

## The Pedestrian 8

Officer Joe Ralston felt pleased with himself. He had finally wrangled permission from top down to browse through Raymond Townshend's phone and email activities.

"Here we go", Ralston smiled at his colleague Anne Devon. She nodded as her colleague used some mysterious hacking technique to open Townshend's files.

"Not that much activity here, Anne.", Ralston remarked. "It looks like he had or has a sister named Petra. Or is that perhaps his mother?"

"More likely a sister", Anne commented. "Does Raymond respond to Petra's emails?"

Officer Ralston shook his head. It didn't look like Ray Townshend responded to his sister's or anybody else's emails or calls.

"Dawson Dental Centre was trying to set up an appointment for him.....There's a lot of PDF s from something called Academia edu..."

Anne Devon chuckled. "My brother gets them. He had to join up in order to access a paper relevant to one of his projects". Anne Devon's brother Paul was an art history professor."

"So why doesn't, or didn't, Ray Townshend just delete everything from Academia edu.? Did he intend to read them later?"

"Your guess is as good as mine, Joe".

"There's a few missed calls...probably from some insurance hacker. There's his bank providing him with information..

"That could also be fake, Joe. Banks prefer to not send info by email as you probably have known for years, Joe."

Joe Ralston took his colleague's point. He scrolled back from his current position in Townshend's emails and hit upon several unanswered messages from somebody named Lewis Taylor.

"Lewis Taylor here was trying repeatedly to contact the deceased. Well, I guess I'd better look at what Mr. Taylor want from Mr. Townshend.

"The name Lewis Taylor is ringing a bell. I've heard my brother talk about this man on several occasions."

Joe Ralston read seven emails from Lewis Taylor to Raymond Townshend. Then he showed them to Anne.

"What does your brother say about Lewis Taylor, Anne?"

"My brother thinks Lewis Taylor is more than a few sandwiches short of a picnic."

Joe's face reddened. "I think your brother might just be onto something."

Anne Devon nodded. She was going outside for a smoke and wondered if Joe Ralston would care to join her.