

LUTHER sc. 1 *Revised 2/3/15

LUTHER U.S. PILOT - DRAFT 2.3 (WITH REVISIONS), 24

HELLER (cont'd)

She walks in, everyone's dead. Makes the emergency call at 7.32. Stays on the line until the services arrive. Which gives her two minutes to kill mom, dad and Spuds McKenzie, fake a gunshot wound to the head, lose the weapon and all physical evidence, dial 911. There's not enough time.

LUTHER

There's not enough anything. Absence is the point. It's her way of saying "look at me".

HELLER

So where is the gun? It's got to be somewhere. Everything's somewhere.

LUTHER

I don't know.

HELLER

Say that again. That was a special moment and it passed so quickly.

LUTHER

I don't know.

Out on Luther. Considering Alice.

CUT TO:

INT. SSCU - INTERVIEW ROOM - DAY

Luther enters awkwardly, carrying two mugs. He passes one to Alice. She sips.

START →

LUTHER

Your chair okay? Comfortable?

ALICE

It's fine, thank you

LUTHER

Because sometimes we like to shorten one of the legs. It means a suspect can't get comfortable, can't relax. They're always unbalanced. Too hot?

Eye contact. Alice noting the implied shift in her status.

ALICE

Really. I'm fine.

A connection between them. A knowledge. Almost flirtatious.

Luther glances at his notes.

LUTHER

LUTHER

I see you got your Ph.D. at eighteen -
astrophysics, was it?

ALICE

"Dark Matter Distribution in Disc
Galaxies."

LUTHER

Dark Matter. That's the stuff that -
makes up the universe. Except we can't
see it. It doesn't interact with the
stuff we know about in the way we'd
expect.

ALICE

No, but its presence can be inferred
from gravitational effects on visible
matter. We know it's there. We just
can't see it. Would many police
officers be able to gain my trust by
having this conversation?

LUTHER

Well, I just like to read books.

ALICE

It beats burning them.

LUTHER

You, though - you're the one who's
practically a genius.

ALICE

Practically?

She raises a feline eyebrow.

Luther grins - satisfied and predatory. Two people - sizing
each other up. Knowing each other for what they are... and
liking each other.

LUTHER

So you went to the Sorbonne at -?

ALICE

Thirteen.

LUTHER

Wow. That's young. That's very young.
I mean, it's bad enough, just being
the smart one in the family; these
kids, prodigies, they have it really
tough. They're not one thing, they're
not another. Freaks, really.

(beat)

I expect your parents were proud,
though.

ALICE

Very. When I was nine, I proved $\tan^{-1}x$ (*tangent minus one -x*). I didn't know at the time that James Gregory got there three hundred years before me. But still. They bought me a dress. Got me on the news.

LUTHER

Still. What must it have been like? You're thirteen, your classmates are - what? - twenty, twenty-two? No friends your own age. No boyfriends.

ALICE

That's quite a presumption. Actually, I matured very early. Sexually.

He meets that challenge with unwavering eye.

LUTHER

I guess you're familiar with Ockham's Razor?

ALICE

"All things being equal, the simplest solution is the best solution."

LUTHER

And what that principle tells me is, the only other person we know to have been in your parents' house this morning - well, it was you.

ALICE

I don't see how it's possible to arrive at that conclusion.

LUTHER

There's no evidence of an intruder.

ALICE

But absence of evidence isn't evidence of absence.

LUTHER

Okay, fine. I'm making a leap - but it's a tiny leap. More of a hop, really. A skip.

She gives him a celestial smile.

ALICE

Is this where you ask if I hated my parents?

LUTHER

It's about that time, yeah.

ALICE

Did they make me a freak? Yes. Did I hate them? Absolutely. Did I kill them? No.

LUTHER

Can you prove that?

ALICE

I can't prove a negative. It can't be done.

LUTHER

Well, innocence is a negative. It's the absence of guilt.

ALICE

Meaning the burden of proof is entirely yours. If you think I did this, then you need to demonstrate how and when.

He sits back. Gazing at her in frank admiration.

LUTHER

And I won't be able to do that, will I?

ALICE

Well, you can certainly try.

LUTHER

Because there's nothing. You don't interact with the stuff we know about in the way we'd expect. Your presence, your actions, they can only be inferred by - a certain absence.

ALICE

Is that a compliment?

LUTHER

Absolutely. And honestly, it's well deserved. I applaud you.

ALICE

I hope you're not trying to beguile me.

LUTHER

I wouldn't be so silly. But here's the thing, Alice. Right now, you can revel in your cleverness. But people slip up. Every single time. No matter how brilliant they may be -

ALICE

Well, that's just faulty logic postulated on imperfect data collection. What if you only catch people who make mistakes? That would skew the figures, wouldn't it?

LUTHER

Wouldn't it just. But really, that's the thing. Most criminals, they're just not as clever as they think they are.

ALICE

Well. That must get monotonous. For someone as brilliant as you.

They share a knowing smile.

Then Luther stands. Picks up his paperwork. Exits.

CUT TO:

STOP

~~INT. SSCU - HELLER'S OFFICE - NIGHT~~

~~Luther and Heller.~~

~~HELLER~~

~~So what am I supposed to charge her with? Being a space oddity?~~

~~LUTHER~~

~~Killing them!~~

~~HELLER~~

~~We've got no evidence, no motive.~~

~~LUTHER~~

~~She hated her parents.~~

~~HELLER~~

~~Seriously, who doesn't? There's no forensics, no witnesses. Timeline alone gets it laughed out by the DA.~~

~~LUTHER~~

~~You saw her! It excites her, that we know she did this.~~

~~HELLER~~

~~So bring me something of substance; find me the murder weapon, put it in her hand. Until then - cut her loose.~~

~~Out on Luther. Knowing she's right.~~

CUT TO:

LUTHER SC. 2 #Revised 2/3/15

LUTHER U.S. PILOT - DRAFT 2.3 (WITH REVISIONS), 42

Luther steps back. Away from her touch.

LUTHER
I'm coming for you, Alice.

ALICE
Not if I come for you first.

And with that, he leaves. Alice watching.

CUT TO:

INT. FORD AND VARGAS - RECEPTION - DAY

Luther emerges from the elevator, strides through reception.

RECEPTIONIST
Excuse me - sir?

LUTHER
(badges her)
Police.

STAFF watch as he strides to Zoe's office - through the door

INT. ZOE'S OFFICE - DAY

- to find Zoe with SEVERAL SENIOR PARTNERS; all of whom look up in alarm as Luther bursts in, clapping his hands.

START →

LUTHER
Morning! Everybody out!

ZOE
John -

LUTHER
Everybody OUT! Raus! Raus!

Reluctantly, the SENIOR PARTNERS stand - exchanging glances as Luther herds them from the room like geese.

LUTHER (cont'd)
Dépêchez-vous! Skynd dig! Isoge!

ZOE
He's joking. This is his sense of humour. Everybody, this is my husband. John. He's a -

Luther slams the door behind them.

ZOE (cont'd)
- cop.
(then)
Way to get me fired.

LUTHER

LUTHER

Do I embarrass you?

ZOE

Right now? As of this moment?
Absolutely. Yes. You're embarrassing
me. I'm embarrassed.

LUTHER

Is that what this is all about?

ZOE

No.

LUTHER

Then what? Did I get boring? Because
men do get boring. We can't help it.
We take up hobbies. We golf.

ZOE

You're not boring. You're the opposite
of boring.

LUTHER

So - *he's* boring? Whatever his name
is.

ZOE

Marcus.

LUTHER

I don't want to know his name. Why
would I want to know his name?
(then)
So - does a woman reach a stage in
life when she wants her partner to be
boring? Because I have to tell you;
nobody advised me of this.

ZOE

He's not boring.

LUTHER

Is the sex good?

A sudden BANG! at the door. Outside, THREE SECURITY GUARDS have
arrived. They take turns to shoulder-barge the door.

ZOE

John, not everything has a motive.
Sometimes things just - happen.

LUTHER

Nothing just happens. There are laws.
Physical laws, I mean, not -

ZOE

It's not about the sex.

LUTHER

Of course it's about the sex. You enjoy sex with him. You must. And the pictures of that just go round and round my head like a train.

ZOE

The train in your head never stops - which actually is the problem, right there.

A silence.

ZOE (cont'd)

When he's with me, he's actually with me.

That hits home. He stares at her.

BANG! on the door.

ZOE (cont'd)

Listen, why are you here? Really? What did you think would happen?

LUTHER

I just - I thought - y'know - that you might want to come home and be married to me.

ZOE

Some men bring flowers.

LUTHER

This was a grand gesture.

ZOE

Next time, think flowers.

LUTHER

Next time?

ZOE

You know what I mean.

Before he can answer, the door BREAKS OPEN and SECURITY GUARDS spill in. Luther backs away, badging them.

LUTHER

Police! Police!

INT. FORD AND VARGAS - ELEVATOR - DAY

Luther with security guards flanking him. An awkward silence.

CUT TO:

STOP

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