:

19

INT. HONORÉ POLICE STATION. DAY 1 [17:30]

19

Esther' s notes are now piled up on Florence' s desk along with the copy of 'The Flame Tree'. She is on the phone. Dwayne and JP sat at their desks. Humphrey is perched on the side of his desk. Esther' s purse sits close by and is open. Humphrey has removed a couple of credit/debit cards. He is comparing the signature on them with the one on the suicide note...

HUMPHREY

It does look like the same  
handwriting to me. But then it  
could just be a good forgery. Not  
hard to do.

\*  
\*  
\*

Florence comes off the phone.

FLORENCE

Sir. I' ve just spoken to the Dean  
of the University. He said Esther

FLORENCE

Professor Anna Wolf, 44, Esther's tutor and Head of the English Faculty at Esther's University. The Dean spoke very highly of her. Seems to be the star of her department. Married to...

JP

Oliver Wolf, 43, Anna's husband. An academic too but we can't find much about him online. Hasn't published anything for some years, it seems.

Humphrey writes the names up on the board.

DWAYNE

Sylvie Baptiste, 66. Big deal novelist, has lived on Saint Marie all her life. And Patricia Lawrence, 46. Lives at the estate. Originally from the UK.

HUMPHREY

How long she been here?

DWAYNE

Twenty five years. Originally from Lewisham. Apparently she came here while travelling, got a temporary job as Sylvie's assistant and ended up staying.

HUMPHREY

(pen poised)

And this woman in the bungalow. She didn't give you a name?

DWAYNE

Just slammed the door in my face. Seemed very reluctant to talk to us.

HUMPHREY

Suspiciously so?

Dwayne's about to reply, when...

JP

I don't think so, sir. Something about her. She didn't seem well, you know...

Dwayne shoots a look to JP - not sure what JP's basing this on, but whatever.

19

CONTINUED:

19

HUMPHREY

Okay. Well. Call Patricia. See if  
she can tell you who lives there.

19 CONTINUED:

19

JP nods. The phone rings. Florence goes to answer.

HUMPHREY (CONT'D)

So. Four possible suspects - all of whom were clearly present at a talk at the moment Esther was pushed to her death.

(beat)

Which means. If one of these four suspects is our killer, just how did they manage to push Esther off a cliff a few minutes walk away, when they were all in plain view at the time it happened?

Humphrey, Dwayne and JP think for a moment. But no answer comes...

HUMPHREY (CONT'D)

But while the 'how' of it all remains elusive, let's focus on the who and why. So. Get that suicide note fingerprinted. And get in touch with Esther's internet provider. See what her emails show up. Also, check with immigration and find out about Sylvie and Patricia's travels the last few years. See if there's any chance either of them have crossed paths with Esther before.

Dwayne and JP - nod. They're on it. Florence gets off the phone.

FLORENCE

Sir. That was the university welfare officer. Apparently Esther had reported a case of sexual harassment - against Oliver Wolf.

HUMPHREY

So the argument in the hotel...

Florence nods.

FLORENCE

Exactly.

HUMPHREY

Then I think we need to speak to Oliver Wolf a.s.a.p., Florence.

(CONTINUED)

19 CONTINUED: 19

She nods.

CUT TO:

20 EXT. SYLVIE'S ESTATE. GARDEN. DAY 1 [17:50] 20

Humphrey, Florence and Oliver are in a quiet corner of the garden. Oliver nervous but defensive.

OLIVER

It comes with the territory. The





20

CONTINUED:

20

HUMPHREY

Except, with Esther making a complaint - things had become less discreet. Hadn't they?

Oliver's a little awkward now...

OLIVER

I suppose so...

HUMPHREY

Which makes me wonder what Anna felt about it all...

Humphrey catches Florence's eye - their next lead presenting itself. On Oliver - the dawning realisation that he might have dropped his wife in it.

CUT TO:

21

EXT. SYLVIE'S ESTATE. GARDEN. DAY 1 [18:00]

21

In another part of the estate, Humphrey and Florence are with Anna.

HUMPHREY

He told us you knew all about it.

ANNA

Of course I didn't.

HUMPHREY

He told us about the deal. About you... turning a blind eye.

Anna stares at them.

HUMPHREY (CONT'D)

But you couldn't turn a blind eye to this, could you? He'd pushed it too far. Wrecked your cosy agreement. A few discreet affairs, fine, but a sexual harassment charge... that would really take the shine off the university's golden couple.

ANNA

I had no idea about this 'charge' -

HUMPHREY

We did a bit of digging into your work at the university. Discovered you're on no less than nine boards and committees. Including the Faculty women's committee. Do you  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

29

21

CONTINUED:

21

HUMPHREY (CONT'D)  
really expect us to believe you  
weren't aware of Esther's claims?

ANNA  
(a little flustered now)  
I don't involve myself in every  
detail...

HUMPHREY  
Florence, call Ms Hoskins back. Ask  
if she can clear this up for us-

Florence pulls out her phone-

ANNA  
He wasn't meant to go after  
students!

On Humphrey and Florence - seeing they've got her...

ANNA (CONT'D)  
It was only ever meant to be women  
I didn't know. Things I would never  
have to hear about.

She sits down heavily. The fight going out of her.

ANNA (CONT'D)  
But of course Ollie couldn't resist  
a girl like Esther. So utterly  
unavailable and uninterested in  
him. I'm sure he saw her as a  
challenge.

FLORENCE  
So you knew Esther had reported  
him?

ANNA  
Yes. I knew. It was only a matter  
of time before something like this  
happened.

She looks utterly exhausted - the confident polish gone.

ANNA (CONT'D)  
I told myself it was a good deal.  
That I needed his support in my  
career. But the truth is - I could  
have coped on my own.

FLORENCE  
Then why let him get away with it?

ANNA  
Because I loved him. Still do.  
Idiotic, I know.

(CONTINUED)

21 CONTINUED:

21

She's vulnerable now, emotionally exposed.

ANNA (CONT'D)

You don't... think I had anything to do with Esther's death do you?

HUMPHREY

You can see how it looks. She was a threat to your marriage and your career...

ANNA

My marriage is already over. It has been for long time. I just hadn't let myself believe it.

Humphrey and Florence meet eyes - with a feeling she's telling the truth.

CUT TO:

22 INT. HONORÉ POLICE STATION. DAY 1 [18:20]

22

Humphrey and Florence are at the whiteboard.

HUMPHREY

So. Our victim was on the cusp of reporting Oliver Wolf to the university authorities for sexual harassment. Which means both he and his wife had a great deal to lose. Either - or indeed both - of them had reason to kill her.

Humphrey writes 'sexual harassment charge' and an arrow to both Oliver and Anna's name.

FLORENCE

But as they were sat next to each other in the front row during Patricia Lawrence's talk at the exact moment Esther died...

HUMPHREY

...in theory neither of them could have done it.

They look at each other - grrrr. It's frustrating. As Humphrey turns to the room, Florence returns to her desk...

HUMPHREY (CONT'D)

Dwayne. How are you getting on?

DWAYNE

Well, sir, I've fingerprinted the suicide note.

(CONTINUED)

HUMPHREY

And?

DWAYNE

I'm afraid only Esther's prints are on it.

Humphrey takes this on the chin.

HUMPHREY

Still doesn't prove she was definitely the one to write it.

DWAYNE

(finding print-out)

I also checked with immigration and it seems Sylvie and Patricia travel a lot. All over the world.

HUMPHREY

The life of a celebrated novelist, eh.

DWAYNE

While Patricia's never been back to the UK, Sylvie has made four trips there in the last seven years for other literary festivals. But from a quick check, Esther wasn't in attendance at any of them. So it's unlikely they met prior to Esther's arrival on the island.

Humphrey nods, taking this in.

HUMPHREY

JP - anything of interest in our victim's email account?

JP

I've looked back over the last six months. And there are four emails sent to Patricia Lawrence, requesting an interview with Sylvie Baptiste. All politely refused. A couple of emails exchanged with Anna about the festival.

HUMPHREY

And that's it?

JP

(nods)

Just a few emails to her mum, utility bills, some from the university and the library. Esther pretty much seems to...

HUMPHREY

...keep herself to herself. Yes,  
that's the impression we got.

22 CONTINUED:

22

JP

Yes, sir.

HUMPHREY

But do it first thing tomorrow.  
It's getting on. We should call it  
a day.

(beat)

Also, I wouldn't mind popping to  
the library before it closes to get  
a copy of The Flame Tree to read.  
But if anyone fancies a beer after  
I've done that, I'm buying...

DWAYNE

That's very good of you, chief.

JP nods - sounds good.

HUMPHREY

It'll be good to pick your brains  
about Sylvie's novel. As you've all  
studied it...

On Dwayne's private expression - oh dear... As Humphrey sees  
Florence now immersed in Esther's notebooks.

HUMPHREY (CONT'D)

Florence? Beer maybe?

FLORENCE

I'll see you there.

But we sense Florence, immersed in Esther's world, isn't  
going anywhere for the immediate future.

CUT TO:

23 INT. CATHERINE'S BAR. DAY 1 [18:40]

23

Dwayne and JP are at the bar, Dwayne flicking through a copy  
of The Saint Marie Times. As Catherine gets their drinks, she  
notices the headline - 'Victor Pearce Standing for Mayor'.

CATHERINE

(shaking her head)

Victor Pearce standing for Mayor.  
Eurgh. Just as bad as the last one.

She puts beers down in front of them.

DWAYNE

(making sure)

On the chief's tab, Catherine.

She nods, more interested in talking about the mayor.

(CONTINUED)

33

23

CONTINUED:

23

CATHERINE

I love this island. But I wish that, just once, we could elect a mayor who deserves the job.

DWAYNE

What's so wrong with him?



CATHERINE

A bully and a crook. Out drinking every night. And it all goes on his expense account. Never pays for a thing...

Dwayne suddenly self conscious as he sips the beer Humphrey has paid for.

JP

Maybe you should stand, Catherine.  
(off her smile)  
Running Saint Marie can't be so different to running this place.

Dwayne laughs/scoff - the thought of it. And Catherine eyes him - daggers.

CATHERINE

What's so funny about that?

Dwayne quails.

DWAYNE

Nothing. My beer went down the wrong way...

Catherine scowls at him then turns and goes. Dwayne gestures for him and JP to make a quick exit.

GO TO: Beers in hand, Dwayne and JP join Humphrey, who sits reading a copy of 'The Flame Tree'.

HUMPHREY

Fine beer and classic literature. What more could a man want?

JP

Enjoying the book, sir?

HUMPHREY

Very much. An impressive piece of writing.

JP

I was saying to Dwayne earlier how much it affected me as a kid.

HUMPHREY

Yes, powerful, isn't it? You liked it as well, Dwayne?

DWAYNE

Me?

HUMPHREY

Yes. What did you make of it when you first read it?

DWAYNE

Well, you know... It's, er...

His eyes alight on the book lying on the table. Humphrey and JP don't clock this.

DWAYNE (CONT'D)

Richly evocative. A classic tale of destiny and desire.

Humphrey and JP stare at him, impressed.

HUMPHREY

Crikey.

DWAYNE

(enjoying this)  
A triumph of post-  
(faltering)  
Post-colonialism...

JP

Post...  
(realising - he picks up  
the book - reads the  
back)  
Kathy Morrison, New York Herald.

On Dwayne - busted!

DWAYNE

Maybe I didn't... quite get to the end.

On Humphrey and JP - amused. Humphrey suddenly notices...

HUMPHREY

Where's Florence? I thought she'd be here by now.

CUT TO:

The station now empty except for Florence - who's picking though the notes from Esther's hotel room. Carefully, wearing gloves, she places the items in evidence bags. As she lifts one notebook, she notices a photo - and sees, to her surprise, it's a photo of two little girls dressed as pirates. A very young Florence and Esther.

Florence stares at the photo - unexpectedly floored by it. She wasn't expecting that at all.



FLORENCE

They didn't know. But they said she'd seemed worried by it. Nervous.

Humphrey takes this in, intrigued.

FLORENCE (CONT'D)

I started going through her notes here, seeing if there's any clue as to what it is was...

HUMPHREY

But no joy?

FLORENCE

Not yet...

(beat)

It looks like some kind of textual analysis. Comparing different works by Sylvie Baptiste, word usage, styles of phrasing. I'll keep looking.

Humphrey nods, encouraging.

FLORENCE (CONT'D)

Also. I found this matchbook from a bar...

(hands it to Humphrey)

...in amongst the things we took from Esther's room. I went to visit it last night and showed them her picture.

HUMPHREY

Did they recognise her?

FLORENCE

(nodding)

The barman said Esther didn't really talk much. But she had shown interest in this... It was hanging on the wall there...

She shows Humphrey the black and white photo.

HUMPHREY

Sylvie Baptiste.

FLORENCE

Not just her. See the caption. Lizzie Baptiste too.

HUMPHREY

Lizzie Baptiste?

FLORENCE

Turns out she's Sylvie's sister.  
There's a record of birth and where  
she went to school. But after that -  
nothing. It's like she just...  
disappeared.

HUMPHREY

How strange.  
(thinking)  
Could she be the 'secret' Esther  
discovered?

FLORENCE

I can't see any secret, exactly.  
Just not many records of her. Never  
married, no job, no children.

JP moves over to look at the photo. \*

JP

I think that's the woman from the  
bungalow. She's older now, but...  
Same eyes...

FLORENCE \*

The woman you met yesterday is  
Lizzie Baptiste?

JP nods. \*

HUMPHREY

(intrigued)  
So Sylvie's sister is living on her  
estate, not a hundred metres from  
the scene of the crime and Sylvie  
neglected to mention it...?  
(Dwayne and JP nod)  
I think you need to pay her another  
visit.

Dwayne and JP nod and head out. Humphrey surveys the mounds  
of stuff Florence has already worked through. He notices the  
photo - of the two little girls dressed as pirates - on  
Florence's desk.

HUMPHREY (CONT'D)

Is this you?

26

CONTINUED:

26

FLORENCE

(nods)

Esther kept it all these years.

Humphrey looks at it, and at Florence's face - and can see now quite how affected by it all she is - though covering.

CUT TO:

27

EXT. LIZZIE'S BUNGALOW. DAY 2 [11:00]

27

Dwayne and JP approach the door. Dwayne's about to knock...

JP

Err...Dwayne... Maybe I could handle this one?...

Dwayne looks at him. Not sure what he's up to. But...

DWAYNE

Be my guest.

JP steps forward and knocks. After A moment Lizzie opens the door a crack.

JP

(gentle, kind)

Morning. It's Lizzie, isn't it? I'm JP Hooper. From Honore Police. I was wondering if we could come in for a moment?

LIZZIE

(barely audible)

Sorry.

Lizzie makes to close the door.

JP

We just have a few questions.

LIZZIE

(scared, quiet)

You should speak to my sister. I don't like to have visitors.

The door closes. Dwayne gives JP a look. JP sees the overgrown flower pots/beds. An idea forming. He goes to the window - sees Lizzie inside looking scared.

JP

(gentle but loud enough for Lizzie to hear)

Lizzie. I see your flowers need a bit of weeding. Would you like us to give you a hand tidying them up? Wouldn't be a problem at all.

(CONTINUED)

39

27 CONTINUED: 27

She catches his eye. Is she softening? On Dwayne - surprised.

CUT TO:

28 EXT. SYLVIE'S ESTATE. GARDEN. DAY 2 [11:05] 28

In the distance, we see Dwayne's motorbike parked up outside Lizzie's.

GO TO: We now see the POV is Sylvie's - in a quiet corner of her grounds, watching them. Clearly very concerned.

CUT TO:

29 EXT. LIZZIE'S BUNGALOW. DAY 2 [11:10] 29

JP and Lizzie are tidying up the flowers together. Lizzie still wary but calmer now. Dwayne watches them.

JP

So you live alone, Lizzie?

Lizzie nods.

JP (CONT'D)

Does your sister come and visit you?

LIZZIE

She's good to me. She takes care of me.

JP

How long have you lived here?

LIZZIE

A long time. Since... I came out of the hospital.

JP

You weren't well?

LIZZIE

Things went a bit wrong.  
(touches her head)  
Up here.

JP gets it - it's sort of what he expected. He gives her reassuring smile. No need for her to say any more. They carry on working on the flowers in silence for a few moments.

LIZZIE (CONT'D)

She wanted to know about... a poem.

Dwayne and JP suddenly alert - exchanging a look.

(CONTINUED)

Who did? JP

LIZZIE  
The girl. The one whose body you  
found.  
(beat)



DWAYNE

Apparently that's what Esther was interested in.

HUMPHREY

I wonder why? And why on earth would she want to talk to Lizzie about it?

(to Florence)

Sylvie doesn't write poetry, does she? She writes novels. That's what Esther was researching...

FLORENCE

I think I saw some poetry in the notes.

Florence goes to check.

HUMPHREY

And she can't say for sure where she was at the time that Esther was pushed off the cliff?

DWAYNE

No chief.

JP

I don't think she's our killer though, sir.

(beat)

I know she's vulnerable. Had some sort of breakdown. But that doesn't mean she's violent. And there's no motive that we know of...

Humphrey can see JP's made a connection of some sort.

HUMPHREY

(gentle)

I know. And I'm sorry, JP. But she currently has no alibi and was in the vicinity of the murder at the time that it happened. We have to do due diligence and add her to the board...

JP's concerned as Humphrey writes Lizzie's name on the board.

FLORENCE

(finding what she is looking for)

Here it is...

Humphrey comes to look - a few handwritten lines of a poem.

HUMPHREY

'Perhaps if I jump I will fly.  
Perhaps if I jump I will be free'.

JP looks too. Humphrey frowns. It's ringing a bell.

HUMPHREY (CONT'D)

I'm sure I've seen that in the  
novel somewhere.

JP

That's when Iris goes to the cliffs  
for the first time...

HUMPHREY

That's it! Now where was that?

Humphrey reaches for his book and starts leafing through.

FLORENCE

About halfway through. Just after  
Donald visits the obeah-woman...

JP

Yeah - and then he follows her to  
the clifftop...

HUMPHREY

(intrigued)  
The clifftop again...  
Interesting...

All Dwayne can do through this is watch on - suddenly feeling  
a bit left out...

HUMPHREY (CONT'D)

(finding the page)  
Here we are.  
(reads)  
'Perhaps I'll fly if I jump.  
Perhaps I'll be free...'  
(looks up)  
Almost identical to the poem.  
Phrasing's just slightly different.

As Humphrey glances back at the notes, he spots an 8 digit  
number written next to the poetry lines.

HUMPHREY (CONT'D)

What's that number next to it?

FLORENCE

Don't know. There's a few of them  
in the notes. All eight digits.

JP

Phone number?

30

CONTINUED:

30

FLORENCE

Don't think so.

Dwayne, watching on, notices the ISBN number printed on the library label (on the spine of the book).

DWAYNE

There's a number on the book. Eight digits.

HUMPHREY

Where?

Dwayne points to the spine of the book.

DWAYNE

There.

HUMPHREY

(realising)

They're library reference numbers. So Esther had been researching this all at Honore library...

(beat)

Dwayne. I want you to get down there. See if you can find whatever it was Esther had been digging out...

DWAYNE

Right away chief!

(beat)

Where would the library be, exactly...?

FLORENCE

(a little amused)

I'll come with you.

On Dwayne - what has he let himself in for..?

CUT TO:

31

INT. SAINT MARIE LIBRARY. DAY 2 [14:00]

31

Florence sits at a library desk - working through a stack of dusty old editions of a poetry periodical. Dwayne blows dust off another stack of journals - coughs loudly.

DWAYNE

(hissing to Florence)

Why do they keep all this old stuff?

FLORENCE

It's a library.

(CONTINUED)

44

31 CONTINUED:

31

DWAYNE

It's a fire hazard, is what it is.

As the NSE LIBRARIAN brings another stack of journals over - hearing this. Dwayne beams like butter wouldn't melt. Florence sees Dwayne pick up a copy of *The Flame Tree* - turns to the final page.

FLORENCE

You should read it. I think you might enjoy it.

DWAYNE

(Loud)

Five hundred and ten pages! You've got to be joking!

Annoyed glances from nearby NSE READERS. Florence gives him a look, works her way through the pages of a poetry periodical - not quite sure what she's looking for. She turns to the index of writers' names - looking for 'B'. Looking for Baptiste. She runs her finger down the Bs where, before Sylvie's name, she sees 'Elizabeth Baptiste' listed.

FLORENCE

Elizabeth Baptiste. Listed here in the index.

She turns to the page listed - a poem is printed there. Off Florence's surprise...

CUT TO:

32 INT. HONORÉ POLICE STATION. DAY 2 [14:30]

32

Back at the station - an animated Florence with Dwayne, Humphrey and JP. Florence holding the journal.

FLORENCE

It's the poem Esther wrote out. Similar to the lines in the novel. But it's by Lizzie Baptiste. Published two years before *The Flame Tree*.

HUMPHREY

(intrigued)

So Sylvie stole the lines?

FLORENCE

Maybe that's not all she stole.  
(gesturing the notes)  
Esther's notes compare 'The Flame Tree' to Sylvie's other works. They analyse how many times she used certain words, styles of phrasing, sentence structures. There are  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

FLORENCE (CONT'D)  
significant differences. It's  
almost like she's comparing... two  
different authors.

Humphrey catches Florence's eye - thinking the same thing.

FLORENCE (CONT'D)  
Is it possible that the secret  
Esther discovered is that...

HUMPHREY  
There are two different authors?!

FLORENCE  
That Sylvie didn't write 'The Flame  
Tree' at all? That Lizzie did?

HUMPHREY  
And Sylvie found the manuscript?

FLORENCE  
(nodding - excited now)  
I think that's what Esther's  
research was about. It explains why  
she was so stressed, why she hadn't  
felt able to tell anyone...

HUMPHREY  
(animated but puzzled)  
But why would Lizzie allow her  
sister to take the credit for her  
work?

JP  
Lizzie said she doesn't remember  
the poem...

HUMPHREY  
So maybe she doesn't remember the  
novel either? Is it possible you'd  
forget you wrote a novel...?

JP  
If her breakdown was severe, as it  
seems it maybe was, then... [yes]...

HUMPHREY  
If that's the case - Sylvie  
Baptiste must have thought she'd  
committed the perfect fraud. Until  
the day Esther came along...

FLORENCE  
And threatened to ruin it all.

32 CONTINUED: 32

They stare at each other - realising the magnitude of this.

CUT TO:

33 OMITTED 33

34 EXT. SYLVIE'S ESTATE. GARDEN. DAY 2 [15:45] 34

An unruffled Sylvie walks through the gardens towards the house, with Humphrey and Florence.

SYLVIE

Esther came to see me here, yes. As I already told you. A strange girl.

\*  
\*

FLORENCE

What did she want to talk about?

\*

SYLVIE

Oh, my creative methods, my inspirations. I told her I have only two. The beauty of this island, and single malt whisky.

HUMPHREY

Did she tell you about her research?

Sylvie looks at him sharply, just for a moment.

SYLVIE

I don't believe she did.

HUMPHREY

I've read the novel. It's incredibly powerful.

Sylvie inclines her head graciously.

HUMPHREY (CONT'D)

Soucriants flying round the island as balls of flame. Obeah magic.

(MORE)

Must need a very vivid imagination,  
to write that.

SYLVIE

No imagination required. My

35

CONTINUED:

35

HUMPHREY (CONT'D)  
something. She believed she had discovered a secret. That the original manuscript for 'The Flame Tree' had been written by Lizzie.

Humphrey looks to Patricia - did she know already? Patricia sits perfectly still - just a trace of anxiety on her face.

FLORENCE  
Esther discovered a poem that Lizzie had written. About a young woman who, unable to cope with life, throws herself off a cliff. But then Lizzie had a breakdown, didn't she? She was hospitalised. And she never fully recovered.

Sylvie says nothing.

HUMPHREY  
We've been researching your background. You were rejected by publishers many times. But then suddenly - you came up with 'The Flame Tree'. And you were an instant critical hit.

Sylvie doesn't meet Humphrey's eye.

HUMPHREY (CONT'D)  
Did you find a manuscript of Lizzie's? And decide to keep it for yourself?

PATRICIA  
(still sitting - controlled)  
I don't see what any of this nonsense has to do with the police-

HUMPHREY  
(to Sylvie)  
We're not here to judge you on Esther's claims. We just need to get to the truth about her death. Esther's theory is correct, isn't it?

Sylvie can't deny it. We see, for the first time, emotion building up - tears of guilt and regret pricking her eyes.

SYLVIE  
Lizzie would never have done anything with it!

She collects herself. Pours more Scotch.

(CONTINUED)



SYLVIE (CONT'D)

She never worked at it. She never deserved it. She wrote things and forgot them, like a child. I was the one who took it seriously. I was the one who gave it to the world.

She slurps her Scotch but starts coughing badly, staggering a little, emotional now - Patricia jumps up to help her.

JP and Dwayne enter the study holding a laptop - hand it to Humphrey.

DWAYNE

It's Esther's. We found it hidden in Ms Baptiste's room.

HUMPHREY

(to Sylvie)  
You stole it.

SYLVIE

(guilty look to Patricia)  
She did.

HUMPHREY

On your instructions, no doubt.

Sylvie can't deny this.

PATRICIA

(low to Sylvie)  
You said you'd got rid of it.

FLORENCE

Tell us exactly what happened when Esther came to see you on Thursday morning.

Sylvie sits heavily. Shaken. Defeated.

SYLVIE

35

CONTINUED:

35

SYLVIE (CONT'D)

her. The new chapter was saved on it.

HUMPHREY

Which you then instructed Patricia to steal from her. While Esther was helping you prepare for the festival.

Sylvie nods.

FLASHBACK/NEW SCENE - 37 PART 2/EXT. SYLVIE'S ESTATE. MAIN HOUSE. DAY 0 [12:00]

Esther helps Patricia prepare the paperwork for the festival - the printed festival programmes etc. We now see Patricia, unseen by Esther, deftly slip her hand into Esther's bag and take the laptop. Sylvie, nearby, sees this - as she catches Patricia's eye, we see a quick flash of guilt on Sylvie's face.

HUMPHREY (CONT'D)

But you knew she'd just rewrite the chapter...?

SYLVIE

I panicked. I wanted to delay her-

HUMPHREY

(in - pushing now)

Esther's work threatened to destroy your reputation and career. You needed to deal with matters more permanently.

SYLVIE

No, I didn't-

HUMPHREY

You needed to make absolutely sure she would never breathe a word about what a fraud her idol had turned out to be.

SYLVIE

You're right. I am a fraud. I told myself I could help Lizzie. Take care of her better. The truth is I did it for myself.

(beat - intense)

I may be a fraud but I'm not a murderer. I had nothing to do with Esther's death. I swear it.

Do they believe her?

CUT TO:

36 OMI TTED

36

37 OMI TTED

37

Loyalty from an employee whose devotion knows no bounds.

PATRICIA

I'm afraid that's where you're wrong. I wish I could summon the sort of devotion you imagine. I wish to God Sylvie inspired it.

Patricia looks utterly exhausted.

PATRICIA (CONT'D)

I have no pension. No savings. I work twelve hour days that end in putting her to bed drunk, then mopping up her vomit.

(with a bitter smile)

I draw the line at killing for her too.

Thoughtful, Humphrey watches her head away.

CUT TO:

INT. HONORÉ POLICE STATION. DAY 2 [18]540]Tj 0 Tc ET Bq1 T O 5- T 042 r

HUMPHREY (CONT' D)

But why would Lizzie want to kill  
Esther Monroe? She hardly knew her.  
And, it seems, knew nothing of the  
long-held secret Esther was  
uncovering.

Humphrey stares at the board, unable to make sense of any of  
it.

would Lizzie want to kill

40

CONTINUED:

40

DWAYNE

Really?

JP

She had a breakdown. When she was young. She was just sort of lost for a while.

(beat)

People used to avoid her. Think they were embarrassed or freaked out or something.

DWAYNE

But you visited her?

JP

Used to go and help her in the garden after school. We wouldn't talk much but it was like... things made more sense to her there.

Dwayne nods, taking this in. Raises his beer.

DWAYNE

You did well, JP. I was impressed.

They chink bottles. A warm moment. In the b/g, Catherine finishes pinning the poster to the wall and joins them.

CATHERINE

So, JP. I decided to take your advice.

(to Dwayne)

We could use a little more idealism in politics. The spirit of protest! A woman's touch! Wouldn't you say, Dwayne?

Dwayne looks at the poster - double-takes - and nearly spits out his beer. It reads - 'Catherine Bordey for Mayor!'

CUT TO:

41

INT. HUMPHREY'S SHACK. DAY 2 [18:45]

41

Florence is in the shack - surveying the inside of the wardrobes and storage space. All full to bursting with clothes and junk. Humphrey brings in two beers.

FLORENCE

Wow.

HUMPHREY

Came here with one suitcase. Seem to have accumulated... rather a lot. Never thought there'd be anyone except me here. Well, me and Harry.

(CONTINUED)

55

41 CONTINUED:

41

FLORENCE

If you haven't used it in three months, it goes.

Florence pulls out a particularly garish Hawaiian shirt.

HUMPHREY

I wear that a lot actually.

They grab bin bags and start working together.

HUMPHREY (CONT'D)

Thanks for helping me. I know how hard you've been working.

Florence shrugs - it's fine.

HUMPHREY (CONT'D)

I know you feel a responsibility to Esther.

Florence's face has a flicker of sadness on it.

FLORENCE

I used to have that photo.

HUMPHREY

The little pirates?

FLORENCE

I lost it. Can't even remember when. Probably about the time I stopped writing to her.

(beat)

I told you our lives moved on. But it was my fault. I was the one who stopped writing.

HUMPHREY

You were kids. It happens.

A beat.

FLORENCE

I keep thinking - maybe if I'd stayed in touch things would've been different for her.

Humphrey now sees what's at the heart of what's bothering her.

HUMPHREY

It's not your fault she died, Florence.

(CONTINUED)

41 CONTINUED:

41

FLORENCE

She was harassed. She was stolen from. She spent a week on this island alone with no-one to turn to and she ended up on that clifftop with someone who...

(beat)

If I'd been a friend to her - if I hadn't forgotten her...

HUMPHREY

You can't think like that. Looking back and dwelling on the if's and maybe's... well, it's a fool's game, as they say.

On Florence - she knows this is true.

HUMPHREY (CONT'D)

What Esther needs most now is a detective who'll catch the person who did this to her.

Florence nods, a little comforted.

FLORENCE

And you'll help me?

Humphrey looks at her.

HUMPHREY

I'm surprised you need to ask.

Florence nods, appreciative.

CUT TO:

42 OMITTED

42

43 EXT. HONORE POLICE STATION. DAY 3 [08:30]

43

Humphrey ascends the steps arriving for work.

CUT TO:

44 OMITTED

44



Humphrey enters to find JP stood with Florence at her desk. Esther's laptop is open in front of her.

HUMPHREY  
Morning, Florence. JP. No Dwayne?

JP  
Not yet, sir. But you should come  
look at what Florence has found...

Humphrey moves to join them.

HUMPHREY  
Oh yes?

FLORENCE  
Something interesting on Esther's  
laptop. A video file - recorded on  
Thursday.

She clicks on the file and a video starts playing.

FOOTAGE: *Esther and Lizzie sitting in Lizzie's bungalow.*

ESTHER  
*Lizzie can you remember this poem?*

*Lizzie is vague, unresponsive.*

ESTHER (CONT'D)  
*If we read it together, in the  
place where you wrote it, it might  
help you remember...*

She pauses the footage...

FLORENCE  
The poem we read is set on the  
cliffs. 1es?n4 Tf (FLORbin ET BT -0.0167Tc 12 0 0 12 108 3v

l d o r

FLORENCE

But if Esther was going to the  
clifftop to meet Lizzie - could  
someone else have seen her going  
there? Decided to follow her?

Humphrey moves round to the whiteboard. Florence and JP  
follow.

HUMPHREY

As Dwayne pulls out the headphones Sylvie's recorded voice plays out.

SYLVIE (V.O.)

Chapter 57. Iris woke early the next morning and walked down to the beach. The storm had cleared by then and the sea was calm..

DWAYNE

Like having her there in my living room.

Dwayne pauses the audiobook. Humphrey moves towards Dwayne, unnerving him. He picks up the headphones. Stares at them. And then looks at Dwayne, his eyes blazing. Dwayne is even more unnerved.

DWAYNE (CONT'D)

Everything all right, Chief?

HUMPHREY

In your living room, you said. Like having her there in your living room.

DWAYNE

Yes, Chief..?

Dwayne looks to Florence and JP - what's going on?

On Humphrey - brain whirring, thoughts suddenly taking shape.

FLASHBACK: As in Scene 5, Patricia brings up the first slide.

FLASHBACK: As in scene 7, Anna, Oliver and Sylvie are in the front row of the audience listening to Patricia talking Patricia brings u

HUMPHREY (CONT' D)

Of course! That's how!  
(to Dwayne)

seem the ultimate escape from her problems.

(beat - with emphasis)

Or so someone - who is here with us today - intended us to think. Because this was no suicide. Esther was murdered.

On the suspects - unsettled.

HUMPHREY (CONT'D)

But every one of you has a convincing alibi for the time of the murder.

FLASHBACK: As in scene 7, Patricia is on stage while Sylvie, Oliver and Anna are visible in the audience.

HUMPHREY (CONT'D)

Esther left the party at 1:15pm. When her body was found, her smashed watch had stopped at 1:25. A hundred witnesses vouch for you all being at Patricia's talk during that period. In the front row. Patricia on stage. So it's impossible for any of you to have left to commit murder. Unless every one of those impartial witnesses were mistaken.

Nervous silence from the suspects...

HUMPHREY (CONT'D)

Which is exactly what they were.

On the suspects - all restless, castj 05o.i2 Om /TT9 1 Tf (On: 0 ONel qn

Florence holds up the laptop.

FLORENCE (CONT'D)

Esther planned to record Lizzie's testimony on her laptop. Which she did. But Lizzie could remember nothing. So Esther suggested they visit the place where Lizzie wrote the poem. The clifftop.

All eyes go to Lizzie. Is she the killer?!

FLORENCE (CONT'D)

But we think Lizzie wasn't the only person present during this conversation.

HUMPHREY

I think someone else was there. Off camera, as it were. Which would mean someone else knew about the plan to visit the cliff. In fact, I believe they suggested it in the



46

CONTINUED:

46

FLASHBACK/NEW SCENE 46 PART 3/EXT. SYLVIE'S ESTATE. GARDEN.  
DAY 1 [13:00]

Esther works alone at the reception looking tense and anxious. We see Oliver and Anna both clock her - eyeing her beadily.

HUMPHREY (CONT'D)

Esther went secretly to meet Lizzie  
at the clifftop as she believed she  
had arranged.

FLASHBACK/NEW SCENE 46 PART 4/EXT. CLIFFTOP. DAY 1 [13:20]

Esther alone at the clifftop looking at her watch - looking anxious.

HUMPHREY (CONT'D)

But the person who'd helped her  
arrange it met her there alone.

Esther hears a sound - turns and, relieved, sees the person approaching - obviously expecting them...

HUMPHREY (CONT'D)

There are only two people who could  
have been the third presence in  
that room. Who could have let  
Esther into Lizzie's house, been  
present during the interview, and  
thus known about the clifftop plan.  
Sylvie Baptiste. Or Patricia  
Lawrence.

(beat)

That person was not Sylvie  
Baptiste.

The suspects are stunned as Humphrey fixes Patricia with a laser stare.

HUMPHREY (CONT'D)

It was Patricia Lawrence.  
(turns to her)  
You were the third person in that  
room.

Patricia stares at him. Shocked.

(CONTINUED)



PATRICIA  
You can't possibly believe...

HUMPHREY  
(in)  
Wasn't she, Lizzie?

And after a moment, a nervous Lizzie nods - she was. Humphrey turns back to Patricia.

HUMPHREY (CONT'D)  
Once you told Lizzie the cliff-top rendez-vous wasn't happening any more, you then went and impressed on Esther the importance of not telling anyone else about the planned meeting with Lizzie.

(beat)  
Then when the time came, you left the festival opening to meet with Esther at the cliff-top.

PATRICIA  
This is ridiculous. I was giving a speech when she died. They all heard me...

FLASHBACK: as in scene 7, Patricia's voice is heard as Oliver, Anna and Sylvie sit in the audience.

HUMPHREY  
They heard you. But did they see you?

On Patricia - oh dear...

HUMPHREY (CONT'D)  
I must say you had me fooled. Until I remembered seeing you typing Sylvie's notes from her Dictaphone.

(beat)  
You're quite adept with technology, aren't you Patricia?

FLASHBACK: As in scene 3, Patricia sorts out Anna's mic.

FLASHBACK: As in scene 13, Patricia tells Humphrey about setting up the audio-visual equipment.

Humphrey holds up the Festival Programme.

HUMPHREY (CONT'D)  
You were in charge of setting up the laptop and the AV equipment for the festival. And you gave a presentation - showing slides of the locations of 'The Flame Tree'.

FLASHBACK/NEW SCENE 46 PART 5/INT. SYLVIE'S ESTATE. STUDY.  
DAY 1 [11:00]

Patricia alone in the study preparing her slides...

HUMPHREY (CONT'D)  
But you also made a recording of  
your speech, didn't you? On an  
audio file on your laptop.

We see Patricia now speaking into the laptop's microphone...

HUMPHREY (CONT'D)  
You started the talk genuinely  
enough. On stage, holding the  
microphone. But then I think you  
retreated to the side to let the  
slides play.

FLASHBACK/NEW SCENE 46 PART 6/EXT. SYLVIE'S ESTATE. GARDEN.  
DAY 1 [13:18]

Patricia slips down to the shadowed side of the stage - she's  
still speaking into the microphone but now hidden - the  
audience members all watching the images on screen.

HUMPHREY (CONT'D)  
Where you then pressed play on the  
audio file you'd already set up.

During a momentary pause in her speech, Patricia presses play  
on an audio file - and lowers the microphone.

Humphrey nods to Dwayne who steps forward and removes  
Patricia's laptop (as seen at the start of the episode) from  
the evidence bag and opens it up.

HUMPHREY (CONT'D)

46

CONTINUED:

46

HUMPHREY

And while the audience would have sworn you were still there giving your talk, in fact you had slipped away to the clifftop...

FLASHBACK/NEW SCENE 46 PART 7/EXT. CLIFFTOP. DAY 1 [13:25]

Esther smiles as Patricia approaches her. But her smile drops - as Patricia comes towards her too quickly...

HUMPHREY (CONT'D)

To push a young woman to her death.

With a forceful outstretched hand Patricia pushes Esther backwards - where she teeters for a second and then plunges out of sight...

Everyone silent with shock.

PATRICIA

This is nonsense. The girl killed herself.

No response - they all stare at her. Patricia starting to lose her composure now.

PATRICIA (CONT'D)

It's obvious - she left a suicide note...

HUMPHREY

The note was a nice touch. The fact you'd got Esther's fingerprints onto it - and no-one else's - was smart.

(beat)

We already know Esther had helped you with the festival admin. There would have been reams of paper with Esther's prints on. All you had to do was use gloves to take a piece, print the note, and sign it.

PATRICIA

Sign it? How on earth could I...

HUMPHREY

You sign Sylvie's books for her when she's... indisposed.

FLASHBACK: as in scene 38, Sylvie tells Patricia to sign some copies of the book for her.

HUMPHREY (CONT'D)

For someone practised at forging signatures - it wouldn't be difficult to forge Esther's handwriting. I'm sure it was easy enough to lay your hands on a copy of Esther's signature. You'd been working closely with her setting up the festival. I'm sure you could

(MORE)

find a moment to sneak a credit  
card from her bag, if she left it  
lying around...

FLASHBACK/NEW SCENE 46 PART 8/EXT. SYLVIE'S ESTATE GARDEN.  
DAY 0 [12:00]

Esther tells Patricia she's going to get some more paper.  
When she goes, Patricia sees her bag lying on the ground and

you don't even get the chance to  
visit home.

FLASHBACK: as in scene 38, Patricia tells Humphrey she  
doesn't get the chance to go home.

HUMPHREY (CONT'D)

46

CONTINUED:

46

HUMPHREY (CONT'D)  
seven years. But our immigration checks show you didn't accompany her once.

Patricia stares at him.

HUMPHREY (CONT'D)  
It's not that you didn't get the chance to go home. You chose not to, didn't you?

He holds up the background file he asked for in scene 45.

HUMPHREY (CONT'D)  
We looked into your background. Twenty six years ago you left a grey, dead-end council estate in London. You came here travelling and through luck and perseverance you landed a job working for a successful author.

(beat)

What a life you must have lived these last twenty-odd years. You got to travel the world. Meet other famous writers. And when you weren't doing that, you were living in this Caribbean paradise. It was like a dream come true, wasn't it? A fantasy made real.

(beat)

Unfortunately, you then realised that was exactly what it was. A fantasy that could be destroyed at any time. Was it when Esther first got in touch that you realised Sylvie was a fraud?

He looks at Patricia's face - reads her.

HUMPHREY (CONT'D)  
No. You'd known for years, hadn't you? That's why you stopped Esther from meeting her.

FLASHBACK: as in scene 22, JP tells Humphrey Esther had sent four email requests to meet Sylvie, all declined by Patricia.

HUMPHREY (CONT'D)  
You knew what Esther was onto. And if Sylvie's fraud was exposed - you were the one person who had even more to lose than Sylvie herself. You would be left with nothing, and the dream would be over for ever. So you killed an innocent young woman to protect it.

(CONTINUED)

46

CONTINUED:

46

Patricia stares at him - then at Sylvie -



46 CONTINUED:

46

PATRICIA

She left me with no choice. Don't you see? She was going to destroy it all...

HUMPHREY

(to Dwayne and JP)

Take her away.

PATRICIA

I had no choice..!

They move to handcuff Patricia and take her away.

SYLVIE

I still want to fund a scholarship. For students of my work.

FLORENCE

We spoke to the Head of Faculty at Esther's university. They're planning to award her PhD posthumously. So I'm afraid it's Lizzie's work from now on.

On Sylvie - crushed.

JP

(to Lizzie)

Do you understand? It's your novel.

The ghost of a smile on Lizzie's face. And finally, with all that done, Humphrey turns to Florence. She gives a smile back.

FLORENCE

Thank you, sir.

He nods. Any time.

CUT TO:

47 INT. HONORÉ POLICE STATION. DAY 3 [17:30]

47

Humphrey and Florence in the station. Florence is boxing up the evidence. Humphrey is shutting the station doors as they finish up for the day. Nearly done, he watches Florence a moment.

HUMPHREY

You know. I don't say this nearly enough. But you're a brilliant detective, Florence Cassell. And you're a good friend. To Esther - and to me. If I was in trouble - I can't think of anyone I'd rather have on my side.

(CONTINUED)

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Florence smiles, genuinely moved. Humphrey pulls on his jacket.

HUMPHREY (CONT'D)  
You hungry? Fancy braving my  
cooking and coming for dinner at  
the shack?

FLORENCE  
Isn't Martha back tonight?

HUMPHREY  
In an hour.

FLORENCE  
If it's just the two of you...

HUMPHREY  
Harry'll be there too.  
(beat - as if a trump  
card)  
I'm making shepherd's pie.

On Florence - a broad grin.

FLORENCE  
Then how can I resist?

Humphrey smiles.

HUMPHREY  
I better go get the spuds on. Join  
us when you're ready.

Florence nods and smiles. Humphrey heads out. Florence finishes neatly putting away the last of Esther's things into