

## Whodo 3 - Who stole the police car?

DS Cath Reed was night duty CID. It was a busy Friday night, lots of call to fights mostly drink fuelled as many people wound down from their working week. Inspector Wood came into the CID office.

"It's about that police car stolen earlier this evening. We've just found it abandoned by the Traveller Site, not far from where it was taken, wondered if you fancied a spin out to the scene?"

Cath pushed her chair back from the desk. "Yes Gov, single crewed officer overpowered by a big man with a beard. I've got a list of likely suspects, all local and matching the description." She pushed a printout towards the Duty Inspector.

**Daniel Degas**, The Vicarage, Church Lane, tattoo of Dove with 'Peace'

**Billy Smith**, Unit 22, Star Lane Traveller Site, tattoo of Bull with ring through nose

**Harry Wallace**, No Fixed Address, tattoo of Rose with 'Mum'

**Fred Finlay**, Unit 3, Star Lane Traveller Site, tattoo of Frog with 'Kermit'

"Ok Cath, we'll take PC Parminter with us, see what the score is."

En route PC Parminter told them " I stopped to move some rubbish from the road outside St Cuthbert's Church. The suspect came up behind me, took me by surprise - just snatched the keys from my hand and drove off. I feel so stupid; he obviously put the rubbish in the road deliberately to make me or another car stop."

"Don't beat yourself up" advised Inspector Wood. "It's just great that you're not hurt, from your description he had a good foot in height and 50 kilogrammes weight advantage on you."



At the scene the three officers regarded the police car abandoned outside a cottage. One wing was badly damaged but looked otherwise drivable. "The occupier said they heard the car pull up. They looked out but no sign of the suspect, we got a scene guard straight on it so should be good for forensics."

DS Reed meticulously completed her forensic examination. "Stroke of luck, the keys were still in the barrel." She turned to PC Parminter. "You ok to drive her back to the station?"

"No problem Sarge, see you there." PC Parminter settled comfortably into the driver's seat and turned on the engine. As she drove off she called "I'll get the coffees in!"

"So then Cath, when can I expect to see our suspect taken into the nick?"

DS Reed regarded the Inspector. "I think they're going to hand themselves in, and I don't think we'll need to bother the lab."

**Who does DS Reed suspect and why?**

*Answer : DS Reed suspects that PC Parminter caused the damage to the police car and rather than admit it decided to fabricate the story of it being stolen. Any of the four male suspects would certainly have had to alter the seat or mirrors to drive it. Police drivers must always do a cockpit drill to check the driving position and mirrors, PC Parminter did not need to do so as she was the last driver.*

