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"LAW & ORDER:
SPECIAL VICTIMS UNIT"

"MISLEADER"

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Prod. #E0902

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"MISLEADER"

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LAW & ORDER:SPECIAL VICTIMS UNIT"MISLEADER"CAST

DET. OLIVIA BENSON	DR. BEN HADLEY	(X)
DET. ELLIOT STABLER	SHARON HADLEY	(X)
CAPT. DONALD CRAGEN	OWENS	
DET. JOHN MUNCH	BRAD WEBER	
DET. BRIAN CASSIDY	WEBER'S LAWYER	
DET. MONIQUE JEFFRIES	BEN HADLEY, JR.	(X)
DET. KEN BRISCOE	LANA HOFFMAN	
	MARK GUNTHER	
ASST. D.A. ABBIE CARMICHAEL**	JOHN FENWICK	
M.E. RODGERS**	FENWICK'S LAWYER	
MAID	MAID #2	
MANAGER	ROOM SERVICE MANAGER	
OFFICER SANDERS	TONY	
BRYCE	BARTENDER	
M.E.	WILLIAMS	
	BEN JUNIOR'S LAWYER	(X)

"LAW & ORDER:

SPECIAL VICTIMS UNIT"

"MISLEADER"

SETS

INTERIORS:

PRECINCT
SQUADROOM
CRAGEN'S OFFICE
INTERROGATION ROOM
INTERVIEW ROOM
OBSERVATION ROOM
MEDICAL EXAMINER'S LAB
VERSAILLES
HALLWAY
SYLVIA'S HOTEL ROOM
HADLEYS' HOTEL ROOM (X)
SECURITY OFFICE
HOTEL BAR (X)
MONDREGAN WEBER INVESTMENTS
31ST PRECINCT (X)
TRENDY COOL HOTEL
STAIRWELL
ROOM SERVICE OFFICE
MEMORIAL HALL

EXTERIORS:

NYU FACULTY MEWS
VERSAILLES HOTEL
SUSSEX COURTYARD
TRENDY COOL HOTEL

"LAW & ORDER
SPECIAL VICTIMS UNIT"

MISLEADER

TEASER

FADE IN

1 INT. VERSAILLES - HALLWAY: 9:00AM

1

The hallway is plush in a Marriott-cookie-cutter sort of way. A uniformed Puerto Rican maid, looking older than her 40 years, parks her plastic utility cart at a door.

MAID
(knocking)
Housekeeping!

Receiving no answer, she enters. The room is dark grey, shades drawn against the daylight. She flips the switch and starts into the room. It's a luxury suite, but it's a mess. She picks up a blouse, looks at the bed, and suddenly straightens holding her heart.

MAID
Oh! Please excuse me.
(then)
Missus?

An attractive blonde woman is lying in the middle of her bed, under covers and bedspread, staring at the ceiling.

As the maid moves in for closer inspection, we see her reaction as she confirms the woman is dead. She crosses herself as she backs towards the door.

MAID
Dios mio...Madre de dios...Que paso
aqui?!

2 INT. VERSAILLES - HALLWAY - DAY

2

A polite tone as Benson and Stabler step out of the elevator and walk briskly down the hall, met and flanked by Officer Sanders, a young and ambitious beat cop.

CONTINUED

2 CONTINUED

2

BENSON

(badging)

Benson and Stabler, S.V.U.

SANDERS

Sanders. Two-seven. We've got an apparent homicide -- female. Mid-thirties, found in bed with her nightie pushed up.

BENSON

Okay -- got it. Name?

SANDERS

Sylvia Hadley. Manager says she's part of a group reservation from Baltimore.

BENSON

What group?

SANDERS

(looks at notes)

Midvale College.

Outside the room a frustrated, yet contained, day manager fends off two curious guests. Stabler examines the door of the room.

STABLER

No forced entry.

SANDERS

(knows where he's going)

She's the only one registered for the room.

BENSON

Maybe she let her attacker in.

The Manager, successful with the guests, turns his attention on our team.

MANAGER

Excuse me, Officers? How long...

BENSON & STABLER

(unison)

As long as it takes.

They step into...

3 INT. SYLVIA HADLEY'S HOTEL ROOM - CONTINUOUS

3

A photographer is snapping pictures of tossed drawers and strewn items. CSU Tech Bryce is bent over, dusting prints on the safe in the closet. His expression is grim. Both detectives snap on latex gloves.

BRYCE

These hotel cases suck.

He jerks his chin over toward another tech.

BRYCE

Mark over there is lifting his fifteenth print and we're just getting started.

STABLER

Looks like the room's been tossed.

BRYCE

Nothing in the safe, nothing of value anywhere else.

BENSON

(rifling through
purse)

No money...No jewelry. I usually keep a pair of earrings in my purse at least.

STABLER

Like you carry a purse?

BENSON

That's 'cuz you carry it for me.

They go over to the M.E., who's working the body.

STABLER

(to M.E.)

These marks on her neck, asphyxiation?

M.E.

(approaching,
affirmative)

Her larynx is crushed.

BENSON

Time of death?

CONTINUED

3 CONTINUED

3

M.E.

Body's in full rigor -- approximately
twelve to eighteen hours ago.

STABLER

Between four and ten p.m.

M.E. lifts up the bedspread and covers from Sylvia's
shoulders.

STABLER

Arms crossed, minor personalization.

BENSON

A burglar/rapist with a conscience?
(to Bryce)
You done a UV light pass for bodily
fluids?

BRYCE

Not yet, but if we find anything, it
will have to be on the sheets or on
her. They never wash these bedspreads.

Stabler picks up the UV light device and turns it on.

BENSON

Don't.

Stabler runs the light over the bedspread. Both detectives
cringe.

STABLER

Next time I'm staying at Kampgrounds
of America.

FADE OUT

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN

4 INT. SVU SQUADROOM - DAY

4

We open on Munch and Jeffries, at their desks typing reports.

JEFFRIES

Munch? What's it like being a member of the undead?

BENSON

(re: Munch and Jeffries)

Frick and Frack.

STABLER

Alfonse and Gaston.

MUNCH

(sour)

The Bobbsey Twins...

JEFFRIES

You know how it is. You spend enough time with someone, they will eventually corrupt you.

MUNCH

Sure, it's one of the major historical forces which drag great people towards the lowest common denominator.

BENSON

With you around, we're all doomed.

Cragen enters the squad, gingerly rubbing a kink out of the back of his neck.

CRAGEN

And one more case won't make a difference. So?

Ken Briscoe hands out crime scene photos to all.

BRISCOE

Death -- probably by strangulation -- early last night. Reads like a robbery/rape/homicide.

CONTINUED

4 CONTINUED

4

BENSON

But we have no signs of forced entry.

STABLER

And if she fought back, it wasn't for long.

JEFFRIES

Could've been frozen fright.

MUNCH

And she could have let the guy in. Am I the only one on the planet who actually uses the peephole.

JEFFRIES

Good thing they only work one way.

CRAGEN

(re: file)

The staging bothers me -- arms crossed, post-mortem personalization.

JEFFRIES

Looks like regret, not anger.

CRAGEN

From someone who knew her.

JEFFRIES

Not necessarily -- stalkers show regret.

CRAGEN

I'm just trying to narrow it down.

BENSON

Good luck -- that room has so many fingerprints and DNA samples it's frightening.

MUNCH

The detritus of hotel adventurism. You never know what you're getting into. That's why I have a summer-weight sleeping bag specifically for hotel travel.

No one is in the least bit surprised that Munch does this.

STABLER

We're doing exclusionary prints and DNA tests on all the staff now.

CONTINUED

4 CONTINUED (2)

4

CRAGEN

Group reservation. Who was she in town with?

BENSON

Just two rooms. Her father-in-law, Dr. Hadley, his wife. They run a small college in Baltimore called Midvale.

MUNCH

(recognition)

You're kidding -- that was a podunk nothing, then suddenly a 'think tank' of the neo-conservative movement.

BENSON

Although that's an oxymoron.

MUNCH

Family values, other euphemisms for smug sanctimony...study the dead white men, freedom from government.

BENSON

Her husband's been notified -- he's catching a flight from Baltimore.

CRAGEN

I'll have some plainclothes pick him up. How's the family?

BENSON

Pretty upset. We need to go back for more questions.

CRAGEN

Be gentle -- I can smell the politics on this one already.

BRISCOE

Good Christian girl sacrificed in Sodom and Gomorra?

CRAGEN

(nodding)

I figure we've got about twelve hours before this becomes another reason not to visit New York.

CUT TO

5 INT. MEDICAL EXAMINERS LAB - DAY

5

Munch and Jeffries enter the office. **M.E. Rodgers** is standing, unaffected by the sterile blue light and the two bodies flanking her.

MUNCH

What ever happened to you renting me a drawer? I've got to have it for next summer. It's so nice and cool down here.

RODGERS

(not looking up)

You again.

MUNCH

You get a chance to take a quick look at Sylvia Hadley?

RODGERS

Confirmed cause of death, manual strangulation -- no cloth-like abrasions, no leather cuts.

JEFFRIES

What about time of death?

RODGERS

I can narrow it down to between six-thirty and nine last night.

MUNCH

DNA?

RODGERS

Rape kit came up positive for semen, sheets were positive for bodily fluids as well. It's a good sample.

CUT TO

6 INT. DR. & MRS. HADLEY'S HOTEL ROOM - DAY

6

Dr. Hadley, a man in his mid-fifties. Six-four, he's athletically built and cuts an imposing figure, despite the stress which shows on his face. His wife, Sharon, is seated next to him.

BENSON

We've sent some plainclothes officers to pick up your son at the airport.

CONTINUED

6 CONTINUED

6

DR. HADLEY

That's very nice of you. This is
so...

He looks away.

STABLER

We know. We're very sorry for your
loss.

BENSON

Do you know anything about where
Sylvia went yesterday, whom she might
have met?

DR. HADLEY

(shaking head)

We had an awards dinner for the
Christian Educators Coalition. Sylvia
was supposed to go, but she said she'd
just skip the mixer. I assumed she
was tired from walking, and, you
know...this is a hard city.

BENSON

Specifically -- did she have any
meetings?

DR. HADLEY

She had a morning meeting and said she
might hit the museums and do some
shopping.

SHARON

She seemed tired. We thought she'd
fallen asleep. She's been working
hard lately.

DR. HADLEY

(to Sharon)

She and Brad -- they've been burning
the midnight oil on the annual report.

BENSON

Brad...?

DR. HADLEY

Weber -- our financial guy -- invests
the endowment funds. He's staying
here as well.

CONTINUED

6 CONTINUED (2)

6

BENSON

We'll need to talk to him.

DR. HADLEY

His firm has a New York office --
Mondregan Weber Investments.

STABLER

Did Sylvia wear expensive jewelry, or
carry anything valuable?

SHARON

Just her computer. She was attractive
-- not extravagant.

STABLER

Do you know anyone who has a personal
grievance against her?

DR. HADLEY

No. Her life was an open book.

Benson and Stabler exchange a look.

DR. HADLEY

Is that so hard to believe? I'm sure
you become cynical in your line of
work, but...

STABLER

We need to look at every possible
motive.

DR. HADLEY

A drug addict or a rapist broke into
her room -- how about lack of personal
responsibility as a motive? Or
atheistic hedonism?

SHARON

(soothing)

Ben...

DR. HADLEY

I'm sorry. This is just --
Baltimore's bad enough but we've
always feared New York...

BENSON

It happens everywhere.

CONTINUED

6 CONTINUED (3)

6

DR. HADLEY

(frustrated)

It's just sad that you can't visit
here without having to look over your
shoulder for some crazy person with a
brick or a box cutter.

(retracting)

I'm sorry, she was a good woman.

Benson and Stabler acknowledge his frustration.

7 INT. HOTEL SECURITY OFFICE - DAY

7

A chart drawer is pulled open. Adept yet rough fingers peel
through floor plans and pull out a sheet.

Security Chief Owens spreads the charts out on a table. Mid
50's, he's competent and earnest.

STABLER

What do the guest cameras cover?

OWENS

The entrance, the front desk, the
elevator bays...the employee cams
cover cash sensitive areas.

STABLER

Would employee cams catch anything the
guest cams would miss?

OWENS

The coverage doesn't overlap. The
angles are different.

BENSON

You don't have cameras in the
hallways?

OWENS

(slight irony)

Management thinks there's a fine line
between protecting the guests and
invading their privacy. Not to
mention the cost -- you'd need cameras
everywhere.

BENSON

How do you fill in the gaps?

CONTINUED

7 CONTINUED

7

OWENS

The staff and the guards weed out the crazies and loiterers, and our electronic locks are logged to show every time a door opens -- staff card or guest card.

STABLER

Yeah, but your staff and guards can be avoided.

OWENS

That's what the high-tech locks are for.

BENSON

Can you show us Sylvia Hadley's log for last night?

Owens offers a stapled set of pages.

OWENS

I printed out all the activity on Mrs. Hadley's room, including room service.

STABLER

We'll also need all of the video footage you've got since the day the Hadley's arrived.

Owens looks at the floor.

OWENS

You can have it, but it's not time stamped. Some glitch where it shows on the screens but didn't record on the tape.

STABLER

We'll take it anyway. What about the staff?

OWENS

Well, you guys are screening them, but you won't get a hit. We do more background checks than the FBI.

Benson and Stabler look at the printout.

BENSON

You know anything about other burglars, other hotels?

CONTINUED

7 CONTINUED (2)

7

OWENS

I've got a friend over at the Baxter Arms, they got hit. The guest was gone, no forced entry, no log of entry.

Off Benson and Stabler's reaction.

8 EXT. VERSAILLES HOTEL - DAY

8

Benson and Stabler walk for their car, which is parked where only cops can. They are accompanied by a Bellboy who's carrying a large cardboard box. Benson is looking at the printouts while Stabler opens the trunk.

The box is put in the trunk and Stabler moves to the driver's side.-- lost.

BENSON

(studying printout)

According to this, the maid cleans the room at nine twenty five a.m.

They get in.

STABLER

Any room service?

BENSON

Yeah -- lots. Thursday to Friday, none during the crucial period on Sunday.

Benson hands the pages to Stabler

STABLER

So Sylvia gets in at quarter of five -- our guy could have already been there.

BENSON

And he could have left at any time -- late when no one would see him.

Stabler thinks, then drops the car in gear.

CUT TO

9 INT. MONDREGAN WEBER INVESTMENTS - DAY

9

Benson and Stabler are with Brad Weber. Nice guy, straight shooter. Small, functional office.

BRAD WEBER

I live in Baltimore, but I'm in New York often enough to need an office. Vice versa for my partner Jack Mondregan.

STABLER

You met Sylvia Hadley Sunday morning?

BRAD WEBER

Yes, we had a meeting -- there was supposed to be a report to the trustees today.

BENSON

What did you do after the meeting?

BRAD WEBER

Came to the office, worked late. Puttered around Fifth Avenue, grabbed dinner and went back to the hotel.

BENSON

What time was that?

BRAD WEBER

About nine. Am I a suspect?

BENSON

This early in the investigation, everybody's a suspect.

STABLER

Did anybody see you leave the office?

BRAD WEBER

No one was here. I don't know about the front door. They're usually asleep down there. This isn't a great building.

STABLER

When you got back to the hotel, what did you do.

BRAD WEBER

Went to my room, made some calls and crashed.

(MORE)

CONTINUED

9 CONTINUED

9

BRAD WEBER (CONT'D)

I was pretty tired. Today was supposed to be a big day. I hope you catch the guy who did this.

CUT TO

10 INT. SVU SQUADROOM - EVENING

10

We open on Munch with his sensitive side showing, over the shoulder of a man he is interviewing at his desk. Jeffries sits perched on Munch's desk listening attentively.

MUNCH

Do you have any kids, Mr. Hadley?

Ben Hadley Jr. is the spitting image of his father except you'd miss the connection -- smaller build, bookish look, and cowed, passive posture.

BEN HADLEY JR.

No.

(dark relief)

I don't know how I would have explained this to them.

MUNCH

I know it's a difficult question, but were you and your wife having any problems?

Ben, looking at the floor, runs his fingers through his hair.

BEN HADLEY JR.

My wife was not having an affair.

MUNCH

That's not necessarily what we meant.

JEFFRIES

Were you in any kind of financial trouble...trouble with colleagues, co-workers?

BEN HADLEY JR.

No. Do you have to put our private life under the microscope? This isn't about my wife. This was one of your New York psychos roaming the streets.

(beat)

Only it's not P.C. to do anything about them.

CONTINUED

10 CONTINUED

10

JEFFRIES

We'll be as considerate as we can,
but...

(ameliorating)

We understand your frustration and
we're doing everything we can.

Benson and Stabler enter the squadroom. Stabler is carrying
the large box of tapes and he sets it on Briscoe's desk.

MUNCH

(hoping they have
something)

These are Detectives Benson and
Stabler -- they're heading your case.

BENSON

We're sorry for your loss, Mr. Hadley.

BEN HADLEY JR.

How is it going so far?

BENSON

(lying)

We have a few strong leads we're
chasing down now.

Ben Hadley Jr. rubs his forehead. Ken Briscoe enters.

BEN HADLEY JR.

Well, I better get down to the hotel
and see my parents.

BRISCOE

You need a ride?

BEN HADLEY JR.

No thanks. I'm sorry if I get
frustrated. I appreciate the work
you're doing.

He leaves the squadroom.

BENSON

Brad Weber. Manages the endowment.
Struck out on him, though.

STABLER

Door man saw him leave his offices
after six. He picked up messages at
the front desk around nine. Phone
records check out.

CONTINUED

10 CONTINUED (2)

10

MUNCH

The exclusionary prints and DNA screens are being processed now. So far, the only staff prints in the room are the maids' and a room service guy with an alibi.

BENSON

The security guy told us about a burglar who's been hitting the big hotels.

Stabler goes to the phone, picks up.

STABLER

There's a Robbery Task Force...

BENSON

Briscoe? Go through that box of security video tape like a good man. And check it out -- there's no time stamp.

STABLER

Two months?

(voice rising)

It's called escalation. Your guy burgles, you don't catch him, he rapes and murders, and then he becomes our guy.

Our attention shifts.

STABLER

The collective 'our,' not the possessive.

Stabler listens.

STABLER

How about we talk to the last victim before she leaves town, then we'll come by.

(beat)

Thanks.

Stabler hangs up.

MUNCH

What, burglaries aren't sex crimes?

CONTINUED

10 CONTINUED (3)

10

JEFFRIES

Yeah, except we all know that most burglars will eventually rape.

STABLER

The latest victim's name is Lana Hoffman, she's staying at the Sussex on the East Side.

CUT TO

11 EXT. HOTEL COURTYARD - DAY

11

Benson and Stabler talk to Lana Hoffman, early-thirties, attractive, blonde like Sylvia Hadley. She's a business consultant, her inner toughness in contrast to her fine features.

LANA HOFFMAN

When I got back to my room, it actually took a while before I realized my safe was cleaned out and my jewelry was gone. But what really bothered me, the other detectives dismissed as an idiosyncrasy.

STABLER

What was that?

LANA HOFFMAN

The burglar masturbated in my underwear.

(beat)

Now they're sitting in some evidence lock-up. Not that I want them back though.

Benson and Stabler look at each other.

LANA HOFFMAN

They said he probably picked the room randomly.

BENSON

Did you notice anything strange prior to the break in?

LANA HOFFMAN

Like what?

CONTINUED

11 CONTINUED

11

STABLER

The burglar might have followed you around to find out which room you were in.

LANA HOFFMAN

No. Nobody followed me.

BENSON

He may have waited in the lobby...

LANA HOFFMAN

There was a guy staying on my floor. He always seemed to be in the lounge reading a newspaper. We rode the elevator once. He creeped me out, bad --

BENSON

What did he look like?

LANA HOFFMAN

He was well dressed -- sport coat and tie -- but he always wore the same baseball cap all the time. That's why I noticed. I thought some men never grow up. I didn't think of it until now.

BENSON

That's okay. You weren't asked the right questions.

Benson and Stabler turn and head for the car.

STABLER

Want to bet he didn't have a room?

BENSON

He's not burgling for the jewelry.

STABLER

No. For the thrill.

BENSON

If Sylvia caught him in her room...

Stabler's expression is grim.

CUT TO

12 INT. 31ST PRECINCT - DAY

12

Benson and Stabler with head of task force, Mark Gunther.
Stabler examines the files with Benson.

STABLER
(turning pages)
Why didn't you call us?

GUNTHER
What and hand the case over?

BENSON
No. We're capable of just lending a
hand. Same shield, same team...

GUNTHER
It's just a standard set of
burglaries.

STABLER
Each consecutive burglary has an
increased degree of sexual fetishism.
This guy was escalating.

GUNTHER
(tongue in cheek)
Yeah, they're all rapists in training.
You want all the burglary cases in
Manhattan?

BENSON
We only want the ones where the
burglar spills his seed in his
victim's U-trou.

Gunther has nothing to say to that, but he does it smugly.

STABLER
What bothers us is how clear it was
this guy was going to hurt someone,
and he was under no threat from you.

GUNTHER
I'd like to see how you'd have helped.

STABLER
We could have told you he's not in it
for the money. Meaning you're wasting
your time looking for the stolen goods
on the street.

CONTINUED

12 CONTINUED

12

BENSON

We could have told you that he stalks his victims for a couple of days, gets personal.

STABLER

How about he likes blondes, and half his rush comes from being in plain view in the hotel.

BENSON

Now a woman's dead because you were protecting your collar.

GUNTHER

(angry)

So we didn't call you.

(beat)

Nobody want's to call you. Ever. You're ass-deep in perversity twenty-four-seven, and none of my men understand why you would pick your squad.

Gunther and Stabler are in each other's faces.

STABLER

It's people like you that make our squad necessary.

GUNTHER

Well, my people don't want whatever it is you've got. You're tainted.

Benson and Stabler were not expecting this.

GUNTHER

Ten bucks says the only other cops you hang out with are Brooklyn SVU.

STABLER

You lose. We only hang out in Queens.

Benson gets a call on her cell phone.

STABLER

(cool)

We're taking these files. We'll make copies.

Benson hangs up.

CONTINUED

12 CONTINUED (2)

12

BENSON

That was Cragen.

STABLER

What did he say?

BENSON

The victim was pregnant.

STABLER

(to Gunther)

Now it's a double homicide.

FADE OUT

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN

13 INT. MEDICAL EXAMINERS OFFICE - DAY

13

Benson, Stabler and **M.E. Rodgers.** She's got an X-ray up on the lightbox.

RODGERS

You can see its heart, fully developed...

Stabler turns away, freaked.

STABLER

Can you run a DNA test on the fetus?

Rodgers nods yes.

STABLER

Okay -- good.

BENSON

What about the semen sample?

RODGERS

We ran it against all the databases. Nothing.

BENSON

Anything else?

RODGERS?

She hadn't had dinner when she was killed, that puts her time of death on the early side of our six to nine p.m. window.

CUT TO

14 INT. SVU SQUADROOM - DAY

14

MUNCH

I heard it wasn't easy getting these files.

BENSON

Lets not talk about it.

CONTINUED

14 CONTINUED

14

Everyone understands.

BENSON

How's Briscoe doing on the tapes?

JEFFRIES

He's using a hotel schedule to sort out the video, but it's going to take time. He's keeping an eye out for our baseball cap.

They get down to business. Stabler points to a large Manhattan map taped to the blackboard.

STABLER

These are the hotels our guy's hit since he started two months ago.

BENSON

He hit the Baxter Arms a little over a week ago.

JEFFRIES

He's done each hotel either once or twice.

MUNCH

(re: file)

No forced entry, occupant not in room, he didn't use staff cards...

STABLER

Right, and he's only hitting hotels with key-card access to rooms.

MUNCH

I wonder if he's got something that cracks the codes on the locks?

STABLER

I thought only the Feds had that technology?

MUNCH

He could be ex FBI or CIA? Hoover led from the top down, his lingerie legacy could still be alive.

Cragen enters and turns on a T.V.

CRAGEN

You all should listen to this.

CONTINUED

14 CONTINUED (2)

14

It's Dr. Hadley in full soapbox mode, making a press statement.

BEN HADLEY SR.

But her rape and murder related to a tragedy which is much larger. It is a part of the moral decay of America. It is a decay which originated in cities like New York, but has now spread to the heartland and our highschools.

(beat)

Since its founding, this great nation has been at the forefront of the pursuit of the ideal. But in the past 20 years it appears that we have become disinterested in that pursuit. With the advent of revisionist history, the spurning of our heritage, and politically correct relativism, we have taught our society and its children that there is no right and wrong. That the pursuit of truth is a waste of time. At Midvale, we still believe in the absolute truth. That morality and family strength is still important.

(then)

This city has taken a valued member of our organization, of our family away from us and we will not rest until the killer is found.

REPORTER

Are you going to continue with your schedule of fundraising events and seminars?

BEN HADLEY SR.

Yes. For Sylvia's sake. She believed in us and she would consider it a defeat if we stopped.

15 INT. SVU SQUADROOM - CONTINUOUS

15

Black screen as Cragen turns off the T.V. The private phone rings through the open door of his office.

CRAGEN

Can someone tell me where we are on this thing?

CONTINUED

15 CONTINUED

15

The phone continues to ring.

STABLER

We have a burglar with a similar M.O.
and a description.

CRAGEN

Get him. We all know who's on the
other side of that call.

CUT TO

16 INT. TRENDY COOL HOTEL - HALLWAY - NIGHT

16

The camera fades in on elevator doors opening. Our man walks out, well dressed but for the baseball cap. He looks like any off-duty lower-level stock exchange trader with wire-rimmed glasses, probably thinning hair under the cap. A computer bag is hanging off one shoulder.

Behind him, Munch and Jeffries release from a staged friendly one-armed embrace. They straighten themselves out and Munch pokes his head out of the elevator to get a glimpse of which direction the guy turns down the hallway. The doors begin to close, and Munch pulls his head back. M.O.S: as the doors close he says one word to Jeffries. She talks into a walkie-talkie.

17 INT. TRENDY COOL HOTEL - FUNCTIONAL STAIRWELL - NIGHT

17

Benson and Stabler glide quickly up one flight of stairs. They gingerly open an emergency exit, and poke their heads around the corner. Down the hall, our burglar has a palm pilot sized device connected to a fake key card. He inserts the card and taps the screen with a stylus. Benson and Stabler wait.

The light goes green on the door lock, he depresses the handle and enters the room. Benson and Stabler let the door close. They approach, Stabler pulling out a white all-access key card. Munch and Jeffries arrive.

They bust through the door. The guy is over by the safe. He whirls around. The safe door is open

MUNCH

Wrong room.

The burglar knows there's no where he can go. Jeffries frisks him. She pulls out his wallet and tosses it to Munch.

CONTINUED

17 CONTINUED

17

MUNCH
(reading)
Mr. Fenwick, you're under arrest.

CUT TO

18 EXT. TRENDY COOL HOTEL - NIGHT

18

Munch, Jeffries, Stabler and Benson exit the hotel. Stabler and a Uniform are escorting the prisoner.

An unmarked Crown Vic. pulls up. Detective Gunther and three other cops step out of the car. Gunther approaches the officers. He's running hot.

GUNTHER
That's our collar.

JEFFRIES
Like hell he is.

GUNTHER
(officially, and in
Stabler's face)
As a special task force appointed by
the commissioner, our ongoing
investigation takes precedence.

BENSON
Our captain's been talking to the
Mayor...

STABLER
He didn't like hearing about your
unwillingness to cooperate.

Stabler turns away.

Gunther, knowing he's in trouble, not only for botching the case, but also for what he said, grabs Stabler's other arm.

GUNTHER
Now just wait a minute...

Stabler lets go of the prisoner, grabs Gunther by the front of the jacket and backs him into the side of a squad car.

Gunther's cops slide into action, Benson, Munch, and Jeffries lock onto them. The easy money's on Gunther's men but somehow there's a standoff.

CONTINUED

18 CONTINUED

18

STABLER

Don't touch me.

Stabler releases Gunther and walks towards his car, disbelieving what he's just done. No one else can believe it either.

FENWICK

If that guy's questioning me, I definitely want my lawyer present.

CUT TO

19 INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - CONTINUOUS

19

Mr. Fenwick has a lot of attitude. His B+ lawyer is present.

MUNCH

Your kit here would make certain covert enforcement agencies jealous.

FENWICK

(admitting)

Actually their stuff is a little more refined.

JEFFRIES

Where did you get it?

FENWICK

(running over his lawyer)

I made it.

FENWICK'S LAWYER

John. Don't say any more.

FENWICK

(he's a talker)

It's not that hard. I'm a computer programmer -- used to work for an electronic lock company.

MUNCH

What happened?

FENWICK

They fired me.

CONTINUED

19 CONTINUED

19

FENWICK'S LAWYER

John.

JEFFRIES

Why?

FENWICK

Because I was the only one that was bothered by the illusion we were perpetuating.

MUNCH

(picking up)

I know. Every staff member can get into your room...

FENWICK

(locked in on
compatriot, Munch)

The extra keys or key cards just sitting there in the maid carts...The one combination which opens every room safe in the building.

FENWICK'S LAWYER

If you want me to help you John, you better stop talking.

FENWICK

(to lawyer)

Look. Your job is to get me the best deal I can. They've got me. Hell, all the stuff I took is in my apartment, nicely catalogued so it can be easily returned.

His lawyer rolls his eyes.

FENWICK

(to Munch and
Jeffries)

You see, it's not about the stealing. I was trying to prove a point.

FENWICK'S LAWYER

Could you just shut up for a second?

MUNCH

Perhaps you two would like some time alone.

Munch nods to Jeffries -- they leave.

CUT TO

20 INT. OBSERVATION - INTERROGATION ROOM - CONTINUOUS

20

Munch and Jeffries join Benson and Stabler, still watching.

STABLER

(admiring)

This guy thinks he's a White House plumber, and you're G. Gordon Liddy.

MUNCH

Ouch.

(beat)

Round two, we go bad cop on his ass.
Right, Jeffries?

She daps him.

JEFFRIES

The Hadleys -- where are they?

BENSON

Out in the squadroom...we're debating about the pregnancy.

STABLER

You think they should know?

MUNCH

Hell no.

JEFFRIES

I think it's a card we should hold onto.

STABLER

Yeah -- that's what we think.

As Munch and Jeffries go back:

CUT TO

21 INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - CONTINUOUS

21

MUNCH

You always had this underwear fetish, John?

FENWICK

No, I came to realize it's who I am.
But, no harm no foul, right?

CONTINUED

21 CONTINUED

21

JEFFRIES

Well that's just it. We're talking
big harm, big foul.

Fenwick looks confused.

FENWICK

What are you talking about?

MUNCH

Where were you Sunday night?

FENWICK

(pause)

Doing another job.

MUNCH

What hotel.

FENWICK

Why?

JEFFRIES

We've got a dead raped woman, and you
look good for it.

FENWICK

What? No. I'd never hurt anyone.
I'm not wired that way.

MUNCH

Boxing the clown in women's underwear.
That's pretty freaky. In fact, to us,
buddy-boy, it's a short stretch of
road between that and rape/homicide.

Looks to his lawyer for help.

JEFFRIES

He can't help you now.

FENWICK'S LAWYER

I'm going to need a moment with my
client.

FENWICK

No. It's okay. I want to clear this
up. I didn't rape anybody.

MUNCH

So where were you?

CONTINUED

21 CONTINUED (2)

21

FENWICK

Down at the SoHo East. I stole a diamond-studded collar off a terrier. It's the only dog friendly hotel in the city. His owner left him in the room for dinner. Cute dog.

Off Munch and Jeffries.

CUT TO

22 INT. SQUADROOM

22

Dr. Hadley and Ben Junior talk with Benson and Stabler.

BEN HADLEY JR.

I want to see him.

BENSON

That's probably not a good idea.

Munch and Jeffries enter with Cragen following. Jeffries heads straight for the phone, Cragen heads for his office to make a call.

MUNCH

(acknowledging the
Hadleys)

I'm sorry, but after all that, we don't think he's our guy.

This is bad news for Junior. He stands up, heels his fists into his eyes.

BEN HADLEY JR.

I don't believe this.

STABLER

These things take time...

(pointed; to Dr.
Hadley)

And it doesn't help when the press gets all fired up.

DR. HADLEY

I know -- I apologize. We're under a lot of pressure, and we realize how hard your job is.

Cragen steps to the door of his office.

CONTINUED

22 CONTINUED

22

BEN HADLEY JR.

How hard can it be? My wife was
killed in a freaking hotel!

BENSON

We'll find your wife's killer, but
like your father says, it just takes
time.

DR. HADLEY

(embarrassed)

We'll be going. I'm sure you have a
lot of work to do.

They exit.

CRAGEN

That was nice. Any ideas?

Jeffries gets off the phone.

JEFFRIES

A guest down at the Soho East reported
a break-in on Sunday, amongst the
stolen goods -- a diamond-studded dog
collar. I'm working on a search
warrant for John Fenwick's apartment.

BENSON

Maybe Sylvia was having an affair?
Why else wouldn't she tell her husband
she was pregnant?

JEFFRIES

Maybe she wanted to be sure before she
told him.

BENSON

What are the odds another stranger was
in the hotel, stalking her?

STABLER

You know about odds.

BENSON

That's exactly what I'm saying.

JEFFRIES

It would fit with the lack of self
defense. We've seen victims who don't
fight back because they feel guilty.

CONTINUED

22 CONTINUED (2)

22

BENSON

They feel they're being punished for something that's their fault.

MUNCH

My wife didn't even give me a chance to get her pregnant.

CRAGEN

So maybe she knew the guy. She must have let the attacker in.

MUNCH

And there's a chance this gal wasn't as family oriented as Ben and Dr. Hadley.

CRAGEN

Fine. Munch, Jeffries finish up with this Fenwick guy. Benson, Stabler -- it's back to the hotel with you. Take a closer look at Sylvia.

They get on the move.

CUT TO

23 INT. VERSAILLES - HALLWAY - DAY

23

The door to Sylvia's room has the discreet NYPD crime scene seal. It's split down the middle. The door opens and Benson and Stabler step out. A maid is pushing a cart past.

BENSON

Excuse me.
(badging)
Do you clean this room?

MAID 2

Tuesday to Saturday, yes. I was off Sunday and Monday.

STABLER

Do you remember the woman who was killed on Sunday?

MAID 2

She used the mini-bar a lot. Every day, she needed a full set of towels. I change the sheets...

(then)

You may think we don't notice, but we know everything.

CONTINUED

23 CONTINUED

23

BENSON

Like what?

MAID 2

I never saw him, but there was a man with her. I'm sure of it.

BENSON

Would anybody have seen them?

MAID 2

You should talk to the room service manager. She had lots of room service. Maybe one of his boys saw the man.

CUT TO

24 INT. ROOM SERVICE OFFICE, NEXT TO KITCHEN

24

As Benson and Stabler talk to the room service manager, we get a walking tour through the bowels of the hotel.

RS MANAGER

Yeah, I remember her. I probably wouldn't if she hadn't got killed. But when you hear the news it kind of solidifies everything in you mind.

STABLER

What do remember?

RS MANAGER

She was a pain in the ass.

BENSON

(behave)

Why do you say that?

RS MANAGER

She ordered a lot of room service, and one of my guys would bring it up, then she'd remember something else she wanted.

STABLER

Could she have been ordering for two?

RS MANAGER

It's possible -- I mean she never ordered dinner or anything, just hors d'oeuvres.

CONTINUED

24 CONTINUED

24

He calls out to a young man who's entering the room.

RS MANAGER

Hey Tony. You remember the woman in room 1108?

TONY

The one who bit it? Yeah.

The manager looks at Benson and Stabler apologetically as Tony approaches.

RS MANAGER

Do you remember if she was ever with somebody?

TONY

Whenever I came in the room, the bathroom door was closed. I guess there could have been a guy in there. Or a girl.

(then)

You're investigating her murder?

BENSON

(chagrined)

Yes.

TONY

Sorry about the comment. The guests become room numbers after a while.

RS MANAGER

Thanks Tony.

(to cops)

I remember one time she called at eleven p.m. and wanted the mini-bar restocked in her room. I said we couldn't do it. So she said she was going down to the bar.

BENSON

(to Stabler)

Doesn't sound like the picture the Hadleys painted.

RS MANAGER

People do all sorts of things in hotels -- the anonymous nature of it all.

(shrugging)

Anyway, that was the night before she was killed. Saturday night.

CUT TO

25 INT. VERSAILLES HOTEL BAR

25

Spectacular views of surrounding mid-town Manhattan. Benson and Stabler interview the Bartender, who's in his mid-twenties, and going about his pre-opening work. A hip young buck, he has carefully disheveled hair.

He's looking at a photograph.

BARTENDER

Yeah, I remember her. She was in here Friday and Saturday night. I heard about her on Monday when I came back to work.

STABLER

Was she here alone or was she with someone?

BARTENDER

Oh, she was here with a guy. They looked like they worked together. She was laying it on pretty thick too.

Fucking A.

BENSON

How do you mean?

BARTENDER

You know, laying her hands on his arm every time he cracked a joke, talking quietly so he had to lean in to hear her.

STABLER

Was he receptive?

BARTENDER

Two people come in, they're both married to other people. She's drinking apple martinis to try to lose control, he's drinking Amstel Lights to try to keep it.

BENSON

You've seen it before.

BARTENDER

You get a couple of visual clues and suddenly the whole story's laid out for you. It becomes a test of wills. Women have more.

CONTINUED

25 CONTINUED

25

BENSON

Who had more in this case.

BARTENDER

They didn't start making out at the bar or anything, but they left together. She 'couldn't walk without him.'

STABLER

Was the guy staying at the hotel?

BARTENDER

If I remember correctly, he charged the tab to his room.

The Bartender goes to his computer.

BARTENDER

(then)

Here we go. Room 1232. Brad Weber.

The name hits them like a sledge hammer. Fucking A again.

FADE OUT

END ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN

26 INT. INTERVIEW ROOM - DAY

26

Benson and Stabler interview Brad Weber.

STABLER

We're glad you could come down here,
Mr. Weber.

BRAD WEBER

I'm glad to help, though I don't know
how I can.

STABLER

How well did you know Sylvia Hadley?

BRAD WEBER

You people asked me that before.

BENSON

(lying)

We're just trying to learn about her
state of mind. How often did you meet
with her?

BRAD WEBER

There was the monthly meeting with Dr.
Hadley. But Sylvia and I have met
more often, lately.

STABLER

Why?

BRAD WEBER

It's a high maintenance account.
Narrow margin for error. The college
depends on a precise cash flow and
rather rigorous rate of return.
They're also my biggest client.

STABLER

Saturday night at the bar, was that an
investment meeting or a date?

Brad Weber visibly deflates, but sticks to his guns.

CONTINUED

26 CONTINUED

26

BRAD WEBER

It was an investment meeting.

BENSON

You're married, aren't you Mr. Weber.

BRAD WEBER

Yes. Happily.

STABLER

Were you having an affair with Sylvia?

BRAD WEBER

No. Absolutely not.

BENSON

This doesn't make sense, Mr. Weber. We've got a bartender who's put you two in a friendly situation at the bar.

BRAD WEBER

I couldn't help that. She hit on me. It felt like harassment. She could ruin my life. I had to be nice.

STABLER

We don't buy it, and you just gave us motive.

BRAD WEBER

What do you mean?

BENSON

You were having an affair, she wanted to break it off, and you knew you'd lose her as a client.

BRAD WEBER

That's not true.

STABLER

You killed her to protect yourself. Oldest story in the book.

Brad breaks down.

BRAD WEBER

No...There was no affair. That night she was half drunk for our meeting. She wanted to go to the bar afterwards. I had to.

CONTINUED

26 CONTINUED (2)

26

STABLER

What about a polite refusal?

BRAD WEBER

She insisted. She hit on me, and it was nice to have an attractive woman on your arm in New York. People looking, jealous.

(then)

I ordered beers and drank them slowly. I don't know why, it still went to my head. I don't drink that often. We left and I found myself walking back to her room. We kissed outside her room, but that was it.

STABLER

Come on, expect us to believe that you stopped there?

BRAD WEBER

You're married, aren't you?

STABLER

This is about you, not me.

BRAD WEBER

You'll understand this if you are: The thought hit me that I had just transformed my relationship with my wife, forever.

Stabler thinks about this.

BRAD WEBER

That cleared my head. I went back to my room.

BENSON

That's pretty convenient.

BRAD WEBER

Sounds pretty damn inconvenient if you ask me.

BENSON

Where were you Sunday night?

BRAD WEBER

(hesitating)

I was in my room. I told you.

CONTINUED

26 CONTINUED (3)

26

BENSON

Maybe you went straight to Sylvia's room from work.

STABLER

You left her room at nine to build your alibi. Pretty flimsy.

BRAD WEBER

(increasing horror)

No.

BENSON

(trying to give him
an out)

Did you watch any pay movies?

BRAD WEBER

Oh my God, no.

STABLER

That's not good for your story.

CUT TO

27 INT. HADLEYS' HOTEL ROOM - DAY

27

Benson and Stabler interview the Hadleys, Senior and Junior.

BEN HADLEY JR.

Brad Weber is a good man.

DR. HADLEY

He is, but he's not without his flaws.

STABLER

What do you mean?

DR. HADLEY

I've known him for a long time. He's very good with the endowment's money, but he's always a little in the tank at our functions, and he's known to make passes at the women. It's not as humorous in this light.

Benson and Stabler react to the direct contradiction.

BENSON

(to Ben Jr.)

Are you sure there was no personal connection between Brad and Sylvia?

CONTINUED

27 CONTINUED

27

BEN HADLEY JR.

They worked together, I can't imagine him hurting her.

DR. HADLEY

We only needed an update once a month, but Sylvia chose to stay more closely in touch with Brad's management of the endowment.

BEN HADLEY JR.

What's that supposed to mean?

DR. HADLEY

Come on Ben. Late meetings, two or three times a week. It is possible, you just didn't want to see it.

STABLER

Did they ever argue?

DR. HADLEY

Not that I ever heard. Sylvia's office is near mine.

BEN HADLEY JR.

Do you think Brad really did it?

STABLER

We think Sylvia had a relationship she wanted to end, and Mr. Weber didn't want to lose the account.

DR. HADLEY

I always hoped it would be a stranger.

CUT TO

28 INT. INTERROGATION ROOM

28

Benson and Stabler back with Brad Weber. This time he has his lawyer with him.

STABLER

You lied to us. We hear you're in the bag at every Midvale function.

BENSON

We also heard that when you tie one on, you become quite the ladies' man.

CONTINUED

28 CONTINUED

28

BRAD WEBER
(incredulous)

What?

STABLER
You told us you don't drink that
often.

BRAD WEBER
I don't. Do you have any idea how
nerve racking those things are?

WEBER'S LAWYER
Cool it Brad.

STABLER
People say you and Sylvia met more
often than necessary.

BRAD WEBER
Who said that?

BENSON
Everyone.

BRAD WEBER
No one has any idea what goes into
keeping that college afloat.
(beat)
We were having the extra meetings
because there's a huge balloon payment
due next quarter. It's complicated
and it requires a lot of coordination.
The trustees are panicked.

STABLER
What kind of payment are we talking
about here?

BRAD WEBER
Hadley structured a poor deal back in
the 70's when he and a few investors
bought the college. High risk, High
interest, no intermediate payments.
It's biting him on the ass now. And
Sylvia and I had to fix the problem.
That's why Hadley is out there still
stumping.

BENSON
We still have your admission to
fooling around with Sylvia. And the
only person who can confirm that story
is dead.

CONTINUED

28 CONTINUED (2)

28

BRAD WEBER

I told you that because I didn't kill Sylvia. And what I did do wasn't wrong...very.

WEBER'S LAWYER

Look. Brad's never been in trouble before, let alone falsely accused. Frankly, he told you the truth because I wasn't around.

BENSON

He will remain our prime suspect unless he gives us something to divert our attention.

STABLER

Like a blood test for starters.

The lawyer whispers to Brad. We can tell it's "if you did more, now's the time to tell me."

BRAD WEBER

I didn't do anything.

WEBER'S LAWYER

He'll take the blood test.

Benson and Stabler look at each other.

29 INT. SVU SQUADROOM - LATER

29

Our cops are on computers and phones. Cragen hovers.

JEFFRIES

Look at this. Midvale College was censured by the American Association of University Professors.

Hands a printed sheet of paper to Munch.

MUNCH

Inadequate protection against an improper exercise of administrative power.

JEFFRIES

Dr. Hadley had a penchant for axing those who disagreed with him.

Munch picks up the phone.

CONTINUED

29 CONTINUED

29

Benson hangs up a phone.

BENSON

Dr. Hadley's doctorate? It's from
Lutheran Ministry College, Jackson
Mississippi. He's a preacher.

Munch gets off the phone.

MUNCH

One of those axeels teaches at NYU. A
Professor Williams.

CRAGEN

Of the Hadleys, who do you think you
can get more information from?

STABLER

The son.

CRAGEN

Okay. There's a memorial service that
the Hadleys are holding for Sylvia at
St. Albans. That's in an hour. Munch
and Jeffries. Talk to this professor.

CUT TO

30 EXT. NYU FACULTY MEWS

30

Munch and Jeffries are in a small, gated cobblestone street.
It's one of two truly quaint streets in the City. A
professor in his early fifties is putting a bag of garbage
in a can which lies inside a barn-style garage door.

JEFFRIES

Can you tell us about your employment
experience at Midvale College?

MUNCH

We understand that Dr. Hadley may take
some of his management lessons from
Stalin.

WILLIAMS

One could say that statement is
accurate.

MUNCH

Tell us about it.

CONTINUED

30 CONTINUED

30

WILLIAMS

I'm a philosophy professor. I started teaching there in '89, because at Brown the best literature was being run out of the curriculum.

MUNCH

(familiar)

There was nothing of merit one could learn from dead Europeans.

WILLIAMS

Right. Midvale was a good place to learn and teach. A classic curriculum. We pushed our students to question every perceived truth.

JEFFRIES

What happened?

WILLIAMS

'On The Origin Of The Species' was the first to go. The college became what I hated. I fought with Hadley, but I realized that to him, the curriculum was nothing more than a way to tap wealthy conservative donors.

MUNCH

Did you know Sylvia Hadley?

WILLIAMS

Not well. Rumor was that she spent more time working with Hadley Senior than living with Hadley Junior. Which is not surprising in and of itself.

JEFFRIES

Why not?

WILLIAMS

Junior is a good person, but really, nepotism got him the job. Sylvia on the other hand -- she was headstrong. I'll give you that.

Munch and Jeffries thank him and we --

CUT TO

31 INT. MEMORIAL HALL OR CHURCH

31

Benson and Stabler enter at the rear of the hall and catch the tail end of Dr. Hadley's speech. It is scripted, and he chokes on the words.

DR. HADLEY

Sylvia was a large source of our strength...

(then)

That is why I am announcing the Sylvia Stone Hadley Memorial Fund...

The attendees, mostly white, preppy, and well-suited all bow their heads. Benson and Stabler watch as Junior turns away from the podium. Senior outstretches his arms to receive his son, but in an awkward moment, Junior brushes past one arm and goes to step off the back of the dais. Sharon Hadley hooks one of Junior's arms, turns him around and stands between her men, literally holding them together.

As people start to shuffle out, Benson and Stabler approach the dais.

STABLER

(to Ben Jr.)

How are you doing?

BEN HADLEY JR.

As well as can be expected, I guess.

(beat)

Anything on Weber yet?

BENSON

He's volunteered DNA to test with the sample we got at the crime scene.

BEN HADLEY JR.

I didn't think so.

BENSON

You seemed convinced earlier.

BEN HADLEY JR.

My dad was convinced. That drinking thing? Those events are pretty unbearable. Everybody gets hammered.

STABLER

Is there any other person with whom she had frequent personal contact we should look at?

CONTINUED

31 CONTINUED

31

BEN HADLEY JR.

No.

BENSON

Anything you might have noticed about
her frame of mind?

Ben Junior pauses. He's wanted to let this out for a long
time.

BEN HADLEY JR.

Look. The past several years, she's
changed a lot. Our marriage was fine,
but she's not the same person I
married.

STABLER

People change all the time, that's
marriage.

BEN HADLEY JR.

No, She became this person I didn't
even know any more -- flying all over
the country, cell phone permanently
attached to her ear. I knew less and
less about her life.

Ben Junior pauses. Benson and Stabler wait for more.

CUT TO

32 INT. SVU SQUADROOM

32

Munch, Jeffries, Benson, Stabler and Cragen.

CRAGEN

Is the staff angle completely dead?

JEFFRIES

DNA screening turned up no one.

CRAGEN

(re manila file)

The Brad Weber DNA came back negative.
He's also resigned his post as manager
of the endowment.

BENSON

This whole college is a family
operation.

CONTINUED

32 CONTINUED

32

MUNCH

And I know the dysfunctional family's
a cliché, but...

CRAGEN

Scorecard, people?

STABLER

The old man was being honored by his
Born-Again peers.

BENSON

And Junior was grading papers in
Baltimore.

CRAGEN

The mother -- Sharon Hadley?

STABLER

She does appear to be the glue which
holds the family together.

CRAGEN

No, genetics make the family. You've
got DNA from everybody else, get it
from the Hadleys, too.

BENSON

We'll need a court order for the
father, is my guess.

CRAGEN

Fine. Ask him nicely but he refuses,
a court order it is. Then get the
mother up here alone and get the full
story. It's time to find out how
strong the glue is.

CUT TO

33 INT. INTERVIEW ROOM

33

Cragen interviews Sharon Hadley. She is not the woman we
met in the beginning.

CRAGEN

Can we get you anything, Mrs. Hadley?

SHARON

Some water?

CONTINUED

33 CONTINUED

33

CRAGEN

Mrs. Hadley. When you look back, do you think Sylvia was happy?

SHARON

Yes. She loved the college. You should have seen her work a fundraiser. It was magnificent.

CRAGEN

What about your son?

SHARON

He loved to teach.

CRAGEN

Was he happy with Sylvia?

SHARON

Yes. They were a good team. He wished she would work less. He wanted to spend more time with her.

CRAGEN

That's not the same as happy.

SHARON

Happiness is highly over-rated, Detective. A marriage is a working partnership, consecrated by our Lord...

CRAGEN

Okay -- and was it? Consecrated...

SHARON

Yes.

CRAGEN

So she was faithful?

SHARON

She was...she was faithful to all of us.

This strikes Cragen as a little strange.

CRAGEN

I'm sorry, but could you clarify that?

SHARON

She loved her job. She loved the school...her family.

CONTINUED

33 CONTINUED (2)

33

This is tearing Sharon apart. Cragen moves in.

CRAGEN

Mrs. Hadley. Did you know Sylvia was
two months pregnant?

Sharon looks at Cragen with disbelief.

CRAGEN

You were going to be a grandmother.
You didn't know?

No response from Sharon.

CRAGEN

Why didn't your son tell you?

Nothing. Cragen realizes she's losing her.

CRAGEN

Whatever it is you're holding on to is
gone. We can help you.

SHARON

(breaking down)

He wouldn't have known.

Cragen waits for more.

SHARON

Oh God....I prayed for forgiveness. I
forgave him...How could this have
happened?...How could he have done
this?

CRAGEN

How could your son have done what,
Mrs. Hadley

SHARON

(tearful
resignation)

Not my son, my husband. He had an
affair for two years. With Sylvia.

Off Cragen.

Off Sharon.

FADE OUT

END ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN

34 INT. SVU SQUADROOM

34

Benson is briefing the rest on her interview. She's already dropped the bomb in the squad.

CRAGEN

That Hadley's a religious huckster in the Aimee Semple McPherson mode. Swaggart, Bakker.

MUNCH

With Swaggart's proclivity for extra-marital ministrations.

BENSON

And he knows that once he's exposed, the money stops. This upcoming balloon payment is just gasoline on the fire.

CRAGEN

Okay. We move quickly on this. I'll convince Sharon to stay here. If she insists on leaving, we arrest her.

BENSON

For?

CRAGEN

Obstruction. It doesn't matter. We have to make sure she doesn't give him a heads up.

STABLER

We'll bring in Senior.

MUNCH

Should we bring in the little guy too?

CRAGEN

Yeah. We'll see if blood really does run thicker. Keep them separated, I don't want them saying so much as a word to each other.

35 INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - CONTINUOUS

35

Benson and Stabler bear down on Hadley Senior. He's hard to intimidate though.

DR. HADLEY

For the umpteenth time, my friends --
I'm not going to get into any
particulars until my lawyer arrives.

BENSON

Fine by me. Anyhow, your DNA is going
to corroborate your wife's story.

DR. HADLEY

What story?

STABLER

Maybe we shouldn't say anything until
your lawyer gets here.

Dr. Hadley looks at them, eyes hooded. He clasps his hands, starts to move his lips to some prayer; but his cold eyes flick from Benson to Stabler, Stabler to Benson. There is a knock on the mirror. Benson and Stabler react and exit the room.

CUT TO

36 INT. OBSERVATION ROOM - DAY

36

Benson and Stabler come out of the Interrogation Room to find Jeffries, Munch and Briscoe.

Briscoe holds three manila folders of photographs.

All through this scene, we see Dr. Hadley through the two-way mirror, stewing in the Interrogation Room.

BENSON

What?

MUNCH

The kid's found something interesting.

STABLER

What?

Briscoe goes through the manila folders.

CONTINUED

36 CONTINUED

36

BRISCOE

Those video tapes are wild. You wouldn't believe what goes on in those elevators when people think they're alone. Better than any video I ever rented.

STABLER

I hope this isn't what you had to tell us.

BRISCOE

No. The video wasn't time coded, so I had to use other visual cues to establish the time line

JEFFRIES

It rained on Friday. Pretty much all day.

BRISCOE

Yeah. And in the evening on Friday there was a Girl Scout meeting. Sunday morning a cardiologist convention checked out, and that afternoon, all these wedding guests arrived. You can tell because they got these neat welcome baskets at the front desk, loaded down with Maker's Mark.

STABLER

So the wedding party gets bourbon.

BRISCOE

Take a look at this.

Briscoe pulls up one huge file and starts to dig through the pictures.

BRISCOE

My best guess is that this guy was in the elevator between four p.m. and six p.m. Next to him, there's a guy with your bottle of Maker's Mark.

Stabler looks at the photo, and we can see the exasperation on his face.

STABLER

You're sure this is right?

Stabler passes the photo to Benson.

CONTINUED

36 CONTINUED (2)

36

BRISCOE

Absolutely.

BENSON

Ben Junior wasn't in Baltimore.

CUT TO

37 OMITTED

37

38 INT. SVU SQUADROOM

38

Cragen walks in with Abbie Carmichael. Everybody's working the phones again.

STABLER

He used a credit card to purchase an eleven a.m. Baltimore to New York express train ticket.

BENSON

An ATM withdrawal at the Times Square Chase Manhattan late Sunday night -- ten fifty-three p.m.

JEFFRIES

(with photos)

Here he is entering the lobby of the hotel, here he is in the elevator...

MUNCH

Just proves that fantastic liars do not necessarily make good killers.

BENSON

(to Carmichael)

The son who was supposedly in Baltimore the time of the murder was actually in the hotel in New York.

CARMICHAEL

What's your theory?

STABLER

These Holy Rollers are in fact -- surprise, surprise -- grifters. The old man and his 'investors' took over some third-rate college when it went Chapter Eleven...

CONTINUED

38 CONTINUED

38

BENSON

Then resurrected it as Born Again U.

STABLER

The victim knew the books were cooked
-- maybe she tried to shake down
Hadley Senior for a piece of the
action.

CRAGEN

Or B, she was a true believer -- maybe
she was disgusted at the way things
were, and threatened to blow the
whistle.

CARMICHAEL

Where's the sex crime in this?

Benson pushes an envelope across the table to Carmichael.

BENSON

She had sex before dying. But not
necessarily rape -- look at the DNA
results.

Carmichael scans, then looks up.

CARMICHAEL

Talk about Old Testament. I want them
both. But we need them to sink each
other. Who's weaker?

STABLER

The son, definitely.

CARMICHAEL

Okay -- you take two polecats, throw
'em in the same bag. Then look out.

CUT TO

39 OMITTED

39

40 INT. INTERROGATION ROOM

40

Munch and Jeffries, Benson, and Stabler tag team Hadleys
Junior and Senior, each with lawyers.

MUNCH

(to Dr. Hadley)

Maybe you weren't planning to kill
her, just scare her into shutting up.

CONTINUED

40 CONTINUED

40

BEN JUNIOR'S LAWYER

A Murder One charge implies intent.

JEFFRIES

Okay -- it was an accident. Is that what you're saying?

DR. HADLEY

I'm saying nothing of the kind.

BEN HADLEY JR.

I'd been suspicious for a couple of years.

STABLER

Of what?

BEN HADLEY JR.

What do you think? I took our vows seriously, but Sylvia -- she took that 'Christians aren't perfect, only forgiven' bumper sticker a little too much to heart.

BENSON

You seem really angry at her.

BEN HADLEY JR.

Shouldn't I be?

BENSON

Why -- because she left you?

BEN HADLEY JR.

She left me a long time ago.

STABLER

Okay -- tell us what happened two nights ago.

BEN HADLEY JR.

When I got to her room, I knocked, and knocked and knocked -- I felt like such an idiot -- it took her five minutes to open the door.

BENSON

Maybe she'd been sleeping.

BEN HADLEY JR.

That's what she said -- with whom, that's what I wanted to know.

CONTINUED

40 CONTINUED (2)

40

Ben Senior's jaw tightens.

BENSON

Did you ask her?

BEN HADLEY JR.

Yeah -- she laughed. Said I was paranoid -- that the thought of her cheating was the only original thought I'd ever had.

BENSON

What'd she mean by that?

BEN HADLEY JR.

It was her favorite put-down -- you know, like the only job I could get was at Daddy's college. Then she told me I was pathetic.

STABLER

Did you know Sylvia was pregnant?

Ben looks at Stabler.

BEN HADLEY JR.

What did you say?

STABLER

Pregnant. Two months.

BEN JUNIOR'S LAWYER

What's this got to do with...

STABLER

Did you?

BEN HADLEY JR.

No.

(rattled)

We tried, but she could never...how do you know?

BENSON

It's not something the medical examiner was likely to miss, Ben. We've done the DNA tests, and --

DR. HADLEY

This is a complete and total invasion of my family's privacy.

CONTINUED

40 CONTINUED (3)

40

He stands, goes to his son and puts his hand on his shoulder.

DR. HADLEY

Let's go, son.

STABLER

(to Ben Jr.)

Before you do, aren't you curious?

BEN HADLEY JR.

About what?

STABLER

About who the father was.

The door opens -- Jeffries comes in with four DNA folders, followed by Sharon Hadley.

JEFFRIES

(business-like)

DNA results, people.

She hands one to Ben Junior.

JEFFRIES

Your wife's throttled neck and skin under your fingernails -- a match.

BEN HADLEY JR.

I didn't --

BEN JUNIOR'S LAWYER

(warning)

Don't. Not a word.

Jeffries hands a copy to his lawyer. Then moves on to Dr. Hadley, and his lawyer.

JEFFRIES

Semen found in the victim and your DNA -- also a match.

DR. HADLEY

I don't want my wife subjected to this.

SHARON

(quietly)

I can take it -- I can take the truth for once.

CONTINUED

40 CONTINUED (4)

40

DR. HADLEY

(to Stabler)

What have you told her? What filth
have you people been peddling?

BENSON

Sure, blame the messenger.

JEFFRIES

Plus, your DNA matches, to a
mathematical probability of ten
million to one, that of the fetus in
Sylvia Hadley's uterus.
(not smiling)
Congratulations.

She hands a copy to Dr. Hadley's attorney, and leaves.

BEN HADLEY JR.

(head exploding)

What the hell's going on here?
Mother...?

SHARON

Some women dread becoming grand-
mothers....not I. I always thought it
would be such a gift, a sweet gift
from God.

(to Ben Sr.)

What would you have called him, Ben?
Son? Ben the Third? What.

BEN HADLEY JR.

(to Ben Sr.)

What is she talking about?

DR. HADLEY

Nothing -- it's grief.

SHARON

(exploding)

You bet it is! A lifetime of grief --
and two years of watching my husband --
my soon-to-be former husband --
fornicating with my son's wife.

BEN HADLEY JR.

Mother...

SHARON

...fathering his own grandchild.

CONTINUED

40 CONTINUED (5)

40

Ben Junior stares at his father, who holds up his hands in front of him -- no. Then the kid rushes his father and swings -- Jeffries steps in, as:

41 INT. OBSERVATION ROOM - DAY - CONTINUOUS

41

Cragen and **Carmichael** watch, then turn to each other.

CRAGEN

The son kills his wife, and his father's son. It's Oedipal. Or Biblical.

CARMICHAEL

(disgusted)

It's Murder One.

FADE OUT

END OF ACT FOUR