

CONFIDENTIAL



The Behala Dossier

Investigating Trash by Andy Mulligan

SUBJECTS: Raphael, Gardo, Rat
LOCATION: Behala Dumpsite to Sampalo
CONTENTS: Event Summaries, Evidence Logs, and Behavioral Analysis.

Compiler's Note: A Multi-Perspective File

Unfortunately I am being retired this year—partly because of this story... I hope to stay in the country, but I'm not sure I can.

—Father Juilliard (p. 48)

[TAG: The Risk of Truth]. He had to flee just for compiling this file!

Father Juilliard pieces together the story from different characters. We don't get just one view; we get an entire evidence board of human behavior. This file contains the exact accounts of the dumpsite boys, the police, and the outsiders who got caught in their 6-million-dollar mystery.

Exhibit A: The Inciting Incident and the Choice

EXHIBIT
A

“I sat there laughing and saying a prayer... I gave him five hundred, which was fair because I was the one who found it. Six hundred left for me.”

— Raphael (p. 12)

Finding 1100 pesos is a miracle for a boy making 200 a day.

[TAG: Solidarity]. Instead of hoarding his luck, Raphael immediately shares it with Gardo.

Case Note: Foreshadowing Alert! This early act of sharing proves Raphael is not driven by greed. It perfectly predicts the ending: giving away the 6 million dollars to the poor.

Exhibit B: The Yellow Key (Literal vs. Figurative)



Found with the wallet. Rat identifies it immediately: "This is a locker key for the left luggage. Just outside platform four... One-oh-one's small."
(Rat, p. 30)

[TAG: Street Smarts]. Rat's status as a Behala outsider gives him the specific knowledge the others lack.



Literal Meaning: Unlocks Locker 101 at Central Station to advance the mystery.

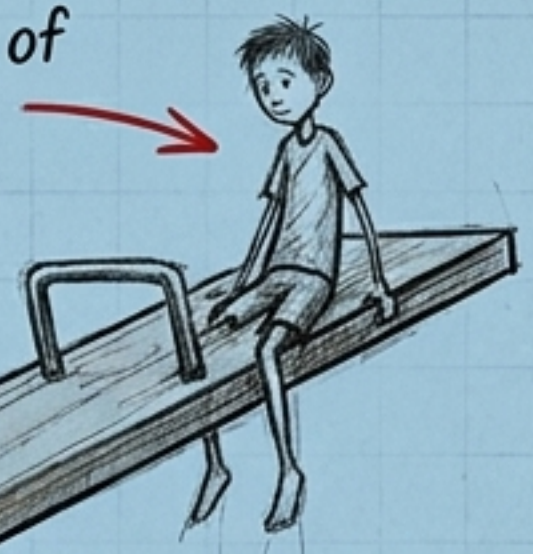


Figurative Metaphor: "With the right key, you can bust the door wide open. Because nobody's going to open it for you." (Raphael, p. 13). The key represents opportunity and escape from the physical poverty of the dumpsite.

Incident Report: The Behala Police Visit

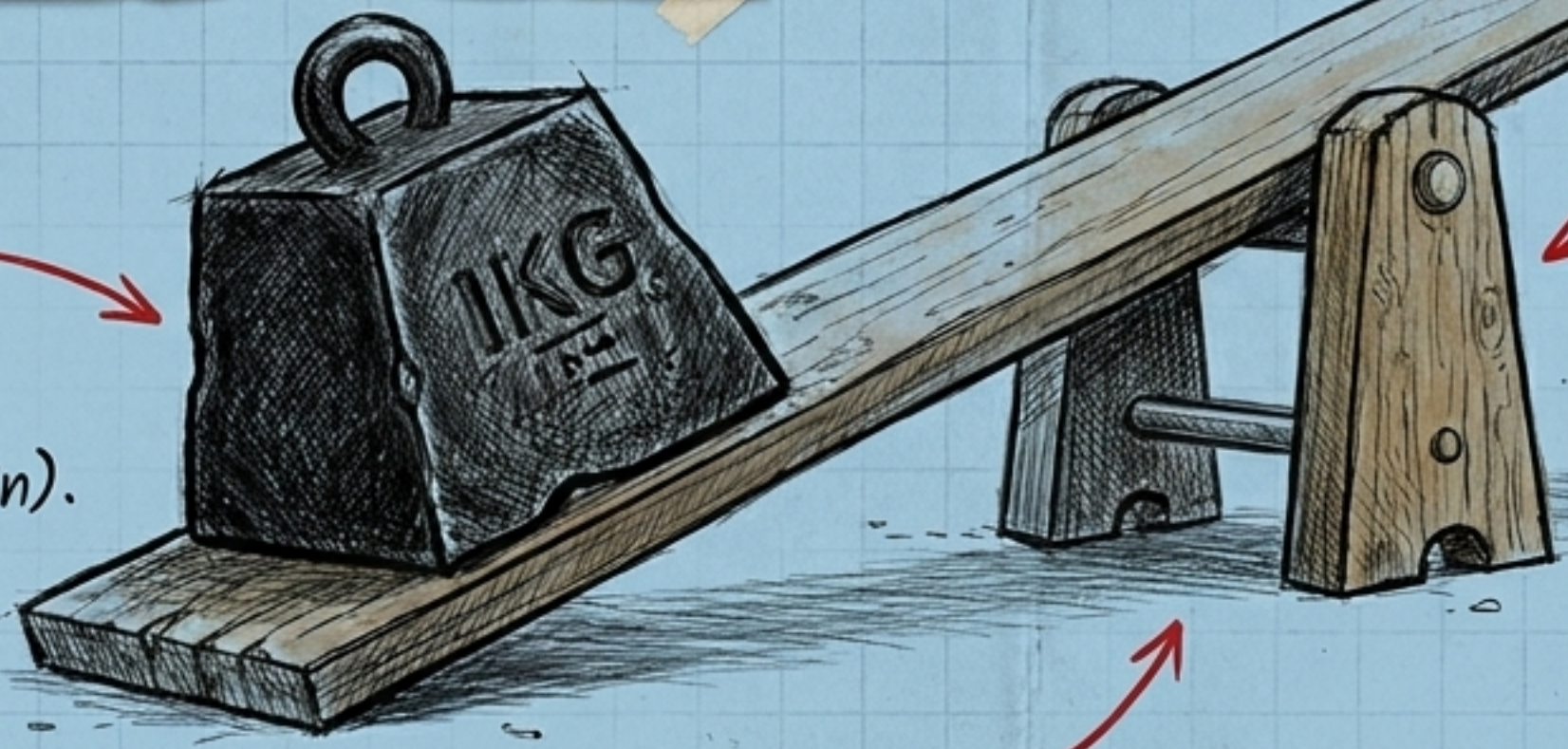
He was smiling, but I was glad to feel Gardo right up against me, and I smiled back as best I could. — Raphael (p. 17)

Defenselessness of a dumpsite boy.



POLICE EVIDENCE

State-Sanctioned Violence & Adult Authority (The Smiling Policeman tilting Raphael's chin).



[TAG: Brotherhood]. Gardo's physical presence provides the only defense against police intimidation.

(The "Power Imbalance" Scale)

CONFIDENTIAL

Analysis Box:
A smile isn't always friendly. Here, it is a masked threat reminding Raphael of his absolute lack of power in the eyes of the law.

External Actions - Police

- Sudden, unprovoked attack from the blind spot.
- Standing over the victim.

[TAG: Abuse of Power].
Using extreme physical violence against a child to protect corrupt secrets.

Anatomy of an Interrogation: The Central Station

“That’s a lie,” said the policeman, and he came at me from the side.

— Raphael (p. 61)

Internal Experience - Raphael

- Disorientation: “I don’t know where he hit me or what with...”
- Delayed realization: Only notices the split face and bent wrist after hitting the floor.

[TAG: Vulnerability].
Mulligan writes this to trap the reader in Raphael’s helpless, terrifying point of view.

CONFIDENTIAL

Exhibit C: The Price of a Visit

The Quote: "I don't set the fees, they are set by the government... I think the government must be very rich!" - Mr. Oliva (p. 89)

The Trickle-Down Corruption Ring



Case Note: [TAG: Systemic Corruption]. Mr. Oliva acts kind and blames the "government", but he is part of the same corrupt machine. The boys learn that nice suits and smiles often hide the worst thieves.



I hope he gave it away before they killed him, because I believe that son of a bitch in there's been stealing for years. Stealing even from me and you...

— Zapanta's Gardener (p. 122)



Result: Instead of anger, the Gardener offers cigarettes and solidarity.

Analysis: [TAG: Class Kinship]. An instance of profound irony. The Gardener feels more connection to the dumpsite boys breaking into the property than he does to the wealthy boss he has served for years.

Witness Statement:
Olivia's Paradox

INTERNATIONAL FLIGHT

DEPARTED

BOARDING PASS

DESTINED TO
ENGLAND

“Goodbye, and thank you
so much for using me.”

— Olivia (p. 131)

Circle 1 (The
Deception):
The boys lied to
her, used her
money, and put
her in danger
with the police.

Intersection
(Situational
Irony):
Thanking
someone for
deceiving
you.

Circle 2 (The
Pride):
She unwittingly
helped thwart
corrupt authorities
and fund justice.

Case Note Box: [TAG: Irony]. Olivia loses her life in Behala, but her final statement proves she values the boys' fight for justice over her own comfort.

7-9/13

Diagnostic Matrix: The Currency of Human Behavior

| Behavioral Dimension | The Boys of Behala | The Corrupt Elite |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Initial Action with Wealth | Sharing immediately (Raphael giving Gardo 500 pesos). ✓ | Hoarding and Extorting (Zapanta stealing aid, Mr. Oliva overcharging). ✗ |
| Primary Motivation | Survival, Brotherhood, and Justice for José Angelico. | Greed, Status, and maintaining systemic oppression. |
| View of Others | Equality and Kinship (even with the Gardener). | Pawns to be exploited or violently crushed (Police interrogation). |

Conclusion: The novel argues that true poverty is moral, not financial. The elite are bankrupt in character, while the dumpsite boys are rich in loyalty.

Exhibit E: The Escape to Sampalo

"We have since bought boats, and learned how to fish, and we can tell you the truth, for the lying is finished."

— The Boys and Pia Dante (p. 195)



1

The Final Act: The children successfully evade the police and escape to Sampalo.

2

Honoring the Dead: They don't keep the 6 million dollars. They redistribute it to the poor of Behala, honoring José and Gabriel.

3

The Reward: They keep only enough to buy boats and live modest, peaceful lives away from city corruption.

[TAG: Ultimate Freedom]

Final Synthesis: Redefining Trash

TRASH

Physical Trash (The Boys' Environment)

- They live in the world's discarded waste.
- Society's View: Society treats the boys as disposable garbage.

Moral Trash (The Elite's Character)

- Zapanta, the Police, Mr. Oliva.
- The Reality: Their greed and violence make them the true "trash" of the novel.

The Ultimate Conclusion: By discarding the six million dollars back to the poor, Raphael, Gardo, and Rat prove that human dignity is not dictated by wealth or class. The environment was garbage, but the boys were gold.

CASE CLOSED

turn it now

The matt ironiot
remove in trash