

Through no fault of his own, Detective Inspector Badger is dogged by some very keen young people who are bent on helping him solve the case. They are his own son Vin, Vin's lady Simone and Simone's sister Courtney. Also in the mix are Jeremy (the stand-in pathologist), Max (the partner of another sister, Leah) and William (father of Simone, Courtney and Leah).

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At the end of an episode of Poirot or Miss Marple, the denouement is usually presented to a roomful of people. And it is presented by the star investigator (either Poirot or Marple).

In our case herein, the star is Badger.

Now -- so convoluted is the case, and so heavy is the pressure from Thames Police Strategic Command, and so very clever is the villain and so misleading are the clues that Badger is stumped.

He actually chucks in the towel on his investigation to flee to the country. Badger and his lover are discovered in bed by Badger's loyal acolytes. It is **they** (the acolytes) who solved the case and it is **they** who brought about a result. And the acolytes (named "puppies" by Marius) deliver the denouement to Badger (as he lies in bed with his lady-love).

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Well – if nothing else – it's different!

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Bookends.

Louise Pendlebury marries Archie Munro during ACT I. Her twin sister Beth marries Jeremy Hurstbridge in the very last scene of ACT VI (at the end of the film).

CAST**Main Characters:**

William Pendlebury	Aged 62 in 2016. William has appeared in every one of the 6 M'Coure scripts. He now holds the position of Air Chief Marshall of the RAF.
Lisa Pendlebury	Lisa is in her late '50s in 2016. She married William in "Chamber Musique for a Witty King" (which was the third in the M'Coure series).
Anthony Roth (Lord Highgrove)	Anthony is aged 27 in 2016. He is the CEO of Sonix Jubatu.
The Dowager Lady Highgrove	Lisa's mother. She is also grandmother to Anthony and the five Pendlebury daughters.
Paul Sligo	In his late 30's, Paul is Lady Highgrove's chauffeur.
Leah	Daughter of Lisa and William Pendlebury. Leah is aged 28 in 2016.
Louise	Daughter of Lisa and William Pendlebury. Twin sister of Beth (whose nickname for Louise is "Lill"). Louise is 26 in 2016 and is married to Archie Munro in the early scenes of this script. Louise finishes the models of lifelike creatures used in

	TV shows. Her company is a subsidiary of Curtis Projects.
Beth (Bethany)	Daughter of Lisa and William Pendlebury. Twin sister of Louise (whose nickname for Beth is "Baney"). Beth is 26 in 2016. Her contract work at Penneycard, Munro and Foxe (in Marquis) puts her in frequent contact with victim Braydon Flint-Carew (at Sonix Jubatu).
Simone	Daughter of Lisa and William Pendlebury. Simone is aged 21 in 2016. We are not told what Simone works at. It may be that she is a graduate on sabbatical. Simone has a boyfriend online. She keeps his identity a secret until she has been on her first real date with him. He is Vin Badger.
Courtney	Daughter of Lisa and William Pendlebury. Courtney is 18 in 2016. She is a freshman at college (although this is never made clear).
Benita	Daughter of Sarah and George Pendlebury. Aged 32 in 2016, Benita is the flautist at the wedding (last scene). Benita played the flute in "Birth of Paris" (M'Coure #4) when the girls were much younger. She was the baby asleep in George's car in "Chamber Musique For A Witty King" (M'Coure #3).
Max Jenner	Max is an architect and Leah's partner.
Archie Munro	Archie is a dentist and Louise's husband (they have only just married).
Jeremy Hurstbridge	The actor who plays Jeremy must be a solid young man (described by Max as a cruiserweight). Constantly we are told that Jeremy is a big lad.

	Jeremy is the stand-in pathologist for Selim Kamar at Littlemeeth. He falls hopelessly in love with Beth from the first time he sees her. They will marry in the last scene of the script.
Corporal Vincent (Vin) Badger	Vin is aged 26 in 2016. He is a corporal in a British tank regiment, stationed in Northern Africa. Having discovered Simone on a dating site, Vin organizes furlough such that he can meet her in person to cement the relationship. They are very much in love.
Marius Engers	Marius Engers works from the Home Office. He is very concerned that the murders point to Anthony Roth being in danger. It is Marius' job to oversee the Summit Conference which involves a heavy input from Anthony's company Sonix Jubatu. Marius would be in his mid-50s in 2016.
Detective Inspector Douglas Badger	Badger is the central player in this script. In his late 50s, Badger tries to make sense of all the conflicting leads. And this from the confines of his garage.
Dr Jane Rogers mid-30s (around 20 years younger than Doug)	Dr Rogers has never married. Quite by accident, Jane met her perfect man during an earlier murder investigation. This was Badger. Jane has been moved "out of the way" by Marius for her own protection. When Badger comes to north Wales to interview Jane, she throws herself at him. Badger and "passion" don't seem to go together. Jane makes it so.
Selim Kamar	The usual pathologist at the Littlemeeth morgue. He is Egyptian and is prone to giggle.
Anne Grace and Peter Sunnegard	The assistants of Selim Kamar at the Littlemeeth

	morgue.
Selim's wife and children	Seen in the background during Selim's phone calls to Badger.

The Drug Chemists

Stephen Mills	Pharmacist and brother of Badger's late wife Bessie. He runs an illegal drug kitchen. Mills flatly refuses to be involved in murder as it goes against his sacred oath.
<p>AN OATH/PROMISE FOR PHARMACISTS</p> <p>As a pharmacist, I vow to serve humanity and to support my profession's ideals and commitments. I shall be guided in all dimensions of my life by the highest standards of human conduct. I shall apply the full measure of my knowledge and abilities to supporting the health and well-being of all those I serve.</p>	
Linton Bilt	A tough guy with no compunction about committing murder for money.
Nathan Sligo	Once a Captain in the British Army. He is the older brother of Paul Sligo (but they have not been in touch for years).

From the "nest of vipers"

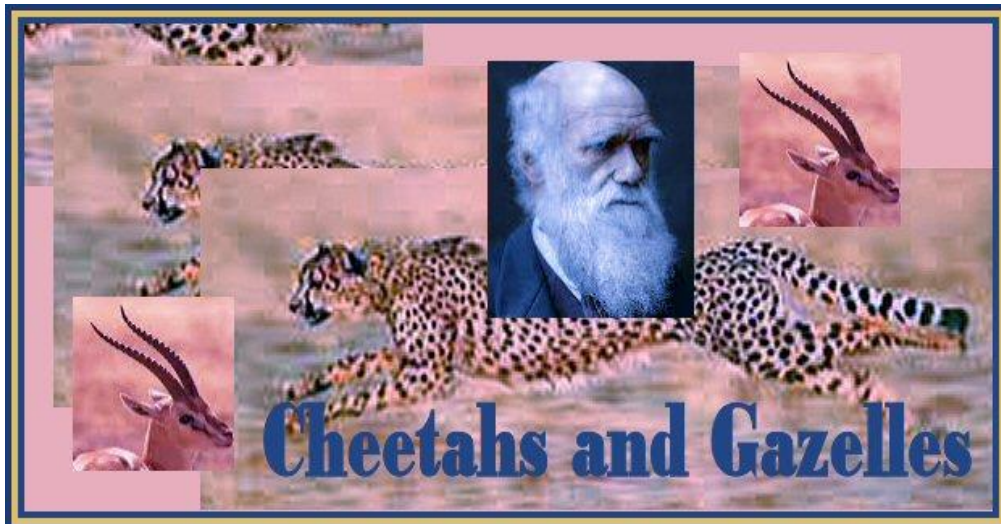
Howard Gore	<p>A consummate actor. He is masculine and strong.</p> <p>Inventive, clever, street-smart and yet suffering from a hideous psychotic condition. A Creationist to the point of lunacy. Some of the time ...</p>
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Everyone Else:

M. Pinch	The Human Resources officer at Sonix Jubatu.
Mrs Delia Nias	She was seconded into Braydon's position at Sonix Jubatu. She is also a member of the so-called "nest of vipers".
Vicar	The vicar of St Remi's where Lady Highgrove prays.
Winona Leicester	One of Daniel's co-workers at Curtis Projects.
Perry Hancock	One of Daniel's co-workers at Curtis Projects.
Unnamed henchman of Anthony	
Barry Edgware	As seen on the TV presenting a wildlife show.
Waiter	From the restaurant where Braydon Flint-Carew and Howard Gore dined together.
Policewoman	Aids Badger. Drives him about when required.
Judith Avery	Visits the Littlemeeth morgue in order to identify her brother Daniel Angestan.
Jenny Dodemaid	Works with Beth at Penneycard, Munro and Foxe.
Bereaved relatives	Elderly Indian gentleman, elderly lady and soignée lady.
The 3 stiffs from TPSC	Men done up as Easter Island statues.

Although mentioned throughout, there are some characters whom we do not meet:

Daniel Angestan, Jim Hale, Braydon Flint-Carew, Clive Germaine, Maggie Stearforth, Elizabeth Prendergast, Michael Stenning, Roger Auchenflower, and Mr Robert Nias.



SYNOPSIS

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### INTRODUCTION:

Wildlife expert Barry Edgware presents a superb, stunning vista of the African plains in his TV show (Edgware Wildlife).

We watch a cheetah position herself, ready for the attack. Then follows a chase: cheetah and gazelle. The cheetah wins.

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ACT I

As the Edgware program continues into ACT I, hyenas and jackals are introduced into the byplay. Meanwhile, Stephen Mills, Nathan Sligo and Linton Bilt are seen to work in a kitchen on their illicit drug project. Linton and Nathan discuss two murders which they will undertake. They have been hired by a punter named Leslie Smart.

Stephen will take no part in the murders as he has taken the Pharmacist Oath. (Which is ridiculous since he is involved in the drug trade).

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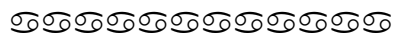
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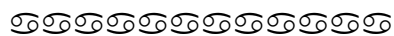
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Curtis Projects is a thriving industry which produces animatronics for TV shows such as Edgware Wildlife. Winona questions Daniel's absence with his fellow staff members. Daniel was receiving strange deliveries from Jim Hale (of Sonix Jubatu). It is made clear that Daniel once had a drug problem (now under complete control).

Louise Pendlebury works at a subsidiary company as a talented artist who finishes the animal models.

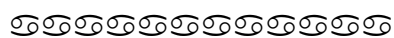


We first met Selim Kamar in "Death of Nightjar" where he was the resident Pathologist at Littlemeeth. Jeremy is the stand-in pathologist during Selim's absence (holiday in the south of France). Jeremy is rude to Judith Avery as she identifies her brother Daniel Angestan's body. Anne and Peter (co-workers at the morgue) chasten Jeremy over his brusque treatment of a grieving relative. It is evident that Jeremy is in a foul mood.

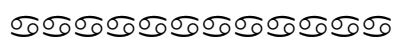


Beth Pendlebury is a paralegal who works for Penneycard, Munro and Foxe (High Street, Marquis). She is currently co-opted to her cousin's company (Sonix Jubatu) in a project headed by Braydon Flint-Carew.

Jeremy has fallen in love with Beth. Not knowing that she has a twin sister, he becomes confused about Louise's wedding (thinking that he is losing Beth to another man). All is explained by Jenny Dodemaid. Feeling a complete fool, Jeremy turns to go, then realizes that he can benefit from this turn of events. He pretends that he wants some papers to be witnessed by a Justice of the Peace. Beth's mother Lisa is a JP – thus Jeremy abstracts from Jenny a business card for Lisa. And that gives him Beth's address!



Linton Bilt and Nathan Sligo plan to murder Braydon Flint-Carew as instructed by secretive punter Leslie Smart. The plan is convoluted (centred on bashing the victim over the head with a cricket bat). Like Jeremy, the killers do not know that Louise has a twin (or that Beth is not Louise). They plan to plant Louise's fingerprints over the cricket bat. Once again, Mills is not involved. The killers were also commissioned by Smart to take out the one-time drug user Daniel. But they mess that up too.



On Sunday morning RAF Air Chief Marshall William Pendlebury and his wife Lisa are recovering from the wedding of their daughter Louise to Archie.

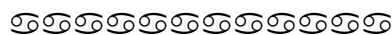
The four remaining daughters are Leah, Beth, Simone and Courtney. Beth has conked out in the sunroom/conservatory and lies on a couch therein. William sits nearby. Lisa tries to keep order as Max (Leah's partner) and the other girls busily prepare breakfast. They are all noisily discussing the wedding as they scamper about.

Into this bright, sunny and funny domestic scene comes Jeremy (holding fake papers for Lisa to sign). During a delightful conversation, Jeremy has a cup of tea and breakfast forced upon him. He sits in a chair in the sunroom/conservatory such that he may feast on his breakfast at the same time as looking lovingly at Beth.

The phrase "cheetahs and gazelles" is first introduced by William in reference to a Creationist rant which had been delivered by a wedding guest. Both Beth and Simone had been verbally attacked by the strange male guest.

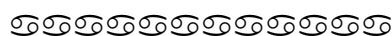
From this, Jeremy reveals to the startled family members that he has fallen heavily in love with Beth and that he was using a ruse to gain entrance to their home.

The upshot is that Jeremy kisses Beth as he leaves. We learn from a disappointed Simone that her love affair (conducted over the internet with a British Army tank corporal) has none of that physicality.

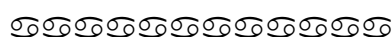


## **ACT II**

This is a cute and funny composite scene showing Jeremy as the comforting and caring pathologist (now that he is aware that Beth is not a new bride).

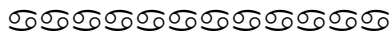


Then follows the discovery of a body in the woods (nibbled by animals). The early prognosis is that it has lain in the woods for 4 to 6 days. The implement wielded would appear to be something like a cricket bat.

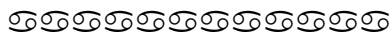


At the morgue, Howard Gore identifies the nibbled body as that of Braydon Flint-Carew. Gore blames Evolutionist people for the murder. Gore and Braydon Flint-Carew dined together about a week earlier. Then Braydon Flint-Carew went missing, forcing Gore to accompany Maggie Stearforth to Louise and Archie’s wedding as her stand-in partner.

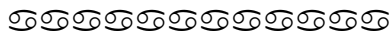
Jeremy rudely bursts out with: “You’re the cheetahs and gazelles man!” Gore is very put out that he is accused of being a hell-raiser. However, he tries immensely hard to convince Badger that the Darwinists have murdered his friend Braydon.



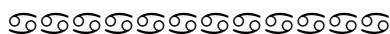
Badger speaks to Anthony Roth at Sonix Jubatu with regard to the Braydon Flint-Carew murder. We (the audience) are not privy to these discussions.



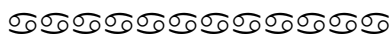
Now Badger drops in on the Pendlebury’s where he meets Simone and Gran (Lady Highgrove). Thereby Badger receives the list: the “nest of vipers”. Badger indicates that he wants to interview Beth. Although Simone is sceptical (she would rather that Badger arrests Jeremy!) it is explained that the murder victim had been for some time in close contact with Beth (due to her contract with Anthony).



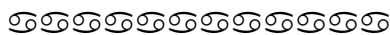
Badger (driving) thinks it through – he cannot book Gore for the crime.



The stolen cricket bat reappears, covered in Louise’s prints. Also, there are faked documents incriminating Beth.



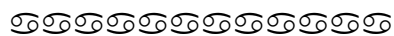
Beth is distraught. She calls Jeremy for comfort. Badger hears about Anthony Roth from William.



**ACT III**

At Curtis, work on the models continues. Over it are voice-overs: interviews with the waiter and the Vicar. Also, a quick discussion with Badger's policewoman.

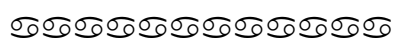
The most important thing that we learn from these interviews comes from the Vicar. He was as disconcerted by the behaviour of the "nest of vipers" as was Lady Highgrove. They had all claimed to be committed Creationists. And yet "cheetahs and gazelles" arguments proliferated. One of the nest even quoted from "The Origin of the Species".



Selim Kamar (on holiday in the south of France) phones Badger to mention a spelling mistake in some of his work. Badger reassures him. On saying goodbye, Selim giggles about his replacement. Selim mentions gorillas and orangutans. As well, Selim cheekily notes how attractive the stand-in is. Badger hangs up, perplexed. With assistance from Simone and Courtney (who are taking Badger out to lunch) Badger is able to phone Selim at his hotel. They discuss Jeremy: Selim thought that Jane Rogers was to be the locum.

Badger gets Jeremy out of the way. He can then interrogate Anne and Peter regarding Jeremy's arrival as Selim's replacement. It is revealed that Jane was "moved on" by Marius Engers (of the Home Office). It was all done officially and looked shipshape.

Badger chastises Simone for her persistence in accusing Jeremy of being the murderer. Simone is contrite. She wants to discuss her upcoming date with her web buddy (whom she only knows online). But Badger is distracted and displays no interest in the forthcoming date.



Stephen Mills, Linton Bilt and Nathan Sligo dine in style.

Sligo is appalled that they have completely stuffed-up the "perfect murder" due to their ignorance of Louise being Beth's twin. They all thought that merely one girl was being framed for Braydon's murder. Now it has all come unzipped. They plan the Jim Hale slaughter (poisoned blow darts), unaware that they have been beaten to the punch.



The guys invade Badger's garage.

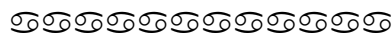
Here Badger learns that the Daniel Angestan drug death is most probably a murder. He also learns of the copious correspondence passing between Daniel and Jim Hale (a Sonix Jubatu employee and committed Darwinist). Then Jeremy arrives to reveal that Hale is dead. Hale (a pedestrian) has been mowed down in a motor accident. This will probably prove to have been deliberate.

So now there is one Creationist murdered along with two Darwinists.

William reveals that Simone is enraptured by her online boyfriend (the British Army tank corporal from North Africa) whom she has met in person. Badger idly mentions that his son is likewise a tank-boy: he wonders if his son knows Simone's lover.

Jeremy argues that surely someone at Sonix Jubatu realised that Braydon was missing and therefore would raise a hue and cry.

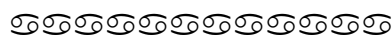
The scene ends with Badger's son Vin turning up.



Badger visits Marius Engers.

Marius is heavily involved with the organization of the police presence at the up-coming Summit Conference (headed by Sonix Jubatu). He insists that Badger continue with his efforts, in spite of Badger's having been warned off by TPSC.

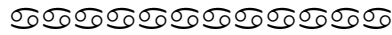
Marius tries to explain his concerns for Jane Rogers (why she has been shunted off to Wales instead of taking up her secondment in Littlemeeth). And Marius wants Badger to see if Clive Germaine can provide any leads.



## **ACT IV**

Perry Hancock rocks up to the police station to talk with Badger. This occurs just as Badger returns from visiting Marius. Perry wants police protection (as he was a workmate of Angestan). The packages sent to Perry from Jim Hale seemed okay – but there was written material which might have been suspicious.

Badger mulls over the nest of vipers list, wondering why Clive Germaine is on it.



At Sonix Jubatu, Badger runs through the “nest of vipers” list with M. Pinch. Then he questions Mrs Delia Nias.

Again, we question Germaine’s affiliation with the Creationists at the church.

Using records on her laptop, M. Pinch puts Badger on the right track regarding those people on Lady Highgrove’s list.

Clive Germaine receives a good review. He is a zoologist who goes out of his way to be popular.

Elizabeth Prendergast is a motherly tea lady.

Roger Auchenflower is a middle-aged carer for his aged father. Roger appears to be too shy to take on murder.

Michael Stenning is into research. It seems unlikely that he would be involved in the killings.

Howard Gore and Margaret Stearforth were not employed at Sonix Jubatu. Neither was Mr Robert Nias.

Baydon Flint-Carew was on leave at the time of his murder (hence, no hue and cry was made at Sonix Jubatu regarding his absence). The person seconded to Braydon’s position was Mrs Delia Nias.

When Badger interviews Delia Nias he gets the impression that she mistrusts the relationship between Clive and Howard.

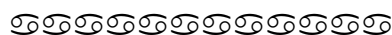
### **Spoiler!**

Explanation: Clive Germaine needs to be set up by the guilty party.

Gore is obviously working zealously to bring that about.

We will have to wait until further on in the script to understand why such a man as Germaine should be involved with the “fruitloops” in the “nest of vipers”.

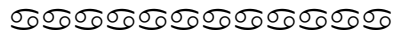
As we know Badger has already wondered about that.



Badger watches Edgware with Vin and Simone.

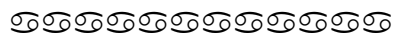
Something about the slow-motion action of the cheetah sets Badger in motion. He seeks Lady Highgrove.

When Badger runs her to ground, Lady Highgrove explains to Badger the cheetah link with Sonix Jubatu. The scientific name for the cheetah is a very close approximation to “Sonix Jubatu”. Lady Highgrove seems to feel that this is very relevant.



Beth and Simone with the stone effigies (TPSC).

Beth and Simone pour scorn on the investigative methods of TPSC, who appear to be following nonsensical (and even faked!) leads. They are drawing all the wrong conclusions.

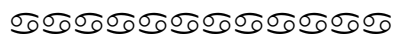


Badger travels to north Wales to interview Jane Rogers. We learn that Jane and Badger have enjoyed a one-night-stand together in the past.

Dr Jane Rogers is in her mid- to late-30s. She has fallen in love with Badger: a widower nearly 20 years her senior. Her removal from the post of locum at Littlemeeth has really upset Jane. She sees Badger on the beach in north Wales and acts as if he is her sole hope in life. Badger (whom we have seen as serious and dedicated up to now) reveals that he is caring, ardent and loyal. It is clear that this love-affair will develop along the way. Marius Engers has moved Jane away from Littlemeeth to protect her. Badger warns Jane to stay put in north Wales where she will be safe.

What do we discover?

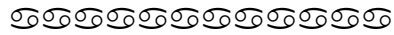
- That there is no truth in the rumour that Clive and Jane were an item.
- That Jeremy Hurstbridge is a trustworthy and highly talented Pathologist.
- That Jane and a few fellow pathologists have set up a druggie database allowing identification of the creator of each batch of drugs.



Simone and Badger revisit Badger’s yellow post-it notes in his garage. Vin has proposed to Simone.

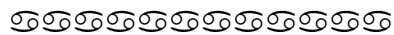
Badger and Simone discuss a barebones coverage of the 3 murders.

Sadly, it is clear that Badger really does not have a clue about the murderer (or possible murderers).



## ACT V

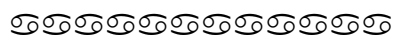
Nathan Sligo's body has been discovered in the River Thames. It is being examined in a busy London morgue. The pathologists are struck by the fact that Nathan Sligo has been killed by a poisoned dart. They are also intrigued by Sligo's distinctive tattoo on his hip. So distinctive is this tattoo (a black Gothic scorpion) that it might be used to identify this body.



The next scene is located in Stephen Mills' kitchen where Stephen ran his drug laboratory. Linton (we recognize him) is propped up in a chair therein with a knife sticking out of his chest.

We now become aware that some drifters and squatters (who had already broken into a car and stolen a man's mobile phone) have broken into Stephen's house. They have found the body, rung the police and then bolted in terror (leaving the phone).

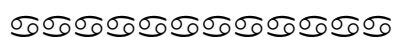
Badger and Jeremy discuss the likelihood that a strong man has knifed the so far unidentified victim. Since the victim was evidently involved in the drug trade, Badger wonders if the druggie database that Jane Rogers has set up might be helpful. Badger hopes that there might be a link such that he can hand the case over to the TPSC. Of course, Jeremy reminds Badger of correct scientific method -- that he must let the evidence speak in its own voice.



Stephen breaks into Badger's house at round midnight. He is calling out for his sister, who was the late wife of Badger (and Vin's late mother). Vin roughs Stephen up (not knowing that Stephen is his uncle).

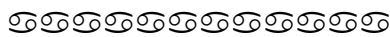
Stephen is in a jabbering mess. He has nowhere to go now that his house is cordoned off by the police. Badger offers accommodation to his brother-in-law.

On the following morning Stephen is more confident. He identifies Linton Bilt and Nathan Sligo from post-mortem photographs shown to him by Badger. Badger discusses Vin's scorpion tattoo and the link to some sort of secret society.

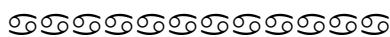


Lady Highgrove is driven over to the Pendlebury home such that she can assure herself that Beth is fine. During their afternoon tea, William and Lady Highgrove see Vin and Simone running about, playing with a garden hose. Paul Sligo (the chauffeur) smiles as he watches the young lovers enjoying some horseplay. However, when Vin removes his saturated shirt, Paul spots the distinctive scorpion tattoo on Vin’s hip. Both Vin and Paul face-off. Paul strips off to show Vin that he also bears the same tattoo on his hip. Both men go into a man-hug and share a special handshake.

Jeremy shows his phone-photos to Paul, who confirms that the corpse was Nathan Sligo (his brother) who had attained the rank of captain in the British Army.

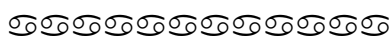


It’s kind of funny but Badger would not permit Stephen to observe the post-it notes and mugshots in the garage. The sensitive evidence therein could not be entrusted to such a transgressor as Stephen. Yet (had Badger allowed Stephen to see the photos) the case might have been solved earlier (since Stephen knew Howard Gore by a different name).



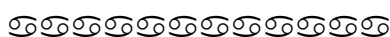
Vin, Jeremy, William, Beth, Paul and Simone troop down into Badger’s garage (in his absence). They concentrate on Leslie Smart. Given that Linton Bilt and Nathan Sligo made such a mess of their efforts to frame the twins for Braydon’s death, it is probable that Smart undertook the Jim Hale killing himself. Another possible lead presents itself: would not Smart have deposited large sums into the bank accounts of Linton and Nathan?

Simone thinks of something else: what about the copious notes between Jim Hale and Daniel? To that end, Simone calls Winona (at Curtis Projects). Unfortunately, the notes have already been removed by someone calling themselves “Clive Germaine”.



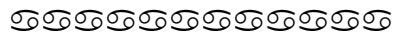
**ACT VI**

Vin tells Badger that Clive has been arrested. Badger then chucks it in such that he can return to Jane in north Wales.



Outside Badger's residence, Jeremy thinks he sees Beth in the kitchen. He has provided himself with a speech, a bunch of flowers and an engagement ring.

Jeremy proposes to Louise. There is a great deal of amusement from this mix-up. Jeremy repeats the proposal to Beth who duly accepts him.

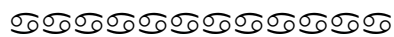


Badger is absent – they know not where.

However, the Pendlebury girls had already voted to put on a morning tea for Badger. They press on regardless of Badger's absence.

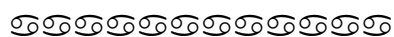
Archie is keen to see how a plodding policeman gets on. He visits the garage with Courtney. Quite by surprise, Archie sees a photo of Howard Gore. Archie knows him by another name – but is positive that this same man (a one-time patient of Archie's) was very capable of murder. The man was suffering some kind of psychotic episode.

Stephen (who had been banned from the garage) also recognizes Gore's photograph when shown to him. This is Leslie Smart.



The Summit Conference begins. On his way to the lectern, Anthony (along with his henchman) is discovered by Vin and Simone in a stairwell. Marius has put Vin and Simone on duty as guards for Anthony. However, Simone's appalling outfit (she is dressed as a combination cricketer/pilot) is rebuffed by Anthony.

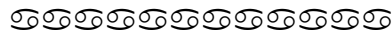
William, Paul and Vin must subdue Howard Gore. He is just about to shoot a sawn-off rifle (hidden in an oboe case) at Anthony. The three men are able to overpower Gore until Gore has a major seizure (garnering superhuman strength thereby). As Gore escapes, he picks (of all escape routes) the one manned by Simone. Without a second's pause, she smacks Gore over the chops with a cricket bat. He drops like a stone.



We discover Badger and Jane in Thistlegrove in the Stovepipe Inn.

The full story is explained while Badger and his fiancée Jane relax in bed. Badger becomes more and more annoyed with himself for having left the investigations prior to the various “case-crackers” coming to light.

How did the Pendlebury party find Badger and Jane? Answer: Badger was paying for the naughty week with his plastic card. He was easy to trace.



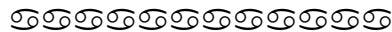
### **Spoilers! This is the long-promised denouement.**

The details must be quickly rehashed for Badger’s benefit.

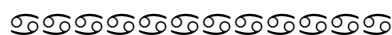
The conflict in Gore’s brain was driving him mad. He could not balance his fierce adherence to what the Bible taught (Genesis) with the overwhelming proof that Evolution was the guiding light.

Marius Engers provided a battle plan for Vin and Simone. They escorted Anthony to the podium, then joined William and Paul Sligo in the audience where Gore was spotted.

Gore had a massive seizure, managing to break free from the grasp of three strong men. Gore’s efforts to escape were foiled when he chose to run right into Simone. She showed no hesitation. Simone whacked Gore across the face with her sister’s cricket bat.



Badger is told that Howard Gore was the killer after all. Both Archie Monro and then Stephen Mills provided the breakthrough (by their identification of the man known as Howard Gore).



So why had Clive Germaine (Evolutionist) joined the “nest of vipers” (rabid Creationists)?

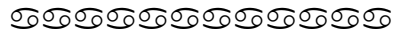
This explanation came out (apparently) when Clive was freed from capture.

Clive, Daniel and Jim Hale were professionally researching primate groups that exhibited exclusivity. The “nest of vipers” provided just such a test case. So Clive joined-up to spy on these loonies.

The TPSC arrested Clive Germaine due to his having supposedly contacted Winona at Curtis Projects asking for the important correspondence between Daniel and Jim Hale. But (due to the research project) Clive was already privy to the copious notes via Jim Hale.

It wasn’t *Clive* who asked for the notes. It was Howard Gore masquerading as Clive.

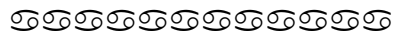
Clive had gone into hiding simply because he believed that he might well be the next person murdered.



Badger “enjoys” a bout of self-loathing.

TPSC have had to deliver a public apology to Clive Germaine. An investigation of the TPSC activities has been promised by Marius.

Lady Highgrove’s “nest of vipers” seems to have settled down to concentrate on the Lord’s works.



During the following Autumn, Jeremy marries Beth. The reception is held in the Pendlebury back yard. On a large dancefloor, the sisters perform a lovely medieval dance. They are gradually joined by their menfolk.

**FINIS**