

**PRIX ATLAS DES LYCÉENS 2020 : « Au commencement était l'image »**

**Anglais**

**Texte proposé par Perrine Chambon & Élodie Leplat**

Pour ce concours de traduction, nous avons le plaisir de vous proposer un texte de l'écrivaine écossaise Val McDermid. Auteure d'une trentaine de romans policiers, la reine du crime écossais manie volontiers les images, pour créer des effets humoristiques et décalés, ou à des fins plus poétiques. Le passage que nous vous proposons en contient un certain nombre, qu'il vous revient de traduire littéralement ou non.

L'extrait se déroule au nord de l'Écosse, dans les Highlands. Elle met en scène deux personnages : l'inspecteur Wilson, qui vient de découvrir un cadavre conservé dans une tourbière, et le Dr River Wilde, une experte médico-légale qu'on a fait venir d'Édimbourg pour la circonstance.

**R**iver had barely made a start on her first cup of coffee of the morning when a stocky man with a shock of white hair and a weathered face appeared across the table from her. He gripped the back of the chair opposite hers and peered at her from beneath eyebrows that jutted like a pair of awnings over bright blue eyes. The black quilted anorak over the black crew-neck sweater on top of a white dress shirt with the knot of a black tie peeping out was the equivalent of walking in with a blue flashing light strapped to his head. 'You'll be Dr Wilde,' he said.

She recognised the voice. 'Inspector Wilson.' She gestured towards the chair. 'Join me?'

'Thanks, I will.' He pulled out the chair, half-turning to wave the waitress across. 'I'll have a coffee, pet,' he said as she approached. He sat and gave River a tight smile. 'You had a comfortable night?'

'I did, thanks.'

He nodded, with an air of satisfaction that seemed to suggest he was somehow responsible for that. 'They're good here at the Ceilidh Place. Very reliable.'

'Thanks for sorting it out for me.'

'It's an interesting case,' Wilson said, leaning forward conspiratorially over his coffee. 'Very unusual set of circumstances.'

Clearly he wanted her to prompt him for more information. River took advantage of the arrival of her breakfast of scrambled eggs and sausages to make him do the work himself.

'It seems this married couple, Alice and Will Somerville, came up here looking for a couple of motorbikes that her grandfather buried at the end of the Second World War. I know that probably sounds completely daft to you' – he raised one caterpillar eyebrow, daring her to exclaim – 'but there were all sorts of things going on in these parts at that time, so up here, it doesn't strike us as entirely crazy.'