

**EXAMEN D'ADMISSIBILITE ECRIT**  
**Seconde Section Internationale, Session 2016**

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*The story is set in present-day Belfast, the capital of Northern Ireland. The city is at peace but is still divided, with Catholics (otherwise known as Taigs) on one side and Protestants (otherwise known as Prods) on the other.*

As soon as she walked into my office, I knew I was in trouble.

Well, okay. I don't have an office. Ma's front room. But I knew it all the same. It's not every day that a good-looking older lady wants to see me, and she's crying. I tried to be professional. "How can I help you, madam?" I thought she'd like that. She was in her early  
5 forties, I'd say, and wearing a lot of jewellery.

"Are you the detective?"

"That's right. Aloysius Carson, private eye."

"I was expecting someone older."

"Most people are. Older. But lots are younger too."

10 She looked round the front room/office, none too impressed. I've tried to get Ma to move the baby pictures but she isn't keen. "I suppose you might know where young people go? Being one yourself."

"I might," I agreed. "We go all kinds of places. School. The bus. McDonald's. Are you missing a young person?"

15 "This is my daughter Rosie," she said. From her bag she took out a photo in a frame. I put it down carefully on Ma's coffee table. I often think that if I had a nice big desk I'd get a lot more respect from people. "Rosie's missing?"

"We haven't seen her for two days. It's not like her."

"Called the police?"

20 She shook her head. "We're afraid she might be in some kind of trouble."

"How old?"

"Eighteen."

25 That was the same as me, but I didn't say. I thought it might not inspire the necessary confidence in my abilities. I took out my notepad and tried to look businesslike. "You said she might be in trouble?"

She made a face. "There's a boyfriend."

"There's always a boyfriend," I said wisely.

"Not with Rosie, this is the first. His name's John Joe. John Joe Magee."

And that name told me the situation was about to get a whole lot stickier.

30 You might ask yourself how I came by such a name as Aloysius Carson. The truth is, my parents had what we call a *mixed marriage*. He was a Prod, God rest him, she's a Taig. Love across the barricades, that sort of thing. So I'm not really one or the other. I could see the problem Mrs. Grant had right away. I could tell the family were of my father's persuasion, shall we say, and Rosie's fella wasn't just a Taig, he was the nephew of super-Taig Nasher Magee.

35 The next thing I do is some meticulous in-depth research. I was on Google in seconds and learned that Rosie Grant was the daughter of "successful tyre magnate Harry Grant." That explained the jewels dripping off the mother; they were loaded. I wondered how in the world someone like Rosie Grant, at her posh Protestant girls' school, had even met a body like John Joe Magee.

40 Every PI needs a computer expert in their corner. Luckily I have Gavin. He lives in his mum's basement off the Lisburn Road – it's got its own door, so it's pretty cool really. He's filled it with several computers so there's always this sucking noise, and there's no light, but he doesn't mind.

"What you working on?"

45 "Hacking into the Pentagon," he said, taking a honk of his asthma inhaler.

"Rosie Grant," I said. "Need to find her. Any ideas?"

"Background?"

"Subject is eighteen. Father is Harry Grant. Owns some tyre business."

"Protestant?"

50 "Yes."

He nodded. "Royal Belfast Girls School?"

"That's her." I was impressed. He was already in her Facebook profile. "I need to know who might have taken her. She's going out with Nasher Magee's nephew."

Even Gavin raised his eyebrows at that. "Where'd she even meet him?"

55 A good question. Gavin would make a useful assistant, if only he'd wear trousers more often.

"I'll get you it all," he said in a bored voice. "You want police records? Bank statements?"

"Er – only if it's relevant. And don't get arrested again, Gav."

60 He sighed. "It's not my fault if they won't build proper firewalls around things."

I decided it was time to check out Rosie's friends, and thanks to the Internet I knew who to go to first.

It was child's play to track down Chrissie, Rosie's best friend according to Facebook. She put her entire life up there, so I knew she'd be leaving school at four p.m. after her first aid class. I recognised her blonde curls and short school skirt as I pulled up beside her on my bike with a bit of a screech, pretty cool.

"Chrissie Carr?"

She gave me the sort of look girls like her give to boys like me. "Who're you?"

"Aloysius Carson, private eye."

70 She chewed very slowly on her gum, showing the inside of her pink mouth. "Who?"

I explained Rosie's mother had asked me to find her. "She's been missing for several days."

"I thought she was off with her fella, like."

"Are you worried?"

75 "I dunno." She seemed to think about it. "Should I be, like?"

"Her mother seems to think she's in some danger."

"Rosie is grand, I'm sure. She's always going off with fellas."

Later, I was cycling home through town when I realised what Chrissie said didn't make sense. Rosie was always going with boys? According to Mrs. Grant, John Joe was her first boyfriend. I smelled a rat.

80 Suddenly my phone started ringing. "Aloysius Carson, PI."

"Please...come...come now." It was Rosie's ma.

"Are you all right, Mrs. Grant?"

"Rosie...her finger...please..."

85 "I'm on my way."

## COMPREHENSION (20 points)

Answer the questions in order. Make sure you respect the number of words specified. When the number of words is not specified, answer in one sentence. "In your own words" means you have to reformulate the ideas of the text.

### Part one (beginning to line 29)

1. Who is telling the story and what do we know about this character (name, age, family, occupation)? (*approximately 20-30 words*)
2. Who is the "good-looking older lady" (l.3) and why is she crying?
3. "I tried to be professional." (l. 3-4) "I tried to look businesslike." (l. 24) Why is it so difficult for the narrator to appear professional? (*approx. 30-40 words*)

### Part two (line 30 to line 62)

4. Explain in your own words what we find out about Rosie in this part (social background, religious affiliation, personal life). Quote two words or phrases from the text to justify your description of her social background. (*approx. 30-40 words*)
5. How would you describe Gavin's lifestyle and personality? (*approx. 40 words*)

### Part three (line 63 to the end)

6. "She gave me the sort of look girls like her give to boys like me." (l. 68) Explain the quotation in your own words and say what it reveals about the way Chrissie and the narrator see each other. (*approx. 30-40 words*)
7. What kind of girl does Chrissie seem like? Choose three adjectives and justify each adjective by explaining in your own words. (*approx. 40 words*)
8. Explain in your own words why the narrator says "I smelled a rat." (l. 80) (*approx. 30 words*)

### The whole text

9. What makes the narrator funny (thoughts, words, actions)? Explain in your own words, giving at least three specific examples. (*60-80 words*)

## WRITING (20 points)

**Treat both subjects.** On the whole, you should write approximately 300-350 words. Please indicate the number of words you used at the end of each subject. Up to ten points are available for the content of your answer, and up to ten points for the quality of the writing.

1. Continue the story after the final line of the text in a logical and appropriate way. You should remain in the same narrative voice, and include some dialogue. You may introduce characters not already present in the extract. (150-200 words)
2. Have you ever had the feeling that you were being treated like a child? (150-200 words)