

## Forgotten Six Feet Under Chapter 08

In the interrogation room, my mother held Scarlett close, her voice soothing yet firm. “I’m the

guardian of this child. You can direct all the questions at me. Scarlett is still young; she can’t handle being scared like this.”

Scarlett nestled against my mother while trembling slightly, looking genuinely pitiful and helpless.

The officers exchanged glances, one of them smirking, “She’s twenty–six; she’s not that young!”

My mother gently patted Scarlett’s back, trying to calm her nerves. She raised her gaze to the officers. “I understand you’re just doing your job, but Scarlett truly knows nothing. Even though she and Whitney are sisters, they live their own lives.”

“We received a report that someone was caught gambling in a rented apartment yesterday. The officers in Acturia found some of Whitney’s belongings in that apartment. Was it Scarlett who went to retrieve them?”

My mother paused, her mind racing. “Yes. I just handed over her phone and ID. But I thought the person was a thief...”

“Did Scarlett tell you that the person was a thief?”

Scarlett reacted quickly, her voice shaky. “Officer,

+25 BONUS

Chapter 8

when I spoke to my mom, I didn’t think too much; I just figured if someone took my sister’s things, they must be a thief.”

My mother nodded, her expression shifting to one of determination. “You heard that; my daughter had her things stolen recently, which means she’s in the city. That body found in Wild Valley has been there for two months. How could it possibly be my daughter? You made a fuss over something with no evidence—do you really think we will just stand by and take this? There’s nothing more to discuss; just let us go home.”

It was almost comical. My mother had never referred to me as her ‘daughter’ before. Usually, it was ‘the troublemaker’ or ‘the ungrateful brat’.

Just as she prepared to stand, the coroner entered with the results.

“The DNA test results are out. The deceased is indeed Whitney Patterson.”

The thin report landed in front of my mother like a heavy weight, its mere presence suffocating.

Her gaze froze on the bold words printed on the page, and for a moment, she seemed utterly lost.

“H—how could she be dead?”

The coroner continued, “The victim sustained multiple blunt force injuries and severe fractures.

+25 BONUS

Chapter 8

From the type and extent of the wounds, it appears she experienced significant trauma before death, possibly from a beating.

“Furthermore, upon detailed examination, we found clear signs of assault. We suspect the injuries were inflicted while she was resisting a sexual assault.

“However, the primary cause of death was asphyxiation. We also found traces of dirt in her lungs and other organs, indicating she was likely buried alive.”

With every word the coroner spoke, my mother’s face grew paler.

Finally, she collapsed to the floor, murmuring, Buried... alive...”

She had never imagined I wasn’t hiding away but rather had been buried.

“Why? Didn’t she want to give me that silk scarf? She never had the chance...”

She struggled to say more, but her throat tightened, choking her words.

“Ms. Haden, don’t fall apart just yet. Tell me, after Scarlett brought Whitney’s phone back, didn’t check it?”

you

My mother blinked, taken aback. “I—I didn’t. I

Chapter 8

+25 BONUS

figured it was her privacy, so I just..."

The police officers shook their heads in disappointment, pulling my phone from their files. "Scarlett deleted quite a bit of information, but we've managed to recover it all."

My mother turned her incredulous gaze to Scarlett. "Scarlett, why did you go through Whitney's phone?"

Scarlett bit her lip, remaining silent.

The officer answered for her. "It's mostly messages where she insulted Whitney. She deleted those so you wouldn't see them, but that's not the main point."