

The Ferryman

by

Kate Stone

Kate Stone
katestone@gmx.co.uk

1 - EXT. DARK ALLEY GLASGOW - NIGHT

We hear running footsteps and a female panting. An abandoned, trashy alley is barely lit by some street lamps. The skinny Maya Hubris(27), hurries through the alley, wearing an expensive silver dress and a dark blue blazer. Slow, strong footsteps are following her.

HADES (V.O.)

There exist the olymp, the earth
and the underworld. The humans live
and die on earth. But that is not
the end of their journey.

Maya ends up in a dead end, looking back, panicking. A golden drachma, held up by the Ferryman(30s), who is wearing a completely black outfit, appears in the screen and is reflecting the light.

HADES (V.O.)

To pay the Ferryman for safe
passage across the river Styx into
the underworld, the soul needed a
single obolus. Usually, the people
burying their lost ones, would
place a coin into their mouth.

Maya screams desperately. The Ferryman takes out his knife, which slightly resembles a scythe. He kills her in a swift move. The body drops dead. The Ferryman places the gold drachma in the woman's mouth and walks away.

With golden letters, the signature: "The Ferryman" appears.

FADE TO BLACK

2 - EXT. GLASGOW - MORNING

As the sun rises, the city of Glasgow is slowly waking from its slumber. Noises of street work, traffic and people chatting fill the air. The focus guides us to the tall office towers near the river.

3 - EXT. OFFICE TOWER - MORNING

The Ferryman, dressed in a simple, formal suit, is walking up the stairs to the main glass door, that leads into the building.

4 - INT. ELEVATOR - MORNING

The elevator moves up the tower, all the way to floor 4. The Ferryman stares into nothing.

HADES (V.O.)

The ferryman, brother of Thanatos and many others, was Hades' most loyal servant, being the bridge between the earth and the underworld.

With a loud ding, the Ferryman arrives on floor 4 and the doors open.

5 - INT. HALLWAY - MORNING

The Ferryman walks through some white double doors on the right side of the elevator, that lead into a simple hallway. At the end of it is one single door, that he pushes open.

6 - INT. LETHE OFFICE - MORNING

He enters a modern office room, with big windows on one side offering a view over Glasgow. Behind the desk, on a big black chair, sits Lethe(60). She is wearing a simple black skirt, a white blouse and a red blazer. Some expensive pearls lay around her neck. As the Ferryman enters, she looks up from her screen and smiles brightly.

LETHE

Good morning, Mr. Acheron!

She stands up, and hands the Ferryman a couple papers, as he walks past her to a wooden double door.

THE FERRYMAN

Good morning, Lethe. What is this?

LETHE

The contracts came through from Kyoto. They require your immediate attention.

She looks at him over her glasses and the Ferryman nods with a smile.

THE FERRYMAN

Alright, thanks. Anything else?

Lethe walks back to her seat.

(CONTINUED)

LETHE

Oh yes. There's call on line 3 for you.

The Ferryman hesitates for a second and then lifts his hand as a thanks, before he enters his own office.

7 - INT. FERRYMAN OFFICE - MORNING

As this room makes up the corner of the tower, two walls were replaced with windows. The desk is placed in the center of the room. On the wall to his right stands a wardrobe next to a small table with refreshments on it. The walls are filled with abstract paintings.

The Ferryman takes a seat behind the desk and takes a breath. He then presses the blinking button on his phone and picks it up.

HADES (O.S)

Good morning.

THE FERRYMAN

Good morning, Sir. How can I be of service?

HADES (O.S)

I have a new target for you, the file should be with you now.

The Ferryman lights up his screen. He opens up a new file about Mr. Aporia.

HADES (O.S)

Mr. Aporia needs to be eliminated immediately. This is a high priority case. Do you understand?

THE FERRYMAN

Yes, Sir. What's the brief?

HADES (O.S)

Mr. Aporia "officially" runs a law firm. But he secretly move millions between different bank accounts, helping companies avoid taxes. Unfortunately, he got greedy. Mr. Aporia stole over 20 million. Tomorrow at five there is a court hearing. Aporia needs to disappear before that, so he cannot make a statement. It will close the case.

(CONTINUED)

THE FERRYMAN
Understood.

HADES (O.S.)
I trust you to be swift and clean.

THE FERRYMAN
Consider it done.

Hades hangs up and the Ferryman puts down the phone. The Ferryman takes a look at the second screen. The picture shows a man in his 40s, who has been photographed unknowingly, and is nervously staring in the distance.

The Ferryman takes his time, to study the information on the screen.

HADES (V.O.)
The Ferryman, also called Acheron or Charon, made sure, that all the souls paid for his service. If they didn't have an obolus, they had to wait 100 years on the shore, before they were allowed to enter the underworld.

The Ferryman opens a drawer and removes the false bottom. Underneath it is filled with golden coins. Carefully he takes one out, and puts it in the inside pocket of his jacket.

He gets up and leaves the office.

8 - INT. LETHE OFFICE - DAY

Lethe looks up from her screen, as the Ferryman walks past her.

LETHE
Where are you going?

THE FERRYMAN
Food.

LETHE
Oh, there is this great place in Merchant City. It's called Ambros! I'm meeting my sister there in a bit. Do you...?

The Ferryman smiles and nods at her.

(CONTINUED)

THE FERRYMAN
I'll be back in two hours.

LETHE
Have you even looked at the Kyoto
contracts?

The Ferryman smirks at Lethe and leaves. She smirks too and shakes her head.

LETHE
You gonna ruin your own business.

CUT TO:

9 - EXT. MERCHANT CITY - DAY

Mr. Aporia, a stressed out man in a wrinkled blue suit, is leaving a building and crosses the street. He spots the Ferryman, who is hiding his face from him, in the street he wanted to turn to. He freezes, before he walks off into a different direction.

The Ferryman smiles and follows him.

10 - EXT. SIDE STREET - DAY

Mr. Aporia ushers through a small alley, no one else is there. He looks to his right, as he comes to a cross road, seeing a man in a black suit.

MR. APORIA (TO HIMSELF)
Oh no! I don't want to die.

He makes a turn right, walks a couple steps around a corner, but then sees another silhouette turning on that corner at the end. Aporia runs up and he suddenly reaches a dead end.

MR. APORIA
Oh no.

He turns around, his back pressed to the wall. The Ferryman walks directly towards him, his face covered under a black hood and mask. He flips a golden coin playfully in his hand.

MR. APORIA
Please don't! Please don't! I don't
want to die. I can pay you! I can
pay you all you want!

His voice cracks in desperation, as the Ferryman stands in front of him.

(CONTINUED)

HADES (V.O.)

Those who tried to deny the ferryman his payment and even betray his service, were doomed to remain on the planes of the mare. The restless dead.

The Ferryman reaches for his scythe-shaped knife, slowly revealing it to Mr. Aporia.

MR. APORIA

Oh please no. Please! I beg you. Don't kill me, please. Whatever they pay you, I can pay double!

LETHE (O.S)

Help! Someone help me!

The Ferryman freezes. He points at Mr. Aporia with his knife and turns around a corner to run to Lethe.

11 - EXT. SIDE STREET - DAY

The Ferryman hides the knife, the hood and the mask in his blazer as he rushes around the corner. As he turns and looks back, he sees Aporia run away.

Lethe is leaning against a wall, her small black bag dropped on the floor. She is breathing heavily, holding her chest.

THE FERRYMAN

Lethe!

The woman looks up and tumbles towards him. The Ferryman catches her and looks her up and down.

THE FERRYMAN

Are you okay? What happened? Are you hurt?

Lethe shakes her head, catching her breath.

LETHE

I'm fine. Some boys threatened me with a knife, they took my necklace.

THE FERRYMAN

I am sorry, Lethe. Let's get you back to the office, okay?

(CONTINUED)

LETHE

Okay. - I mean The Kyoto contracts
are still waiting.

Both of them chuckle. The Ferryman picks up Lethe's bag and they walk off.

FADE TO BLACK

12 - EXT. POLICE STATION - DAY

Mr. Aporia paces up and down, a couple feet away from a station. He takes out his phone and makes a call.

PIPER (O.S)

Officer Crawford, how can I help?

MR. APORIA

It's Aporia.

PIPER (O.S)

What's up? Are you okay?

MR. APORIA

Someone tried to kill me. But you know I can't make a report.

PIPER (O.S)

Where are you?

MR. APORIA

Outside the station.

Piper hangs up and Mr. Aporia stares at his phone. As he looks up, a young blonde officer (27), rushes out the door and looks around. She spots Aporia and jogs over to him.

PIPER

Are you okay? You said, someone tried to kill you? What did you do?

MR. APORIA

Piper - I need to leave the country. It was so fucking close.

PIPER

Okay, listen. Give me anything you got on the killer. What did he look like?

(CONTINUED)

MR. APORIA

He wore a hood and a mask. Black suit. Bloody weird looking knife. Oh and a gold coin. He ran off after someone yelled for help.

PIPER

Okay. Gotcha. Listen. Go home. I finish at 5. I'll do some digging and I'll come and meet you. Good?

Piper smiles at him with confidence and reassurance.

MR. APORIA

Thank you. I'll be waiting.

Piper nods and pads his shoulders. Then she turns around and walks back into the station without looking back.

FADE TO BLACK

13 - INT. LETHE OFFICE - DAY

Lethe is working on her desk. The Ferryman is pacing up and down in front of her desk.

LETHE

Stop pacing! Jesus. What is up with you?

The Ferryman flinches on her words. He stops and looks at her.

THE FERRYMAN

I got lost in my head.

Lethe smiles and points at the door to his own office.

LETHE

Kyoto contracts. Go.

The Ferryman smiles, nods. Suddenly Lethe's phone rings.

LETHE

Mr. Acheron's office, Lethe speaking. How can I help you? (...)
Yes, of course.

She looks back at her screen.

(CONTINUED)

LETHE
Line three for you.

14 - INT. FERRYMAN OFFICE - DAY

The Ferryman rushes into his office. He sits down in front of his desk, clicks on the blinking light of his phone and picks it up.

HADES (O.S)
What the hell happened, Acheron?!

THE FERRYMAN
Something came up, I...

HADES (O.S)
I don't want excuses.

THE FERRYMAN
Yes, sir.

Hades is taking a deep breath.

HADES (O.S)
The court is going to meet up in about 24 hours. Aporia needs to be dead. If you fail, your name will be put on those files.

He hangs up. With a sudden boost of anger, the Ferryman stands up and wipes everything from his desk.

He is panting, angry at the mess. He starts to pace up and down, clenching his fists.

A knock on the door.

THE FERRYMAN
What?!

Lethe enters with a cup of tea in her hands. She raises an eyebrow on the mess next to his desk. She hands the Ferryman the cup.

He lets himself sink into his chair. Lethe takes a seat at one of the two black chairs. Both of them sit in silence.

LETHE
I didn't know the Kyoto contracts would upset you so much.

(CONTINUED)

THE FERRYMAN

I DON'T CARE ABOUT - I am sorry. I
didn't mean to yell.

He takes a sip from the tea, as Lethe relaxes in her chair.

LETHE

Would you like me to take care of
it?

THE FERRYMAN

Yes.

Lethe smiles and stands up. She picks up the papers from the
floor.

THE FERRYMAN

I'll take care of it. - Feel free
to go home, you had quite a day.

LETHE

Are you alright?

THE FERRYMAN

Yes. Don't worry about me.

LETHE

I'll see you tomorrow!

She leaves the office without looking back at him and closes
the door behind her. The Ferryman stares out of the window.

HADES (V.O.)

Not once has anyone ever cheated
the ferryman. Cheated death. The
law is unbreakable.

FADE TO BLACK

HADES (V.O.) (CON'D)

Everyone must follow the law.

15 - INT. APORIA HOTEL ROOM - EVENING

The hotel room is barely lit. The bed is unmade, a suitcase
lying on top of it. The entire floor, the bed and the desk
are covered in clothes and paper files. Mr. Aporia is
sitting on the floor, leaning against the bed, starring at
his laptop screen.

Suddenly there is a knock on the door. Aporia flinches,
drops the laptop and walks over to the door.

(CONTINUED)

MR. APORIA

Who is it?

PIPER (O.S)

It's me. Open up.

Mr. Aporia opens the door. Piper is carrying a bigger box into Aporia's room. She takes a look around before dropping it at the desk.

PIPER

Good god. I didn't know a room could look worse than Jamie's.

She laughs and shakes her head.

MR. APORIA

How is the little one?

PIPER

He is doing great. He can finally go to the nursery so I don't need to pay for the nanny anymore.

Her smile disappears and she opens the box.

PIPER

I looked through some stuff. The gold coin was a really odd thing. Here.

She hands Aporia a file. He opens it, it shows a picture of Maya Hubris and the coin in her mouth.

MR. APORIA

Oh lord.

PIPER

This is the most recent one. Ten months ago. She got killed only a couple allies away from a busy club. - But when I looked into the archives...

MR. APORIA

What? What is it?

PIPER

There are 183 cold cases from the last 16 years. All connected by the gold coin. Not a single one got solved. There are no leads, no witnesses, nothing. There must be a

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

PIPER (cont'd)
huge organisation behind this.
Nothing ever went out to the
public.

Mr. Aporia tumbles back and sits down on the bed.

MR. APORIA
I really need to disappear.

Piper walks over to him, takes the file and puts it back in the box. Then she sits next to Aporia.

PIPER
Where are you gonna go?

MR. APORIA
I don't know. Take a plane, go
somewhere in South America.

He chuckles for a moment, before fear takes over and he starts fidgeting. Piper puts her hand on his to calm him.

PIPER
Plane is a bad idea. They can track
your passport. - What about leaving
on a ship? A friend of mine has a
boat. I can give him a call and we
can meet him tomorrow.

She smiles and Aporia nods back.

MR. APORIA
Thank you. I owe you.

Piper gets up, ready to leave, and grabs the box.

PIPER
Are you kidding? I can never repay
you for what you did for Jamie!

She nods at him and leaves.

CUT TO:

16 - INT. FERRYMAN OFFICE - EVENING

The Ferryman is standing at the window, hands behind his back and simply staring into the dark. Suddenly a little noise takes him out of his thoughts. He rushes over to the screen.

(CONTINUED)

A notification pops up: "Text message received: Cessnock dock, 11am" . The Ferryman sits down and starts typing on his keyboard, with a slight smirk on his face.

THE FERRYMAN
A ferry? How poetic.

FADE TO BLACK

17 - INT. FERRYMAN OFFICE - MORNING

LETHE (O.S)
Mr. Acheron? Hey! Wake up!

The Ferryman flinches up, looking around. He looks up. Lethe stands next to him, raising an eyebrow.

LETHE
Did you sleep on your desk?

Without answering, the Ferryman groans and stretches. Lethe shakes her head and makes her way to the door.

LETHE
Are you alright?

THE FERRYMAN
Yeah. Don't worry about me.

The Ferryman stares out of the window. Lethe closes the door behind her, her face overshadowed with concern. The Ferryman stands up and walks over to the wardrobe.

CUT TO BLACK

18 - EXT. CESSNOCK DOCK - DAY

The Ferryman enters the dock. A couple boats are at the port. It is not very busy. The Ferryman sits down on a bench, waiting. He is fidgeting and looks at his watch. 10.54am.

THE FERRYMAN (TO HIMSELF)
Where are you?

He hears a car and looks up. A nervous Mr. Aporia and Piper leave the car and walk over to the dock. A tough-looking guy with short black hair and dirty clothes is waiting for them.

CUT TO:

Piper gives the man(37) a quick hug.

(CONTINUED)

PIPER

Thank you for meeting us. X, this is John.

JOHN

We leave at 3. You got cash?

MR. APORIA

Cash? - uhm. I can make a transfer to...

JOHN

No. No transfer.

MR. APORIA

I don't have... What do you want me to do?

CUT TO:

The Ferryman sees Mr. Aporia speaking with his hands and the argument between him and John. He takes out his phone and speed dials one.

LETHE (O.S)

Who and when?

THE FERRYMAN

Mr. Aporia. lpm. I have a deal for him, he cannot refuse.

LETHE

Understood.

The Ferrmany hangs up. He smiles satisfied and leaves the dock.

CUT TO:

John crosses his arms.

JOHN

You want to disappear? Only cash.

PIPER

I'm sorry, X. Those are John's rules. I can't...

Mr. Aporia's phone interrupts. He picks up and walks a couple steps away.

(CONTINUED)

MR. APORIA

Yes? (...) Yes, that is me. (...)
1pm? (...) Okay, yeah sure. I'll
come.

He hangs up.

MR. APORIA

I just got offered a deal. Meeting
at 1pm.

PIPER

Well that's convenient! Get the
money, get some cash and you are
gone by the night!

MR. APORIA

Okay, okay. I'll get the deal. (to
John) I can pay you in a couple
hours.

JOHN

Good. We leave at 3.

John walks off. Piper looks at Aporia with a concerned
smile.

PIPER

Be careful, okay? I need to get
back to work.

Mr. Aporia gives her a hug.

MR. APORIA

I'll be fine. Thank you. For this.
I will leave some money behind for
you and Jamie.

PIPER

Just send a card, okay?

CUT TO BLACK

19 - INT. FERRYMAN OFFICE - DAY

The Ferryman walks into his office, dropping the suitcase
next to the table and opening the wardrobe. With a grunt, he
picks a grey suit.

CUT TO:

A knock on the door. Lethe opens it.

(CONTINUED)

LETHE

Mr. Aporia is here for you, Mr.
Acheron.

The Ferryman sits confidently in his chair, having a couple documents in front of him. Mr. Aporia enters the room.

THE FERRYMAN

Ah, Mister Aporia! Please.

Mr. Aporia sits confidently down opposite the desk of the Ferryman.

THE FERRYMAN

Let me get straight to it. I have
70 million that need to disappear
by the end of the week. I can offer
you 2%.

MR. APORIA

I want 7%.

THE FERRYMAN

4%. Final offer.

The men stare at each other. Mr. Aporia finally nods, and a satisfied smile appears on his face.

MR. APORIA

Deal. I want a share in cash.

THE FERRYMAN

That can be sorted. I will send my
secretary to pick up your deposit.
How about a celebratory lunch? My
treat.

Mr. Aporia checks the clock. 1.17pm.

MR. APORIA

Sounds wonderful.

They nod at each other and stand up.

THE FERRYMAN

I will be outside with you in a
minute. Let me just get a couple
documents.

Mr. Aporia makes his way to the door. The Ferryman quickly scribbles a couple lines on a piece of paper.

20 - INT. LETHE OFFICE - DAY

The Ferryman walks through the door and hands Lethe the note.

THE FERRYMAN
I will be back soon.

He walks to the office door and opens it for Mr. Aporia.

THE FERRYMAN
Please.

CUT TO BLACK

21 - EXT. DARK ALLEY GLASGOW - AFTERNOON

The Ferryman guides Mr. Aporia through an abandoned side alley, casually distracting him with inaudible conversation.

HADES (V.O.)
For centuries people believed they
could defeat death. That there was
an afterlife waiting for them. A
better place. Heaven as some say.
But it never was for the many.
Greed and other sins took over the
good heart of the soul, leaving it
to disappear into the underworld.
No one can escape death.

The Ferryman's phone rings twice before it goes silent. He immediately pushes Mr. Aporia into another side alley, making the man stumble and fall. With a single swift motion, he kills Aporia. Carefully taking out the golden drachma from his inside pocket, he places it in his mouth.

HADES (V.O.)
Because at the end, the law remains
unbroken. And Hades' most loyal
servant never fails.

As the Ferryman walks away from the scene, the golden signature "The Ferryman" appears, leaving the focus on the golden coin.

FADE TO BLACK

The End.