

Setting: THE STREET

MRS. ALEXANDER. What happened to you the other day? I came out again and you'd gone. I had to eat all the biscuits myself. I was looking forward to our little chat.

CHRISTOPHER. I don't do chatting. I don't like it.

MRS. ALEXANDER. No, I don't suppose you do. Do you like computers?

CHRISTOPHER. Yes, I like computers. I have a computer in my room.

MRS. ALEXANDER I know. I can see you sitting at your computer in your bedroom sometimes when I look across the street.

CHRISTOPHER. And I like maths and looking after Toby And I also like outer space and I like being on my own.

MRS. ALEXANDER. I bet you're very good at maths aren't you?

CHRISTOPHER. I am. I'm going to do A-level maths next month. And I'm going to get an A-star.

MRS. ALEXANDER. Really? A-level maths?

CHRISTOPHER. I'm the first person to take an A-level from my school because it's a special school. All the other children at my school are stupid. Except I'm not meant to call them that, even though that is what they are.

MRS. ALEXANDER. Well I am very impressed. And I hope you do get an A-star.

CHRISTOPHER. I will.

MRS. ALEXANDER. And the other thing I know about you is your favourite colour is not yellow.

CHRISTOPHER. No. And it's not brown either. My favourite colour is red and metal-colour. Do you know Mr. Shears?

MRS. ALEXANDER. Not really, no. I mean I knew him well enough to say hello but I didn't know much about him. I think he worked in the National Westminster Bank in town.

CHRISTOPHER. Father said that he is an evil man. Do you know why he said that?

MRS. ALEXANDER. Perhaps it would be best not to talk about these things Christopher.

CHRISTOPHER. Why not?

MRS. ALEXANDER. Because maybe your father is right and you shouldn't go round asking questions about this.

CHRISTOPHER. Why?

MRS. ALEXANDER. Because obviously he is going to find it quite upsetting.

CHRISTOPHER. Why is he going to find it quite upsetting?

MRS. ALEXANDER. I think you know why your father doesn't like Mr. Shears very much.

CHRISTOPHER. Did Mr. Shears kill Mother?

MRS. ALEXANDER. Kill her?

CHRISTOPHER. Yes. Did he kill Mother?

MRS. ALEXANDER. No. No. Of course he didn't kill your mother.

CHRISTOPHER. But did he give her stress so that she died of a heart attack?

MRS. ALEXANDER. I honestly don't know what you're talking about, Christopher.

CHRISTOPHER. Or did he hurt her so that she had to go into hospital?

MRS. ALEXANDER. Did she have to go into hospital?

CHRISTOPHER. Yes. And it wasn't very serious at first but she had a heart attack when she was in hospital.

MRS. ALEXANDER. Oh my goodness. Oh Christopher, I am so, so sorry. I never realised.

CHRISTOPHER. Why did you say "I think you know why your father doesn't like Mr. Shears very much"?

MRS. ALEXANDER. Oh dear, dear, dear. Christopher look, perhaps we should take a little walk in the park together. This is not the place to be talking about this kind of thing.