

# LOOT, STRINGS, AND HEARTBREAK

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## PROLOGUE

In the depth of the night I have always felt most comfortable. The stillness and quietness, but for the sounds of the wind and every so often a creak as a building adjusts itself, lets me feel like I've some control over my thoughts. The lack of stimulation allows my mind to breathe, and I can think clearly and focus on the task at hand. That is at least until *he* ruins it by opening his mouth.

"Do you think they're out?", Bill wondered aloud. As always he wasted words on things so obvious. To an external observer this might have seemed like a perfectly innocent and valid question. But, Bill and I have been at this a while and all the signs are there in front of him, same as me. To ask such a question fills me with worries about his competence for this job.

"No, the bedroom window is open."

"How'd you know that's the bedroom?"

I knew this would continue until daybreak if I let it. Bill has lived with me long enough to know that I heard his

question and was purposefully ignoring it. I swear once this is done I'm leaving this city, and not just because of Bill...

Entering into a house whilst the inhabitants are home has its upsides and downsides. I knew, for instance, that the item we've been asked to procure is never far from its *current* owner. The downside of course being that looming danger of being heard, seen, attacked, or any number of horrible things that someone will do to protect themselves when feeling threatened. I mulled over the various details of the building as I moved towards the narrow ally off to the side. I'm certain I would have been thinking more clearly if I wasn't being stalked by my shadow of a partner.

Normally, we wouldn't take such a specific job as this, but when my fence, Edith, specifically recommended me I was of course intrigued. Sealing my interest was the small fortune in gold which was offered. Enough for a new start and a clean, guiltless break.

01

CHAPTER ONE





O2

## CHAPTER TWO



03

## CHAPTER THREE



04

## CHAPTER FOUR



05

## CHAPTER FIVE





06

## CHAPTER SIX