

THE INTERROGATION

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INT. LOBBY - POLICE PRECINCT - DAY

DETECTIVE MCGRAW (20s-30s) rushes into the front entrance,
CAPTAIN LANE (late 50s) stands waiting.

CAPTAIN LANE
You're late.

MCGRAW
(out of breath)
I know, I'm sorry...

CAPTAIN LANE
Why are you covered in feathers?

MCGRAW
So, my dog got this new toy --

CAPTAIN LANE
Ima stop you right there.

MCGRAW
Good call.

CAPTAIN LANE
(beat)
Come with me.

They walk through the building, past the other working
OFFICERS, and into the forked --

INT. BACK HALLWAY - POLICE PRECINCT - CONTINUOUS

They stop in front of a window, peering into a pitch black
room. McGraw attempts to brush the feathers off her uniform.

CAPTAIN LANE
McGraw, I don't put it lightly when
I say you're my best detective...

MCGRAW (O.S.)
Hey look at me, I'm the cap'n now!

McGraw turns around to reveal her feather-stache.

MCGRAW (CONT'D)
You like?

CAPTAIN LANE
(...)
I'll just get Francis for this one
instead.

MCGRAW

No, no, no, no, no. Okay, okay, okay.

(wiping the stache away)

I'm done now, see? I'm done. I'm ready boss... So whatchya got for me today? Murder, homicide... murder-homicide?

CAPTAIN LANE

Robbery.

MCGRAW

Okay, I can work with that. Where, when, who, why, and how much did this guy and/or girl take?

Captain Lane hands McGraw a case file.

CAPTAIN LANE

The robbery took place at the GSG National Bank at 3:55am earlier this morning.

FLASHBACK: ELLUM (late 50s) and two ROBBERS (20s-30s) dash out of a bank. Ski masks on, duffel bags swinging from their shoulders.

CAPTAIN LANE (V.O.)

The perpetrator's name is Ellum Mikkelson, aged 55. He's got a completely clean record, other than one DUI charge when he was in high school. He just stole 3.5 million dollars from the most secure bank in New York City and we have no clue how he did it.

CAPTAIN LANE

We also don't know where he hid the money. What we do know is that he had at least two accomplices with him during the whole thing.

MCGRAW

Wait a minute. So, you're telling me there could be 3.5 million dollars lying on some random street in New York City right now? How'd we even catch this guy?

FLASHBACK: Ellum bolts down the street. He stops to take his mask off - he smiles, looking back. POV of Car Dash Cam: He continues to run away.

CAPTAIN LANE (V.O.)

Dash cam from a bystander's SUV outside the bank was recording the whole time. I don't know how Dean was able to work past the quality of that thing, but he ID'd Ellum and he was the only one unmasked.

FLASHBACK: Ellum hunches over in the corner of an abandoned warehouse. Two POLICE OFFICERS shine their flashlights in his eyes. He flinches.

CAPTAIN LANE (V.O.)

We found him an hour later in an abandoned warehouse 15 miles out. Nakia and Jones are stationed out there as we speak.

MCGRAW

Okay, so you need me to revisit the crime scene, analyze the evidence, and track down the other two perps? On it.

CAPTAIN LANE

Not so fast. I need you to stay here.

MCGRAW

You just said I was your best detective.

CAPTAIN LANE

That was before the mustache thing, and I need you to stay for interrogation anyways.

MCGRAW

Francis can do it.

CAPTAIN LANE

No, Francis can't do it because he's revisiting the crime scene, analyzing the evidence, and tracking down the other two perps. No, I need you here... Besides, the best part about being a detective is a good interrogation.

MCGRAW

(taking this in)

Okay fine.

(a beat)

(MORE)

MCGRAW (CONT'D)

"Ellum Mikkelson, aged 55," why does that name sound so familiar?

CAPTAIN LANE

Because he was my old partner...

MCGRAW

Aaand there it is.

CAPTAIN LANE

My fourth year as a detective and I discover my partner was dirty. I thought Ellum and I were close, but I guess we were pretty far from it. Ellum never cared about the job, he only ever cared about himself and how much cash he could make on the side. Then he got himself tied up with some bad people. Some bad, but very powerful people. Then he just started standing by, while terrible men harassed and killed families, because some poor father didn't have the money to pay them back. I wanted to get myself as far away from him as possible. So, I transferred precincts, and I never heard a mention of Ellum again... Until now.

MCGRAW

Why didn't any of this show up on the report?

CAPTAIN LANE

Like I said, he was friends with some very powerful people.

(a beat)

Listen, I know how he thinks - and like it or not you're the best person for this job. We can finally pin this son of a gun to the ground! And don't worry, you won't be in there alone... You'll have me.

MCGRAW

Wow, an interrogation with the cap'n - this is gonna be fun!

CAPTAIN LANE

Now go in there and let's do what we were born to do.

MCGRAW
You're the boss, boss.

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - POLICE PRECINCT - MOMENTS LATER

A table with a single chair sits facing a one-way-mirror. In that chair sits Ellum, handcuffed to the table. McGraw and Captain walk in.

MCGRAW
Hello Ellum.

ELLUM
Who's the feather-kid?

MCGRAW
That's Detective feather-kid to you.

CAPTAIN LANE
This is Detective Jasmine McGraw. McGraw why don't you tell Ellum about the Mama Incident.

MCGRAW
Ellum... you're sitting in the chair of the great Biggy Smalls...

ELLUM
I've heard the stories.

MCGRAW
Well then you know that Biggy Smalls used to murder people with small objects.

FLASHBACK: BIGGY SMALLS (20s-40s) stares at a Barbie doll house set. He tilts his head in awe.

MCGRAW (V.O) (CONT'D)
One time he even took a prop knife from his neighbor's Barbie doll set and used it to cut open his neighbor's throat.

ELLUM
(cringing)
Jesus...

CAPTAIN LANE
How did he even manage to do that?

