

## The First Time

by Sho Botham

### **University Headlines: Acclaimed Professor Arrested for Murdering Two**

It was under the desk in the small office next to Professor Mike Stanley's study where the first body was found. That wasn't necessarily incriminating because the small office is always left open. In theory, anyone could access it. But a second body being discovered in the boot of the Prof's car sealed his fate. He was arrested in his study when he was marking end of term papers for his under graduates. The cops arrived and carted him off.

Some of his colleagues reckon that his students are setting him up and playing a prank on him. This isn't without merit and listening to them at times, you'd think they had nothing in common but the English language. But it is the sort of thing that undergrads do, apart from the two dead bodies, of course. Even the Prof would have difficulty explaining them away.

There are lots of rumours around campus about the two who died. Totally different *modi operandi* apparently. The woman had put up a fight and was in a horribly battered and bruised state. No idea how she ended up under the desk. They haven't given an official cause of death for her, yet. The man was stabbed through the heart with no signs of a struggle. John in the campus Green Café said the body hadn't been in the boot of the car for long. Less than an hour, he said.

It's ironic that the Prof has ended up in the middle of a double murder. Questions are being asked, such as, will the police ask him for his advice? How could he advise the police on his own arrest? Some are saying, there must be a mistake. The Prof wouldn't murder anyone, would he?

Around the university, small groups of academics have been chatting about the arrest. The Prof's under graduates have been loudly discussing their thoughts at every opportunity about why he must be guilty.

The day after his arrest, the Prof returned home in a taxi. His car was the star of the show in the forensics lab. The Prof knew it looked suspicious because the car had been valeted only the day before the body was found in it. For the first time, the Prof knew what it felt like to be on the other side of the police interview desk.

After so many years as an acclaimed criminologist, advising the police on all matters of crimes, Professor Mike Stanley never expected to find himself being interrogated by the same people that only last week, he was advising.