

UNCIVIL AMENITIES

The darkness was broken by a glowing point of light which brightened and faded to a hacking cough from the dark shadow behind it. The cough culminated in a hawking spit as the cigarette butt was thrown away, arcing into the night. A darker shadow sprang out from around the corner where it had been lurking. "Aha!" It yelled catching the glowing butt before it hit the ground "Aha! ... Ah! Ah! Ow! Shit!" The darker shadow threw the butt away and cupped stinging hands to its mouth. The first shadow started back in consternation and then sprang away into the dark, feet clattering and echoing down the empty alley way.

"Bugger!" said the darker shadow, shaking its hands and listening to the fading echoes of the running footsteps. "That's another one got away. I'm never going to make my quota this month." Percy Pollock stood staring after the retreating shadow with bile, and viciously ground the still glowing cigarette butt into the cobbles. Never a truer word was spoken. If Environmental Enforcement targets were to be met, it was a good thing that he had taken to himself the soubriquet, it seemed. Environmental Enforcement C

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himself the amenities

Which was why he had taken to lurking down dark alleys at night-time. "The buggers can't see you coming you see, ' he had said to his spotty faced assistant, Dilbo. Dilbo wasn't his real name. It was just a label his colleagues had attached to him after an incident of momentous stupidity in the office (although the obvious extension of the nickname was probably nearer the truth).

Regretfully, Percy packed away his gear and called it a night. Tomorrow was another day.

Tomorrow was indeed another day. A day that would go down in the annals of environmental enforcement like no other. It started out badly and got steadily worse.

"I've had complaints, Pollock." His boss was waiting for him as he walked into the office, bleary-eyed after another fruitless evening's 'perp' stalking (Percy's vocabulary was privately becoming more NYPD the more extreme his obsession