

Preys to Disguise

Three political reporters – Colin, Gavin, and Albert -- are relaxing in a pub in Anchorage, Alaska following a summit between Putin and Trump. Colin puts down his drink and asks the others -- "What did you think about what Putin said on Ukraine?" Gavin, jumps in, "Putin didn't say anything -- he's been dead for almost 20 years!" The other two are aghast. "What are you talking about?" Gavin continues "My beat is Russia, and everyone there knows that Putin expired early in the Medvedev presidency and he's been covered by an actor ever since." The Colin and Albert scoff at the story -- just a conspiracy theory with no proof. However, Albert points out that they have an opportunity to put the theory to a test. He's sure that through his contacts at the air force base he can get a towel used by "Putin" and from that extract DNA. "What good is that?" asks Colin. "We would need DNA from at least 20 years ago for comparison." "Yes," responds Albert. "Here's the good part. I recall that Putin (Gavin would say the REAL Putin) visited UK while he was acting President in the late 1990's and had a photo-op in front of an academic building. A young girl asked him for a lock of his hair... and he cut off a piece and gave it to her!" "Omigod! Where is it now?" asks Colin. Albert answers, "The girl's mother wouldn't let her keep an item of such historical importance, so they donated it to the school's library. I don't remember which school, but I know he visited Oxford, Cambridge, and Eton." The three reporters return to UK, each intent on finding the lock of hair and springing it onto the world. Colin figures that such an important item would be housed at the largest academic library in UK, so he goes to the Oxford Library. Gavin is aware of Cambridge's strength in Soviet and post-Soviet studies, so he goes to the Cambridge library. But Albert knows they're both on wild goose chases, because he recalls the ancient wisdom that the proof of the Putin is in the Eton.

