RIVENIS

# DISKORDIA™

STRANGE DAYS

12

## THE RETURN OF MR. PUNCH

# STRANGE DAYS

## Recollection II:

# The Return of Mr Punch



Created by

Rivenis

Dedicated to

Testament

Abbott

/diskordiacomic

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# THE RETURN OF MR.PUNCH

SO *VINCENT FAIRCHILD* IT IS. CONGRATULATIONS, YOUR I.D CHECKS OUT.

NOW FOR THE NEXT ORDER OF BUSINESS WOULD YOU MIND TELLING US JUST HOW YOU CAME TO BE AT THE CENTRE OF THIS MASSACRE?

I'LL BE WAITING ON REPRESENTATION BEFORE I SAY ANYTHING.

AND A LIGHT TOO. BUT NOT IN THAT ORDER.

WELL THAT'S A CHANGE. WHEN WE HAULED YOU IN YOU WOULDN'T SHUT UP ABOUT THIS 'MR PUNCH'

NOW THAT'S SOMETHING I'M REAL CURIOUS ABOUT.

I WASN'T IN MY RIGHT MIND THEN YOU UNDER-STAND.

I'M ALL BETTER NOW THOUGH.

CLICK

LET'S FORGET THE STATEMENT FOR NOW. HOWS ABOUT A LITTLE STORY?

I HAVE A FEELING YOU MIGHT HAVE A GOOD ONE IN YOU.

OH YOU THINK SO DO YOU?

JUST A LITTLE SOMETHING TO PASS THE TIME TILL YOUR LAWYER GETS HERE EH?

WELL SINCE WE'RE ONLY DEALING WITH HYPOTHETICALS AND WHAT IF'S THEN I GUESS THIS PARTICULAR FAIRY TALE STARTS TWO DAYS AGO...

IN A DOWNTOWN CAFE; NOT REALLY MY KIND OF SCENE SINCE I PREFER HOME BREW BUT I WAS HERE ON BUSINESS.

TO MEET WITH SOME POTENTIAL CLIENTS.

OH HERE HE IS.

VINCENT, THIS IS THE COUPLE I WAS TELLING YOU ABOUT.

THE BARKERS; JOY AND PETER.

YOU WANT ANYTHING FROM HERE?

NAH MAN, YOU KNOW I DON'T DO COFFEE.

ONTO BUSINESS THOUGH. WHAT IS IT YOU FOLKS WANT ME TO FIND?

U-UM YES. MY HUSBAND WAS MUGGED YESTERDAY, NEAR THE EASTON TRACKS WHILE COMING HOME FROM WORK.

HIS BACKPACK WAS STOLEN.

THE CONTENTS BEING A LAPTOP, SOME FILES AND A FLASHDRIVE.

THE OTHER STUFF ISN'T IMPORTANT BUT WE NEED THE FLASHDRIVE BACK.

HOW COME?

I-IT HAS PICTURES ON IT. PICTURES OF OUR SON DARREN.

DARREN LIVED FOR ELEVEN DAYS AND THOSE PICTURES ARE THE ONLY THING WE HAVE OF HIM.

WE DIDN'T MAKE COPIES.

GOD I'M SO STUPID!!

THIS IS THE AMOUNT WE'RE PREPARED TO PAY YOU ON TOP OF YOUR UPFRONT FEE IF YOU CAN DO THIS FOR US.

THE AMOUNT WILL DOUBLE IF YOU CAN GET IT BACK TO US WITHIN 48 HOURS.

IF I WERE THE TYPE TO WEAR MY EMOTIONS ON MY SLEEVE THEY WOULD KNOW THEY HAD ME ON THE HOOK GOOD AND PROPER.

I'VE DONE ALOT MORE FOR ALOT LESS.

PLEASE UNDERSTAND HOW MUCH THIS MEANS TO US AND THAT DISCRETION IS ALSO A FACTOR.

WE VALUE OUR PRIVACY IN REGARDS TO THE CONTENTS OF THE FLASHDRIVE ITSELF.

...SO NO PEEKING HUH?

YOUR FRIEND HERE SAYS YOU COME HIGHLY RECOMMENDED.

YES. MY BOY VINCE IS THE BEST; A REAL LIFE GODDAMN COLUMBO YO!

NICE JOB EDDIE, SHOW THEM JUST HOW MUCH WE WANT THEIR MONEY.

DOESN'T MATTER THOUGH, JOB'S AS GOOD AS TAKEN.

FLICK

NOW IT MAY JUST BE THAT I'M A CYNICAL, PARANOID ASSHOLE OR THE UNREASONABLE AMOUNT OF MONEY INVOLVED MADE ME NERVOUS....

...BUT AS SOON AS I STEPPED OUT OF THE SHOP I ARRANGED TO PUT A TAIL ON THE COUPLE.

MAYBE THE HUGE REWARD WASN'T THAT SUSPICIOUS. I MEAN HOW MUCH WOULD ***YOU*** PAY FOR THE ONLY EXISTING PICTURES OF YOUR DEAD CHILD?

MAYBE THE HUSBAND IS TOO RACKED WITH GUILT TO SPEAK UP IN THE MEETING EVEN IF HE'S THE ONLY ACTUAL WITNESS TO THE MUGGING.

MAYBE SOMETHING ***ISN'T*** OFF ABOUT THOSE TWO. AND EVEN IF THERE IS MAYBE ITS NONE OF MY BUSINESS.

DOESN'T HURT TO BE A LITTLE CAUTIOUS THOUGH.

SO I START WORKING THE JOB LIKE ANY OTHER.

9 TIMES OUT OF 10 THESE KINDS OF CASES ARE REALLY STRAIGHTFORWARD.

THE KIND OF CRIMINAL WHO WOULD RUSH A WELL-OFF LOOKING WHITE DUDE IN A BAD NEIGHBOURHOOD ISN'T GOING TO MAKE TOO MANY DETOURS ON THE WAY TO THE NEAREST PAWN SHOP.

IMPULSIVE.

GREEDY.

STUPID.

AND APPARENTLY MY GUY WAS NONE OF THOSE THINGS.

THE PAWN SHOPS CAME UP EMPTY. NO ONE TRIED TO SELL THE LAPTOP.

THE WIFE GAVE ME A SECOND HAND DESCRIPTION OF THE GUY. THAT CAME UP EMPTY TOO.

THIS WAS **NOT** DOING WONDERS FOR MY DESIRE TO TAKE THIS CASE AT FACE VALUE I CAN TELL YOU.

ONLY LOGICAL COURSE TO TAKE IS TO SEE THE CRIME SCENE FOR MYSELF.

WHAT THE HELL WOULD MR WHITEBREAD BE DOING PASSING THROUGH A MEATGRINDER LIKE THIS?

THE KID I RECOGNIZE IMMEDIATELY.

'UNDERGROUNDERS' THEY'RE CALLED.

THEY EARN A LIVING BY KEEPING THEIR EYES AND EARS OPEN. THEY LEVERAGE INFORMATION.

VERY USEFUL FOR SOMEONE LIKE ME.

ITS NOT ENOUGH TO SIMPLY KNOW THEY EXIST THOUGH.

YOU GOTTA BE ABLE TO SPEAK THE LANGUAGE; WALK INTO THEIR WORLD AND BELONG THERE.

THEY CAN SMELL A COP OR AN UPSTANDING CITIZEN A MILE AWAY.

I AM NEITHER.

I GIVE HIM THE RUNDOWN OF THE INCIDENT AS WELL AS THE PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION



AND THATS WHEN I GET MY FIRST BIG SURPRISE.

THE MUGGING HAPPENED YESTERDAY LIKE YOU SAID. I EVEN KNOW THE BUM THAT DID IT.

BUT WEREN'T NO RICH WHITE MAN GOT HIT.

WEREN'T NO WHITE MAN AT ALL.

I DIDN'T NEED TO ASK IF THE KID WAS SURE. IT WAS HIS BUSINESS TO KNOW. HIS LIVELIHOOD DEPENDS ON HIS DEPENDABILITY.

I'M THINKING RIGHT ABOUT NOW WOULD BE A GOOD TIME TO WALK; FORGET ABOUT THIS WHOLE SMELLY DEAL.

I'M NOT SMART THOUGH.

I'M A WORTHLESS MONEY-GRUBBING MAGGOT LIKE EVERYONE ELSE AND THIS PAYDAY IS JUST TOO BIG TO IGNORE.

A MUGGING ON EASTON LAST NIGHT. I NEED THE POLICE REPORT ON IT.

SURE MAN, WHEN YOU CALL I JUST DROP EVERYTHING.

SO AS NOT TO BE COMPLETELY INCOMPETENT I CALL A FRIEND I HAVE IN THE PRECINCT.

GIVE ME A BREAK. YOU WOULDN'T EVEN STILL ***BE*** ON THE FORCE IF IT WASN'T FOR ME.

GONNA KEEP MILKING THAT ONE ARE YOU?

I'LL HAVE IT FOR YOU IN A FEW HOURS.

I HAD A STREET NAME AND A DESCRIPTION OF THE MUGGER FROM THE KID. HELL, HE EVEN GAVE ME AN ADDRESS.

PRACTICALLY SOLVED THE CASE FOR ME. IF I WASN'T SUCH A CUNT I MIGHT HAVE CUT THE KID A BIGGER SLICE.

BUT I AM, AND HE GETS TO STAY ON HIS BLOCK BEING USEFUL TO PEOPLE LIKE ME.

THE ADDRESS IS UPPER MIDDLETOWN. NOT QUITE THE SHITHOLE I WAS EXPECTING BUT STILL NOTHING TOO FANCY.

THE GUY I'M AFTER GOES BY THE NAME 'JAME GUMB'; AN OBVIOUS ALIAS.

A SKINNY WHITE BOOKISH-LOOKING DUDE. THE TYPE YOU'D EXPECT TO FIND ON A COLLEGE CAMPUS.

NOT BASHING BLOKES ON THE HEAD FROM BEHIND.

I'M STARTING TO GET THE IMPRESSION THAT THIS WAS NO SIMPLE MUGGING.

I STOP BY MY OWN PLACE ON THE WAY THOUGH. I NEED TO MAKE SOME PREPARATIONS.

NOW TO LOOK AT ME I DON'T SUPPOSE YOU'D USE THE WORD 'INTIMIDATING' IN YOUR DESCRIPTION.

SO I GET MY AID IN THAT DEPARTMENT. I CALL HER SALLY.

I ALSO GET A GOOD STRONG DOSE OF 'COFFEE' TO MAKE ME FEEL LIKE PLAYING THE PART.

THEN IT'S DOWNTOWN AT A GOOD CLIP. LOOKS LIKE I MIGHT BE ABLE TO CLOSE THIS CASE BY TEATIME.

PLACE MAY NOT BE A TOTAL DIVE BUT THE GUY AT THE COUNTER DOESN'T THINK HE'S TOO GOOD TO TAKE MY MONEY IN EXCHANGE FOR A ROOM NUMBER.

DOOR'S NOT LOCKED. I SMELL THE TROUBLE IN THE AIR AS THICK AS A TACO FART.

THIS SMELLS EVEN WORSE THOUGH.

MAGGOTS IN THE WALL

christmas dub. local branch of illuminati?
crystallion massacre in scandinavia 1923
almost certainly since 1973
NEW GOVERNMEN DRUGS STEALING BRAIN CELLS AND UPLOADING THEM TO THE CLOUD
asylum to doublemen 1944
Jerry Rogers- CC contact schedule
ubermensch
Research on underground-pedia/user
punch eyewitness account spotted in taiwan 1991?
check out now!!!
eroids in my hotdogs by order of govt
transferred to livestock tests or punishment for
Moondust linked to super longevity

MAGGOTS IN THE WALL

IT WAS RIGHT IN FRONT OF MY FACE THEN. OF COURSE I DIDN'T NOTICE IT AT THE TIME.

IT'S NOT LIKE I HAD ANY WAY OF KNOWING ITS SIGNIFICANCE.

DRUG OVERDOSE. HEROIN BY THE LOOKS OF IT.

JUST MY LUCK.

!

KAFF
KAFF

YOU GUMB?

HEH HEH FUCK NO...

WOULDN'T USE...SUCH A DUMBFUCK NAME...

THATS GUMB OVER THERE...

WH-WHAT THE FUCK ARE YOU STILL DOING HERE GUYVER?

THE GUY WAS WHACKED OUT OF HIS MIND. I FIGURED I COULD BLUFF MY WAY AROUND A BIT.

WHERE'S THE FLASH-DRIVE?

FUCK YOU TALKING ABOUT?! YOU TOOK IT.

RIGHT, RIGHT. I FORGOT.

DUMBASS! JUST DON'T FORGET TO UPLOAD THE VIDEO. WE GOTTA SHOW THE WORLD MAN.

THE GUY I PASSED ON THE STAIRS I'M WILLING TO BET.

SO MUCH FOR MY DETECTIVE INSTINCT. COLUMBO WOULD'VE NOTICED.

THE GUY PASSES OUT. I'M NOT GETTING ANYTHING ELSE.

THAT'S FINE. I THINK I HAVE WHAT I NEED.

I GET SOME PICTURES OF THE WHITEBOARD. 'JUST IN CASE' I THINK TO MYSELF.

MEGAN FOX A LIZARDMAN?

Interstellar travel possible since the 1980's?

NIETZSHE ORBITING EARTH IN SPACE STATION BUILT IN THE 1800

Neutron star headed for

mr punch seen at crystallion massacre in scandinavia 192

in british parliament? almost certainly since 1973

the church grants asylum to doublemen 1944

Jerry Rogers- CC conta

Research on underground-pe

eck out now!!!

consciousness

america and north korea building weap

the illuminati in hollywood?

christmas club. local branch of

NEW GOVERNMEN CELLS AND UPLOA

THEN I CALL FOR AN AMBULANCE SO AS NOT TO BE A TOTAL BASTARD.

COURSE I DO TAKE THE TIME TO FIND A PAYPHONE SO THERE'S THAT.

TAKES A FRUSTRATING HALF HOUR TO DRIVE TO THE NEAREAST INTERNET KIOSK.

I NEED SOME FREE WI-FI.

XYZ Tube

?? ? ? ?? Maggots in the Wall ?

Maggots in the Wall

Subscribe

MY HUNCH IS ON THE MONEY. 'MAGGOTS IN THE WALL' IS THE NAME OF THESE CONSPIRACY THEORIST'S XYZ-TUBE CHANNEL.

THESE KIND OF GUYS *ALWAYS* HAVE A TUBE CHANNEL.

I'VE GOT THE REPORT RIGHT HERE IN FRONT OF ME.

GIVE ME THE RUN-DOWN.

MUGGING TOOK PLACE IN EASTON AROUND 11:45PM.

VICTIM'S A BLACK MALE, LATE 30'S TO EARLY 40'S. DOESN'T STAY TO MAKE A STATEMENT.

ACTUALLY IT SAYS HERE HE FLED THE SCENE.

CURIOUSER AND CURIOUSER.

I SPEND THE NEXT HOUR OR SO WATCHING 'MAGGOTS' VIDEOS.

WI FI ZONE

YOU'VE GOT TO OPEN YOUR EYES AMERICA.

ITS SOME PRETTY 'OUT THERE' STUFF.

WHY DO YOU THINK IT IS THAT MEDIA COVERAGE HAS BECOME SO INSULAR?

IT'S LIKE WE'RE TRAPPED IN A BUBBLE.

THEY'VE GOT US SO FOCUSED ON CELEBRITIES AND SEX SCANDALS WE CAN'T SEE PAST OUR OWN NEED TO CONSUME INTELLECTUAL WASTE.

DOES THE REST OF THE WORLD EVEN STILL EXIST? OR IS IT LIKE LIGHT FROM A STAR HITTING US ONLY AFTER THE SOURCE HAS LONG DIED.

CAN'T TUBE ALL DAY THOUGH. I NEED TO TRACK DOWN GUYVER.

I'M ON THE ROAD NOW. CAN YOU DO IT WHILE WE'RE ON THE PHONE?

LUCKILY I KNOW A GAL WHO CAN TRACK IP ADDRESSES FROM XYZ-TUBE UPLOADERS.

RPSE

AND SHE OWES ME A FAVOUR.

NIP SLIP

YOU DEMANDING SONUVABITCH.

HAHOBIT

GIVE ME A SEC.

AS EXPECTED MOST OF THE VIDS WERE UPLOADED FROM THE APT. BUT GUYVER HAD TO BE POSTING TOO.

BINGO! THIS LEADS ME RIGHT OUT OF THE CITY AND INTO THE 'BURBS.

THERE ARE NO DEAD BABY PICTURES TO RECOVER.

NOT BY A LONGSHOT.

JUST A HORNET'S NEST, AND I'M THE FOOL WITH A STICK.

AND A BURNING CURIOSITY THAT WILL SURELY BE THE DEATH OF ME.

TWO UNLOCKED DOORS IN A ROW? NOW I'M GETTING NERVOUS.

'ALL PROPER WITCHES WHO EAT CHILDREN NEED TO GO IN THE OVEN.'

JESUS...

SMELT LIKE A POT ROAST. FUNNILY ENOUGH IT REMINDED ME THAT I'D SKIPPED LUNCH.

HEY...

HE SAID THAT. ALL PROPER WITCHES NEED TO BE COOKED LIKE IN THE FAIRY TALES.

I DON'T FUCKING GET IT! FIRST MY FRIENDS AND NOW I COME HOME TO THIS SHIT.

LOOK MATE, THIS ISN'T A WATER PISTOL IN MY HAND. NOW START MAKING SOME SENSE.

WHO DID THIS?

I-IT WAS MR PUNCH. IT REALLY WAS.

WHO?

HE DIDN'T EVEN LAY A SINGLE HAND ON HER.

HE JUST SPOKE. HIS VOICE WAS SO SWEET, SO PERFECT.

IT WAS LIKE A SUGGESTION; A SUGGESTION SHE COULDN'T REFUSE. POOR, POOR JANICE.

HE TOLD ME TO WATCH. TOLD ME NOT TO MISS A SECOND OR A SOUND OF HER SWEET AGONY.

HE SAID IT WOULD BE AN EXPRESSION OF OUR LOVE FOR EACH OTHER.

HE MUST'VE DONE IT 'CAUSE OF THE KID.

H-HIS FACE. WHY CAN'T I REMEMBER IT?

WHAT KID?

J-JANICE'S DAUGHTER, LOOK.

JANICE HATED THAT KID. SHE WAS ALWAYS SO HARD ON HER.

CHRIST, I DIDN'T THINK SHE'D GO THAT FAR THOUGH.

LOOK, I DON'T REALLY GIVE A SHIT ABOUT ANY OF THAT.

WHERE'S THE FLASH-DRIVE?

YOU'RE WITH THE CHRISTMAS CLUB RIGHT? I KNEW YOU GUYS WERE REAL.

YOU THE ONE WHO DRUGGED OUT MY CREW--?

SHIT, I DON'T EVEN CARE ANYMORE.

'THE CHRISTMAS CLUB' THAT NAME'S COME UP IN MORE THAN A FEW OF THEIR VIDEOS. MR PUNCH AS WELL.

I'M ALMOST OUT OF THERE WHEN I DO SOMETHING INCONCIEVABLY STUPID.

...

WHERE'S THE KID?

PUNCH, HE TOOK HER.

I-I COULDN'T STOP HIM. I COULDN'T EVEN WANT TO.

I DON'T EVEN MAKE IT TO THE CAR BEFORE THE NEXT BOMB IS DROPPED.

RING RING

YO, ITS ME. SO WE FOUND YOUR MUGGING VICTIM.

I KNOW IT IN MY BONES BEFORE HE EVEN SAYS IT.

IN THE EAST RIVER. FULLA HOLES.

BEEN DEAD AT LEAST 24 HOURS.

HE DID HAVE I.D ON HIM THOUGH. NAME'S JERRY ROGERS. THAT MEAN ANYTHING

AFTER AWHILE I STOP HEARING HIM.

I LEAVE THE SUBURBS. THIS TIME I DON'T BOTHER CALLING THE COPS. I DON'T WANT THE STENCH OF THAT PLACE ANYWHERE NEAR ME.

I PULL OVER AS SOON AS I'M FAR ENOUGH AWAY FOR THE ILLUSION OF SAFETY TO SINK IN.

IT'S TIME TO MAKE A DECISION.

I CAN NO LONGER PRETEND THERE'S A POT OF GOLD WAITING AT THE END OF THIS RAINBOW.

THERE'S SOMETHING BAD GOING ON. REALLY BAD. AND ONCE I TAKE A PEEK AT WHAT'S ON THIS FLASH-DRIVE THERE'S NO GOING BACK.





THEN THERE'S THE MATTER OF THE GIRL; TAKEN FROM HER ABUSIVE MOTHER AND IN THE HANDS OF A KILLER; A KILLER WITH THE VOICE OF AN ANGEL.

MR PUNCH

MR PUNCH IS A SHADOW, A WHISPER IN THE WIND. BUT MAKE NO MISTAKE, HE IS *VERY* REAL

WE BELIEVE HE MAY EVEN BE ACTING AS AN ENFORCER FOR THE CHRISTMAS CLUB. THE THEORY IS--

WHO IS HE AND WHAT'S HIS CONNECTION TO THE CHRISTMAS CLUB?

I SCOUR THE MAGGOT'S CHANNEL FOR ANY VIDS THAT MENTION HIM.

THESE GUYS MAY HAVE IN THEIR LUNATIC RAVINGS HIT UPON SOME CHANCE TRUTHS. BUT THERE WAS NO WAY TO KNOW WHICH ONES.

UNCONSCIOUSLY I SUPPOSE I'D ALREADY MADE MY DECISION.

THE FLASHDRIVE WAS OF COURSE ENCRYPTED. BUT IF THAT WERE A SERIOUS PROBLEM I WOULDN'T BE VERY GOOD AT MY JOB NOW WOULD I?

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| ting expenses | | $667,000 | $ |
| ing Profit/Loss | | $2,061,000 | -$ |
| ement Charges | | $1,021,000 | |
| Loss | | $253,000 | -$ |
| ting Margin % | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| ble Costs Budget | 27.34% | Totals | |
| riable Costs | Variable % | $336,000 | |

DATES, TIMES, DELIVERY MANIFESTS, ACCOUNTS.

IT WAS NOTHING MORE THAN A RECORD. THE KIND ANY DECENT BUSINESS WOULD KEEP

| | |
|---|---|
| | 19th Feb |
| inal operations | C. Schmitt |
| | *The CC Club* |

AS BANAL AS THIS INFO IS ITS STILL PROOF OF AN ORGANIZATION THAT ISN'T SUPPOSED TO EXIST.

WELL, ITS GETTING TO BE THAT KIND OF TIME.

WHAT DO YOU HAVE FOR ME BENNY?

WHERE ARE MR AND MRS WHITEBREAD HOLDING UP?

TIME TO GO BACK TO THE SOURCE.

TURNS OUT THE HUSB-AND ISN'T A HUSBAND AT ALL. AT LEAST NOT TO THE WOMAN WHO HIRED ME.

LOOK MAN I'M JUST AN ACTOR. THAT WOMAN NEEDED A COVER.

I DON'T EVEN KNOW HER NAME.

here charlie. puss puss puss

I DECIDED THAT THE DRAMATIC APPROACH WOULD BE MOST SUITABLE. I DON'T LIKE BEING LIED TO.

!

CLICK

HELLO CAROL SCHMITT. I HOPE YOU DON'T MIND ME LETTING MYSELF IN.

purrrr

YOU LOOKED ON THE FLASHDRIVE.

YOU STUPID FUCK.

WHAT IS IT YOU THINK YOU KNOW?

I THINK YOU'RE SOME KIND OF OPERATIONS MANAGER FOR THE CHRISTMAS CLUB. THINGS WENT WRONG FOR YOU WHEN YOUR SCHEDULING MANIFEST FOR THE NEXT SIX MONTHS WAS STOLEN FROM YOUR ASSISTANT OR WHOEVER HE WAS. STOLEN BY A BUNCH OF CONSPIRACY NUTS WHO HAPP-ENED TO BE RIGHT FOR ONCE, OR CLOSE ENOUGH TO IT.

ALL THAT VITAL INFO OUT THERE IN THE WORLD AND YOU HAD NO IDEA WHO HAD IT. YOU PROBABLY ASSUMED IT ***WAS*** A RANDOM MUGGING. NO REAL REASON TO THINK OTHERWISE.

I'M GUESSING YOUR EMPLOYERS AREN'T THE TYPE TO ACCEPT A FUCK UP THIS POTENTIALLY DAMAGING. NO, YOU HAD TO FIX THIS ONE BY YOURSELF WITHOUT THEM OR ANYONE ELSE KNOWING.

YOU WERE SO PARANOID YOU OFFED YOUR POOR ASSISTANT TOO. AND YOU HIRE ME HOPING I'D BE SO BLINDED BY THE MONEY I'D TRIP ALL OVER MYSELF TO GET THE OH-SO-POIGNANT DEAD BABY PICS BACK TO YOU FOR A TEARFUL HAPPY ENDING.

NOT BAD AT ALL.

I SHOULD HAVE GONE WITH SOMEONE A LITTLE DUMBER.

OF COURSE WE COULD STILL HAVE THAT HAPPY ENDING. MY EMPLOYERS ARE STILL IN THE DARK.

YOU COULD GIVE ME THE DRIVE RIGHT NOW AND I COULD MAKE YOU MODERATELY RICH.

I HAVE A QUESTION FOR YOU.

WHO IS MR PUNCH?

YOU SAW HIM?! YOU SPOKE TO HIM?!

I'M THE ONE ASKING THE FUCKING QUESTIONS HERE.

WHO IS HE?

I-I'M NOT SURE REALLY. MOSTLY I HEAR RUMOURS.

MEMBERS OF THE CLUB, THE ONES AT THE TOP. THEY REVERE HIM.

THEY ACT LIKE HE'S CLOSE TO THEM; LIKE HE'S PRACTICALLY AN HONORARY MEMBER.

THEY'RE JUST DELUDING THEMSELVES, THE ARROGANT PRICKS.

HE'S LIKE A CAT; COMES AND GOES AS HE PLEASES.

BEEN THAT WAY FOR CENTURIES.

SEEMS HE'S RETURNED THOUGH LIKE WE'D HOPED.

SO THAT'S IT THEN?

DO YOU GUYS DANCE AROUND CAMPFIRES AND PERFORM MAJICK RITUALS TOO?

FOR SOMEONE AS *UNIQUE* AS YOURSELF YOU DO HAVE A RATHER PEDANTIC VIEW OF REALITY.

...

DID YOU REALLY THINK I'D HIRE YOU WITHOUT CHECKING YOU OUT?

I'M NOT THE ONLY ONE WHO USES A FALSE NAME.

AND I'D HAVE TO SAY, I'M RATHER CURIOUS ABOUT YOUR LITTLE SECRET...

TEMPTING AS THAT OFFER MAY BE I LIKE TO CONSIDER MYSELF SOMEWHAT OF A PROFESSIONAL.

THE CLUB IS HOLDING AN EVENT TOMORROW NIGHT. ITS SOMETHING BIG AND YOU'RE GOING TO GET ME IN.

YOU CAN'T BE THAT STUPID. HAVE YOU ANY IDEA WHAT KIND OF PEOPLE THESE ARE?

YOU'LL GET US BOTH KILLED.

THAT MAY BE SO, BUT YOU'RE FUCKED EITHER WAY.

WHETHER THEY FIND OUT YOU ALLOWED VITAL INFO TO BE LEAKED.

OR YOU TAKE YOUR CHANCES WITH ME.

WHAT'LL IT BE?

WHY? WHY ARE YOU LOOKING TO GO INTO THE LION'S DEN?

WHY RISK EVERYTHING?

CURIOSITY'S THE GODDESS I SERVE.

...AND A LITTLE GIRL.

WHAT? WHAT LITTLE GIRL?

NOTHING. JUST BE READY FOR TOMORROW NIGHT.

AND TRY NOT TO GET CREATIVE. I HAVE PEOPLE WITH EYES ON YOU.

JUST ONE THING.

WHAT IS IT?

BE SURE TO WEAR A MASK;

SOMETHING PLAYFUL AND FILLED WITH THE AROMA OF MYSTIQUE.

WHAT THE HELL WAS I THINKING?

DID I REALLY CARE ABOUT SOME UNLUCKY LITTLE BRAT MOST LIKELY DEAD IN THE GUTTER OR SACRIFICED TO SOME IMAGINARY DARK GOD?

OR PERHAPS I'M JUST ANOTHER MAGGOT IN THE WALL, EAGER TO UNCOVER THE MYSTERIES BEHIND EVERYTHING, DESPERATE NOT TO BE ANOTHER SCARED LITTLE SHEEP LOST IN THE DARK.

I HATE SHEEP.

MMM, NOT BAD MR WINTERS. IT SUITS YOU.

I GO BY 'FAIRCHILD' THESE DAYS. YOU'D BEST REMEMBER THAT.

ALTHOUGH JUST FOR TONIGHT I'LL BE THE BIG BAD WOLF.

SHE TOOK ME TO THE INDUSTRIAL PART OF TOWN. THE BRIDGEWAY DOCK, ABANDONED AFTER HOURS.

LAST CHANCE TO CHANGE YOUR MIND.

IT'S FAR TOO LATE TO TURN BACK NOW AND YOU KNOW IT.

WE STOPPED AT ONE OF HUNDREDS OF NAMELESS WAREHOUSES.

IT MADE SENSE. THESE KINDS OF THINGS ARE ITINERANT; HELD IN A DIFFERENT, ANONYMOUS LOCATION EACH TIME.

BE SURE TO KEEP YOUR THOUGHTS GUARDED. NO MATTER WHAT YOU SEE.

THEY'LL NOTICE IF YOU ACT AS IF YOU DON'T BELONG.

THE CHRISTMAS CLUB.

BEHOLD! I SIT ATOP THE PYRAMID OF NATURE.

SPEAK TO ME. SPEAK TO ME MY LOVE.

CHOMP

JOIN OUR HUMAN DAISY CHAIN LOVELY, HEE HEE

MMM, PASS THE TV REMOTE HUN. THIS IS A FUN CHANNEL BUT I'D LIKE TO WATCH SOME SPORTS.

I CAN'T SAY I WAS TOO SURPRISED.

THESE WERE SOME *REALLY* BORED RICH FOLK.

A BUNCH OF OVER-ACHIEVERS DROWNING IN ENNUI WANTING TO FEEL AT ONE WITH THE DARKNESS OF THE UNIVERSE OR WHATEVER;

ABOVE THE MORALS OF BASE MAN, FREE TO EXPLORE THE INFINITE APPETITES THAT LIE WITHIN US ALL.

HEDONISM TAKEN TO ITS LOGICAL CONCLUSION.

WHAT A SHOW.

I DIDN'T GIVE A SHIT ABOUT THE GIRL DEAD IN THE GUTTER.

NO, I CAME FOR THIS.

MY BEAUTIFUL, BEAUTIFUL CHILDREN OF THE DAWN.

FOR A MOMENT MIGHT YOU PAUSE IN YOUR BLESSED ACTIVITIES THAT I, YOUR BENEFACTOR MAY SAY A FEW WORDS.

IT'S SO WONDERFUL WATCHING YOU ALL PARTAKE FREELY WITHOUT HESITATION OR RESERVATION LIKE THE CAREFREE CHILDREN YOU TRULY ARE.

WE OF THE CHRISTMAS CLUB ARE THE ONLY TRUE WAY TO THE LIFE OF ENDLESS WONDERMENT THIS WORLD HAS TO OFFER.

YAAAY YA YA YAA YA

NO FALSE RELIGION HERE, NO FAKE MESSIAH OFFERING A PATH TO SALVATION PAVED WITH YOUR OWN GUILT AND SUFFERING.

BOO OOO

WE ARE THE CHILDREN OF THE NEW DAWN. WE HAVE CAST AWAY ALL DELUSIONS.
WE WILL ALL DIE.
AND THE LIFE THAT PRECEEDS IT WILL BE GLORIOUS AND INFINITE.

HOO HOO. OH I DO GET CARRIED AWAY DON'T I? BUT I KNOW WHAT'S TRULY ON YOUR MINDS.
WHERE IS OUR HONOURED GUEST WHOSE NAME LURED YOU ALL HERE.
WHAT OF MR PUNCH?

WHO OOO

TRULY HE IS THE MAN OF THE HOUR. RECLUSIVE YES, BUT WE THOUGHT WE MIGHT ENTICE HIM WITH THIS LITTLE GET-TOGETHER IN HIS HONOUR.

OO OOO

FOR GREAT MR PUNCH HAS INSPIRED ME SINCE BOYHOOD WITH HIS INCREDIBLE EXPLOITS AS I'M SURE HE HAS MANY OF YOU.

ALL WE NEED DO IS WAIT AND HE SHALL SURELY APPEAR.

UNTIL THEN CARRY ON MY CHILDREN.

HMM

!

WHAT ARE YOU--?!!

YES, THIS THE ONE.

YOU STICK OUT LIKE AN ERECT PENIS MY FRIEND.

SOFTEN IT UP THEN BRING THE LOVELY TO ME.

BE QUICK.

SO THEY KICK MY ASS A BIT.

OUCH.



IT'S NOT TERRIBLY INTERESTING SO LET'S MOVE ON.

G-GODDAMMIT
=KAFF=

DON'T WORRY KITTEN. THIS IS NOTHING COMPARED TO WHAT'S COMING.

GUSTAVE LISTEN TO ME. HE WAS BLACKMAILING ME. I HAD NO CHOICE.

I-I'VE BEEN LOYAL TO YOU FOR YEARS, YOU DON'T HAVE TO--

OH I KNOW DEAR I KNOW.

SET THE ANGEL OVER THERE RIGHT NEXT TO PUNCH'S GIFT.

SSSH SSSH YOU'VE BEEN AN EXEMPLARY EMPLOYEE. 5 STARS.

I'LL HAVE FUN WITH THAT ONE. WHAT A PERFECT SPECIMEN.

!

THE GIRL!

SHE'S IN BAD SHAPE. IS SHE EVEN ALIVE?

OI! MAKE SURE IT'S LOOKING. IT MUST SEE THIS.

I WANT TO SHOW MY FAVOURITE EMPLOYEE JUST HOW STRONG MY LOVE IS FOR HER.

NOW WATCH VERY CLOSELY. THIS WILL BE THE MOST INTENSE EXPERIENCE YOU CAN IMAGINE.

AND IT WILL JUST BE A PRELUDE.

HE MADE ME WATCH ALL RIGHT, THAT SICK BASTARD.

HER SCREAMS WERE THE WORST THING.

THEY CURDLED THE AIR RED.

WELL, I HAVE TALENT I THINK I DO.

YOU OKAY CAROL? CAROL? HEE HEE HEE

UNTIE THAT ONE.

UUUHHH...

WITH IT I CAN TRY THINGS I'VE ONLY DREAMT ABOUT.

I'M SO EXCITED I CAN BARELY KEEP THIS ONE IN CHECK.

AND THERE HE WAS.

ALL I COULD DO WAS WATCH AS HE TALKED.

FOR EACH OF THEM HE CHOSE SOMETHING DIFFERENT.

A COMMAND, A UNIQUE TASK TO PERFORM.

THEY ALL HAD ONE THING IN COMMON THOUGH...

THE RESULT.

I CAN'T REMEMBER HIS FACE NO MATTER HOW HARD I TRY.

BUT I'LL NEVER FORGET THE SOUND OF HIS VOICE.

You look terribly weary. Perhaps you should take a nap.

IT WAS THE SWEETEST THING I'D EVER HEARD.

AND THAT'S IT. YOU GUYS FOUND ME BECAUSE I MESSAGED AN ASSOCIATE WITH MY GPS COORDINATES BEFORE I WENT INTO THE WAREHOUSE.

FIGURED THINGS MIGHT GET OUT OF HAND SO I TOLD HIM TO CALL THE COPS IF I MISSED MY HOURLY CHECK-IN.

MMM

WHY DO YOU THINK MR PUNCH SPARED YOU?

MAYBE CUZ OF MY 'SPECIAL' CONDITION. I'M SURE YOU GUYS KNOW ABOUT IT.

MAYBE BECAUSE I WASN'T ONE OF THEM. I DIDN'T KNOW HE GOT THEM ALL TILL YOU TOLD ME.

EVERY SINGLE SOUL IN THAT PLACE, HUNDREDS OF THEM, EVEN THE ANIMALS: DEAD.

ONLY SURVIVORS; YOU AND THAT LITTLE GIRL. IT'LL BE WEEKS BEFORE WE CAN EVEN ***HOPE*** FOR AN OFFICIAL BODYCOUNT BECAUSE OF THE MESS.

ALL SELF-INFLICTED I'LL BET.

...

YOU GUYS ARE AFTER HIM AREN'T YOU?

YOU TWO ARE NUTS.

THAT'S SOMETHING I ***NEVER*** WANT EXPERIENCE AGAIN.

GET THOSE CUFFS OFF HIM.

MY CLIENT WILL BE LEAVING NOW SINCE YOU OBVIOUSLY DON'T HAVE ANYTHING ON HIM.

YOU DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING TO THESE GUYS DID YOU?

NOT A WORD.

THE LITTLE GIRL. SHE GONNA BE OK?

TOO EARLY TO TELL. THEY'VE GOT HER IN THE I.C.U RIGHT NOW. SHE'S REALLY BEEN THROUGH THE RINGER.

WE'RE GONNA FOLLOW UP ON THE ADDRESS YOU GAVE. GOT A NAME FOR US?

NOPE. I GUESS I WAS TOO BUSY CHASING THE CAT'S TAIL TO FIND OUT THE IMPORTANT STUFF.

ONE LAST THING. I WOULD STRONGLY CAUTION AGAINST CHASING A FAIRYTALE.

SHEEP AND PIGGIES TEND TO GET EATEN.

CHEEKY LITTLE BASTARD.

♪

I THINK SHE'LL BE OK.

TRUE, SHE MAY HAVE LOST A FEW THINGS. BUT DON'T WE ALL?

I SHOULD'VE ACTED SOONER THOUGH.

I CAN BE SUCH AN INDECISIVE TWAT SOMETIMES

ANYWAYS, THANKS FOR YOUR HELP.

AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED WE'RE SQUARE NOW.

Splendid.

MMM, I CAN JUST TELL YOU'VE HAD A REALLY HARD DAY.

LET ME SOOTHE YOUR TIRED BODY BABY.

OOH~♥ *THIS* ONE SEEMS TO BE ALOT MORE INTERESTED THAN YOU.

TCH.. AM I PAYING YOU TO STARE?



Moral:
Admiration & Understanding
are rarely co-incident.

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