

Chapter 2

"Come on you two." called Kirsty from the foot of the stairs. "Get a move on or you will be late for school and I will be late for work."

"Sorry mum." replied Susan as she came out of the bedroom. "Emma couldn't find her shoes but we are ready now, just coming."

Kirsty closed and locked the front door as they all left the house, pressed the remote button to unlock the car doors and the girls climbed on to the back seats as Kirsty started the engine. She made sure they were safely strapped in and drove them to school where she gave them both a hug and a kiss before leaving them to join their friends in the playground.

Waving to them as she drove away she made her way to Beltens supermarket on the edge of West Town where she parked her car in her usual spot, made sure it was securely locked and walked across the car park to the staff door at the side of the building.

"Good morning Betty," she said to a colleague who was just clocking in "another day to look forward to. Same old routine, nothing ever changes."

"At least we've got a job," replied Betty "better than some."

Kirsty walked across the room to look at the staff rota and find out what tasks were expected of her today. Her first job was to restock the clothing area on the shop floor. She was pleased at that, it was something she enjoyed doing and would put her in a good mood for the rest of the day. She found her supervisor who gave her the key to the clothing stockroom and a few instructions

on what to give priority to.

She opened the door to the stockroom, switched on the lights and looked around to familiarise herself with the layout. She noticed a shopping trolley in the left-hand corner of the room and wondered what it was doing there. It appeared to be full of clothes. Kirsty knew that the shopping trolleys should not leave the shop floor and certainly should not be used to move stock.

She went to the trolley to check it over, she must report it to the supervisor before doing anything else.

As she approached the trolley she could see that it did not contain stock but a heap of clothes that were creased and strangely placed. Then she noticed what looked like a human hand up tight against the wires at the bottom of the trolley. Now she could see, with a sudden shudder of shock, that a body was curled up and had been forced tightly into the trolley.

Involuntarily her hand went up to her mouth to smother a scream. This was the last thing she had expected to see.

Kirsty went out of the stockroom, locked the door and hurried to find her supervisor.

"Margaret," she said as she approached the supervisor "you must come to the stockroom, we have a problem, a big problem."