

The Lost Letter

Chapter One.

Matthew ~~was~~ ^{wasn't} sitting at the bar next to a man he didn't trust. However he hadn't been left with a lot of choice as Ahmed Kharogi was the only man who could close the deal.

Matthew's mother, a devout Christian, considered taking an un~~used~~ ^{opened} bar of soap from an hotel room was dishonour, and not to take a used one, wasteful. His father, a devout atheist, considered a handshake was enough to close a deal, and would have ~~thought~~ ^{thought} Kharogi ^{to be} a bounder. But sadly, Kharogi was the defence minister representative in Saudi, and without his ^{business} ~~business~~ there would be no deal. He had ensured that ~~the~~ ^{wasn't} defence ~~program~~ ^{programme} was structured for an arms deal worth

billions, ten per cent of which would end up in Kharogi's ~~pocket~~ ^{pocket}. When Matthew had raised an eye brow, Kharogi had pointed out that there were three other companies on the shortlist, and in any case the ten per cent was ~~not to go to the palms of several people who would make sure the deal went through, and in any case several~~ ^{hundreds} would have to be greeted, not least the ministers,

^{'kick back'} ~~kick back~~ in England were not only illegal, but could end up with ^{the third party receiving} a prison sentence, but while Saudi and several billions were involved, the Foreign Office turned a blind eye. If the deal was signed the British Foreign secretary would receive a gift from his opposite number, the value of which would not exceed fifty pounds. The last minister had received a silver pen, while his predecessor was presented with a Rolex watch, designated to be worth more than fifty pounds, so disappeared into an vault never to be seen again. Ironically, this golden ^{gift} ~~gift~~ was one of the many reasons ~~control~~ ^{control} reasons were ^{only} ~~to deal with the British~~. But there was another ~~reason~~ ^{reason} Defence Security were the ~~targeted~~ ^{targeted}

be awarded the contract, their main rivals the Americans, didn't want to ~~supply~~ the Israelis, the French wouldn't supply the night equipment, and the Italians would only agree on the bulk buy - for both sides.

Kuwogi kept assuring Matthew that the deal was in the bag, and no one else was in the running, but cluttered Matthew suspected ~~the deal~~ ^{the offer} and explored several routes to several different companies, as he was the only person certain to be backing the winner.

Matthew continued to sip his orange juice, making sure he ~~kept~~ kept to the local customs, while Kuwogi continued to drink a brown liquid, that came out of an unmarked bottle, but certainly wasn't a wine.

~~But~~ ^{Matthew} needed to keep a low head, as the contract was due to be signed by the middle of ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~month~~ ^{following} ~~the~~ ^{morning}, and the last thing he needed was a hangover. ~~The~~ ^{last} ~~night~~ ^{night} had been short-lived for four projects finally, and kept ending up in the manner up ~~and~~ ~~down~~ ~~with~~ ~~no~~ ~~order~~ ~~in~~ ~~business~~ ~~for~~ ~~either~~ ~~side~~, until the companies started to falter steadily for the past few months, but once the arms deal had been signed Matthew was confident they would return to those heights they'd reached when his father had been chairman. He tried to concentrate on what Kuwogi was saying.

You see the guy sitting on the wall on the far side of the room.

Matthew looked across to see a man with one arm around an attractive woman, while the other rested on her thigh.

That's Henri Dupuis ~~and~~ ~~of~~ ~~Belleville~~ ~~enterprise~~, your only serious rival for the contract, he poured took a sip of his whiskey and said. But has about to be removed from the shortlist, because the girl is ~~part of my team~~ ^(PTO) Matthew took a cold look at ~~the~~ ~~block~~ ~~seated~~ ~~next~~ ~~to~~

and no gold changes hands if you are the silver medalist

a clause he can't read.

Dubous.

She worked to be in her late twenties, possible early thirties, and there wasn't any doubt now she could have living. The sea through blonde, main dark, and high heels would not have been acceptable on the streets of Alford, even in one of the fine star hotels that dotted the city, but inside the 'sub towns' such rules didn't apply; ~~the~~ the streets of unshined boots and scanty, clad women rather ~~priced the price~~. terrified.

Dubous is the mad of Belleville, ^{and when you} as an ~~attractive~~ banker refilled his glass, and he still believed ~~the~~ he'd in with a chance.

with the girl or the contract? asked Matthew
Matthew replied ~~when you~~, but what Dubous doesn't know is that ~~that~~ is one of the minister's favorites, so when he found up in about an hour home, all ~~that~~ is ~~that~~ to break late, ~~and~~ ~~she~~ ~~was~~ ~~not~~ ~~with~~ ~~another~~ ~~man~~, ~~and~~ while ~~just~~ ~~signing~~ ~~the~~ ~~contract~~ ~~she~~ ~~is~~ ~~waiting~~ ~~for~~ ~~the~~ ~~next~~ ~~plane~~ ~~leave~~. (P10)

But Dubous will recognize the prime ~~somebody~~ ^{said Matthew} ~~no~~ ~~hope~~ ~~said~~ ~~when~~ ~~you~~ ~~the~~ ~~remember~~ ~~because~~ ~~the~~ ~~girl~~ ~~he~~ ~~has~~ ~~met~~ ~~the~~ ~~minister~~, who ~~only~~ ~~met~~ ~~an~~ ~~officer~~ ~~when~~ ~~she~~ ~~signed~~ ~~the~~ ~~contract~~. (P10)

And should I assume that is with aware of your plans only ~~the~~ ~~girl~~ ~~she~~ ~~waited~~ ~~for~~ ~~the~~ ~~when~~ ~~the~~ (P10) ~~prime~~ ~~turned~~ ~~up~~, for which she will be well paid for her services. And once Dubous was left, she would be available ~~for~~ ~~him~~...

No thank you said Matthew not even giving her a second look. But it's time for me to think as if we to go over the contract one more time, before I turn in.

Another ~~some~~ ~~part~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~contract~~ ~~has~~ ~~been~~ ~~signed~~ ~~?~~ ^{suggested} ^{Matthew} ~~the~~ ~~contract~~ ~~has~~ ~~been~~ ~~signed~~ ~~?~~ ^{young} ^{daughter} ~~Matthew~~ ~~thought~~ ~~about~~ ~~the~~ ~~contract~~, and his two ~~children~~

it won't only be the shortest outings will be removed from, and still be on the next plane ~~to~~ home.

who will only make an appearance when it's time to sign the contract

only the role she will play when the plane builds up

who would be having breakfast before going to school.

By the way said Khazagi, found not French initial her name is Jenny Prescott and she comes from somewhere called Champs. But she did get 'o' leki French, and I can assure you she's ~~here~~ in ~~bed~~, so if you change your mind...

Matthew was about to respond when ~~the door~~ swung open and half a dozen men dressed in long white trousers and traditional head-dresses ~~entered the room~~ ^{as if they owned it} and there was no doubt ~~that~~ ^{whom one} was the master, and the role the rest of them ~~played~~ performed. book Dubois in her arms.

The moment April saw him she leant forward and began to kiss ~~him~~ ^{him} who responded enthusiastically, allowing his hand to slide over Matthew's up her thigh.

The effect was exactly what Khazagi had planned because the prince immediately advanced in their direction, coming to a halt ~~before~~ ^{as he bowed} over them.

April quickly broke away, and smiled up at the prince who sat down between them, and ~~stayed~~ ~~his~~ ~~hand~~ ~~on~~ ~~her~~ ~~thigh~~ ~~and~~ ~~she~~ ~~was~~ ~~grazed~~ ~~him~~ ~~by~~ ~~the~~ ~~shoulder~~, and ~~turning~~ ~~fast~~ ~~around~~ ~~to~~ ~~be~~ ~~greeted~~ ~~with~~ ~~the~~ ~~words~~ ~~'Fuck~~ ~~off'~~ ~~that~~ ~~she~~ ~~was~~ ~~uttering~~. (210)

Dubois didn't move, but raked a fist, which Luke cradled down, but the prince ducked, ~~and~~ as his head ~~was~~ ~~knocked~~ ~~off~~. When the ~~first~~ ~~fist~~ ~~was~~ ~~raised~~ ~~again~~ ~~and~~ ~~several~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~prince's~~ ~~servants~~ ~~came~~ ~~rushing~~ ~~towards~~ ~~him~~ ~~but~~ ~~the~~ ~~prince~~ ~~landed~~ ~~on~~ ~~his~~ ~~back~~ ~~before~~ ~~they~~ ~~would~~ ~~reach~~ ~~him~~, one of them was about to hold down Dubois when the prince ~~removed~~ ^{removed} a tiny dagger from his belt, and while two of his men held ~~him~~ ^{the prince's} ~~down~~, he thrust it into his chest, and ~~leant~~ ^{quickly} ~~back~~ ~~to~~ ~~make~~ ~~sure~~ ~~that~~ ~~none~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~blood~~ ~~that~~ ~~came~~ ~~spouting~~ ~~out~~ ~~landed~~ ~~on~~ ~~his~~ ~~spotted~~ ~~gown~~. ~~He~~ ~~began~~ ~~to~~ ~~laugh~~ ~~when~~ ~~Dubois~~ ~~collapsed~~ ~~onto~~ ~~the~~ ~~floor~~ ~~clutching~~ ~~his~~ ~~stomach~~.

April began to sob, as it became clear that ~~she~~ ~~was~~ ~~dead~~.

a door on the far side of the room swung
owned the place

grabbed her by the throat,
~~Leaving her to fall back and out~~

that doesn't need translating into any language

been part of her script.
~~now it was meant to end.~~

One of the entourage leant forward and whispered something into the pinned ear. He hesitated for moment, looked down at the body withering on the floor, pulled ~~out~~ ^{back out,} dagger, stood up without giving the victim a second look and headed for ~~the~~ door which was being held open by another of his followers.

He stopped, turned around and looking directly at Avril said, you'll keep your mouth shut, ~~if you want to keep your lips,~~ ^{he promised as he} ~~he~~ wanted the blood covered dagger ^{he quickly left} ~~menacingly in her direction, before disappearing.~~ ~~the entourage quickly followed leaving only the man who had whispered in his ear behind.~~

Krasoggi's turn to whisper. You'd better leave before the police arrive, ^{he said} and when the market turns up tomorrow morning, to sign the contract, you were never here. Matthew didn't need to be ^{so} ~~boise~~, ~~and~~ ~~they~~ ~~left~~, after taking one look at the man who ^(P10) ~~was~~ ~~put~~ ~~out~~. ~~He~~ ^{As he} ~~left~~ the building - every door and been left open; he could hear a siren in the distance. He jumped into one of the waiting taxis, told the driver the name of his hotel, and they took off only moments before the first police car came into sight.

The pinned right hand man joined Krasoggi at the bar, and after a short conversation, a large bundle of notes changed hands before he too disappeared without looking ~~back~~ ^{down} at the ^(P10) ~~man~~.

Krasoggi began to peel off notes from the ^(P10) ~~wad~~. before he handed the first payment to the barman, ^{who had smiled} followed by a lesser payment to Avril ^(P10) quickly followed ^{with smaller} ~~by lesser~~ amounts which he distributed among the girls, who would claim they had seen nothing ^(P10) when the police came rushing

accompanied by his entourage, leaving only
one of them behind, ~~who pointed~~.

jumped off his bar room stool,
was still clutching onto his stomach, attempting to stop the
man who had now pushed out.

who was weeping

not for the first time

flow of blood.

Krassogi was still clutching onto about half of the 'bush' which he ^{immediately} handed over to the chiefs who had pocketed the cash even before he looked down at the ~~body~~ blood soaked body.

Having disposed ~~of~~ all the cash ^{also} ~~through~~ ~~the~~ ~~chiefs~~ ~~and~~ ~~not~~ ~~both~~ ~~my~~ ~~eyes~~ ~~and~~ ~~ten~~ ~~per~~ ~~cent~~, but then he had his eyes on a far bigger prize.

(P10)

* * *

~~Matthew would not sleep as his mind continued~~ ~~reluctantly~~ ~~to~~ ~~sober~~ ~~from~~ ~~what~~ ~~he~~ ~~had~~ ~~just~~ ~~with~~ ~~stood~~, ~~and~~ ~~the~~ ~~contract~~ ~~he~~ ~~would~~ ~~be~~ ~~signed~~ ~~in~~ ~~the~~ ~~morning~~.
Matthew ~~the~~ ~~role~~ ~~just~~ ~~after~~ ~~five~~, took a long cold shower, put on a dressing gown, and once again read ^{over} the ~~final~~ ~~contract~~, ~~unable~~ ~~to~~ ~~take~~ ~~in~~ ~~the~~ ~~detail~~. At six thirty he got dressed, a dark suit, a white shirt he would be wearing for the first time, and a silk tie. ^(P11) He pulled ~~up~~ ~~and~~ ~~stood~~ the suit as he waited for his two colleagues to arrive and join him for breakfast.

During a meal but Matthew didn't touch the ~~prime~~ ~~director~~ ~~took~~ ~~us~~ ^{colleague} ~~through~~ ~~the~~ ~~contract~~ ~~clump~~ ~~by~~ ~~hand~~, emphasizing that one ~~the~~ ~~million~~ ~~and~~ ~~signed~~, one billion, one hundred million pounds would be ~~deposited~~ ~~in~~ ~~the~~ ~~company~~ ~~account~~. One billion would be transferred back to ~~the~~ ~~Bank~~ ~~of~~ ~~London~~ in London, while one hundred million would be ~~kept~~ ~~in~~ ~~the~~ ~~account~~ ~~of~~ ~~Mr~~ ~~Arden~~ ~~Krassogi~~. With no question asked, as to how he would dispose of it, or to whom, it would be disposed or to whom.

The second payment would ~~be~~ ~~paid~~ ~~follow~~ ^{soon} ~~after~~ ~~the~~ ~~million~~ ~~and~~ ~~visited~~ ~~England~~, and ~~be~~ ~~used~~ ~~for~~ ~~the~~ ~~equipment~~, and ~~the~~ ~~third~~ ~~two~~ ~~months~~ ~~after~~ ~~that~~ ~~the~~ ~~goods~~ ~~and~~ ~~personnel~~ ~~would~~ ~~be~~ ~~sent~~ ~~to~~ ~~India~~, along with ~~several~~ ~~hundred~~ ~~trained~~ ~~personnel~~ ~~who~~ ~~would~~ ~~train~~ ~~the~~ ~~army~~ ~~over~~ ~~six~~ ~~months~~ ~~training~~ ~~the~~ ~~army~~.
^{late next} ^{stalled}

once Matthew was back at the hotel, he went straight to his room, got undressed, and went to bed. But he couldn't sleep as the relentless nightmare continued to play out in his mind.

He tried to think about the contract he would be signing in the morning, but his mind kept returning to Dubois who had ended up with a contract he hadn't signed.

chosen by his wife

as a leader in the field

in a numbered account in Switzerland.

The visiting team

even too, according to your status