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Murder in the Sanctuary

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SCENE 1

It is Friday, October 25th the scene opens in CONNIE'S office. It is a quaint modern office decorated with various awards earned throughout the years. On HER desk is a picture of HER husband and son. The desk is very cluttered with paperwork of a new case. There is a knock on the door.

CONNIE: (without looking up) Come in.

HARRY: You look busy I see.

CONNIE: (sighing) It's this new case I'm working on. You know, the murder at First Presbyterian. The report says that Mrs. Lemoine, a 71-year-old church member, was stabbed in the heart as she walked towards the altar on Wednesday, October 19th. The evidence seems so simple, but we can't seem to get any definites on any of our suspects.

HARRY: (walks over to her desk, picks up one of the folders and looks at a picture) Who is this, her grandson?

CONNIE: No that's Thom Nickeson. He's the only person who would normally be in the church at the time of the murder. He cleans the sanctuary after school on Wednesdays. He claims that he stayed after school for tutoring that day.

HARRY: Yeah okay, how true is that?

CONNIE: That's what I thought until I talked to the teacher who was on tutoring duty that day. She said Thom did stay after, but he told her he had to leave at 3:30 PM. She said he ended up staying until about 3:45 PM and then left.

HARRY: What was the time of death listed in the coroner's report?

CONNIE: Approximately 3:50 PM. Says she died instantly from a stab wound to the chest.

Driving, the school is about three minutes away, however, Thom doesn't drive. It would have taken him 10 minutes on foot if he hurried. Causing him to get there after the time of death. But, guess who called 9-1-1.

HARRY: The kid?

CONNIE: You got it!

HARRY: What time was the call?

CONNIE: 4:00 PM. Giving him time to clean up any blood or mistakes he may have made. Unfortunately, it was nearly impossible for him to be the murderer given the details we have now.

HARRY: Yes true, so now what?

CONNIE: I have a meeting with the victim's stepson later today. I'm hoping maybe he can give me some answers as to why someone would want to kill a 71-year-old church-going woman.

HARRY: Well, good luck!

CONNIE: Thanks, I'm going to need it!

SCENE 2

Still Friday, October 25th. This scene takes place in a spacious conference room next door to CONNIE'S office. There is a large table in the center of the room with about a dozen chairs surrounding it. CONNIE is sitting in one chair, and JOE is directly across from her.

CONNIE: I'm sorry for the short notice. I just have a few questions for you about your stepmother, and then you can go back to your work, if that's all right with you, Mr. Elle.

JOE: Please, call me Joe. My stepmother used to call me Joseph. Gosh, how I hated when she called me that.

CONNIE: Were you and Mrs. Lemoine close?

JOE: I suppose you could say we were. We never used to be, but when my father died it brought us closer. My real mother died when I was young, and my father married shortly after. Mrs. Lemoine is the only mother I really ever knew. People say that my father married her for her money. My father's business was going under at the time, and he had little training in anything else but the business. But I know my father loved her, even if he never showed it much.

CONNIE: The last names of you all are rather strange. Why is it that you do not go by your father's name?

JOE: I was born before my parents were married. My mother insisted that I take her name, Elle. My father and stepmother are, as you know, Lemoine's.

CONNIE: I understand. Moving on. Do you have a family of your own Mr. Elle, I'm sorry, Joe?

JOE: Yes, I have been married for three years to my wife Alegra. I have a two-year-old daughter. Why? Do you think they were involved in this?

CONNIE: No, sir, I'm sorry. I was just trying to start conversation. Where exactly do you work, Joe?

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Honors English