The Annihilation of Fish
and other stories

Anthony C Winkler
Contents

Preliminary Report 1
The Story of the Fifth Boy 14
Unconventionality 21
A Sign of the Times 29
Absentee Ownership of Cows 34
The Dog 43
The Chance 50
The Interpreter 59
Hard Woman 69
The Big Picture 79
The Cultivator Who Lost His Heart 87
The Riddle 96
New Banana 106
The Man Who Knew the Price of All Fish 114
The Trip to Paris 119
The Thief 125
Dawn Song 134
The New Headmaster 141
The Happy Days of Dog Eat Dog 148
The Annihilation of Fish 156
Preliminary Report

Preliminary Report.
Friday, 15th March, 2002.
District of Ewarton.

Inspector Jordan Hall, in command of my district, has requested a preliminary report on the unusual events of last month concerning an alleged accident between a stake-body truck driven at a high rate of speed, estimated in excess of 50mph in a 35mph zone, by one Emanuel Livingston of the district known as Back-a-Wall, and a tourist who was a pedestrian. Measurements made at the scene of the accident showed skid marks exceeding 700 feet backwards from the point of impact, confirming that the truck was travelling at an unlawful speed. I therefore gave the driver a citation for dangerous driving and also warned him of possible additional charges of reckless endangerment or manslaughter. When he became rowdy and uncooperative, I handcuffed him and placed him under arrest for resisting an officer.

I did not draw my weapon at any time. It is untrue that I pointed it at the driver’s friends and threatened to shoot their “rass”. Butu will tell lie on him own mother. (I’m aware that Headquarters frowns on the use of “Butu” to indicate a certain lower class of Jamaicans, but this being only a preliminary report, I’ve taken some liberties with vocabulary. “Butu” will, of course, be edited out of the final report.)

As I was making measurements and taking statements from eyewitnesses, I was approached by a white woman, who identified herself as the victim’s friend who had been walking beside him when he was struck. I questioned her on the sequence of events leading up to the accident, and she confirmed eyewitness reports. Her manner, however, seemed strange and not what you would expect from someone whose friend was lying dead on the pavement. For example, when I covered the victim with a body tarp so