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Stephen Jones, in 'Horror in 2001', the Introduction to the MAMMOTH BOOK OF BEST NEW HORROR 13

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"Something over three years ago an old man who seemed to know more about me than I did myself told me I was a marked man. They know who you are, he said. And didn't have to explain who he meant by *they*. Although I never really got the impression that *they*'d particularly noticed me. Quite the opposite, to be honest. Things happened, to be sure. But not, I thought, because I'd crossed some sort of line. Rather, crossing that line just let me recognise them for what they were.

All right, maybe I simply *don't* want to admit what's under my nose.

I thought I was doing pretty well ignoring the other side of things— if you don't count the ghosts, and I've more or less learnt to ignore *them* by now. Until, in the dark of the moon in the doldrums of winter, someone took a pot-shot at me. With a crossbow."

from *María Lisboa*

"The doctor leaned close to peer at the bullet-hole, then drew back with a surprised sound. "It's not only the wound that is going bad, capitano. Look at this." I squatted down, and got an unmistakable whiff of decaying flesh. "I would say he has been dead for some time. Though it does not take very long for a cadaver to start to decay in this climate, the process usually takes more than a couple of minutes."

A superstitious shiver went down my back, but when I glanced up at Coelho I caught him crossing himself. I grinned at him. He flicked me a *corno* gesture. "You saying he's a zombie, dottore?" I asked, still smiling. Benaglio scowled fiercely, and reached for his bag.

"Don't be a damn fool," he muttered, but without heat. I'm the captain here, after all. "Hold that light over here, man." He fished a long thin pair of forceps out of his bag and started to poke around inside the bullet-wound. Coelho and I watched. After a few minutes he pulled the bullet out and held it up for me to see.

"Maybe he's not a zombie, capitano, but someone thought he needed a silver bullet to get rid of him."

from *Heart of Darkness*

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