

Bourne
toWrite...
creative writing
workshops

The Unwanted Shadow

by Zoe Carroll

The grey screen flickers into life. A man dressed in dark clothing is standing outside a small office block, watching the door. He stands there for a long time before a security guard in a white shirt comes out and speaks to him. The security guard stands and watches the man walk away before going back into the building and coming out again with a woman who he walks to her car.

The screen shows a few seconds of static before another scene appears, this time a grainy black and white scene of a queue in a post office. The woman from the earlier scene is talking to the man at the counter. Her face turns to the camera and she points at it, the post office worker nods and she leaves.

In the queue behind her is a man in dark clothing who puts up his hood as she points at the camera and leaves behind her, having never got as far as the counter. There are a few more seconds of static before a different scene appears, this one showing the view from a house onto its own driveway and the street beyond. In the street is a parked car, with a man in the driver's seat, looking directly at the house.

A clock on the screen says today's date and a time, 15:53. One of the men fast forwards the film and the clock changes rapidly through the minutes, and then the hours. The car is still there and the man sits all the while in the driver's seat, watching the house. At 19:07 another car pulls onto the driveway and a man gets out, a bunch of flowers in his arms. He walks towards the door and winks at the camera. The door opens and he disappears inside.

Two minutes later the man in the car that has been parked for three hours gets out and also walks towards the house. He is seen pressing the doorbell repeatedly before the man who went inside answers the door and on the screen there is a fight on the driveway before a police car arrives.

The four men were sitting around a dull, grey table in a small room. There were two on each side and between them was a DVD player with a television balanced on the top of it. They were all watching the screen intently. A digital voice recorder sits next to the DVD player, it's red light showing it is listening.

“Is that you Keith?” one man asks, a clipboard rests on his crossed legs and he points at the screen where a freeze-frame image shows a man being arrested

“No comment”

“Do you know Flora Hedgewell?”

“No comment”

“Are you aware of the restraining order that Flora Hedgewell has taken out against you, preventing you from going within 100 metres of her, her place of work or her house, 34 Daffodil Crescent?”

“No comment”

“Was that you outside the offices of Burke and Bradley last week in the CCTV footage?”

“No comment”

“Was that you in the post office queue on Darwin Street behind Flora Hedgewell?”

“No comment”

“Was that you in your car parked outside of 34 Daffodil Terrace today?”

“No comment”

“Are you a jealous man Keith?”

“No comment”

“You know Flora doesn't love you Keith, she doesn't want anything to do with you and she wants you to stop? She says that you are ruining her life”

The man in the chair nearest the TV screen sighs heavily and looks down at his hands in his lap. “If you love someone you do anything to keep them safe, I just want to keep an eye on her, to protect her. You never know what sort of nutters are out there”