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Opening extract from
Point Blanc Graphic Novel
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SO IS THAT WHAT YOU WANT ME FOR? TO MEET THIS BOY, AND TALK TO HIM ABOUT HIS FATHER'S DEATH?

NO.

THIS IS GENERAL VIKTOR IVANOV, EX-KGB.

UNTIL LAST DECEMBER HE WAS HEAD OF THE FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE SERVICE AND THE SECOND MOST POWERFUL MAN IN RUSSIA, AFTER THE PRESIDENT.



BUT SOMETHING HAPPENED TO HIM, TOO.

A BOATING ACCIDENT ON THE BLACK SEA. HIS BOAT EXPLODED, AND NOBODY KNOWS WHY.


WAS HE A FRIEND OF ROSCOE'S?

I DOUBT THEY EVER MET.

BUT OUR COMPUTERS HAVE THROWN UP ONE STRANGE COINCIDENCE.


IVANOV ALSO HAD A FOURTEEN-YEAR-OLD SON, DIMITRY.

AND DIMITRY IVANOV DEFINITELY KNEW PAUL ROSCOE... BECAUSE THEY WENT TO THE SAME SCHOOL.




WHAT WAS A RUSSIAN BOY DOING AT A SCHOOL IN NEW YORK?

THEY WEREN'T IN NEW YORK. DO YOU KNOW WHAT A FINISHING SCHOOL IS, ALEX?



ISN'T THAT WHERE
RICH PEOPLE USED TO
SEND THEIR **DAUGHTERS**,
TO LEARN **TABLE**
MANNERS?



THAT'S RIGHT.
BUT THIS SCHOOL IS
FOR **BOYS** ONLY, AND
NOT JUST **ORDINARY**
BOYS.




THE FEES AT
POINT BLANC
ARE **TEN THOUSAND**
POUNDS A TERM.



IT'S RIGHT ON THE
FRENCH-SWISS BORDER,
IN THE **FRENCH ALPS**.


THE NAME
LITERALLY MEANS
"**WHITE POINT**".




IT'S A **REMARKABLE**
PLACE, AS YOU CAN SEE.
BUILT AS THE PRIVATE HOME
OF SOME **LUNATIC** IN THE
NINETEENTH CENTURY.



WHEN HE DIED,
IT BECAME AN
ASYLUM.




THEN THE **GERMANS**
TOOK IT OVER IN THE SECOND
WORLD WAR, AS A **LEISURE**
CENTRE FOR THEIR SENIOR
STAFF. AFTER THAT IT FELL
INTO **DISREPAIR**...



...UNTIL BOUGHT BY
ITS CURRENT OWNER,
THE ENIGMATIC **PRINCIPAL**
OF POINT BLANC
ACADEMY.




DR HUGO GRIEF.




POINT BLANC TAKES
IN **BOYS** WHO HAVE BEEN
EXPELLED FROM ALL
THEIR **OTHER** SCHOOLS.

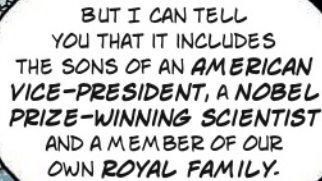
THERE ARE ONLY
EVER SIX OR SEVEN
PUPILS AT A TIME.



IT'S BEEN ESTABLISHED TWENTY YEARS, AND THE CLIENT LIST IS HARD TO BELIEVE.



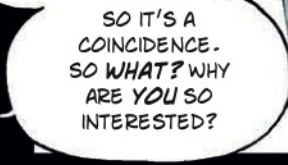
OF COURSE, THEY'VE KEPT THE NAMES CONFIDENTIAL.



BUT I CAN TELL YOU THAT IT INCLUDES THE SONS OF AN AMERICAN VICE-PRESIDENT, A NOBEL PRIZE-WINNING SCIENTIST AND A MEMBER OF OUR OWN ROYAL FAMILY.



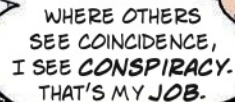
AND MICHAEL ROSCOE AND GENERAL IVANOV...




SO IT'S A COINCIDENCE. SO WHAT? WHY ARE YOU SO INTERESTED?




BECAUSE I DON'T BELIEVE IN COINCIDENCE.




WHERE OTHERS SEE COINCIDENCE, I SEE CONSPIRACY. THAT'S MY JOB.




DO YOU REALLY THINK THIS MAN GRIEF HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH ROSCOE AND IVANOV DYING? WHY?




DID THEY FORGET TO PAY THE FEES?




THAT'S NOT FUNNY, ALEX.



ROSCOE TELEPHONES ME, WORRIED ABOUT HIS SON, AND DIES THE NEXT DAY.



ACCORDING TO RUSSIAN INTELLIGENCE IVANOV WAS ALSO WORRIED ABOUT HIS SON, AND HAD A VIOLENT ARGUMENT WITH DIMITRY A WEEK BEFORE HE DIED.



NOW DO YOU SEE THE LINK?

YOU WANT ME TO GO TO THIS SCHOOL, DON'T YOU? BUT HOW? I DON'T HAVE PARENTS, AND THEY WERE NEVER RICH ANYWAY.

WE'VE ALREADY ARRANGED TO GIVE YOU A WEALTHY FATHER.

HIS NAME IS SIR DAVID FRIEND.

AS IN FRIEND'S SUPERMARKETS?

AND DEPARTMENT STORES, ART GALLERIES, FOOTBALL TEAMS... HE'S IN THE SAME LEAGUE AS ROSCOE. VERY LITTLE HAPPENS IN THIS COUNTRY WITHOUT SIR DAVID BEING INVOLVED IN SOME WAY.

WE'VE CREATED A FALSE IDENTITY FOR YOU.

FROM THIS MOMENT ON YOU ARE ALEX FRIEND, THE FOURTEEN-YEAR-OLD SON OF SIR DAVID.

IT WON'T WORK. PEOPLE MUST KNOW THAT FRIEND DOESN'T HAVE A SON.

NOT AT ALL.

HE'S A VERY PRIVATE PERSON, AND YOU ARE THE SORT OF SON NO FATHER WOULD WANT TO TALK ABOUT.

EXPELLED FROM ETON, SHOPLIFTING, VANDALISM, DRUGS... SIR DAVID SIMPLY DOESN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO WITH YOU, ALEX.

SO HE'S ENROLLED YOU IN

POINTS BY LAND ed.