



A WICKED WAKE
BY
REBECCA CAPPER

Extract

A SMITH SCRIPT

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ACT 1

(Onto stage come Kourtney and Khloe Kardigan dressed in suitable funeral attire)

Kourtney: Well it looks as though the Solicitor has managed to keep a lid on the story for the for the time being. Our darling sister obviously had him very much under her spell

Khloe: I don't care if it does come out. I have been robbed of being a mother to my darling child for far too long already. You know I have always hated all these lies. It's about time the truth came out.

Kourtney: But Khloe remember what Kim has always said. Remember why we agreed to this farce all along, it might ruin our reputation and damage us financially. We had to put up with her controlling our finances for so long it's our time now – why ruin it now when the good times are upon us.

Khloe: Yes, it was rather fortuitous some kind soul doing her in before she got chance to see her Solicitor and change her will like she told us she would.

Kourtney: It was all I could do to not begin singing and dancing to “Ding dong the witch is dead”. If we ever find out which kind soul it was whom helped put an end to our dear sister remind me to thank them.

Khloe: Is it wrong to hope they get away with it?

Kourtney: Not at all. Not at all. Where were you again at the time of the murder dear sister?

Khloe: I could ask the same of you dear sister. How are the anger management classes going by the way? Completely going off topic of course.

(Knock on door and in comes the Butler “Kanye”)

Kourtney: Ah Kanye there you are. Can we get some tea and sandwiches sent up please? Let's face it no-one in their right mind will be coming to the Wake so tell Mrs West not to do too many. Only her adoring public are blissfully unaware of what a total piece of work she was and we are hardly going to let any old riff-raff in.

Khloe: We would be more than happy for you and Mrs West to join us for refreshments Kanye. After so many dedicated years of loyal service to our dear Sister it is only right that you should both be given the opportunity of grieving also.

(Pause and then all three burst into laughter)

Kanye: Oh Miss Khloe you are such a card. Shall I break open a couple of the recently departed Miss Kardigan's Bollinger bottles from the wine cellar?

Kourtney: Excellent idea thank you Kanye.

Kanye: My pleasure Miss.

Khloe: Oh Kanye before you go have you seen Miss Kylie? How is she?

Kanye: She is down stairs Miss with Amber. She's not the best housemaid in the world let's face it but she has got a good heart. She's painting Miss Kylie's nails and talking celebrity gossip and basically just taking her mind off everything.

Khloe: Oh good I am glad. She was so furious with our sister when she found out the truth I was worried sick what she would do. I have never seen anyone so angry.

Kourtney: To be honest she has been worryingly calm since we found the body. I am glad Amber is taking good care of her. Thank you Kanye.

(Kanye leaves stage)

Khloe: You don't think it could have been?

Kourtney: Shh don't even consider it. You don't know who could be listening. It doesn't matter who it is, the important thing is that we ensure the Police never have anything on the three of us.

(Knock on door and Amber comes onto Stage)

Amber: Excuse me Miss Kardigan, Miss Kardigan but we have the Police Officer at the door like, the one who was here on the day *(Pauses)* poor Miss Kardigan died. She says she has come to pay her respects like. Would you like me to show her in like?

Kourtney: Oh how tiresome. I thought Detective Inspector Taylor was leading the investigation now and that they were leaving us to our grief today now that the body has been released from the coroners and we could eventually bury her. Oh I suppose you'd better let her in Amber, it will look strange if we say no. Ask West to do a bit more of a spread as well please.

Amber: Yes, Miss of course. Excuse me Miss, I am sorry to bring this up Miss Kardigan, Miss Kardigan, and I know what a devastating time this is for you like but I need to know what you have said to the Police about the incident the other day like.

Kourtney: Don't worry Amber, Khloe and I have discussed it, and we won't be pressing charges. It's not us you were stealing from; our dear sister was pretty despicable so we appreciate you wouldn't feel much loyalty towards her but we have to be honest, and we will have to be honest with the police. They need to understand if anyone had any motives. We can't keep information from them, but you need not worry, your job is safe and we will not be pressing charges. Let's face it, anyone who made our sister that angry is a friend in our eyes.

Khloe: Oh seriously how brilliant was that. She did go a rat her excellent purple shade with anger. She looked like some sort of bulbous blackberry or something. Most hilarious.

(Both sisters laugh)

Amber: Thank you Miss Kardigan, Miss Kardigan I appreciate your kind words like. I will let the Police Constable know to come in like.

Khloe: Oh and Amber like, sorry looks like it's catching like. *(Laughs loudly)*

Amber: Pardon Miss?

Khloe: Never mind, we have invited Mr Kanye and Mrs West to come and join us for some light refreshments before the Solicitor joins us for the reading of the will. Please feel free to join us and can you let Kylie know to come up?

Amber: Yes, Miss, thank you Miss I will indeed like.

(Amber leaves the stage)

Khloe: Great just what we need more police bombarding us with questions.

Kourtney: Just stay calm.

(Knock on door and Mrs West comes onto Stage with a platter of sandwiches)

West: Apologies for interrupting Miss Kardigans' I have the sandwiches as requested and Mr Kanye is just on his way with some hot tea. I have advised him to keep the Bollinger on ice as I was worried it wouldn't look good to see you all knocking back the champagne on such a sad day. *(Laughs out loud)* It's such a shame the police have arrived I was hoping we were about to have a celebratory knee's up.

Khloe: Not so much as a thumbs up now I'm afraid West never mind a knees up.

Kourtney: Looks like it's time to polish up our acting skills and get some more crocodile tears ready for our approaching audience.

West: Surely with your famous celebrity lifestyles and performing arts background you would have no problem pulling off the grieving sister performances.

(All laugh as Kayne enters with tea tray, cups etc., followed by Police Officer Foxtrot Bravo, Kylie and Amber. They all cease laughing as soon as they see PC Bravo)

Khloe: It's not really our area of expertise I'm afraid West, the whole acting genre. We were very lucky that our dear much loved sister was kind enough to coach us and develop us from a young age. It was so kind of her to allow us to be part of her amazing pop career in our sisterly girl group. Ah, Police Constable Bravo how nice to see you again. We didn't see you there.

Bravo: Miss Kardigans my deepest condolences again on the terrible loss for your family, and your staff of course.

Kourtney: Thank you PC Bravo. I didn't realise you were on the case, we understood that Detective Constable Hollywood was leading the investigation.

Bravo: Yes, Ma'am he is indeed. The Police feel it is important to support families during these emotional times and as I was here when the body was found I felt it only right that I should attend this afternoon to pay my condolences. The amount of press outside is crazy – it appears the world has lost a truly talented and much loved woman.

(Kylie laughs out loud to which Kourtney and Khloe turn and give her a look to shut her up as the doorbell rings)

Kanye: Please excuse me.

(Kanye leaves to answer door)

Bravo: I imagine there will be a lot of people attending the wake this afternoon to pay their condolences. *(Said almost as a question than a statement)*

Kourtney: Actually PC Bravo we have asked for attendance to be limited to immediate family and staff as we are expecting our dear sister's solicitor to attend the wake for the reading of the will.

Bravo: How unusual, I didn't think the reading of the will still happened in this day and age. How novel.

Khloe: Not just a traditional reading of the will either PC Bravo. We are to be treated to our sister's swansong. You do look familiar to me PC Bravo I can't think for the life of me where I might have seen you before but you do look familiar. Do you get your nails done at the nail bar in Harrods?

Bravo: I think I would remember meeting such a celebrity as yourself before Miss Kardigan. That is something I would never forget. Now what's this you say about a swansong?

Khloe: Her final performance PC Bravo. We are to be treated to one final grand performance by the diva Miss Kim Kardigan herself. Wonder if she will expect a standing ovation? *(Sniggers then corrects herself)*

Bravo: I'm afraid I don't follow.

Kourtney: Our eldest Sister had her will filmed so we can all hear and see her actual last testament straight from the horse's mouth so to speak.

Khloe: It's only right really seeing as she was a right old nag. *(Both sisters laugh)*

Bravo: Oh now that is unique. Do you think there will be any surprises?

Kourtney: I wouldn't have thought so Constable, our sister was always very honest and upfront about her wishes.

(Knock on door and Kanye enters the room)

Kanye: I beg your pardon Miss Kardigans' but there is a..... *(Reads from card)* extremely world famous and globally renowned Private Detective at the door.

Bravo: I beg your pardon?

Kanye: That's exactly what it says on the card PC Bravo. A Monsieur Hercule (*looks at card again*) Pure-rot. Monsieur Hercule Pure-Rot.

Bravo: What on earth does he want? I am not sure the Inspector will appreciate....

Kanye: (*Interrupting Bravo*) Well ahead of you in that respect PC Bravo I called the Station as soon as Monsieur Pure-Rot arrived and spoke to Detective Inspector Hollywood who has confirmed that due to the high profile nature of the murder. (*Looks sheepish*) Sorry Ladies. Due to the high profile nature of the tragic circumstances surrounding Miss Kardigan's death Scotland Yard have insisted that the best of the best be put in charge of the investigation. Mr Pure-Rot is here under the specific request of the Yard. The Detective Inspector said he has sent you an email to confirm and he sent his thanks to you for attending today on behalf of Scotland Yard.

Khloe: Best of the best eh. I bet Kim would be in her bloody element hearing that.

Bravo: Well, I have of course, heard amazing things about Mr Hercule Pure-Rot and his infamous little beige cells.

(*Onto stage comes Hercule Pure-Rot*)

Pure-Rot: Mademoiselle of course you will have heard of ze famous private detective extradoinarirre Hercule Pure-rot, for ze whole world knows zat who has not. However, Mademoiselle zut alors one is je suis desolate that Hercule does not know to whom he does converse with most willing.

Bravo: Monsieur Pure-rot I am Police Constable Bravo. Juliet Yankee Foxtrot Bravo. I am here today to pay my respects as I was in attendance when the shocking discovery of Miss Kardigan's murder happened.

Pure-Rot: Ah c'est bon. PC Bravo it is of ze pleasure of ze most enormous to make of yours ze acquaintance.

Bravo: The pleasure is all mine I am sure Monsieur Pure-rot. I myself am far too inexperienced to have been able to support on this case having not been on the force very long. I feared even my own Inspector would have a difficult job investigating this one. It seems all so impossible. The kind of situation I have always dreaded – a locked door murder. I am sure we are all extremely grateful for your assistance in this matter.

Pure-rot: Mademoiselle, please do not allow ze desolate of ze feelings most expressive to overcome you. Fear not for Pure-rot is here. Allow me ze time that is precious to get my little beige cells in order and tout de suite I will be in a position most amicable to provide you with ze answer that is correct. Your Detective Inspector need fear not for I will discover ze killer who is most evil. This is why ze Yard which is Scotland have reached out ze arm which is eager to Hercule Pure-rot to use ze beige calls so lee'tle.

(*Door opens and in peers Miss Carpals carrying a knitting bag and knitting needles*)

Miss Carpals: Oh I do beg your pardon. Please forgive my overhearing your discussion just now however I really could not help it. The front door was open and I heard voices but you were talking too quietly so I stood just outside the door here trying my best to hear what you were saying, I was straining my body as much as possible but I'm afraid I needed to come in as I could not hear enough of the conversation.

Bravo: And you are Ma'am?

Miss Carpals: My name is Carpals. Miss Carpals.

Bravo: Carpals?

Miss Carpals: Yes, that is correct. Miss Carpals.

Bravo: And your first name Miss Carpals.

Miss Carpals: Meta

Bravo: I beg your pardon Ma'am. What was that?

Miss Carpals: Meta Constable.

Bravo: Miss Meta Carpals. Meta Carpals (*Wait and shake head*) Note to self the audience do not get the writer's sense of humour.

Pure-Rot: Mille tonnerres Miss Meta Carpals, not you again. Everywhere Hercule Pure-Rot goes there is ze murder and there is you!

Miss Carpals: Ah Monsieur Pure-rot I hope you do not mind the wittering's of a little old lady. I will, of course, try not to interfere with your investigation, I know how much you value, process and system.

Pure-Rot: Mon Dieu! Order and method, order and method. Tsk, process and system, sacrilege. Mon Dieu!

Miss Carpals: Ah yes, method and system.

Pure-Rot: Zut alors! Order and method! Order and method.

Kourtney: What can we help you with Miss Carpals?

Miss Carpals: Scotland Yard called me at my little cottage in the quiet, sleepy village of St Mary's Tweed to advise they thought I may be able to assist in some small way in investigating this tragic murder. I don't see how such an elderly spinster from such a small village could help but the Chief Inspector of Scotland Yard was extremely complimentary about little old me and I suppose there is much wickedness to be found in even the smallest of villages. Why only the other day the Butcher's son was found by the Vicar's wife in the middle of the park messing with his little chipolata...

Kourtney: Sausage! Cocktail sausage Monsieur Pure-rot? Miss Carpals?

Miss Carpals: Oh how delightful. Miss Kardigan isn't it? Miss Kourtney Kardigan?

Kourtney: Yes, it is Miss Carpals, and this is my sister Khloe, my niece Kylie, Mrs West our Cook, Mr Kanye our Butler, Amber our housekeeper, this is PC Juliet Tango Whisky Indigo X-Ray Foxtrot Bravo and of course you already know Monsieur Pure-Rot.

Miss Carpals: It is lovely to meet you all, albeit in such sad circumstances of course. My condolences to you all.

- Pure-Rot:** Merci beaucoup Madame Carpals but sil-vous-plais do not worry your little head which is woolly. Hercule would advise that you leave all of ze tiresome questioning to ze ones most professional. Do you not have some of ze balls which are wool that require of it ze casting on?
- Miss Carpals:** Such an excellent idea Monsieur. My dear nephew mentioned to me not so long ago that recent studies suggest that traditional skills such as knitting can help to improve process and stamina which I know you are so passionate about.
- Pure-Rot:** Sacreblue! Order and Method. Order and method! Mon Dieu this is turning into what do we ze call it here in England, ze circus, no Milles tonnerres, ze carnival.
- Bravo:** *(Interrupting quickly)* Talking about carnivals wasn't that one of the Kardigan's earliest hit records from memory?
- Kylie:** *(Jumping up excitedly)* Yes indeed Constable. It wasn't one of their highest performing singles but it was their first number 1. Their biggest selling number was of course Love fool. Would you like to see the video of it? It's my absolute favourite. My mother looks so beautiful in it. Such a wonderful singer and the way she plays the dru...
- Khloe:** *(Interrupting)* Drastic moments call for drastic measures I suppose. Bloody hate watching myself on video. Oh I don't suppose it will do any harm to show the Police Constable our little pop video but we don't want to bore everyone.
- Miss Carpals:** I think it is a splendid idea. Such a lovely thing sisters being so close in their working life and their private life. Depending on each other so much and you sometimes find one naturally becomes more dominant than perhaps the rest. *(Pause)* Why it reminds me of the Vicar's daughters and when they were asked to set up a ladies' cricket team in the village. The eldest daughter, well, let's just say the power definitely went to her head and then...
- Pure-rot:** Yes, Miss Kardigan I think we need to see this video which is pop. I was only speaking to ze Inspector, who is ze Chief most high before my journey most long to get here, that ze key to this riddle is to discover ze truth about Miss Kim Kardigan. Ze Kim Kardigan most real. There will be lots of straw in ze needle stack but once we find ze hay we find ze truth that is honest.
- Miss Carpals:** Four, four, six...
- Bravo:** *(Interrupting very quickly)* I beg your pardon Miss Carpals.
- Miss Carpals:** I was just remembering the score of the St Mary Tweed's cricket teams first and only match. Forty-four for 6 wickets I think it was. Quite to the amazement of the village. I remember the Vicar's daughter was quite the talk of the village that day.
- Pure-Rot:** Mon-Dieu!!
- Khloe:** Well isn't that just super interesting. Shall we play the video do we think Kanye?
- Kanye:** Why yes of course Miss Kardigan.
- Kourtney:** Why don't you sit down Miss Carpals? There is a lovely rocking chair here.
- Miss Carpals:** Thank you dear how very kind. Now then, didn't there used to be a 4th member of the girl band?

Kourtney: I'm afraid it's all rather shameful if I'm honest Miss Carpals. We have always tried to keep it hush hush so as not to attract any negative press attention.

Pure-Rot: We need to be aware of all of ze background and facts Mademoiselle Kardigan no matter how insignificant they may seem to ze situation which is current.

Khloe: We were very young when the band was formed by our dear departed father. He was a Musical Director at our local theatre when we were children and Kim and her best friend were performers in the company. He saw some great potential and decided to put the girl band together. Our first hit was written by Kim's friend but Kim, even when she was younger, had an ability to get her own way and she cruelly persuaded father to steal the rights of the song from Kim's friend. Kim's friend was poor and had little family to help her so I understand it was easy to do. Kim's friend was subsequently thrown out of the band. The band and the song were show cased to a producer friend of our mother's and it all went from there. I don't think our Father ever forgave himself for Kim's treatment of her friend.

Miss Carpal: Many a wicked thing is done in the name of love I am afraid. You see so much of it in villages across the country.

Kanye: The video is ready Miss Kardigan.

Kourtney: Ladies and Gentleman the Kardigan's.
(Pre-recorded video plays of Kardigan's hit record Love Fool)

Miss Carpals: Are you ok there Monsieur Pure-Rot you look a little off?

Pure-Rot: Merci Madam I think I suffer from mal de mer.

West: How about I make us all a nice, fresh cup of tea? That should perk you right up. Miss Carpals? Yes of course, just a little bit of milk for yourself I reckon, and Police Constable it's a little milk with one sugar isn't it? Yes, I thought so. My memory is fabulous for my age you know; I never forget a thing. And yourself Monsieur Pure-Rot?

Pure-Rot: A sirrup de banana served in a glass of the variety most liqueur served with an umbrella most straw would be c'est bon.

Khloe: Oh dear god let it stop. As if the devastation of losing a much loved sister and a police investigation wasn't enough to put up with, now this. I need a drink!

Kourtney: Mrs West tea sounds just wonderful and please do what you can to cater for Monsieur Pure-Rot thank you. Oh and Ladies and Gentlemen that is the end of Act 1. Your starters should you have ordered them will be served shortly. Thank you.