

*The RUSSIANS turn up, sharp suits, sunglasses, their leader (SERGEI) last, sucking on a lollipop. One of the MEN looks through the Wormwoods stuff, pulls out the suitcase full of cash, looks inside, shows the money to Sergei. SERGEI gives an almost imperceptible nod, turns to Matilda, looks at her and pops the lolly from his mouth.*

**SERGEI**

You are the Wormwood's daughter?

**MATILDA**

Yes.

**SERGEI**

Where is your father?

**MATILDA**

He's... I don't know.

**SERGEI**

The Wormwood, is a stupid man. And being stupid he assumed I was stupid too. And that is a very, very, stupid – and rude – thing to do.

**MATILDA**

Yes. But I'm afraid my father is quite rude and very, very stupid.

**SERGEI**

You know this? At least there is one clever one in the family.

*The beefy MEN laugh. SERGEI raises a hand and THEY stop.  
(looking at her)*

What is your name, little girl?

**MATILDA**

Matilda.

**SERGEI**

I like you Matilda; you seem smart. Sadly, in my line of work I don't often get to meet smart people like you. Most of the people I deal with, their thinking is all backwards.