

One Death at a Time

A happily married couple at the ripe old age of sixty did not want to pass up the opportunity for a hike due to the remarkable weather. Their hike was situated in the middle of nowhere the couple was surrounded by caramel crisp mountains caked with moisture. The land-bound creatures were scampering around as though they were preparing for war. The hike proved itself a challenge to the couple as they felt exhausted multiple times throughout their hike. The couple took a break quite often when they picked up the scent of burning flesh. This was a familiar scent as Kristen had worked at a mortuary before retiring.



Kristen exclaimed "I am certain that is the scent of burning flesh, we must follow the scent someone could be in great danger!"

Scott replied "You may be right the scent seems to be stronger towards the left path of the hike."

Without hesitation they sprint towards the stench to uncover a body faced down wedged between rocks. The couple alerted the police and the body was thought to be five feet ten inches tall and around thirty years old. The woman didn't have any form of identification that could be taken in as evidence. These odd circumstances made it

impossible to believe that this was a suicide. An autopsy was conducted and she had an alarming dose of Zolpidem a sleeping pill which is taken in excess quantity can result in death.

Days later the location where the investigation was being carried out was sent an anonymous message on the case in the form of a mail. The mail read "The unfortunate incident of Sarah Urie was extremely saddening but she isn't who you should be worried about. a larger concern should be the people she was associated with for the past four months. Tracing the letter to its original writer is surely impossible and any attempt to find the writer will only waste valuable time." At the bottom of the mail were symbols that



led the police officers to believe that it was a code. This mail was the biggest crack in the case so far, the name of the victim.

Officer Ross remarked "We should hire an expert to work on cracking this confusing code while we investigate the rest of the text."

Officer Knight interrupts, "The dose of Zolpidem present in the victim's blood system indicates she might have been a medical patient as dangerous drugs like the one present in the case aren't sold to the general public they can only be utilised by a medical professional once prescribed to a patient."



The officers dispatch a team of qualified investigators to uncover more information on the victim by checking local hospital records for a recent check out of a Sarah Urie.

A man named Pete Wentz was hired to uncover the meaning behind the symbols placed at the bottom of the letter. The man was as tall as a tree with raven black hair and snow-white skin. he wore only black apparel. No one knew anything about him except his name. When things were looking un the case came to a dead end as no report was produced for the dispatched team or Pete.

Months later an officer gets a hold of Sarah Urie's medical history when threats of legal replications were brought un if they failed to do. the medical history reveals that Sarah Urie was admitted into a mental asylum. The code was cracked with great difficulty and revealed numbers of possible coordinates. The coordinates were of Browne State

Forest in Virginia and the exact coordinates was an abandoned house. An immediate search party was issued to Virginia to raid the abandoned house.



The officers were forced to harge into the house as the windows and door were nailed shut with rotting wood. They were welcomed by eight people in black cloaks seated in a formation. They were arrested and taken in for questioning. To get the people to start talking was a struggle but when they were threatened with nrison time conversation

started where the officers uncovered mortifying crimes they have committed.

Officer Ross questioned, "What do you know about the murder of Sarah Urie?" A man amongst the crowd began "I can't rot in prison! Sarah Urie was a part of our cult that she felt she was dragged into as a replacement for her sister who was recently devoured by a wolf. Her sister proved she was unloyal on many occasions. Sarah was a menace from the day she was a part of us she would threaten to expose what we conducted as a cult.

Another man continued. "She took the situation of exposing us to a frightening length. So we decided as one to end her. we drugged her to the point where she fell unconscious and continued injecting Zolnidem and eventually the horrible woman was a lifeless corpse. She was transported to a place where she couldn't be found and left to burn."

Officer Ross exclaimed, "You sick people! You all will never be able to see the light of day if you are breathing.

The men were convicted of murder and while on trial they were also convicted of human trafficking and cannibalism. these counts were added because the men came clean about everything illegal they did that worsened their case. They were eventually sent to trial and sentenced to life imprisonment.

Officer Ryan Ross was celebrating another case that was served justice when he received a letter sealed with a crimson red stamp. He rips the letter open which was from Pete that read "It was a pleasure working with you but I have to come clean about what exactly I did I sent the mail and I was a part of the cult where I heard rumours of Sarah Urie's unappreciated behaviour I was made to witness the horrifying death of an innocent soul and I could only watch her suffer and lose the courageous battle with life and accept the bitter taste of death The guilt has been eating at my conscious to where I could hear her screaming in agony I impersonated Pete Wentz to get insight on the case, I am Dallan Weekes and these are the last words of my life."



Written By: Arundhati Bhat 9A