 Past the Shallows

Inquest Task

Re read pages 197-232 in particular for this task but refer to the novel as a whole in your responses.

As part of the inquiry into Harry’s death the police have interviewed Dad and Miles.

Based on events in the novel’s plot and in the character of Dad write the transcript of the interview, before recording the responses. You may use the following questions as a guide, adding to them if you wish or you may write your own. Read through the questions first so you know where the interview is going, which will help determine your answers.

Police Interview

Interviewing Officer: Interview commenced at 12 noon 23/8/17. I am Sergeant Favel Parrett. Thanks for coming in to help us with our routine inquiries and please accept my condolences for your loss. You understand that it is standard procedure that this interview will be recorded as part of our investigation into the recent incident on your boat?

Dad: Thanks. I do.

Sgt Parrett: I am puzzled as to why you were out diving in the first place. Surely a man of your experience realised how inclement and potentially dangerous the weather was?

Dad:

Sgt Parrett: Why did you have both the lads on the boat? Did you not consider the risks? What sort of a parent puts their children at risk like that?

Dad:

Sgt Parrett: The coastal rescue team reported radio contact with someone screaming “We’re at the Witches” and then it suddenly cut out with no response to their calls. Can you account for that and why were you in protected waters?

Dad:

Sgt Parrett: Are you aware receiving that radio call was what enabled the rescue team to locate your capsized vessel and save your life? As skipper of the craft what exactly did you do to save your crew or rather your son and mate? Given the time that has passed already, the rescue team has downgraded the search for Jeff to retrieval only.

Dad:

Sgt Parrett: Our forensic team have been over the vessel and state that it was hardly sea worthy. Given the condition of the boat and as it appears that no one on board was wearing a life jacket you will be reported to the Fisheries Authority and face being charged with culpable misconduct. Why is the boat in such a bad state of repair?

Dad:

Sgt Parrett: It can’t have been easy raising three boys on your own after the death of your wife, especially given the financial hardship you are facing now. How would you describe you relationship with your three sons?

Dad:

Sgt Parrett: How well are you coping? I guess you get a lot of support from your late wife’s sister don’t you? After all family stick together don’t they?

Dad:

Sgt Parrett: Well that comes as a surprise but being part of a close knit community like ours provides you with support doesn’t it?

Dad:

Sgt Parrett: Sir, in light of what you have told me about the accident on the boat and your wife’s car accident, not to mention your neglect of your children, I will have to keep you in custody awaiting possible charges. We will help you seek legal advice. Constable Mako will escort you to the lockup. Interview terminated 2:07 pm.

Witness Statement

Based on events in the novel’s plot and in the character of Miles continue to write the transcript of the witness statement he records for the police.

Police Officer: Miles we know you have been through a great ordeal and even though you are still in hospital could you please help us understand exactly what happened out on the boat. You are not in any trouble at all. We just need to establish the facts, so in your own words tell us in detail what you recall. Take your time. Start from the beginning and remember just tell the truth and everything will be alright.

Miles: Oh hell, it’s so hard to make sense of it all. Dad has just been so crazy lately….well not just lately really. It was another early start in the dark…...