

Bourne
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creative writing
workshops

Mr Armett

A timed exercise

by Sho Botham

This is how you tell a story for that's what it is, a story, members of the jury. It is a fabrication from start to finish. Mr Armett has no alibi for when the murder was committed. He wants you to believe he was watching TV on his own. But he can't remember what he was watching. I put it to you, he can't remember because he wasn't watching TV. He was at Jane Smith's house stabbing her to death.

The murder weapon has not been found but a very similar knife was found in Mr Armett's kitchen drawer. That is not strictly evidence but it is very possible that he had more than one serrated edge kitchen knife. If not it is a huge coincidence that Mr Armett owns the very same type of knife used to murder Jane Smith. It is not a coincidence that his washing machine had been recently used.

Ladies and gentlemen of the jury, I repeat, this is how you tell as a story. It is not how you tell the truth. And it is the truth we need to hear. Jane Smith and her loved ones deserve to find out the truth. Mr Armett won't tell us the truth. But that doesn't stop you finding him guilty. Do the right thing and give some justice to Jane Smith's family. Find Mr Armett guilty of murder.

James turned his head to the director and said was that ok this time?