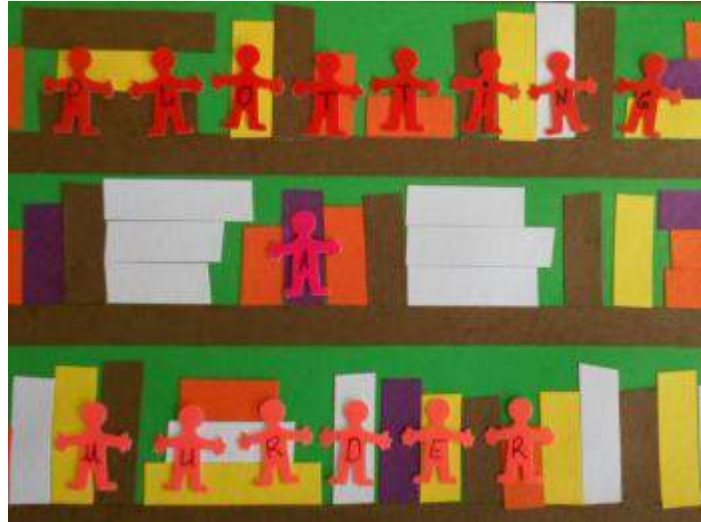


Plotting a murder.

Play by Kate Aksonova.



Idea 21.08.2017

Characters:

Glory Isherwood – writer.

Rebecca Appleyard – illustrator in publishing house.

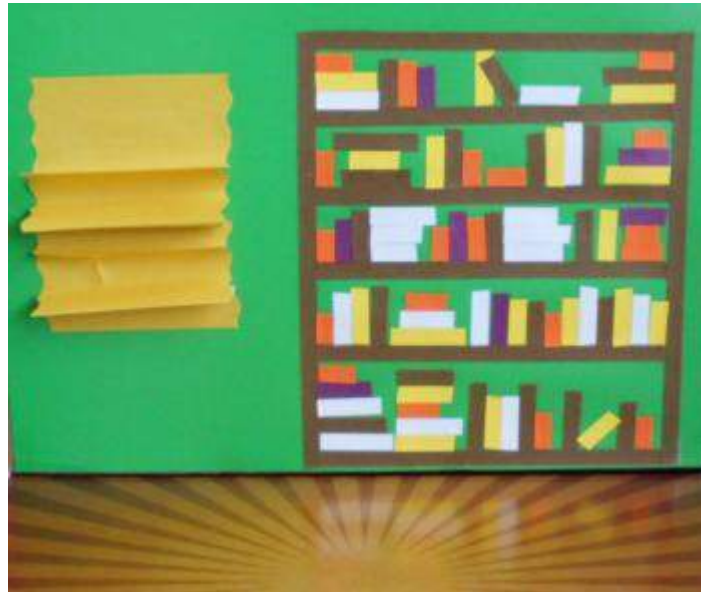
Mike Ormiston, Mighty Mike – owner of publishing house “Someone to kill”.

Connor Lockley - director of marketing in publishing house.

Elza Wilson – editor and friend of Glory.

Scene 1.

Publishing house. Office of owner.





MIKE: You understand that you haven't reasons to avoid this meeting.

ELZA: Mr Ormiston, Mike, I am sure, Glory is all right.

MIKE: You are sure.

ELZA: I could guarantee.

MIKE: You know that I am afraid to open news column with crimes.

ELZA: I am sure, Glory never...

MIKE: Did you read her last outline, Elza?

ELZA: Yes.

MIKE: "His body was founded in well "Girl's tears".

ELZA: Glory has difficult times.

MIKE: I am not against that she will kill on paper her ex in all possible ways. I am not sure she won't do it in reality.

ELZA: Here you should be calm. She didn't go outside of her home for three weeks.

MIKE: And for you it's best prove that she is just fine.

ELZA: Perhaps it's not exactly what I wanted to say.

MIKE: In two months time we start promotion her previous best seller in new cover. She should look sane and healthy.

ELZA: How much healthy?

MIKE: I don't like this question, Elza.

ELZA: It just thoughts aloud.

MIKE: Elza!

ELZA: Glory is fine.

MIKE: If not count...

ELZA: She is a little bit overweight.

MIKE: A little bit.

ELZA: Noticeable.

MIKE: Fine. She is writer, not cover girl.

ELZA: I all the time tell her about that.

MIKE: You will insist on new wardrobe.

ELZA: Yes.

MIKE: What could work from previous style of all black?

ELZA: I can't say exactly.

MIKE: Elza!

ELZA: Shoes...

MIKE: I need to talk with Glory.

ELZA: In person.

MIKE: Did she start to answer phones?

ELZA: No.

MIKE: In person.

ELZA: I will try to do it.

MIKE: Elza, not in rules of publishing house "Someone to kill" to have special treatment for writers.

ELZA: Yes. Mr. Ormiston.

MIKE: You will solve this problem. It's your job to make our writers...

ELZA: Happy?

MIKE: Sane.

ELZA: See you later.

MIKE: Glory.

ELZA: She will phone you.

MIKE: In person.

ELZA: Yes, Mike.

Elza exits.

Scene 2.



MIKE: I will search new writers from nuns. Interesting could nuns write about murders? I will go mad with all writers.

Glory after break up write one crazy outline after another. I understand her boyfriend wasn't sane, but death as drowning in hotel's washing machine. It was on previous week. Now it's well of "Girl's tears".

Daisy after she gave birth of daughter wants to write only fairy tales about princes. She still have contract and I receive bunch of outlines about murdered princesses.

Scene 3.



Enters Connnor.

CONNOR: Why is not happy our Mighty Mike?

MIKE: Shut up, Connor.

CONNOR: Glory. Glory Isherwood pain in the ... and star of our publishing house.

MIKE: She is overweight.

CONNOR: Did you see her?

MIKE: No.

CONNOR: Elza told.

MIKE: Yes.

CONNOR: How about: writer like all our readers struggle with the same problems and she find strength to write more new books, because love of readers could create miracles.

MIKE: For three month any new drafts.

CONNOR: Outlines. Something about murdered princes?

MIKE: It's Daisy.

CONNOR: Of course, how I could forget.

MIKE: Connor, you are sure that Daisy's daughter it's not yours. I don't need such advertisement.

CONNOR: Daisy is married. Mike, how could you?

MIKE: Yes. The same as Betany, Olivia and Imogen.

CONNOR: I never in my life could predict that you, Mr. Ormiston, could believe in dirty gossips.

MIKE: Connor?

CONNOR: No. I am not father of Daisy's daughter.

MIKE: I hope to hear that about all kids of writers of our publishing house.

CONNOR: Mike, you never could be sure about everyone.

MIKE: Connor!

CONNOR: Yes, boss.

MIKE: What about murdered princess?

CONNOR: I made on-line questioning.

MIKE: And?

CONNOR: We could try. Few readers wrote stories in childhood how was murdered Cinderella after became wife of Prince.

MIKE: Why? How?

CONNOR: I liked most of all idea with Cinderella's step-mother.

MIKE: Because of her daughters.

CONNOR: No. She had an affair with Prince. Pure jealousy.

MIKE: Write back to this reader. I need her outline.

CONNOR: What about Daisy?

MIKE: She will need to be as good as that reader.

CONNOR: Still looking for fresh voice.

MIKE: They all have fresh voice till don't start to think what to write that everyone will like.

CONNOR: Curse of second book expectations.

MIKE: I know. But work only with first time writers it's not a solution.

CONNOR: We have for them series "Plotting a murder".

MIKE: Yes. Each book with a number.

CONNOR: But as soon as they receive own promotion.

MIKE: They afraid to write more.

Scene 4.



Enters Rebecca.

REBECCA: Good you both are here.

CONNOR: You want commit a mass murder, Bec.

MIKE: Rebecca is most sane around here.

REBECCA: Not so soon, Mike.

CONNOR: Mrs Appleyard, new sketch for cover?

REBECCA: Glory's new book. I thought about hangman in Tarot, maybe he could be covered in lipstick.

CONNOR: Lipstick?

REBECCA: Previous girlfriends and lipstick is melted like blood.

CONNOR: Impressive.

REBECCA: Thank you.

MIKE: Did you see draft?

REBECCA: Outline was such detailed, I didn't ask Elza. Oh, no, Mike.

MIKE: Yes. Next outline.

REBECCA: You should talk with Glory.

MIKE: She doesn't answer phone.

REBECCA: I am not surprised. After what she gone through.

CONNOR: Something with boyfriend.

REBECCA: Something with boyfriend? He proposed to her. She planned to marry him.

CONNOR: Did he know about that?

REBECCA: Very funny. And when she tried to live further, he returned.

CONNOR: Why she is not happy that he returned? No more ice-creams in the middle of the night?

REBECCA: You think that you could have any woman and still be invited like best in life to previous love interests.

CONNOR: Bec, did some man live another way?

MIKE: Rebecca, art is fantastic. Please, try to convince Elza that you need to discuss this with Glory.

REBECCA: You need unbiased opinion.

CONNOR: Attempt of suicide of mystery writer also could be good news.

MIKE: Connor.

CONNOR: Everything which will bring interest to writer.

MIKE: At first I need working writer.

REBECCA: I will talk with Glory. Elza can't forever defend all her writers.

CONNOR: She thinks they are special.

MIKE: They are.

Rebecca exits.

Scene 5.



CONNOR: Man could forgive?

MIKE: You talk about yourself?

CONNOR: No. You. Lucy.

MIKE: We try to make it work.

CONNOR: Even after she choose bigger publishing house.

MIKE: It's all about perspectives.

CONNOR: I believe it's only about relationships.

MIKE: Relationships? People together not always in relationships. Did you read Glory's outlines?

CONNOR: What for if we haven't even first draft?

MIKE: There it's all about relationships. In every outline first victim is Noah.

CONNOR: Isn't her boyfriend...

MIKE: Yes. He is Noah. When I see Noah, I know she will kill him.

CONNOR: I am sure Elza will change names on level of revision.

MIKE: It didn't work with Archi.

CONNOR: Our poor Archibald.

MIKE: He killed in every book Mary-Ann.

CONNOR: I remember that article "Killer of Mary-Ans broke his contract with publishing house. "

MIKE: After divorce he became crazy.

CONNOR: She married his beta-reader.

MIKE: Never trust person who reads your work for money.

Blackout.

Scene 6.



Glory's apartment.

Curtains are closed, dim light.

Glory in few crocheted shawls sits on the sofa. In front of her walks Elza.

GLORY: You will invent something, Elza.



ELZA: We talk about Mighty Mike, remember.

GLORY: I just don't ready to talk with him.

ELZA: You know there is exit from this situation.

GLORY: Which is?

ELZA: Glory, start first draft.

GLORY: You think it is such easy. For which book? You know, now I am in research mood. I have no idea for which story I will find enough resources. And I try to find diet with better results.

ELZA: They all are good. You gave me few outlines.

GLORY: Are you sure they equally good? Which of this book will be more interesting for readers?

ELZA: Glory, readers like your style, not your plots.

GLORY: Good, that you also notice that. Now I work on that.

ELZA: On what?

GLORY: How to write better plots.

ELZA: You work on it.

GLORY: I read articles. I buy few books. They will be here till the end of the week.

ELZA: Glory you write novel in two month.

GLORY: I know, Elza. If I was better in plotting, it could be novel in the month.

You read about such people.

ELZA: That people from around a world, which once in a year choose spawning for their creative ideas.

GLORY: It's finished result.

ELZA: Remind me about that when I will read next time their unsolicited drafts.

What about plotting?

GLORY: There are special templates, cards and magnet boards.

ELZA: Magnet board? For what?

GLORY: Create a story.

ELZA: And you already bought everything.

GLORY: You think it's great idea, didn't you. To became more professional.

ELZA: If it will help you to return for writing.

GLORY: I appreciate your honesty.

ELZA: What about?

GLORY: You didn't lie to me and say that what I wrote is perfect. I need to work on it.

ELZA: Glory I didn't tell that your work is...

GLORY: Weak and not professional.

ELZA: I didn't say that. Noah did.

GLORY: He said that my work need more time to polish, I write too quickly.

ELZA: I read his articles, no one will understand them without special dictionary. Arrogance as life style is not the best answer.

GLORY: He could be right.

ELZA: Noah? I told you about him. You never will have enough place in his life. There is place only for one true love, to which he dedicated his life, love to himself.

GLORY: He rarely said pleasant words to me.

ELZA: And I was border which didn't give you a chance to dedicate to him your books.

GLORY: He told it will be public prove of my love to him.

ELZA: What about his love to you? Did he at once mentioned that he reads your books? Not like, but at least read. When I checked you wasn't in his list of favourite writers.

GLORY: Noah mentioned only writers...

ELZA: With whom he hoped to work in future like agent. Why he didn't promote you?

GLORY: Because...

ELZA: I remember, you works are not perfect for mister I-am-smarter-than-everyone-around.

GLORY: He said that only one agent who works with film business is capable to do something with my texts and he is...

ELZA: Noah himself.

GLORY: Yes, because he knows my problems and...

ELZA: Could daily help you to feel miserable about your work. Why you just can't be happy with writing books? Film industry will come in your life when time will be right.

GLORY: I just need time to clean my notes, to research more. I will find a system.

ELZA: You will search Method and will end that you need to have killer's experience yourself to describe feelings of murder.

GLORY: It's what Mike told.

ELZA: You could ask him in person.

GLORY: I don't think that without draft he will want to talk with me.

ELZA: Now it's new reason, why you don't write. Because you afraid to talk with Mike.

GLORY: My writer's block.

ELZA: Glory, dear, you haven't writer's block.

GLORY: I have. Every writer should have it. Not be a machine. Wait for muse, not work daily for few hours till pain in the neck.

ELZA: Noah told that before left you one more time.

GLORY: He just.

ELZA: Opened new star among writers who should deserve all attention in the world, because she gave all her money to orphanage where works her husband.

GLORY: I can't write.

ELZA: Writer's block it's when you haven't ideas. Do your research. You wrote me new outline in week. Even with your board, sacrifice and drawing of ark it's plan of future novel. You just should exit from your revenge.

GLORY: I think only about that.

ELZA: How to better plot Noah's murder?

GLORY: How selfish he was!

ELZA: In our life we sometimes should to stop make plans of revenge.

GLORY: And watch that he is happy after all he did to me.

ELZA: Never thought that selfishness is illness which you could receive from someone else.

GLORY: Elza, you think I am selfish? I?

ELZA: Endlessly.

GLORY: Because you have problems with Mister Ormiston and my future book?

ELZA: Because you believe that Noah behaved like jerk only with you.

GLORY: I don't understand.

ELZA: He was such arrogant with everyone and not only you should spend time on revenge. Give chance for other people to destroy his life. He couldn't charm Karma all the time.

GLORY: But...

ELZA: I know some actions too delightful to delegate them to others. If for you is such important this revenge – write it.

GLORY: What exactly?

ELZA: In this circumstances it doesn't matter. Choose one story and write it.

GLORY: I can't, not now. I need to spend more time on planning my story.

ELZA: Fine, plan. But Becca wants to show you new concept art for your book.

GLORY: I don't think now it's time to discuss not written books.

ELZA: But you will see Rebecca. Just as friend.

GLORY: Just as friend.

ELZA: If you need help in your writing...

GLORY: I can't write before I made good structure. I will need my new tools.

ELZA: It's courier work?

GLORY: No. I should go by myself and check all received items.

ELZA: Very good.

GLORY: You agree, that I need more improvement.

ELZA: No, you need reason to walk on streets.

GLORY: It's just times...

ELZA: As soon as you start to write, you will be free and you will learn that Noah not worth to write about.

GLORY: But...

ELZA: If you wish, left him as first accidental victim. He doesn't deserve more place on pages. Rebecca will call you.

GLORY: Fine.

ELZA: What about Mike?

GLORY: Mike? I am not sure he is serious...

ELZA: You are part of his business. Mighty Mike is endlessly serious about his business.

GLORY: I look terrible now. Diets not work with promised speed.

ELZA: Thanks God.

GLORY: That I look terrible?

ELZA: No, stupid. Thanks God you understand that are other men around and you could look beautiful for them.

GLORY: When Mighty Mike around it's difficult to notice other men.

ELZA: Welcome back, my Glory, you still have chance for recovery.

Blackout.

Scene 7.

Illustrator's office in publishing house.



REBECCA: You know, Elza, it was idea of Mighty Mike.

ELZA: Like everything in this publishing house.

REBECCA: Yes, because he is Mighty.

ELZA: He yearly opens at least five new names.



REBECCA: You know it's all his taste, he knows what to do. And if he fights for
Glory.

ELZA: She worth it. I know.

REBECCA: Maybe all her problems are from past.

ELZA: Writing romantic novels as ghost writer.

REBECCA: Yes. She used to evaluate herself by man who is near.

ELZA: Yes. And when she found this weak coward.

REBECCA: Glory started to be afraid of everything.

ELZA: Yes. Can you believe, she is afraid of plotting structure of her novel?

REBECCA: What?

ELZA: You heard me.

REBECCA: Some men are not lesson in our life, some men are gifts from our enemies.

ELZA: Which we couldn't destroy.

REBECCA: But we always survive. I don't think that idea with improving writing is bad.

ELZA: Don't dare to tell that to Glory.

REBECCA: It's refreshing. I do it all the time.

ELZA: What? Write?

REBECCA: No. Search courses for illustrators.

ELZA: What for?

REBECCA: To return on truck when something is wrong.

ELZA: How it helps?

REBECCA: In stress – endlessly. You have a moment that you haven't idea what to do. And you go on courses. Every teacher, book, tool will be interesting for you day or two. And after it came feeling – I knew it, I solve it more easily. I do it better, I do it daily. Like new batteries for your mind. Plus you see that other people are also suffering in creativity and relaxed back to your flow.

ELZA: Hope Glory had the same reasons.

REBECCA: There aren't other reasons.

ELZA: Prove that to Mighty Mike.

REBECCA: When I will talk with Glory.

ELZA: Good luck.

Elza exits.

Scene 8.



Elza's office, many manuscripts are everywhere.

Connor enters.

ELZA: I couldn't believe that you will support idea of Princesses.

CONNOR: Mike approved. I hadn't choice. Is it true about Glory?

ELZA: What about?

CONNOR: Everything is such bad?

ELZA: Worse!

CONNOR: To the level.

ELZA: She printed template with beginning, turning point one and middle...

CONNOR: Too much.

ELZA: I agree. Nothing to hope for.

CONNOR: I don't think so.

ELZA: Like Beca you think that for her it is just way to be best again. Because she knows everything.

CONNOR: No. Because she want to think about something else and learning it's best way to structure your thoughts.

ELZA: Why don't learn new?

CONNOR: Because it takes too much time and effort. When you brush and master everything what you know you have time for thinking.

ELZA: She will change genre or publishing house. Mike won't like it.

Scene 9.



Enters Mike.

MIKE: What I won't like?

CONNOR: We all have own versions why Glory wants to polish her craft.

ELZA: One of them is not good for you.

MIKE: Why?

CONNOR: Glory will change genre or publishing house.

MIKE: I don't like it.

CONNOR: I told it.

MIKE: Did Rebecca talk with Glory ?

ELZA: She is such busy this weeks. As far as I know – not.

MIKE: Better not.

CONNOR: Did you read her last outline?

MIKE: Death from beating of not healthy fox?

CONNOR: I start to have pity for Noah.

ELZA: Me too.

MIKE: I will talk with Glory myself.

CONNOR: You propose to her new level of name recognition.

MIKE: I will find out what is going on.

CONNOR: Good luck.

Blackout.

Scene 10.



Glory's apartment.

GLORY: Elza was right, business is serious for you.

MIKE: If you didn't want to come to office.

GLORY: I didn't finish promised draft.

MIKE: It's difficult to finish first draft.

GLORY: Yes.

MIKE: If you didn't start it.

GLORY: Yes.

MIKE: What's going on, Glory?

GLORY: It's personal.

MIKE: Sorry I am not Rebecca or Elza to believe in it.

GLORY: Why?

MIKE: Because first time you killed man named Noah was when you were still in best times with your boyfriend.

GLORY: I deleted it in second draft.

MIKE: I know.

GLORY: I just wanted to brush my tools.

MIKE: What for?

GLORY: Problem as with grammar.

MIKE: You use and don't remember rules.

GLORY: Yes. All writer's just make advices for others.

MIKE: And you just invent one story after another. Do you afraid level of your craft?

GLORY: Speed of it.

MIKE: You do not paying attention to steps which you make.

GLORY: Like walk in sleep, I all the time in power of new story.

MIKE: What for your maps of stories?

GLORY: To slow down, to check, to repeat it on conscious level. I need to know that use all tools.

MIKE: When you became afraid that repeat yourself?

GLORY: In brainstorming. Ideas came one after another and I didn't care to change names. If use different plots with same names is something changing.

MIKE: And?

GLORY: I could do it. I want not only to build a houses, a want to make details. I want to choose carpets in rooms which my characters will never open.

MIKE: Why you want to be like everyone?

GLORY: I?

MIKE: You changed after that writing conference.

GLORY: Nobody noticed. Nobody, but you.

MIKE: You felt guilty that you receive pleasure of what you do.

GLORY: Struggles, writing blocks, I didn't know what to tell and explain.

MIKE: And you wanted to learn how you do it?

GLORY: Yes. I need this knowledges, if possible to have all answers for work.

MIKE: You will need time for that.

GLORY: I predicted it.

MIKE: But it's impossible to put on pause your life till you learn everything.

GLORY: I know that.

MIKE: How much?

GLORY: Ten chapters.

MIKE: Without outline?

GLORY: Yes.

MIKE: Will you show me?

GLORY: Yes. The more I read, about craft the more I write.

MIKE: Good.

GLORY: They all are wrong.

MIKE: About?

GLORY: That after some steps you could be a writer.

MIKE: It's easy to think so.

GLORY: But there are such a lot of practical advices, I know with them myself
better.

MIKE: What you did, now you know why you do it?

GLORY: Something like that.

MIKE: And you think you good in that.

GLORY: In plotting a murder.

MIKE: Yes.

GLORY: Not bad at all. To be honest, all this tools just slow down and kill every writing sparkle.

MIKE: Give me this draft.

GLORY: You know about what is it?

MIKE: Yes. Your new idea of mystery with fantasy. I rejected it.

GLORY: Exactly. It's such interesting genre.

MIKE: Better if you return to idea about knife with lipstick on it like trade mark of murderer.

GLORY: Really. Mrs Wilson rejected it and Mr Lockley.

MIKE: And?

GLORY: I finished first book and think about sequel.

MIKE: In that case I need at first finished draft with knife.

GLORY: As you wish, Mighty Mike.

MIKE: Just Mike. Is still left some ice-cream in the fridge?

GLORY: I will check.

THE END.



August 2017.

