

COACH DAVIS

#103 "Dear Departed" STUDIO Draft 7/16/10
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22.

Heather immediately pops up, charges at Ellie and -- high fives her.

HEATHER
Kick ass, girl.

ELLIE
Saving the real stuff for Marshall.

Bud and Sam approach COACH LOU DAVIS. He's in his late 30's, thinning hair and fair-skinned. Coach Davis sees them and blows the whistle.

COACH DAVIS
Bring it in!

The girls gather around, Heather and Ellie taking the lead, gazing curiously at their visitors. Bud shows his badge.

BUD
I'm Detective Morris. This is my partner Detective Baker.

COACH DAVIS
Coach Lou Davis. We heard about Detective Salerno this morning. Figured somebody would be by.

SAM
Why's that?

ELLIE
(like it's obvious)
The Jenny Adler case. It's a year later but he was still trying to find out what happened.

SAM
You talked to him?

COACH DAVIS
We've all talked to him at one time or another. He's been here practically every morning for the last month.

BUD
What did you tell him?

COACH DAVIS
He was interested in the night of the party. Who was there, what happened --

(CONTINUED)

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Start

ELLIE

And that creep Chuck Foster.

BUD

Anything else?

Bud notices Heather, looking like she wants to talk.

BUD (CONT'D)

Something you want to say, Miss...?

HEATHER

Heather. Heather Clayton.

ELLIE

Heather, not your theory again.

BUD

(so sick of theories)
You have a theory?

HEATHER

(to Ellie)

~~Yeah. So shut up, Et.~~ I told
Detective Salerno and they should
know too. Jenny was a talker.
Especially about boys. But when
she died, she was dating someone
she wouldn't tell us about.

BUD

(beat)

I'm not sure I follow.

COACH DAVIS

The college has strict
fraternization rules. A professor
gets caught dating a student,
they're both in a heap of trouble.

SAM

Coaching staff too, I assume?

COACH DAVIS

I'm flattered, Detective. Is it
the hair loss or the gut that makes
you ask?

INT. M.E.'S OFFICE - MEGAN'S OFFICE - NIGHT (NIGHT 1)

Megan sits at her desk leafing through the pages of Jenny
Adler's medical report. Curtis enters, FOLDER tucked under
his arm.

(CONTINUED)

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MEGAN

And what do you think could cause that?

BUD

Other than a missing finger?

A tart look between them. Then:

BUD (CONT'D)

A cast?

Kate walks them to a counter and activates a computer screen.

ON SCREEN: multiple windows loaded with Jenny's lacrosse team's website. Kate starts cycling through them.

KATE

These pictures go backwards in time --
summer league, winter league, then the
end of the fall season last year --
right before the national tournament --

She stops on a team PHOTO. Among all the smiling players,
only one has a SPLINT on her FINGER -- Heather Clayton.

BUD

I'll be damned.

EXT. LACROSSE FIELD - AFTERNOON

Megan, Peter, Bud and Sam walk onto the field during
practice. Coach Davis blows his whistle again. The PLAYERS
gather around as --

COACH DAVIS

Detectives, something else we can
do for you?

BUD

We'd like to talk to Heather
Clayton.

As Heather steps forward, Megan stares at Coach Davis. Our
vigilant viewers will have noticed that in person Coach Davis
is pale and losing his hair. In the website pictures in the
previous scene, however, he was neither.

HEATHER

Yes?

(CONTINUED)

SAM

How's your finger, Heather? All better?

HEATHER

It's fine. Why?

BUD

Was it Jenny who broke it? Is that why you went after her after the party?

COACH DAVIS

Now hang on a second. They were friends. It was an accident on the field. It happens.

MEGAN

Peter, hit him.

Peter stares at her. So do Bud and Sam. So does everybody.

PETER

What?

MEGAN

Hit him.

COACH DAVIS

Hey, listen lady. I don't know who you are --

MEGAN

Do I have to do everything?

Megan walks up to Coach Davis and punches him in the arm. Coach Davis shrinks back, massaging his arm.

COACH DAVIS

(to Bud)

Did you see that? She just assaulted me!

BUD

Megan, what the hell are you doing?

MEGAN

(to Heather)

After the party you followed Jenny to her dorm.

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EXT. CLAY TENNIS COURTS - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

Jenny crosses the courts. Heather catches up to her.

MEGAN (V.O.)

You'd both been drinking. And you were angry. Angry she broke your finger and knocked you out of the tournament. The two of you fought about it.

Jenny and Heather start to argue. It gets physical. Heather, the stronger of the two, PUSHES Jenny to the ground.

MEGAN (V.O.)

When she broke your finger she must have split the nail. That's why you had antifungal cream on your hands. Antifungal cream that transferred to her neck as you held her face down with both hands.

Heather sits on Jenny's back, continuing to hold her down.

MEGAN (V.O.)

You held her down for too long. When you stopped it was too late.

Heather lets go of Jenny's neck. A sudden wave of reality hits her. She turns Jenny's head. It falls limply to the side. AS Heather stares in horror at what she's done --

EXT. LACROSSE FIELD - AFTERNOON

The same expression is on Heather's face now.

HEATHER

I didn't mean to hurt her. All I wanted was an apology --

COACH DAVIS

Don't say anything, Heather!

MEGAN

So you left her there. And went to get help. From you, Coach Davis.

More stunned looks at Megan.

COACH DAVIS

That's absurd!

(CONTINUED)

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MEGAN

Heather, whose idea was it to move the body?

COACH DAVIS

Not a word, Heather!

HEATHER

I wanted to report it. He told me not to.

COACH DAVIS

You idiot, can't you see she's bluffing?!

MEGAN

You look a little pale, Coach. And from the pictures on your team website I'd say your hair only recently started falling out.

COACH DAVIS

So?

MEGAN

Pallor and sudden hair loss are caused by warfarin poisoning. Of course they're caused by other things too, but that's not --

Continue next page

She points to the Coach's arm she punched a few moments ago. A DEEP DARK BRUISE has appeared.

MEGAN (CONT'D)

That's from Warfarin exposure. Which is what you used to kill Detective Salerno. That's why the blood in your body has stopped coagulating. Those aches I'm certain you're feeling are from your blood starting to pool in your joints and muscles. Your cells are dying and your capillaries are leaking, Coach. When you go into hypovolemic shock the pain will be so intense you won't be able to scream let alone speak.

SAM

We can hold you for 72 hours while we figure out the charges.

(to Megan)

That should be long enough right?

(CONTINUED)

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MEGAN
More than enough.

BUD
It's over, Coach.

OFF Coach Davis --

INT. POLICE STATION - INTERROGATION ROOM - AFTERNOON

Bud and Sam look on. A BOTTLE of CRANBERRY JUICE sits in front of them. Coach Davis hangs his head in shame.

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COACH DAVIS
You have any idea what it takes to get to the national tournament? Every year recruiting top players, fighting with the administration, fighting professors who don't understand the commitment it takes.

SAM
You mean the commitment to kill? I'm of two minds whether or not we let you bleed out right here.

COACH DAVIS
You have to help me.

SAM
You saw Joe standing by the courts day after day. You knew he was closing in on Heather. And that she'd crack under pressure.

COACH DAVIS
Yes.

SAM
But I know Joe. No way would he ever take drugs.

EXT. CLAY TENNIS COURTS - MORNING - FLASHBACK

Joe Salerno stands at the court's edge as Coach Davis appears. Joe Salerno rubs his eyes, obviously exhausted.

COACH DAVIS (V.O.)
They weren't drugs. He told me he didn't feel well. So I gave him energy supplements. He had no idea it was poison.

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Coach Davis pulls out a BOTTLE of pills from his pocket. Joe Salerno takes them, shakes Coach Davis's hand.

COACH DAVIS (V.O.)

I knew it would take a couple of days. I was first out on the field every morning.

Stylistic TIME LAPSE as Joe remains obsessively on the same spot. Three days pass. Until it's morning again and Coach Davis appears. And Joe Salerno sits on a BENCH. Seemingly asleep. But actually dead.

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INT. POLICE STATION - INTERROGATION ROOM - AFTERNOON

Coach Davis looks across at Bud and Sam.

COACH DAVIS

You have to help me now. Please get me to a doctor.

SAM

You killed a good detective. A better husband. And the father of a little girl. You think I'm going to help you?

COACH DAVIS

But I've been poisoned. Everything hurts.

Bud slides the cranberry juice to Coach Davis.

BUD

Try this.

COACH DAVIS

(beat)
Cranberry juice?

SAM

Vitamin K. One can ought to do it.

COACH DAVIS

You said I was dying!

BUD

We were bluffing.

INT. JUDGE'S CHAMBERS - AFTERNOON

Megan enters to find her mother clearing some work off her desk.

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