

The Homework Murderer Pt. 1

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Revision 3

NINT. HALLWAY CAMINO NUEVO CHARTER ACADEMY- MORNING

A STUDENT is running as fast as she can down a long hallway to the stairwell. Halls are empty. She dashes down as quickly as she can and jumps off the final two steps. She is worried and frantic. She flies into the main office out of breath.

INT. MAIN OFFICE

Three adults, including the PRINCIPAL, MS. MCMANUS, are having a conversation in a semi circle. The student has her hands on her knees and is breathing hard.

STUDENT

Ms. McManus. It's happened again.

Ms. McManus, suddenly worried, quickly drops all the papers she is holding on the desk nearest her and grabs her walkie-talkie.

MS. MCMANUS

Where?

STUDENT

The third floor this time.

MS. MCMANUS

Show me. Quick.

The student and Ms. McManus run out of the office.

INT. SECOND FLOOR HALLWAY- MOMENTS LATER

Ms. McManus and the Student running through the hallways with the camera following roughly behind them.

MS. MCMANUS

(into her walkie talkie while running)

I need an immediate response team on the the third floor. Code white. I repeat Code White.

INT. THIRD FLOOR HALLWAY (CONTINUOUS)

They arrive at the scene.

A small and shocked looking crowd is gathered around a student, VICTIM ONE, who is crying on her knees. The crowd opens into a semi circle as Ms. McManus and the Student arrive.

As the silent crowd backs away we see there are torn papers all over the floor covered in red pen marks in front of Victim One.

MS. MCMANUS  
(stunned)  
Oh My God. Is that...?

VICTIM ONE  
(sobbing)  
It was my...homework. Someone murdered it!  
(student erupts into tears and clutches some of the torn remains closely)

The student who came with Ms. McManus throws-up upon seeing the carnage. Another student grabs Victim One by the shoulders and tries to pull her away from the papers.

MS. MCMANUS  
Okay everyone, this is now an active crime scene, I'm gonna need everyone to move way back behind the perimeter

Just then the response team arrives consisting of MR. LOPEZ, and MS. PEREZ. Mr. Lopez immediately begins putting up the crime scene tape while MS. Perez handles crowd control.

MS. PEREZ  
Okay everyone, you heard the Principal, get behind the yellow tape!

INT. THIRD FLOOR HALLWAY (LATER)

The Victim is sitting and is clutching a blanket over her shoulders as she sips a hot beverage from a mug. Behind her we see crowds of students behind yellow tape while Ms. Perez draws a chalk outline and Mr. Lopez is taking pictures of the torn paper remains with a large flash camera. Both are wearing rubber gloves. Little yellow paper markers with numbers on them are marking evidence spots all over the scene. There are somehow flashing police lights in the hallway.

MS. MCMANUS  
I have to head off the media on this one. There are school newspaper reporters already lined up outside my door. I'm turning this case over to you McMillan.

(MORE)

MS. MCMANUS (CONT'D)  
You're my top hall monitor so don't mess this up or I'll have you on bathroom cleanup for the rest of the year. Lopez! (to lopez)  
McMillan's in charge. Follow his lead.

MR. LOPEZ  
(photographing the scene)  
Yes, ma'am!

MCMILLAN  
(to Victim One with compassion)  
Can you tell me what happened?

VICTIM ONE  
Um, who are you exactly?

MCMILLAN  
I'm now the lead investigator,  
Roger McMillan.  
(Shows his hall monitor badge)

VICTIM ONE  
(looking at the badge, then finishing a sip from mug and then stuttering through a painful recollection)  
Ok, well, It was all a blur. I had just finished with my history homework, and I set it down for a second on the table so I could return a book to the library shelves. I never meant for...how could I leave it all alone like that. So stupid!  
(crying again)  
Who would do something like this!?

MCMILLAN  
Can you just tell me what happened next?

VICTIM ONE  
(trying to compose herself)  
Okay, well, When I came back from returning the book I saw something moving really fast out the back door. But I didn't think anything of it really.

MCMILLAN  
Was it a student?

VICTIM ONE  
Could have been? I'm not sure.  
All I know is that...My poor  
homework was...  
(sobbing again)

MCMILLAN  
Okay, I think we have enough to get  
the investigation started. We'll  
find the person who did this. I  
promise.

Victim One nods but doesn't make eye contact. McMillan stands up and walks over to Mr. Lopez who is still taking pictures.

MCMILLAN  
(to Lopez)  
We're not going to get anything  
from the victim. She's  
traumatized. Have you found  
anything?

MR. LOPEZ  
Whoever did this is a sicko. We've  
got multiple abrasions, contusions,  
and bilateral cuts across the  
entire remains. Additionally the  
whole paper seems to be covered in  
some sort of lettering made using a  
red Bic Pen. Whoever did this was  
careful not to leave any DNA  
evidence on the actual remains.

MCMILLAN  
How do you know it was a Bic Pen?

MR. LOPEZ  
Well, because we found this about  
15 feet down the hallway.

Mr. Lopez holds up a ziploc bag containing a large pair of metal scissors and red Bic Pen.

MCMILLAN  
Are those teacher's scissors?

MR. LOPEZ  
I think so. The assailant must  
have stolen them.

MCMILLAN

Do you think those are the same scissors used in the previous two murders?

MR. LOPEZ

It's likely, yes.

MCMILLAN

What does the lettering say?

MR. LOPEZ

we aren't sure yet but it seems to be mostly just a bunch of "F's" with circles around them.

(Holds up a second plastic bag with a piece of paper and a red "F" with a circle around it)

We'll have to reconstruct the remains back in the main office later.

MCMILLAN

Disgusting. I'll start questioning witnesses to see if anyone saw anything. Good Work Lopez.

McMillan walks away.

Mr. Lopez snaps one more picture.

INT. PRINCIPALS OFFICE (HOURS LATER)

The principals office resembles an interrogation room. Sitting at the main table with a bright light over his head, sits VERONICA.

Just outside the door McMillan is talking to Mr. Lopez.

MCMILLAN

(walking up)

Sorry, my chemistry class ran late. Who is this? (motioning toward the interrogation room).

MR. LOPEZ

(handing McMillan a file folder)

This is Veronica, we brought her in this morning on tardiness charges that aren't going to stick. We think she knows something about the murders she isn't telling us.

MCMILLAN

Why do you think that?

MR. LOPEZ

a couple of students said they saw Veronica enter the library last night before it closed. And, that's where we found her this morning during tardy sweeps, sleeping behind the copy stacks.

MCMILLAN

She slept there all night?

MR. LOPEZ

It appears that way.

MCMILLAN

Well then we at least have her for trespassing on top of the fact that she could have seen the murderer!

MR. LOPEZ

possibly. But the teachers I've questioned all say Veronica is a deep sleeper and is very hard to wake up in the middle of class. so...

MCMILLAN

Ok. let's see what she knows.

They both enter the room and sit down across from Veronica.

MCMILLAN

So Veronica, once again couldn't make it to class on time huh?

VERONICA

Man! This is ridiculous. You've got a serial homework murderer on the loose and you're spending your time rounding up and investigating tardy cases? What a waste of taxpayer dollars.

MCMILLAN

(Opening file folder on table)

Well, Veronica it's funny you should mention the serial homework murderer case. We have multiple witnesses who put you at the scene of the kidnapping this morning

(MORE)

MCMILLAN (CONT'D)  
 right before the murder took place.  
 Let me ask you, does this look  
 familiar to you?

McMillan throws a sheet protected photo of the crime scene  
 paper remains in front of Veronica. Veronica reacts  
 viscerally and looks away immediately.

VERONICA  
 Dear god. Why are you showing me  
 that!?

MR. LOPEZ  
 (slamming his hand on the  
 table and yelling)  
 did you or did you not sleep in the  
 library last night Veronica!

VERONICA  
 Okay! I did but that doesn't mean I  
 murdered that poor girls homework!  
 Who do you think I am?!

MCMILLAN  
 (calmly)  
 All we want to know Veronica is  
 what you saw. Who took that kids  
 homework!

Veronica sits silently looking away with his arms crossed.  
 He is hesitant.

MR. LOPEZ  
 (now standing and leaning  
 forward on the table,  
 aggressive)  
 If you can't talk you're going to  
 be going away to detention for a  
 long time Veronica on trespassing  
 charges.

Veronica looks scared now and she begins to talk.

VERONICA  
 Okay, I saw someone in the library  
 this morning but I couldn't tell  
 who it was. I swear. All I know  
 was that they were tall and had  
 scissors and a pen in their hands.  
 I also heard them mumbling  
 something about...students...or  
 failures...or something. I couldn't  
 (MORE)



VERONICA (CONT'D)  
really make it out. They seemed  
mad though. Like the homework they  
grabbed had wronged them in some  
way.

MCMILLAN  
Anything else?

VERONICA  
yeah, as a matter of fact there is.  
I heard the person say something  
about Mr. McCleary. But I couldn't  
tell what. It didn't sound nice  
though.

MR. LOPEZ  
Mr McCleary? They said his name  
specifically?

VERONICA  
Yeah. Do you think he's next or  
something?

MCMILLAN  
I don't know, but we're not going  
to wait to find out. You can go  
back to class Veronica.

Veronica stands up and leaves and both detectives follow  
closely behind.

TO BE CONTINUED...