

Thursday 27th June

Karen,

I just read your article in *Witness*. 'The Problem of the Panelled Room: Solved'? Really? Is this the amazing solution you've been refusing to tell me for the best part of a week?

You must remember how, once we'd got over the wall (again, sorry about that) and through the garden, you were about to break into the panelled room when you suddenly froze. I thought for a second you were having some sort of attack. Your eyes went wide and you started mumbling. Then you grabbed me by the shoulders and told me you'd worked out how the trick was pulled off - that the gardening gloves and the broken wine glass and the French windows all made sense now. And you said that you'd explain once we were inside.

Then Brian showed up and told us Andrew was conscious again, and you suddenly refused to share your revelation with me. For the whole drive back you insisted that you needed to talk to Andrew before telling anyone else your explanation. You dropped me off and that was the last I heard from you.

So you can imagine my excitement when I see the new copy of *Witness* announcing that you'd closed the case. Clearly, I thought, you must have got the OK from Andrew to publish the solution. But now you're saying it was all accident? That it had nothing whatsoever to do with John's death? I'm sorry, but your interview with Andrew seems so disconnected from what we talked about on Wednesday that if I didn't still have the bramble scratches to prove it I'd begin to worry that I'd imagined our last trip to White Gate.

For starters, you didn't even mention that the desk had been pushed across the door or the fact that the whole study had been turned upside down in some sort of struggle. And what about the broken wine glass in the dining room? Or the gardening gloves? I suppose these are more red herrings along with the gun residue?

Then there are the things you didn't even try to explain. Such as how Andrew could have been holding the gun when the police found no fingerprints on it. Or why the room was in the state it was. And now I think about it, when you were having your epiphany outside the panelled room you definitely said that Andrew told us and showed us how the trick took place - and yet you again make no mention of this in your article. Apparently there isn't even a trick to explain.

You asked me to trust you last week, and I did. But I'm afraid I can't believe this is what happened to Andrew Paris. Are we really supposed to think it was all an accident? That the whole thing was nothing more than a wild goose chase? That the last act of Andrew Paris after shooting himself was to put his cardigan on?

Sorry for the rant. I just can't help feeling you're not telling me something.

Charlie

P.S. If you need money for the broken car seat let me know.