

The Office

The office is looking grey today
The air is oppressive and heavy
Locked inner doors signal who's away
I get my presentation ready

The management are huffed and puffed
All blown up with hiring and firing
Their procedures can all get stuffed
I find them rather tiring

The meeting is doom and gloom
Buzzwords are on display
For distraction I gaze around the room
But someone tall is in my way

Patrick are you hearing me?
someone says from way off far
I know I'm not where I ought to be
I'm thinking about my car

Now you speak the person informs
I zoom to matters in hand
It's time for me to get to my feet
But I can hardly stand

Er, I say, searching for the profound
Did they action it?
Did who carry out what? I expound
Thinking the questioner is a tit
Headcount, face-to-face, in the round

That went well someone remarks
You nearly got yourself fired
I look at a zillion grey clerks
I'm feeling somewhat mired

I stumble past the water stand
I realise I'm wobbling and weaving
A colleague stops me with a hand
She asks: Having trouble breathing?

My desk is cleared I say as a reply
I've had enough of clerking
The woman looks me in the eye
How will you survive without working?

That's a challenge I admit
I'm thinking of taking up writing
Don't you need to consider it?
No, I'm sick of pointless fighting

By Patrick Mackeown

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Mutilation Murders

The torso of a black child has been discovered in London's Kensington Gardens. Detective Chief Inspector Hawthorne and his men quickly discover that the boy was a victim of a ritualistic killing. At Heathrow airport a second child, Jubulani, and his mother disembark from their plane. On his arrival in London Jubulani is kidnapped. A Ju Ju witchdoctor in South London is preparing the new child, Jubulani, to be sacrificed. Hawthorne is racing against time to save the boy.

Midwinter's Children

Georg, a nine-year-old street child, has been captured by human traffickers from Moscow and is about to be sold to a child pornography ring in Amsterdam. Detective Chief Inspector Hawthorne, from Suffolk CID, is on the case...

The Black Daimler

Nexus, a London-based Chinese dissident, learns that his friend was found with an axe embedded in his head. As more of his politically active associates die, he becomes involved in a frantic struggle to understand and defeat the threat to himself and his organisation.

The Expendability Doctrine

Oil tycoon Keith Connors is found dead in the garden of his villa; undoubtedly the work of a pro. His ex-wife flees to Libya, where she is linked to the brutal murder of the White House Trade Representative. In his investigations, Inspector Hawthorne discovers a sinister web of treachery and greed in the international oil business.

The Devil's Brothers

Catherine Bronston, a fifteen-year-old girl, is snatched outside her local swimming pool. The kidnappers, ruthless Albanian mafiosi, issue a ransom demand containing dismembered body parts. Catherine's father fears that the ongoing police investigation could reduce the possibility of her being found alive.

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