

Tekst 8

The following text is from The Fahrenheit Twins (Short Stories) by Michel Faber

**FLESH REMAINS FLESH**

Ashton Allan Clark was the richest man in Altchester; he had money on his breath and a sticky ooze of luxury clogging up his ears. If you had asked him what his fortune was founded on (assuming you were granted leave to speak to him, which few people were), he would have told you 'the finest tannery in all of England'. If you had asked his miserable employees the same question, they would have said 'maggots and misery' – unless they suspected you of being an informer. Are you an informer? No? Then let us begin our story.

Ashton Allan Clark was a small, meaty man, resembling nothing so much as a grossly overgrown otter. He habitually wore a black sable coat and doeskin trousers, and a top hat that was likewise furry. His hair, beard, moustache and sideboards were thick, dark and glistening with oil. They had been that way since he built the tannery in 1831, and it was now 1861, so it seemed likely that his hair colour was maintained artificially. Clark's Tannery bought black dye by the gallon, giving rise to a folk tale among workers' children – ragged, underfed illiterates, all of them – that Mr Clark dunked his head in a bucket of the stuff every Sunday. They also said he ate frog's legs, and fruitcake soaked in vinegar pickle.

This last allegation was a slander, but there was no shortage of truths about Ashton Allan Clark's private life that would have made the children gasp, were they not already gasping for air in the grey miasma that constituted Altchester's atmosphere, and were they not kept well segregated from his secrets by iron gates and guards. In fact, Clark's mansion, a villa that had been forcibly turned into a castle by the superimposition of turrets and imported gargoyles, was perched on a hillside far away from the tannery. The cab journey from the semi-rural outskirts of Altchester, where thrushes trilled in Mr Clark's trees, to the gloomy maze of cobbled streets and blackened buildings encircling Mr Clark's grim hive of industry, could take half an hour or more.

Tekst 8 Flesh remains flesh

- 4p 37 Geef van elke van de volgende beweringen over Ashton Allan Clark aan of deze wel of niet overeenkomt met de tekst.
- 1 Hij had van Altchester een welvarende gemeenschap gemaakt.
 - 2 Hij werd gevreesd door de mensen die bij hem in dienst waren.
 - 3 Hij was ijdel en besteedde aandacht aan zijn uiterlijk.
 - 4 Hij probeerde de kleurstof die in zijn fabriek gebruikt werd eerst op zijn eigen haar uit.
 - 5 Hij verbood zijn werknemers hun kinderen naar school te sturen.
 - 6 Hij had een voorkeur voor exotische gerechten.
 - 7 Wat hij deed in zijn vrije tijd was algemeen bekend.
 - 8 Zijn huis was aangetast door de rook uit zijn eigen fabriek.
- Noteer “wel” of “niet” achter elk nummer op het antwoordblad.