

Shards Afterword

Thanks to Tony for providing some info about police ranks/positions in Ireland.

I had slacked off in my work as a Software Developer/System Administrator writing this story, an easy feat when working in a very poorly managed environmental organisation as part of a degree work-placement program for no pay. Strange how vocational dissatisfaction can bring out one's creative side, but I digress.

Originally the story was titled Puppet Master as it was going to feature a single doll-like villain which repeatedly had run-ins with the detective protagonist, I had a vague idea of having a sort of 'Mastermind' behind the puppet but I discarded this early on and decided to stick with a more *unexplained* feeling – a horror staple. The idea of having two puppet villains (one slender and quick moving, the other heavy and slow) which face off against the detective at the conclusion was an impulsion that I decided to run with.

Linda Blair was the actress that played the character of Regan in 1973's The Exorcist.

I borrowed a line from the *Song of the Witches* of Shakespeare's Macbeth for some description in the confrontation of Chapter 2:

***"... For a charm of powerful trouble,
Like a hell-broth boil and bubble."***

The shoe polish "*with the horses*" is a reference to the SAPHIR brand, I don't own many articles of leather clothing to warrant its use myself but I've heard its nice.

You guessed it; the *Top of the Pops* song referenced is none other than ABBA's 1974 hit single (also their 1st single) *Waterloo*!

For the ...*Hitchcock shower scene* - see the 1960 slasher film Psycho

Geppetto... Belly of the shark... – Pinocchio

The coffeemaker section references the 1972 Mr. Coffee Automatic Drip Coffeemaker model. Several commercials for the product starred former New York Yankees baseball star Joe DiMaggio who was previously married to Marilyn Monroe. The specific commercial I stumbled across was a 30-second clip from 1974. I've got too much free time on my hands as of late.

Stuff I was reading whilst these shenanigans took place:

Misery – Stephen King

Carrie – Stephen King

Rosemary's Baby – Ira Levin

The First Men in the Moon – H.G. Wells

The Mysterious Stranger – Mark Twain

Dorohedoro – Q. Hayashida

Computing a concise history – Paul E. Ceruzzi

Opus – Satoshi Kon

Giuseppe Gillespie - June 2021