

# *Inspector Holt*

## **AND THE FUR VAN**

**JOHN TULLY**



**Collins English Library**

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Series editors: K R Cripwell and Lewis Jones

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*Inspector Holt*  
**AND**  
**THE FUR VAN**  
**JOHN TULLY**

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Two men are standing by a road. A van comes along the road.

"This is the van, Tom," says George.

"Is it the right van?" asks Tom.

"Yes. This is the right van."

"Good. You can go now, George. You can go back to London."

George goes to a car. He drives off.

Tom stands by the road. The van comes near. Tom puts up his hand.

There are two men in the van. One is the driver, Steve. The man with him is his friend Jim. They see Tom by the road with his hand up.

"Look, Steve," says Jim, "there's a man by the road. He has his hand up. He wants a lift."

"We can give him a lift," says Steve. He stops the van.

Jim asks Tom, "Where do you want to go?"

"I want to go to London," says Tom. "Can you give me a lift, please?"

"We're going to London," says Steve. "Get in the van."

Tom gets in the van. "Thank you very much," he says.

The van drives off with Tom in it. They are on their way to London.







They come to a café by the road. Steve stops the van at the café.

"We always stop here for some tea," he says to Tom. "Do you want some tea too?"

"Yes, please," says Tom.

The men go into the café. They sit at a table. They drink their tea.

"Do you come along this road very often?" asks Tom.

"Yes," says Steve, "we come this way every Friday."

"What have you got in the van?"

"Fur coats," says Steve. "We take furs to London every Friday."

The men go back to the van. Steve drives off again. Tom asks more questions about the van and about the furs.

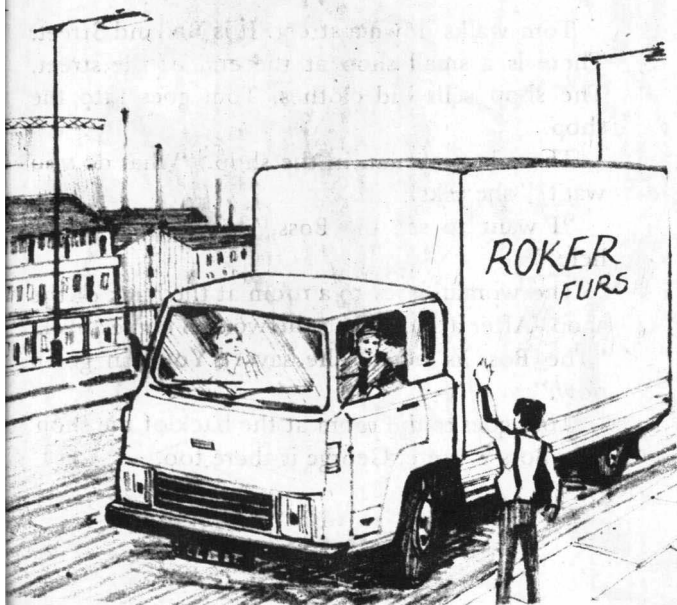
They come to London. Steve stops the van and Tom gets out. "Thanks very much for the lift," he says.

Steve drives on. Jim is thinking.

"Why does he ask all those questions?" says Jim. "How often do we come this way? What have we got in the van? Why does he want to know?"

"What do you think?" asks Steve.

"You can get a lot of money for fur coats. Now this man knows all about them. I don't like it."





Tom walks down a street. It is Bolland Street. There is a small shop at the end of the street. The shop sells old clothes. Tom goes into the shop.

There is a woman in the shop. "What do you want?" she asks.

"I want to see th. Boss," says Tom. "Is he here?"

The woman goes to a room at the back of the shop. After a short time the woman comes back. "The Boss is here," she says. "You can go in now."

Tom goes to the room at the back of the shop. The Boss is there. George is there too.

"Well?" asks the Boss, "what can you tell me about the fur van?"

"It comes to London every Friday," says Tom. "There are always two men in it, the driver and his friend. There's a café by the road. They always stop at the café. They have tea there."

The Boss takes out a map. "Where is this café?" he says. Tom puts a finger on the map.

The Boss looks at the map. There is a small road near the café. The small road goes to some trees.

"Trees?" says the Boss. "Good. I like that. You can go there again next Friday."



ROKER  
FURS

ROKER FURS



Steve and Jim drive the van back from London. They go back to their work. Jim goes to see their boss, Mr Roker.

"Yes, what do you want?" asks Roker.

Jim tells him about the man, Tom. "He knows all about the van now," says Jim. "The drive to London every Friday. The fur coats in the van. I don't like it."

"I don't like it," says Roker. "I must think about this. You can go back to your work."

Jim goes. Roker speaks on the telephone. "I want to speak to Police Inspector Holt," he says.

Inspector Holt answers the telephone. "Holt speaking. Can I help you?"

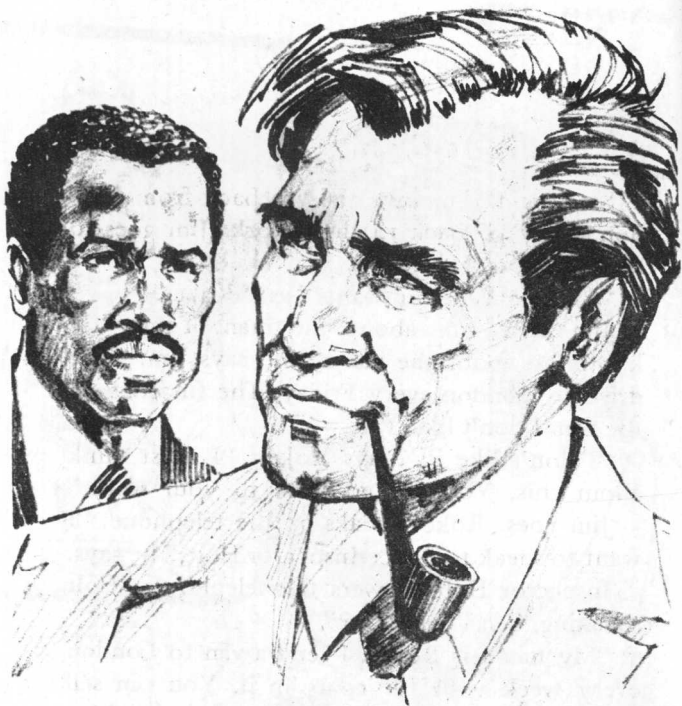
"My name is Roker. I send a van to London every week with fur coats in it. You can sell those coats for a lot of money. A man is asking questions about the van and about the furs."

"Who is he?" asks Holt.

"I don't know," says Roker, "but I don't like it. Can you come and see me?"

"Yes," says Holt.

Holt puts down the telephone. He speaks to Bill, a young policeman.



"Furs," says Holt. "They want furs again."

"Again?" says Bill.

"Yes. That's three times in the last two months," says Holt. "And they always do the same thing. They always take the furs from vans on the London road. The same person is sending these men out every time."

"Is he going to do it again?" asks Bill.

"Perhaps," says Holt. "I don't know. But come with me. I must speak to this man Roker."

Holt and Bill go to Roker Furs. Holt asks Steve and Jim a lot of questions. He writes down their answers.

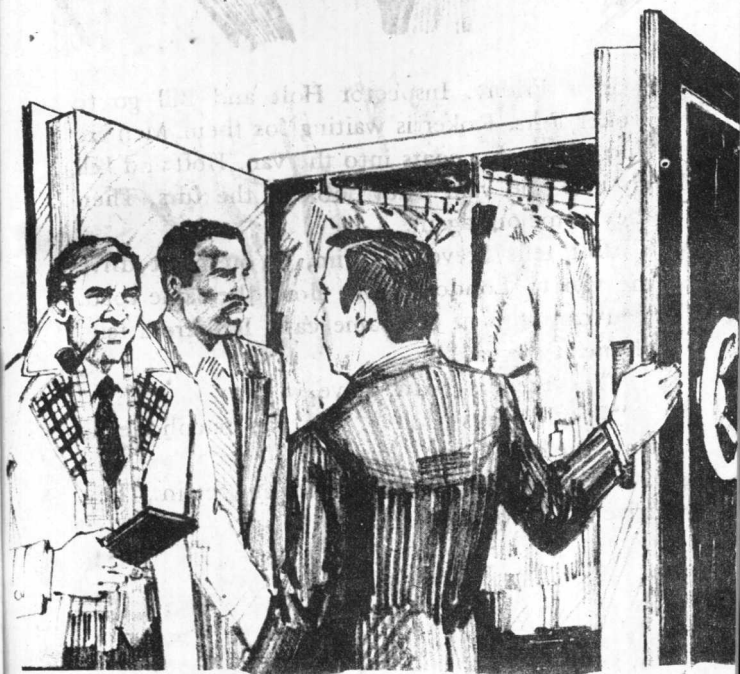
He asks Roker, "Which furs are you sending to London this week?"

Roker takes them to a room and shows them the fur coats. "I can send them on Wednesday or Thursday," he says.

"No. Don't change the day," says Holt. "Please send them on Friday."

"Very well," says Roker. "You can send a police car behind the van."

"No," says Holt. "They can see a police car. We can't get them like that. We must think again."







It is Friday. Inspector Holt and Bill go to Roker Furs. Roker is waiting for them. Men are putting the fur coats into the van. Holt and Bill go into the van. They look at the furs. Then they come out again.

Holt tells Steve and Jim, "You must drive the van to London. Drive along the same road. You can stop at the same café. Is there a telephone at the café?"

"Yes, there is," says Steve.

"Good," says Holt. "You can telephone us from the café."

The van is ready. Steve and Jim get in. They drive off down the street.