

HE WAS YOUNGER. WE ALL WERE ONCE, BUT WE ALL CHANGE...

EVEN JOHN CONSTANTINE?

EVEN JOHN CONSTANTINE. AND DON'T FORGET, YOU YOURSELF SAW SOMETHING IN HIM ALL THOSE YEARS AGO.

I WAS A KID. HE WAS ON THE RUN, I FELT SORRY FOR HIM. THE REST OF THE CONVOY WERE PROBABLY RELIEVED HE WASN'T A LITTER OF KITTENS OR ANOTHER BLIND, THREE-LEGGED DOG...

BUT YOU THINK CONSTANTINE CARRIES SOME OF THE BLAME FOR THE CONVOY BREAKING UP?

MAYBE HE COULD HAVE DONE MORE. BUT BY THE TIME EVERYONE WENT THEIR SEPARATE WAYS HE WAS ALREADY BACK IN THE "REAL WORLD."

AND IF HE'D STAYED, WOULD THINGS HAVE BEEN ANY DIFFERENT?

NO, NOTHING LASTS FOREVER...

...ESPECIALLY WHEN IT'S RUN BY A BUNCH OF STONED, UNWASHED IDEALISTS.

BUT TRUTH IS, IT WAS A GREAT PLACE TO GROW UP IN...

I WAS "DIFFERENT." THE THINGS I COULD DO, THE THINGS THAT I'D SEEN, THE WORLD I KNEW WAS OUT THERE, JUST BEYOND THE REACH OF EVERYONE ELSE...

YOU KNOW WHAT THEY WOULD HAVE DONE TO ME IF I'D GROWN UP IN THE REAL WORLD?

BUT IN THE CONVOY THEY ACCEPTED ME, AND BECAUSE OF THAT I ACCEPTED WHO I WAS. YOU OF ALL PEOPLE SHOULD UNDERSTAND THAT?



AND IS THAT WHY YOU CHOOSE TO LIVE OUT HERE, AND HIDE FROM THE REAL WORLD?

YES, I'LL NOT DENY THAT IT DID.

AND YOU? MAKING A DEAL WITH CONSTANTINE...? ABBY LEAVING YOU MUST HAVE REALLY HURT.

BUT THAT'S NOT WHY I'M HERE.



THERE WAS A TIME WHEN ABBY WAS THE ONE PERSON WHO ACCEPTED ME FOR WHAT I HAD BECOME. BUT THAT WAS A LONG, LONG TIME AGO...



...AND NOW SHE HERSELF IS AN AVATAR, ONE WITH GREAT POWER OF HER OWN...



AND YOU DON'T TRUST HER ANY MORE?



UNFORTUNATELY I CAN'T AFFORD TO. NOT ANYMORE.



WELL, FOR THE RECORD I'M NOT OUT HERE HIDING FROM THE REAL WORLD.

IF YOU WERE I WOULD UNDERSTAND, I'VE DONE THE SAME THING MANY TIMES.

THE WORLD CAN BE A CONFUSING AND MESSY PLACE, FULL OF NOTHING BUT PAINFUL CHOICES...

...BUT SOMEONE FROM OUR WORLD HAS TO LIVE IN IT, AND BE PREPARED TO CARRY THE BURDEN OF THOSE CHOICES...

AND LET ME GUESS--YOU THINK THAT "SOMEONE" IS CONSTANTINE?

I THINK THAT IS THE ROOT OF YOUR ANGER WITH HIM. THAT HE IS PREPARED TO DO WHAT YOU FEAR MOST.

AND AFTER ALL THESE YEARS YOU STILL THINK HE'S LOOKING OUT FOR ANYONE OTHER THAN JOHN CONSTANTINE?

YES, I BELIEVE YOU'RE CORRECT IN REFERRING TO HIM AS A "TOTAL WANKER," BUT ALSO I BELIEVE YOU UNDERESTIMATE HIS INTENTIONS AT YOUR OWN PERIL.

## THE POISON TRUTH part 2

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YOU THINK HE'LL BE BACK?

AND YOU DON'T?

EITHER WAY, IF I'M GOING TO HELP YOU FIND ABBY YOU KNOW WHERE YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO TAKE ME.

YES, I KNOW...

WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO TRAVEL TO THE ROT.

CUP OF MILKY TEA, THREE  
HEAPED SUGARS, FRESH  
PACK OF SMOKES, AND OF  
COURSE A COPY OF THE  
DAILY MUCKRAKER...

...EVERY  
ENGLISHMAN'S  
GOD-GIVEN  
FORTRESS OF  
BLOODY  
SOLITUDE...

JOHN,  
YOU IN  
THERE?

NO.

JOHN?

COURSE IT'S  
BLOODY ME, WHO  
ELSE WOULD  
IT BE?

JUST TELL RENEE,  
HALF AN HOUR I'LL BE OUT  
OF HER HAIR AND SHE CAN  
ZUMBA HER PEGS DOWN TO  
BLOODY STUMPS.

BOLLOCKS.

THAT'S  
JUST IT. RENEE'S  
GONE, SAYS SHE  
AIN'T COMING  
BACK UNTIL  
YOU'VE MOVED  
OUT.





I MEAN YOU WASN'T PLANNING ON STAYING HERE FOREVER WERE YOU?

YOU'RE "JOHN CONSTANTINE," THE MAN WITH A PLAN, AND NOW YER BACK YOU DO HAVE A PLAN. DON'T YOU?



NO, CHAS, YOU'RE RIGHT, I'VE TAKEN ADVANTAGE, I'VE IMPOSED, AND IF THERE'S ANY WAY I CAN MAKE IT UP TO YOU...



... 'CAUSE THAT'S WHAT MATES DO...

I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY. THAT'S A LOT OF BLOODY MONEY, JOHN.



"BORIS JOHNSON'S KNOB," RUNNING IN THE 3:30 AT NEWMARKET. PUT THIS ON, PICK UP THE WINNINGS AND THERE'S AN EASY TWO HUNDRED QUID IN IT FOR YOU.

YOU WANT ME TO PUT IT ON A HORSE?

YOU DIDN'T THINK I WAS GIVIN' IT TO YOU, DID YOU?

YOU KNOW THERE AIN'T A BOOKIES IN THE CITY THAT WILL TAKE MY MONEY.



COME ON--I'VE DONE YOU A FAVOR, GOT YOU FREE OF THE OLD BALL AND CHAIN FOR A BIT. BE JUST LIKE OLD TIMES.

YEAH, JUST LIKE OLD TIMES...

...ME BEING YOUR DOGSBODY.



PAID DOGSBODY. AND WHILE WE'RE ON THE SUBJECT, THERE'S SOMEWHERE I NEED TO BE.

SO WHEN DO I TELL HER YOU'RE MOVING OUT?