

D - V1 (Mrs. Gascoyne) and Ed

make Mrs. Shears sad. I don't know anybody who hated Wellington so if it was (a) it was probably a stranger. I don't know any lunatics either, so if it was (b) it was also probably a stranger.

SIOBHAN. Right.

CHRISTOPHER. But most murders are committed by someone who is known to the victim. In fact, you are most likely to be murdered by a member of your own family on Christmas Day.

SIOBHAN. Is that a fact?

CHRISTOPHER. Yes actually it is a fact. Wellington was therefore most likely to have been killed by someone known to him. I only know one person who didn't like Mrs. Shears and that is Mr. Shears who divorced Mrs. Shears and left her to live somewhere else and who knew Wellington very well indeed. This means that Mr. Shears is my Prime Suspect.

SIOBHAN. Christopher —

CHRISTOPHER. I am going to find out more about Mr. Shears.

14. SCHOOL OFFICE

MRS. GASCOYNE. Mr. Boone, nobody has ever taken an A-level examination in the school before.

ED. He can be the first then.

MRS. GASCOYNE. I don't know if we have the facilities in the school to allow him to do that.

ED. Then get the facilities.

MRS. GASCOYNE. I can't treat Christopher differently to any other student.

ED. Why not?

MRS. GASCOYNE. Because then everybody would want to be treated differently.

ED. So?

MRS. GASCOYNE. It would set a precedent. Christopher can always do his A-levels later. When he's 18. Which is, after all, the age everyone else takes their A-levels.

ED. Christopher is getting a crap enough deal already don't you think, without you shitting on him from a great height as well. Jesus, this is the one thing he's really good at.

MRS. GASCOYNE. We should talk about this later. Maybe on our own.

ED. Are there things which you're too embarrassed to say to me in front of Christopher?

MRS. GASCOYNE. No. It's not that.

ED. Say them now then.

MRS. GASCOYNE. If Christopher takes an A-level then he would have to have a member of staff, a supervisor, looking after him on his own in a separate room.

ED. I'll pay for it. They can do it after school. Here. 50 quid. Is that enough?

MRS. GASCOYNE. Mr. Boone.

ED. I'm not going to take no for an answer.

Ed turns to Christopher.

15. HOME

ED. Where have you been?

CHRISTOPHER. I have been out.

ED. I have just had a phone call from Mrs. Shears. What the hell were you doing poking round her garden?

CHRISTOPHER. I was doing detective work trying to figure out who killed Wellington.

ED. How many times do I have to tell you Christopher? I told you to keep your nose out of other people's business.

CHRISTOPHER. I think Mr. Shears probably killed Wellington.

ED. (*Shouts.*) I will not have that man's name mentioned in my house.

Beat.

Everybody onstage pauses to look at Ed and Christopher.

CHRISTOPHER. Why not?

ED. That man is evil.

CHRISTOPHER. Does that mean he might have killed Wellington?

ED. Jesus wept. OK Christopher. I am going to say this for the last and final time. I will not tell you again. Look at me when I'm talking to you for God's sake. Look at me. You are not to go asking Mrs. Shears who killed that bloody dog. You are not to go asking anyone who killed that bloody dog. You are not to go trespassing on other