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Opening extract from **Point Blanc – Graphic novel**

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Anthony Johnston**

Illustrated by
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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*.

THEY WEREN'T
IN NEW YORK.

WHAT WAS A
RUSSIAN BOY
DOING AT A SCHOOL
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.

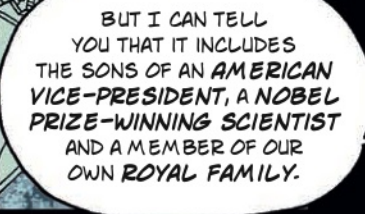
THERE ARE ONLY
EVER SIX OR SEVEN
PUPILS AT A TIME.



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



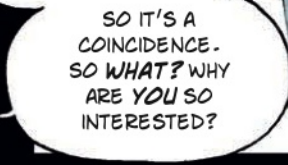
OF COURSE, **THEY'VE**
KEPT THE NAMES
CONFIDENTIAL.



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.



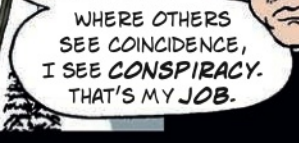
AND **MICHAEL ROSCOE**
AND **GENERAL IVANOV**...



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

POINT BLANK.