

1975 KIDNAP CASE. PERHAPS YOU REMEMBER.

BLAIRE ROCHE SIX YEARS OLD. KIDNAPPERS BELIEVED SHE WAS CONNECTED TO ROCHE CHEMICAL FORTUNE.

STUPID MISTAKE. FATHER WAS BUS DRIVER. NO MONEY AT ALL.

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DAYS DRAGGED BY. NO WORD FROM KIDNAPPERS. THOUGHT OF LITTLE CHILD, ABUSED, FRIGHTENED. DIDN'T LIKE IT. PERSONAL REASONS.

DECIDED TO INTERVENE. PROMISED PARENTS TO RETURN HER UNHARMED.

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VISITED UNDERWORLD BARS AND BEGAN HURTING PEOPLE. PUT FIFTEEN IN HOSPITAL NEEDLESSLY.

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"FIFTEENTH GAVE ME AN ADDRESS. DISUSED DRESS-MAKERS IN BROOKLYN."

"BAD NEIGHBORHOOD. SMELLED OF DAMP PLASTER AND STAINED MATTRESSES."

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"ARRIVED THERE AT DUSK. NO LIGHTS ON IN BUILDING."

"SOMETHING WAS MAKING NOISE IN WASTELAND AT REAR."

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"ATTACK DOGS TWO GERMAN SHEPHERDS, FIGHTING OVER KNOB OF BONE. DIDN'T SEEM INTERESTED IN ME."

"DECIDED NOT TO USE REAR ENTRANCE ANYWAY."

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"WENT IN THROUGH FRONT, LIKE RESPECTABLE VISITOR."

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CLOSE

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SHOCK OF IMPACT RAN ALONG MY ARM. JET OF WARRITH SPATTERED ON CHEST, LIKE HOT FAUCET.

IT WAS KOVACS WHO SAID "MOTHER" THEN, MUFFLED UNDER LATEX. IT WAS KOVACS WHO CLOSED HIS EYES.



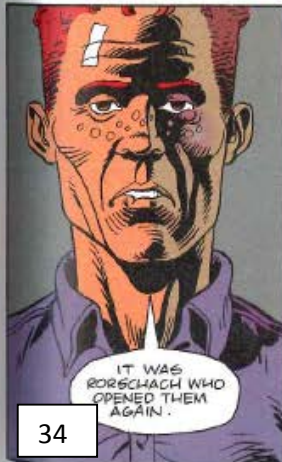
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DARK BY THEN.

DARK AS IT GETS.

IT WAS RORSCHACH WHO OPENED THEM AGAIN.

ACCORDING TO MY INFORMANT, MAN USING PREMISES NAMED GERALD GRICE.

OUT DRINKING WHEN I CALLED. RETURNED TO DRESSMAKERS AT TEN FORTY-FIVE.