

“The Gravestone Cutter’s Apprentice”

by Brian James Lane, copyright 2017

Opening narration:

You just witnessed a graduation. The apprentice has learned a bitter lesson. Burdened to perform his craft while another takes credit, Tobias now understands his master has no intention of retiring. The boy has become a man, hurdling over naivety as he stumbles inexorably towards cynicism.

Sometimes, however, the cosmic scales balance themselves. While a name on a gravestone is usually a matter of record, Tobias will soon discover whichever name he carves also determines the next to die. So let it be written, so let it be done ...in the Twilight Zone.

Closing narration:

The epitaph simply reads “when power precedes wisdom, the end comes swiftly”. An apt memorial with a rule for us all ...from the Twilight Zone.