

THE CASE OF THE LIVING STUNTMAN

by

James Beattie Morison

James Beattie Morison
[Www.dyanmiclethargfilms.ca](http://www.dyanmiclethargfilms.ca)

INT. DETECTIVE'S OFFICE IN A POLICE STATION - DAY

A desk sits in the middle of the room. Several chairs are arrayed around the room. DAVID JOHNSON, a young private detective, sits in front of the desk. CASSIE WILLIAMS, the senior police detective sits behind and to one side of David. RICHARD MILLER sits behind the desk facing David. Richard holds a pen in his hand as he looks at his note pad on the desk in front of him. Richard glances at Cassie, then looks up at David.

RICHARD MILLER

OK, let's see if I have this right.
You were interviewing-
(pause while he glances
down at his note pad)

MICHAEL SMITH, the deceased, about
the pilfering at the ACME Film
Western Lot, just before he was
shot.

David nods in agreement.

RICHARD MILLER

Did he have any relevant
information for your investigation?

DAVID JOHNSON

In a word, no. I would have cut the
interview short, but he had all
these interesting stories. Those
old fogies usually do, don't they.

CASSIE WILLIAMS

Did he say anything that could
explain why he was shot?

DAVID JOHNSON

No. After a while I started to
wonder if he was all there. For
example, he told me about seeing
GLENN COE murdered. I had
interviewed Glenn just before I
went to the lot to talk to the old
coot.

RICHARD MILLER

Well, that is one less murder for
us to worry about.

Cassie frowns and seems skeptical.

DAVID JOHNSON

He seemed quite adamant about it.
He dragged me out of the saloon
onto the western street set to show
me where it happened.

RICHARD MILLER

That is when he was shot?

David nods. Richard looks at his note pad.

RICHARD MILLER

Are you sure the shot came from the
Sheriff's office. The other
witnesses think it was from the
water tower.

DAVID JOHNSON

Well, I'm not positive it was the
Sheriff's office, but I am
absolutely sure it couldn't have
been the water tower.

CASSIE WILLIAMS

How can you be so sure?

DAVID JOHNSON

That bullet went through that old
codger like a hot knife through
butter. If it been from the tower
it would have hit me too.

David stands up and opens his coat wide so both Cassie and
Richard can see.

DAVID JOHNSON

See any bullet holes?

Cassie and Richard look at each other and Cassie nods.
Richard glances at his note pad again before turning his
attention back to David.

RICHARD MILLER

That covers it for now. We can let
you get back to your investigation.

Richard and Cassie stand up.

CASSIE WILLIAMS

Thank you for your help Mr.
Johnson. We'll be in touch.

DAVID JOHNSON

Thank you.

David turns and moves toward the door. He turns his head to look back at Cassie and Richard.

DAVID JOHNSON

And good luck.

David opens the door, walks out, and closes the door behind him. Cassie and Richard look at each other.

RICHARD MILLER

This doesn't look easy.

CASSIE WILLIAMS

No. It doesn't.

(pause)

It never is.