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**The Magnus Protocol**

**Episode 41  
"Internal Investigation"**

**Written by Alexander J Newall  
Edited with by Jonathan Sims**

**[Intro Theme]**

**ANNOUNCER**  
**Rusty Quill Presents: The Magnus Protocol.**  
**Episode Forty-One – Internal Investigation**

**[Music]**

**1. O.I.A.R. OFFICE (COMPUTER), INT., NIGHT, RAINING**

**CELIA** types alone in the seemingly empty office for an agonizingly long time.

Eventually the Manager's door opens, then **GWEN** steps out and approaches.

**GWEN**

Celia-

**CELIA**

(a bit sharp)

Look I know we're behind on caseload but there's not much I can do about it on my own, we're four team members down now and-

**GWEN**

That wasn't what I wanted to talk to you about.

**CELIA**

Oh, right. Sorry.

**GWEN**

Apology accepted. Although now you mention it....

**CELIA**

(restrained)

What did you want to ask?

**GWEN**  
Have you heard anything from Alice?

**CELIA**  
(sighing)  
Nothing, not a word since she  
arrived in Berlin.

**GWEN**  
(leading)  
Oh really?

**Beat.**

**CELIA**  
Yes, really.

**GWEN**  
No texts, no emails?

**CELIA**  
No.

**GWEN**  
You're sure?

**CELIA**  
(restrained)  
What are you implying, Gwen?

**GWEN**  
Nothing.

**Beat.**

**GWEN**  
When did you last check?

**CELIA**  
(wearily sympathetic)  
Gwen, there's no shame in being  
worried about her.

**GWEN**

**(Scoffing)**

**Hardly! I just know that if she were to call, it wouldn't be to my phone, so I thought it pertinent to check with you. Just in case.**

**CELIA**

**Oh I'm sure she-**

**GWEN**

**Please don't. I've worked with Alice long enough to know how little she thinks of me.**

**CELIA**

**I mean, you don't make it easy but I'm sure she's fond of you. In her own way.**

**GWEN**

**Well be that as it may, the situation remains that what little rapport we may have once shared has very much ended now that I am her superior. And as a result I suspect that if she had contacted you from Berlin she would have likely told you to keep me in the dark.**

**CELIA**

**Oh that's not true-**

**Beat.**

**CELIA**

**(cont.)**

**Okay, she totally might do that but I promise she hasn't called me.**

**Beat. GWEN is very loudly silent.**

**CELIA**  
**(cont. Colder)**  
**Was there anything else?**

**GWEN**  
**No. That's all for now I think. You**  
**can get back to work.**

**Beat.**

**Celia starts to type.**

**GWEN gives a satisfied huff and walks back to her office. The**  
**door closes.**

**Beat**

**CELIA slams the keyboard in frustration and it begins playing a**  
**case.**

## **2. CYBERSPACE – N/A, N/A(COMPUTER)**

**CHESTER**

**Witness Statement of Dr Chloe**  
**Gemmell Bsc. MB. BS, MRCPATH**  
**DipRCPATH (forensic)**  
**Date of Birth 2<sup>nd</sup> February 1970**  
**Occupation: Criminal Pathologist.**

**Address: Greater Manchester Police**  
**HQ**

**This statement is true to the best of**  
**my knowledge.**

**Dated 17<sup>th</sup> June 1995**

**This is a confidential report to the**  
**coroner and should not be disclosed**  
**without permission.**

**At approximately 09:30am on the 9<sup>th</sup> June 1995, at the request of Greater Manchester Police, I attended the scene of a suspicious death near Didsbury, Lancashire.**

**I was logged into the outer cordon at 09:32am and was logged into the inner cordon at 09:41am by a PC and met by DI Bettie Osbourne, Principal SOCO David Schäfer and Senior SOCO Grant Chapman.**

**Mr. Schäfer provided background information. A neighbor reported sounds of a confrontation and chemical smells at approximately 2am and later reported seeing a body through a back window at 4am. Paramedics attended and declared life extinct at 4:35am. Police arrested suspect at scene.**

**Upon entering I saw that the kitchen was filled with chemistry apparatus and broken glass on the floor, seemingly from a broken, oversized container with bloodstains. There were various residues on most surfaces along with extensive diagrams and what looked like an MLM sales guide for “Marconi Alchemics”.**

**The body of the deceased was lying in the doorway to the adjoining utility room, half covered with laundry.**

**Fact of death:**

**Having consulted with the Senior Investigating Officer DI Bettie Osbourne I examined the body to verify the death. This was confirmed at 10:09am.**

**Scene Examination:**

**The body was of a middle-aged, caucasian woman. She was lay on her right side in a fetal position with her head towards the backdoor. The left arm was extended towards the door with slight flex. The right arm was pressed against the body with the right elbow flexed and the right hand clutched at the face. The legs were extended behind with minimal rotation.**

**Clothing:**

**A floral knee length dress, fully buttoned. A pair of bi-focal glasses. One full length, leather apron tied around the back with “Marconi Alchemics” embroidery. Plastic eye protectors embossed with same logo. Pair of pink socks. Pair of pink shoes, medium heel, no laces.**

**Body was undressed and examined at scene with tapings and swabs obtained.**

**Bloodstaining and contamination:**

**Minor bloodstaining on right hand collar. Dirt on left hand and both knees. Minor vomitus running from the right corner of the mouth. Blood staining under both sets of fingernails. No soiling. Body appears**

to be uniformly covered in Sodium Chloride. Swab taken.

**Adjacent Scene:**

Body was covered in clean laundry. Minor bloodstaining and vomitus under head on right side. Body of deceased partially propped against Washing Machine. Tumble dryer door open with some clothes inside. Bloodstaining on large glass flask.

**Rigor Mortis:**

Fully established in all muscle groups.

**Temperature:**

Reading at 10:32am. Ambient temperature 30 degrees Celsius with thermometer reading 24 degrees.

**Signs of visible injury:**

8 incised wounds of similar depth at nape of neck with two at larynx indicating strangulation.

**Protective Clothing:**

Standard procedures observed.

Logged out of inner cordon at 11:17am. Logged out of outer cordon at 11:25am.

**Exhibits list – scene:**

Standardized swabs, plucking and tapes (see attached). Scraping from beneath nails on right and left hand. Swab of indentations on neck. Sample of vomitus. Swab of blood from glass flask.

### **Post Mortem Examination**

**10th July 1995 attended mortuary at Stepping Hill Hospital for special post mortem of Alana Ward.**

**Examination began at 8:20pm**

**Persons present were DI Bettie Osbourne, Principal SOCO Warren Schäfer, Senior SOCO Grant Chapman, DC Marko Mason (exhibits) and mortuary technician Kaela DeAngelis.**

**Standard photographs were taken under my direction.**

**Recognized decedent received in white signature-sealed body bag and wrapped in black plastic sheet. She was a well nourished, adult female, light build, 165cm tall but weighing 105kg, significantly exceeding weight expectations.**

**Long, dyed red hair with exposed brown and grey roots. Shaved body hair with trimmed nails 0.1cm long with signs of tearing.**

**Two vaccination scars over the left, upper arm. Old curving scar below navel consistent with cesarean section. No tattoos.**

### **Post Mortem Changes:**

**Rigor mortis still firmly established. Weakly developed, mobile, primary**

**hypostasis on right side with associated blanching.**

**Signs of sharp force injury:**

**Incised wounds at base of neck and larynx consistent with strangulation. Indentations recorded. Minor lacerations to face at point of contact with floor. Multiple markings consistent with phlebotomy on inside of left elbow. Angle of insertion indicates self-inflicted with no expertise. Extensive reddening around the neck suggest injuries inflicted whilst alive.**

**Other signs of injury:**

**Head and neck- Minor abrasion on right parietal scalp. Major blunt crushing trauma to neck consistent with strangulation. Trunk- minor abrasions consistent with insect activity.**

**Internal Examination**

**Scalp – stripped to nape of neck posteriorly. Skull coated in foul smelling yellow residue. Sent to toxicology. Likely sulfur based but no sign of cause.**

**Skull – Dura was stripped, no sign of fracture.**

**Brain - Entire organ appears to have been replaced with solid silver facsimile but no sign of surgery. Entire organ removed with difficulty and passed to toxicology for further**

**examination.**

**Face - soft tissues dissected to the bone. No evidence of injury. Grey tone indicative of systemic shock or hypoxia.**

**Mouth –Tongue bitten. Metallic discoloration in mouth lining, sample sent to toxicology.**

**Neck – heavy damage to larynx and trachea, consistent with strangulation. Bruising in strap muscles with hairline thyroid bone fracture and cartilage damage. Finger patterns recorded in skin.**

**Chest - Pleura were stripped. Significant metallic discoloration noted. Samples sent to toxicology. Ribs were flayed. No evidence of fracture but severe deformation of pleural cavity and surrounding tissue.**

**Lungs – Exposure of Pleural sack revealed it was filled with dense metallic deposit. Autopsy paused and additional biohazard procedures were enacted leaving me as only physical presence. Incision into the pleural membrane released large amounts of liquid metal, suspected mercury. Sample sent to Toxicology. Lungs entirely absent no evidence of surgery.**

**Heart - With great difficulty organ was removed and cleaned revealing**

**what appears to be solid gold facsimile in its place. No sign of surgery and pulmonary vessels were directly attached without scarring. Organ sent to toxicology under DI Osbourne's supervision.**

**Stomach – undamaged beyond slight deformation from weight of replaced surrounding tissue. Contents consisted of one cornish pasty, partial digestion.**

**Intestines – Appear normal. No perforations, inflammation or pathological changes.**

**Liver: Entirely replaced by silvery metallic facsimile. Organ removed for toxicology but initial indications of Tin.**

**Kidneys: Entirely replaced by copper facsimiles. Organ sent for analysis.**

**Bladder: Undamaged with no indications of tumors, inflammation or stones.**

**Generative Organs: Womb, cervix, fallopian tubes and ovaries fully removed. Scarring consistent with hysterectomy. No evidence of other trauma.**

**Spleen: Dense and soft metallic facsimile of organ removed for analysis. Suspected lead. Severe deformation of surrounding tissue, likely as a result of excessive organ**

**weight.**

**Endocrine Organs: All appear normal but samples provided for toxicology due to prevalence of foreign bodies.**

**Other Organs – Gall bladder replaced by metallic facsimile, suspected iron. Organ removed for testing.**

**Additional notes – High-speed oscillating autopsy saw was damaged during Y incision due to unexpected foreign bodies. Difficulties introducing trocar for bodily fluid collection due to same.**

**Organ weights:  
See attached.  
Note- Weights of facsimiles provided in lieu of missing organs.**

**Post Mortem concluded at 02:30 11<sup>th</sup> July 1995.**

**Mortuary Exhibits List: See attached.**

**Toxicology: Complete toxicology report is still pending but initial testing verifies visual observations of stated heavy metals.**

**Histology: Each organ has been collected for further analysis with conventional examination impossible. Spectroscopic analysis is underway.**

**Time of death: Based upon temperatures recorded at scene,**

computed with Henssge's nomogram, indicates a time of death at approximately eight hours earlier at 2am on 9<sup>th</sup> June 1995 but the large amount of metallic foreign bodies found in the decedent significantly reduce the reliability of this estimate.

### Conclusions

Damage to the throat and neck accompanied with indications of hypoxia are consistent with strangulation from the front via foul play. That stated, the near complete replacement of decedent's vital organs with metallic facsimiles appears to have somehow happened prior to death without surgery.

I am given to understand that a suspect was arrested at the scene but I assume there has been a clerical error as they were listed as having the same identity as the decedent.

Extreme caution is advised when handling evidence relating to the case due to confirmed presence of toxic materials.

I have already insisted that all persons present at the autopsy and scene receive medical examination for poisoning. Results are pending.

### Personal Comments

I don't know what I just witnessed. If any similar cases arise do not contact me.

**3. O.I.A.R. MANAGER'S OFFICE (LANDLINE), INT., NIGHT,  
CLEAR**

**GWEN** twitches the blinds as she stares at Celia through her window.

**GWEN**

Hmph.

She releases the blinds then goes and sits at her desk.

She hesitates a moment, then opens a drawer, takes out the decanter and pours herself a drink. The bottle is near empty.

She sips then takes a deep, steadying breath.

Beat.

Her computer pings an email alert and **GWEN** is startled.

**GWEN**

...Freddy?

The computer pings the alert again.

**GWEN** hesitates then puts down the glass and accesses the email.

She reads it for a moment then pauses.

**GWEN**

So do I call this number or...

Beat.

**GWEN**

Right.

Gwen starts to dial a phone number on the manager's Landline.

It rings.

It rings again.

**It rings a third time.**

**GWEN**  
**This is ridiculous.**

**LENA**  
**(on phone)**  
**Hello Gwen.**

**Beat.**

**GWEN**  
**(astounded)**  
**Lena?**

**LENA**  
**Obviously. Who else would be**  
**answering my personal mobile in the**  
**middle of the night?**

**GWEN**  
**Oh er... How are you?**

**LENA**  
**Irritated and impatient. What do you**  
**want?**

**GWEN**  
**Oh well I er... I found this number**  
**and thought I would check to see**  
**who answered.**

**LENA**  
**I see.**

**BEAT.**

**LENA**  
**Well if that's all then I shall go back**  
**to bed. I have curling practice in the**  
**morning.**

**GWEN**

**Right.**

**LENA**

**And make sure you delete this number. I've no interest in any further late-night disturbances from you.**

**GWEN**

**Err, yes. All right.**

**Beat. LENA moves to hang up then hesitates.**

**LENA**

**(despite herself)**

**How are you finding it, Gwen?**

**GWEN**

**Excuse me?**

**LENA**

**Is it everything you hoped?**

**GWEN**

**I'm doing just fine, thank you.**

**LENA**

**(chuckling)**

**Then you're doing better than I did when I started. It took me almost a year just to get things in order.**

**GWEN**

**(quickly)**

**Well it's better now.**

**LENA**

**Of course it is. The important thing is just keeping everyone safe. Do that and you're mostly there.**

**GWEN**

Right, yes.

**LENA**

It's just a shame I didn't have more time to train my replacement before I...

**GWEN**

Retired?

**LENA**

...moved to the private sector. How old do you think I am Gwen?

**GWEN**

Oh, er...

**LENA**

Don't answer that.

**Beat.**

**GWEN**

Look, since I have you on the line anyway I was wondering if you could tell me-

**LENA**

Not over the phone. There's a reason I had you taking physical letters.

**GWEN**

(snapping, catching herself)

I- fine.

**LENA**

(cont.)

I'll send you a postcard with a time and place. Come alone and bring cash.

**GWEN**  
(restrained)  
Alright.

**LENA**  
And just to be absolutely clear, I would quite happily leave you in the bed you've made for yourself if I thought it wouldn't affect the others.

**Beat.**

**GWEN**  
Understood.

**LENA**  
And bring the bottle in my desk. It was a gift for someone and I'd like it back.

**GWEN**  
Oh er- yes. Yes all right.

**Beat.**

**LENA**  
(sighing)  
You drank it didn't you?

**GWEN**  
Not all of it.

**LENA** sighs then hangs up.

**GWEN**  
Lena? Hello?

**4. THE WORKSHOP INT. (ALICE'S PHONE), EVENING,  
CLEAR**

Alice is sat in the good chair. It's fine. They are in a different part of the warehouse, it is still dank and mostly empty but with less homicidal puppets.

Heinrich stands. Alice sits awkwardly in the middle of the mostly empty room.

**HEINRICH**

Your chair. He is *gut*?

**ALICE**

Oh- er yeah, great thanks. Four legs and everything...

**HEINRICH**

I am glad.

**Beat.**

**ALICE**

So, you said you could catch me up on what you were talking with Colin about?

**HEINRICH**

Very well, we shall "cut-to-the-chase." Colin contacted me some months ago wishing to learn more about your Friedrich programmer. He said its origins were here and that your files mark me as the only "safe" Angstjäger in Berlin. This was of course very insulting and, you will agree, untrue, yes?

He swells ever so slightly, somewhere between a sail-in-wind and a bellows.

**ALICE**

(nervous)

Uh- yeah. No, Safe is... not the word I would use.

**HEINRICH**

Mm. You are afraid of me, yes?

He stands a little closer, too close.

**ALICE**

Uh yeah.

**HEINRICH**

(backing off slightly)

Schön zu hören. Colin was pleasant. I liked him, and so I agreed to help him find his Friedrich.

**ALICE**

So did you find him or...

**HEINRICH**

(ominous)

Oh yes. But also no.

Beat.

**ALICE**

Right. Listen Henrik...

**HEINRICH**

Heinrich.

**ALICE**

Heinrich, look, I'm real scared right now-

**HEINRICH**

Danke.

**ALICE**

-but I've had a long flight and a rough few weeks and it's bad enough reading all Colin's rambling without doing the cryptic double-speak thing on top so can we just not? For now?

**Beat.** Heinrich sighs, deflated and becomes distinctly less imposing.

**HEINRICH**

Very well. Entschuldigung, it has just been some time since I could, how-do-you-say... play the part?

**ALICE**

Cheers, I appreciate it.

**HEINRICH**

(sighing)

What I found was not much, but I have only been learning computers recently, with Colin's help. I have been looking on the internet and this has led me to believe Friedrich was never a person at all.

**ALICE**

And why is that?

**HEINRICH**

Because it is not a name. It is a bezeichnung.

**ALICE**

Sorry I don't...

**HEINRICH**

No? A uh- a version? You know, Anton, Ärger, Berta, Cäsar?

**ALICE**

Er...

**HEINRICH**

(aside)

Mein Gott, Englisch... er... Version  
A, Version B...

**ALICE**

Wait. Wait wait, wait, wait, wait.  
You're saying Freddy- Friedrich, the  
guy I've flown all the way here to  
find, isn't even a guy? He's just  
what, an update number? Mr  
Foxtrot?

**HEINRICH**

Ja! Friedrich, Foxtrot, same thing,  
program number 8.

**ALICE**

But Colin had all these notes about a  
German programmer...

**HEINRICH**

Yes, there was such a man who built  
your "Freddy." The few references  
we found had the initials 'KS'. So  
you see, not Friedrich.

**ALICE**

Christ-on-a-bike...

**HEINRICH**

It is funny, yes?

**ALICE**

(frustrated)

No, no it's not.

**Alice thinks.**

**ALICE**

(cont.)

Right, well this has been fun  
Heinrich-

**HEINRICH**

Zehr Gut.

**ALICE**

(cont.)

And I appreciate you not skinning  
me alive-

**HEINRICH**

Bitte.

**ALICE**

But I think I need to go have a think  
about what to do now.

She stands and prepares to leave.

**HEINRICH**

I did mention, I think, that I also  
found an address?

**ALICE**

An address? For what?

**HEINRICH**

I do not know. It was associated mit  
der program designation. I thought it  
impolite to visit without Colin, but he  
is dead, so I will visit with you.

HEINRICH comes over.

**ALICE**

Listen Heinrich you really don't need  
to come with me, I'm sure you'd  
rather stay here in your toy...  
abbatoir...

**HEINRICH**

**Nonsense. We are friends now. I will visit with you.**

**ALICE**

**No really-**

**HEINRICH**

**(dark)**

**I insist.**

**Beat.**

**ALICE**

**Uh, okay then.**

**HEINRICH**

**(normal again)**

**Wunderbar! I will bring the chair.**

**ALICE**

**Um... thanks?**

**HEINRICH**

**Natürlich. Now, let us “paint the town red”.**

**Beat.**

**ALICE**

**Um... Alright then.**

**HEINRICH laughs. ALICE does not.**

**[Music]**

**ANNOUNCER**

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**The series is created by Jonathan Sims and Alexander J Newall, and directed by Alexander J Newall. This episode was written by Alexander J Newall and edited with additional materials by Jonathan Sims, with vocal edits by Nico Vettese, soundscaping by Meg McKellar, and mastering by Catherine Rinella with music by Sam Jones.**

**It featured Billie Hindle as Alice Dyer, Anusia Battersby as Gwendolyn Bouchard, Lowri Ann Davies as Celia Ripley Sarah Lambie as Lena Kelley, with additional voices from Jonathan Sims. The Magnus Protocol is produced by April Sumner, with executive producers Alexander J Newall, Dani McDonough, Linn Ci, and Samantha F.G. Hamilton, and Associate Producers Jordan L. Hawk, Taylor Michaels, Nicole Perlman, Cetius d'Raven, and Megan Nice.**

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Thanks for listening.**

**The Magnus Protocol 41 – Internal Investigation**  
**CAT1RB5535-17061995-10062024**  
**transmutation (organs) -/- experimentation (metal)**

**Incident Elements:**

- graphic descriptions of post-mortem examination

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Written by [Alexander J Newall](#)

Script Edited with additional material by Jonathan Sims

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Produced by April Sumner

Featuring (in order of appearance)

Lowri Ann Davies as Celia Rilpley

Anusia Battersby as Gwen Bouchard

Sarah Lambie as Lena Kelley

Billie Hindle as Alice Dyer

Robert Vernon as Heinrich Unheimlich

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