

The Homework Murderer Pt. 2



CREATIVE WRITING DRAFT

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INT. PRESS CONFERENCE ROOM - MID-MORNING

The brand new interim Principal JOHN ARNOLD is standing at a press conference lectern and is trying to shout over the audience of news reporters and concerned parents who have gathered. He has lost control of the room. Beside him, on his right, his executive assistant is trying to help get the room under control. To Principal Arnold's left and slightly behind him stands Lead Hall Monitor ROGER MCMILLAN and DETECTIVE LOPEZ. Both investigators look confident despite ARNOLD appearing unkempt and flustered amidst the circumstances. They both want no part of the press conference. Lopez and McMillan exchange knowing glances regarding the chaos and slightly shake their heads at each other.

PRINCIPAL ARNOLD

Attention, please, listen, the fact of the matter is there have been a series of Homework Murders at this campus. And the Superintendent...

The audience interrupts Arnold with groans and heckles.

PRINCIPAL ARNOLD

(angry and more firm now)

The Superintendent has decided to place me in charge of this campus and Ms. McManus has been placed on administrative leave. I have the upmost confidence in our investigative team led by Hall Monitor Roger McMillan and Mr. Lopez. But the superintendent felt there needed to be a change of leadership here given the circumstances. At this time I will be glad to answer questions from the audience.

The crowd grows loud until one reporters voice rises above the rest.

REPORTER 1

Your critics claim there is a scandal surrounding your reasons for leaving the superintendents office and coming here. Care to comment?

ARNOLD

(Momentarily stunned)

absolutely not. And no, I don't care to comment on lies...

Principal Arnold begins to defend himself and the superintendent but the camera cuts to McMillan and Lopez.

LOPEZ

I think he's going to replace us the second he gets a chance.

MCMILLAN

Don't worry about him. What matters is that we do as much as we can for this case while we still have it. I read the lab results on those scissors by the way. According to the lab, they were definitely Mr. McCleary's scissors. And, get this, they found the fingerprints of Class President Daniel Fernandez all over them.

LOPEZ

Okay, well, let's go question him.

PRINCIPAL ARNOLD

...And that is all we are prepared to discuss at this time. Thank you. No more questions.

The news conference ends, and as Lopez and McMillan are leaving, Principal Arnold stops Lopez by the shoulder.

PRINCIPAL ARNOLD

Not so fast. I need to see you in my office. Now.

Lopez and McMillan exchange worried glances and Lopez and Arnold walk off to the office. McMillan is left alone in the quickly emptying news conference room.

EXT. PRINCIPALS OFFICE (20 MINUTES LATER)

^{23A}
 22 McMillan stands outside the office waiting for Lopez. Lopez exits. He appears to be crying. McMillan tries to stop him by the arm but Lopez keeps walking. ^{24E} Arnold exits the door and sees McMillan waiting there. ^{26B} ^{27C} ^{28A}

ARNOLD

^{29A} Ah. Just the person I needed to see. Come in please.

INT PRINCIPALS OFFICE

306 Principal Arnold motions for McMillan to sit down.

H31 MCMILLAN

No Thanks.

I32 ARNOLD

Suit yourself.

H33 MCMILLAN

Why was Lopez crying?

ARNOLD

(sitting down)

I34 We needed to make a change to show the public we are serious about these homework murders. So he's off the case.

MCMILLAN

H35 Then you should go ahead and remove me from the case to because I refuse to...

ARNOLD

(interrupting)

I36 Don't be rash. You're staying, and I'm giving you more manpower in order to redouble our efforts.

I37 Principal Arnold picks up the phone.

ARNOLD

I38 Ms. Perez, yes. You can send them in.

I39 Arnold hangs up the phone as the door to his office opens.

ARNOLD

I40 McMillan, meet your new crew. That's Anthony Rendon, 7th grade deputy hall monitor. Well known around these parts for his work rooting out the illegal sale of Hot Cheetos last year. To his left is Penny Kershaw, 6th grade Hall Monitor. She was the sole operative who busted up the Middle School Testing Mafia ring last month. And next to her? That's, well, we all know Bruiser. I've added him to your team so you have some muscle

(MORE)

I 46

ARNOLD (CONT'D)
to throw around. Should you need
it. Now, all of you get out there
and investigate what we are paying
you to.

I 47

MCMILLAN
I'm not being paid anything

I 48

ARNOLD
Just go, I have work to do.

I 49

Principal arnold opens some desk drawers looking for work to
do but he can't find any. He picks up the phone.

I 50

ARNOLD
Ms. Perez, yes. Get me somebody on
the phone. I don't care. Anybody.
(Principal Arnold shoos the
investigative team out)

50C

EXT. PRINCIPALS OFFICE

P 51

Mcmillan and team exit the office

K 52

ANTHONY RENDON
That was strange.

53

MCMILLAN
I know. I think something weird is
happening that he doesn't want us
to know about.

H

LS 54

PENNY KERSHAW
Like what?

H

MCMILLAN
I can't put my finger on it yet,
but why would the assistant
Superintendent, Tom Arnold, take a
demotion to work here as a
principal?

M 55

BRUISER
Yeah, I bet that's a big pay cut.

H 56

MCMILLAN
And then, his first move as
principal is to remove my
co-investigator and replace him
with a brand new team that knows
nothing about the case so far

56^D ANTHONY RENDON
We are all quick learners. *k*

MCMILLAN
I know you are, you are all the
57^B best of the best, but it's almost *H*
like he is trying to make the
investigation take longer or
something.

PENNY KERSHAW
E Well, let's get going quick. Who *L*
should we interview first?

58
MCMILLAN
We need to talk to Mr. McCleary.
E His scissors were found at the *H*
crime scene. I'll catch you all up
on the rest of the facts on the way
there. Let's go.

*Jose
Trinidad*