

EXT. IOWA AVENUE - DAY

TITLE CARD:

THURSDAY, AUGUST 31st

It's early morning in a college town and a few students are out heading to classes.

Along this street are larger, older buildings. All of them have the Greek letters and symbols indicating a sorority or a fraternity.

A police car pulls onto the street and slowly cruises along.

EXT. ALPHA GAMMA THETA SORORITY - DAY

The squad car comes to a stop outside the building.

Officers ETHAN BECKER, male, 50, bigger and experienced, and CAITLYN CARTER, female, 25, tougher than she looks, exit the squad car and walk to the main door.

BECKER

What do you think? Take in two for identification?

CARTER

Two should be enough. Even for sorority girls.

BECKER

I sense a certain hostility here. Perhaps you were a member once?

CARTER

Are you kidding?

BECKER

Or maybe wanted to be a member.

CARTER

(resentful)

Maybe.

BECKER

Want me to take care of this one, sister?

He smiles and she steps back as they stop at the door.

Becker pauses, then finally knocks. After a moment he is about to knock again when the door opens and ALICIA SUTTON, female, 20, athlete, opens the door.

ALICIA
Can I help you?

BECKER
Yes, miss, I'm officer Becker,
this is officer Carter, we need
to speak to whoever is in charge.

ALICIA
Is someone in trouble?

BECKER
No, miss, we just need to speak
with someone.

ALICIA
Of course, please come inside.

CARTER
Thank you, miss.

INT. ALPHA GAMMA THETA LOBBY - DAY

The lobby is large and well kept. It is dominated by a banner with an owl, skull and crossbones symbol with the letters for Alpha Gamma Theta over it. There are several SISTERS, female, various, who stop and look at the officers.

ALICIA
(to sisters)
Will one of you get Emma or
Ginger please?

BECKER
Thank you, miss.

One of the sisters heads off and there is an odd moment of silence as they wait.

Becker looks around the lobby and rolls her eyes.

ALICIA

So, no one's in trouble?

CARTER

Not right now, miss. We just need some help on a problem.

ALICIA

I hope it's not bad news.

Becker and Carter glance at each other and wait. The rest of them all pick up the signs, look at each other, then move closer to the officers.

EMMA WIGGINS, female, 21, tall and in charge, and GINGER LANG, female, 20, artist, enter the room and approach the officers.

EMMA

I'm Emma Wiggins, the president of Alpha Gamma Theta House. How may I help you?

BECKER

Do you have a Michelle Bowman living here as a member?

EMMA

Yes, we do. Is there a problem?

Becker hands her a small identification card with a photo on it. The sisters move closer to try and get a look. Carter steps between them cutting them off.

BECKER

Do you know Michelle Bowman?

EMMA

(looks at it)

Yes, that's Shelly. Is she in Some kind of trouble?

BECKER

Can someone give us some family contacts? Someone to get a hold of?

GINGER

Yes, we have it all in the file.

BECKER

We'll need it soon.

GINGER

I'll get it.

Ginger hurries off.

BECKER

Miss, we need someone to come with us.

EMMA

She is in trouble. What has she done?

BECKER

We can't get into that right now.

EMMA

We've never had any problems before. She's a good student, a political science major, her home is in Nebraska. What did she do?

BECKER

We just need someone to come with us.

Ginger enters with a printout and hands it to Carter.

CARTER

(distant)

Thank you.

EMMA

(to Ginger)

We better get our coats.

(MORE)

Emma and Ginger exit in a hurry while Becker and Carter get ready. They glance at each other and shake their heads.

Emma and Ginger return with coats and their backpacks on.

EMMA (CONT'D)

(to the sisters)

We'll find out what Shelly is up to and bring her back home. Just go to classes like usual and keep it quiet. With Homecoming a few weeks away we don't want any issues coming up.

Becker opens the door, and they all exit together.

EXT. ALPHA GAMMA THETA SORORITY - DAY

They exit heading towards the squad car.

BECKER

Just come with us.

EMMA

We were just going to jump in my car and follow you. I know where Iowa City P.D. is at.

Becker and Carter somberly turn to Emma and Ginger.

BECKER

We're not going to the police station. You'll be better riding in the back with us.

GINGER

Is she hurt? Are we going to university hospitals?

CARTER

No, miss, I'm sorry, we're going to the morgue.

Emma and Ginger gasp and hold on to each other.

INT. JOHNSON COUNTY EXAMINER'S OFFICE HALLWAY - DAY

A clean and quiet hallway.

Becker and Carter escort Emma and Ginger into the hallway. Emma and Ginger are still in tears and hanging on to each other for support.

Carter has softened a bit towards them. NATHAN FORD, male, 45, police detective, enters the hallway and stops to see them.

BECKER

They confirmed the I.D. we showed them.

CARTER

This is detective Nathan Ford.
This is Emma Wiggins.

EMMA

Hello, detective Ford.

FORD

Hello, Emma.

CARTER

This is Ginger Lang.

GINGER

A detective. Is it that bad?

FORD

Miss, I'm sorry, but this is a very serious situation.

EMMA

What kind of accident did Shelly have?

FORD

I'm sorry, but Michelle Bowman was found in the alley on North Gilbert Street next to the Historical Society Building early this morning.

GINGER

Was she hit by a car? Did she fall and hurt herself?

FORD

(deep breath)

I'm sorry, there's no way easy way to say this. She was murdered.

INT. MORGUE - DAY

The blanket over Shelly Bowman is pulled down just enough to reveal her face, but even that little can't hide the cuts in her throat.

Emma and Ginger are horrified and holding onto each other in tears while Becker and Carter stand beside them.

Ford is in front of them and PHILIP ROSTER, male, 60, the M.E., is holding the sheet over the body.

FORD

Is this Michelle Bowman?

EMMA

Yes, that's Shelly.

Ginger looks at the corpse. Unable to speak, she looks at Ford and nods.

They follow Ford as he walks around them so they are now looking away from their friend's body.

GINGER

Is there anything else we have to do?

FORD

No, thank you. We'll contact the family in Nebraska right away. They'll most likely contact you soon.

EMMA

Of course. We'll get her things ready right away.

FORD

Please, hold off on that as long as you can. We'd like to have some of our techs examine the room and look for anything important. In fact, don't go into the room at all.

(MORE)

He opens the door and escorts them out.

INT. JOHNSON COUNTY EXAMINER'S OFFICE HALLWAY - DAY

Ford escorts Emma and Ginger down the hall followed by Becker and Carter

FORD (CONT'D)

We'll have our team over there within the hour, OK?

EMMA

Of course.

GINGER

Is there anything else?

FORD

When word of this gets out there's bound to be lots of people asking questions. Please, as much as you can, stay quiet. We don't want to start any rumors or misdirection in the city. Just to keep everyone calm, "No comment" would be the best answer to anything. These two officers will take you back to your sorority.

(to Becker and Carter)

Secure that room until Bennis and Rowe get there.

BECKER

Copy that.

CARTER

10-4.

Becker and Carter exit with Emma and Ginger. Ford heads back to the morgue.

INT. MORGUE - DAY

Ford enters and approaches Doctor Roster, who is at a desk looking over notes.

FORD

Doctor Roster?

ROSTER

Yes, just rechecking everything before I enter it all in the system. All sorts of systems these days. That system feeds that system minus that system, all to get this system going. How did we ever survive with paper and #2 pencils?

FORD

Pencils?

ROSTER

(shakes head)

The world was a better place with pencils, detective.

FORD

As for this instance? Did you get anything from the blood tests and DNA?

ROSTER

No, I'm afraid all the blood at the scene belonged to Miss Bowman.

FORD

Any fingerprints?

ROSTER

Also belonging to the victim. No traces of semen on or in the body. It doesn't appear to have been a sexual assault.

FORD

The cut on the throat. It wasn't just a slice needed to murder someone.

ROSTER

No, it was much more brutal than that. It wasn't just a cut across the neck that would have been enough, but through the neck, all the way back to the spine.

FORD

Whoever did it was brutal. An act of rage? A sexual assault that got out of hand? As if the attacker lost control and couldn't stop with just killing her.

ROSTER

Brutal, yes, but I wouldn't say rage. There are no signs of frenzy or being out of control, the other cuts don't indicate that at all.

FORD

A very controlled cut?

ROSTER

I suspect that. She was also cut open from the abdomen to the sternum. It was a very straight and deliberate cut.

FORD

Deliberate?

Ford looks at the covered body.

ROSTER

Yes, deliberate. Exactly where you would need to cut to expose her intestines. Almost as if they were dissecting her.

INT. DETECTIVES' OFFICE - DAY

There are two windows, with the blinds closed on one wall and an exit into the main squad room on the opposite wall and one entrance from the main lobby of the station.

There are two desks with the usual lights, phones, computers, etc.

AARON RICHARDS, male, 30, tall and thin, is at one of the desks going over files and photos from a case. His desk is decorated with a few baseball mementos from the University of Southern California.

The other desk, Ford's, has family photos including a photo of a beautiful girl, TAYLOR FORD, female, 19, beautiful, in her high school graduation gown and cap.

Ford enters and goes straight to his desk. He sits down and starts looking at his reports on his computer.

RICHARDS

Nate?

FORD

Hi, Aaron. Rough start to the day.

RICHARDS

Sounds like it. A young girl was murdered near downtown?

FORD

Not just murdered, butchered as well. The killer tried to dissect her afterwards.

Richards stops and thinks about it. He gets up and approaches Ford at his desk.

RICHARDS

How so?

FORD

Throat cut all the way to her spine. She was also cut open from her abdomen to her sternum.

(MORE)

Ford stops and looks up at Richards as they realize the connection.

FORD (CONT'D)

Just like Angela Tillman?

RICHARDS

Close enough.

Richards goes to his desk and pulls out a file folder. He finds a chart of a woman's body indicating cuts on her throat, chest and abdomen. He shows it to Ford.

FORD

Yes, very close.

(to Richard's chart)

Could that have been a warm up?

RICHARDS

Sure, looks like it.

FORD

What's the latest on your witness?

RICHARDS

His blood alcohol level was .24. He was past the point of dazed and confused when he, literally, stumbled across the body. According to his cell it took him three tries to get 911 called. As far as reliable my grandmother would be a better witness in a case.

FORD

She passed away 3 months ago.

RICHARDS

And she'd still be more reliable than this guy.

FORD

So, anything he said about possible assailants is out the window.

RICHARDS

Three males, one with dark hair and a mustache, running past. We're getting nothing out on that. To make it worse he has dark hair and a mustache. It's been 3 and a half weeks since that murder. I'd be surprised if he remembers that whole week let alone the morning of the 7th.

FORD

So, are the cuts related?

INT. MORGUE - DAY

Roster, surrounded by Ford and Richards, is looking at the charts of two stabbing victims.

ROSTER

Interesting conjecture.

FORD

Are they the same?

ROSTER

They might be, but if they are there has been some drastic change in the killer's method over a relatively short time. In the first victim, the Tillman body, the cuts seem more uncertain, as if they were done at random and in a hurry. Slashes instead of exacting cuts. The second body, Bowman, the cuts are steadier and more precise. I suspect the first one was to the throat. It's deep and all the way through to the spine, as if the killer was examining the body as he cut. The lower cuts are different as well.

RICHARDS

How so?

ROSTER

The first victim had brutal stabs in and out 39 times. The second victim's were much deeper and more revealing. They weren't so much stabs as cuts, specific cuts.

FORD

Any signs that would indicate why?

ROSTER

None that comes to mind right now.

RICHARDS

Could she have been pregnant?

ROSTER

I have to admit that was something that hadn't occurred to me. I'll check the results of the test we ran.

FORD

Let us know.

Ford and Richards step away from Roster.

RICHARDS

It's still too coincidental to write it off.

FORD

Agreed. Remember Tammy Marcus?

RICHARDS

Yes, the woman that was beaten and sexually assaulted in April.

FORD

I'm going to check out the file on that cold case. Three murders in this city in one year. More than the last two years combined. That's going to be getting some attention.

RICHARDS

Ok, I'll put together a press release right away.

FORD

You're the author.

INT. SHELLY BOWMAN'S ROOM - DAY

This bedroom is small but very well kept. The walls are covered with photos from Alpha Gamma Theta sorority events and other University functions including Shelly Bowman at a Homecoming football event. The closet doors are open showing some very fancy clothes.

Becker and Carter are examining the room. They are wearing latex gloves and are careful not to disrupt anything.

Emma, Ginger, and a few of the other sisters are outside in the hall looking in.

The door has police caution tape across the entrance.

CARTER

(to Emma)

She lived here alone?

EMMA

Yes, all the rooms in this branch are private. They're a bit smaller.

Becker goes to a dresser and slowly opens the top drawer. It is filled with some personal items, a scarf, gloves etc. He pokes around a bit and then closes it.

Carter goes to the bed and looks at a small stand next to it. Most of it is standard, but she finds a notebook tucked under an alarm clock. She carefully pulls it out and starts to leaf through it.

INT. IOWA CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT LOBBY - DAY

The entrance is a small inner lobby with doors leading further into the complex. On one side is a shielded window with an officer, JACK POULTER, male, 30, bouncing with energy, inside to greet the public.

Ford and Richards enter from the outer lobby.

RICHARDS

We went over a big area of the park looking for anything. It had been dry for a while and there weren't even any footprints to be found.

FORD

There were plenty of footprints along the alley there this morning.

POULTER

Good afternoon.

FORD

Hey, Jack, open it up.

POULTER
(warning)
Are you sure?

FORD
What's going on?

POULTER
She Who Must Not Be Named's kid
went car shopping last night.

RICHARDS
Oh, no!

FORD
That bad?

POULTER
There's at least ten minutes of
the cars he didn't like.

FORD
Was there one he did?

Poulter shakes his head. Ford and Richards grimace, shake their heads and take a deep breath.

Poulter presses the button inside and a door opens to the main squad room.

RICHARDS
Abandon all hope ye who enter here.

INT. SQUAD ROOM - DAY

There are desks for about a dozen officers, offices, mugshot and fingerprint stations, computers and file cabinets in the room with windows along one wall and exits on the others.

There are several OFFICERS, various, at their jobs.

POLICE CHIEF LARRY GRISSOM, male, 50, experienced and set in his ways, is in his office on the phone.

Ford and Richards enter, look cautiously around, and think they are safe, so they make a straight line to the detective's office.

They get to the door and are intercepted by DEE FRENCH, female, 60, bloated and overbearing, coming out of the office.

DEE
(to Ford)
Officer's Murphy and Dannis finished their reports from this morning. I just left them on your desk.

Richards hurries in behind Ford hoping not to be seen.

FORD
(sidestepping into his office)
Thank you. I need to get right to it.

DEE
Sure.
(follows him in)
Have you been car hunting lately?

RICHARDS
(cringes)
I think I need to check-

FORD
(pointing to Richard's desk)
I'm sure it's done.

Richards resigns himself to his fate and sits down.

DEE
Nick went car shopping yesterday and you wouldn't believe some of the cars he saw. There was a Honda Acord, 10 years old, almost 250,000 miles on it and they wanted \$16,000 for it. No way for something with that many miles on it.
(Ford is already bored)
Personally, I thought he should have taken the Odyssey, he said it was 14 years old but had less than 100,000 miles on it. I told him not to worry about the dents, it was still a good car with those miles on it.

(MORE)

While Dee is looking at Ford Richards quietly picks up the phone.

DEE (CONT'D)

You know how it is. When I bought him his first car 20 years ago.

Ford's phone rings. Relieved, he picks it up quickly.

FORD

Detective Ford.

(pause)

Did they find anything? A list?

Dee turns to Richards who is having a conversation on the phone with nobody.

RICHARDS

(raises his shoulders in innocence at Dee)

Wednesday will work just fine. We could use the evidence sooner.

DEE

He's going to another car lot now. I'll fill you in tomorrow.

RICHARDS

Thank you, Dee.

(to phone)

Before 9:00a.m., yes.

FORD

(to phone)

Bring it in and we'll take a look for matches on fingerprints.

(MORE)

Dee exits.

Richards hangs up the phone.

FORD (CONT'D)

Lock it up tight. They'll just have to wait.

Ford hangs up the phone.

RICHARDS

What did they find?

FORD

A notebook tucked in Shelly
Bowman's nightstand.

RICHARDS

A diary?

INT. IOWA CALLER OFFICE - DAY

The main office for the student newspaper. There is an extensive number of desks, offices, and STUDENTS, various, working on different sections of the paper.

Whether working on sports, culture, local or national news, Iowa Hawkeyes are prominent everywhere.

The paper's city editor, LEONARD JONES, male, 22, heavysset, gets up from his desk, looks around the room, then starts walking.

FLETCHER MORGAN, 20, full of himself, is at his desk typing when Leonard approaches him.

JONES

Hey, MORGAN.

MORGAN

(still typing)

Yeah?

JONES

There're a few things coming up on campus this week. We need you to check a few things out. Give us a report on them.

MORGAN

(stops writing)

Please tell me it's not another undergrad chess tournament.

JONES

No, it's not a chess tournament.

MORGAN

Even I couldn't make that sound exciting.

JONES

No, there's just things that are picking up leading into Homecoming. We're looking at lots of people paying attention to what's happening here. Alumni, visitors, dignitaries, all could get the right attention.

MORGAN

Not to mention donors extraordinaire.

JONES

Yes, donors, them, too. Either way, we need to ratchet everything up to the A game for the next few weeks.

MORGAN

In other words, you need me.

JONES

(frustrated)

In other words, we'll need everybody, especially readers.

MORGAN

Ok, what comes to mind?

JONES

There's a Shakespeare play at the theater

MORGAN

Nobody goes to plays anymore. Especially not from a 400 year old dead guy. It's not a story.

JONES

There's a workshop on biochemistry and molecular biology research with Doctor Pertwee from England.

MORGAN

Not sure what's smaller, things the size of molecules or the public's interest in things the size of molecules. It's not a story.

JONES

Okay, two down, one to go. Discover Study Abroad meeting.

MORGAN

What's that?

JONES

Students interested in studying overseas. Connections you need to make beforehand, transitioning courses, keeping it affordable, etc.

MORGAN

Neither of those is much of a story.

JONES

I haven't had anything from you for a week. You really have to get on it and start producing something. If not, I'm not going to be able to keep you here on staff.

MORGAN

You can't fire me. I'm a student here.

JONES

You're a paid student here. We're having enough of a battle to keep people reading this paper either in print or online. There's a lot of competition these days.

MORGAN

Okay, fair enough. How about if I take the meeting on studying a broad. That could be interesting.

JONES

Just remember, it's one word, not two.

MORGAN

My writing's great, it's just my typing
that's bad.

JONES

(shaking his head)
Of course.

MORGAN

When and where is it?

JONES

Tonight at 6:00p.m. in Maclean Hall,
third floor auditorium.

MORGAN

But it's my bowling night.

JONES

You've never bowled a day in your life.

MORGAN

I could always start.

JONES

Start tomorrow.

Jones walks back to his desk.

MORGAN

(mumbling)

Studying in other countries? Could
be something there. What about
dangerous countries?

(MORE)

Morgan's cell phone RINGS and he answers without checking the
caller ID.

MORGAN (CONT'D)

(to phone)

Hello? Hey, what's up?

(listens, serious)

They're at the sorority house?

(listens)

(MORE)

MORGAN (CONT'D)

Now? Whose room are they checking?

(listens)

They took them to the morgue? Ok,
who else knows? Good. I'll be there
in about 15 minutes.

(MORE)

Morgan hangs up the phone. He looks across the room at Jones at his desk writing.

MORGAN (CONT'D)

That's a story.

He gets up and quickly exits.

INT. POLICE DEPARTMENT LAB - INT

Though they don't deal with bodies they do deal with evidence, so this lab is secure and clean. There are two tables with several pieces of equipment, vials, dumpsters, laptops, etc. on them.

At one table lab techs MAITLAND BENNIS, male, 50, gray haired and RACHEL ROWE, 30, a nerd, are examining a small notebook surrounded by Ford and Richards. All of them are wearing latex gloves.

Pages of the notebook are covered with names, all male, mostly first names, dates, sometimes multiple names on a single date, and a number between 3 and 11.

BENNIS

We've gotten fingerprints, all the same, from the front and back covers and the pages, the victims, that all match so I think it's safe to say she was the only one who touched it.

FORD

(leafing through pages)

Any idea what the listings mean?

BENNIS

No identifiers or markers at all other than the dates and they all started August 15th.

FORD

The weekend before classes started.
Any connections with her cell?

BENNIS

Nothing clear.

Bennis hands Ford a cell phone sealed in a plastic bag.

FORD

Is it open?

BENNIS

Yes, kids these days always use
the obvious dates and numbers.
Just once I'd like there to be
something original.

FORD

You and Roster should join a club.

BENNIS

I'll send him an email.

FORD

Anything on the cell.

BENNIS

Not that connects with this notebook.
They could be classmates, or study
partners, it's hard to tell not
knowing what kind of groups or
organizations outside of the sorority
she belonged to.

FORD

We'll start questioning them tomorrow.

ROWE

There're no blood stains on it. In
fact there are no stains of any kind.
She either brought it into town with
her or bought it brand new early on.

FORD

When can you release it to us?

BENNIS

It'll be ready tomorrow morning, Nate, with all the rest of the things we took. Unless something else shows up on the scans it's clear that whatever happened to her outside had no connection to anything going on in her room.

FORD

Was there anything else like this? Anything that could be a connection to something.

BENNIS

She was quite active.

FORD

Active how?

BENNIS

There are quite a few tickets and passes to bars and clubs.

RICHARDS

So, she was socially active?

ROWE

(handing Ford a ticket)

Including an executive pass to the High Flyer.

FORD

That got shut down the first weekend of classes for serving underage students.

ROWE

And this was stamped on the 15th and 16th of September.

FORD

Frequent flier on the first weekend.

BENNIS

Miss Bowman was quite active on a social level.

RICHARDS

So, she met a lot of people.

ROWE

I've got something else for you.
(MORE)

Ford follows Rowe to a lab table.

DEE

(to Ford)

Mr. and Mrs. Bowman are here to
see you.

Ford pockets the phone.

Ford and Richards sadly exit.

INT. PRIVATE MEETING ROOM - DAY

A standard meeting room at a police station.

ALAN BOWMAN, male, 50, suit and tie, and AMANDA BOWMAN, 40,
housewife, are seated at a table. They are both worn and are in
grief.

Ford is also seated at the table with a folder, notebooks, and
has been writing things down as they go.

AMANDA

She looked so...peaceful.

ALAN

Yes, she looked calm, but those
cuts. What that butcher did to
her. How could someone do that?

FORD

I'm sorry Mr. and Mrs. Bowman.
My daughter is just a year younger
than yours, so I can imagine how
difficult this is.

ALAN

How soon before we can take her
home one final time?

FORD

The M.E. will have everything finished by tomorrow morning. I can recommend several local parlors that can do all the necessary work and the transport back to Nebraska.

AMANDA

(to Alan)

We'll have to call Golden Arms and let them know. They were so kind with mom and dad.

ALAN

I'll call them today.

(to Ford)

What about her belongings?

FORD

Most of that will also be ready by tomorrow morning. If it's alright I'd like to have an officer or two there with you to help you pack. Just in case there is something else that might give us a clue or a connection to who did this.

ALAN

Of course. We met Emma and Ginger when we moved Shelly in a few weeks ago. It's hard to believe it's only been a few weeks. I'm sure Mindy will be there as well.

FORD

Mindy?

AMANDA

Shelly's best friend here at school was Mindy. I know she was in the sorority, they were extremely close.

FORD

Do you know Mindy's last name?

ALAN

I believe it was Lewis.

FORD

Thank you. Mr. and Mrs. Bowman, did Shelly ever talk about anyone odd that she encountered regularly in Iowa City? Anyone she dated?

AMANDA

Not recently. There was guy last year, they dated a while, but she broke it off with him.

FORD

Broke up with him? Did she say anything more?

AMANDA

She said he just seemed so angry about things. When they were out and having fun he was as nice as could be, but after, when things got quiet, he always complained.

FORD

Angry about things. Did he ever hurt her?

ALAN

No.

AMANDA

No, he didn't touch her.

FORD

Can you tell me anything else about him? Did you know his name?

AMANDA

I believe it was John, something. I can't remember his last name if she ever gave it to me. A nice looking boy, dark hair, she said how much she liked his mustache.

INT. DETECTIVES' OFFICE - DAY

Ford is at his desk looking over files. The heading Tammy Marcus, April 3rd, and Angela Tillman, August 7th, are listed on the folders. A third folder is set aside for Shelly Bowman.

Officer ASHLEY GREEN, 25, strong and tough, enters and approaches Ford.

GREEN

You wanted to see me.

FORD

Sure, Ashley, I need your help.
(pulls out bag with cell)
Here, this belongs to our victim.
I need you to start going over the call log, messages, calendar, the usual. See if you can find anything connected to the last few days. Especially hook ups with guys recently.

GREEN

Ok, anything specific come to mind? Names or numbers?

FORD

She was a member of a fraternity. Start with that.

GREEN

Sounds pretty blank.

FORD

It is, I'm afraid.

GREEN

Soon as I can.

Green exits.

Ford shuffles papers back and forth to make comparisons.

His desk phone RINGS, and he quickly answers.

FORD

Iowa City P.D., detective Ford.

EXT - ALPHA GAMMA OMEGA HOUSE - DAY

There is a car parked on the street nearby.

INT. MORGAN'S CAR - DAY

MORGAN

Detective, this is Fletcher Morgan from the Iowa City Caller. How are you today?

LOCATIONS INTERCUT

FORD

A bit busy right now. How may I help you?

MORGAN

It's understandable that you are busy. I was hoping to get a quote on the preliminary investigation into the murder at Alpha Gamma Theta Sorority.

FORD

(off guard)

We are very early in the investigation and it would be inappropriate for me to comment at this time.

MORGAN

Understandable. Can you confirm that one of the members was brutally murdered somewhere in Iowa City last night?

FORD

There was an incident that we are investigating.

MORGAN

Was this is anyway connected to the two murders earlier this year?

FORD

We have no word at this time.

MORGAN

Can you at least give us the age
and name of the victim?

FORD

(frustrated)

As you can see, we have a press
conference scheduled for tomorrow.

MORGAN

Why wait till tomorrow? There is
a serial murderer on the loose in
this city wouldn't it be best to
let people know today?

FORD

We'll have more comments tomorrow.

MORGAN

Can you give us a name?

FORD

Not at this time. Thank you.

(MORE)

Ford hangs up the phone.

Morgan smiles.

Ford firmly puts down the phone and glares at it for a moment.

Richards enters carrying a paper.

FORD (CONT'D)

That didn't take long.

RICHARDS

For what?

FORD

For that press release to get a
response. Someone from the Iowa
Caller is already asking questions
we don't have answers too.

RICHARDS

That's not possible.

FORD

I just was on the phone with someone,
a Fletcher Morgan, asking about
connections to previous murders.

RICHARDS

But I haven't sent out the press
release yet.

(shows paper in his hand)

I needed to get signatures and clearances.

FORD

How the hell did this asshole know?

EXT. CITY STREETS - DAY

Generic shots of people walking the streets.

EXT. JOHNSON COUNTY EXAMINER'S OFFICE - DAY

In the parking lot there are several cars, including a squad
car, and a crowd of SORORITY SISTERS, various, mulling around.

There is one car with Nebraska plates parked at the back entry
and garage doors and behind it is a hearse.

TITLECARD:

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 1ST

Ford exits the doors with Carter and Becker.

FORD

(to Carter)

Escort them out onto interstate 80.
Then meet us at the sorority.

CARTER

10-4.

There is some commotion as the garage door opens.

ATTENDANTS, males, various, along with Mr. and Mrs. Bowman bring
out a coffin and load it into the back of the hearse.

Carter and Becker go to their squad car.

Ford approaches the Bowman's.

FORD
Mr. and Mrs. Bowman, I'm very
sorry for your loss.

ALAN
Thank you, detective.

AMANDA
Thank you so much.

FORD
You got what you could from
the sorority?

AMANDA
Yes, they gave us several boxes
of what you released.

ALAN
They are in our car.

FORD
Good. We'll release the rest of
it as soon as all the tests and
fingerprints are recorded.

AMANDA
That's so kind.

ALAN
You will find this killer?

FORD
Yes, we will. I'll keep you
updated on that as well.

AMANDA
Justice being served will at
least give her death some meaning.

Ford opens the car door for Amanda, and she climbs in as Alan takes the driver's seat. Ford closes the door for her, looks at himself in the reflection, then stands back.

The Bowmans and the hearse, following the squad car, slowly pull out of the parking lot.

Emma, Ginger, Alicia and the sorority members line up to honor their fallen sister. In this line is MINDY LEWIS, female, 20, tearful.

Carter cannot take her eyes off them.

INT - ALPHA GAMMA THETA HOUSE MEETING ROOM - DAY

This is a small, but elegant, room with a wooden table and a few chairs.

Ford is on one side of the table with a pad taking notes as he interviews members.

Carter and Becker are also in the room bringing people in and out when needed.

Alicia Sutton is calmly answering questions.

ALICIA

She was quite a social butterfly. She was always the first one to welcome new members and make them feel comfortable.

FORD

So, she was regularly meeting new men and women?

ALICIA

Especially men. It didn't always work out for her very well.

FORD

What do you mean?

ALICIA

She heard there was a new club starting up, they called it The Players Club. Their first meeting was Tuesday night at 7:00 at the Union. She saw the list and it was

(MORE)

ALICIA (CONT'D)

all men so she made sure she showed up on time.

(giggles)

Players? Well, they were players all right. 11 guys, all chess players. She had no idea what the hell they were talking about. To make matters worse not one of them weighed less than 300 pounds.

(laughs uncontrollably)

They all wanted her name and phone number. Just to get them off her back she gave them a number and ran like hell. Don't know why she was in a hurry, none of them could run very far anyway.

FORD

She gave them her number?

ALICIA

Well, she gave them a number. She gave them Julia's number. Julia had 15 texts the next morning all challenging her to play. Poor girl freaked out so much she went and changed her number by noon.

Emma Wiggins is now seated at the table.

EMMA

Shelly was involved in several groups outside of the sorority.

FORD

Such as?

EMMA

There was a dance group that she was a part of. She loved to dance. Sometimes it didn't seem like once she got started she would stop. They raised a lot of money for charity with a marathon last year.

FORD

As for last year I understand she dated someone for a while. His name was John.

EMMA

Yes, I remember him. It didn't last for very long. He just wasn't her type.

FORD

Her type?

EMMA

No.

(smiles)

He just had a mustache. That girl loved guys with mustaches.

Ginger Lang is now shifting uncomfortably in the same seat.

GINGER

The way she talked John was always so angry about things. Even things that didn't really have anything to do with him or her.

FORD

Did he ever threaten her?

GINGER

No, at least, not that I know of.

FORD

Did she date anyone regularly after him?

GINGER

No, not regularly.

FORD

Did she date anyone at all.

GINGER

She...went out often...but never talked about dating anyone regularly this year.

Mindy Lewis is in the seat guarded and speaking reluctantly.

FORD

Did you ever hear of guy named John that she dated last year. Did she talk about him?

MINDY

Yeah, he was okay at first but she said he'd get angry fast at things. Really pissed off a lot. You never could have told that if you met the guy in public.

FORD

You knew him?

MINDY

I had a class with him. I actually introduced them.

FORD

Do you remember his last name?

MINDY

(pause)

John...Koon? Kroon? Something like that. I think it was Koon.

FORD

John Koon?

MINDY

I'm pretty sure that was it.

FORD

Any idea where we could find this John Koon.

MINDY

Krakow, Poland was where he was headed after graduation.

FORD

And that's the last anyone saw of him?

MINDY

Pretty sure. She never mentioned him after he broke up with her.

FORD

He broke up with her?

MINDY

Yes. Shelly always gave off this image that she was the innocent, wholesome girl. Deep down inside she wasn't like that.

Mindy looks around uncomfortably to make sure no one other than the police in the room heard her.

FORD

How was she?

MINDY

(pauses, looks down)

Well, I really didn't like that part of her.

FORD

This is all kept confidential.

MINDY

(deep breath)

By the end of last year she was going wild. Lots of different guys. She'd go out and got really wild.

FORD

Wild?

MINDY

This is just between us?

FORD

Yes.

MINDY

We used to be friends. This year she was turning into someone I didn't want to see anymore. She was turning into some sort of monster.

FORD
Monster? How?

MINDY
(forcing herself)
She was going out with different guys
all the time. Not just every week, but
every day. She even started a dick book
to get herself on the list.

FORD
A list of what?

MINDY
I'm not supposed to say anything,
but there's kind of an underground
club. They call it the Sorority
Sluts club. Trying to see who can
hook up with the most guys. They
keep track of them. They even call
it the dick book. The guys they were
with, names, dates and inches. She
was determined to get the Sorority
Slut of the Semester award.

FORD
Awards?

MINDY
Look, I'm not Amish, but really?
It's pretty disgusting.

INT. DETECTIVES' OFFICE - DAY

Wearing latex gloves Ford and Richards are looking at Shelly's
Dick Book. From August 16 to August 30 there are 18 male first
names, numbers, and stars listed.

FORD
18 guys in less than two weeks.

RICHARDS
Dates, first names, rating stars
and, um, sizes?

FORD

Two or three different names a day.

RICHARDS

18 different guys.

FORD

18 different suspects.

INT - GRISSOM'S OFFICE - DAY

Grissom is marching around his office. Ford and Richards are seated. Officers Carter and Becker are standing.

GRISSOM

The first thing I received when I got into work this morning was a call from University President Lucas reminding me how important Homecoming is to this city. Reunions, showcases, events, all the things that make this city and this university proud. Thousands of visitors, thousands of dollars, and even more donations to show the city and university pride. He also made sure I understood a serial murderer in the city would not help promote that pride.

FORD

There's no proof of a serial murderer.

GRISSOM

Newspapers don't need any proof anymore. Especially this one.

He shows them a print and online copy of the Iowan Caller. The headline "THREE MURDERS NO ARRESTS" and the story by Morgan and the officers look at it in disgust.

FORD

The name, Morgan, that's the one who called me yesterday.

GRISSOM

What did you tell him?

FORD

No proof, no conclusions, no
comment! Period.

GRISSOM

Want to hear what he wrote about
the latest killing?

(holds paper)

"The third victim's own activities
can make narrowing down the suspect
even more complicated. A young, active,
female student can get lots of attention
from both the wrong types. The result
is more suspects that will only cloud
the detective's like a London fog."

Ford and Richards both stir angrily.

RICHARDS

Who the hell is this ass?

FORD

Who the hell is he talking to?
He knew something was going on
at the sorority before the press
release went out.

GRISSOM

(to Becker and Carter)

Keep an eye on this guy. No doubt
he'll be at the conference asking
all the wrong questions.

(to Ford)

Don't let him get to you.

FORD

I've seen his types before.

GRISSOM

Just be careful. There's enough
eyes looking at us in the next
few weeks anyway. I know this
isn't like New York, or Chicago,
you aren't knee deep in contacts
and informants, but check everything
and everyone you got.

FORD

Of course.

RICHARDS

I've contacted all the people I can think of.

GRISSOM

Becker and Carter, I want you to spread the word on the patrols, as well. Contact anybody and see if they got anything. Yes, if they need the overtime they'll get it, but make sure they need it. No games on this one.

Becker and Carter both acknowledge they'll spread the word.

INT. DETECTIVES' OFFICE - DAY

Ford is putting together some papers when Green enters.

FORD

Anything on the phone.

GREEN

Nothing specific for the past few days. No restricted numbers, no blocked calls, most everything is to females, I suspect sorority sisters. Nothing in texts or on calendar.

FORD

Can you head on over to the sorority and check them out?

GREEN

Sure, which one?

FORD

All the numbers.

GREEN

I mean which sorority.

FORD

Oh, shit.
(looks at papers)
Alpha Gamma Theta house.

GREEN

Got it. Where are you off to?

FORD

I've got a press conference to hold.

GREEN

A P.C., as Dee likes to call it.

FORD

(deep breath)
A P.C., then. I better get going
or Dee will be calling the P.C.
one major F.U.

Ford exits.

INT. POLICE STATION CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

Morgan is sitting right up front with his cell phone ready to record the conference.

There are seven other REPORTERS, various, in the room. Three of them have TV cameras set up.

Dee finally enters and takes the stage. The reporters turn to listen to her.

DEE

Welcome to the Iowa City Police station. My name is Dee French and I am your contact person on the press release.

MORGAN

What can you tell us about the murder?

DEE

If you just wait a moment, I'll introduce you to the detective who is in charge of this case.

(MORE)

Ford enters carrying a folder and takes the stage next to Dee.

Grissom is standing at the back of the room.

DEE (CONT'D)

This recent case is now under the supervision of detective Nate Ford. Nate has been here in I.C.P.D. for 12 years and will answer your questions as best he can.

She steps aside and Ford addresses the reporters.

FORD

Ladies and gentlemen, welcome. I'm Nate Ford and currently leading the investigation.

(opens folder)

On the morning of Thursday, August 31st, at approximately 5:32a.m., a passerby found the body of a 20-year-old woman in the alley behind the Historical Society building on North Gilbert. He immediately called 9-1-1 and the police and an ambulance were dispatched to the scene. It was there we discovered the body of Michelle Bowman, 20, from Ralston, Nebraska. Miss Bowman was pronounced dead at the scene. Medical Examiner Roster ruled her death a homicide and the area was cordoned off while an investigation took place. It was determined that the victim was stabbed to death. There were several cuts along her body, including a deep cut in her abdomen. There were no marks or fingerprints found at the scene. We are currently asking that anyone in the public who may have seen

(MORE)

FORD (CON'T)

Mis Bowman, in either the early morning hours of the 31st or late in the evening of the 30th to contact the police department immediately. Questions?

Morgan gets his moment and jumps.

MORGAN

fletcher Morgan, from the Iowa Caller. Detective Ford, what is the connection between this victim and the victim found in the park on August 7th?

FORD

Right now, we haven't made any connections between these two.

MORGAN

Certainly, two stabbing deaths in such a short time is suspicious.

FORD

We are looking into any and all links between the two cases.
(points at a TV reporter #1)
Question?

TV REPORTER #1, female, 30s, professional is with CAMERAMAN #1, male, 22.

TV REPORTER #1

Have you spoken with the victim's family at all?

FORD

Yes, I met with Mr. and Mrs. Bowman yesterday and today. They are, understandably, grief stricken over the death of their daughter. We extend our condolences. They requested that we find their daughter's killer and bring him to justice.

MORGAN

You have a suspect in mind?

FORD

No, as I said we do not, at this time, have any suspects.

MORGAN

You said "bring him" to justice.

FORD

I was generalizing.
(points at a TV reporter #2).
Yes?

TV REPORTER #2, male, 50, gray haired is with CAMERAMAN #2, male, 25.

TV REPORTER #2

There is so much emphasis on DNA evidence. Have you come up with any clues on that front?

FORD

So far, all the DNA analysis that we collected from the scene matches the victim.

MORGAN

Have any CCTV cameras shown any signs of a dark-haired man with a mustache?

FORD

(stumbles a bit)

We have checked the locations. The Historical Society doesn't have any cameras on the alley, neither do any of the houses. There is an apartment complex half a block away but none of their cameras reach that far.

MORGAN

And the man?

Grissom can't take his glare off Morgan.

FORD

We have no evidence anywhere that matches that description.

MORGAN

Tammy Marcus, who was murdered in April, described a dark haired man with a mustache as one of the three who assaulted and beat her before she passed away. The witness who found Angela Tillman in the park on August 7th also claimed he saw a dark-haired man with a mustache leaving the park.

FORD

As for Tammy Marcus she was heavily sedated after surgery and there was no way to verify her claim. We did check the local cameras at the time and there were no traces of three men together. As for Tillman, a report from a witness was investigated.

MORGAN

But with two murders so far apart with similar suspects-

FORD

And how many people in Iowa City fit that description? We can't start bringing in every dark-haired man with a mustache.

(Morgan pauses)

We haven't ruled out that possibility, but we can't rule out everything else at this point. Are there other questions?

TV Reporter #2 waves his hand. Ford points at him.

TV REPORTER #2

There have only been a handful of murders in the past few years. Are you worried there may be some type of spree with murders close?

FORD

We have to, for now, keep things in scale. There were 3 murders over the last 4 years combined. Before that, in 2008, there were 7 murders alone. While this number may be unusual for this city, it is too early to call it a spree. We will keep a close eye on the events of the last 30 days, include what happened in April, and be looking for patterns.

(looking at Morgan)

We want to be cautious, we urge people to be careful, but don't want to cause unnecessary panic.

TV REPORTER #1

Has there been any pressure from officials concerned with Homecoming a few weeks away?

FORD

No, just the same urgency we'd have anytime an innocent victim is revealed.

(Morgan starts to speak)

Thank you.

Ford exits the room.

Morgan is tapping on his cell phone.

Grissom stands back and observes Morgan's moves.

INT. DETECTIVES' OFFICE - DAY

Ford is at his desk working on his computer.

Grissom enters and approaches him.

GRISSOM

Not your best, but a good save.

FORD

I'm wondering where that ass gets his info from. He seems to know just as much as we know as we know.

GRISSOM

There's lots of ways for them to get ahead of us. Information can be moved around fast these days.

FORD

Even information that shouldn't.

GRISSOM

I suspect we'll have more issues with him in the future.

FORD

Me, too. Some people can ruin one life in a moment, a chance encounter with a stranger on the street, a single second of anger, everything is changed. Other people, people that like to twist information for their own purposes, can ruin things for many. Deep down I'm not sure which is worse.

INT. MALL PARKING GARAGE - NIGHT

This is the second story of the Old Capital Mall Parking Lot. Despite it being late there are still a few cars here.

The door to the stairwell opens and Richards enters. He pauses and looks around, then heads to the far end where two cars are parked.

As he approaches the cars ADRIAN, male, 20, wearing torn clothes with unkempt hair, steps out and nods to him.

RICHARDS

I got your message.

ADRIAN

I figured you'd be here.

RICHARDS

What have you got?

ADRIAN

This murder the other night, on Gilbert Street, it's shaken a lot

of people up.

RICHARDS

Not just at your level.

ADRIAN

What it says about the way she was cut up? Is that true?

(Richards nods)

You got anybody?

RICHARDS

Come on, Adrian, you know I can't talk to you about something like that. Tell me what you got.

ADRIAN

I got nothing as to who it is, but I can tell you who it isn't. Someone who'll rip apart a body like that, it's not one of us. It's not anyone who regularly covers this area.

RICHARDS

Nobody new coming through? No lone wolves causing trouble?

ADRIAN

No. Not through us. Whoever they are they are new, unnoticed, going to get nothing from any of us.

Adrian looks at Richards expecting something. Richards debates it for a moment then hands Adrian some cash.

RICHARDS

You owe me one.

ADRIAN

With whoever you got moving in on this town you are going to need more than one.

EXT. IOWA CITY - DAY AND NIGHT

Various shots of Iowa City life over the weekend. Mostly people going about their business.

A somber memorial at the Alpha Gamma Theta sorority.

Police officers Carter, Becker, Poulter, Green and OTHERS on their patrols.

Grissom, with his FAMILY, various, and Richards going about the city.

Ford is with his daughter, TAYLOR, 20, the girl in the pictures, at an event in the park. He is keeping his eyes on the crowds.

Various shots of darker areas near downtown at night where anything could be happening.

INT. IOWA CALLER EDITOR'S OFFICE - DAY

The office is filled with various awards. There are print copies of the paper stacked on shelves and even some framed and mounted on the walls. These all have very glamorous and sensational headlines, IOWA TO ROSE BOWL, UI PRESIDENT OUT!!, IS THIS DORM SAFE? etc.

TITLE CARD:

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 4th
LABOR DAY

Chief Editor STANLEY REESE, male, 55, burly, chain smoker, drinker, obsessed and closed minded.

Morgan is sitting across the desk from Reese.

Ford, frustrated, is standing near the closed door with a rolled-up paper in his hand.

REESE

Detective Ford, you have to understand how the news business works. We need not only to attract clickers to our paper and our site but, once they get there, we have to keep them there, keep them interested. What's the best way to do that? What keeps the clickers there? What keeps people turning on their TV shows

(MORE)

REESE (CONT'D)

every week? What keeps them wondering about the Kardashians? The same thing that keeps them going back again and again and again. Suspense! Suspense keeps those clickers coming.

FORD

(unhappy)

By clickers you mean readers

REESE

(laughs)

Of course, the average person at home really doesn't interest us. It's the people on their phones, or laptops, or PCs that click and go places we need. Can you understand what I mean?

FORD

Of course, I can, but misleading them can't be the best way to do it. I'm asking you to be reasonable in your coverage.

MORGAN

There's nothing misleading or unreasonable in what I wrote.

FORD

(waves paper)

Calling the killer a butcher and "More to fear than the police let on"?

MORGAN

Bowman was cut open, Tillman was stabbed 39 times! How else would you describe it?

FORD

You pick this imagery, these words, just to scare people.

REESE

Scared people will pay more attention to what's going on. It keeps them interested.

FORD

It keeps them clicking! What about Angela Tillman's family? How do you think this affects them? We haven't made any connections between these murders. You are creating phantoms and causing undue suspicions. That can only complicate things.

MORGAN

Haven't made connections, or just won't tell us?

FORD

Sometimes we have to keep evidence secure until we know more. Plus, spreading stories about things that might not be there can start to make people see things that might not be there. If we get bogged down chasing false reports, it will hamper any investigation and give the real criminal more clearance.

REESE

Or, alternatively, the average person might notice something they wouldn't see and give you a clue that helped catch the real criminal.

FORD

It's the innocents you should be worried about.

MORGAN

We're making sure the innocents are aware of what they are walking into in this city.

FORD

(to Morgan)

We're the ones who are protecting
people, not you.

(to Reese)

That's how the police business works.

Ford exits.

Reese and Morgan look at each other. Reese nods and MORGAN
smiles.

EXT. IOWA CALLER - DAY

Ford exits the building. Going in is a man with dark hair and
mustache, he pauses, shakes it off, then walks to his car.

Just as he is about to get in his cell phone RINGS. He answers
immediately.

FORD

This is Ford.

(pauses and listens)

Does the name check out? Any
priors? Ok, that's a long out
from downtown. I can be there
in about 15 minutes. Dispatch
a squad to meet me there.

INT. APARTMENT - DAY

This one-bedroom apartment is very neat and orderly with a TV,
sofa, a recliner and a small kitchen space with a table and
chairs. The decorations are all very exact and minimal. The
bedroom door at the back is closed.

TEGA TULL, male, 24, European, dark haired and a mustache, is
seated back in the chair working on his laptop.

There is a KNOCK at the door.

TEGA

Hold on a moment.

(MORE)

Tega quickly finishes typing and closes the laptop before he
gets up and heads to the door.

There is another KNOCK.

TEGA (CONT'D)

I'm on my way.

Tega opens the door to find Ford, Becker, and Carter in the hallway. They are standing back prepared for anything, and Ford is holding out his badge.

FORD

Tega Tull?

TEGA

Yes, sir.

FORD

I'm detective Nate Ford of the Iowa City P.D. We'd like to have a word with you. Can we come inside?

TEGA

Of course.

Tega stands back and they enter keeping an eye on him and everything in the apartment.

FORD

Thank you, Mr. Tull.

TEGA

Um, what can I help you with?

FORD

We'd like to talk to you about your movements in the past few days? We're investigating the murder near here on North Gilbert street.

TEGA

Oh, my, sure. I don't know how much I can help you. I saw it on the Iowa Caller but I never met the girl.

FORD

Of course, where were you on the evening of August 31st?
Were you downtown?

Tega realizes just how serious this is and why they are here.

TEGA
Perhaps we could sit down.
(MORE)

Tega and Ford sit down at the small kitchen table.

Becker and Carter stay in the living room and look around the area, but touch nothing.

TEGA (CONT'D)
Yes, I was downtown that evening.

FORD
Where were you at?

TEGA
(reluctantly)
I was at Studio 13.

FORD
How late were you there?

TEGA
Till about 1:00 or so.

FORD
Did anyone see you?

TEGA
Well, sir, I imagine lots of people did. It's a public bar and the final day of the month is always quite busy.

FORD
Were you with anyone specific?

TEGA
(pauses)
Yes, I was there with my boyfriend.

FORD
What's his name?

TEGA
(reluctant)
His name is Alex.

FORD
And Alex was with you the whole
time you were at the bar?

TEGA
Yes. He drove us back here.

FORD
What's Alex's last name?

TEGA
It's Abrie.

FORD
And where could we find this
Alex Abrie?

Tega glances at the bedroom door, sighs, then nods in that
direction.

TEGA
He's sleeping right now.

The bedroom door opens and ALEX ABRIE, male, 21, blonde and
muscular, walks out yawning. He is dressed in t-shirt and
sweatpants and has just gotten out of bed.

He comes wide awake when he sees the police in the apartment.

ALEX
What's going on, Tega?

TEGA
These officers are investigating
that murder?

ALEX
I didn't know her. Did you?

Tega shakes his head.

FORD

We've had a call to the I.C.P.D.
reporting suspicious behavior
from Mr. Tull, here.

Alex sits at the table next to Tega and holds his hand.

ALEX

What the hell is this? Where
is this coming from?

FORD

The report said that Mr. Tull was
seen acting suspiciously after
returning here early in the morning
of the 1st.

TEGA

I was drinking, I can't deny that.

FORD

It was reported that you had
blood on your hands.

Tega and Alex look at each other in shock.

TEGA

No! There was no blood.

ALEX

(furious)

Who called that in? The old NAZI
living on the first floor? That
rotten bastard.

Alex starts to rise but Tega pulls him back to his seat.

Carter and Becker approach keeping a firm eye on the two.

TEGA

He turned us in having a
birthday party last spring.
Said the candles on the cake
were a fire hazard.

FORD

There is a claim that you had
blood on your hands.

ALEX

There was no blood.

TEGA

My hands were red, yes, but
it was just a simple accident.

FORD

I'm afraid you're going to have
to explain it a bit more than
that, Mr. Tull.

Tega looks guiltily at Alex, who nods.

ALEX

I'm sure she'll understand.

TEGA

I was helping a friend. She was
upset when her boyfriend broke
up with her that night. As we
left 13 she called and was crying
hysterically so we went and picked
her up. She was a mess both physically
and emotionally. She nearly broke down
and we sat with her for a few hours.
I'm afraid a combination of tears,
make up, and the night left
everything in a mess.

FORD

You were wearing a black shirt
with red stains on it?

TEGA

Yes, it's in the hamper.

ALEX

Can I get it?

Ford nods at Alex and then at Becker to follow him.

Alex and Becker go into the bedroom for a moment and then come out with a black shirt that has stains on the shoulder strung on a hanger.

BECKER

It's got stains on it, yes. It doesn't look or smell like blood.

FORD

(to Tega)

Can we take a closer look at the shirt in our lab?

(Tega shrugs)

And we'll need the name of the friend you spent time with.

TEGA

No, I can't put her through anything.

ALEX

I'll call her and talk to her. I promise she'll understand.

(Tega nods and looks away)

Carly Chasin is her name. She lives on Jefferson near the river. I'll get her number.

Alex checks his cell then takes a piece of paper and writes down a phone number. He gives it to Ford.

FORD

We'll check out the shirt and get it back to you. Right now I don't suspect there'll be anymore issues.

TEGA

Thank you, detective.

Ford, Carter, and Becker, with the shirt, exits.

EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING - DAY

Ford, Carter and Becker exit the building.

FORD

(looks at shirt)

Well, it's definitely not blood. Take it to the lab anyway, just in case there's something else on it. Then check out this Carly Chasin and make sure her story backs theirs.

CARTER

You suspect them?

FORD

Not much, especially if there are two witnesses who will corroborate. Just need to keep all the bases covered right now.

BECKER

Right now, I'm more suspicious of the "NAZI" that turned them in.

FORD

Yes, I agree.

CARTER

Sees something late at night from someone they apparently don't like anyway, and call it in.

FORD

Thanks to the damn paper I'm afraid we're going to start getting more reports like that.

EXT. IOWA AVENUE - NIGHT

This is the street with sororities and fraternities on it including the Alpha Gamma Theta sorority at the opposite end. It is evening and there are shadows on the street.

TITLECARD

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7th

TY DANNELOSON, male, 20, more muscles than brains, and ROBERT HALL, male, 20, spoiled, are slowly walking down the street looking around.

DANNELSON

Where's a cop when you need one?

HALL

Any second.

After a few moments a squad car comes around a corner and heads in their direction.

DANNELSON TY

There.

Dannelson and Hall go out into the street waving their arms in the air.

The car stops.

Officers Poulter and Green are inside and roll down the windows.

POULTER

Can I help you?

DANNELSON

Yes, please.

HALL

There's a guy running around back there.
He's looking into the sorority windows.

Green, driving, pulls the car off to the side and they get out.

GREEN

Can you describe this man?

HALL

He was about 5'5", 130 pounds,
dark skinned, with dark hair
and a mustache.

GREEN

You saw him from the street?

DANNELSON

Across the street, yes, he came
across the street and ran behind
that house.

GREEN

How long ago was this?

DANNELSON

A few minutes.

ROBERT

Maybe five minutes.

Poulter and Green look at each other suspiciously.

POULTER

Ok, stay here by the car. We'll
go check it out.

Dannelson and Hall nod, look at each other and smile, then move to the other side of the squad car.

Poulter and Green, leaving their weapons in their holsters, start to walk around the building.

GREEN

Expecting anything?

POULTER

Not really, but we need to at
least take a look.

Green agrees.

They move around the building steadily but cautiously.

In the back they are surrounded by shadows and slow down as they hear a THUMP from a small shack aside from the main building.

They take careful steps towards the shack.

There is another THUMP and the sounds of something FALLING inside.

Poulter and Green pull out their weapons as they approach the door to the shack.

They pause as they get to the door and listen. There are no sounds or lights inside.

Green gets her flashlight out and turns it on.

They look at each other, nod, the Poulter slowly opens the door.

At first there is nothing.

Then there is a crash inside and a racoon scurries out the door and runs off.

They look at each other, relax a bit, then look in the shack and see nothing but some garden tools, sports equipment, etc.

The lights at the back of the building come on and three FRATERNITY BROTHERS, males, 20, various, one has dark hair and a mustache, come out towards the shack.

BROTHER #1

Hey, what's going on?

BROTHER #2

Get out.

The Brothers head towards the shack but stop when they realize there are police officers there.

BROTHER #3

(dark hair and mustache)

Woah, hold up! Sorry officers.

We didn't realize you were out here.

BROTHER #2

Can we help you find something?

POULTER

We had a report from two people out on the street. They said they saw someone running back here.

BROTHER #3

I was out here a few minutes ago taking out some garbage.

BROTHER #1

He lost a bet.

BROTHER #3

But there's nothing unusual about it. Just some garbage taken out.

GREEN

What is this house?

BROTHER #2

Our house is Alpha November fraternity.

BROTHER #1

Alpha November All Year Round!

Poulter and Green start to relax. They put their weapons in their holsters.

GREEN

Those people out front reported seeing a male figure lurking around behind the sorority.

The Brothers also relax,

BROTHER #2

A simple misunderstanding.

POULTER

It looks like it. Sorry for the confusion.

BROTHER #1

It's perfectly understandable. Thank you, sir.

POULTER

Have a good night.

BROTHER #2

You too. Good day.

GREEN

There was a coon in that shack. You might want to check it out in the morning.

BROTHER #3

Another one? We will, ma'am. Thought we took care of that break in the back wall.

The Brothers try to investigate the shack.

Poulter and Green head back to the squad car.

GREEN

Incidents like that have happened several times since that report in the paper came out.

POULTER

Damn Iowa Caller. I'd like to call it a couple of things right now.

They get to the squad car and are surprised that Dannelson and Hall are gone.

EXT. ALLEY - DAY

The still, dead face of Cally DiAngelo as it is covered up with a sheet.

The alley between East Washington and E College street is filled with police very early in the morning.

TITLE CARD:

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

Roster is going over the area around the body with Bennis and Roe.

Carter, Becker, Poulter, Green are here.

Ford and Richards are interviewing FRANK STAFFORD, male, 20, in a jogging outfit. He is distraught, pacing back and forth, but staying within a close distance of the detectives.

FRANK

It was so short. I heard it but didn't think anything of it. Then when I came out this morning to jog I started down the alley like I always do. I couldn't miss her. There she was. At least, what was left of her.

FORD

You've heard things like this before?

FRANK

Well, this close to downtown, on some nights, like a game night, you hear lots of things. Shouts, calls, whistles, all sorts. You kind of learn to phase it out.

FORD

Did you hear other calls last night?

FRANK

No, just that one.

RICHARDS

Can you estimate what time it was?

FRANK

(thinks it out)

It had to be after 1:00, maybe 1:30, I was pretty tired and don't think I was up much longer after that.

FORD

Between 1:00 and 1:30am.

FRANK

Yes.

(shakes)

I wrote a paper on the history of Mars last night, the mythology of it.

(stumbles)

Mars was the god of war, you know?

RICHARDS

Yes, I do.

FRANK

There's all the blood and rage in war. The way she was cut up, opened up like that. The blood, her insides cut out... What kind of rage makes a person do that?

FORD

We're trying to find out, Mr. Stafford. Think about what you heard. What did it sound like she called?

FRANK

It sounded like..."No."

INT. APARTMENT HALLWAY - DAY

Becker and Carter are knocking on a door.

The door opens and ELIZABETH PORT, female, 20, cheerful, answers pulling her backpack over her shoulder.

ELIZABETH

Good morning. I was just headed out to class.

CARTER

Yes, Miss, is this the apartment of Cally DiAngelo?

ELIZABETH

Yes, but she didn't-

(gasps)

Oh. no.

(in tears)

Please, no.

CARTER

I'm sorry, miss. We need you to come with us.

Elizabeth starts crying. Becker and Carter gently escort her down the hall.

INT. DETECTIVE'S OFFICE - DAY

Elizabeth is sitting in a chair off to one side. She is distraught, her eyes are red and there are tears on her cheeks, drinking some water. Carter is sitting next to her and comforting her.

Ford is sitting nearby taking notes.

FORD

I'm sorry, Miss Port, I have a few more questions.

ELIZABETH

If it helps you find whoever did that to her. Whoever cut her open like that.

FORD

Thank you. She never had any problems with guys in classes?

ELIZABETH

No, she never said anything.

FORD

She wasn't dating anyone?

ELIZABETH

No, she hadn't been going out with anyone. Not that she didn't get asked a lot. She got lots of offers, but she kept it clear.

FORD

What do you mean?

ELIZABETH

She was an actress, a very good actress, and was getting lots of attention. She was too busy and concentrating on performing to do any serious dating.

FORD

Actress where?

ELIZABETH

Along the river at University Theaters. She was in two main stage productions last year, plus two galleries and Play Fest. That guy that does those films at PATV even asked her about taking one.

FORD

Did she turn him down?

ELISABETH

No, no, no. She wanted to do that one, but she did have to turn down others.

FORD

Was anyone really forceful? Anyone pushing her or really angry because she turned them down?

ELISABETH

There was one person who tried to get her to take on a film last spring. She was really upset when Cally turned the role down.

FORD

Do you remember what her name was?

ELISABETH

I don't remember. She was upset, said someday Cally would regret not working for her or her films. That was it. Cally never mentioned anything again. With all her followers I don't think Calley was too worried.

FORD

Followers?

ELISABETH

Cally wanted to have a big online presence. She posted on Instagram fairly regularly.

FORD

If you could get us her usernames online we'd like to check them out.

ELIZABETH

Sure.

FORD

One other question, Miss Port. Do you know the code to access her cell phone?

ELIZABETH

(hesitant)

I suppose it doesn't matter anymore.

(sadly)

It was her birthday. 0813.

Some time has passed.

Ford is at his desk looking at his computer.

He is checking various social accounts of Cally DiAngelo. There are a lot of pictures from various stage productions she did, several thousand friends and followers, with dozens of comments. She was a very popular actress with lots of support from her friends and family.

After a moment he shakes his head clear and looks away. He looks at the picture of his daughter on his desk then looks at new sites on his computer. These are of his daughter, Taylor Ford. There are several pictures of her during a recent football game at the University. There are also some pictures of her with her dad.

Carter enters and joins him.

CARTER

I've been going over her social media accounts.

FORD

So, have I. As much as I can.

CARTER

Welcome to the 21st century.

(Ford mumbles)

She was certainly very popular.

FORD

And very talented.

CARTER

Yes. There were no signs of any major conflicts with anyone. No threats, no masked threats, the worst she got was a less than 5-star review from the Iowa Caller last year for "Rent."

FORD

Anyone seem overly obsessed with her?

CARTER

Other than her mom, dad, and younger sister nothing stands out.

FORD

Nothing in the way of suspects?

CARTER

No. I even looked at some of the people she blocked online, especially on Facebook.

FORD

You can do that?

CARTER

It's a technological marvel.

FORD

Anything there?

CARTER

Nothing stood out right away. I'll check more after it gets recharged.

Dee enters.

Ford and Carter look at each other, concerned about what story they are going to get.

DEE

I so much wanted to tell you about the new dog my daughter got.

(Ford and Carter looking
for a way out)

But chief Grissom wants to see you in the briefing room.

Ford and Carter exit trying not to look relieved.

INT. REESE'S OFFICE - DAY

Reese is marching around his office. Jones and Morgan are seated around it.

REESE

Right now, our numbers are good. The clickers are coming to see what we got. They are coming to the Iowa Caller regularly and they are sticking around.

JONES

This will be good for everyone.

MORGAN

It's working.

REESE

It's going to be great. Alumni will love it, the board of directors will love it, the people who are likely to donate to this university will love it. It's a win for all of us. We just have to keep it up for the next few weeks until Homecoming.

JONES

More high-quality journalism.

MORGAN

(laughs)

The only place for quality in a newspaper is in the classified ads.

Jones shakes his head unhappily.

REESE

Keep up the good words. Go further and push harder to keep those clickers interested. See what you can dig up.

MORGAN

(slashing motions)

Hopefully we'll have another I.C.P.D. press conference soon.

Reese and MORGAN like that idea.

Leonard quietly shakes his head.

INT. I.C.P.D. CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

There is a chart on a board with the simple outline of a female body on it in black. There are red lines marking cuts in the throat, stomach, vagina and bladder.

Roster takes a blue marker and crosses off the shoulders.

ROSTER

There were sections of the skin
from her stomach found here.

(points to lower markings)

These cuts were where her bladder
and vagina would normally be. In
this case they were completely removed.

Ford, Richards, Grissom, Becker, Carter, Poulter Green, and
other OFFICERS, various, are in the room watching.

RICHARDS

How far away from the body were they?

ROSTER

The killer appears to have taken them
along when they left. They were not
found at the crime scene.

(MORE)

Everyone is shocked and there is rustling in the crowd.

ROSTER (CONT'D)

There are no marks or scratches that
would indicate any struggle. I believe
the killer came in and cut the throat
first, deep and absolute, killing her
almost instantly. She was then placed
on the ground in the position she was
discovered in. The cuts to the body
were then done steadily after that.

FORD

There were no blood splashes that would
indicate the attacker was in a frenzy?

ROSTER

No, which brings up something very
interesting.

(points at the cuts on the chart)

The cuts, all of these cuts, are very
precise. The abdomen was cut open and
lifted, the skin removed from the
stomach was placed, not dropped or
thrown, but placed here on the
shoulders. The bladder was specifically

(MORE)

ROSTER

indicates that the person who did the cutting had much more knowledge of the human body than the average person. They were precise. They were deliberate. As if they were cut by a surgeon.

FORD

Have you ever seen murders like this before?

ROSTER

(pauses)

No. No one has for 130 years. Detective.

Roster gets off the stage and sits down.

Ford stands and takes the stage.

FORD

After looking at events of the past several months we can only conclude that we have a serial murderer at work here in Iowa City. We believe one victim of this killer was on August 31st, the second was this morning. These are tied together due to their locations, near downtown, the location of the wounds, and, also, the style of the wounds. At this time we think it is possible that the woman who was murdered in the city park on August 7th, may also be a victim of the same killer. Yet we can neither confirm nor deny that possibility.

Several hours later.

Ford is now speaking to a room full of REPORTERS, various. There are three times as many as there were at the earlier press conference.

Grissom is in the back watching the whole event.

Morgan is in the front row eager to ask questions.

There is an outburst of questions from the reporters.

MORGAN

Detective, what connections are there between the Tillman murder in the park and Bowman and DeAngelo's murders?

FORD

(glares at him)

The only connection we have at this time is the location of the wounds on the victim's body. Even though they were in the similar location on the body the style of the cuts were different. They weren't as clean or as steady as the cuts on the two more recent victims. There were also considerable differences in the victims. She was more than twice their age and was quite a ways away from downtown. She didn't fall under the target range of the latest.

MORGAN

Could she have just been a warm up?

FORD

As I said it is possible and we aren't ruling it out.

TV REPORTER #1

What kind of extra resources are you calling in to Iowa City?

FORD

Right now we are using everything we've got looking for any signs of evidence or suspicious activity. We are hoping that considering how common it is for both the city, educational, and private building to use security cameras that anyone who sees anything will contact us.

MORGAN

What about Tammy Marcus who was murdered April 7th?

TV REPORTER #2

What can you tell us about the most recent victim?

FORD

We have very little to say currently. We have contacted her family, they are on their way and making arrangements to take care of her.

MORGAN

Does her being exposed as an actress increase the number of suspects?

Grissom shakes his head in disgust.

FORD

This early on we've spoken with her roommate and a few others, but we have no witnesses.

MORGAN

(loudly, cutting off other reporters)

Cally Bowman, I understand, had a diary listing several personal encounters she's had since the semester began. Have you contacted any of those individuals?

FORD

(glares at Morgan)

We have investigated them as best we could.

MORGAN

Were any of them, in one way or another, particular stand outs?

FORD

All of the victims had connections with many students through classes and other organizations on campus. We are looking at all of them.

MORGAN

In both of the murder in April and the first death in Augusts there were reports of a dark-haired man with a mustache involved. Is that who you are looking for?

FORD

In both of those cases the reports of a dark-haired man with a mustache were unreliable. We are not focusing on any single individuals who fit that description.

MORGAN

Could you be ignoring clues that are right in front of you?

FORD

We are NOT ignoring anything at this time.

MONTAGE

Interior and exterior shots of various locations around the city.

A young man with dark hair and a mustache reading on the walk mall.

An art fair along the riverbank. Some people turn and look off as someone passes by.

A young man with dark hair and a mustache jogging.

Becker and Carter talking to some people and looking at a crowd at the mall.

The front of the Iowa Caller print and online copies have a drawing of a dark-haired man with a mustache as a butcher under the headline "Is This Man Looking For You?"

END MONTAGE

EXT. FORD'S HOUSE - NIGHT

On the outer edge of Iowa City things are calmer. A few PEOPLE, various, are out late jogging, dog walking or just getting home.

TITLE CARD:

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10TH

Ford's house has a porch with a lawn light on and a car sitting in the driveway.

INT. FORD'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

A comfortable family home with the usual pictures, shelves, sofa, chairs, TV, etc.

There is a photo of young Nathan Ford his first day as a police officer.

Ford is sitting on the sofa with his daughter.

TAYLOR

Is it true? Her having a book of names for the sorority slut awards.

FORD

No comment.

TAYLOR

Dad!

Ford looks at her and, regretfully, nods.

FORD

If we could figure out who from the sorority was talking to that bastard I'd try and shut them up.

TAYLOR

It used to be that people ignored the Caller. It was just fluff and no one really paid attention to it except for Hawkeye news. Now everyone in class is talking about it.

FORD

Please tell me they're saying it's all still fluff.

TAYLOR

Some are, but it's getting people talking. Lots of finger pointing.

FORD

Looking for that figure with the mustache?

TAYLOR

Not just that. There was some talk even yesterday that the victims shouldn't have been out there so much. That if they hadn't have promoted themselves so much they wouldn't have been noticed.

FORD

Damn.

TAYLOR

Some people say there are racy pictures on that actress's OnlyFans page.

FORD

Only what?

TAYLOR

OnlyFans. It's an adult side, mostly restricted, where you pay to see photos that aren't allowed on Facebook.

FORD

She had no such account.

TAYLOR

No one can prove it, either. It's just giving people something to talk about.

FORD

We're getting more anonymous tips on the I.C.P.D. hotline, too. So far none of them have led to anything

(MORE)

FORD (CONT'D)

we can even closely connect to these murders.

(pauses, changes)

I hope you are being careful, Taylor.

TAYLOR

We are. We made an agreement, most of us in Slater Hall, to always keep an eye out for each other.

FORD

That's a good start.

TAYLOR

Speaking of which, I should be getting back. Got a big test tomorrow in geometry class.

Taylor rises and Ford follows her.

FORD

I'll make sure you get there okay.

TAYLOR

I'll be okay, dad.

FORD

(stumbles)

At least let me walk you out to your car.

EXT. FORD HOUSE - NIGHT

Ford and Taylor exit the house and walk to the lighted driveway.

FORD

You don't have any night classes.

TAYLOR

5:30 is when I finish.

FORD

I want you back at the dorm by 6:00.

TAYLOR

(laughs)

Dad! Sometimes I have some things to do. Studying with people in class, doing some shopping, you know what it's like.

FORD

For the time being, try and cut back. Stay inside where it's warm.

She smiles and hugs him, he softens a bit but is still worried.

TAYLOR

I'm covered.

(she shows her keys clawed up in her hand)

I learned from the best, dad.

He stays outside watching her as she gets in her car and drives off.

INT. UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL LOBBY - DAY

Staff, students and patients entering and exiting normally.

TITLE CARD

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11th

Ford and Richards at the main desk showing their badges.

INT. CANNWELL'S OFFICE - DAY

The personal items in this office indicate its occupant is very experienced in medicine at the university. She is not only a highly skilled physician but one of the deans of the university medical students.

SARAH CANNWELL, female, 60, gray haired but still looks 50, is at her desk going over grades of students in different programs. She examines their records, occasionally shakes her head, then marks their names on a file.

There is a KNOCK at the door. Before she can respond it opens and her secretary, GRAHAM, male, 22, feminine, enters followed by Ford and Richards.

GRAHAM

Sorry, Doctor Cannwell, these
are the two officers who needed
to speak with you.

FORD

(shows badge)
I'm detective Nate Ford.

RICHARDS

(shows badge)
I'm detective Aaron Richards.

CANNWELL

Thank you, Graham.

Graham turns and winks at Richards on his way out.

GRAHAM

(whispers)
Detective. Woo-hoo.

Graham exits.

RICHARDS

(quickly)
Doctor Cannwell, thank you for
seeing us at such short notice.

FORD

Thank you, Doctor.

Cannwell glances at the detectives then goes back to her papers.

CANNWELL

I'm sure that you can make it
quick, gentlemen, it takes a
great deal to keep this school
and this hospital operating.

FORD

Of course.

CANNWELL

As far as I'm aware no one around
here has committed any crimes in
the recent days.

FORD

As far as you are aware.

CANNWELL

(writes some notes)

It has been business as usual.

FORD

Do they normally inform you when they commit any crimes?

Cannwell stops, glares at him, and gives him her complete attention.

CANNWELL

What do you need?

RICHARDS

I'm sure you've seen the news reports of the recent murders here in Iowa City.

CANNWELL

And the two before that.

RICHARDS

Currently we are still uncertain if they are connected.

CANNWELL

You come to that conclusion how?

RICHARDS

The two recent victims were both younger than the first two. They were also found near downtown while the previous two were further out. This would indicate a different motive and execution of the crimes.

CANNWELL

Execution? Interesting choice of words.

FORD

Yet in some ways appropriate. That was why we came to see you.

CANNWELL

What do you need to know?

Ford gives her a diagram of the victim's bodies with marks

FORD

The last two victims, the girls, weren't just stabbed. They were cut open, almost dissected, if you will. There were cuts in the abdomen exposing, and removing, the intestines in both of them. The second victim also had her bladder and her vagina removed. Those organs were not found at the crime scene. All of this indicates the killer knew more about, and was even possibly experienced, with details of the human body.

CANNWELL

I see, these are very precise cuts.

RICHARDS

Also, parts of the bodies that were cut out were placed on the victim's shoulder.

CANNWELL

(frightened)

Oh, goodness. How can I help you?

FORD

Because these cuts are so precise and there's the possibility of it being someone experienced, have there been any recent incidents here in your programs? Any students that displayed a special, or unusual, interest in either current or past practice?

CANNWELL

We do have specialists in the field that concentrate on that

(MORE)

CANNWELL (CONT'D)

area of the human body. All of our surgeons, and surgical students, would have been educated in that area and how to access them.

RICHARDS

Anyone that has shown an unusual or obsessive interest?

CANNWELL

No one immediately comes to mind. We do also have people who study in the Medical Examiner program but nothing that leads to this type of work.

RICHARDS

Any failures that come to mind?

CANNWELL

(pauses)

There was one recent removal. She appealed the decision quite vigorously. She was in the physical therapy program so it seems unlikely she would normally get such detailed study on anatomy.

FORD

What happened?

CANNWELL

Bad attendance and even worse grades. This isn't something you get into part time. Just because you are "daddy's girl" at home doesn't mean you get treated that way here. The feeling was that some real-world experiences might teach her a few things.

FORD

We'd like to know more information about her?

CANNWELL

Of course, she was one of 137 students on the physical therapy track. Graham can get you more information on your way out.

RICHARDS

What about dropouts?

CANNWELL

There have been a few of them. Unfortunately, 12 of the 337 graduate students didn't return from last year to this year.

FORD

Did anyone stand out?

CANNWELL

Nothing of that nature comes to mind. As far as I remember all but one were for financial reasons. The one that wasn't was due to a terrible automobile accident last summer. The poor woman. We informed her that if she ever wanted to resume her studies she would be more than welcome back.

FORD

Any incoming students that raise any suspicions or show any unusual behavior?

CANNWELL

Unusual behavior? In this day and age unusual behavior is usual. We have one who is a truly outstanding student. He's advancing faster, learning faster, than any student any of us have ever seen.

FORD

The unusual?

CANNWELL

He sings a lot. Whenever he is in the lab, processing, or studying he must be singing. He says it helps open his mind to new things. Considering how advanced he is, I'm tempted to encourage him to sing freely wherever he goes.

FORD

Why don't you?

CANNWELL

He sounds like a screeching tire. Brilliant mind, but a voice more like roadkill.

RICHARDS

Ouch.

CANNWELL

Yes, luckily most of his patients will be unconscious. As for anyone that's closer to what you are looking for I can't help you with any suspicions. I will, of course, keep my eyes and ears open. I will notify my staff to alert me if anything comes up.

FORD

Thank you.

CANNWELL

There is something you should take into account though.

RICHARDS

Such as?

CANNWELL

We aren't the only school in this town.

INT. UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL LOBBY - DAY

Ford and Richards are on their way out.

Richards is going over a piece of notepaper.

RICHARDS

According to the information this
Daddy's Girl is from Chicago.
Most of the contact numbers, all
the current ones, are all under
733. There are a few local numbers
I'll check out. One of them I don't
expect much in this case from.

FORD

Why's that.

RICHARDS

I think it's Grahams.

Ford's cell RINGS and he answers.

FORD

Hey, Dee, what's up?

(listens)

What?

(listens)

Where at? Ok, Aaron is here with
me now. We'll get him on the way
back to the station.

Ford hangs up the phone and they start to steadily walk to the
exit.

RICHARDS

Let me guess, her son bought a
new shirt.

INT. IOWA CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT LOBBY - DAY

Poulter is at the shielded window. He looks out when he hears
DOORS OPENING and hurries to the inner entrance.

Ford and Richards enter with ERIC SHAWN, male, 20, dark haired
with a mustache, ragged. Shawn is handcuffed and struggling with
them. He's put up quite a fight.

SHAWN

It's bullshit. I never touched
that lying bitch.

They pull him through the inner doors.

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY

A standard interrogation room. A table with a few chairs, a mirror on one wall, a single door.

Shawn is in one chair handcuffed to the table. Ford is across from him.

ERIC

I tell you, man, she lies like a dog.

FORD

Where did she get the bruise on her cheek and the black eye from?

ERIC

I don't know. I just know it's not from me. maybe she fell or tripped over something.

FORD

How did you get into the apartment?

ERIC

The door was unlocked.

FORD

So, you just went in unannounced?

ERIC

She said I could come in anytime.

FORD

That was when you were dating. She said she broke up with you a week ago, but you kept harassing her since then.

ERIC

She cheated on me, man. She's a slut.

FORD

So, you hit her to teach her a lesson.

ERIC

I didn't hit anybody. You got no proof.

Green enters and hands Ford some papers. She barely looks at Eric and exits.

FORD

You didn't hit her today?

ERIC

No, I didn't.

FORD

Just like you didn't hit the clerk at Hy-Vee on August 16th? Or the woman in Coralville June 24th? You have two priors already. Three strikes and you are out of the game.

(MORE)

Eric shrinks back, scratching his mustache and looking for other options.

FORD (CONT'D)

Where were you on the 8th?

ERIC

What?

FORD

Or what about the evening of the 7th?

ERIC

Thursday? I was at my brother's place.

FORD

What about on August 30th and 31st? What were you doing those days and nights?

ERIC

I was-- Hang on. You think I murdered those girls? I didn't cut anyone up.

FORD

Just like you didn't hit the clerk or the girl today?

ERIC

(pauses)

August 30th? Wednesday and Thursday?

FORD

Yes.

ERIC

Alright, I'm good for that. I was in the Johnson county jail.

Ford looks at the papers again, sees it on the record, then nods at Eric.

FORD

Well, you didn't kill Shelly Bowman, you're covered for that. As for today?

Eric guiltily shrugs.

EXT. DOWNTOWN - DAY

It's a sunny afternoon in the pedestrian mall downtown. A series of stores, bars, restaurants and other businesses with trees, a fountain, benches and other displays and vendors that covers several blocks.

There are several dozen PEDESTRIANS, various, mostly students, out for the afternoon.

TITLE CARD

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13th

Sorority Sisters Ginger Lang, Alicia Sutton and Mindy Lewis are together at a bench laughing and enjoying themselves.

They get the attention of several males walking past including RIVIERA ESPARZA on a bench down the walkway from them reading a textbook.

The sisters burst out in laughter. Riviera looks up as one of them laughs and does a short dance. He smiles politely and goes back to reading.

MARVIN PEPPER, male, 20, muscular, steps directly between Riviera and the Sisters staring at him. He shakes his head in anger and approaches Riviera.

Riviera is reading and Marvin is a few feet away from him when the Sisters laugh again.

Riviera looks up smiling and is shocked to see Marvin looking down at him.

RIVIERA

Oh, I'm sorry.

PEPPER

You got a problem here?

RIVIERA

What?

PEPPER

Hanging around here! Looking for your next one?

Marvin steps closer and Riviera feels uncomfortable.

RIVIERA

I'm sorry? I'm waiting for my friend. I'm just reading. I heard the laughter.

PEPPER

Looks a bit suspicious to me. A dark-haired guy like you sitting here and waiting. Maybe waiting.

RIVIERA

(holding up textbook)

I don't understand. I was just waiting for my friend and reading. See?

SUMMERS (OFF)

Maybe waiting for the next target.

JOSEPH SUMMERS, male, football player, hairy, steps in followed by Dannelson.

Riviera is surrounded.

RIVIERA

Target? What are you talking about?

SUMMERS

Targets. You know, for your next victim.

Riviera tries to stand but Summers pushes him back down.

Dannelson grabs at his backpack but Riviera bats his hand away.

RIVIERA

Nothing in there for you to see.

DANNELSON

(smiles wickedly)

Oh, my, sounds like he's got something in there he doesn't want us to see.

PEPPER

Got something sharp in there, boy?

The three of them close in on Riviera.

People passing by start to pay attention.

The Sorority Sisters stop laughing and start watching.

RIVIERA

Excuse me.

Again, Riviera starts to rise only to be pushed back to the bench.

SUMMERS

I don't think so, killer.

DANNELSON

You want to go? Maybe after we see what's in the bag.

Dannelson reaches out and grabs the bag. Pepper firmly puts a hand on Riviera's shoulder and forces him to stay seated.

BECKER (OFF)

Let him go!

(MORE)

Becker and Carter enter. Carter removes Pepper's hand from Riviera's shoulder and Becker unleashes the backpack from Dannelson. The officers clearly want the three to back off.

BECKER (CON'T)

(to Marvin)

What do you think you are doing?

DANNELSON

Checking this guy out. He was here watching these girls like they were his next victims.

RIVIERA

I was here waiting for my friend and studying.

SUMMERS

(towards Riviera)

Looking over how to cut up one of those girls.

CARTER

Back off, now!

RIVIERA

I wasn't bothering anyone.

The Sorority Sisters are getting interested and slowly moving closer.

BECKER

(pointing)

You three, over there by that stand right now.

Reluctantly Dannelson, Summers and Pepper take a few steps away.

Becker and Carter turn to Riviera.

The Sorority Sisters are a few steps away.

BECKER

What was going on?

RIVIERA

I was studying, I heard them laughing so I just looked up to see what was going on. Next thing I know these three are making all these allegations. They had figured I was that killer looking for my next victim. I was just reading and waiting.

Riviera holds up the textbook. It is a history of racism in the United States.

CARTER

I think you just learned some sad truths.

RIVIERA

Would you like to look in my backpack?

BECKER

No, I think it's okay. How long are you going to sit here?

RIVIERA

About another half hour. I think I'll just text my friend to meet me before class at the E.P.B.

CARTER

I'm sorry, but that might be best.

BECKER

If you want, we can make sure you get there okay after we talk to these three.

ALICIA

We'll make sure he gets there.

The Sorority Sisters all come in close.

GINGER

He'll be fine.

Carter looks at the sisters with some new found respect.

Becker and Pepper stand in front of them and get their attention.

BECKER

We need your names.

DANNELSON

Hell! Us? What about that killer
you just let walk?

BECKER

(to Carter)

On the other hand, we did see you
grab his shoulder.

(to Dannelson)

You were trying to lift his backpack.
If we look at that as assault and/or
theft we won't need your names now.
We'll get them at the station.

Dannelson, Pepper and Summers look with hatred as Riviera walks
away surrounded by three Sorority Sisters.

INT. DETECTIVES' OFFICE - DAY

Ford and Richards are at their desks trying to work on their
cases as Dee stands near the door.

TITLE CARD

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15th

DEE

So, my daughter was driving
to get groceries this morning
when suddenly, pop, her tire
blew out. Really? Can you
believe that? It just popped.

Green enters the office, sees Dee, and immediately exits again.

FORD
(not looking up)
Shame, absolute shame.

DEE
(to Richards)
In all the years I've driven I've never had that happen to me. I've had a flat tire a few times. There was one day, in 1998, I got up-

RICHARDS
Did she get it fixed?

DEE
Yes, I did, I called-

RICHARDS
No, I mean your daughter this morning. Did she get it fixed?

DEE
I'm pretty sure.

RICHARDS
Maybe you should find out.

DEE
Of course, where's my phone?

Dee exits.

Relieved Ford and Richards look at each other and shake their heads.

FORD
Good thinking.

RICHARDS
I just hope she has to go pick up her daughter someplace in Kentucky.

FORD
No luck there. Her daughter lives in Cedar Rapids.

RICHARDS

Still, that'll keep her out the rest of the day.

FORD

I heard the Iowa Caller had another editorial this morning.

RICHARDS

Yes, I saw it. Their cover featured a butcher's apron.

FORD

And more criticism about us?

RICHARDS

Of course, no arrests equals no action in their opinion.

FORD

Tip line has been pretty active, we've checked everything that's been called in.

Grissom enters heading for his office.

GRISSOM

Ford and Richards, follow me.
(MORE)

INT - GRISSOM'S OFFICE - DAY

Grissom waits inside the door until Ford and Richards sit down and then closes it.

GRISSOM (CONT'D)

What have you got?

FORD

Nothing new. We've been looking over everything we've got. So far nothing's come up on the crime scene evidence, no DNA traces other than the victims, same with fingerprints.

RICHARDS

There's nothing coming up on either the victims cell phones or social media accounts.

GRISSOM

So, after a week we have no suspects?

(the detectives shake their heads sadly)

I just had a meeting with Mayor Thompson. They are keeping a very close eye on this and want constant updates. With university Homecoming weekend just two weeks away the thought of having the ghosts of these unsolved murders walking the streets is putting a lot of pressure on them.

FORD

I imagine the Iowa Caller isn't making it any better.

GRISSOM

I wouldn't use that rag to wipe shit off my ass. I didn't think anyone read that crap anymore. Now it suddenly sounds like everyone in town is reading it.

FORD

There has got to be some way to get them to lighten up.

GRISSOM

Nothing. They mark it all as editorial opinion and they can say what they want. The way they talk about the victims is criminal. Insinuating things, calling them "Lost Girls" just makes them sound so unimportant. Finding out about the dick book didn't help.

RICHARDS

I've spoken with some of the others at the sorority about that. Officially they say it didn't come from them. I got the impression there was some unofficial business happening but couldn't get anything more.

GRISSOM

Is there anyone I can call in? Anyone from Linn, Cedar, or Muscatine county you can think of?

FORD

I've made a few calls already. I even contacted a few people in Des Moines, but we have so little to go on. I can't even give them a partial description.

GRISSOM

But anyone with a dark hair and a mustache walking alone late in the day gets us called in.

(KNOCK at the door)

Come in.

Dee enters.

DEE

Poulter needs to see you in the Interrogation room. Someone just came in and confessed.

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY

NICHOLAS SIMPSON, male, short, dark haired, wearing a white shirt and leather apron, is seated at the table. He is sweating profusely.

Poulter is seated opposite him, and Green is standing behind Simpson.

NICHOLAS

I cut them up. It wasn't like
I expected it to be.

POULTER

Just how was it?

NICHOLAS

Better.

Ford enters.

Poulter rises and greets them.

POULTER

This is Nicholas Simpson. He
has confessed to killing Angela
Tillman, Michelle Bowman and
Cally DiAngelo.

Ford sits and faces Simpson.

FORD

You killed those women?

NICHOLAS

(fingers his apron)

Yes, I just cut them up like a
butcher. Taking them apart. Even
taking their organs.

FORD

Why?

NICHOLAS

(pauses)

Experimenting. Opening them up
just to see if I could.

FORD

How?

There are streaks of dark damp sweat coming down his neck.

NICHOLAS

(makes slashing movements
downwards)

Cut them apart bit by bit 27
times and left their pieces
where they landed. Imagine it
wasn't a pretty picture whoever
found them. Took some time to
put them back together.

FORD

Why did you choose those women?

NICHOLAS

They were easy to find. Women
like that are all over the place,
sluts and whores all of them.
They deserved what they got.

FORD

You certainly did quite a job
cleaning up the apron after.

NICHOLAS

(showing the apron off)
Yes, had to wash the blood of those
types away into the sewer.

FORD

Of course. We'll make sure you
get the recognition you want.

Ford gets up and signals Poulter and Green to follow him when he
exits.

INT - HALLWAY - DAY

An office hallway in the police station with the standard
symbols on the walls.

Ford, Poulter and Green exit the Interrogation room while
Grissom and Richards exit the next door in the hallway.

FORD

Any background on this guy?

GREEN

Nothing more than a trespassing charge from the abortion clinic on North Dubuque Street from last year. He agreed to stay away so they didn't charge him with anything. He's stayed clean since then.

GRISSOM

His description of the crime scenes was false.

FORD

So's his hair color. The dye is running down the side of his face he's sweating so bad.

POULTER

Saw that after we sat down and waited for you. It looks like the Guiliani Special Process.

FORD

Yes, check the apron, just to make sure there's no blood stains in the fabric. In the meantime take him over to psych at University Hospitals and have them talk to him.

INT. RICHARDS BEDROOM - NIGHT

The bedroom is very nicely done and uses very calming tones.

Richards is in a t-shirt sitting at a desk working on a computer.

There is a figure curled up under a blanket in the bed.

Richards yawns and shakes his head looking at the screen.

RICHARDS

I got nothing.

(throws his hands in
the air)

She's there. She's at the top of

(MORE)

RICHARDS (CONT'D)

Starpoint Mountain and about to meet something no one believes exists anymore. It's right there and I got nothing.

Richards closes the files on the computer, turns out the lights, and gets into bed.

OSCAR BAILEY, male, 28, gentle, rolls over and comforts him.

OSCAR

I don't understand why someone does something like that.

RICHARDS

I don't know. Some type of hatred in them? A resentment for something someone did? Probably nothing either of the victims even knew about let alone were a part of.

OSCAR

It's a sickness.

RICHARDS

Yes. A sickness that doesn't end. It just repeats itself. If there is any connections between these victims and the killer we'll find it.

OSCAR

And the Iowa Caller making it's claims. Watch for the dark haired man with a mustache. One of the bosses at work shaved his off today. He's had it for 12 years but said the way people were looking at him worried him. Against someone they don't know. I keep thinking of those protestors at Pride every year. They know nothing about us, don't want to know about us, yet they condemn us.

RICHARDS

(nods slowly)

It's very easy to hate someone you
know nothing about.

Richards looks at the ceiling as Oscar puts his head on his
shoulder.

EXT. IOWA CITY - DAY AND NIGHT

Various shots of several days in the city.

Students going to classes and residents going to their jobs.

There is a darkness across the city as suspicion is high, people
are being watched, trust is thin.

The Iowa Caller promotes the drawing of the dark-haired killer
with a mustache.

EXT. PEDESTRIAN MALL - DAY

MAURICE BLYMER, male, 19, dark haired, is backing into a space
between two buildings.

MAURICE

I swear, I don't have anything to
do with those killings.

TITLE CARD

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19th

Pepper, waving a print edition of the Iowa Caller, is angrily
threatening him.

PEPPER

I've seen the paper. You look
just like him!

There is a CROWD, various, watching this exchange.

MAURICE

No, no one's seen anybody. It's
just rumors from old cases that
don't have any connection.

PEPPER
(red faced)
You were carrying blades!

MAURICE
I sculpt, I need it.

PEPPER
Liar!

ALEX STONE, male, 21, fraternity brother, steps out of the crowd.

STONE
Killer!

Pepper launches himself at Maurice and punches him several times.

Maurice drops to the ground with blood streaming from his face.

Becker and Carter come rushing in and restrain Pepper.

CARTER
(to radio)
I.C.P.D. this 2202, we need
an ambulance at the Ped Mall
between the Derby and Northside
Books for an assault victim.
Suspect in custody but we
could use back up.

I.C.P.D. (OVER)
We copy 2202, dispatching
Adam 16 and cars in route.

BECKER
(to Pepper)
You have the right to remain
silent, anything you-

STONE
(pointing at Pepper)
Don't arrest him!
(to Crowd)
He's protecting us! That other
guy's the killer.

Some of the Crowd look at Becker accusingly.

EXT. IOWA AVENUE - NIGHT

There are SIRENS echoing through the city.

TITLE CARD

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21st

The SIRENS get closer and soon a fire truck turns onto the street and stops at the Phi Theta fraternity house.

The FIREMEN, various, immediately jump out of the truck and start to attack a fire that is burning in a wing of the fraternity.

Dozens of FRATERNITY BROTHERS, various males, a majority of them foreign, are surrounding the fraternity carrying whatever they could grab on the way out.

A block away Stone is standing in the shadows watching when a car pulls to a stop and HONKS.

Alex smiles and quickly gets into the car.

INT. CAR - NIGHT

Dannelson is the driver. He smiles at Stone and nods.

EXT. IOWA CITY CTREET - NIGHT

The car turns around and drives off.

INT. IOWA CALLER OFFICE - DAY

A monitor features the headline "IF THE POLICE CAN'T PROTECT YOU WILL YOU PROTECT YOURSELF?"

TITLECARD

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23rd

Reese and Morgan are sitting around Morgan's desk.

MORGAN
(checks his watch)
Well, they're late.

REESE

Yes, I suppose so. I'm sure they'll be in here.

MORGAN

How are the clicks looking?

REESE

Great! More than 30,000 in the first few hours this morning.

MORGAN

I knew that would work. I knew that would get people talking.

REESE

Talking they are.

MORGAN

I love it.

REESE

The people who are really loving it are the advertisers. We get attention, they get attention, and everyone is happy.

MORGAN

Except the police.

REESE

Papa Johns, Casey's and Pizzaria have said they wanted to increase their presence because the numbers are so good.

MORGAN

I love Pizzaria. Enough to come in on a Saturday.

REESE

Yes, we can really make this work for the Iowa Caller. Leonard is working on getting more vibrant stories for his section. Murphy is really digging into the Hawkeyes

(MORE)

REESE (CONT'D)

for sports stories. There's got to be something there. I've even pressed Anderson to dig up science stories.

MORGAN

When was the last time science came up with something interesting around here?

REESE

I know.

(MORE)

Grissom and Ford enter. Reese gets up to greet them.

REESE (CONT'D)

Chief Grissom, nice to meet you. Welcome to the Iowa Caller.

GRISSOM

Thank you. I wish it were under better circumstances.

REESE

Yes, of course, these murders are terrible, especially so close to Homecoming.

GRISSOM

(at Morgan)

And your comments and coverage hasn't made it any easier.

REESE

We must keep the public updated.

FORD

Also worried and suspicious.

MORGAN

You must agree that keeping an eye out for a killer is important.

GRISSOM

When you have something tangible to look for. Having dark hair and a mustache is hardly just cause for alarm. We're getting dozens of calls and emails to the tip line every day. Each and every one of them, no matter how outrageous they sound, must be checked.

REESE

As well you should.

GRISSOM

Of course, but it needs to be handled reasonably and responsibly, not just flooding the area with suspicion.

MORGAN

There is a murderer, maybe more, on the loose and we must keep the public aware of developments.

FORD

Or if nothing develops on the case just make them up?

Jones enters in the background, he does not join the conversation but listens in.

MORGAN

Thanks to the internet people today have a very short attention span. You can't blame us for trying to keep them interested.

GRISSOM

The way I was brought up, journalism was determined to reveal the truth.

MORGAN

Unfortunately, people aren't brought up that way anymore.

REESE

A sad but true comment on the news media today.

FORD

What good is it if you are sensationalizing murder. What if one of those editorials of yours raises enough suspicion that another innocent person gets assaulted on the street?

MORGAN

Detective, what if one of those tips actually reveals the murderer? Wouldn't that be worth it?

FORD

What if an innocent person dies after getting beat up by someone who reads your paper?

MORGAN

Tomorrow's headline.

Grissom stops Ford before he can respond.

GRISSOM

This isn't helping anyone!

MORGAN

If you think it's bad now, wait till you read the confessions.

Grissom and Ford turn on Morgan in shock.

Jones slowly shakes his head.

FORD

What the hell are you talking about?

MORGAN

I've been getting emails from people claiming to be the killer. They come two or three times a day, usually from generic, temporary addresses.

(MORE)

MORGAN (CONT'D)

I try to do follow ups but get notices that the addresses are invalid. I got an email early today from someone. I read it, it was interesting, but I doubt there's anything to it. A lot of the claims it makes about the murders is just plain wrong. You'll love the motive. He claims he chose them because they were blond. Most of them are like that. One kept spelling killer with one L and N-I-F-E was the weapon. I figured if they can't spell it right they aren't smart enough to make the cuts.

Morgan bursts out in laughter. Grissom and Ford glare at him. Jones exits.

FORD

Let me see them.

MORGAN

The addresses are no good. I tried responding and just bounced back right away.

Ford almost slams down a business card on the desk.

FORD

This is my email. Forward it to me right now. There's also a number on here you can call me. I'd SUGGEST that if you get anymore you call me immediately.

MORGAN

(entering Ford's address)
You got it.

GRISSOM

(to Reese)
This better check out like he says.

REESE

It will.

GRISSOM

If it doesn't we'll be back with a judge's order. By the time we're finished checking out your system you might get an issue up and out after Homecoming.

Morgan hates them as Grissom and Ford exit.

INT. FORD'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Ford is relaxing on the sofa watching a movie.

Taylor enters and hands him a freshly popped bag of popcorn then sits at the chair next to the sofa.

TAYLOR

Don't you ever get tired of that movie? I mean, you watched it a hundred times.

FORD

And it's still good.

TAYLOR

(laughs)

Can the jokes be that funny after 30 years?

FORD

It's the delivery.

TAYLOR

Lousy actors.

FORD

You wait! 30 years from now you'll be sitting here doing the same thing.

TAYLOR

(pause)

You and mom always had fun watching this.

FORD

Yes, she still laughed at it too.

They take a moment and watch in silence.

TAYLOR

Anything new, what's going on?
It's been two weeks.

FORD

Yeah, I was hoping things would
quiet down and make our job easier.
Unfortunately, it's been getting
worse, more calls and tips that
need checked, thanks to the Caller.

TAYLOR

We were talking about that in
class today?

FORD

What do you think?

TAYLOR

It's trash, just sensationalizing
parts of what's happening to get
people interested. Get the clicks
and get the attention but not
really advance anything.

FORD

Good to hear that.

TAYLOR

Oh, there were a few in the class
who said it was important at what
it was doing. People were being
more careful because of it.

(Ford is surprised)

It's rare that anyone, especially
women, ever go anywhere alone
anymore. There are certain parts
of the city that you try to avoid
right now. Especially after dark.

FORD

That's good. That's just common sense.

TAYLOR

Sometimes it's hard to find any common sense, even in a university class. Donald, one of the big fans of the Caller, said that a year from now we'll have people thanking the paper for keeping us aware of the situation, for doing what the P.D. should be doing.

FORD

For doing what the P.D. does every day?

TAYLOR

Yes, Donald just can't tell the difference between doing things better and doing things louder.

(pause)

There was something else we talked about in one class. Professor Canyon asked us to think about what makes people do that? What makes people murder like that? It's probably not a crime of passion, or some moment of rage, it's planned.

FORD

Yes, Taylor, it's planned. In this case this person planned these two murders, waited, found their victims, then carefully cut them up.

TAYLOR

Why?

FORD

We don't know yet. Anymore it appears to be fame and glory. People want to be known for doing terrible things. Some news networks and "reality TV" glorify people for being horrible to each other. This time...? This time the fact that it's gone this far with no hints of who it is, no bragging about it on social media, makes it different.

TAYLOR

It feels like it's part of a terrible cycle that just keeps coming back like an echo. Will it ever end?

FORD

I'm afraid it won't. As years go by things like this just keep happening. We never know, when it starts again, is it somebody new or someone we already know?

TAYLOR

I wish I knew some way to stop it. I'll do whatever I can.

FORD

You go, girl.
(pause)
Is that still a saying?

TAYLOR

Not since I was four.

FORD

You loved it then.

Taylor gets up and puts her coat on.

TAYLOR

I better head back to the dorm.

FORD

You need some help?

Taylor shows her car keys in hand.

TAYLOR

I'm covered, dad.

FORD

You're sure?
(waving remote)
I could put the thing on hold.

TAYLOR
(giggling)
It's called pause, dad.

FORD
Same thing.

She laughs and kisses him on the forehead.

TAYLOR
I'll send you a text. That's the
wordy thing on your phone.

FORD
I know what a text is.
(MORE)

She exits laughing.
He pauses, then looks at the screen on his cell phone a moment
before setting it aside and watching the movie.

FORD (CONT'D)
Lousy actors.

EXT. DORM PARKING LOT - NIGHT

Taylor's car pulls in and finds a parking spot after trying a
few aisles. It's a small lot but there is still a walk through
the shadows to the nearest entrance.

She walks steadily keeping an eye on the area around her. Her
keys clinged in her hand.

A dark figure is approaching her from the parking lot.

She reaches the lighted entry door and pauses to flash her
student ID across the card reader. As she waits for the card to
clear she sees the figure coming up behind her. Her hand
tightens on her keys.

JACKSON, male, 19, dark hair and a mustache, a fellow student,
comes jogging up behind her.

JACKSON
Hey Taylor. How's it going?

Taylor pauses as her heart skips a few beats and then hears the CLICKS of the door lock releasing. She smiles and pulls it open.

TAYLOR

Ok, how are you doing, Jackson?

JACKSON

Nervous as shit about that econ test tomorrow. If it's like the others this semester it'll be brutal.

They enter the dorm together.

INT. DORM LOBBY - NIGHT

They pause and Taylor makes sure the door closes and locks.

TAYLOR

They have been pretty rough. I can see how Steele got his name.

JACKSON

No kidding. I'm a nervous wreck. Needed to go out for a jog to relax.

TAYLOR

You'll do fine.

JACKSON

You look ready.

TAYLOR

Honestly, deep down inside I'm just as nervous as you are.

JACKSON

Well, see you early tomorrow.

TAYLOR

You, too.

Jackson jogs off up the lobby staircase.

Taylor looks out the door wondering what is in the darkness.

FORD (OVER)

We never know, when it starts again,
is it somebody new or someone we
already know?

EXT - UNIVERSITY BUILDINGS - DAY

Various shots of people going about their normal business until they see someone off that gets them worried.

TITLECARD:

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27th

There are students and workers putting up signs for Homecoming. They are especially preparing for a football game, parade, and celebrations on Saturday, September 30th.

INT. IOWA CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT LOBBY - DAY

Carter is in the lobby window with a hopeless look on her face hoping for anyone to come in.

Dee is standing next to her.

DEE

You'll never guess who my son
was a fan of 30 years ago when
he was 10. Well, he absolutely
loved Mel Brooks movies. He'd
watch them all the time and
never stop laughing.

INT. DETECTIVES' OFFICE - DAY

Ford and Richards are getting a report from Becker and Green.

GREEN

From what we gathered he went
out for an early morning jog to
blow off some steam for a big
test today.

FORD

They were waiting for him?

GREEN

He said he was three blocks from the dorm when the car pulled up behind him. Two guys got out and tackled him when he was waiting for a light change.

FORD

What's his condition?

GREEN

Ambo delivered him to the E.R. The nurses there said they were going to do a set of x-rays. It didn't look like any broken bones but they wanted to check for other internal issues.

RICHARDS

Could it have been Pepper? He was charged and released after the call to the Ped Mall the other day. There've been three others brought in this week.

GREEN

He couldn't give us a description. He was still sore, and they had given him some pain killers. He said he was concentrating on the test and the streetlights and they took him from behind.

FORD

Alright, see if anything comes up on the traffic cameras, then stop back at UI hospital and get an update. Talk to him as much as you can.

BECKER

Copy that.

Carter enters followed by Jones.

All the officers stop and look at him.

CARTER

Detectives, this is Leonard Jones from the Iowa Caller. He has something I think you should see.

FORD

Mr. Jones, I'm Ford, this is Richards, what can you tell us?

JONES

We got another confession this morning.

FORD

Another email? Can you forward it to us?

JONES

(pulls a postmarked envelope from his pocket)

No, sir, it was handwritten. It's in red ink, he claims he was going to write it in the blood of his last victim but it had congealed so much he couldn't use it.

Everyone stops and moves closer to him.

RICHARDS

What else does it say?

JONES

It talks about what he did to the last victim, brags about what he'll do to the next.

Carter pulls some latex gloves from a box, puts them on, then offers a hand to Jones for the letter. Jones slowly passes it over to her.

FORD

Any identifiers who it came from?

JONES

That's why I thought you should see it right away.

(unsure)

It's signed Jack the Ripper.

INT. POLICE LAB - DAY

The letter and the envelope are laying in trays on a table surrounded by brushes and other instruments used to find fingerprints. The letter has been written in one paragraph in red ink on blank note paper by a very fine and steady hand.

Roster is looking at the letter with a magnifying glass.

ROSTER

(reading)

I am down on whores and I shant
quit ripping them till I do get
buckled. Grand work the last job
was. I gave the lady no time
to squeal...

(MORE)

The letter is dated September 25th, with the postmark on the 26th.

ROSTER (CONT'D)

The next job I do I shall clip
the ladys ears off and send to
the police officers just for
jolly wouldn't you...

Lab Techs Bennis and Rowe are meeting with Ford, Richards and Grissom.

All of them are wearing latex gloves.

BENNIS

The only prints on the letter itself
are Leonard Jones's. There are only
a few on the corners where he would
have held it. His, and several others,
are also on the envelope. If it was
deposited in the public mailbox there
could easily be others who touched
it. Whoever picked it up, sorted it,
and delivered it through the system.
We're checking what we found for
any identification.

FORD

Any hints on the red ink?

ROWE

It's pretty standard. You could pick up a marker like that anywhere.

ROSTER

This does create quite a quandary.

FORD

In other circumstances I would have considered this a fake, but the cuts on the victims are precise.

ROSTER

Exactly as the original murder spree.

FORD

But why go to this extreme to mimic the original case? Even the remark about what he did to the last victim, "I gave the lady no time to squeal," but the witness, Stafford, said he heard a woman yell "No." That could not be a coincidence.

ROSTER

No, I can't imagine any of this is a coincidence. It's been very well planned.

GRISSOM

Moments of it are pure madness, but, at the same time, more than a little frightening.

ROSTER

Yes, he's done his homework on the original Jack the Ripper murder spree in 1888.

GRISSOM

Whoever this is he's very smart and very dangerous.

ROSTER

So, your next move is really obvious.
(they look at him for more)
Go to someone even smarter.

INT. SCHAEFFER LECTURE HALL - DAY

Professor CARL NAGLE, male, 50, tall with white and wild, unkempt hair, is at the front of his class.

On a display screen is a photo of a magnificent painting of a dancer, in front of the painting is a 5-year-old girl imitating her moves.

There are about 50 STUDENTS, VARIOUS, seated and enthralled in his lecture.

Ford is waiting patiently off to one side.

NAGLE

Before we finish today let's go back to Professor Einstein. The same person who figured that energy equals mass times the speed of light squared, I'm hoping you don't need to write that down, also figured, write this part down, "Imagination is more important than knowledge. Knowledge is limited. Imagination encircles the world." I tell you that now to make sure you know what I expect, and do not expect from you in this class. After all the tests, quizzes and papers you have taken, and will continue to take, I do not expect you to have the brains of Einstein, just get as close as you can, but I do hope, even closer, you continue to have the imagination of this five year old girl. Good day.

There is a hearty round of applause from the students as they exit.

Nagle packs his notes and books into a shoulder pack and looks at Ford as he approaches.

FORD

(showing badge)

Professor Nagle, I'm Nate Ford of
the I.C.P.D.

NAGLE

How can I help you, Detective Ford?

FORD

Philip Roster suggested I come
and talk to you.

NAGLE

Ah, I've known Doctor Roster for
some time.

FORD

You are aware of the recent murders
here in Iowa City, I believe.

NAGLE

Yes, I've been watching this terrible
story develop.

FORD

This case has just taken an unexpected
turn. This morning the Iowa Caller
received a handwritten letter
from someone claiming to be
the killer.

Nagle is not completely surprised. He shakes his head.

NAGLE

Tell me, Detective Ford, it's signed
Jack the Ripper, isn't it?

FORD

How could you have known?

NAGLE

I've been fearing this was coming.
Please, join me in my office.

INT. NAGLE'S OFFICE - DAY

Nagle's office is very charming and gentle. Photos of birds, animals, all sorts of peaceful images and mementos.

Ford and Nagle enter.

NAGLE

I've studied Jack the Ripper and his legacy, I even gave my book that name, for some time. I have consulted agent Blake of the FBI and commissioner Lavigne of Scotland Yard a few times.

FORD

Any help you can give us would be appreciated.

NAGLE

Of course.

FORD

This letter doesn't seem to have surprised you.

NAGLE

No. There have been some disturbing similarities.

FORD

Yes, I had this suspicion in the back of my mind as well. Young women, found in alleys on a busy street at night, cut open like that. The cuts on the victims, the location on the bodies, all had a certain familiarity to it.

NAGLE

Much more than you think.

FORD

How so?

NAGLE

It isn't just what he's done to the victims, Detective Ford. One victim on August 31st, then another on September 8th, This killer isn't just doing what Jack the Ripper did to his victims in 1888 but when. Those dates match.

FORD

Exactly?

NAGLE

Yes, Detective Ford, exactly.

FORD

I never imagined that this killer was going into that much detail. So, it isn't just someone who knows details about the anatomy and the Ripper's timeline, but the April 3rd and August 7th murders.

NAGLE

Yes, that's very interesting. In the original timeline they weren't considered to have been murdered by the Ripper.

FORD

Most likely that was not a mistake by the killer.

NAGLE

No, it isn't a simple case of history repeating itself. It's more of an echo than anything, I believe.

FORD

They never found Jack the Ripper so no one will ever know. Why do you think he did it?

NAGLE

It's a question we've debated for over a century. Unfortunately, the best I

(MORE)

NAGLE (CONT'D)

can do is make some wild guesses. Because he targeted young, single women there is always the possibility it had something to do with that. A spurned lover maybe? That tale has been told many times for centuries.

FORD

And here we are again. In today's frame of mind I'd say it was for the fame. Media, social and otherwise, love making bad people famous.

NAGLE

One of the only things they are accurate about when they describe it as "reality."

FORD

But the true killer remains anonymous.

NAGLE

Yet takes the name of one of the most famous killers ever. The best of both worlds.

FORD

His next move?

NAGLE

The worst yet, Detective Ford. Today is the 27th of September and that does coincide with the "Dear Boss" letter from 1888. Everything matches that 1888 killing spree so far and there's no reason to believe it will stop now.

Ford shakes his head knowing what's coming.

EXT./INT. VARIOUS SHOTS OF CITY AND CAMPUS - DAY

There are many preparations for Homecoming across the city.

There is also still tension in groups of people.

TITLE CARD

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29th

There are people showing caution when dealing with dark haired men, especially foreign-born individuals, whether they have a mustache or not.

INT. CHURCH NAVE - DAY

FATHER OLAF, male, 60, grey haired and glasses, is walking through the nave nodding at a few parishioners. He sees one sitting alone and goes towards him.

Richards looks up and smiles.

OLAF
Good morning, Aaron.

RICHARDS
Father.

OLAF
May I join you?

RICHARDS
Of course.

Olaf sits down and they talk quietly making sure no one is close enough to hear them.

OLAF
I imagine you have much on your mind these days.

RICHARDS
I'm sure you have seen the news.

OLAF
The pressure must be fierce.

RICHARDS
Yes, it is. There are lots of questions we need answers to. So far we have none.

OLAF
Have you considered the most important question? Why is he doing it? Why is he killing?

RICHARDS

We have talked about that. All we can do for now is guess. Copycat killings have happened before. In 1982 people were dying from cyanide injected into over the counter aspirin. The killer was never caught. Then again four years later three more people died the same way. Was it the same person?

OLAF

Some people see good things and try to emulate them, others do the same with bad things.

RICHARDS

An not the first with this name. No. In 2008 a man named Derek Brown murdered two young women in his Whitechapel apartment in London. He was on the way to becoming a Ripper for the 21st century.

OLAF

He was caught somehow.

RICHARDS

He wasn't as smart as who we're looking for. We're running out of options.

OLAF

You always have one more option. That's why you came here.

RICHARDS

Yes.

OLAF

Praying for those who have already been taken.

RICHARDS

And, I'm afraid, for those who have yet to go.

INT. USED CLOTHING STORE - DAY

Every shelf and space in this store is filled with clothes of every size and color. There are a few clearance sales signs for summer clothes in one area.

There are several SHOPPERS, various, including Emma Wiggins and Ginger Lang, and CASHIERS, various, mingling and working in the store.

KENNY OAKLEY, male, 21, hyperactive, and WILBER STOUT, male, 19, a follower, are going through clothes. Kenny sees something off and nudges Wilber to look. They smile and nod to each other.

There is a woman working behind a counter. She is on a small stool hanging a Homecoming sign from the ceiling. They are enjoying her ass in tight jeans.

KENNY
(whispers)
She needs a spanking.

WILBER
You don't think...

KENNY (MORE)
Sure. Let's do it.

They laugh and start to slowly move towards her.

BRYANT BOCHEN, male, 20, Arab with dark hair, wearing an older, worn-out coat enters.

Kenny and Wilber stop when they see him and watch his every move.

Bryant starts looking through heavier jackets. He is unaware that Wilber and Kenny are closing in on him. He pulls out a blue and yellow jacket. He looks at the size then tries it on. It's too small for him.

KENNY (CONT'D)
Definitely not for you.

WILBER
Not at all.

BRYANT

(surprised)

Hmm? I'm sorry? Well, no, it's just a bit too small. Would you like it?

KENNY

(knocks the coat out of Bryant's hand)

And it's way too noticeable. They'll see you coming.

BRYANT

See me coming? I don't understand.

WILBER

You know. When you move in on your victims they'll see you coming.

BRYANT

Victims?

KENNY

Yes, the girls you've been cutting.

Several shoppers, including Ginger and Emma, turn and watch. Others exit.

BRYANT

Hey, guys, hold on. I don't know what you're thinking but I'm not your guy.

Kenny holds up a print copy of the Iowa Caller. There is a sketch of a dark-haired man with a mustache holding blood covered knives with the banner "IS JACK WATCHING YOU?"

WILBER

Sure, does fit the description.

BRYANT

I've got no mustache, Gentlemen, let's not get carried away.

WILBER

You should get carried away. Just like your victims.

Kenny and Wilber move closer and BRYANT steps back.

The woman that was hanging the sign steps between them. She is Taylor Ford.

TAYLOR
Something going on here?

KENNY
Nothing for you to worry about,
girl. Just taking care of this
Jack here.

WILBER
We're protecting you.

BRYANT
I'll just go about my business.
(to Taylor)
Thank you, miss.

Bryant turns to head out, but Oakley blocks his exit.

KENNY
Not so fast, Jack.

Wilber stands to protect Taylor.

WILBER
He won't hurt you, girl.

BRYANT
(breathing heavily, desperate)
Please, I didn't hurt anyone.

Wilber puts an arm around Taylor showing she's safe.

Kenny is in Bryant's face.

KENNY
I say you did.

TAYLOR
I say it's not for you to decide.
(Wilber freezes in place,
Oakley is getting angrier,)
It's time for you two to move out.

KENNY

This killer here needs to be stopped.

TAYLOR

The only thing getting stopped here
is you.

(to WILBER)

Or should I take care of you first?

Taylor has the head of the hammer she was using on the ceiling
against Wilber.

WILBER

No, miss.

KENNY

What the hell?

TAYLOR

Now, I'll tell you what you are going
to do. Both of you are going to back
out of this store and never come back.
Got it?

(neither of them responds, Wilber jumps
as Taylor moves the hammer closer,
Taylor whispers to Wilber)

Got it?

WILBER

Yes, miss.

KENNY

We're not letting this Jack go!

GINGER/EMMA

Yes, you are.

Ginger and Emma come over and stand next to Bryant.

EMMA

No more innocent lives getting
lost here!

TAYLOR

(at Oakley)

Yes, you are, or your buddy here will
have the nickname "stumpy."

WILBER

(shaking)

Can we please go, Oakley?

TAYLOR

Oakley, that's a name to remember.

KENNY

(to WILBER)

You gave them my name, dumb ass.

TAYLOR

You both have good reasons to get out of here now.

GINGER

You two are running out of time. Actually, running is probably the best thing you can do right now.

With Wilber keeping an eye on the hammer in Taylor's hand he and Kenny back towards the main door. They back out into the street, one last look into the store, then turn and run like hell.

Everyone inside the store pauses for a moment and watches them leave.

BRYANT

Thank you, my heroes.

Bryant is still visibly shaken and they take him to a chair.

GINGER

(to Taylor)

You're pretty good with a hammer.

TAYLOR

Truth is I have terrible aim. I can tap it okay on a nail but couldn't hit the broad side of a barn. I just didn't let them know that.

EMMA

Bravo. Ever consider joining a sorority?

Taylor goes to Bryant.

TAYLOR
Are you alright?

Taylor pats his hand gently.

BRYANT
I think so. I just need to catch
my breath. I've been in this country
three months now. I always thought
this was something that happened
someplace else.

TAYLOR
(sadly)
Welcome to America.

INT. DESOTO'S BAR - DAY

This is a good-sized bar serving anything from tab beers, to
mixed drinks, to champagne. It seats approximately 150 people
and has a small stage at one end. The sign on the door and
window says closed.

CLARK CONNORS, male, 40, the bar owner with dark hair, is
polishing some glasses and getting ready for opening.

Richards enters, makes sure he closes the door behind him, and
heads to the bar.

When Clark turns to greet him, Richards stops, looks him over,
and smiles at him.

RICHARDS
New look.

CLARK
Well, you know?

RICHARDS
I know. Can't say I blame you.

Richards sits at the bar and Clark pours him a mug of beer from
the tap.

CLARK

A three-legged dog rides into town on a four-legged horse. The dog goes into the bar and the bartender asks "What brings you into town stranger?" The three legged dog looks up and says "I'm looking for the man who shot my paw."

Both burst out in laughter.

Clark sets down the mug and Richards takes a drink.

They both get serious.

RICHARDS

Got anything for me?

CLARK

I don't know what to tell you, Aaron. A lot of people are talking about what's going on. Lots of people wondering what P.D. is doing. Will you get him?

RICHARDS

No prints, no DNA, no witnesses worth mentioning. This guy's clean. He knows what he's doing and has carefully planned every move he makes.

CLARK

Nothing at all?

RICHARDS

Nothing. We've even checked local hospitals to see if they have had any doctors or students that might be connected. Nothing leads us to anything or anybody we can in any way. Plenty of tips though.

CLARK

I can imagine.

RICHARDS

What are you hearing here?

CLARK

Lots of theories, lots of he said/she said witnesses. One guy claimed they saw a UFO above the Ped Mall a few days ago. He wanted to use this place to sell aluminum foil hats.

RICHARDS

How much?

CLARK

Just enough for the average student to afford.

RICHARDS

Sign me up for one.

CLARK

I'll get you one at half price.

(laughs it off)

You know though, it seems different this time.

RICHARDS

What do you hear?

CLARK

Lots of finger pointing. We had one guy come in here late last Saturday, lots of people who'd been here celebrating the game winning touchdown, and it brought everything to a stop. The poor guy, he's been in here before, he just wanted something to drink. Two guys, still hyped up from the game, decided they didn't like the way he looked. They started making lots of accusations. One thing led to another and it got messy. Those two guys were out, never coming back, and one less regular customer.

RICHARDS

And no one is any the better.

CLARK

That poor guy, he did nothing wrong, he just happened to fit a cheap sketch in the paper and that got him singled out. How fast those people changed, the crowd changed, against him, was frightening.

RICHARDS

So, the next day, your mustache of 25 years is gone.

CLARK

To my shame, yes. I was afraid. If they could blame him for nothing more, they could blame me.

EXT. PEDESTRIAN MALL - DAY

NICHOLAS MCCAIDE, male, 20, a math major, exits the library and starts walking along the Pedestrian Mall looking at his phone.

Dannelson and Hall have exited a store and see him walking. They immediately get suspicious and start following him.

Nicholas stops to read something on his phone and Dannelson and Hall get closer. He sees their reflections on the screen and senses he is being targeted. He starts to walk faster towards the Old Capital Mall across the street.

Dannelson and Hall take his increase in speed as a guilty sign and go faster as well.

Nicholas keeps looking back at them and sees the determination on their faces.

Dannelson and Hall are closer to him.

Nicholas breaks out running towards the mall.

Dannelson and Hall run after him.

Nicholas runs across the street just as the traffic signal turns green. He reaches the mall doors.

Dannelson and Hall reach the street just as the traffic starts moving. They stumble, skid to a stop as a moving car HONKS at them, and barely make it across safely.

INT. OLD CAPITAL MALL - DAY

Dannelson and Hall enter the mall and look for their target. They think they see him and head across the lobby.

Nicholas is on the second floor, breathing heavily, and watching them pass by him.

INT. POLICE DEPARTMENT CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

This is a large conference room filled with 40 OFFICERS, various, from Linn, Iowa, Johnson and Cedar County sheriff departments plus the Coralville and Cedar Rapids city police departments. The officers are casually seated and chatting.

All of the Iowa City officers are there, and Dee is seated next to Poulter and Becker.

DEE

So, my daughter went through every store at Coral Ridge Mall and not one of them had what she needed. What did you expect, I asked her. I mean, the change over from 1999 to 2000 is making things so difficult and who knows what will happen January 1st.? Will the TVs even come on that morning? So, I told her to check out-.

IOWA CITY MAYOR THOMPSON, male, 60's, suit and tie, enters followed by Grissom, Ford, carrying papers, and Richards. They take the stage, and the officers stop chatting and pay attention.

Thompson stands at the podium.

THOMPSON

Ladies and gentlemen thank you for joining us today. This weekend is going to be a challenging one
(MORE)

THOMPSON (CONT'D)

for all of us here in Iowa City. As I'm sure you know we will be having our traditional Homecoming weekend which will include a big football game with national attention from the press, a major parade, hundreds of celebrations, reunions, and countless gatherings. We will also, we believe, have a dark and dangerous cloud joining us this weekend. Iowa City, this time of year, has approximately 20,000 visitors, including alumni, coming for this festival that adds to the 75,000 or so daily residents. In the next two days we may have almost 100,000 people walking our streets, and, we believe, 1 murderer. Chief Grissom.

Thompson nods to Grissom as he steps back, and Grissom approaches the podium.

GRISSOM

Fellow officers, as you are aware we have been experiencing a series of murders in our city. As we discovered recently the murderer has been mimicking the legendary murder spree of Jack the Ripper not only in what he's been doing to his victims but when. He has been...reliving...the murder spree matching the exact dates from 1888. On April 3rd Tammy Marcus was brutally beaten and sexually assaulted, she died a day later, and August 7th, Angela Tilman was stabbed 39 times.

(MORE)

On a screen behind him the faces of Tammy Marcus and Angela Tilman are shown.

GRISSOM (CONT'D)

Now, it wasn't believed that, in the 1888 events, the two women murdered on these dates were victims of Jack the Ripper, but the dates and crimes are just too similar to be a coincidence. More recently, on August 31st, Shelly Bowman was found murdered not too far from here and on September 8th, Cally DiAngelo was also murdered even closer.

(MORE)

The faces of Shelly Bowman and Cally DiAngelo are on the screen.

GRISSOM (CONT'D)

To make matters worse these women weren't just murdered, they were, in effect, dissected.

(MORE)

Diagrams of the cuts on the victims are on the screen.

GRISSOM (CONT'D)

The cuts match the cuts on the original victims almost identically. We believe the worst is yet to come and that is why we reached out to your organizations. We have every reason to believe this trend will continue and, on September 30th, 1888, Jack the Ripper struck again. This time taking both his 3rd and 4th victims.

(rumbling amongst the crowd)

Detective Ford will lead the operation.

The pictures on the screen are replaced by a map of Iowa City with tags blanketing the area.

Grissom steps back from the podium and Ford takes the lead.

FORD

Because we have every reason to believe he will strike at night during the a.m. hours as he has in the past and as the original killings. Starting at 11:00p.m. on Friday, the 29th we are going to blanket the downtown area with both foot and mobile patrols. We will especially be stationed at the ends of the alleys as those were also the locations of the previous victims. We are also going to have regular light stations set up to keep everything as bright as possible.

(MORE)

There is general agreement in the crowd.

The map on the screen changes to the city with the parade route.

FORD (CONT'D)

The parade is scheduled to start at 10:00a.m. and, as we have seen in the past, the crowds start gathering along the route at 8:00a.m. We have also requested, and received, support from the Iowa National Guard. They will be arriving at 9:00 and taking up positions along the parade route. This will give you the opportunity to keep your eyes on the crowd. If nothing happens during the night that is when we'll be in full force keeping all eyes open during the parade and the football game. The belief is the murderer will take advantage of the distractions.

(the map changes back to the original Iowa City map)

If all goes without incident this will be the locations we'll establish after the game and for the rest of

(MORE)

FORD (CONT'D)

the day. Since the killer has been so determined to repeat all the moves of the original killer we're hoping once that date has passed he will withdraw. Of course, we cannot be sure of that but we have to work on that possibility at this time. Questions?

Several of the officers raise their hands. Ford points at one.

DEPUTY YOUNG

Have there been any hints at all as to the identity of the suspect?

FORD

There has been absolutely no fingerprints or signs of DNA at the crime scenes other than the victims. We haven't even been able to get footprints. All the signs are that this is a very smart individual who has worked out the spree in detail leaving nothing to chance. At one point early on there was a description of it being a dark-haired man with a mustache, but there has been absolutely nothing that guarantees that is what we are looking for, despite what the newspaper keeps saying.

More officers raise their hands. Ford points.

DEPUTY KING

The letter signed Jack the Ripper. How accurate was that to the original?

FORD

It was exact. Which means, like the original, there was a contradiction to what we know about the murder of Cally DiAngelo. We have a witness

(MORE)

FORD (CONT'D)

who heard a woman calling "No" late that night. That got him interested and that was one of the reasons he went out looking the next morning. Despite that the letter claims he killed her so fast she couldn't respond. It's doubtful that discrepancy is a coincidence. It just indicates how obsessed this killer is with mimicking the original slayings. That is where we will have the advantage on Saturday.

Several of the officers raise their hands. Ford points at one.

DEPUTY GODMAN

How long can we stay on duty?

FORD

We have been authorized to offer you all the time you want. As long as you are out there you will be covered.

(MORE)

There are several calls from the officers. "You buy breakfast?", "What's the weather forecast?", "How many energy drinks do we get?", " but the general feeling is they will stay as long as they are needed.

FORD (CONT'D)

The forecast says the temps at game time will be in the 70s, the lows for the night will still be in the 60s. It'll be a bit chilly but we've all had worse.

DEPUTY LAWRENCE

How loud can we be?

FORD

Very loud. As in the original letter the killer told us he was going to do even worse

(MORE)

FORD (CONT'D)

the next time.

(holds up paper)

He wrote "The next job I do I shall clip the lady's ears off."

(pause)

We want to make it clear that we are out there. We want the killer to know we are out there with the goal of disrupting his obsession with repeating history. The hope is he is so desperate to continue as planned he'll get sloppy, get seen, and get caught.

OFFICER HENDERSON

Is there any possibility this guy might actually think he's Jack the Ripper?

FORD

Keep in mind we don't know anything about this guy. Why is he doing it? What makes a person do something this evil? At least, in this rare case, we have some idea of when he will strike next.

EXT. IOWA CITY STREETS - NIGHT

Various shots of a lively party town. Homecoming banners are everywhere and not just students are out celebrating. There are plenty of people looking at each other.

The clock tower hits 12:00 midnight.

TITLECARD

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

Police officers and deputies are positioned everywhere. They make themselves seen and known.

A group of people dressed in outrageous costumes dance at one corner.

A group of drunk partiers comes out of a bar laughing and rowdy and comes face to face with a sheriff deputy. They sober up quickly and start to head home.

Ford is walking the streets listening closely to his radio.

Dannelson and Hall are posted near the pedestrian mall. They see a group of people including a dark-haired man with a mustache and follow them.

Officers Becker and Carter are patrolling in their squad car.

BECKER

He could be anyone of these.

CARTER

I know. Anyone look suspicious?

BECKER

Iowa City on Homecoming weekend?

CARTER

Silly question.

Richards is on the second layer of the mall parking garage looking out onto the street with binoculars.

RICHARDS

(to microphone.)

2207 from Trap One, do you copy?

Poulter and Green are on the street beneath him.

POULTER

(to microphone)

Go ahead Trap One.

RICHARDS (OVER)

Can you check out that alley behind the Mill and the garage?

POULTER

(to microphone)

10-4, what have you got?

RICHARDS (OVER)

I'm not sure. There are a few
garbage cans that got knocked
over, they weren't about 20 minutes
ago. See what you got down there.

POULTER

(to microphone)

10-4, we're on it.

RICHARDS (OVER)

You copy that, Greyhound?

FORD (OVER)

I got it. I'm just southside of
the library headed in that direction.

EXT. ALLEY - NIGHT

Poulter and Green walk down the alley scanning with their
flashlights.

They approach the tipped over trash cans and stop when one of
the cans rumbles a bit. They close in on it and reveal a cat
digging through the garbage. They look at it, then each other
and smile.

Then they stop as they hear a distant woman saying "STOP" in the
distance.

They head deeper into the alley.

They approach two large dumpsters and hear SCRAPING as a can
gets dragged across the pavement.

RICHARDS (OVER)

2207 you have anything.

GREEN

(to microphone)

Something's up. Just not sure what.

RICHARDS (OVER)

10-4, I'm 10-76.

They hear a louder MOAN from behind the dumpster.

They draw their weapons and close in slowly. There is more SCRAPING, and they take positions. They look at each other, nod, then swing behind the dumpster ready for anything.

POULTER

Freeze!

GREEN

Hold it!

The officers stop in shock.

Behind the dumpster is a COUPLE, male and female, 20, having sex. They stop moving and look into the flashlights wide eyed. They raise their hands and expose themselves to the officers.

Richards joins them with his weapon in hand.

RICHARDS

What have you got?

(MORE)

Poulter and Green lower their weapons and point behind the dumpster. Richard looks and sighs as he lowers his weapon.

RICHARDS (CONT'D)

Oh, um, ok. Well, put your hands down. Um...? Go about your business.

(Poulter and Green look at him)

I don't mean that! Just get out of this alley.

(pauses)

Put your clothes on first.

Ford is at the far end of the alley.

FORD

(to microphone)

2207, have you found anything?

POULTER (OFF)

10-4, Greyhound. We found a couple celebrating Homecoming behind the dumpster.

Ford's shoulders drop and he rolls his eyes.

FORD

(to microphone)

At least that's one touchdown
for the home team this weekend.

GREEN (OFF)

Maybe, after they get to their
own apartment.

Ford smiles, shakes his head and walks off.

The clock tower says 2:00a.m. The crowds are starting to thin
out as the bars close and people head home.

ZACH CRYTO, male, 21, dark hair and a mustache, wearing a
University of Iowa sweater, is exiting a bar. He has had a good
night and is enjoying himself. He waves to a few people still
inside, they wave back, and the "OPEN" light turns off.

Two PARTY GIRLS, females, 20, blonde and gorgeous, pass him on
the street. They flirt with him, he smiles back at them, they
giggle and move on.

Zach is proud that he got their attention and takes one last
look at them as they go around the corner.

He looks away and runs straight into Pepper who grabs him and
pushes him against the wall.

PEPPER

Look what I caught!

ZACH

Uh, what? I'm sorry I bumped
into you.

PEPPER

Not as sorry as you're gonna be.
Two hot blonde girls. You like them?
(MORE)

Zach starts to answer but Pepper slaps him)

PEPPER (CONT'D)

Yes, you like them, you like cutting
them up.

(MORE)

Zach starts to resist as Pepper leans against him. Zach tries to call for help but Pepper draws back and reveals he is carrying a very thick knife. Zach freezes.

PEPPER (CONT'D)

Ever wonder how it feels? Ever wonder how the girls feel when you cut them open?

ZACH

(scared)

No! You're wrong! I haven't cut anyone!

PEPPER

I think it's time you found out what they felt.

(rears the knife back to strike)

I think these murders need to stop.

A hand reaches from behind and grabs Pepper's wrist tightly. The nozzle of a gun is pressed against Pepper's back.

FORD

I think you're under arrest.

A squad car comes to a stop on the street and Poulter and Green jump out and rush in.

EXT. CITY STREET - DAY

A WHISTLE BLOWS, a BAND STARTS PLAYING, and the Homecoming parade begins.

There are thousands of people along the route celebrating during the parade.

There are also hundreds of Police Officers and National Guard on the streets.

Some of the Sisters from Alpha Gamma Theta sorority are hosting a booth to recruit future members, greet alumni, and sell shirts with their logo on it.

Taylor Ford is enjoying the parade standing next to Jackson, who has a bandage on his chin. Without thinking about it she reaches over and holds his hand.

They are standing in front of a vending machine for The Iowa Caller with the headline "JACK IS WAITING FOR YOU."

Morgan is there looking around, taking lots of photos with his cellphone, and just waiting for something to happen.

INT. JOHNSON COUNTY JAIL - DAY

The jail cells have a dozen PRISONERS, various, including Marvin Pepper and Alex Stone, mingling around.

There is a commotion from the entrance as Richards, Carter and Becker bring in PAT, male, 26, drunk, a punk, in handcuffs, is brought into the room struggling.

RICHARDS

Come on, get a move on. This won't help you.

MAXIN

I tell you, he's the killer. I caught him.

CARTER

Sure, you did.

They open the door to the cell and force Pat inside. Pat is so drunk he stumbles and Pepper and Stone rush to support him.

MAXIN

I caught him. You know I did.

BECKER

Which one?

Pat starts talking to the back wall, so Pepper and Stone turn him in the right direction.

MAXIN

What the fuck are you... talking about?

Pat wobbles and they support him

RICHARDS

You blew at .4 percent. That's
five times the normal .08 level.

BECKER

Woohoo. Was the killer the second
or third guy you saw?

MAXIN

The one in the middle.

RICHARDS

Right.

MAXIN

(to other prisoners)

I got the killer and they let him
go, dammit. I had him and they let
him free.

PEPPER

Goddamn cops! I knew you were
in on it.

STONE

Let the killers go and take the
heroes prisoner, huh? January 6
all over again.

RICHARDS

The killer he assaulted was 12
years old!

MAXIN

He DID IT! He's guilty.

Pat runs at the bars and starts yelling and cursing at the
officers. Carter beats the bars with her baton and Maxin is
pulled back.

The officers exit and Pat starts coughing.

PEPPER

You need help?

Pat is looking ill.

STONE

You're our hero. You caught the
goddamned killer. We'll teach
them a lesson.

Pat is getting ill.

MAXIN

Thanks, man.

STONE

Whatever you need, buddy.

Stone pats Pat on the shoulder. Pat coughs then vomits on Stone.

EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD KINNICK STADIUM - DAY

The referee blows a whistle, the band plays. and the Homecoming
game starts.

EXT. PEDESTRIAN MALL ALLEY - DAY

The crowd has lessened from the parade but there are still lots
of people around.

Morgan is walking down an alley with a camera in hand. As he
exits the pedestrian mall, he encounters Leonard.

JONES

Fletcher! How are you?

MORGAN

I was sure something would have
happened by now.

JONES

What?

(realizes what Morgan means)

You're hoping for a body? That's
what you're here for?

MORGAN

This is news, man! This could really
help a person get going. You know how
people always say "I was there...?"

(MORE)

MORGAN (CONT'D)

My grandfather talked about where he was when Kennedy got killed. My dad about where he was when he found out about Kennedy getting shot. Hey, I was there when they caught Jack the Ripper in Iowa City! I caught it on film.

JONES

How long have you been here?

MORGAN

(pulls a small plastic bottle from his pocket)
Long enough to get through three of these.

Leonard looks around at all the officers and National Guard troops on the street.

JONES

You need to calm down MORGAN. Get back to the Caller office and relax. Go home and wind down for a while.

MORGAN

Are you kidding? I'll be famous with these pics. So famous I can forgive you.

JONES

Forgive me for what?

MORGAN

For taking the letter to the police.

JONES

It was a letter from someone claiming to be the killer. It needed to be taken to the police.

MORGAN

You could have waited a day or so. It would have gotten there
(MORE)

MORGAN (CONT'D)
eventually. I better get going.
I got ground to cover and bodies
to find.

Morgan hurries off down the alley and Jones watches him go with disgust.

EXT. PEDESTRIAN MALL COFFEE SHOP - DAY

Richards is waiting outside the coffee shop and watching the crowd and officers on patrol go past.

There are some street musicians nearby playing a lively SONG.

Ford comes out of the shop with a hot coffee in his hand.

FORD
Blessed be the coffee makers.

RICHARDS
In a world of their own.

They start walking along the mall. Occasionally there are REPORTS on the radio from teams in various locations.

FORD
That's right, you don't drink coffee.

A group of football fans react to an update from the football game. The home team fumbled, and they are very upset.

RICHARDS
Never will.

FORD
It tastes great.

RICHARDS
It's the smell I can't stand. My
parents drank it every morning
growing up. Even then I couldn't
take the smell.

FORD
You're missing a jewel of life.

RICHARDS

I'll survive.

FORD

But you won't enjoy it.

Richards laughs and they walk in silence for a moment.

The street musicians play a more upbeat SONG.

RICHARDS

Think we scared him off?

FORD

It's possible. We just got to wait it out and keep up our presence here for the rest of the day.

RICHARDS

It could work. He's been so determined to mimic the original Ripper murders not being able to follow through in the right place and time could be enough to shut him down.

A group of protestors start to make a scene with "STOP THE LGBTYRANNY" signs.

Ford and Richards move in to inspect and soon a group of counter protesters take a stance on the opposite side of the mall. They are keeping their distance from each other, and Ford and Richards move on.

FORD

On the other hand, some habits are hard to break.

RICHARDS

Sunset is 6:37 p.m. this evening.

FORD

(checks his watch)

Should be time for another coffee about them.

EXT. CITY STREET - DAY

The game is over, the home team lost, some people are celebrating, but the loss has left a shade of unhappiness and anger in the crowd.

The clock tower reads 6:00 and shadows are forming across the city.

EXT. NORTH SIDE OF OLD CAPITAL MALL - DUSK

The sky is fading and there is darkness between buildings.

A group of rowdy students come down the street.

In the shadows a person runs off.

A girl stumbles and steadies herself before looking off to one side. She screams in horror.

EXT. PEDESTRIAN MALL - DUSK

Ford is talking to Carter and Becker near a music shop.

CARTER

What it comes down to was some shoplifting. They lost a few smaller items, maybe \$20 worth, nothing too extensive.

FORD

I imagine they got cameras.

CARTER

Three of them.

FORD

OK, put them on the secondary list. We'll send someone over tomorrow or Monday to check the

(MORE)

FORD (CONT'D)

downloads. Tell them we'll follow through.

CARTER

Copy that.

Carter and Becker go back into the store.

Ford looks at the sky, the darkening alley across from him, then stops when his radio signals.

GREEN (OVER)
Greyhound, Greyhound, 10-33,
we are 10-33.

FORD
(to microphone)
This is Greyhound, what have you got?

GREEN (OVER)
We have a body found on the
north side of Old Capital Mall.
We are at the scene and confirm.

FORD
(to microphone)
10-4, I'm on my way. Iowa City
Dispatch do you read me.

DISPATCH (OVER)
Go ahead, Greyhound.

FORD
(to radio)
Get two cars to the north side
of Old Capital Mall for C.S.I.
lockdown. All other units downtown
hold position! Repeat, all other
units downtown hold position.

DISPATCH (OVER)
10-4, Greyhound.

Ford, Carter and Becker start running for the mall.

SIRENS in the distance.

Taylor Ford and Jackson are celebrating near a vendor when she stops at the SIRENS.

Morean is looking back and forth on the street. He checks his camera and cell phone.

He starts to run off, stops, sees something in the distance, then heads off.

EXT. NORTH SIDE OF OLD CAPITAL MALL - DUSK

The face of MARIA KENNEDY, female, 18, lying dead on the alley. There are slices in the sides of her face just beneath her ears.

The party students that found the body are off to one side. Some are in shock and trying to comfort each other.

Two squad cars have blocked off the area where the body is. The OFFICERS, various, are blocking off the area and holding BYSTANDERS, various, back.

Ford, Carter and Becker come running from the Mall and bypass the blockade. They surround the body and look closely at it.

FORD

Her ears are cut.

BECKER

Why aren't they cut off?

OFFICER

The woman who spotted the body says she saw someone running away.

CARTER

He got spotted and took off?

BECKER

Like they believed happened in 1888?

FORD

That's too much of a coincidence for me.

BECKER

Then what is it?

FORD

(pauses, then stands up looking around)
Damn it! He's done too much
(MORE)

FORD (CONT'D)
planning for that. She's not
just an innocent victim. She's
a decoy.

EXT. CITY STREETS - NIGHT

People are getting messages on their cell phones. They stop and
look around and point at others. News of this murder is
spreading quickly.

The police and National Guard are patrolling the streets.

DISPATCH (OVER)
Greyhound, from dispatch.

FORD (OVER)
Go ahead, dispatch.

DISPATCH (OVER)
We've just had a 911 call reporting
a second victim. The caller says
it's completely cut open.

Police and National Guard start moving.

Dannelson, Hall and Summers point at someone and run off.

FORD (OVER)
Location?

DISPATCH (OVER)
Along the pathway between Van
Allen Hall and Seashore.

FORD (OVER)
On my way!

A FIGURE, male, 24, dark hair with a mustache, is running
through the crowd followed by Dannelson, Hall, Summers and
others.

People are noticing.

POULTER (OVER)
Greyhound from 2207! Urgent!

FORD (OVER)
Go ahead 2207.

POULTER (OVER)
We have an individual on the
run headed south on South Linn
Street about to cross Washington
and headed for the library.
There're a dozen people behind
him. They say he is the killer.

People looking at their phones and the city. They start moving.

FORD (OVER)
All available units, you copy
that, go, go, go!

There are more people chasing the Figure.

The Figure reaches the corner of South Linn and East College,
the main entrance to the library. There are people waiting for
him and he turns westward to the pedestrian mall.

Ford is running towards the library.

Richards puts down his binoculars and starts running.

A mob of people have cut off the Figure. They move in on him.

Officers are closing in, but the mob is getting bigger and
wilder.

The Figure holds his hands up in the air to show he is unarmed
and is shaking his head in denial.

Dannelson and Hall glare at the Figure as they move in to
attack.

The Figure backs to the window of the library and is trapped.

Ford gets to the corner of the library ordering people to back
off.

Richards reaches the opposite end of the crowd and starts
pushing people back.

Summers lunges after the figure.

Offers and National Guard move in on the scene but it's too late.

Led by Dannelson, Hall and Summers the mob loses control and moves in to attack the Figure.

The mob is completely out of control as they riot and brutally attack the Figure. Even with Ford, Richards, and all the officers there they can't stop it.

Dannelson, Hall, Summers and others are arrested.

More National Guard arrive, and they force back the mob.

The mob chants that they have stopped Jack the Ripper. His murder spree is over.

Ambulances arrive and the injured are taken away.

Ford pushes people out of the way and makes it up to the Figure. He is lying against the library window bloodied and beaten to death.

Ford shakes his head in disgust as he looks over the body for any ID.

The display behind the library window includes copies of Macbeth, Othello, Hamlet and Romeo and Juliet.

Ford gets up and shakes his head as he turns away.

Grissom approaches him.

GRISSOM

The other girl that was murdered.
The second one.

FORD

By Van Allen? What have you got?

GRISSOM

You should go there.

Ford is unsure for a moment then heads off in a hurry.

EXT. VAN ALLEN HALL - NIGHT

There are lights on each end of the path with Becker and Carter blocking the area.

Taylor is standing leaning against the wall of Van Allen Hall. Jackson is standing behind her.

There is a body off to one side with a blanket over it.

There is another person, male seated on the steps of Seashore Hall facing away.

Ford approaches.

FORD

(to Becker)

We're bringing in the M.E. from Cedar Rapids. They should be here to start cleaning up in about 20 minutes.

BECKER

Copy.

Before Ford can move in Becker points to Taylor and Jackson on one side. Ford goes to her slowly.

FORD

Are you ok?

TAYLOR

I don't know. I've imagined what that would be like, I know what you do, but...

FORD

We'll talk more, I promise.

Taylor nods as he gently puts a hand on her cheek.

FORD

Can you stay here for a while?
Have a seat if you need it.

TAYLOR

Sure.

FORD

Is that how you found her?

TAYLOR

We didn't.

(points to person on steps)

He'd already called 911 when we came walking past.

FORD

(to Jackson)

Don't leave her.

JACKSON

No, sir.

Ford walks over to the person on the steps and puts a hand on his shoulder.

FORD

We're going to need you to stay around a while and answer some questions.

Morgan looks up at him, his eyes red from tears, and nods.

They look at each other and Ford knows that Morgan is not the same person he was before.

Ford walks to the body and pulls back the blanket to reveal the dead face of MANDY DAWSON, female, 21, with her ears removed. Also under the blanket, partially under the body, is a pure white scarf.

EXT. IOWA CITY STREETS - DAY

Though there are still signs of Homecoming there is very little celebration.

TITLE CARD:

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1ST

The north side of the mall, the corner by the library and the bath between Van Allen and Seashore Halls are blocked off as crime scenes. All of them have officers present.

The people that are out are very quiet and keep their heads down. They don't want to be seen or see anything else.

INT. MANDY DAWSON'S APARTMENT - DAY

This is a small, one bedroom, barely furnished apartment, shared by sisters. There are lots of family photos in the room but very little else.

Ford and Richards are talking with SOPHIA DAWSON, female, 19, wearing sweatpants and shirt. She is worn out and has been crying considerably.

SOPHIA

I've talked to Mom and Dad,
they'll be in in a few hours.
Most of the drive from Chicago
is interstate so it won't take
very long.

FORD

We spoke with them this morning,
too. Thank you for your patience.

SOPHIA

Of course.

FORD

Has Mandy spoken with you about
any encounters she may have had
recently. Anything unusual?

SOPHIA

(pauses)

I don't think there was anything
unusual. She had been really
working on getting her G.P.A.
up for this semester. It had
been slipping last spring and
she was trying to get a scholarship
for next year. She wanted to be
an astronaut someday.

RICHARDS

That's quite a goal.

SOPHIA

Yes, she'd dreamed about it since we were kids. Mom and Dad took us to Florida once to KSC, Kennedy Space Center, we even got to see the launch of the space shuttle Discovery. Have you ever seen a launch?

RICHARDS

Unfortunately, no.

FORD

I'm afraid not.

SOPHIA

I remember how it sounded. It's not like what you think. You imagine it's going to be this loud roar from the power of those engines. It's a lot different than that. It sounds like popcorn popping. Believe it or not. It's that steady pop, pop, pop like you hear from the big poppers in movie theaters. Off it went into the sky. Mandy watched it go as long as she could. She just couldn't take her eyes off of it. When Mom asked her what she thought she said she was going to be an astronaut someday. She never stopped dreaming about that.

FORD

I'm very sorry for your loss.

SOPHIA

Thank you.

RICHARDS

Sophia, if you think of anything you think we should know let us know.

Sophia nods that she will, and they all get up as Ford and Richards start to exit.

FORD

You have our card. Have your parents call either one of us tomorrow and we'll make sure you get her purse, backpack, scarf and everything back.

SOPHIA

Scarf?

FORD

Yes, the scarf she had with her.

SOPHIA

Detective, Mandy didn't have a scarf.

This gets both Ford and Richards' attention.

FORD

She didn't have a Curtis Disheva scarf with her?

SOPHIA

Disheva? We both have to keep things pretty tight, work as many jobs as we can, just to go to this university and keep this small room. Us together couldn't afford a Disheva scarf. Sometimes I don't think we could afford to even get into their store.

RICHARDS

It's definitely not hers? Nobody gave it to her as a gift?

SOPHIA

No, she wasn't really your fashion girl. It wouldn't do her any good.

FORD

Ok, that's interesting. Thank you, miss.

SOPHIA

Thank you, detectives.

They say their goodbyes and exit.

Sophia goes to a stand and picks up a picture of her and her sister.

Tears falling from her eyes she goes to the window and looks up far into the sky.

INT. CURTIS DISHEVA STORE - DAY

There are high class fashion items, clothes, pendants, jewels, everywhere in the store with most of the items selling for triple digits.

TITLE CARD:

MONDAY, OCTOBER 2ND

There is a steady flow of CUSTOMERS, females, in and out of the store.

Richards is talking with a salesperson, ARIA, female, 22, loaded with many fashion items.

ARIA

How can I help you detective?

RICHARDS

(shows he a photo on his phone)

You sell this style of scarf here?

ARIA

Yes, it's very popular.

RICHARDS

Can I see the display?

ARIA

Sure, walk with me.

She takes him to a display with scarves on it. A scarf matching the one found at Mandy's body is priced at \$175.

RICHARDS

These are the same styles?

As they speak CUTOMERS, various females, come up and look at the scarves. They run their fingers over the cloth and some even try one on for looks.

ARIA

Yes, they've been going
pretty regularly.

RICHARDS

Exactly how many have you sold?

ARIA

I sold three myself before
Homecoming. I'm sure there
have been others.

RICHARDS

And the popular colors?

One female customer wraps a white scarf around her neck, looks
at herself on the mirror, then puts the scarf back on the racks.
She fingers through several and picks another scarf before
exiting.

ARIA

Black and gold, of course, but
this year it seems light blue
and white have been popular.

RICHARDS

You have records of your sales.

ARIA

Is this part of an official
investigation?

RICHARDS

The recent murders.

ARIA

Oh, my, I'd hate to see our
products involved with a murder.
This is all confidential, isn't it?

INT. IOWA CALLER OFFICE - DAY

Several STUDENTS, various, scattered around the office.

The banner on the monitor reads "DO YOU KNOW THIS MAN?" and
includes a picture from the police of the Figure's face.

Morgan is looking at the screen lost in thought as Leonard approaches him.

LEONARD
Hello Fletcher.

MORGAN
How's it going?

LEONARD
Pretty quiet today, huh?

MORGAN
Yeah, not a lot going on.

LEONARD
Looking for a good story?

MORGAN
I guess so.

LEONARD
KRUI is having an anniversary
this week. Want to check it out?

MORGAN
Alternative music on alternative
station? I suppose that attracts
a certain kind of crowd.

Leonard hands MORGAN a printout of a promotion for the radio station.

LEONARD
Sure, from an old fashioned
record station only wired to
the dorms to broadcasting 24/7
to this part of the state. Can
you make it look good?

MORGAN
Yeah, I think I could do it. Thanks.

LEONARD
Sure, they are having an event
Thursday, Friday and Saturday
at the studio. Maybe alumni there.

MORGAN

Thursday through Saturday. I'll
check it out.

Leonard pats him on the shoulder and walks off.

Morgan looks in his desk drawer and pulls out the camera he had taken for pictures. He turns it on and looks at a couple including some of Dannelson, Hall and Summers surrounding the Figure. He pauses, looks closely, then deletes them.

Reese comes through the office.

REESE

Morgan, come to my office.

Reese enters his office and closes the door after MORGAN enters.

INT. REESE'S OFFICE - DAY

REESE

Sit down, my boy.

Morgan sits as Reese gets comfortable behind his desk.

MORGAN

What can I do for you?

REESE

I've been looking at the clickers,
son. We've got some record numbers
and are picking up new advertisers.

MORGAN

That's great.

REESE

Now the trick is we have to keep
them. They're here, they're interested
and we have to keep them coming.

MORGAN

I'm sure you can do that.

REESE

I can do it with my star reporter's help. You, are the person who gets them clicking. You took the lead there, son, and you made sure they came clicking. I need you to keep pushing.

MORGAN

I'm not sure if I'm the right person for that.

REESE

You are the perfect person. You know the calls I've been getting from asking about you? Not just the locals, not just the Gazette or the Tribune, but outside papers looking for talent.

MORGAN

Seriously?

REESE

Seriously. Had a talk with a friend at the Chicago Tribune this morning and your name came up.

MORGAN

Chicago?

REESE

That's right, son. They are more than a little interested in your future. Now, I can help you, I can get them your name, but you've got to be able to back it up. You have to prove you can keep them coming back for more.

MORGAN

Where should we start?

REESE

You should start with the big pictures. Dannelson and Hall, they took on Jack the Ripper. They should be heroes, yet they are being arraigned in court in one hour. Get there, get know them, tell their story to the clickers.

MORGAN pauses, then slowly smiles.

MORGAN

The Chicago Tribune?

INT. IOWA CALLER OFFICE - DAY

Morgan exits Reese's office and walks back to his desk trembling with excitement. He sits down and takes a few deep breaths.

He looks around the office at the other students working on stories.

He pulls the camera from his desk and retrieves the photos from the recycle bin in the camera.

He tosses the KRUI paper in the trash then checks his watch and exits.

INT. POLICE DEPARTMENT LAB - DAY

The scarf is laid out on a lab table with various pieces of cloth covering it. There are brushes and various equipment needed for taking fingerprints and other samples also on the table.

Bennis and Rowe have been examining the scarf inch by inch.

Richards is near them.

BENNIS

I wonder how long this was on display?

RICHARDS

She estimated they lasted about three to four days before being cycled out. Then they get on a storage rack in back for a few days and then hung again to make it look new.

ROWE

And you saw customers fingering the products?

RICHARDS

One of them even wrapped it around her neck to see how it looked.

BENNIS

That explains it. So far there are at least 8 different prints on the scarf. We'll run the samples for DNA but I doubt they'll do much better. So many people have had their hands on it it'll be difficult to tell which is which.

RICHARDS

I got the record for buys of the scarf for the past three weeks. Three of them were the white versions.

Ford and Roster enter.

ROSTER

So far it's all come up blank.

FORD

No connections?

ROSTER

Nothing. We've got prints, we've got good blood, we've got dental records and DNA, still there is nothing in the data base that will tell us who his was.

FORD

He's got no criminal file. At least not locally.

ROSTER

No, we're sending what we have to the national registry and see if they have anything.

FORD

You get so used to it. It seems to be something so common you don't realize that some people never get recorded. As if their DNA doesn't exist.

RICHARDS

What about the victim on the north side of the Mall, Maria Kennedy? Anything from that scene.

ROSTER

Nothing yet either.

FORD

We're going to keep all three locations under wraps for another 48 hours. We're bringing in outside help to make sure that there isn't an inch of space we haven't covered. I want to make sure we crosscheck all the findings. If there is any physical evidence that links any of the three scenes together let me know about it.

BEMMIS

We've gone over every thread of that scarf.

ROWE

All we know for sure is that it most likely wasn't the victims.

FORD

We can confirm that?

ROWE

Of all the things on it, prints,
fibers, everything undetermined,
there isn't a sign of blood, prints,
or DNA from her.

FORD

No clue as to the killer.

BEMMIS

We're still checking. There are several
places we're going to.

FORD

It does fit the original 1888 murders.

ROSTER

Exactly.

FORD

This killer is very smart. He's not
going to make a mistake.

EXT. CITY STREETS - DAY

The Homecoming signs are down and almost everything has gone
back to normal.

TITLECARD

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6TH

The murder scenes are clear now. MALL EMPLOYEES, various, pick
up a few memorial flowers left where Maria Kennedy was found.

Some students, Sophia Dawson and MANDY'S FRIENDS, various,
having a prayer session where Mandy Dawson was found.

The Iowa Caller banner reads "WE KILLED JACK!" and features
pictures of Dannelson and Hall in court.

Outside the courthouse protesters, including Pepper, Summers,
and Stone are carrying signs for Dannelson and Hall to be
released.

Students and residents go about their business keeping to
themselves. No pointing fingers or looking at each other
suspiciously. Most of them avoid looking at anyone.

INT. IOWA CALLER OFFICE - DAY

Jones is sitting at his desk solemnly looking around the office.

Morgan is at his desk writing profusely and smiling as he does so.

Jones looks at the "WE KILLED JACK" banner as Murphy and Anderson approach him. They look at him for a moment then shake his hand understanding why he's doing what he's doing.

Jones stands and picks up a box with his personal belongings in it.

He avoids making eye contact with MORGAN as he walks out.

INT. POLICE CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

Grissom, Ford, Richards, Roster, Bennis, Rowe, Carter, Becker, Poulter and Green are meeting. They each have papers of various amounts in front of them.

FORD

Nobody has come forward with any identification at all. Locally we've checked everywhere at the university, the city, homeless shelters, hotels and found nothing. Nobody recognizes him. We've sent fingerprint and DNA files to all the data banks we know and they come up negative. We've even contacted the FBI and they had no matches anywhere in their system.

ROSTER

It may not tell us who he was, but it also tells us who he wasn't. He has no criminal record anywhere.

GRISSOM

And there was no identification found at the scene?

RICHARDS

Nothing. He was beaten, he was kicked and punched, his clothes were torn up by the mob. If he had any ID on it either it got lost or taken by someone. We have no idea who he was?

FORD

We also have absolutely no connections between him and the 4 murders.

GREEN

You couldn't tell that from reading the shit on the Iowa Caller. They've spent the last week praising these bastards for leading the end of Jack the Ripper. Morgan's editorials demanding they be released.

FORD

A release they may get pending trial, but I doubt DA Carpenter will stop at that.

RICHARDS

We have to continue to make it clear that this matter is still being investigated and until we have some final answers it will stay open.

GRISSOM

We are not alone in the damage control department. I've had multiple calls and meetings with Mayor Thompson and UI President Lucas, plus plenty of calls from business owners and CEOs, some of them from out of state, wanting to know what kind of leads we had, suspects, or clues we are following up. Either way I had to explain to them that "no comment" isn't just something I tell the press for fun. Lucas asked me if I happened to know there was a football game

(MORE)

GRISSOM (CONT'D)

last weekend. Nobody was talking about that anymore. I suggested they'll just have to win the next game and people will forget about everything else again.

BECKER

That's worked before.

FORD

We'll continue to look at all the loose ends.

RICHARDS

Along those lines I went back to Disheva to get more information on the sales of the scarves. They had sold 5 in the past week. 4 of them were to females and only one of them was a white colored scarf. I spoke with her Wednesday and she has hers in her closet. The fifth one was a cash sale. The seller said it was purchased by a male but it was green and gray. Apparently the guy wanted Harry Potter colors.

POULTER

(wryly)

All things considered maybe we should check that out.

A few get it, some don't.

FORD

Any final leads on the scarf that was found with Mandy Dawson?

ROSTER

There are no significant prints. A few smudge marks but nothing we could get a complete enough image to identify. As far as full or partial DNA strands there were some skin cells we found and lifted about a dozen DNA targets.

POULTER

Three of them had matches. One was a 62-year-old female here in Iowa City we talked to who was looking for a birthday present, the second was an ex-con who worked in the warehouse in St. Louis and the third was killed in a car accident in June.

GRISSOM

A 62-year-old with prints on file but nothing that leads us to a serial killer.

GREEN

Maybe she was a politician at some point.

CARTER

I'm afraid that is where the story ends for the scarf.

FORD

But, as we know from history, this story isn't finished. Jack the Ripper is still planning on taking his 5th victim.

EXT. LIBRARY - DAY

It is late in the afternoon and there are a few PEOPLE, various, going walking up and down the Pedestrian Mall by the library.

FRED, male, 60s, in ragged clothes, homeless, is asleep on a bench. He is SNORING loudly, and people go out of their way to avoid his area.

Becker and Carter come walking along on a regular patrol.

BECKER

Oh, boy.

CARTER

What?

BECKER

(points at Fred)

There he is again.

CARTER

It's your turn to wake him up.

BECKER

I did it last time, remember?
Friday before last? He was behind
that bush on the Pentacrest.

CARTER

Ok, yes, my turn.

(MORE)

They walk towards Fred and Carter nudges him a few times. He stirs a bit, mumbles something then goes back to sleep.

CARTER (CONT'D)

Come on, Fred. You know you aren't
supposed to sleep here.

BECKER

Come on, Freddie

They nudge him again and he grumbles. They look at each other, roll their eyes, then briskly shake him awake.

FRED

Bulgaria! Gumnshin! Huh?

CARTER

Time to get moving, Freddie. You
know you can't stay here.

FRED

I left a wakeup call for 7:00.

BECKER

You want us to take you to
Shelter House?

Fred realizes exactly what is happening and tries to look dignified.

FRED

I believe I can make that myself,
thank you.

(MORE)

He stands up, looks around, starts to sit back down but they usher him away from the bench. He gets control of himself and starts to walk towards the Old Capital Mall. He stops, turns 180 degrees, then boldly walks straight ahead.

FRED (CONT'D)

Good day, officers.

They watch Fred walk away until he reaches the street then go about their patrols.

Fred stops, looks back and sees them moving away, then fishes into his pockets. He pulls out a billfold, makes sure no one's watching, then opens it up.

The ID card has the face of the Figure that was killed outside the library on it.

Fred pulls the last few dollars from the billfold then quickly tosses it into a garbage can. He tucks the cash into his pocket and walks away.

EXT. URBAN CITY STREET - NIGHT

It's early in the evening and FAMILIES, various, are walking from house to house. The children are in costumes for Halloween.

A family approaches Ford's house. The adults pause while the children rush up and ring the doorbell.

TITLE CARD

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 31ST

The door opens and Ford, wearing a silly wig and red nose, steps onto the porch.

CHILDREN

Trick or Treat.

FORD

Wooooo, you're scary.

FATHER

Love the costume, Nate.

Ford winks at the father and mother and offers candy for the kids.

FORD

Take care.

CHILDREN

Thank you.

The family heads out and Taylor exits the house and takes Ford's hand.

TAYLOR

Let's sit down.

(MORE)

They sit on a bench near the door and Taylor smiles at her father.

TAYLOR (CONT'D)

The girl was Hello Kitty. Not really high on the scare factor.

FORD

Hello, what?

TAYLOR

Hello Kitty, it's a cartoon from Japan. She's also known as Kitty White.

FORD

That you know that is scary.

Taylor laughs with him, and they look at each other in silence for a moment.

FORD

You ready to talk about it?

TAYLOR

Sometimes I see her, Mandy Dawson. See her laying there all cut up.

FORD

Have you been up there where you saw her?

TAYLOR

No, I just can't. I go the long way around Van Allen or Seashore to avoid that short cut.

FORD

It's okay. You do what you have to do to get used to it. Someday you'll be able to walk through that area. You'll watch your step, steer clear of that exact spot, but you'll realize it's ok. She's not there.

TAYLOR

Maybe if Jackson's with me...or you?

FORD

Anytime.

Another Family comes up the sidewalk and Taylor gives out the treats. They wave, call thanks, and run off. She sits next to Ford when they leave.

TAYLOR

(nudges Ford)

Comic book heroes.

FORD

Those are old enough for me to recognize. I may have even dressed as one of them when I was a kid.

TAYLOR

I always imagined you as a cowboy.

FORD

I would have done that, too.

TAYLOR

Howdy, Tex.

FORD

Giddy, yup.

They laugh together and quiet down.

TAYLOR

How do you get used to it? Seeing things like that? What happens to them?

FORD

You never really get used to it. You just learn to react to it differently. You saw her and, I imagine, your first thought was how terrible it must have been. What she felt before she died.

TAYLOR

How much did it hurt when he cut her up like that?

FORD

According to the M.E. the first cuts on the victims were in the throat. He killed them fast so he could do the rest. Roster says they most likely were dead before they felt much pain. They most likely didn't suffer.

TAYLOR

I suppose I could take some consolation in that. I never knew Mandy, or the rest of them, but I wouldn't wish that pain and suffering on anyone.

FORD

It's sad but you have to take what you can.

The next trick or treater is a boy in a cartoonish cowboy outfit. Ford pretends to lasso him, gives him some candy, and waves at the parents as they leave. He returns to the bench.

TAYLOR

We actually talked about it in class for a few days. Why does a person do that?

FORD

There are three types of people I've seen over the years. Sometimes it's just a moment that can make that happen. A flash decision or rush to judgement that pushes someone over the edge. Most often they will regret it. With other people it's something that has been building up inside them. It's like a volcano that has the pressure building up, there might be smaller tremors, signs of what's to come, then finally it breaks and there's no stopping it. Like the first, they sometimes regret it.

TAYLOR

What about the third?

FORD

They are the worst. They plan it, work on it, come up with ways to make it happen and get away with it. They don't think of it as evil, they never regret it, they can even go as far as to like it.

TAYLOR

When they go, they move on, or when they die, what happens then?

FORD

Eventually another person will take their place. Sometimes by doing something completely different, or, like we saw, repeating the terrible things that happened before. Evil doesn't die with the person, it just resets itself and moves on.

Another family approaches the house for trick or treats.

This child is wearing a black cloak, wig and bushy mustache and is carrying a large plastic knife with red paint on it as a comedic parody of Jack the Ripper.

EXT. DOWNTOWN STREETS - NIGHT

There are a few PEOPLE, various, out at the bars or late-night restaurants.

TITLECARD

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9TH

There are several I.C.P.D. patrol cars circling downtown.

INT. CAR - NIGHT

Ford and Richards are on patrol keeping their eyes and ears open.

FORD

Five weeks and five days. In most cases I'd start to think the guilty party had moved on.

RICHARDS

Even after all this we just don't know. Not a single shred of evidence connecting anyone to these murders. Not even the person who was lynched for them. He could have easily been the killer and it's all over with. He could also just have easily been an innocent bystander who got tried, convicted and executed because he was in the wrong place at the wrong time.

FORD

It's not like that hasn't happened before. How many times does history repeat itself? Even if he was the killer there's no guarantee that it's over.

RICHARDS

We may never know where the killer came from or where he went.

TONES come from the police radio.

BECKER (OVER)
2202 to Greyhound! 2202 to Greyhound!

EXT. ALLEY - NIGHT

POLICE SIRENS approaching.

Becker and Carter are in an alley between Clinton and Dubuque street just east of the Pentacrest.

There are two WITNESSES, female, 20, both are off to one side in shock.

A squad car stops just on the street. Poulter and Green burst out of the car and come running.

BECKER
We got this end and are taking care
of these two. Check further up and
block that end.

GREEN
Copy that.

Poulter and Green start walking up the alley, pause and look briefly at the victim near some crates, then continue to sweep down the alley.

Ford and Richards enter the alley and go to Becker and Carter.

FORD
What have you got?

CARTER
These two were headed back to the
dorms. They found a body off by
those crates.

BECKER
It's just like the others.

Ford and Richards turn on their flashlights and approach. They carefully scan the area in the shadows behind the crates.

FORD

I was wrong.

(pauses)

I guess we do know where he was from...

RICHARDS

...and where he's going.

VANESSA CHAMBERLAIN, female, 22, petite, is laying in the alley surrounded by her blood highlighted by their flashlights. Her throat is cut deep, her abdomen is cut open exposing her intestines, her ears are brutally removed and laying next to her.

Painted in her blood only a few feet away are the words FROM HELL

FADE OUT

TITLE CARD

NOVEMBER 9TH WAS THE FINAL
VICTIM OF JACK THE RIPPER.
HIS IDENTITY WAS NEVER DISCOVERED.