

Cooper & Stone

Pilot

by  
Laurie Arent

January 18, 2011



Cooper & Stone  
Pilot  
"Get Whatcha Need"  
Network Draft  
1.18.11

By  
Laurie Arent

TEASER

FADE IN:

OVER BLACK: Asher Roth's funky anthem, "I Love College," begins-- "That party last night..."

EXT. NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY - FRATERNITY ROW - NIGHT

A typically rowdy night, clusters of students amble down the quad, party-hopping. We FOLLOW a trio of HOTTIES into...

INT. DELTA CHI - NIGHT

Where a full-on RAGER is in swing. As the hotties disperse into the crowd, we stay with a crew of FOOTBALL PLAYERS pounding beers as they watch highlights from the night's game on a giant FLAT SCREEN as goofball, TYRESE, 21, and hulking JONESY, 20, give an over-the-top play by play--

TY

Third and two on the thirty yard  
line. Quarterback's in the pocket.  
Fake pumps it right. Finds his man  
down field...

INSERT FLAT SCREEN: The BALL soars through the air in endless SLO-MO. A pair of HANDS enter the frame--

JONESY(O.S.)

Look out! It's a bird, it's a  
plane...

The hands SNATCH the ball and SPEED RESUMES as player NUMBER TWENTY-FOUR lands on his feet, graceful as a ballerina.

Jonesy (O.S.) (CONT'D)

It's number freakin' twenty-four!

As twenty-four races down the field towards the end zone the room ERUPTS in cheers, the guys whooping and high-fiving. From the couch, handsome, all-American JEREMY EVANS just watches the commotion, quiet, until Ty JUMPS on him, noogies his head, affectionately--

TY  
You da man!

Evans shrugs it off, points at the SILVER NIKES on his feet--

EVANS  
All in the shoes...

JONESY  
Better not forget your homeboys  
when you're rollin' Pac-Ten.

EVANS  
No way, man. Getcha all the signed  
photos you need...

TY  
See that? Our boy Clark Kent's  
already swaggering like Superman.

As the group bust up, sulky teammate PETE, bottle of Jack in hand, smirks, not pleased. After a beat, Jeremy checks his watch, stands up--

EVANS  
Catch you tools later.

JONESY  
Hot date with Lois Lane?

EVANS  
Something like that.

As Evans heads down to the basement amidst catcalls and whistles, Jonesy stands up, wobbles--

JONESY  
How 'bout my epic third quarter  
smack-down?

Tyrese  
Epic? More like epi-leptic...

Jonesy drunkenly rushes Ty, beer and furniture toppling. As the mayhem elevates, a LAMP falls to the ground with a crash, electrical current SPARKING. And as the kids obliviously rage on, the first flickers of flames snake up a polyester curtain...

EXT. DELTA CHI - DAWN

The first rays of light cast a somber glow over the smoldering EMBERS and charred REMAINS of the house.

As a crew of exhausted FIREFIGHTERS blanket the premises, the now shaken and teary-eyed PARTIERS stand around in shock getting the once over from a crew of EMTs. A REPORTER, walks up to a seasoned FIRE CHIEF, 50--

REPORTER

Any bodies?

CHIEF

(shakes his head, wry)

Looks like this bunch of idiots got lucky...

His WALKIE ominously crackles--

KURT (O.S.)

Hey, Chief, we got something down here...

INT. DELTA CHI - BASEMENT - DAWN

As strapping firefighter, KURT, stares down at a pair of lifeless SILVER NIKES, we...

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. UNMARKED CROWN VIC - DAY 1

Where JENNA COOPER, 26, downs a can of sugar-free Redbull with one hand, navigating the car with the other while her partner, ANGELA STONE, 28, clutches the dash from the passenger seat. With her expensive highlights and designer jeans, Cooper clearly works what she's got, while Stone's ponytail and Ann Taylor separates make a pointed attempt to downplay how pretty she actually is.

STONE

It's seven thirty in the morning.  
How can you drink that crap?

COOPER

Breakfast of champs. All the chemically manufactured energy you need and not one calorie. Plus, it tastes awesome with vodka...

(off Stone's look--)

No mom, there's not any in here now...

STONE

Which means there's no excuse for your driving.

COOPER  
I haven't hit anything in weeks!

STONE  
What about---

COOPER  
Bike messenger doesn't count.  
Dude was totally jay-riding.

As Stone shakes her head, Cooper clocks her partner's disheveled appearance-- mussed hair, mis-buttoned blouse.

COOPER (CONT'D)  
Hey, my driving might be a little hinky, but at least I don't look like I got dressed in the dark...

Stone looks down, adjusts her blouse, cranky--

STONE  
How else was I supposed to avoid the stage-five clinger drooling all over my pillow?

COOPER  
Wait-- you actually let someone come back to your place? What about the zero tolerance policy?

STONE  
Nullified by the skank clause.

COOPER  
Guido skank?

STONE  
Vegan skank. Lived in one of those funky co-ops in Bucktown. Probably sleeps on some hemp futon he got off Craig's List...

The girls share a look, ew....

COOPER  
Good call.

EXT. NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY - FRATERNITY ROW - SAME  
As they head down the block towards the fire scene--



SID  
Gals should just head on back to  
class--

COOPER  
Yeah, we're not--

SID  
Only people getting through are  
campus officials such as myself and  
trained emergency professionals.  
Firefighters, EMTs--

STONE  
Law enforcement?

Sid finally realizes that Cooper and Stone are holding up  
BADGES. A slow beat, then--

SID  
No, Wa--

STONE  
Way.

COOPER  
Way.

SID (CONT'D)  
You girls are actually cops?

STONE  
And if you'd get out of the way, we  
could *actually* do our job...

Sid steps aside. Cooper and Stone take off for the action--

INT. DELTA CHI HOUSE - DAY

The girls walk the skeletal premises with the Fire Chief.

CHIEF  
Apparently, party got pretty rowdy.  
Overcrowded, lotta booze.

COOPER  
It's college. What else is new?

CHIEF  
Initial fire patterns suggest an  
overturned lamp was the catalyst.  
Sparked an electrical current,  
house went up...

STONE  
Any accelerants?

CHIEF

None that we found. No other signs  
of foul play...

Stone picks up an empty BOTTLE of JACK DANIELS--

STONE

Bunch of underage co-eds so  
annihilated they can't work a fire  
extinguisher? Qualifies as foul  
play to me...

CHIEF

Circumstances aside, this fire has  
the earmarks of an accident.  
Tragic one, unfortunately...

COOPER

Need to see the body before we can  
sign off on accidental death.

INT. DELTA CHI HOUSE - BASEMENT COMMON ROOM - SAME

A barren storage room piled with boxes and junk, an old queen  
sized mattress with a tangle of sheets in the corner. The  
girls stand over the BODY sprawled near the BACK DOOR for a  
solemn beat. Stone snaps on gloves, kneels down, turns to  
cute firefighter, Kurt--

STONE

You found him?

KURT

(nodding)  
Kid was already gone.

COOPER

Partying all night. Probably had a  
fair share of alcohol in his  
system...

STONE

Comes down here, passes out, wakes  
up, groggy.

COOPER

Probably pretty smoky, right?

KURT

Blaze like this? Smoke would've  
been dense as hell.

COOPER

So the vic makes a move for the door, passes out from smoke inhalation before he gets there.

Stone takes a WALLET from the kid's pocket, hands it to Cooper who rifles through, pulls out a STUDENT ID CARD--

COOPER (CONT'D)

Jeremy Evans. Junior.

STONE

The running back?

(off Cooper, shrugs)

Kid was a phenom. Red shirt Freshman, became the team's number one rusher. Was leading the Wildcats to a title...

COOPER

Would've been the first in decades.

STONE

Funny. Don't remember any injuries during the game...

Cooper walks over, sees that Stone has pulled back one of Evans' pant legs revealing an ANKLE, grossly swollen.

COOPER

Maybe it happened later. Kid panics when he smells smoke? Trips as he's trying to get out?

STONE

Explains one ankle...

Stone has the other pant leg pulled up revealing the other ankle, EQUALLY ENGORGED--

STONE (CONT'D)

So what about the other one?

Off the partners exchanging knowing looks-- this accident just turned into a homicide...

FADE OUT.

END OF TEASER

## ACT ONE

FADE IN:

INT. DELTA CHI HOUSE - BASEMENT COMMON ROOM - DAY

The room has officially become a crime scene as gruff, veteran uniform cop, FRANK MAZZARA, 42 and fresh-faced rookie, AARON CHU, 22, secure the premises while hipster-geek CRIME SCENE TECHNICIAN, AJ HAWKES, 29, takes photos and works the forensic evidence in skinny jeans and converse hi-tops. Cooper and Stone walk into the room--

COOPER

How's it goin' people?

CHU

Great!

MAZZARA

(shoots him a look)

What'd I tell you about being cheerful?

Chu nods, sheepish, quickly gets back to work.

STONE

(reading notes)

So, here's what we know. According to the witnesses we've spoken to, Vic came down here alone around eleven. No one recalls anyone coming down after.

COOPER

(re: back door)

So the perp probably came from this back entrance.

MAZZARA

Checked the door. Automatically secures from outside. Lock's fully intact.

STONE

Which means Evans either knew or was expecting his assailant...

Cooper opens the BACK DOOR, steps out, right into a PUDDLE--

COOPER

(re: boots)

Crap. I just got these.

STONE  
Told you--

COOPER  
Crime scene's no place for  
designer footwear... I know.

STONE  
Just sayin...

COOPER  
And I'm saying I'd ruin a dozen  
Fiorentini and Bakers before you'd  
catch me in those Buster Browns...

As Cooper shuts the door, Stone looks down at her sensible  
LOAFERS, shrugs. Cooper KNOCKS from outside, Stone opens the  
door, re-enacting--

Stone  
So Evans lets the perp in...  
(she turns away)  
Then turns his back and--

Mazzara comes at Stone's legs with an imaginary weapon--

MAZZARA  
Whammo! Kid gets Tonya Harding-ed  
right in the ankles--

Chu  
Tonya who?

MAZZARA  
Ice skater? Olympics?  
(off Chu, clueless)  
Freakin' kids... Go canvas the  
alley. Don't come back till you  
gotta weapon.

A scared Chu quickly takes off. Stone shoots Mazzara a look--

STONE  
Easy. Not the rook's fault you  
haven't gotten any lately.

MAZZARA  
Please. I was ten times harder on  
you.

STONE  
Didn't get any back then, either.  
Hmm, starting to detect a  
pattern...

MAZZARA  
 (flipping her off)  
 Yeah? Detect this pattern.

Mazzara walks off grumbling, Stone smiles. Clearly these two are tight. Cooper walks over to AJ who's BLACK-LIGHTING for trace evidence

COOPER  
 How's it going?

AJ  
 Got a couple footprints off the back landing.

COOPER  
 Sounds promising.

AJ  
 Hopefully. 'Cause the rest of this place is polluted. Mess of prints, fibers, hair... and I'm talkin' curtains and drapes...

COOPER  
 Nice.

AJ  
 Then there's the fluids...

AJ SHINES the LIGHT on a MAXIM MAGAZINE lying on a table. A GOOEY, CRUSTED OVER SUBSTANCE appears. Cooper winces--

COOPER AJ  
 Is that... Ranch dressing.

COOPER  
 Yeah, well fraternities and hygiene... kind of an oxymoron, right?

AJ  
 Wouldn't know. Tech Geeks don't do a whole lot of fraternizing.

COOPER  
 Too busy playing World of Warcraft?

AJ  
 (mock offended)  
 No... EverQuest.

Cooper smiles. Almost a moment, then--

KURT (O.S.)  
 Detectives?

The girls look up to see Fire Hottie Kurt--

KURT (CONT'D)  
 Think you guys might want to come  
 outside.

Cooper and Stone exchange glances--

EXT. DELTA CHI HOUSE - FRONT LAWN - DAY

Campus Cop Sid struggles to subdue off-beat pretty Sophomore,  
 MAYA, 19, as she grows increasingly upset--

MAYA  
 Let go of me. I want to talk to  
 someone in charge!

Cooper and Stone walk up, concerned--

STONE  
 What's the problem?

MAYA  
 The *problem* is this rent-a- robot  
 won't give me any information.

SID  
 The university has a licensed  
 counselor available to handle any  
 student concerns--

MAYA  
 I don't want a stupid counselor. I  
 want the truth--

COOPER  
 We'll take it from here.

Sid, happy to relinquish the job, walks off--

STONE  
 I'm detective Cooper. This is my  
 partner Stone--

MAYA  
 Please. I just need to know... Is  
 he dead?  
 (distracted)  
 Is Jeremy dead?

Cooper and Stone look at one another, somber, no point lying--

MAYA (CONT'D)

Oh my god...

COOPER

Were you close with him, sweetie?

MAYA

He's was my boyfriend...

Maya loses it. Off the girls, hardest part of the gig--

EXT. STREET - DAY

A shell-shocked Maya sits on the curb sipping water as Cooper and Stone talk to her.

MAYA (CONT'D)

We went out for over a year. Lived across the hall from each other in the Freshman dorms. I wasn't even interested at first. Football player. Super cute. Felt like such a cliché, you know? But Jeremy wouldn't give up...

(sad beat, then--)

We broke up last week.

COOPER

Why?

MAYA

We were... moving in different directions, I guess.

(explains)

Jer had become this big deal on the team. Scouts from other schools coming after him. He was pretty much set on USC.

COOPER

L.A.'s a long haul from Chicago...

MAYA

And long distance sucks, so...

As Jessica looks away, wounds still raw, we FLASHBACK TO:

EXT. NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY - QUAD - DAY - ONE WEEK AGO

Jeremy and Maya sit huddled together on a bench...

JEREMY

I'll still come home for vacations.

MAYA

That's like twice a year.

JEREMY

You'll come out for long weekends.  
We'll chill at the beach. Drive  
around with one of those star maps--

MAYA

Flights are expensive, babe.

JEREMY

So... maybe you should think about  
transferring.

MAYA

To USC?

(off Jeremy, maybe)

But, my family's here. And  
Northwestern's got one of the best  
journalism programs in the country.

Jeremy is silent, knows it doesn't make sense--

MAYA (CONT'D)

Look, I get it. This is an amazing  
opportunity for you. But it's *your*  
opportunity. And you're gonna have  
a whole new life. New team, new  
friends...

JEREMY

What if I still want my old  
girlfriend?

Maya just looks at Jeremy at a loss, sad... Finally--

MAYA

(sings ala Stones)

Can't always get what you want...

A somber beat, as the two of them process the harsh reality.  
RESUME SCENE:

COOPER

That was the last time you saw him?

MAYA

I picked up some stuff from his  
place a few days ago. That's when  
we finalized things.

STONE

How did he seem?

MAYA

I dunno... stressed.

STONE

Championships. Transfer plans.  
Jeremy had a lot on his plate.

COOPER

Which is probably why he left the party. He was exhausted. So he went downstairs and fell asleep...

Maya stops, confused--

MAYA

*Downstairs?* In the common room?

STONE

Common room?

MAYA

Where the guys went to hook up with commoners...

(off the girls, huh?)

Random hoes they'd never be seen with in public...

Off Maya, completely devastated--

INT. NORTHSIDE PRECINCT - HALLWAY - DAY

Cooper and Stone cruise down the hall, all business--

STONE

We'll have Mazzara and Chu verify Maya's alibi. But judging from her reaction, I'm guessing she's in the clear.

COOPER

Jeez, talk about a crappy day-- hey, your stud ex-boyfriend is dead, and, oh yeah, he was hooking up with someone else too.

STONE

See what happens when you elevate your standards? Inevitable disappointment. That's why I stick to a regimented diet of eye candy and underachievers...

COOPER

And which food group does Fire-Hottie Kurt fall into?

STONE

Hard to say. But I'll know more after our date Thursday night.

COOPER

And you'll know even *more* on Friday morning...

STONE

Oh my god--

COOPER

*Kidding...*

But Stone is stopped in her tracks, staring deer-in-headlights down the hall. She tries yanking a confused Cooper off in the other direction... Too late--

ANDERSON (O.S.)

Detectives!

The girls turn back and see strong, no-bullshit, CAPTAIN ERICA ANDERSON, 42, making a bee-line for them. Next to her is brash, hot-shot VICE DETECTIVE, DANNY KOVACS, 30.

COOPER

There's a sugar high waiting to happen...

Stone elbows her partner just as they arrive.

ANDERSON

Detective Danny Kovacs, Detectives Jenna Cooper and--

KOVACS

(sly grin)  
Angela Stone...

STONE

(cool as a cuke)  
What's up, Kovacs? South side run out of crackheads and johns for you to exploit?

ANDERSON

So you two know each other...

KOVACS

Stone and I go way back. Old friends from the academy.

STONE

Friends being one of those relative terms...

ANDERSON

Well, now you can add colleague to the list.

(off the girls--)

Danny's been transferred to Northside after his cover was blown on a high-risk narco-terrorist op.

KOVACS

(faux humble)

Not quite as Mission Impossible as it sounds.

ANDERSON

C'mon. Any one of those Marconas could wipe that toothy grin off Tom Cruise's face.

COOPER

Marcona? As in Salvadoran drug cartel?

KOVACS

Spent the last year tracking their contacts here...

STONE

Wait, lemme get this straight-- he's here *permanently*?

ANDERSON

(shoots her a look)

Considering Detective Kovacs is one of the best vice cops this city has, I'd say Southside's loss is our considerable gain...

STONE

Right. I just meant--

COOPER

What my partner meant is that we're really psyched to have you here.

ANDERSON

So don't hesitate to let the girls know if you need anything. We want your transition into our little family to be as smooth as possible.

KOVACS

Will do.

Kovacs grins at Stone, cocky and annoyingly cute. As Anderson and Kovacs walk off, Cooper turns to Stone--

COOPER

What was that?

STONE

That just totally ruined my day.

As Stone storms off down the hall, Cooper just watches her--

INT. CROWN VIC - DAY

As a tight-lipped Stone drives, Cooper theorizes next to her--

COOPER

...First love. You're like totally ga-ga for the guy. 'Til you walk in on him doing it D-style with your best girlfriend...

STONE

(please)

I don't get ga-ga. Or have girlfriends for that matter.

COOPER

Thanks...

STONE

*Except* you... when you're not completely irritating me.

COOPER

Okay, so it was a drunken one nighter, then. Sex is just eh--

STONE

*Eh?* I am so not *eh*...

COOPER

We all have off nights... Regardless, dude never calls. Couple weeks later Aunt Flo's tardy to the party and now the shmuck won't pony up the Benjamins or a ride to Planned Parenthood.

STONE

Gee, watch Fast Times much?

COOPER

It's a great flick.

(Spicoli imitation)

Aloha, Mr. Haaaaand...

(off Stone, eye roll)

Okay, so what is it, then? What could this guy Kovacs have possibly done to make miss nerves-of-steel completely lose her cool...

STONE

I didn't *completely* lose my cool...

Cooper just looks at her, please. Stone sighs, then--

STONE (CONT'D)

He... beat me.

COOPER

(eyes widen)

Bastard--

STONE

By half a point.

Cooper looks at her, huh? Stone explains--

STONE (CONT'D)

Our entire two years in the academy came down to an eighth of an inch on the target board. And Danny Kovacs had a better day...

COOPER

Seriously? That's it?

STONE

I worked my ass off to graduate number one.

COOPER

Yeah... I don't buy it.

(off Stone)

C'mon, clearly this isn't about target scores...

STONE

Of course it is!

COOPER

And *that* would be what we call denial... Helloooo? You're *into* this guy, Stone.

STONE

Into *Kovacs*? That's ridiculous.



INT. EVANS HOME - KITCHEN - DAY - TEN DAYS AGO

Jeremy sits at the table with Ken, contract papers laid out in front of them. Joanne does dishes in the background.

KEN (CONT'D)

Bob Walker from 'SC has put together a solid package. Full scholarship, room and board.

JEREMY

And what about the other schools?

KEN

Comparable offers. But USC's got the strongest program.

Jeremy nods, weighing it all out, unsure--

KEN (CONT'D)

Look, I know you got strong ties here, bud. But you gotta look at the big picture. You put in a couple stellar seasons at 'SC? Hell, can pretty much write your own ticket...

A long, pensive beat. Finally, Jeremy nods, convinced.

KEN (CONT'D)

Thatta boy. Let's crack open some beers...

RESUME SCENE: Ken sits on the couch, lost in the memory--

KEN (CONT'D)

Kid was gonna go all the way. Play in the pros. And we were so close.  
(tears flowing)  
Goddamn senseless...

Ken breaks down, the pain overwhelming. Joanne comforts him.

STONE

Mr. Evans, our job is to make sense of this for you. By finding out who did this to your son. Making them pay for it...

Ken and Joanne cling to one another in their despair. Off the girls, processing this couple's profound grief, we...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

## ACT TWO

FADE IN:

EXT. NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY - FOOTBALL FIELD - DAY 2

As the girls head across the field, Cooper talks on her cell--

COOPER

Still working on it... Deadline's next week... Two day, insured. I know, Dad. Okay, gotta go... Love you too.

Coop hangs up, turns to Stone, rolls her eyes--

STONE

What was that about?

COOPER

Law school application. Due next week.

STONE

But you're not going to Law School...

COOPER

I know.

STONE

And you still haven't told your parents that?

COOPER

(shrugs)

They're still kinda hoping this cop thing's just a phase. Can't bring myself to burst their bubble.

STONE

And *I'm* the one in denial?

COOPER

Yeah, well a gun and a badge isn't exactly what Stu and Emily pictured for their little princess...

STONE

Guess I got off easy. One brother in the clink, other one divorced. Could work a friggin' pole and my dad would still think I'm the second coming...

The girls share a smile, a moment. They arrive at the sideline where hard-nosed COACH LEN SEAVER, 46, oversees a scrimmage with the WILDCATS.

SEAVER

C'mon! Get your head in the game, guys! Take a lap, then run it again.

STONE

Coach Seaver?

Seaver turns to the girls, turns things over to an ASSISTANT.

STONE (CONT'D)

I'm Detective Stone. This is my partner, Cooper.

COOPER

Thanks for talking to us.

SEAVER

Only got a minute. Team's on a tight schedule.

COOPER

Not a lot of time for grieving, huh?

SEAVER

Best way to honor Evans' life is to finish out the season, heads held high.

STONE

Not quite the finish you imagined is it?

SEAVER

Not gonna lie. Evans was clutch. Could've taken us all the way this season.

COOPER

Coach Seaver, did you know Jeremy had plans to transfer to USC?

SEAVER

Knew he was leaning that way. Player as talented as Evans? Bound to have bigger opportunities. But Jeremy was a good kid. Agreed to finish out the season for me.

STONE  
Get you that title?

SEAVER  
That was the plan.

COOPER  
No chance now?

SEAVER  
In Pete Hamilton's hands. Kid was  
chomping at the bit to get off the  
bench. Got his chance, now.

COOPER  
Careful what you wish for, huh?

Off Coach Seaver, nodding, yep.

INT. LOCKER ROOM - DAY

Cooper looks through Evans' locker while Stone checks out the  
player PHOTOS on the wall. Cooper pulls out a jock strap,  
gets a whiff, winces--

COOPER  
That would be used...

She pulls out a PLAYBOOK, rifles through, finds a PHOTO of  
Maya and Jeremy kissing, happier times.

COOPER (CONT'D)  
Aww...

A group of sweaty, strapping PLAYERS whom we recognize from  
the party (including Tyrese and Jonesy) stumble in. They  
stop when they see Cooper and Stone--

JONESY  
Ladies... what do we owe this  
pleasure?

COOPER  
Sorry, boys. Visit's strictly  
business.

STONE  
We're detectives. Investigating  
the death of your teammate, Jeremy  
Evans.

TY

Man you two take the sexy librarian thing to a whole new level...

COOPER

(genuine)

Thanks.

STONE

You guys were with Jeremy the night he died, right?

TY

We were all chilling. Blowing off steam after we crushed Georgia Tech. J-dog was right in the mix.

JONESY

But then he bailed out. Headed down to the basement. Figured he was meeting up with some hottie.

COOPER

Because he and Maya had broken up?

TY

Thing had definitely run it's course. Last time I saw them, they were brawling like an old married couple...

Off TY, we... FLASHBACK TO:

INT. DELTA CHI HOUSE - HALLWAY - NIGHT - THREE DAYS AGO

Ty walks down the hall spots Maya coming out of a room--

MAYA (O.S.)

Don't come over. Don't call.  
Okay?

As Maya storms past Ty, we... RESUME SCENE:

TY

Girl was *schooling* him. No wonder J had back-up.

COOPER

You think Jeremy had been playing Maya?

JONESY

Chicks were always chasing after Evans. But he wasn't really the cheating type...

PETE(O.S.)

At least not when it came to *girls*.

They turn to see a towel-clad Pete, the sulky guy from the party. The girls exchange looks at the comment.

TY

Easy to talk smack now that Evans is dead, right Hamilton?

PETE

What? I'm supposed to walk around pretending we were best buds just 'cause he's gone?

COOPER

So, you didn't like Jeremy, Pete?

Pete's silent, his teammates eyes boring into him--

STONE

Is that because you didn't have a shot getting off the bench while he was around?

JONESY

Ouch.

PETE

Shut up, Neanderthal.  
(to Cooper and Stone)  
Yeah, I'll admit it. Evans was good. Better than me.

TY

By a freakin' longshot.

PETE

Apples and oranges, dude. And we all know, some of that produce wasn't exactly *organic*...

The room grows silent, then--

STONE

You saying Evans was doping?

PETE  
I'm saying the playing field wasn't  
exactly level.

And off Cooper and Stone, processing this new turn--

INT. NORTHSIDE PRECINCT - HALLWAY - DAY

Cooper and Stone walk and talk--

STONE  
If Pete's so convinced that Evan's  
a juice-head, why doesn't he just  
go to Seaver?

COOPER  
'Cause being a rat's way worse than  
being a second stringer.

STONE  
Steroid habit can't be cheap. And  
Evans was on scholarship. How's he  
paying for the stuff?

COOPER  
(knowing too well)  
That many people counting on you to  
have a good season? Trust me,  
you'd find a way...

They turn the corner into...

INT. NORTHSIDE DIVISION - CRIME SCENE LAB- SAME

A stark white lab with all kinds of cool forensic technology.  
AJ's bent over a microscope, head bobbing to a techno-beat  
blasting from a pair of I-POD speakers.

COOPER (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
What is this a freakin' rave?

AJ looks up, sees the girls, smiles--

AJ  
Not quite. But I'm DJ-ing one this  
weekend. Wanna come?

COOPER  
Sorry. Nice Jewish girls from the  
North Shore don't do raves.

AJ

Too busy combing the sale rack at Marshall Fields?

COOPER

That would be my mother. I do my binge shopping from the comfort of my couch...

STONE

True. Should see how fast she enters a credit card number. Scary.

AJ

Like to check that out sometime.

COOPER

I bet you would...

A flirty beat, something percolating perhaps, then--

STONE

So, anything in the tox report?

AJ

Inconclusive on the drugs. Can happen with fire victims who've suffered severe smoke inhalation. Smoke breaks down other substances beyond recognition.

STONE

Great. What else you got?

AJ hands Stone a FILE--

AJ

Coroner's report.

STONE

Says based on Jeremy's injuries, weapon was probably some sort of heavy iron or metal object. Hammer, lead pipe, tire wrench...

COOPER

Your basic accessory of choice for today's modern thug.

STONE

Doesn't exactly narrow the playing field.

AJ

One of the footprints I lifted  
might. Mens vibram-soled work  
boot, size thirteen.

COOPER

So the person Jeremy met up with in  
that common room may have been a  
guy.

AJ

And based on the e-mails I  
recovered from his laptop, it might  
be more than just a friend...

AJ clicks a FILE on an electronic SMART BOARD, a series of E-  
MAILS between JEVANS and FANTASY FELLA. Stone reads--

STONE

Fantasy Fella: Can't believe you  
would pull this crap now. JEVANS:  
Sorry, but I think I'm worth it.  
FF: Not as good as you think. JE:  
Not what you said the other night.  
FF: Bottom line, this should be  
about love, not money...

COOPER

Sounds like things got pretty  
intense.

AJ

Traced the IP to a building in  
Wrigleyville. Intranet address  
belongs to a Kyle Russo.

STONE

Maybe you aren't the only one  
living a double life, Coop...

COOPER

(nodding)

Maybe our star athlete was playing  
for another team.

Off the girls digesting this new turn of events--

INT. WRIGLEYVILLE APARTMENT BUILDING - DAY

Cooper and Stone head into a red brick apartment complex--

COOPER  
Gay football star... that's a  
pretty big closet to come out of.

STONE  
And considering hate crimes are all  
the rage on campus these days...

Stone checks the directory, heads upstairs. Coop follows--

COOPER  
Maybe it's more of a don't ask,  
don't tell situation. Kinda like  
you and Detective Hottie.

STONE  
(Ignoring the shot)  
And if Fantasy Fella wants to go  
public, but Jeremy's too freaked  
out about repercussions...

COOPER  
Lovers quarrel gone bad...

STONE  
And lover makes sure to hit Jeremy  
where it hurts the most.

They arrive at number 3C.

COOPER  
Star running back isn't worth much  
with two bum ankles, is he?

Stone shakes her head, nope. Knocks on the door.

INT. RUSSO APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - LATER

Cooper and Stone look around this small studio apartment,  
noting the vast array of college football paraphernalia as  
KYLE RUSSO, 27, talks to them.

KYLE  
Yeah, I heard about the fire.  
Tragic. Evans was good. Had a  
real shot at going pro.

COOPER  
But your interest in Jeremy was  
more personal than that, wasn't it?

KYLE

Sure. I mean, the kid was my best fantasy pick this season. Could've taken me all the way to playoffs.

STONE

We're not talking about football, Kyle.

Kyle looks at them, huh?

COOPER

We know about your relationship with Jeremy.

KYLE

*My relationship?*

Cooper pulls out a printed copy of the e-mails, reads--

COOPER

Bottom line, this should be about love, not money...

She shows the page to Kyle who starts laughing--

KYLE

Talk about out of context. I was talking about love of the game.

Cooper and Stone look at him, dubious. Kyle explains--

KYLE (CONT'D)

I blog about college ball. Players stats, game commentaries, that kinda thing. Website's pretty popular. Averages about a thousand hits a week.

STONE

And what's this have to do with Jeremy Evans?

KYLE

Every season I get a special guest to do a video chat. This year, I approached Evans. On account of his high profile, killer stats. Would've been a real coup.

COOPER

And he refused? That's why you were angry?

KYLE

I was angry 'cause the guy wanted  
twenty-five hundred bucks to do it.

STONE

Sounds kind of unreasonable.

KYLE

Luckily, he redeemed himself.  
(off the girls, go on--)  
Called me up a few days later.  
Said he'd come up with a more  
favorable compromise.

STONE

What kind of compromise?

KYLE

Thousand bucks for the exclusive on  
his plans for next season. Now,  
that was a deal I couldn't refuse.  
Turns out I should've. Day later,  
the kid's dead. Some exclusive.

The girl's exchange looks, not sure about this guy--

COOPER

What size shoe do you wear, Kyle?

KYLE

Twelve and a half. Thirteen.

STONE

Stay local. We'll be in touch.

As the girls take off, Kyle watches them concerned.

INT. NORTHSIDE PRECINCT - BULLPEN - DAY

As Cooper and Stone pow-wow, Stone jots down a web of clues  
and suspects on a WHITE BOARD--

COOPER

Kyle Russo's got a dozen alibis  
who say he was at the Goal Post  
blogging about the game.

STONE

But they were all drinking. And  
the Goal Post is only a fifteen  
minute drive from Northwestern.

COOPER  
 So Russo could've easily slipped  
 out without being noticed...

Mazzara and Chu walk up.

COOPER (CONT'D)  
 Please tell us you found a weapon--

MAZZARA  
 Not yet. But Skippy here found a  
 witness, says she saw someone in  
 the alley before the fire broke  
 out...

The girls look at Chu, interest piqued--

CHU  
 Told me she'd seen him there  
 before. Called it in to campus  
 security, but nothing happened.  
 Decided to take matters into her  
 own hands.

COOPER  
 Brought out her twelve gauge?

CHU  
 Took a picture with her cell phone.  
 Posted it on a neighborhood watch  
 site.

As Chu hands Stone the photo--

STONE  
 Ten bucks it's blogger boy.

COOPER  
 Twenty on sulky second stringer.

INSERT PHOTO: A familiar, chunky FIGURE standing next to a  
 WHITE PASSENGER VAN, the back fender DENTED IN.

Sid? COOPER (CONT'D) Sid... STONE

COOPER (CONT'D)  
 Maybe he'll *actually* be helpful.  
 ID one of our suspects.

STONE  
 Nice work, Chu.

MAZZARA

Yeah. Gold star on the rook chart.  
Four more, kid gets an ice cream...

Mazzara saunters off, Chu follows. Anderson walks up--

ANDERSON

Just got off with the chancellor of  
Northwestern. Apparently, unsolved  
murders don't bode well for a  
university's national rankings...

(beat)

What do we have?

STONE

No weapon yet. But we have a  
footprint, men's work boot, size  
thirteen.

ANDERSON

Any suspects?

COOPER

Disgruntled second stringer.  
Alleges his arch rival was taking  
performance enhancers.

STONE

Football fanatic. Had a beef with  
the vic over payment for an  
interview.

ANDERSON

So, basically, it comes down to  
drugs or money.

KOVACS (O.S.)

Or drugs and money...

The group turns to see Kovacs, grinning--

KOVACS (CONT'D)

Two aren't exactly mutually  
exclusive.

STONE

And since you are the resident  
expert...

ANDERSON

He'll make a great asset to the  
case.

(off Stone, huh?)

Cooper, you run the sex angle.

(MORE)

ANDERSON (CONT'D)

Track down who Evans met in that basement. Stone, you and Kovacs follow the steroid lead.

STONE

Think I'm better off working solo.

KOVACS

Yeah? Know any THG dealers in Rogers Park?

STONE

I'm sure I can figure it out.

ANDERSON

But in the interest of solving this crime, why not let Detective Kovacs help? It is his specialty.

KOVACS

Among other things...

ANDERSON

So, we all good?

STONE

(fake)  
Great.

KOVACS

(genuine)

Anderson walks off. Without missing a beat--

STONE

(angry)  
Great!

As Stone storms off in a huff, Kovacs turns to Cooper--

KOVACS

Still got that stick up her ass, huh?

COOPER

(affectionate)  
Totally.

They smile. As Kovacs takes off after Stone, we go off Cooper, highly amused and...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

## ACT THREE

FADE IN:

EXT/INT. REYNALDO BOXING GYM - DAY

A bare-bones, old-school boxing gym. Kovacs and Stone stand at a back door--

KOVACS

Probably better if I take the lead.  
These dealers can get cagey...

STONE

(rolls eyes)  
Whatever.

Kovacs knocks. After a beat, a tiny Hispanic WOMAN in reading glasses opens the door.

KOVACS

There's the woman of the hour...

VITA

Kovacs? What the hell you doin'?

She lets them into a tiny room packed to the gills with PHARMACEUTICAL BOXES.

KOVACS

Came to check in on my favorite  
female entrepreneur. Look good.  
Do something to your hair?

VITA

Brazilian blow out. Chemicals'll  
probably kill me. Price a beauty,  
huh?

KOVACS

How's Flaco? Ever get that knee  
operation?

VITA

Re-habbing as we speak.

KOVACS

Brutal--

STONE

(seriously?)  
Hey, maybe you two could grab  
coffee later, finish catching up?  
'Cause right now, some of us have  
jobs to do...

VITA  
Who's the chickie?

KOVACS  
Vita Hernandez, Angela Stone. Ange works homicide over on the Northside. We're looking into a case.

Kovacs hands Vita a PHOTO of Jeremy Evans.

Kovacs (CONT'D)  
This kid ever come through here?

VITA  
Might have. Can't be certain...

KOVACS  
Anything we can do to help rattle the ol' cabeza?

VITA  
Maybe... Gotta nephew. Luis. Pendejo got pinned for joyriding a stolen car last week. Judge's threatening to throw him in juvie.

STONE  
Good. Scare the little delinquent straight.

VITA  
Nephew ain't a delinquent--

STONE  
Right. And the apple doesn't fall far from the tree.

KOVACS  
Ladies...

VITA  
You got some balls--

STONE  
You have no idea--

KOVACS (CONT'D)  
Ladies, please.  
(they calm down, then--)  
We'll take a look into your nephew's case, Vita--

STONE  
The hell we will--

KOVACS  
Excuse us.

Kovacs pulls Stone aside--

STONE

You got some nerve, Kovacs. Going all Bad Lieutenant on my case?

KOVACS

Look, vice is different than homicide. Not just the facts at play. Gotta keep your eye on the prize. Work the system. Sacrifice some guppies to get to the whales.

STONE

Justify it however you want. It's still shady.

KOVACS

I'm not looking for approval. I'm trying to help solve a murder. You still want to do that, right?

Stone nods, not happy. They turn back to a smirky Vita-

VITA

So, you two doing it yet?

What? No.

Stone

Kovacs

Yeah, it's not like that.

VITA (CONT'D)

Shit. Just get it over with. Make things a whole lot easier on everyone.

Stone's mortified. Kovacs quickly deflects--

KOVACS

So about that kid... You seen him?

VITA

Started coming in a couple months ago looking for Deca.

KOVACS

Deca? Stuff's hardcore.

VITA

Said he was having problems with his knee. Needed it to power through the season.

VITA (CONT'D)

But Deca ain't cheap. And the kid had cash flow issues.

(MORE)

VITA (CONT'D)

Begged me to front him. Said he had a line on some money.

STONE

From his interview with Russo. When was the last time you saw him?

VITA

Came in to settle up his tab a few days ago.

STONE

He didn't score?

VITA

(shakes her head)

Said he was cleaning up. That someone had set him straight.

Kovacs and Stone look at one another, interesting.

INT. NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY - CAMPUS SECURITY - DAY

A nervous Sid now sits across from Cooper looking at the photo of himself in the alley.

SID

It's part of my security route...

COOPER

Sure. When you're on duty. But according to your time card, you were off that night.

SID

What can I say? I like to go above and beyond the call of duty.

Cooper looks down, notices Sid's WORK BOOTS.

COOPER

Nice boots. What are those about a thirteen? Probably have those Vibram soles too...

Sid shifts, uncomfortable, back against the wall... Finally--

SID

Yeah, okay so sometimes I hang out around there.

COOPER

In the alley? Why?

SID  
 (sheepish)  
 Enjoying the view...

COOPER  
 Of the common room? Sid, you pervy  
 peeping Tom.

SID  
 More like a voyeur...

COOPER  
 Tomato/tomahto, dude. So, what did  
 you see that night?

SID  
 Not much. Evans came downstairs,  
 started icing his knee. Looked  
 like he was in a world of pain.

COOPER  
 He was injured?

SID  
 Kept checking his watch too.

COOPER  
 Like he was waiting for someone.

SID  
 After a while some lady started  
 screaming at me.

COOPER  
 So you jumped in your van and took  
 off?

SID  
 Van? I drive a Camry.

COOPER  
 So who's van is that?

Sid shrugs, beat's me. Off Cooper, huh--

INT. STATION - BULLPEN - DAY

Stone works at her desk, gets a PHOTO-TEXT on her phone from  
 Kurt the Fire-Hottie sitting on top of a fire engine waving.  
 INSERT TEXT: See you tomorrow night. She smiles, then--

COOPER (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
 You know, sexting and sleuthing can  
 be highly hazardous...

Stone looks up, smiles--

STONE  
You're just jealous.

Cooper holds up her pointer finger and thumb, a little...

COOPER  
So how'd it go with *Koh-vacs*...

STONE  
Other than actually *being* with him?  
Not bad. Found out golden boy  
wasn't so golden after all...

COOPER  
Evans was using?

STONE  
Team doctor confirmed he failed a  
urine test. Said Coach Seaver told  
him to blow it off.

COOPER  
Wanted that title. And how else  
could Jeremy get it for him with a  
bum knee?  
(off Stone)  
Deputy Dork saw Evans icing it when  
he was spying from the alley.

STONE  
Sid's a peeping tom?

COOPER  
Voyeur. But not a murder suspect.  
His mom vouched for him. And she's  
in Schaumburg. Which puts Sid in  
his car at the time of the assault.

STONE  
So our footprint means jack.

COOPER  
And with Sid's fat ass blocking the  
plate on that white van, we've got  
zip.

STONE  
But we know Evans was injured.  
And he was willing to risk  
everything to keep playing.

COOPER

Lot of people counting on this kid  
to go the distance.

STONE

But Vita said Evans was strapped  
for cash.

COOPER

Which is why he offered Russo that  
exclusive. To keep feeding the  
monster.

STONE

Except Evans suddenly decided to  
clean up.

COOPER

What, he saw Jesus in his protein  
shake or something?

STONE

Said somebody set him straight.

COOPER

(realizing)  
Or *schooled* him...

Off the girls-- Maya.

INT. NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY - DORM ROOM - DAY

Cooper and Stone talk to Maya in her dorm room.

MAYA

I told you I hadn't seen Jeremy  
since we broke up.

STONE

That's what we want to talk to you  
about... The break up got kind of  
ugly didn't it?

MAYA

Are they ever *pretty*?  
(off the girls)  
Yeah, okay. I was upset.

COOPER

But it was about more than long  
distance, wasn't it?

STONE

You knew Jeremy was using steroids,  
didn't you Maya?

Maya is silent, unsure what to say--

COOPER

It's okay, no one's blaming you.

MAYA

(comes clean)

I walked in on him. He was holding  
this huge needle. And I just...  
freaked out.

FLASHBACK TO:

INT. DELTA CHI HOUSE - JEREMY'S ROOM - NIGHT

Jeremy is preparing to inject himself, when Maya walks in--

JEREMY

Get out of here!

MAYA

Oh my god, Jer--

MAYA

Is this what you have to do to play  
in the Pac-Ten? Shoot drugs?

JEREMY

It's just for a little while. 'Til  
I can rehab my knee post-season.

MAYA

You could seriously compromise your  
health.

JEREMY

What choice do I have? Everyone's  
counting on me. Expecting me to  
perform.

MAYA

I'm not...

JEREMY

C'mon, you love it as much as they  
do. Dating the big football star?

MAYA

Is that what you think?

JEREMY

I don't know what to think anymore.

MAYA

Yeah, well, maybe that's the problem. And for the record? I never loved Jeremy Evans the football-god. I loved the guy without the helmet and pads. The one with the god-awful singing voice who ate Cap'n Crunch for dinner and wrote me amazing letters for no reason. That's the Jeremy Evans I loved. But clearly he's gone now...

JEREMY

Maya--

MAYA

No. It's too hard. Don't come over. Don't call...

As Maya leaves in tears, we RESUME SCENE:

MAYA (CONT'D)

That was the last time I saw him.

COOPER

He didn't try to contact you?

MAYA

Not that I know of... Changed my number. Figured it might be time to finally get an I-phone.

STONE

Kind of extreme.

MAYA

It was a done deal. He was going to USC. Everyone was talking about it. It would've been too painful to try to work it out. Not that Jeremy wanted to. I mean, my god, he was already hooking up with someone else.

COOPER

We don't know that for sure.

MAYA

Does it even matter now?

The girls are at a loss, no good answer for that one.

EXT. NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY - NIGHT

The girls leave the dorm, head across the quad, quiet, then--



## ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

INT. NORTHSIDE PRECINCT - BULLPEN - DAY 3

Kyle Russo sits across from the girls--

STONE

And you're sure you're the only one  
who knew Jeremy was going to Ohio?

KYLE

That's what he told me. But  
obviously, as a journalist, I had  
to confirm it.

COOPER

A *journalist*?

STONE

Who did you talk to?

KYLE (CONT'D)

Scouts from Ohio State and 'SC.  
Trojans recruiter didn't believe me  
at first. Told him Evans showed me  
the contract.

COOPER

And no one else saw the interview?

KYLE

(shakes head)

Evans made me sit on it for a  
couple days. Part of our  
agreement. Said he needed to tell  
someone in person first.

The girls look at one another, interesting--

INT. EVANS HOME - KITCHEN - NIGHT

The girls sit at the kitchen table with Ken and Joanne Evans,  
a LAPTOP open on the table. Jeremy's interview with Kyle has  
just finished. Ken shakes his head in disbelief--

KEN

I don't understand. We'd decided  
on 'SC...

STONE

Jeremy had a change of heart.  
Decided to go to Ohio State.

KEN  
Because of Maya?

COOPER  
We don't know for sure.

JOANNE  
He didn't tell Bob Walker, did he?

STONE  
The USC scout?  
(off Joanne, yes)  
No.

She looks relieved, then--

COOPER  
But Kyle Russo did when he called  
to confirm the story.

JOANNE  
Oh, god...

KEN  
Honey, what is it?

JOANNE  
I think I made a terrible mistake--

STONE  
What do you mean?

JOANNE  
I was just trying to look out for  
him...

And off a distraught Joanne, we... FLASHBACK TO:

INT. EVANS HOME - KITCHEN - DAY - TEN DAYS AGO

The same scene as earlier, Jeremy sits at the table with Ken.  
Joanne does dishes in the background--

KEN  
Let's crack open some beers...

JEREMY  
I got 'em--

Jeremy pops up from the table falters, face visibly wincing.  
He sits back down. Ken comes around to him--

KEN  
You okay, bud?

JEREMY

Knee's just been acting up a little. No biggie.

KEN

Jo, grab an ice pack.

Ken lifts Jeremy's pant leg, sees his knee cap is huge, black and blue. Joanne gasps--

JOANNE

Oh, honey--

JEREMY

Looks a lot worse than it is.

KEN (CONT'D)

Coach know about this?

JEREMY

(nods)

Doctor's been treating it with cortisone. Helps a ton. Really.

KEN

You gonna be able power through?

JEREMY

Have to... Right?

Ken nods, concerned. Off Joanne, visibly upset, we... RESUME  
PRESENT: Ken sits there dumbfounded as Joanne reels.

JOANNE

He was hurt. And no one was doing anything about it.

KEN

He said he could manage.

JOANNE

What else could he say? All those people counting on him? Expecting him to perform? Jeremy couldn't bear the idea of disappointing anyone. Especially you...

KEN

Never forced that kid to do anything--

JOANNE

Never gave him a break, either. It was always train harder, dream bigger...

KEN

Isn't that a parent's job? To support our kids. Encourage them?

JOANNE

And what about protecting them? Jeremy gave his body and soul to that game. For the better part of his life. And for what? Tuition and a dorm room?

KEN

A shot at the pros.

JOANNE

And what if his knee gave out before he made it? Where would that leave a twenty year-old boy who's barely had a chance to declare a major, let alone cultivate any life skills. Jeremy deserved some insurance...

STONE

So you brokered a pay for play deal...

JOANNE

Jeremy was already set on USC. I just went back and bluffed a little. Met Bob at the hotel, told him we were on the fence. Got him nervous enough to pay up.

COOPER

Except that Jeremy was on the fence...

KEN

How much...  
(angry)  
How much, Joanne?

JOANNE

Fifty thousand.

KEN

Jesus Christ...

JOANNE

I was trying to look out for him. I just wanted to make sure he'd be okay...

As Joanne breaks down, the girls exchange somber looks--

INT. COURTYARD MARIOTT - LOBBY - DAY

Cooper and Stone talk to the HOTEL MANAGER, 45.

MANAGER

Here he is. Walker, Robert.  
Checked out two days ago.

STONE

Did he leave any contact  
information?

MANAGER

Just a cell phone.

The Manager scribbles the number down, hands it to them.

COOPER

Thanks.

The girls turn, head through the lobby to the EXIT--

STONE

So Joanne makes a deal with Walker  
to secure Jeremy for cash.  
Walker's probably looking at double  
that in delivery bonuses. Pretty  
good investment. 'Til Russo calls  
and tells Walker he's just lost his  
top recruit. Guy's furious...

COOPER

Furious enough to ankle-whack a  
player?

STONE

Just shelled out fifty G's. And  
it's not like he can go to the  
cops. Payoffs are totally illegal.

COOPER

Still... hard to believe a  
professional scout pulls a stunt  
like that on his own.

STONE

Maybe he used his recruiting  
skills...

Stone gestures to a WHITE VAN that's just pulled up to the  
entrance, a HUGE DENT on the fender. Off the girls--

EXT. COURTYARD MARIOTT - DAY

A handful of passengers file off. After a beat, a scruffy stoner SHUTTLE DRIVER, 24, with the name tag TIM ambles off to find Cooper and Stone--

TIM

Next shuttle's in five.

COOPER

Think we'll be doing the driving today, Tim.

The girls flash their BADGES. Tim processes for a beat, then BOLTS. Off Cooper and Stone exchanging looks, *seriously?*

EXT. BEST WESTERN PARKING LOT - DAY

Tim hoofs it across the parking lot, scrambling between a row of parked cars. Stone chases after him, then HEARS--

COOPER (O.S.)

C'mon, don't let that slacker beat you, Stone!

Stone looks over, sees Cooper driving the van next to her--

STONE

What, wrong shoes?

Before Cooper can respond, Tim hurls himself across the HOOD of a car, only to find a CEMENT WALL. He jumps for it--

COOPER

He's going over the wall!

As Tim struggles to pull himself up, Stone arrives and YANKS his leg. Cooper screeches to a halt, rushes over, GRABS Tim's other leg. As Tim futilely tries to shake them off--

COOPER (CONT'D)

Regretting that second bong hit right about now, huh, Tim?

The girls give it one more good TUG. Tim comes TOPPLING DOWN, looks up at Cooper and Stone, dazed and confused--

TIM

You guys are really cops?

And off Cooper and Stone, breathless, nodding, we...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT FOUR

## ACT FIVE

FADE IN:

INT. NORTHSIDE PRECINCT - HALLWAY - NIGHT

Cooper and Stone cruise down the hall, connect with Mazzara--

MAZZARA

Driver's in room one. Scout just got here from Milwaukee. Got him in two.

COOPER

Milwaukee?

MAZZARA

Apparently, he's got family there. Thought he'd make it a working vacation.

STONE

Well the fun part of the trip's definitely over.

And with that, the girls split up, head into different rooms.

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM TWO - DAY

Stone's comes down on stocky, average looking BOB WALKER, 38--

WALKER

Yeah, real sad story what happened to Evans.

STONE

The part where he decided not to sign with you or the one where you bashed his ankles in for it?

WALKER

Woa. That's a big leap there, detective.

(off Stone, is it?)

Sure, I was disappointed. Evans would've been a huge get for the Trojans. But what can you do? Kid changed his mind. Just the nature of the game.

STONE

And paying a player fifty grand? That the nature of the game too?

Off Walker, silent, didn't think that one was out of the bag--

WALKER

Okay, fine. I sweetened the pot a little. Not the first recruiter to skirt the rules. But I'm a big boy. Made my own bed. And I was ready to sleep in it... 'Til that yokel driver started flapping his trap...

Off Stone, assessing Walker's story, we INTERCUT WITH:

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM TWO - DAY

Where Cooper grills a squirmy Tim--

TIM

Met him at the hotel bar. Cat's hammered. Pounding back the Glen Livet. Asked to bum a cigarette. Said I didn't smoke nicotine--

WALKER

...Convinces me to smoke some weed with him out in the van. Take the edge off--

TIM

...So we're blazin' up and he's telling me this sob story about losing his best recruit. Ponied up a bunch of cash and the kid bails on him at the eleventh hour--

WALKER

...I was just venting, you know? Didn't even think he was listening--

TIM

...And I tell him, hellz yeah I'd be pissed. Fact, I'd go give the little weasel a piece of my mind--

WALKER

...Thought we were going to 7-11, grab a pack of smokes. Next thing I know, we're on campus--

TIM

...Frat House is a zoo. Tried the front door, but a couple of meatheads totally neg us--

WALKER

...This point, I'm ready to call it a night. Head back to the alley where the van's parked--

TIM

...Spot the punk sleeping through the window. I mean, talk about dumb luck--

WALKER

...Told him to just leave it alone. But this idiot's high as a kite on dope, god knows what else. Starts pounding on the door--

SPLIT SCREEN:

TIM

Kid opens right up--

WALKER

Like he's expecting us...

And off Cooper and Stone, processing, we... FLASHBACK TO:

INT. DELTA CHI HOUSE - BASEMENT COMMON ROOM - NIGHT

Jeremy opens the door, groggy, sees Tim, confused--

TIM

Evans, right?

(off Jeremy, nodding)

Think you owe my friend here an explanation--

Tim steps aside to reveal a wasted drunk, Bob Walker.

JEREMY

Mr. Walker.

WALKER

Heard about your change in plans.

JEREMY

How did you--

TIM

Does it even matter, bro? Promise is a promise.

JEREMY

Who the hell are you?

TIM

Concerned citizen.

WALKER  
Jeremy just consider all the  
benefits of USC...

JEREMY  
Look, I'm sorry, Mr. Walker. But,  
my decision's made--

TIM  
Owe him more than just an apology,  
holmes--

JEREMY  
What are you talking about?

TIM  
Stop dicking around, man. Just  
give him back the cash--

JEREMY  
You're freakin', dude. I'm out.

Jeremy turns and heads towards the stairs--

WALKER  
Let's just leave--

TIM  
No, man. That's bullshit...

Tim suddenly RUSHES Jeremy from behind. As he goes down,  
we... RESUME INTERCUTS:

WALKER  
Before I know what's happening, Tim  
whips out a Tire Iron--

COOPER  
...And that's when you pulled the  
Tonya Harding?

TIM  
Tonya who?

WALKER  
...Starts going for Evans legs.  
Had to pull him off.

TIM  
...No way. Wasn't me who  
annihilated the kid's legs. That  
was all Bobby.

INT. NORTHSIDE PRECINCT - HALLWAY - NIGHT

Cooper and Stone reconnect in the hall--

STONE  
Stories match up perfectly--

COOPER  
'Cept Tim says Walker did the deed.

STONE  
And Walker says it was Tim.

COOPER  
Sure wish we had that Tire Iron...

They exchange looks, then turn and head back into their respective rooms and we... RESUME INTERCUTS:

COOPER (CONT'D)  
Good news, Tim. Located the tire iron right where you said it'd be.

TIM  
Can search Lake Michigan that fast?

COOPER  
(nodding)  
Dontcha just love technology?

STONE  
You were right about Tim, Bob--  
(Walker's relieved, then-)  
Guy *is* a yokel. Left that tire iron in the back of the van. Scanning it for prints as we speak. Good thing yours aren't on it, huh?

Off Walker, dead silent. As Stone turns to leave--

WALKER  
Detective...

Off Stone turning back, we FLASHBACK TO:

INT. DELTA CHI - BASEMENT - NIGHT

We REPLAY Tim RUSHING Jeremy from behind. This time as Tim hurls himself at Evans, a TIRE IRON falls from his coat. Without thinking, Walker GRABS it, goes for Jeremy's ankles--

WALKER	TIM
See how Ohio likes them apples...	Easy, man!

And as Walker completely loses his shit, we RESUME PRESENT:

WALKER

Just wanted to teach him a lesson... Never meant for him to die.

INT. NORTHSIDE PRECINCT - HALLWAY - NIGHT

Cooper and Stone watch as Walker gets taken off in cuffs. Anderson walks up--

ANDERSON

DA's working up an indictment for Walker on manslaughter. Driver'll be an accessory.

COOPER

Well, Joanne Evans can certainly walk them through motive...

STONE

And with two confessions, we got method pretty well locked up. Case is pretty much in the bag.

COOPER

Only thing we don't know is why Jeremy was down in that basement.

ANDERSON

Can't bat a thousand every time. Regardless, it was a job well done. More than earned you the right to call it a day.

COOPER

I'm down with that.

STONE

Me too.

As Anderson walks off, Cooper's phone buzzes, she looks down.  
INSERT TEXT: MOM: "Don't forget to spell check your essay!"

COOPER

Give it a rest, Em.

STONE

Law School?

COOPER

Sometimes I just wish they'd lose my number...

A beat. The girls look at one another-- light bulb.

STONE COOPER  
 I got the phone company-- I'll track down Maya.  
 As they spring into action, we PRE LAP...

JEREMY (O.S.)  
 Babe, it's me. I thought a lot  
 about what you said. And you're  
 right, this isn't me. The 'roids,  
 'SC, everything... I mean, it is  
 me. But, not me at my best.  
 Because I'm never my best without  
 you...

INT. NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY - DORM ROOM - NIGHT

As Maya sits on her bed with Cooper and Stone listening to  
 Jeremy's last message on speakerphone--

JEREMY (O.S.)  
 So, I made a new plan. One that's  
 good for both of us. And I can't  
 wait to tell you about it. In  
 person. So meet me at the house at  
 eleven. Front door's gonna be a  
 mess with the party. Come through  
 the back. I love you...

RESUME SCENE:

Maya looks up at Cooper and Stone, tears in her eyes--

MAYA  
 He was waiting for *me*...

COOPER  
 To tell you about Ohio.

MAYA  
 Just a few hours drive from here...

Maya processes the bitter-sweetness of it all, then HEARS--

JEREMY (O.S.)  
 Oh and babe? There's another part  
 of that song by the way. So pardon  
 my *god-awful* singing...  
 (sings, ala Mick--)  
 But if you try sometimes... you  
 just might find... you get what you  
 need...

And as Jeremy goes off on a truly god-awful version of the



COOPER

Seriously. I could top that on my worst day in the shower.

(belts it out)

I saw her today at a reception.  
Glass of wine in her hand...

Stone winces, holds up her palm for Coop to stop--

STONE

Sorry to break it to you, Coop.  
But you're no solo artist...

COOPER

Well, then I guess it's lucky for me I found the perfect partner...

The girls smile, clink glasses, a moment, interrupted by--

KOVACS (O.S.)

What is this, Sex and the City?

They turn to see Kovacs and his cocky-ass grin, beer in hand--

STONE

Why, you want us to order you a Cosmo?

KOVACS

Think I'm good with my Red Stripe.

A loaded beat as Kovacs and Stone look at one another, then--

COOPER

So, I gotta go... pee.

Cooper takes off. Kovacs turns to Stone--

KOVACS

Heard about the case. Congrats.

STONE

You too. Survived your first week on the Northside.

KOVACS

Wasn't so bad. 'Cept for the fact that I can't find a decent polish dog 'round here.

STONE

Might be a few places. If you're in the know.

KOVACS  
Feel like sharing?

STONE  
Gotta earn that information.

KOVACS  
Still don't go easy on anyone, do you?

STONE  
Nope...

A moment between them, intimate and charged. Then--

KOVACS  
Listen, Ange-- that night after graduation? At Scotty's party--

And just as we think we might get some insight--

KELLY (O.S.)  
Dan?

They turn to see pretty, soft-spoken, KELLY, 23.

KOVACS  
Hey. You're early...

A long, awkward pause. Kelly finally looks over at Stone--

KELLY  
Hi. I'm Kelly. Dan's girlfriend.

Stone quickly puts on a smile, reaches out her hand--

STONE  
Right. Of course. I'm Angela.

KOVACS  
Ange works homicide.

KELLY  
Neat.

Another uncomfortable beat, then--

KOVACS  
Should probably introduce you to the rest of the group...

KELLY  
Great. Nice to meet you, Angela.

Stone smiles. As they head off, the smile disappears. Cooper walks back up--

