

1 INT. OFFICE - DAY**1**

DECLAN WEST, a young rookie detective (late 20s, early 30s) sits at his desk. His feet are propped on his desk next to a small stack of closed cases. He spins a pencil in his hand. We see a homemade certificate on the wall that says "Best noob! Congrats rookie" with a picture of West flexing. He glances at the certificate and smirks. CHARLIE MCKENNA, a senior detective in his late 40s, comes by and drops a case file on West's desk.

DETECTIVE MCKENNA
Missing person's case for ya,
Declan.

West looks up and lifts his feet off the desk, turning toward McKenna. He opens up the file.

DETECTIVE WEST
Missing persons? Alright.

West rolls his eyes as McKenna looks away briefly.

DETECTIVE MCKENNA
No sweat for you, huh rookie?

West chuckles, flipping through the file.

DETECTIVE WEST
I don't know McKenna. Can't someone
else take the case?

West forces a smile.

DETECTIVE MCKENNA
Come on, rookie! You're a natural!
You think too much. You've cracked
so many missing persons cases,
you've practically set a record.
This one should be a breeze.

McKenna pats West on the shoulder and walks away.

West watches as McKenna turns a corner. Once he's out of sight, West puts his feet up on the desk and tosses the case file aside.

DETECTIVE WEST
(Muttering)
Goddamn missing persons.

West glances back at the case file. He strains and picks it up again. He flips the page, reading.

DETECTIVE WEST
(Sarcastically)
Sorority party? Great.

2 INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY

2

Cold interrogation room. West sits opposite an 18-year-old college student, MASON WRIGHT. She is slouched in her chair, picking at her nails. West looks down at the case file then up at her.

Beat.

DETECTIVE WEST
Mason Wright?

MASON WRIGHT
Yep.

DETECTIVE WEST
I'm Detective West. You were at a sorority party on Friday night, correct?

West glances at his watch, bored.

MASON WRIGHT
Yes.

West looks down at the case file.

INTERCUT MASON/VALERIE

West looks up from the file. VALERIE SCOTT, a 19-year-old college student now sits across from him. She is staring just past West.

DETECTIVE WEST
...Valerie Scott?

Valerie nods.

West returns to the case file, flipping the page and drumming his fingers on the table.

DETECTIVE WEST
You and Mason Wright were the last people to see OLIVIA KING on the night of the 21st.

VALERIE SCOTT
Yeah, we walked her back to her
dorm after the party.

West flips through the file again, pretending to read something. He looks at Valerie, disinterested.

3 INT. OFFICE - DAY

3

Declan sits at his desk, tossing the case file next to a tray containing a stack of files labeled "closed". West relaxes in his chair and opens Solitaire. He begins to play, focused.

McKenna approaches West's desk, smiling.

West notices McKenna and quickly shuts off his computer display. He grabs the case file and pretends to be studying it.

DETECTIVE MCKENNA
How's my favorite rookie? Crack the
case yet?

West laughs, fiddling with a pencil.

DETECTIVE WEST
Chipping away at it.

McKenna leans on the desk.

DETECTIVE MCKENNA
We ran into some issues with the
college handing over the security
cam footage from outside the dorms.
A mix-up or something, damn
disorganized.

McKenna looks annoyed. West appears to be tuning McKenna out.

DETECTIVE MCKENNA
(cont.)
Anyway, it's always the same with
college students. "Spontaneous"
weekend trips taking time away from
more important cases...

West looks bored to death.

DETECTIVE WEST
Well...

West interrupts.

DETECTIVE WEST
I should get back to cracking this.

West smiles.

DETECTIVE MCKENNA
Yeah yeah, of course. Keep it up,
rookie. I'll get you the security
footage when it comes in.

McKenna pats the desk and walks off.

West makes sure he's gone and then returns to his Solitaire.

4 INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY

4

Cold interrogation room. West sits opposite an 18-year-old college student, Mason Wright. She is slouched in her chair, picking at her nails. West looks down at the case file then up at her.

DETECTIVE WEST
Do you live in the same building as
Olivia?

MASON WRIGHT
No, she lives a few streets over.

DETECTIVE WEST
Did you know her from before the
party?

West rubs his forehead and looks at Mason, disinterested.

MASON WRIGHT
No, she came to the party alone. I
don't think she has many friends.

INTERCUT MASON/VALERIE

DETECTIVE WEST
Did you hear from or see Olivia
after that night?

VALERIE SCOTT
No, that was the last time I saw
her.

INTERCUT VALERIE/MASON

DETECTIVE WEST

Have you seen her around campus before? In the dining hall?

MASON WRIGHT

I probably have, I'm not too good at faces.

Mason chuckles unnaturally.

INTERCUT MASON/VALERIE

West drums his pencil on the table. He is thinking.

DETECTIVE WEST

Did anyone else see you walking Ms. King to her dorm?

West looks at Valerie expectantly.

Valerie pauses.

VALERIE SCOTT

I don't remember seeing anyone, it was pretty late.

West continues to look at Valerie.

VALERIE SCOTT

(cont.)

...by the time we left the party, everyone had left or was passed out somewhere. And no one hangs around campus that late.

West looks down at the file.

DETECTIVE WEST

Alright, thank you for your time Ms. Scott.

5 INT. OFFICE - DAY

5

West is sitting down at his desk, fiddling with a pencil and studying the case file, reviewing everything anxiously.

McKenna approaches West's desk, smiling. He is holding a USB drive.

DETECTIVE MCKENNA

(enthusiastic)

Hey, rookie. How's the case?

West looks up at McKenna and flashes a forced smile.

DETECTIVE WEST

I don't know. I have a weird feeling about it. I made a call to her parents, they haven't heard anything.

West drums his fingers on his desk.

DETECTIVE WEST

It was a Friday night. Maybe she left for the weekend?

West pauses.

DETECTIVE WEST

(cont.)

She doesn't seem to have any friends at school.

DETECTIVE MCKENNA

No friends in college?

McKenna chuckles.

DETECTIVE MCKENNA

What was she doing at a party? Looking to fill a void with partying? She's a college girl, that would make sense.

West looks at McKenna surprised. There is a hint of disgust. He notices the USB drive McKenna is holding. West jumps at the chance to change the subject.

DETECTIVE WEST

Is that the cam footage?

McKenna holds up the USB.

DETECTIVE MCKENNA

Yep! Just got it in.

He tosses it to West and points finger guns.

DETECTIVE MCKENNA

You got this, champ.

West nods and forces a small smile, he watches as McKenna walks away.

West turns to his computer and inserts the USB. The footage is fuzzy. West scrubs through the footage quickly, not sure what he's looking for. He can barely make out anything in the footage, he looks defeated. He winds back one more time, finally finding the timestamp he's looking for. Triumph!

He sees 2 figures walking past Olivia's dorm building at 1 am on the 21st night of September.

5A EXT. COLLEGE DORM - NIGHT

5A

(Security cam footage on computer)

Two figures walk past a college dorm building. It is dark and the footage is fuzzy.

5B INT. OFFICE - DAY

5B

West leans in toward the computer.

DETECTIVE WEST

Wh-?

He rewinds the footage to watch it again. The same two figures are seen walking by Olivia's dorm building. He enhances the footage and he can make out the faces of the two individuals. He sees Mason and Valerie walking without Olivia.

West leans back in his chair, he rubs his forehead. Realization. The triumph of the moment has faded.

6 INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY

6

Cold interrogation room. A clock ticks on the wall. Valerie Scott sits at the table. West paces back and forth across the table from her. He stops and takes a paper out of the case file, sliding it across the table toward Valerie.

Valerie looks at the paper.

VALERIE SCOTT

What's this?

West continues walking back and forth, his hands behind his back.

DETECTIVE WEST

This is security camera footage
from the night of the 21st, around

1 AM...

Valerie looks up from the paper.

DETECTIVE WEST
From the security cameras outside
Olivia's dorm building.

INTERCUT VALERIE/MASON

Mason is now sitting at the interrogation table, slouched in her chair.

DETECTIVE WEST
Around what time did you walk
Olivia back to her dorm building
after the party?

Mason fiddles with her rings.

MASON WRIGHT
It was pretty late, around 1 AM?

West slides the image from the security camera footage across the table toward Mason.

Mason stops what she was doing to look at the image, she leans in to take a closer look. She notices the timestamp of 1 AM and the two figures.

West moves closer to the table.

Mason looks up and quickly slides the image toward West, she slumps down, her head in her hands.

West leans on the chair opposite Mason, looming over her.

DETECTIVE WEST
Let's try this again.

7 INT. RECEPTION DESK - DAY

7

West is standing, leaning on the reception desk. He is speaking softly into a phone. He looks solemnly downward as he continues to talk.

DETECTIVE WEST
I'm sorry for your loss Mrs. King.

West nods, listening intently to the phone.

DETECTIVE WEST

Yes, Mrs. King. We have a team out retrieving her body. We'll update you.

McKenna walks by and slaps West's shoulder.

DETECTIVE MCKENNA

(loudly)

Hey rookie, congrats on the case! Another for the books. Dude, we gotta get you a bigger certificate!

West looks at McKenna, clearly upset. He covers the phone. Silence as West stares at McKenna.

DETECTIVE MCKENNA

(annoyed)

What?

West turns away from McKenna toward the desk and uncovers the phone.

DETECTIVE WEST

I'm sorry Mrs. King. I can refer you to a support group if you need any help. I know... goodbye Mrs. King.

West hangs up the phone and slowly turns toward McKenna.

DETECTIVE WEST

I was on the phone, McKenna.

DETECTIVE MCKENNA

Calm down. You're so serious, rookie. I was just being nice. It was a tricky case, crazy how those girls could lie like that. You deserve a congratulations, it's your biggest case yet.

West walks to the opposite side of the desk, returning a file.

West pauses. He looks at McKenna.

DETECTIVE WEST

Congratulate me for what?! Someone died, Charlie!

McKenna takes a step back.

DETECTIVE MCKENNA

Jesus, Declan! That's part of the job! You knew that going into this. People die.

DETECTIVE WEST

Yeah, I know that. I just had to call a mother and tell her her only child's BODY was being retrieved.

A shocked expression from McKenna.

DETECTIVE WEST

Believe me, I know people die. Do you? Because you sure don't act like it.

DETECTIVE MCKENNA

You do one case that goes sour and you think you know everything! I've been at this a hell of a lot longer than you. You're just a rookie! The glory won't last long, trust me.

DETECTIVE WEST

I may be a "rookie," but at least I understand the gravity of my job.

DETECTIVE MCKENNA

Son, I-

West cuts McKenna off.

DETECTIVE WEST

YOU clearly don't. I've done one case that went south and you've done, what, a hundred?

McKenna tries to interject.

DETECTIVE WEST

(cont.)

It's like you're desensitized to what we do here! You've been at this so much longer and yet you treat it like a game.

McKenna is silent, taken aback. West retrieves the files from behind the desk and storms off, brushing against McKenna's shoulder as he leaves.

The next day. West sits at his desk, organizing files.

He glances from the files to the certificate pinned to the wall. His eyes linger sadly before returning to the files. McKenna walks up to his desk awkwardly holding a coffee and a case file.

DETECTIVE MCKENNA

Hey...

DETECTIVE WEST

Hey. Um...

He pauses for a long time. Visible discomfort.

DETECTIVE MCKENNA

I uh...

DETECTIVE WEST

It's alright McKenna.

McKenna nods.

DETECTIVE MCKENNA

Okay.

A small smile.

DETECTIVE MCKENNA

(cont.)

Well, new case West.

He clears his throat and extends a file.

Declan smiles faintly.

DETECTIVE WEST

Thanks.

He takes the file from McKenna. McKenna turns to leave.

West begins to work intensely.

FIN.