

Cooper & Stone

Pilot

by
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Pilot
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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?
(distraught)
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--

