

The Manuscript

Thriller · Two-hander · 4 min · Female role · Adult · Advanced

(A publishing office, late. The editor has the annotated manuscript before her.)

L'ÉDITRICE

It's your best book. Precise, chilling. The murder in chapter nine, above all. You believe it a hundred per cent.

L'AUTEUR

Thank you. I researched heavily.

L'ÉDITRICE

That's what troubles me. The detail of the missing button on the victim's waistcoat. The ash in the sink. The watch stopped at 3:40.

L'AUTEUR

Invented details. That's my job.

L'ÉDITRICE

Except those are exactly the elements of the Rivel case. Unsolved. Never published. I know because the victim was my sister.

(A very long silence. The author sets down his cup, too gently.)

L'AUTEUR

...You should publish this book, madam. Just as it is.

L'ÉDITRICE

I'll publish something else first. A single chapter. And I know someone, at the police, who loves an exclusive.

What you can do with it

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