

THE MUMMIFICATION OF MRS SALT

SYNOPSIS

Burt Salt is a single parent with a little girl, Evelina.

Burt is the romantic target of every single woman who waits for a child at Evelina's primary school, and the target of every unhappily married wife.

The talk, in front of ignored children, is of who will be the next Mrs Salt.

When Burt rebuffs all advances to stay at home with Evelina, the rumour-mill shifts into high gear, with the spurned speculating on the fate of the original Mrs Salt.

The unseen children of the unhappy mothers pick up on this and start playing 'Who killed Mrs Salt?', where 'Mrs Salt' is tapped on the shoulder and falls down 'dead'.

One day, a little girl called China is playing 'Who Killed Mrs Salt?' with her friends and she is picked as the title character. She falls down 'dead' as part of the usual game.

Then China - 'Mrs Salt' - disappears.

Her mother and father are case studies in middle-class, respectable parents whose child is a vital component in their social standing but whose depth of feeling barely scrapes the paint off.

The parents, Claudia and Derek Sculper, make China's disappearance into an event and a cause which is juxtaposed with Burt Salt's quiet enjoyment of his time at home with his child.

The Sculpers hear about 'Who Killed Mrs Salt?', which leads them to Burt Salt, who seems rather strange to them.

The Sculpers turn their 'find China' machine on Burt until a local woman confesses to taking China and mummifying her - killing the child and burying her in the ground.

The woman, Tess Rontal, is fixated on being a mother and mentally unhinged. She leads the police to a grave - but no child is there.

The Sculpers turn this into a further drama, a twist in the saga, and then.....

.....China turns up alive and well. An anti-climax for the parents if the truth be told.

For form's sake, the Sculpters throw a celebratory party at the local sailing club, where the kids play down by the river, while the parents drink and dance at the club.

Burt Salt plays with Evelina, quietly at home.

At the club, China plays another game of 'Who Killed Mrs Salt?'. She is 'killed' again.

As she lies 'dead', she slips nearer and nearer the river.

END