

The Pedestrian 4

Diana managed to get some sleep with the assistance of a barbiturate. She always kept a vial around in case of sleeping difficulty.

Upon arising, she decided to send a group email to all those who had attended the dinner party and also those who had been invited but who had declined the invitation.

Dear Friend,

I am sorry to be the bearer of terrible news.

Our mutual friend Raymond Townshend was fatally struck last night by a car. This happened at the north corner of Queen and Augusta. Details are scarce, at the moment. Perhaps Ray was crossing Augusta on a red light? Perhaps the driver was intoxicated? Presumably further details will emerge upon investigation.

I don't know any of Ray's family let alone r any significant other. As you know, Ray was an extremely private person.

If I hear of any planned memorial event I shall of course inform you. Of course, current circumstances will prevent any large gathering. Indeed, last night's dinner was pushing the limits.

Please inform anybody else who you think should know about this horrible turn of events, but also please be discreet.

Thank you.

Regretfully,

Diana.

She then prepared a list of friends who had come to dinner and then a list of those who had declined. The only people on the second list were Alex Madison, Lewis Taylor, and Raymond Townshend.

Ray.....Diana and Ray went back even before they had become teaching colleagues.

Diana remembered having a serious crush on Ray Townshend, even though he was gay.

She checked her phone to see if there were any images of Ray on the news updates. There weren't, at least not yet. Ray had been a gay man but to what degree had he been a member of that community? She recalled Ray having had a relationship with a writer named Martin Curtis but Martin had relocated to Los Angeles years ago. She didn't know whether Ray and Martin had been keeping in touch.

Something had to break soon, she felt.

The phone rang. Mercedes was inviting her over for brunch and chat. Diana declined the invitation. Not today, she told her friend. Not today.