

# THE TERRY HILL BUTCHER BY Z.SHAH



Thriller

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## Copyright

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BY Z.SHAH

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## CHAPTER 1

Courtney sat at a corner in the lecture room and looked around as the rest of the students slowly strolled into American History class. Her eye caught the famous Lisa Alveron. Lisa was a very beautiful slender girl and very popular at school. She was very outgoing and this made it easy for her school mates to relate with her. They liked her very much. She was a cheer leader and the Editor of *The Voice*, the schools newspaper. She was good at what she did and soon after making it as editor, she turned the once boring paper into the talk of the school.

Though, even as everyone admired and dreamt of being like her, Courtney didn't. They lived in the same neighborhood and growing up, Lisa had always picked up on freckled chubby Courtney. The beautiful model figured Lisa always made fun of freckled Courtney to the extent of embarrassing Courtney in public. Though their parents had been good friends, the two girls never really set it off. During her final year at high school, Courtney lost her mother in a freak accident and her father after suffering from depression for a while, finally gave in and committed suicide 7 months later. This was a very devastating moment for Courtney and her older brother Tommy.

Both Courtney and Tommy were laid back and quiet and didn't mingle much with people. Their father's older sister, Aunt Kelly moved in to live with them at their late parents' house. Aunt Kelly had lost her husband after 5 years of marriage and her only son died while on duty in Afghanistan. She offered to live with them and they liked her enough to accept. Life wasn't the same but they had to move on and try to survive. They were both at Terry Hill University and looking forward to finishing their study and making something of themselves.

Though hurt from the loss of their parents, they were more determined than ever to succeed and prove to the world that nothing could bring them down. Tommy especially was more enthusiastic and was the driving force of change. He was a medical student in his 3<sup>rd</sup> year and very good. Very opposite from his sister, Tommy was tall slender and masculine. After the loss of his parents he spent most of his time studied or working out at the gym. This worked well for him. He passed the stress phase within no time and soon turned to help Courtney too.

Courtney had trouble coping. She really loved her mother and they were always doing stuff together. Her mom had home-schooled her the first years of her life before transitioning into junior high. Therefore the bond between them was too strong. After her mother died she had locked herself in her room for two days before Tommy finally got through to her.

The voice of Mr. Phelps suddenly slapped her into reality.

"Good Morning..." he said, as the towering lecturer walked into the room.

"Before we begin with class I know most of you have heard that we have a stalker at campus..." he began to say.

Everybody around had a worried look and listened attentively.

He continued...."So far, we have lost 3 students, all ladies. I request you all not just the ladies to be very careful and always walk in groups. Never walk alone especially at night. If you spot anything suspicious report it to the police hotline immediately. With that, I pray you all keep safe."

“OK, so where did we leave off last lesson...”

As the lesson began, Courtney’s mind drifted off and all sorts of images slipped through her mind. The thought of a serial killer running around campus really scared her and she silently hoped He would be caught by the police soon. Within no time the lesson was over and she came back to reality as her mate Melissa yanked her elbow trying to urge her to get up.

“Hey class is over.....what are you so serious about?” Melissa asked.

“urr nothing.... I’m just frightened of all the stories going round about the stalker” Courtney said.

“We’ll be OK if we stick together...”

“But we can’t always be together. There are situations you’ll be alone. What will we do then?”

“Don’t worry, everything will be OK....” Melissa whispered and they left the room.

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Lisa dashed out of class and run into the pathway. She had a late evening meet up with her newspaper club. There was a big story happening and they were planning on publishing as front page on the next day’s paper. Another student disappeared without a trace and was found few days later at the parking lot dead and with the infamous knife tattoo engraved on her stomach. ‘A serial killer in campus’, ‘The Butcher’... So many titles for the front page were running through her mind as she walked towards her campus hall.

She was elected as Chief Editor and ever since she joined the ‘Campus Journal’ the paper had turned out to be a must-have in campus. She changed the whole system and brought in a different style and more stories that made it much more interesting. Lisa was very aggressive and always went out of her way to make everything she did her best. She was the popular girl at school who had everything ‘perfect’

Lisa was dating college’s most popular guy Sam O’Brien. Sam was a champion swimmer having represented the country in several events and won too many awards. He was a tall blonde and well-built with Hazel eyes. Other than outdoor success, he was an exceptional student and among the top. She was very proud of him and always made a point to show off to the other girls. Her parents too liked him very much.

Tommy, Courtney’s brother, also had a major crush on Lisa. He had tried approaching her on several occasions but she always turned him down. He finally gave up and decided she was out of his league. Though deep down he was burning with desire for her. Sam had warned Tommy to keep off Lisa or else face his wrath.

As Lisa walked on, she felt like there was someone behind her, following. A chill ran through her body. She stopped and looked behind but there was no one. As she kept walking she could see a shadow through the corner of her eye but as soon as she turned to look behind, there was nothing. She stopped for a moment, very scared and not knowing what to do. It was barely 8Pm

but after all that has been happening, most of the students kept indoors. Here she was alone and was only a short distance from her destination but seemed miles...

‘I feel like someone is following me.....’ she thought to herself.

”What should I do? Oh my God...” she slowly whispered to herself as she tried to reach for her phone. She was transfixed to the point for what seemed like hours but just a minute. Too scared to move a step.

She pulled out her phone as she started walking faster to try and call her friends. Veronica, her best friend, was first on the speed dial, before she could even speak a word, a heavy metal object landed on her head and she fell down with a heavy thud! She was still conscious, she tried to pull up and try to see who was after her but she couldn’t it was too dark. She wanted to scream for help but she could barely say a word. The hooded man pulled her off the path and into the bush. He quietly lifted her and put her in the boot of his car that was parked closed by.

They drove for about an hour and suddenly he slowed down and stopped. Her head was throbbing and she could feel blood flowing down her face. The boot opened and she was pulled out and taken to a basement, tied to a post.

## CHAPTER 2

Detective Todd Brims was a well-known man. He had solved many cases in the little town but this one disturbed him. He had no leads and no way to assure the safety of the citizens. He sat at his couch in his home thinking about the case. He tried to figure out how a man went about kidnapping and disposing off bodies in public places unnoticed. He had no witnesses or tip offs. He had nothing.

Having worked as a detective for 15 years he had come across difficult cases but this, from the start, proved to be a hard one. A Second year student at Terry Hill and the daughter of one of his close friends was found dead at a supermarket parking lot, after going missing for 22 days. She was cleaned and left naked, after undergoing what seemed a torturous sexual experience. In addition, she had a large butcher’s knife engraved on her stomach. It seemed the mark was done post mortem.

This at first, was assumed an isolated case. However, 1 week later, another body was found, this time at a children’s playground. The same MO. This left the detectives shocked and the town scared. 3 days later yet another body found this time at the campus parking lot, same MO. All 3 ladies were about the same age and were all Terry Hill University students.

He slapped his hand on the arm of the couch, “.... I got nothing!” He shouted.

His wife Lorraine loved him very much and always ensured to keep him stress free. She looked into the living room and saw him mumbling to himself. She walked towards him and sat next to him.

“I know how stressful this is for your darling, but I’m confident you’ll make a break through soon and you’ll catch this guy” she said to him sweetly.

“But I have nothing. Not even a witness or any lead. All I have is 3 bodies in the morgue with a butcher’s knife engraved on their stomachs. It’s bad babe! It’s really bad!”



He continued, "I've got girls too and I can't imagine losing them to a maniac. I have a duty to ensure their safety and the safety of the town but I feel like I'm failing. I feel like I have no direction!"

Lorraine moved closer and took his hand in hers' "Look babe, I know this is hard on you. And the girls and I feel exactly what you're going through even without you saying it. But please take it easy. I don't want it to take a toll on you."

She placed her hand on his face, slowly caressing him, "Maybe you're looking too hard. You need to relax and recheck the whole case from the start. There's probably something you missed out.

"Over five guys have checked the evidence we have done it over and over, there's nothing new"

"Maybe it's because you're all looking in the same direction and for the same thing"

"Ok, what do you mean?"

"This is a small town, we all know each other and when someone dies, everybody knows who. We get emotional and we all try to figure out reasons as to why this happened. This is the same case. You guys are emotional and looking for a guy for revenge." Lorraine paused for a moment as Todd was tentatively listening. Lorraine was a Psychologist and a very good one too. "People are killed for several reasons and among them love, money, revenge. Some reasons are too obvious but others need you to look at the bigger picture. You're looking at the case, imagining the killer is a man and a student at Terry Hill University. You've taken all your men and resources to look for the killer there. What if, he wasn't a student? It could be anyone. Look at the bigger picture and take it from there. "

Todd lovingly looked at his wife and agreed, "You've made a point love. Ten years of marriage and I never grown old of loving you and your great mind. I think I've taken it too personal that's why I can't see anything clearly. I'll start over tomorrow and hopefully something good will come out of it"

They smiled at each other. They had been married ten years ago, Todd was a field officer and Lorraine still in college. They first met when she had been mugged and called the police. The reporting officer was Todd Brims. They reported at the scene and he and his partner Chris drove Lorraine to the police station to get her statement. Later on as it was late at night, he offered to drop her off at home. They talked all the way and somehow they clicked. He took her number and asked her out to a date few days later. From then on they became very close and 2 years later they got married.

Here they were ten years into their marriage and very much in love, with two girls, seven year old Christine and two and a half year old Lucy. He had known his wife be a great mother and to be very intelligent and always seemed to know the answers to every problem. Now as they sat staring each other, he knew she had made a good point, he needed to pull back and start afresh.

"Have I ever told you how beautiful you are?"

“Uuummm...only about ten times a day.”

“Well for the eleventh time, you are very beautiful and you love you so much” he sheepishly told her.

“You know the kids are asleep and you need to relax’

“What are you suggesting?”

She moved closer and gave him a deep kiss. He pulled her closer by her waist and kissed her. They kissed for a while and he became too heated up. He slowly moved his hand and caressed her breast.

He pulled away and looked into her beautiful brown eyes, "You're a very sexy woman."

She blushed and starting unbuttoning her blouse. She took it off and exposed her bra. Todd slipped his hand behind and undid the bra. He pulled back and stared at her full breasts for a moment, then slowly caressed and felt them with his hands. She felt so good and sat on his lap as he continued to caress her. She felt a tingling sensation and urged him on to suck her nipples. He took her left nipple in his mouth and slowly sucked. She pulled his head down her chest and slid her fingers through his hair.

He pulled her on to his lap and she could feel his erect. She moaned with pleasure as he kept sucking and squeezing as he interchanged from left to right. He slipped his hand under her skirt and squeezed her buttocks.

She then got off his lap and kneeled before him. Todd knew what was coming up and couldn't help smiling. She unzipped his jeans and pulled out his thick penis. She gave him a sly smile and went on to suck him. She sucked him slowly in circles and pushed in and out of her mouth. Todd held her silky hair in his hands as he felt the waves of excitement rush through his body as he groaned with pleasure

She kept going and picked up her pace. She could taste the warm juices flowing and just stood up and undressed. He pulled out his t-shirt as she helped him with the jeans. They were both naked and burning with desire to tear up each other. He stood in front of her and held her in his arms as they deep kissed. He lay her on the couch and continued to kiss her. He moved down slowly and sucked her nipples for a moment. He moved further down and circled her navel with his tongue.

"oh my God!" a moaned escaped her lips as the pleasure was too much. She was dying inside and urged him not to stop.

He parted her thighs and reached her clitoris. He licked and sucked. She was in heaven. "ohhhh uhhhh babe. That feels so good!"

Her breathing increased and she moaned louder.

He pulled back up and she pulled his throbbing penis and inserted deep into her vagina. She straddled and he fucked her slowly as they both moaned. They increased pace and he fucked her harder.

He was about to come so was she. She held his buttocks tightly as she pushed him deeper.

"Babee ! uh uh uh uh fuck me harder! oh yes yesssss!"

"Like that?" fuck you're so sexy", he whispered.

They fucked hard until they both shuddered and slowly absorbed the pleasure in each other's arms.

### CHAPTER 3

Todd was startled by the phone ringing. He slowly lifted himself up wondering who could be calling at that time. He glanced at the clock and realized it was past 9.00am. He bolted off the bed and he answered the call. At the same time, Lorraine lifted her head and glanced at the clock with shock.

"Hey partner? Too much to drink last night?" asked his partner Tom Allen

"umm yeah kind of, what's up, not what I'm thinking....is it?" He asked back trying to avoid the obvious about him being late.

"We got another one. This time the Alveron's daughter. It's pretty bad Todd. You had better come to the campus right away.

"Yeah sure I'll be there in a bit" He heard a click at the end of the line as he got up hurriedly to and headed to the shower.

"What up darling?" His wife asked knowing too well what that kind of expression meant.

She sat by the bed side waiting for him to get out of the shower.

"It's Lisa Alveron. Tom says it's really bad this time. Remember what we talked about last night?"

"Oh my God....umm yeah, I remember" she said softly fear and pain already gripping her. Lisa was her god daughter and Kendra her mother was a very close friend. They had been friends and neighbors for a very long time.

“I think I could use your help. You could come along and look at the evidence and maybe the bodies. If you have the nerve for it, I’m sure we can read the killers mind from that.”

Yeah sure let me get ready I’ll be down in a bit.” Lorraine hurriedly got into the shower and was down within minutes.

Their nanny was already there and tending to the kids with breakfast. She served them coffee in travel mugs and they started for the door after kissing their girls good bye.

They didn’t talk much in the car as Todd drove fast towards the crime scene. A lot of things were going through his mind. He felt defeated by the serial killer. He didn’t know what to do but the talk he had with his wife made him realize that they still had a chance. Other than go after a guy they had no clue about, they could study his way of killing and evidence and deduce exactly what he was thinking or feeling.

Soon they were pulling up at the campus and headed to the main office block where there were many police cars parked. They got out of the car and Tom headed towards them. “Hey” he greeted Todd with a nod as he kissed Lorraine on the cheek. “Still beautiful as ever. Could you right me down a few tips on how you keep so young and beautiful and manage to mesmerize this guy for 10 years so that I can give to my next wife? I could sure use it”

She blushed at his comments, “Oh Tom, Thank you Tom” She had been to Tom’s 3 weddings and was friends with all his wives. He never lasted more than 2 years in a relationship and after his last divorce resolved to remain single.

He lead them to the where the body lay. The crime scene had been sealed off and students had piled around the area. Lorraine could sense the fear and worry by the look on their faces. And she understood they had a right to be, with a serial killer running around free butchering innocent students, who wouldn’t be.

Todd looked at the body and noticed this was different. It was too clumsy and she had been tortured plenty. He turned to his wife who had a look of shock. “Honey are you OK? Can you handle this? If you can I’ll understand.”

“It’s OK, I can do it. From the way she’s been placed naked, the killer is agitated and wanted to humiliate his victims. He tortures them, sexually harasses them and later all this is to punish them.”

She continued, “He is also seeking attention. He wants to be noticed that’s why he makes the butcher mark on them. So that all his murders can be attributed to him. He has cutoff her fingers and gorged out her eyes, he has a lot of anger and specifically to her. She probably touched something she couldn’t or saw something she was not to see. I would say you are looking for a male between the ages of 20-30, could be a student here that’s why he is so familiar and can easily drop a body without being noticed.”

Todd listened intently at his wife with admiration as she continued to speak. “He is not social and tries to lay off radar and has trouble getting a girlfriend or even a date. Though he may sell off as the model citizen and would be least suspected. He must be very strong because of the way he subdues them. He definitely had a troubled childhood.”

Detective Tom looked at Lorraine with amazement, “we should probably make you chief, Wow! All that from simply reading a body? That’s impressive Mrs. Brims”

She smiled at him, “I’m a psychologist Tom and I read people’s minds and their behavior. Mostly I help people though, not read a serial killers mind. But I’m glad I could be of help. I want this guy put away as soon as possible.”

“It does darling. That helps a lot. That narrows down our search. We should relook the whole case and try to figure out what all the victims have in common. We should also check their backgrounds and study their childhood. This all could be childhood related. Let’s hold off the search for the killer and focus on the victims, that’s where our answer lies. Once we get the facts it will be easier to narrow down to our main suspects. In the meantime Tom, we should have a few officers question Lisa’s friends, classmates and also her room mates. See what we can get from them.”

“You’re right let me delegate a few officers, see you back in the office?” He asked Todd.

“Yeah in the office, let me drop off Lorraine”. Soon after Todd left with his wife and dropped her off at her office before heading to the station. Lucky for Lorraine, her first client was scheduled for 1.30pm. She still had time to settle down and prepare.

#### CHAPTER 4

Back at the station, Todd and Tom sat down to evaluate the information they had. So far 4 girls had been killed. Jane Welsh 21, Rory Samielz 20, Nina Torino 23 and Lisa Alveron 21. They had determination to keep the number at that. They wanted to go through each of the ladies lives to establish what was common. Tom had managed to get their personal files from all the schools they had attended except Nina, who had just joined university after moving in to the town 3 years ago. And they only had her file from the university. There was not much of information but Todd was positive they would find something. They figured they would call in all the parents and get more from them.

First to come in were the Welsh’s, they had been married for over 30 years and had 3 children. 1 boy and two girls. Jane was their first born child. They had been living in Terry Hill all their lives and had only been out of town either for vacation or to visit family. Jane was an aspiring actress and was taking a course in that field in college. She was outspoken and very beautiful. Her parents didn’t know of anyone who would want to hurt their daughter. She had a very good heart and had volunteered in many activities. Even when Courtney and Tommy lost their parents, Jane had helped them a lot. She always tried to be friend every person she came across.

When asked about boyfriends, her parents mentioned Jane wasn’t so much into boys but had dated Tommy for a while but she broke it off after 5 months of dating.

“Why did they break it off?” Todd asked with interest. He had known Tommy to have been after Lisa for a while but she always kept away from him. Tommy and Sam Lisa’s boyfriend had been frequently fighting and Lisa’s parents had requested Detective Todd to speak to Tommy to keep off Lisa.

“Jane had mentioned that regardless of Tommy being very sweet and kind to her, he was a bit over protective and demanding. She claimed he wanted to decide which friends she would be with and even told her to keep off boys. Knowing Jane, that was not a possibility since she liked being with people and had many male friends,” Jane’s mother said with concern. “Do you think Tommy would have anything to do with it?”

“No I just need to gather as much information as possible, if they had a fight, then that’s a motive but again there are 4 victims, so the chances are low. But I’ll speak to him as well.” Thank you for your help Mr. and Mrs. Welsh and I’m very sorry for your loss. We will do all we can to get this bastard.

“Thank you too agent Todd, we are ready to help anytime you need more information.” Mr. Welsh offered.

“That’s great, we may have a few Crime scene investigators pass by to check out Jane’s room if that’s possible. I mean if OK with you. Also I would appreciate if you allow we speak to her siblings. They always know what parents don’t. This may help as well. I’m sure this is hard on them but we will tread carefully.”

“It’s OK detective, anything to keep harm from our town. I’ll have them come over after school. They break at noon.” Mr. Welsh told detective Todd reassuringly.

“That’s great, I’ll see you out”

“No no, we know you’re very busy. Don’t mind... we’ll find our way, it’s not like it’s a huge place. They chuckled as they said their good byes and the Welshs left.

Todd sat down and scribbled a few notes in his note pad. He seemed worried about Tommy. After the trauma he went through, he seemed OK but he had a few outbursts and the police had to be called in. Having him involved with two of the victims seemed more of a coincidence. But Todd now he had to look at the other two before making his decision

## CHAPTER 5

Meanwhile in the other room, Detective Tom Allen sat with Rory Samielz’s parents asking about their daughter. They weren’t as co-operative as the other parents. Even having them come over was a big deal. However he knew he had to be empathetic. They had lost their only child who they hoped would live long after them. Mr. Samielz especially was the worst hit. He really adored his daughter and each time he mentioned her name he would pause and swallow a breath.

Tears would be seen at the corners of his eyes. He seemed to blame himself for not listening to her and forcing her to stay in the town and studying there other than moving to a different town as she wanted to. Rory had big dreams. Like Jane, she too wanted to be an actress and they took the same cause. They had all common classes and had been friends though not very close.

Rory had dreams of going to New York and pursuing her acting career other than stick around their boring little town. She hated the way everybody new everyone else's business and poked their noses in it. She didn't like to be told what to do. And that is what her parents spent their lives trying to do. They had wanted her to pursue business but she insisted on Theatre Arts and stood her ground. As a compromise, her parents made her stay in town and study what she wanted to but closer to them. They had tried all their lives to protect their only child but they had failed, Mr. Samielz seemed to believe.

Mrs. Samielz on the other hand seemed to have taken the death of her daughter well. She was the one left to comfort her husband and assure him whatever happened was not his fault. When asked about boyfriends, they were quick to say they never encouraged it. Though Rory had had 2 boyfriends. Lisa's brother Lam and a high school friend Joseph. Detective Tom knew both these boys. He knew the Alveron's son Lam and Joseph too. He was the son of Chris Reynolds. Detective Todd's former partner who had died in the line of duty. Both boys were good from the knowledge he had of them and not the kind to cause trouble. He wrote down their names on his notepad as he had to speak to them.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Samielz accepted that the boys were OK but that they only needed to protect their child. They were really hit by their loss but Tom assured them they would not rest until they were behind bars.

"Mr and Mrs. Samielz, this has been a fruitful conversation. I have gathered a lot about your daughter and I'm sure this will help. I would like to request your permission to visit your home and check out Rory's room. We may find an important piece of evidence."

The Samielz looked at each other in surprise but reluctantly accepted. They knew if they had to find their daughter's killer, they had to fully co-operate with the police. Detective Tom thanked them and bid they good bye as he escorted them out of the room.

He then sat down to evaluate what information he had as he scribbled a few notes. He then made a call to an officer, "Hey Ronny, I need a favor, I need you to bring in Lam Alveron and Joseph Reynolds. Probably tomorrow since we still have some few people to question here right now."

"OK cool Tom, I'll just run this by the Alverons and Mrs. Reynolds, make sure the boys stay put." Ronny answered back.

"OK thanks man, I appreciate"

"No problem how's the case so far?"

"Not much, but we have good information so far, we still have the parents of the other two victims and their closest friends to question. We're building up "



“Well ok, that’s good I hope you catch the bad guy soon.”

“We will, thanks” he said with hope as he hung up.

He stepped out to call in the Torino’s just about Todd stepped out to call the Alverons to the next room.

“Did you get anything from the Welshs?” Tom asked Todd with a serious look.

“I got plenty but what stuck out most is about Tommy”

Tommy? What did he do?”

“It seems he and Jane were an item for a few months but she broke it off claiming he was too controlling and over protective. That struck me. I mean the kid has been through a lot. Losing his mother in a freak accident and his father committing suicide the same year. And he fits most of the description Lorraine gave us.

“Yeah he’s a possible suspect. We should have brought him.”

“Yes, I’ll do that”

Then both turned to face the parents and asked them in. Todd had the Alverons while Tom had the Torinos.

The Torinos, were very kind and seemed to be the most controlled of the parents. As much as they loved their daughter, they had to accept her loss. This is not the first child they had lost. Their second born son had died of Leukemia 3 years earlier. He had struggled with it for 15 years before he finally succumbed. They rarely talked about him. After their son died, they moved from the town they were in to Terry Hill. They wanted to live all the bad memories behind. They had 4 children, Nina was the first born and now they were left with only 2. They were staunch Christians and had brought up their children as so.

Nina was more of a business-minded student. She was a business management major at the university. Her parents mentioned her as being an entrepreneur and always looked for avenues for business.

“She at one time, just before we moved from Cornell, had done a garage sale that saw her make over \$ 2000. She went around the house collecting all the stuff we didn’t need and she advertised all over with posters. She was very aggressive and a dreamer. She always said she needed to be a millionaire by 30. I saw it possible. She would have made it. She had the determination and her hard work said it all. Why would someone kill her?” Said her now tearful mother.

“She was a good girl. I just don’t understand why someone would want to hurt her.” Mr. Torino saying in agreement to his wife. His origin was Mexico, though he himself had been born and bred here. After their son’s death, in order to overcome the grief, the family had decided to move



into a new town. Mr. Torino had a sister who was married and had settled in Terry Hill. When she heard they were looking to move, she had invited them over to the town. They both accepted that they loved the town and so far had proved very safe until recently.

“Did Nina have any close friends or boyfriends?” Tom asked them

“Yes she had a few, back home, but ever since we moved here she hasn’t been with anyone. Though there was a guy, his name was David Johnson, from the university. They had been pretty close but they never mentioned being in a relationship. There was also that’s boy, Tommy Smith, the one who’s father committed suicide. He’s been around our house they seemed to be friendly.”

“Tommy and Nina were friends?”

“Yes they were, you seemed surprised?”

“Yeah well they’re so different, unexpected. How was their friendship?”

“He seemed OK, we never really spent much time with him but Nina had mentioned that he had asked her out once but she was too involved with her life she didn’t want a boyfriend yet.”

“OK I see”

“He seemed like a good boy, I sincerely hope he has nothing to do with this. From your expression I can tell you have something in your mind.” Mr. Torino asked detective Tom bluntly.

“Well I hope so too. But we will have to bring in both the gentlemen to hear their story”

“Mr. and Mrs. Torino, thanks a lot for coming in today. We appreciate your assistance. We will have our CSI over at your house to check out Nina’s room if you don’t mind.”

“Thanks Detective Tom, That’s OK. I just want us to find closure.” Mrs. Torino told the detective with sadness in her voice. He could tell she was fighting hard not to burst into tears.

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In the other room, Detective Todd was summarizing his questing with the Alverons. They didn’t have much information he didn’t already know. Lisa was a very popular girl and considered the most beautiful around. But the thought about Tommy lingered in his mind. Could he have done it? He is such a good boy and quick to offer help. I don’t believe he would have. But then he went through a trauma in his life that could be a stresser.

Todd finished up with Lisa's parents and escorted them out of the room. He went over to Tom to compare notes on their findings.

"Apparently Tommy had been friendly to Nina and even asked her out." Tom was quick to say before Todd even asked him anything. "I think we should bring him in"

"Really? I seriously want to believe he is innocent, and I hope he is. I like the boy. His father and I were really good friends" Todd seemed disturbed by the thought of Tommy being the killer but he in his career and experience, he had seen the most awkward situations with people doing the most unexpected things.

They agreed they would deal with him the next day. Being late, they closed for the day and rested. They had passed word around the campus for everyone to keep in doors or walk in groups. He hoped people would fear for their lives and stay safe.

## CHAPTER 6

Courtney lay in bed worried about all that had happened. She and Lisa had been enemies and she knew at some point their troubles would end but not in this way. Even though Lisa had tormented her all her life and made her feel less important, she wouldn't have wished for her to die in that manner. She was frightened because being a lady and in campus. Anything is possible. She could be the next victim. She stayed awake for a while thinking about the killer until she drifted off to sleep.

The next morning, she woke up her usual time and after dressing up, headed down to breakfast. As she went down the steps, she took in the smell of the fresh brew of coffee. She didn't realize how hungry she was until that smell. She hadn't had any supper, and it was becoming a habit of late. She had to do something about it or otherwise it would result in problems for her.

As she reached the last step, she heard voices coming from the living room. At first she assumed it was her Aunt Kelly and Tommy but as she approached, there were two police officers seated with Aunt Kelly speaking in hushed tones. They both stood up to greet her as she walked in. She recognized them, officer Ronny and Daniel.

Aunt Kelly caught her surprise, "Good morning Cot, these two gentlemen are looking for Tommy, any idea where he is. I couldn't find him in his room."

She could feel her hands trembling. Was her brother the killer? He had been acting odd of late but kept blaming it on his exams and studies. Always studying late that he was rarely seen at home... "Uuuuummm I don't know," finally some words escaped her lips. "Did he do something wrong? I haven't seen him since last night. He had a date"

"Tommy had a date?" Aunt Kelly was astonished. "He never mentioned it to me. He had said he would be studying late and not to worry. So I didn't think anything of it and went off to sleep."

Officer Ronny felt tense; he seemed worried "Any idea who he went with?"

“No he never mentioned it to me. Though earlier on when he was speaking on the phone I had him mentioning Cat. I assume that’s Catherine, she works at the gym. He’s a frequent there. But then again I could be wrong.

“Ok thanks Courtney, we will check at the gym. Keep safe and don’t live the house alone.”

“Yeah Melissa and her mum will pass by to pick me up. She’s been driving us of late”

“That’s good. Mrs. Powell, thank you for the coffee, we appreciate your hospitality.”

“You’re always welcomed, good bye”

“Good bye”

The two ladies stood at the door as the officer backed out of the driveway. Courtney knew exactly what was going through their mind. She was aware that her brother had dated one of the victims Jane, and was involved in a way with Nina and Lisa. That was enough to make him a suspect. She was worried for him and wanted to alert him that the police were looking for him.

“Cot, you never mentioned to me about the date?” Aunt Kelly quizzed her,

“I assumed he had told you about it”

“No he didn’t. He’s been acting quite strange of late.”

Aunt Kelly also looked worried and Cot tried to seem casual to make her less worried.

“He probably got caught up and assumed I would tell you. I’m sorry Aunt Kelly I should have mentioned it. I’ll go look for him at campus.”

OK, just have him pass by Detective Todd. He’s the one looking for him.

After breakfast Melissa and her mum were waiting for Courtney outside. She picked up her stuff and left in a hurry. As they drove off, Courtney was very worried. What if her brother was the killer? She wasn’t safe either. Or was she? She had to look for him immediately. She tried to call him but his phone was off. Oh my God, she thought, what will I do?

As soon as they got to campus, it was a buzz. There were several cops around and when she stepped out of the car, all attention seemed to be drawn to her.

“Ms. Smith, can I speak with you.” Courtney spun around to find Detective Todd glaring at her. He had a concerned look on his face.

“Ye-ss sir?” she said feeling scared.

“We need to speak to Tommy, any idea where he is?”

“I haven’t seen him since last night when I left the campus. He had told me he had a date but I’m not sure with whom. I think its Catherine Taylor.”

“Really?” He seemed to say with a deep breath. Courtney could tell he was furious. “Courtney, Catherine is lying dead on the path by the campus fitness center. The last any one saw of her she was last night with Tommy”

“Oh no! No! No... Detective, he didn’t do it! He couldn’t. He really liked her...” Hot tears beaded down her eyes. She couldn’t believe what she heard and just wished the world would end. She lost her parents and now her brother? This was too much! Melissa and her mum noticing her reaction, rushed to comfort her.

Detective Todd tried to comfort her, “I’m very sorry Courtney, I know your brother is important to you. Please calm down. I’m not saying he is the killer, we just need him to clarify.”

She nodded still looking disoriented and confused.

## CHAPTER 7

The little town of Terry Hill was struck by the news that Tommy was the main suspect. He was a charming young man and always seemed to be on the goods side. Except for the few outbursts he had. Most of them either defending his sister and Nina or fighting with Sam O’Brien over Lisa. Nina had trouble coping in Terry Hill. Many people liked treating her like an outcast. Tommy really liked her and they had been good friends. After she was found dead, he felt very sad and buried his grief for both Nina and Lisa by studying day and night.

Now he was the main suspect. It had affected him so much that he decided to do his own investigation. He had to figure out who the killer was. He knew either way they would try to blame it on him. In the morning when His friend Caleb called to tell him about Catherine, he decided to disappear. He and his sister had a hideout in the woods and he hoped she wouldn’t tell. That was where he would stay while he figured out everything. It was not safe for him to be seen by anybody. Knowing the town folk, they would turn to him with baseball bats the minute they saw him.

He had a problem though. All his stuff was in the house, his notes everything was back at home. How would he get it without being seen? He had a plan. But this would be effected at night. He opted to stay at his hideout until it was safe. This is the time he wished he had left to study out of town as he wanted to. The thought of leaving his sister behind tormented him and he opted otherwise to watch over her. Now he was a main suspect in the cold blooded murder of 5 young ladies he was in contact with. Tommy needed to prove his innocence. He sat quietly at his hideout without waiting, hoping that this was all a bad dream and he would sleep and wake up and everything would be ok.

Courtney was pacing up and down her room, she couldn't sit still. She was worried for her brother. She was worried for herself too. He had been her rock, her source of motivation. What would she do without him, she had to act. Just then her phone rang. When she answered it, the voice sounded familiar. It was him!

"Oh my God, Tommy, where are you? The police have been searching for you all over town. You need to come back." She was speaking nearly out of breath.

"They're probably tracking this number, we don't have much time. Meet at the baby's spot," he said quickly and hang up.

She sat down on her bed and cleared her throat. She felt her heart sunken. What did they do to deserve this? Then she remembered what he had said. Baby's spot? They had a secret place in the caves in the woods where they used to play when they were young. Even after the loss of their parents, they would get away from the town fracas and stay there for a while. Now she needed him. She had to act first.

She peered through the window and the street seemed clear. Though she wasn't about to risk being caught sneaking out of the house. The real butcher was still out there somewhere. She went to Tommy's room to check if there was anything there that he might have needed. There wasn't much. The cops had taken most of his stuff. She returned to her room and dressed up in jeans a casual t-shirt and a jumper on top. She tiptoed down the steps carefully not to wake up Aunt Kelly. She was a heavy sleeper though. Courtney thought to herself. She wouldn't wake up. She slowly opened the back door and slipped out.

It was still and quiet outside. She took in a breath of fresh air and walked down the steps. She was foolish to risk her life like this, but she did what she had to. She must save Tommy. She took off being careful to hide in the bushes. When she was clear of their street she ran at full speed towards the park. She kept looking back to be sure no one was following her. It was cold as she approached the woods. She had grown up playing in these woods and even in darkness she knew her way around. She made way and lit the small flashlight she had put in her pocket.

This is crazy she kept saying to herself. Some bushes moved. She froze for a moment, then slowly turning to see if there was someone there. It was quiet and dark, there was no one. Probably her imagination, her paranoia was getting the best of her. She began walking again at first backwards then turned and was half running. All the while saying a silent prayer to herself.

Then the rocky hill came into view and she knew she was almost there. Just before she got off the bushy trail someone grabbed her. He placed his hand over her mouth and told her to keep silent or that he would slit her throat. Courtney had heard that voice before but she couldn't recall who it was. But definitely not her brother. Her heart beat so fast she was sure that's all she heard. The man dragged her along the path and realized they were heading out of the woods. She tried to struggle off his hands but he was too strong for her.

## The Terry Hill Butcher

Then again they heard some bushes moving. Courtney was almost certain now that someone had been following her and she hoped it was her brother coming to save her. They went along until out of the bushes someone rushed out yielding a branch and hitting the man. Courtney realizing it was Tommy, quickly pulled away and rushed behind her brother. He held a big branch hoping it would protect them.

The hooded man stood up and pulled a gun from behind his trouser and held it at them. He pulled his hoodie off and to their surprise it was Courtney's American history lecturer. She was beyond words. He was the killer?

She asked him with a shaking voice, "Arreee you the butcher, Mr. Phelps?" Looking at him, though it was dark and the flash light that they had wasn't much help, but she was 100% sure it was him.

"You know Courtney, I always liked you and I would never have thought to hurt you. You were different. Not like the other girls. But everyone is keeping away now and I saw you running across the road. I couldn't help it" He said as if feeling sorry that he would have to kill her. But he was smiling. Looking like a lion who had just caught his biggest hunt.

"Now as for your Tommy, too bad. You're just collateral damaged." He said turning the gun at Tommy.

Tommy and Courtney now knew their time was up. They could not pull away from this one. Maybe it was their family's destiny to all die. Courtney thought. She held on to Tommy so tightly he was nearly out of breath. But he knew his sister was frightened and it was his duty to protect her.

He was going to shoot Tommy first and get him out of the way and deal with Courtney last.

"Mr. Victor Phelps, drop your weapon!!"

They all turned to see agent Todd and 3 other officers pointing their guns and flash lights at him.

"Drop it before I take you down. I don't want this to end badly, listen to me and do it now!!"

Mr. Phelps wasn't going to give up so easily, just as he cocked his gun pointing at Agent Todd, they released and he was pumped up with bullets. He fell down dead with a thud!! He was dead! Tommy turned and hugged his sister. It was over. He thought to himself.

As Agent Todd drove them to the Police station to take their statements, he explained that he knew Tommy was innocent. He was nothing like the description Lorraine had given him the day Lisa was found dead. They had gone through many files and when they came upon Mr. Phelps, they found out that he had two reports of domestic violence from an ex-wife and an ex-girlfriend in another town. That was strange. As if not enough, he had only taken the job a few months back and was not outgoing, they didn't know much about him. Furthermore, he was the perfect description they got. They decided to question him but when officers got to his home, the door was open and he wasn't around. Just by the window, a scarf that belonged to Lisa was spotted. Her mother had given a perfect description of it and they were certain it was the one. They sent in sniffer dogs and the dogs uncovered more belongings of the victims at his house.

So they had to check out two major suspects, Tommy and Mr. Phelps. They knew Tommy would somehow contact Courtney and kept clear while watching her at a distance. They knew she would look for him and she led them straight to the killer. Agent Todd warned them of the danger that would have happened if not for them coming right on time. They both agreed and were glad they were alive.

Courtney silently smiled and thought that whatever would have happened, it would be better that she was with her brother than alone. Even in death!

End

