

Pembroke Investigations

Episode 5

Written by

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EXT. - FORT AUGUSTUS STREET - DAY

FADE IN.

The sounds of a few cars PASSING, people TALKING, birds CHIRPING and wind BLOWING.

A door opens with the RINGING of a small bell. Charlie WALKS on the wooden floor as the door CLOSES behind him. Sophie Rodriguez is standing behind the till TYPING.

CHARLIE
(Cheerful)

Good morning.

SOPHIE
(Surprised)

Oh, good morning. How can I help you?

CHARLIE
(Cheerful)

I'm Charlie Pembroke. I'm investigating a missing boy, Jamie Sinclair.

SOPHIE
(Shocked)

I've seen the posters around town. I didn't know the boy, but his parents must be distraught. It's awful. Surprising in this town as well. Fort Augustus is so peaceful. It's awful.

CHARLIE
(Professional)

It is awful. His family are distraught and were just worried about him.

SOPHIE
(Cheerful)

Okay, What can I do to help? Do you think he hired a boat? I could check for you?

CHARLIE
(Professional)

As far as i know he didn't but I had an ...
(Pause)

experience last night over at Urquhart Castle. Someone had some information about Jamie and they left in a motorboat. I was hoping to track them down.

SOPHIE
(Surprised)

What! Wow, that sounds crazy.

CHARLIE
(Smiling)

It was quite a night. Anyway, did anyone rent a boat last night?

SOPHIE
(Cheerful)

You're lucky it's quiet, we have twelve boats that are usually rented flat out over summer but this time of year we hardly have any business and only one boat has been rented this week.

CHARLIE

(Professional)

Lucky me, that's the first piece
of luck i've had so far.

SOPHIE
(Cheerful)

Okay, give me a minute to check.
(Pause)

TYPING on keyboard.

Right, one boat rented yesterday.
Pre-booked. A Mr Noah Thompson.
He's over at the

CHARLIE
(Surprised)

Tuath na marbh inn.

SOPHIE
(Surprised)

Do you know him?

CHARLIE
(Professional)

I'm staying at the inn. He's the
owner.

FADE OUT

INT. - THE INN - DAY

FADE IN.

Charlie ENTERS the inn. Ambient sound of the STREET changes to SILENCE as the door OPENS and CLOSES. Charlie RINGS the service bell on the desk.

MORA

(Cheerful, polite but with a subtle edge)

Hello, Charlie. We haven't met.
I'm Mora, Noah's wife. He's
mentioned you. I hope you're
enjoying your stay.

CHARLIE

(Polite, a little distracted)

Nice to meet you. I'm enjoying my
stay very much. Your inn is
beautiful, great breakfast too. I
was hoping to speak to Noah - is
he in?

MORA

(Cheerful, but her smile falters for a
moment)

Thank you, Charlie. Always good to
hear my cooking is appreciated.
I'm sure he's in the back. Let me
fetch him for you.

Mara disappears into the back as Charlie LEAFS through
some brochures on the desk. The faint TICKING of a nearby
clock fills the room.

NOAH

(Entering, cheerful but slightly hurried)

Good morning, mate. What can I do
for you?

CHARLIE
(Professional, but there's an edge to his tone)

Did you have a good night, Noah?

NOAH
(Caught off guard, nervous chuckle)

Yeah, fine. What's this about, mate?

CHARLIE
(Annoyed, raising his voice slightly)

Don't try my patience Noah, it's been a hell of a night and there's a missing boy and a terrified family. What the hell were you doing last night?

NOAH
(Growing defensive, voice trembling)

Mate, i've done nothing wrong.

CHARLIE
(Shouting)

Dammit, Noah. I've had enough. You were at Urquhart castle last night, you have Jamie and I've had enough. Tell me where he is?

NOAH
(Terrified, stumbling over his words)

Mate, mate. I was here all night. I swear. I was in the inn all night.

CHARLIE
(Furious, leaning in)

You hired the boat and then used it to get away. Don't lie to me, Noah. What do you take me for?

NOAH
(Confused)

A boat.
(Pause, trying to recall)

I--I did hire a boat... what are you talking about?

CHARLIE
(Shouting)

What about it? Where is he, Noah?

NOAH
(Genuinely bewildered)

Where is who? Mate, you're not making any sense.

MORA
(Suddenly entering, voice sharp, annoyed)

What is going on here?
(Pause)

NOAH
(Quietly, shaken)

Charlie?

CHARLIE
(Still heated)

Last night, I got a note to meet someone at Urquhart Castle. Noah gave me his car to get there.

MORA
(Confused but annoyed)

What happened to the car?

CHARLIE
(Confused, defensive)

Nothing happened to the car. I met
someone there and they said they
knew where Jamie was. I chased
them and they were picked up in a
motorboat.

(Pause)

The motorboat was hired out by
Noah.

MORA
(Turning sharply to Noah, shocked)

Noah.

NOAH
(Stammering, confused)

What? Wait--what?

CHARLIE
(Furious, pointing an accusing finger)

You hired the the only motorboat
on that loch last night.

NOAH
(Stuttering, caught off guard)

I--I hired the boat, yeah... but I
didn't even use it.

MORA
(Shocked, quietly)

Why did you hire the boat, Noah?

NOAH
(Sadly)

I hired it for you.

MORA

(Stunned)

For me? Why?

NOAH
(Softly)

I thought it would be a nice surprise. You used to love going out on the loch at night. Our first date was out there, having a picnic in your dad's rowboat.

(pause)

I thought it would be nice. But
(Sighing heavily.)

CHARLIE
(Softly, but pressing)

But?

MORA
(Quietly, regretful)

We had a fight last night... a big one. We spent the night apart.

CHARLIE
(Calming down slightly, professional)

So you never used the boat.

NOAH
(Calmly, resigned)

I never even took it out from Sophie's.

CHARLIE
(Professional, collecting himself)

So you were both here last night?
For the whole night.

NOAH

(Quietly)

Till this morning, you can check
the CCTV if you like. We went
nowhere. We were up in the flat
the whole night.

MORA

(Suddenly interjecting, with hesitation)

Well, most of it.

(Pause)

I had to get pillows for a guest.
That would have been around 8pm
and then I was upstairs for the
whole night.

CHARLIE

(Professional, apologetic)

Right, apologies for the outburst.
Yesterday was.

(Pause)

Disturbing.

NOAH

(Softly, understanding)

It's alright, mate. I get it.

CHARLIE

(Calm, but determined)

I'd still like to take a look at
the CCTV, just to eliminate any
suspicion.

NOAH

(Cheerful, trying to ease the tension)

I completely understand, mate. Not
a problem. Come on through.

Noah lets Charlie behind the counter and into the office.

FADE OUT

EXT. - ABBEY EXTERIOR - DAY

Shoes CRUNCHING on stones. Change to FLAGSTONES. Ambient BIRDS, WIND and TREES.

RINGING doorbell of a large house. Doorbell is DEEP and within the building. Door OPENS with a CREAK.

MONK
(Quietly)

Good morning, Brother Charlie, how
may I help?

CHARLIE
(Professional)

Good morning, I was hoping to
speak with Brother Ambrose.

MONK
(Quietly, sighing)

Wait here.

CHARLIE
(Professional)

Will do.

Silence, the door closes. Footsteps from inside going
away from the door. Footsteps return. The door opens.

MONK
(Quietly)

Come in, the Abbot would like to
speak with you.

CHARLIE
(Professional)

Certainly.

They both WALK through the stone floored abbey. The abbot's door is OPENED and Charlie ENTERS the carpeted office. The door CLOSES behind him.

ABBOT ALARIC
(Reserved)

Good morning, Mr Pembroke. How may we help you?

CHARLIE
(Professional)

I was hoping to speak with brother Ambrose and Father Oswald.

ABBOT ALARIC
(Reserved)

You may speak with Brother Ambrose but our brother, Father Oswald is away for a few days. What do you need from Brother Ambrose?

CHARLIE
(Professional)

I was searching Boleskine House and I found some books and paper matching the journal that was in Jamie's room. I wanted to see if the books were from your library, Abbot. Where has Father Oswald gone?

ABBOT ALARIC
(Reserved)

He has a habit of going walking for several days at a time. Sometime he is away for a week or more. He finds the solitude of walking through the highlands helps him to get closer to God.

CHARLIE
(Professional, surprised)

You aren't concerned? You now have
two missing people from your
Abbey.

ABBOT ALARIC
(Surprised)

Father Oswald is not missing, Mr
Pembroke.

CHARLIE
(Professional)

Do you know where he is at present?

ABBOT ALARIC
(Firmly)

I do not.
(Pause)

What are you suggesting, Mr
Pembroke. I know my Brothers and I
know that they have nothing to do
with poor Jamie.
(Pause)

Father Oswald leaving is not
something to be concerned about.
He often leaves for periods and
will return forthwith. I will take
you to Brother Ambrose, Mr
Pembroke.

CHARLIE
(Professional, sympathetic)

I understand. I was only concerned
for the father's safety. What with
Jamie also missing. That's two
people from the abbey that have
gone.

ABBOT ALARIC

(Sympathetic)

Of course we care for the wellbeing of all who stay in our care, but they are two very different cases, Mr Pembroke and not at all unusual in the case of Father Oswald. Let us see Brother Ambrose.

FADE OUT

INT. - LIBRARY - DAY

FADE IN.

Large door OPENING and CLOSING as Charlie and the Abbot
WALK along the carpet towards the main desk.

ABBOT ALARIC
(Cheerful)

Brother Ambrose, might we have a
word.

BROTHER AMBROSE
(Sternly)

Can I help you, Abbot?

ABBOT ALARIC
(Cheerful)

Mr Pembroke has a few questions
about some books.

BROTHER AMBROSE
(Sternly)

What do you want mr Pembroke?

CHARLIE
(Professional)

I found some of your books,
Brother.

Puts the bag of books onto the desk with a thump.

BROTHER AMBROSE
(Sternly)

My books?

CHARLIE

(Professional)

Your orders books, at least,
Brother.

Brother Ambrose opens the bag and starts to take out the
books, one by one.

BROTHER AMBROSE
(Sternly)

The Konx om Pax ... Magick in
theory and practice ... The Blue
Equinox ... The Book of Thoth ...
The Book of the Law: Liber al vel
Legis.

(Pause)

These are not ours.

CHARLIE
(Professional)

Quite sure, brother? You wouldn't
mind if I checked the shelves
would you?

BROTHER AMBROSE
(Annoyed)

The occult section is restricted,
mr Pembroke. You cannot enter.

ABBOT ALARIC
(Cheerful)

Actually, I can give you access,
mr Pembroke. Wouldn't want any
accusations that we aren't trying
to help.

BROTHER AMBROSE
(Sighing)

Very well, come with me.

They walk through the library to a large door. The door is unlocked with an old key and creaks open.

BROTHER AMBROSE
(Annoyed)

Do not touch anything, Mr
Pembroke. The books in this
collection are delicate.

CHARLIE
(Professional)

Of course, Brother. Lead the way.

They WALK down a long corridor. Their shoes ECHO on the
stone.

BROTHER AMBROSE
(Sternly)

The Blue Equinox is missing.

CHARLIE
(Professional)

One down, Brother.

BROTHER AMBROSE
(Angry)

Don't be flippant with me, Mr
Pembroke. This library is my life
and a missing book is not a
frivolous thing. Stay silent or
leave.

ABBOT ALARIC
(Placid)

Brother, Mr Pembroke is our guest.
Please extend him every courtesy.

BROTHER AMBROSE
(Angry)

Abbot, books do not go missing here. They are not lost, miscategorised, misplaced or stolen. In my time here I have never misplaced any book. It must be here.

CHARLIE
(Sympathetic)

I understand, this has no bearing on you, brother. No one is questioning your competence. You are clearly a dedicated librarian and you care deeply. I am here to help you.

BROTHER AMBROSE
(Angry)

We shall see.

Walking along the corridor.

BROTHER AMBROSE
(Angry)

The Book of Thoth, the Book of the Law. Both missing.

Walking along the corridor.

BROTHER AMBROSE
(Angry)

The Konx om Pax and Magick in theory and practice, also missing.
(Shouting)

Abbot, this is an outrage. I have a key and you have a key. What have you done? Why are these books missing?

(Pause, angry)

Mr Pembroke, where did you find those books?

CHARLIE
(Professional)

I found them in that bag inside Boleskine House. Under two painted markings of occult symbols. There were also candles, matches and paper matching the paper I found in Jamie's room with a diagram of the mort house at the Boleskine Cemetery. I had a look at the mort house but found nothing.

BROTHER AMBROSE
(Annoyed)

I need to see the books again.
This must be a coincidence.

WALKING along the corridor, the door to the occult section is CLOSED and LOCKED. Brother Ambrose PICKS UP each book.

BROTHER AMBROSE
(Annoyed)

I can't explain this.

CHARLIE
(Professional)

Be glad you have them back. I need to speak with the Abbot, Brother Ambrose. I need to take those books and i'm sorry.

BROTHER AMBROSE
(Annoyed)

Abbot.

ABBOT ALARIC
(Pleasantly)

Give him the books, brother.

Charlie PLACES the books back into the bag.

CHARLIE
(Professional)

Can we have a moment, Brother
Ambrose.

BROTHER AMBROSE
(Grunts)

Brother Ambrose walks away.

CHARLIE
(Professional)

Abbot, this is serious. I have to
take these books to the police.
I'll also have to report the
Father missing.

ABBOT ALARIC
(Panicked)

But ...

CHARLIE
(Professional)

I know this is difficult, abbot.
But we have to consider the idea
that the Father may be caught up
in this. I hope he is away on a
short pilgrimage, as he has done
before, but we cannot ignore the
evidence.

ABBOT ALARIC
(Sad)

I just cannot
(Pause)

Jamie and now the father, the
books of the occult. What are they
doing? I have known these men for
years, Mr Pembroke. I cannot
believe that they are involved in
(Pause)

Anything to do with this.

CHARLIE
(Professional)

They may not be, Abbot. We have to
be cautious. Find out what is
going on and find these two men. I
can help you. I respect what you
do here Abbot. I can help you.

ABBOT ALARIC
(Tired)

I know, Mr Pembroke. It's just too
much. We are a quiet order, this
is beyond me.

CHARLIE
(Professional)

That's where I can help. Let me
help you, abbot.

ABBOT ALARIC
(Resigned)

Yes,
(Pause)

Do what you must, Mr Pembroke.

Charlie WALKS away.

FADE OUT

INT. - POLICE STATION - EVENING

FADE IN.

Charlie ENTERS the police station and RINGS the bell on the desk. Grace, already expecting him, STEPS in from a side door

GRACE
(Dryly)

Charlie, always a pleasure. Thanks for calling ahead. Come on in-- let's make this quick before you uncover mysteries in our sleepy town.

A bell RINGS again as they move down a narrow hallway. Footsteps ECHOING lightly on the floor. They enter an interview room and both take a seat.

CHARLIE
(Serious, but polite)

Thanks for seeing me PC Bennett.

GRACE
(Politely correcting, with a wry smile)

Grace, please. Let's drop the formalities. I think we're past that now.

CHARLIE
(Slightly embarrassed)

Grace, of course, sorry.

GRACE
(Teasing)

I'll get you trained eventually.
So, what can I do you for this
evening?

Charlie SHIFTS in his seat, clearly weighed down by the
seriousness of what he's about to share.

CHARLIE
(Professional)

As you know, i've been
investigating the robbery at the
museum but it's becoming more
serious.

GRACE
(Leaning in, intrigued but dry)

Serious? A missing person, an
attempted murder, a ransacked room
and robbery. How much more serious
can it get, Charlie?

CHARLIE
(Flatly)

Jamie Sinclair is missing.

GRACE
(Businesslike, but with a slight sigh)

We've got an open missing persons
case on Jamie. No leads yet, but
family says it's not unusual for
him to disappear for a while.
We're on it, though.

CHARLIE
(Seriously)

He's not the only missing person.

GRACE
(Surprised)

We haven't had any missing persons report filed. Who is it?

CHARLIE
(Coolly)

Father Oswald, from the abbey. He went missing a few days ago. The Abbot claims that he goes away for days, sometimes a week at a time. He walks into the highlands and takes a "spiritual journey".

GRACE
(Skeptical, but with a bite of humor)

A "spiritual journey" very on point for a Father. Not exactly the best idea with people missing, though. You'd think the Abbot might be a touch concerned.

CHARLIE
(Persisting, calm)

He doesn't see a connection and since the Father has done this before he isn't at all concerned. I think he should be.
(Pause)

Grace LEANS back slightly, FOLDING her arms.

GRACE
(Serious)

And why should he be?

CHARLIE

There's more.
(Pause)

In the abbey I searched jamie's room. Found a journal with some occult writing and drawings.

That led me to Boleskine house. I wanted to check it out. I went into the building ...

GRACE
(Cutting in, dryly suspicious)

Do I want to know how you got in?

CHARLIE
(Innocently)

There's a board loose, whoever owns the property might want to fix that.

GRACE
(Sarcastic)

Was it loose when you arrived?

CHARLIE
(With a faint smirk)

Anyway, I found more occult symbols on the walls--same style as Jamie's journal. Underneath, a bag with books, candles, and a map of Boleskine Cemetery, pointing straight to the mort house. After that, I heard someone in the building. I chased them, but--

GRACE
(Chuckling)

Didn't manage to catch them, huh? You know, Charlie, I'm starting to think this is all one big fitness test for you.

CHARLIE
(Slightly sheepish)

Yeah, my glory days are behind me.
Anyway, I went to the mort house
the next day--nothing. And back at
the Abbey, I found out that
certain books are missing from the
library. Only Brother Ambrose and
the Abbot have keys.

GRACE
(Deadpan)

That's a lot of coincidences. Two
missing people, missing books, and
a creepy mansion. I'm almost
impressed.

CHARLIE
(Professional)

It doesn't end there.
(Pause)

I was left a note in the hotel to
meet someone at Urquhart castle at
7pm last night. I went and a man
met me who talked about Jamie.
Said he was in the "nether" and
was reaching his "enlightenment".
Mentioned something about a new
age. The same thing Jamie was
writing about in his journals and
the topic of the books he was
researching. I chased the man but
he escaped in a motorboat.

GRACE
(Baffled, dryly)

A motorboat? Of course. This all
makes perfect sense.

CHARLIE
(Quietly)

Turns out it was rented by Noah
Thompson.

Supposed to be a surprise for his wife, but he claims they never used it after an argument

GRACE
(Smirking)

You're life is very
(Pause)

low-budget James Bond.

CHARLIE
(Softly)

It's starting to feel that way.

GRACE
(Turning serious, but with a trace of sarcasm)

Okay, i'm going to talk to the Abbot and Noah. Find out what they tell me. See if it matches your events. Not that I don't trust you Charlie but ... You know.

CHARLIE
(Understanding)

I get it. You've got to be thorough. I'd do the same.

GRACE
(Sincerely)

Thanks, charlie. Okay, is there anything else? No masked cults in the woods, right?

CHARLIE
(Relaxed)

That's pretty much it, so far.

GRACE
(Sighing with a small smile)

Okay, i'll catch up with you once
i've found out more from the Abbot
and Noah.

Charlie gets up, moves his chair and starts to leave.

CHARLIE
(Sincerely)

Thanks, PC Benn ... Grace. I
appreciate it.

GRACE
(Teasing slightly)

We need to solve this mystery
fast, or I swear, this sleepy
little village is going to turn
into a full-blown Poirot case.
You've been here what, a week? And
suddenly we're knee-deep in
conspiracies. Why's that, Charlie?

CHARLIE
(Professional)

I wish i knew. I'll be at the inn.
You have my number. I would
appreciate an update. If you can.

GRACE
(Dryly)

Will do, Charlie. Try not to get
chased by another motorboat, okay?

CHARLIE
(Professional)

I'll stick to the land, Grace.
Keep safe.

He leaves, closing the door softly behind him. Grace watches for a moment longer before shaking her head with a quiet chuckle.

GRACE

(To herself, sarcastically)

James Bond. Not even low budget.

FADE OUT

INT. CHARLIE'S ROOM - NIGHT

FADE IN.

Charlie is watching TELEVISION. Loud KNOCKING on Charlie's door.

CHARLIE
(Politely)

Hello.

NOAH
(Cheerful)

It's Noah.

Charlie GETS UP from the bed and OPENS the door.

NOAH
(Cheerful)

Evening, Charlie. An envelope was delivered for you this morning.

CHARLIE
(Confused)

An envelope.

NOAH
(Cheerful)

Yeah, mate. Here you go.

Noah takes the envelope out of his pocket and gives it to Charlie.

CHARLIE
(Polite)

Thanks, Noah.

NOAH
(Curious)

Any luck with the boat?

CHARLIE
(Polite)

Nothing yet. Still trying to find out what happened.

NOAH
(Polite)

Of course, of course. Any update on the lad, Jamie?

CHARLIE
(Professional)

Nothing yet, hopefully he is with friends and he'll be back soon. Look, Noah. I'm pretty tired. I appreciate your help this morning. I really appreciate it.

NOAH
(Polite)

Not a problem, mate. Anytime. Have a good night, mate.

CHARLIE
(Professional)

Good night, Noah. See you tomorrow.

Charlie closes the door and Noah walks off down the hall.
Charlie opens the envelope and tips it onto the desk.

CHARLIE
(Curious)

A USB.

Charlie looks into the envelope and feels around for any other items. He finds nothing.

CHARLIE
(Curious)

Just the usb. Let's see what's on it.

Charlie get's a laptop OUT of his bag and STARTS it up. He KEYS in his passcode, INSERTS the usb and loads it up.

CHARLIE
(Surprised)

One video. Let's see.

Charlie DOUBLE CLICKS on the video. It PLAYS a video of the night of the robbery at the museum. Someone ENTERS the room and OPENS the case with the amulet.

CHARLIE
(Shocked)

Who is that?

The person TAKES the amulet and locks the case.

CHARLIE
(shocked)

Oh no, I need to speak to Anna.

FADE OUT