

The Flighty Freshman



The witness, Bobby McFee, tells his story to the police. "Perry Winkler is a freshman here. Weird guy, a loner. The only reason I know him at all is because sometimes he hangs with the Myers boys. Anyway, I was in the dorm hallway when Perry came up the stairs. It struck me even at the time that he was sneaking in. He kind of jumped when he saw me."

The captain was taking notes. "And you think he came to the dorm specifically to visit Donovan Myers?"

"Yeah. Danny Myers was just coming out of his room. Danny and Donovan are brothers; they room together. Perry asked if Donovan was in. Danny said yes. That's all I saw. I went into my own room at the far end of the hall."

"How much later was it when you saw Perry again?"

"About an hour. They cranked up the stereo, not unusual for a Saturday night. Almost no one else was on the floor, but I have a paper due Monday. I was just coming over to complain about the noise when I saw Perry rushing out of the room and down the stairs. He looked pretty agitated—hair and clothes all messed up. He was carrying a suitcase."

"And your first impulse was to go check on Donovan?"

"Well, the music was still blaring. But, yeah, I guess something didn't seem right. I pushed open the door and there he was on the floor, his head all bashed in. The room looked like a train wreck. I thought Donovan was alive. I mean, his body was still warm. I wouldn't have touched him if I knew."

Captain Mallory understood. "That's okay. Isn't it kind of odd for a loner freshman to be hanging out with big campus jocks like Danny and Donovan? A senior and a junior, right?"

"It is strange. The Myers boys were so outgoing, always pranking around. They're the spoiled kids of a rich family. Lots of friends. I don't think Perry has any friends at all. I guess I've seen him with Donovan a few times and a few times with Danny, but Perry sticks to himself. Back at the start of the year, I remember him being assigned a roommate. That lasted one day. He insisted on a private room. When they wouldn't give him one, he moved off campus."

Mallory finished with the witness, then drove across town

to Perry Winkler's apartment. His men were already on the scene. The suitcase, Donovan's suitcase, lay open and empty on the bed. The rest of Perry's meager possessions seemed intact. "He didn't take much with him," a sergeant said. "But he did leave a note." Using tweezers, the officer held out a letter. "It matches the handwriting from one of his test papers. We're working on the fingerprints now."

The letter was a confession, stating in plain English that he Perry Winkler, had accidentally killed his friend during a drunken argument over a girl they'd both been dating. "A girl? That doesn't sound like Perry." Mallory scratched his head. "Let's put out an APB for our shy, mysterious killer."

Randall University, although situated in a small town, was a large, impersonal campus, making it easy for a student to get lost in the shuffle. Captain Mallory didn't realize how true this was until he tried to find Perry Winkler. The freshman was distinctive-looking, of regular build and height, but with a mop of frizzy red hair, thick glasses, a bushy mustache, and side-burns.

"We checked everywhere," the sergeant reported two days later. "Perry doesn't own a car which should help us track him down. But no dice. No one answering his description has been spotted at the bus station or hitchhiking out of town. It's like the kid vanished off the face of the earth."

"Something's screwy," Mallory replied. "People don't vanish. It's impossible."

Whodunit? (1) What happened to Perry Winkler? (2) Who killed Donovan Myers? (3) What was the motive?

Evidence *This crime can be solved in 3 clues.*

 Crime Scene Report

 Perry's School Records (Research)

 Bobby McFee's Testimony (Affidavit File)

 Holographic Results (Miscellaneous Examinations)

 Danny's Testimony (Affidavit File)