

TEXT 4

I do a furtive survey of the whole area. We need to get out of here. I can't see our pursuers. All I see is a small crowd of tourists crossing Rampart Street behind a tour leader. They are about to start a cemetery tour. Some people will hand over cash for anything!

Linc sees the tour group too, and it gives him an idea. "Let's go, Zac!" he grins.

If we tag along with the group we'll be able to watch without being obvious. It seems like a good idea until I see that everyone in the group is wearing a little round sticker that reads "Cemetery Tour". I point this out to Linc. Linc shrugs.

We risk following the crowd into the cemetery. The tour leader gets the group into a huddle near some family tombs and vaults. A few of the group find some shade near the larger crypts. The first thing the leader does is explain how unsafe the cemeteries are for visitors and unwary tourists.

At this point Linc rubs his chin like some old man having a bit of a think.

The leader goes on to explain that the local Historical Society is providing a reward for information about anyone damaging the

tombs and vaults. I think it's a warning to anyone who is thinking about souveniring a piece of cemetery.

"Don't even scratch a cross in the paintwork," he finishes smugly.

"The crypts might not be the home of vampires and ghosts," he explains, as if he knows what he's saying off by heart, "but they are often the haunts of more dangerous types. I know of some police officers who won't come into some of the cemeteries at night unless they are wearing protective clothing and have at least four other officers with them."

"Should get some real coppers," jokes a heckler in the group. He has an odd accent. There's a nervous giggle from some of the tour group.

"You'd better believe it. If you are in here at night and you start screaming, no one, but no one, will come a-running to help you. And if you think you can put out a mayday on your mobile phone—forget it. The deros or the muggers will already have that!"

He looks around with a self-satisfied smile.

Alan Horsfield

