

# Claim to fame

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Desk Sergeant Dirk Bogarde closed the door on interview room one, leaving the small and very overweight Jayne Mansfield with a tea tray and a packet of Hobnobs from his personal hoard. Jayne was fifty-two (she claimed). Tamsin Thompson, his admin assistant had a card for Costco and supplied him in bulk. He still had two cartons unopened and, as this was his last day in harness after forty years on the force, he was feeling generous. Tamsin was his third wife Emma's second daughter by her second marriage. Dirk had endorsed Tamsin's application and six months into the job, she was doing well, talking about applying for Tulliallan Police College.

Six days earlier, Dirk had signed the deal on a second-hand camper van and was planning a long trip to record the sights of Europe with his new all-singing, all-dancing Cannon camera. He had made a deal with his stepdaughter May West, the youngest from his fourth marriage. May had agreed to operate his three-apartment flat in Chancellor Street as an Airbnb and pay the surpluses into his bank account, after operating costs.

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Dirk took his rough notes into his office, settled with a mug of coffee and two Hobnobs and began his slow typing, highly reliant on the autocorrect function:

*The petitioner is Ms Jayne Mansfield, singer, tap-dancer and former children's entertainer under the name 'Fundabbydozzy Kids Kapers'. Ms Mansfield (born Janis Manly, Barrhead, both parents worked at 'Shanks'), currently resides at 13A Crown Road North with her three chihuahuas which she breeds selling her pups as a sideline. She also runs a Rock Choir franchise with groups in Anniesland, Maryhill and Partick and has recently started a new outreach Dementia Group in Milton Community Centre.*

*Ms Mansfield claims she was awarded an MBE for services to the Citizens' Advice Bureau, (needs checking).*

*Married three times, she claims to be 'very happily single, at last!'. (Dirk, married and divorced four times could identify with this.)*

*Husband number three is the reason for her concern.*

*Roy Rogers, (Raymond Ralston, originally a taxidermist (pets) from Carntyne), was her business partner when they ran a dating pub club called 'Calamity Jane's'. When she last saw Roy on FaceTime, he was wearing a full beard (purple) with his hair in hip-length dreadlocks (scarlet).*

*Since their FaceTime six weeks ago, (Tuesday 11 August 2022), there has been no answer from his phone, no emails and no WhatsApps.*

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*Roy now lives somewhere in Fife with a new boyfriend called Alphonso Houdini, an escapologist who is also a hospital porter.*

*From my notes, this is how she described her missing person:*

"Roy was born hairless. He has always been over the top with the hair thing, wigs and beards in garish colours, a sort of denial syndrome. He has a lovely Perry Como style voice. When I sang as Connie Francis with him, we were a smash hit.

He was also crazy about horses and that's how he lost his left leg, amputated just above the knee after a bad fall when his new gelding called *Hi-Ho* threw him off then trampled him. His right foot was also smashed to smithereens. Such a pity, he used to be a great ballroom dancer. We could have won *Strictly* if it hadn't been for that accident.

Roy now has a *Motability* car, and a ride-on buggy. He's been 'clean' for five years now since he met Alphonso. Alphonso plays keyboards and sings *Reggae* and *Gospel*. They do pub gigs and open mike nights.

I never met Alphonso. but I did see a photo of him Roy posted on Facebook. I think he is Nigerian, and quite a bit younger than Roy, maybe fortyish? And he is a lay preacher.

Did I say Roy is seventy-eight?"

*Ms Mansfield has confirmed Roy was always a regular on her Facebook page. His last Facebook contact was mid-morning on Wednesday 12 August 2022 when he posted he was about to travel to St Andrews in his adapted Berlingo van, (bright yellow). His intention was to meet with a woman called Dr Jennifer Lopez from Abertay University who holds a grant from the Scottish Government and is researching the ancestry of Scottish-born Country and Western Entertainers.*

*Roy promised to pass Ms Mansfield's details to Dr Lopez.*

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Dirk checked the rota to be sure she was in the building then created a link from the database and forwarded it to DC Agatha Christie, his stepdaughter from his first marriage. Aggie was keen on C&W music and played zither guitar with several bands. Her biggest claim to fame was that she had played twice at Celtic Connections but (most annoyingly) was not seen in any camera footage.

## *Claim to fame*

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Dirk thought this one would be right up her street.

He pressed *Send* and then shut down his terminal, went to the changing room, took off his uniform and hung it up for the last time.

Changed into his civvies, he headed out of Partick Police Station and walked smartly to *No 16 Byres Road*, his current favourite restaurant.

He was in good time to meet Gina Lollobrigida, a ravishing fifty-something he had met two weeks earlier at his online camera club when she had been their studio model.

A night of passion beckoned.