

MISSING PERSONS REPORT

April 3, 2025

Report Number: 2025-1528

Officer James Anderson, Chandler Police Department

Badge Number 4523

Name of Missing Person: Emily Parker

- Age: 32
- Ethnicity: white
- Sex: female
- Height: 5'6"
- Weight: 140 lbs
- Hair: auburn
- Eyes: green
- Occupation: Real Estate Agent with The Karas Group
- Home Address: 1713 W Loughlin Dr, Chandler, AZ 85224
- Vehicle: 2023 gray BMW M3

Reporting Party: Alayah Thompson

Relationship to Missing Person: Neighbor and friend who was watching Ms. Parker's 7 y/o child

Contact Information: 480-555-1234, 1711 W Loughlin Dr, Chandler, AZ 85224

Statement: On Wednesday, April 2, 2025, in the mid-afternoon, Ms. Thompson picked up Ms. Parker's son, Michael, from the bus stop. This is a common occurrence since the divorce and due to Ms. Parker's work hours. There is a child custody arrangement for the child's father, Ethan Parker, to pick up the child on Wednesdays due to the mother's work schedule. According to Ms. Thompson, she frequently babysits and "fills in" for Mr. Parker because he has a drinking problem and sometimes misses his scheduled times. Ms. Thompson said she sent a text to Ms. Parker that Michael was with her at her home because Mr. Parker was a "no show" again. Ms. Parker often works late on Wednesdays and frequents the "Wine-Down Wednesday" happy-hour type of event at Sorso's Wine Room in Scottsdale. Ms. Thompson was not alarmed when Ms. Parker did not return in the early evening. Later on she was slightly concerned when Ms. Parker did not return home or check-in, but wondered if Ms. Parker had gone home with someone she had met at Sorso's. The next morning, Thursday, April 3rd, Ms. Thompson got Michael off to school and again tried to get ahold of Ms. Parker. When she spoke with Ms. Parker's assistant, Amy, who also had not seen or heard from Ms. Parker that morning, Ms. Thompson contacted the police. When police asked Ms. Thompson if she knew of anyone with a reason to harm Emily, Ms. Thompson revealed the many arguments leading up to the Parkers' divorce, and that Ethan was not happy about the custody arrangement. She also mentioned that she had recently overheard a heated exchange between Emily and her assistant, Laura Sanchez. Emily had fired Laura just a few weeks ago.

Last Seen: Wednesday, April 2, 2025, approximately 4:00pm by Amy Jones, her assistant, leaving work at 4167 N Marshall Way, Scottsdale, 85251. According to Ms. Jones, Ms. Parker had a meeting with a potential investor about the Sunset Ridge project. She also corroborated that Ms. Parker frequently meets with clients at the “Wine-Down Wednesday” at Sorso’s Wine Room.

Follow-up Investigation:

A patrol unit located Emily Parker’s gray 2023 BMW M3 in the North Garage, 15323 N Scottsdale Rd, Scottsdale, AZ 85254, a public parking garage 15323 near Sorso Wine Room, an upscale wine bar in Scottsdale. The car was locked and appeared undisturbed from the outside. There was a parking stub on the dashboard from the parking garage booth.

Scenario Analysis:

Your team of investigators will need to piece together the evidence to locate the missing person, Emily Parker. You will need to determine if there is evidence of foul play. If so, can you determine the motive, opportunity, and means for the suspect by analyzing the physical evidence from the scene and statements provided by witnesses? The goal is to use forensic science techniques to identify and submit evidence to the crime lab and also interviewing skills to aid in the investigation of Emily Parker’s disappearance.

MISSING PERSON

Emily Parker

- Age: 32
- Ethnicity: white
- Sex: female
- Height: 5'6"
- Weight: 140 lbs
- Hair: Auburn
- Eyes: Green
- Blood Type: O+
- Shoe size: women's 7
- Allergies: cats
- Marital status: divorced
- Children: son, age 7, named Michael
- Pets: dog – black labrador retriever named Shadow
- Vegetation at her residence: rose bushes
- Hobbies: gardening, hiking, wine-tasting events
- Occupation: Real Estate Agent with The Karas Group
- Home Address: 1713 W Loughlin Dr, Chandler, AZ 85224
- Vehicle: 2023 gray BMW M3

Background: Emily is a striking woman with long auburn hair and vibrant green eyes. She is a successful and driven real estate agent in Phoenix, who has climbed up the corporate ladder and enjoys success with increasingly higher-valued contracts. She is known for her ambition, intelligence, and determination and often works long hours to close deals and manage her clients' needs. With what little free time Emily has she frequently hikes, tends to her garden, and spends time with her 7-year-old son, Michael. Emily is recently divorced. Her ex-husband, Ethan, rents an apartment nearby. Currently Michael spends most of his time with his mother, but the custody battle is becoming ugly. Ethan has visitation rights and they have an agreement that Michael can go with Ethan on Wednesdays due to Emily's work schedule. Professionally, Emily is respected by her peers but has a few rivals in the competitive real estate market, most notably John Miller, whom she considers quite the weasel. She thinks Dr. Hare's term "Snakes in Suits" is a perfect term for John.

INSTRUCTOR PAGES

Evidence

INSTRUCTOR'S NOTE: This particular scenario and primary crime scene is designed to have a “bonus component”. The vehicle’s GPS data is how investigators will discover Emily at the vacant property. If the student teams request this data within a certain time frame, then Emily can be found alive. Whether or not Emily is conscious and able to be interviewed can be assessed against other evidence and how much of a point advantage that would have over teams who would not be able to interview her. (Perhaps Emily can be unconscious in the hospital, so therefore not an option for the interviewing stage.) If teams do not request the GPS data at all or within a certain time frame then those teams will not receive bonus points. They will need to be informed during the evidence processing stage that Emily’s (dead) body has been discovered at the vacant property.

Emily’s car being discovered at the Sorso Wine Room (vs South Mountain Park) fits better with Laura wanting the car location to not be out of the ordinary as well as entertain other possibilities to explain Emily’s absence (i.e. maybe Emily went home with someone from the bar? Maybe something happened to her on the way to the parking lot, etc.) Also, gaining the GPS data from Emily’s car at Sorso’s will show it going from Emily’s work to the South Mountain Park, and then from the South Mountain Park to the vacant property, prior to it being discovered at its final destination.

During the evidence processing stage when students receive the report of Emily being found, they should also be told of video surveillance from David’s shop so that they learn David is a potential individual to interview. *If there is not enough time and/or too many witnesses, the instructor should decide if David’s information should be provided to students.

CRIME SCENES

Primary Crime Scene (that the student teams will process) = Emily's BMW in the parking structure at Sorso's Wine Room

SEARCH WARRANT NEEDED

Contents in Emily's vehicle: Emily's **briefcase** is on the floorboard behind the driver's seat, Emily's **purse** is on the floorboard of the front passenger seat, with personal belongings inside, including her **wallet** and cell **phone**. There is a **tin of breath mints** and a **folded piece of paper** in the center console. On the driver's side floorboard almost under the seat there is a broken fingernail or fake "press-on" nail - red in color. Also on the driver's side floorboard at the pedals is some **dirt** (tracked in from shoes), a couple of strands of **long auburn hair**, and some **short black hair**. On the driver's seat and seat back are strands of **long black hair** as well as some **short white hair**. Small **blood spatter** is on the inside of the driver's door and on the dashboard near the left A/C vent. On the dash is a **ticket stub** from the parking garage with a timestamp of Wednesday at 6:29pm.

Props to set the scene

Critical:

- 4 or 5 chairs set-up like a vehicle's front row (driver's side and passenger side), and vehicle's back row.
- Desk or box or plastic organizer tray between the driver and front passenger seat to simulate center console
 - Real or simulated gear shift (I found 5-speed knobs on Amazon as low as \$7. Maybe DIY out of tennis balls, wiffle balls, ball-pit balls, etc. Maybe plastic for fingerprint dusting.)
 - Folded handwritten note (Laura's script for Ryan to read) ([see Handwritten script found in Emily's car attachment](#))
 - Tin of breath mints (something like Altoids or Tic-Tacs that would preserve a fingerprint)
- Cell phone (in the purse unless securing a purse isn't possible, in which case it can be on the floor of the passenger side or in the console. Whatever works best.)
- Strands of long auburn hair (human) – (fake hair clips/extensions are often found at Claire's, Sally Beauty Supply, Ulta, Amazon, Party City, and during Halloween places like Walmart, Spirit Halloween and anywhere selling costumes and wigs)
- Strands of long black hair (human)
- Multiple short white hairs (cat) – (fake facial hair can be acquired from the above-mentioned sources, stuffed animals, or real animals)
- Multiple short black hairs (dog)
- Fake blood for spatter on vehicle dash (I've read substituting poster paint for food dye = non-staining. Corn syrup + washable red paint + cocoa powder is one recipe. Another they say is less sticky is water + corn flour + washable red paint + cocoa powder or instant coffee)
- Dirt
- Garage parking ticket stub on the dashboard – Time stamp Wednesday at 6:29pm ([see parking garage ticket stub attachment](#))
- Torn or fake "press-on" nail (red is in the scenario but can be changed pending availability)
- Letter In Emily's briefcase: (or can be under the car seat if we can't find a briefcase): A somewhat crumpled email she had printed and deleted from Laura Sanchez demanding a settlement for her termination. ([see Email from Laura Sanchez attachment](#))
- Relevant text messages from Emily's phone ([see Emily's text message history attachment](#))

- Printed images of pollen grains (search internet for images of the plant-specific pollen grains under the microscope). Depending on skill set, you could provide photos and then provide a key whereby students would need to identify the pollen, or you could provide a photo of the flower with the pollen, such as this stock image. **Unknown if you want me to provide this – it depends what you want to use?** I use this microscope kit in my class and it comes with a key card: [Mixed Pollen, 16 Types Slide | Ward's Science \(wardsci.com\)](#)



- Fingerprints – unknown if you ask students to conduct side-by-side comparisons of unknown prints to known exemplars (such as TenPrint cards), provide photos of fingerprints, or just a slip of paper with a confirmation of whose print has been lifted from various items? **If students conduct the analyses, they will need to have a digital image of the partial to compare against a TenPrint.**
- Questioned Documents, Shoeprints and Tire Tracks – same thing, unknown if you ask students to conduct side-by-side comparisons of unknown to known? **If so, exemplars of these items of evidence need to be created.**

Desired:

- *Needs advance prepping* Cardboard cutout of dashboard of vehicle that would include a steering wheel and rearview mirror (photo example of DIY cutout found on Pinterest)
- *Needs advance prepping* Cardboard cutout of exterior side of vehicle (at minimum the driver's side door)
- Purse
- Wallet
- Briefcase
- Car floormats



Evidence Analysis:

Crime Scene Layout – unknown if you provide a crime scene sketch or if that is something the students need to create?

Fingerprints:

- Emily's Cell Phone: Multiple prints – mostly Emily's, but some partials belong to Laura Sanchez
- Emily's Car: Multiple prints
 - Driver's side exterior door handle had from both Emily and Laura
 - Driver's side interior door handle had from both Emily and Ryan
 - Steering Wheel – inconclusive or Emily and Ryan
 - Rearview Mirror – Ryan
 - Gearshift - Ryan
 - Tin of Altoids Breath Mints – Emily and Ryan
 - Folded handwritten note (unknown if students know about methods such as ninhydrin that can reveal prints on porous surfaces?) – Laura and Ryan
- Vacant Property: prints belong to Laura Sanchez (Ryan has his hands full carrying Emily)
 - realtors' lockbox on the front door
 - front door handle (both interior and exterior)

- interior door handle to the garage
- garage door button
- exterior door handle to the downstairs bathroom
- rocker light switch in the downstairs bathroom
- Sticky side of duct tape used as Emily's restraints – prints belong to Ryan

Trace Evidence:

- Hair
 - Emily's car driver's side floormat: long strands of auburn hair (Emily's)
 - Emily's car driver's side seat: long strands of black hair (Laura's)
 - Emily's car driver's side seat and seat back: short black hair (Emily's dog)
 - Emily's car driver's side seat and seat back: short white hair (Ryan's cat)
 - Vacant property (technically Emily's clothing): short black hair (Emily's dog) and short white hair (Ryan's cat)
- Fiber
 - Vacant property: Fibers consistent with carpeted car mats were found on Emily's clothing and in the duct tape used as restraints around Emily's wrists and ankles. These fibers match the class characteristics of the floormats manufactured for trucks and SUVs.
- Soil/Dirt
 - Emily's car driver's side floormat: dirt consistent in color and higher mineral composition with dirt found around South Mountain.
 - Vacant property: dirt on the garage floor consistent in color and higher mineral composition with dirt found around South Mountain.
- Vegetation/Pollen
 - Emily's Car: mixed pollen grains consistent with the Sonoran Desert (such as Palo Verde and Mesquite trees) as well as higher concentrations of rose and hibiscus
 - Vacant property: mixed pollen grains consistent with the Sonoran Desert (such as Palo Verde and Mesquite trees) as well as higher concentrations of rose, hibiscus, and oleander in the downstairs bathroom.
 - On Emily's clothes/hair are predominantly rose but also some hibiscus
 - Scarf used as a gag in Emily's mouth had predominantly oleander pollen grains

Blood (the CODIS database links unknown DNA left during the commission of a crime to **offenders** who are **legally required** to provide samples for the database. Perhaps an explanation should be provided to students that CODIS doesn't simply contain everybody's DNA? Our characters are not previously convicted felons. Even if they were, CODIS has some limitations. Though CODIS contains more than 20 million DNA profiles, there are still legal reasons why certain offenders are not in the database. This, plus the time and cost considerations of requesting DNA, could be reasons to instruct the teams of students to request blood type instead.):

- Interior of Emily's car: During the struggle at South Mountain Park, Emily sustained a minor injury (perhaps Ryan had to punch her and she sustained a bloody nose), leaving blood spatter on the steering wheel and dashboard near the left A/C vent (type O+).
- South Mountain Park at the GPS coordinates from Emily's car: A small amount of blood was found on the ground at the park (type O+).

Questioned Documents:

- Handwritten script: A folded piece of paper was found in the center console of Emily's car. It was the handwritten script that Laura composed for Ryan to read when he called Emily, posing as "Kevin" the investor.
- Handwriting Analysis: A forensic handwriting expert conducted a comparative analysis of the handwriting on the note found in Emily's car to several known exemplars of handwriting from Emily Parker, Laura Sanchez, Ethan Parker, and John Miller. These exemplars were procured primarily from business-related documents. The analysis yielded multiple consistencies, particularly in the way certain letters were formed. It was concluded that Laura Sanchez wrote the questioned material.
- Paper and Ink Analysis: The note was written on standard 8.5"x11" office paper using a common black ballpoint pen. Thin layer chromatography (TLC) could be conducted if writing utensils were gathered as items of evidence when a suspect was identified and search warrant issued. However, while both items are consistent with supplies Laura has access to, there is nothing unique about the paper or pen used to create the note.

Shoeprints:

- At South Mountain Park: With it being a public park and popular spot for hiking, there are many different shoe impressions in the dirt at the south entrance to South Mountain Park. The condition of the ground was not suitable to make 3D casts and many were not viable, but several photographs were taken of shoe impressions at the GPS coordinates from Emily's car. Of the viable impressions, one was in length approximate to a men's size 11-13. Additionally there were some smaller shoe impressions, length approximate to a woman's size 6-8.
- At the Vacant property: Shoeprints were found on the tile floor inside the vacant property. There was one set at the front entry (Laura's). There were two sets (Laura and Ryan) different sizes and patterns from each other at the garage door entry to the house. These were captured with photographs and ESDL.

Tire Tracks:

- At South Mountain Park: With it being a public park and popular spot for hiking, there are many different tire impressions in the dirt at the south entrance to South Mountain Park. The condition of the ground was not suitable to make 3D casts, but several photographs were taken of tire impressions at the GPS coordinates from Emily's car.
- Vacant Property: Tire marks were left on the garage floor. Consistent with a tire commonly sold with larger SUVs and trucks. A deep-dive into tire databases is still pending, but a cursory overview shows similar design and description of the Fury brand of tires.
- Location Matching: The tire marks from both locations were compared and shared class characteristics. It's possible these two scenes are linked via same vehicle, but further analysis is needed due to the differing substrates. A comparison of the tires on the vehicle in question to the tire marks on the garage floor would likely yield better results. The marks on the garage floor look to be Fury brand, 265/70R17

Other Physical Evidence

- Emily's Car driver's side floormat, almost under the seat: broken or fake "press-on" fingernail, red in color (Laura's, from struggling with Emily during the abduction)
- At the vacant property: a black cotton scarf (Laura's) was found on Emily – used as a gag

- At the vacant property: duct tape restraints found on Emily's wrists and ankles
- At the vacant property: tire tracks (Fury brand) on the garage floor (F-150)
- In Ryan's truck: type O+ blood droplets on the interior carpeted mat in the back
- In Ryan's truck: a pair of women's sunglasses. Fprints on them will belong to Emily
- In Ryan's truck: roll of duct tape. The tear on the roll will be a fracture match to the tear on one of the restraints.
- In Ryan's truck: fingerprints belonging to Ryan, Laura, and David Lee

Digital Evidence:

- Emily's office computer - During the month leading up to the Emily's disappearance, there were many emails to business partners and established clients – all business-related with nothing raising any red flags, with the exception of two emails: one was from Laura in the trash folder demanding payment for wrongful termination ([see Email from Laura Sanchez attachment](#). ****This is currently a printed document in Emily's briefcase in her car. It can be digital evidence only if the instructor chooses**), and the other was from Dr. Kevin Morris requesting a meeting about the Sunset Ridge project. ([see Email from Kevin Morris attachment](#)).
- Emily's car GPS on the day of her disappearance ([see map attachment](#))
 - Left 1713 W Loughlin Dr, Chandler (home) at 7:45am. Arrived at 4167 N Marshall Way, Scottsdale (The Karas Group) at 8:20am. Left at 4:05pm and arrived at 2902 N 68th St, Scottsdale (ECHO Coffee) at 4:10. Left at 4:20pm and arrived at 5:00pm at 16612 S 2nd Pl, Phoenix (vacant residence). Left at 5:30pm and arrived at 1255 E Chandler Bl, Phoenix (McDonald's) at 5:35pm. Left at 5:37pm and arrived at 15323 N Scottsdale Rd, Scottsdale (Sorso Wine Room) at 6:30pm
- Emily's cell phone ([see Emily's text history attachment of relevant texts](#))
 - Log of calls and texts: During the week leading up to her disappearance, Emily made several calls to her assistant, other clients, to her next-door neighbor, Alayah, and to her ex-husband, Ethan. These calls were business related, routine check-ins, or confirmations about child care for Michael. Of note on the day of Emily's disappearance there were 2 calls from an unknown/unidentified number: at 10:17am for a duration of 53 seconds, and at 4:51pm for a duration of 12 seconds (these are from "Kevin" on the burner phone Ryan purchased – one verifying the meeting for later in the day, and the other that he was at the meeting point). The last outgoing communication was a text to Ethan sent at 5:36pm. There were three unread texts: one from Alayah at 7:06pm, one from Ethan at 10:42 pm, and another from Alayah at 9:01 pm. There was a missed call from Alayah at 9:00pm. On Thursday morning there was another unread text from Alayah at 7:30am and two more missed calls from Alayah at 8:00am and at 8:40am. There was a missed call from Amy at 8:45am
 - GPS Data: The **phone's GPS** data tracked Emily's movements from her home to work on Wednesday morning. She was at work all day until 4:00pm. She stopped at ECHO coffee on her way down to her meeting with the investor at South Mountain Park. The phone was turned off at **5:10pm or at 5:37pm**. **INSTRUCTOR NOTE:** You need to decide if you want to give students bonus points for requesting phone GPS instead of car GPS.
 - NO bonus points for phone GPS: Emily's phone was turned off at South Mountain Park at 5:10pm (which will not give students the location of where Emily is located) and then turned back on at McDonald's at 5:35pm when Laura stopped briefly for wifi

service to send the text from Emily's phone to Ethan, and then turned the phone off again at 5:37pm before leaving McDonald's.

- YES bonus points for phone GPS: Emily's phone will show the vacant residence location where Emily is located. The phone was shut off at 5:37pm after Laura sent the text to Ethan from Emily's phone.
- Laura's personal computer: disguised as investor "Dr. Kevin Morris", Laura sent Emily an email invitation for a meeting near the proposed development in South Mountain Park. (see [Email from Kevin Morris attachment](#)). This email was sent from Laura's personal computer.
- Laura's cell phone (see [Laura's text history attachment of relevant texts with Ryan](#))
- Surveillance footage from David's auto shop showing the F-150 speeding away after the near collision with Davy Jr.
- Surveillance footage from Target showing Ryan buying the burner phone
- Surveillance footage from McDonald's showing Ryan entering and walking to the restrooms

CHARACTERS

Not for student distribution. This is background data for volunteers who role-play during the interview stage.

Ethan Parker

WITNESSES/INVESTIGATIVE LEADS:

Relationship to the victim: Ex-husband

- Age: 34
- Ethnicity: white
- Sex: male
- Height: 6'0"
- Weight: 180 lbs
- Hair: brown
- Eyes: blue
- Blood Type: O+
- Shoe size: men's 11.5
- Allergies: none
- Marital Status: divorced
- Children: son, age 7, named Michael. Lives primarily with his mother, Emily
- Pets: none in his apartment. Ex-wife has the dog, a black labrador retriever named Shadow
- Vegetation at apartment complex: hibiscus
- Hobbies: hiking, MMORPG games
- Occupation: recently unemployed; previously a financial advisor
- Home Address: Chandler Ridge Apartments, 102 W. Palamino Dr., Chandler, AZ 85225
- Vehicle: 2018 black Chevrolet Silverado 1500 with a camper shell, Fury brand of tires

Background: Ethan and Emily's divorce was rife with conflict, primarily due to custody battles over their son, Michael. Ethan has a history of alcohol abuse and financial instability. He recently lost his job and has been struggling to make child support payments. Despite his troubles, he maintains that Emily's demanding work schedule is not in Michael's best interest and is fighting for custody.

Alibi: He had been home alone, drinking, and passed out for much of the evening. He told police he missed his night with his son due to being passed out, but that he had received a text from Emily around 5:30pm Wednesday that she might not be able to pick-up Michael that night because she was busy with work. She's always busy with work!. He also had a couple of texts from Alayah - one around 4:00pm that Michael had finished his homework and had eaten a snack so he was ready to be picked up. And then another around 7:00 that she was fixing dinner for Michael and had some pajamas for him at her house in case Emily wasn't home by 9:00.

Alayah Thompson

WITNESSES/INVESTIGATIVE LEADS:

Relationship to the victim: babysitter, close friend, and next-door neighbor

- Age: 57
- Ethnicity: African American
- Sex: female
- Height: 5'7"
- Weight: 160 lbs
- Hair: graying black
- Eyes: brown
- Blood Type: AB-
- Shoe size: women's 9
- Allergies: none
- Marital status: widowed (her husband was in the military and was killed-in-action years ago)
- Children: 2 – a son and a daughter, both adults. Grandchildren: 2 boys, ages 4 and 6
- Pets: rabbits
- Vegetation at her residence: rose bushes
- Hobbies: gardening, reading, arts & crafts
- Occupation: part-time librarian
- Home address: 1711 W Loughlin Dr, Chandler, AZ 85224
- Vehicle: 2021 blue Toyota Camry XSE

Background: Alayah lives next door to Emily and has been a close friend for years. She often helps Emily with Michael and has a good understanding of Emily's routines. Alayah mentioned seeing Laura Sanchez visiting Emily's house a few weeks before Emily's disappearance. She overheard a heated argument between them. Alayah also recalled seeing an unfamiliar dark pickup truck with a camper shell parked down the street a couple of times in the past week.

Alibi: Was home babysitting Michael. If police ask for proof, she invites them to review her Ring footage and car and phone GPS to verify that she was home with Michael the entire late afternoon and overnight. The only place she had gone was to and from Michael's school.

John Miller

WITNESSES/INVESTIGATIVE LEADS:

Relationship to the victim: acquaintance and competitor in the real estate business

- Age: 45
- Ethnicity: white
- Sex: male
- Height: 6'2"
- Weight: 210 lbs
- Hair: Black
- Eyes: Blue
- Blood Type: O+
- Shoe size: men's 12.5
- Allergies: shellfish
- Marital status: single
- Children: none
- Pets: dog – white American Eskimo named Wilson
- Vegetation at his residence: palm trees, Bermuda grass, hibiscus
- Hobbies: golf, fine-dining, cigar club
- Occupation: Real estate agent with Russ Lyon Realty
- Home Address: 10756 E Wildcat Hill Rd, Scottsdale, AZ 85262
- Vehicles: 2024 red Lexus RX 350 hybrid; Brand of tires = 'Bridgestone, maybe? Whatever was on it when I drove off the lot'). 2023 hunter metallic GMC Sierra 3500 Denali, Brand of tires = 'Fury for sure, cuz I like the name. 265 or 275, I don't recall'

Background: John Miller is a tall, handsome man with a charismatic presence, which has significantly contributed to his professional success. Standing at 6'2", he has an athletic build, maintained through regular workouts at a high-end gym. John has striking blue eyes, perfectly styled dark hair with a touch of silver at the temples, and a charming smile that can easily win over clients as well as dates. He dresses impeccably, often seen in tailored suits and designer accessories, which further enhances his professional image. His good looks and smooth talking make him very persuasive, but those who know him well are aware of his shady and ruthless business tactics.

He is a successful and well-established real estate agent with a long-standing brokerage in Phoenix that specializes in luxury properties. Professionally, John's personality can be described as ambitious, driven, and quite charming. There have been reports of heated confrontations with competitors and clients that led to legal disputes over property deals. John has been sued a couple of times for breach of contract and unethical practices. But, he produces results and the partners of Russ Lyon Realty have influence as deep as their pockets, and none of John's cases resulted in criminal charges. John is highly competitive and known to go to great lengths to secure deals and maintain his market position.

Personally, John has a history of short and rocky relationships. Several ex-girlfriends have accused him of being controlling and emotionally abusive. While none of these accusations have resulted in legal action, he has a personal reputation of being a player.

Alibi: John Miller told police that he had been on a business trip and returned late Wednesday afternoon/early evening. He has an airplane boarding pass and multiple colleagues who can corroborate his presence at a work-related luncheon in Jackson Hole, WY earlier in the day. His alibi is confirmed by flight records and timestamps. John told police he had gone to The Cedar Room (a cigar lounge) Wednesday before returning home.

Laura Sanchez

WITNESSES/INVESTIGATIVE LEADS:

Relationship to the victim: former assistant

- Age: 28
- Ethnicity: Hispanic
- Sex: female
- Height: 5'5"
- Weight: 145 lbs
- Hair: black
- Eyes: brown
- Blood type: A+
- Shoe size: women's 8
- Allergies: peanuts
- Marital status: single
- Children: none
- Pets: none
- Vegetation at her apartment complex: oleander
- Hobbies: vintage cars, reading mystery novels, listening to true-crime podcasts
- Occupation: bartender at Chili's
- Home Address: 14203 N 19th Ave, Phoenix, AZ 85023
- Vehicle: white 1992 Mazda RX-7

Background: Laura worked as Emily's assistant for three years before being recently fired under questionable circumstances. Laura accused Emily of unfair treatment and withholding commissions. After her termination, Laura struggled to find stable employment and has expressed resentment towards Emily in social media posts. Laura has no criminal record but has been involved in several heated disputes with former employers.

Alibi: Told police she was working out at the gym. She went alone and doesn't recall seeing any regulars there.

David Lee

WITNESSES/INVESTIGATIVE LEADS:

Relationship to the victim: none

- Occupation: Owner and mechanic of Dave's Classics, an auto repair and detailing shop that caters to vintage and luxury, high-end vehicles. He also operates classiccars.com out of his business on 1345 E Chandler Blvd, Phoenix, AZ.
- Ethnicity: Asian
- Sex: male
- Age: 50
- Height: 5'10"
- Weight: 190 lbs
- Hair: graying black
- Eyes: brown
- Blood Type: AB+
- Shoe size: men's 10.5
- Allergies: none
- Marital status: married
- Children: one son, Davy, age 17
- Pets: dog – Beagle named Buddy
- Vegetation at his residence: citrus trees, vegetable garden
- Home address: 491 W Marlin Pl, Chandler, AZ 85286
- Hobbies: restoring vintage cars, attending classic car shows and auctions, gardening
- Vehicle: blue 1969 Camaro SS

Background: David owns and works in his auto repair shop. With his extensive knowledge of a wide range of vehicles, and his own personal collection of refurbished classics that he has displayed in the Valley's car shows or offered at the annual Barrett Jackson auction in Scottsdale, David's shop is a popular stop for luxury and classic car owners. He has a standard practice of taking photographs of vehicles during service check-ins and check-outs. This includes photos of the exterior, identifying marks, and license plates for record-keeping and to avoid disputes over pre-existing damage. Additionally, David's shop has multiple security cameras installed for surveillance purposes and reassurance to customers who leave their prized possessions in his care. He has developed a reputation for meticulous work and excellent customer service. This reputation has led to a steady stream of clients, including those involved in the real estate industries. John Miller and Laura Sanchez are two such clients. John sold David his house a few years back and they share a love of luxury vehicles.

His son, Davy Jr, told him about a near collision he had with a dark-colored truck on his way home from the shop on Wednesday evening. He didn't get a good look at the license plate, but the truck had a camper shell on it and a CCV sticker on the back window. He thought the truck looked familiar, but he wasn't sure – they all kinda look alike. David has no connection to Emily but provided this information about the truck and surveillance footage from his shop to the authorities after hearing about the case on the news about police activity and someone being found not even 5 minutes from his auto shop.

Ryan Carter

WITNESSES/INVESTIGATIVE LEADS:

Relationship to Emily: none

- Occupation: Construction Worker
- Age: 28
- Height: 6'2"
- Weight: 220 lbs
- Hair: blond
- Eyes: hazel
- Blood type: O-
- Shoe size: men's 13
- Allergies: none
- Marital status: single
- Children: none
- Pets: cat - white Maine Coon named Bowie
- Vegetation at apartment complex: hibiscus
- Hobbies: all things outdoorsy (hiking, camping, biking, sports). Also volunteers at CCV as an assistant baseball coach to his step-brother's team.
- Address: 4431 W Keating Cir, Glendale, AZ 85308
- Vehicle: 2015 black Ford F-150 with a camper shell

Background: Ryan Carter is a 35-year-old construction worker who has lived in the Phoenix area for most of his life. He is known in the local community for his involvement in various construction projects, including residential and commercial developments. Ryan is known for being reliable and trustworthy. His friends and family often rely on him for help with various tasks, from home repairs to emotional support. He has a strong work ethic, often working long hours at construction sites. He takes pride in his work and is respected by his colleagues for his dedication and skill. Ryan is outgoing and enjoys socializing with friends and family. Good-natured at heart, he is always willing to lend a hand, his car, or a listening ear to those in need. His empathy makes him a supportive friend, particularly to Laura during her struggles.

Alibi: Ryan claimed he had been coaching his step-brother's baseball game on Wednesday evening and went to his construction job on Thursday morning. However, the head coach told police that Ryan told him that he wouldn't be able to make the game on Wednesday due a work conflict.

RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN CHARACTERS

Not for student distribution. This is more background data for the volunteers who role-play during the interview stage

Relationships

Ethan and Emily:

Emily and Ethan Parker met in their early twenties at a mutual friend's wedding in Phoenix. They quickly fell in love, drawn together by shared interests and mutual aspirations. Emily was breaking into the real estate industry, while Ethan was working in finance. They married after a brief courtship, welcomed a child shortly thereafter, and settled in a suburban neighborhood of Phoenix.

The early years of their marriage were happy and supportive. Emily's career in real estate began to flourish and, though Ethan was supportive, he was the one who took on more and more of the childcare duties. As Emily's career took off, the couple faced increasing stress. Emily's demanding job required long hours, leading to less time together, and less time with their son, Michael. Ethan, meanwhile, began to struggle with his own career, feeling overshadowed both by Emily's success and parental duties.

Ethan experienced financial instability due to bad investments and employment setbacks. This added significant strain to their marriage, with frequent arguments about money and priorities. During this period, Ethan developed a drinking problem as a coping mechanism for his professional failures as well as stress during what essentially became single parenthood. His substance abuse further strained their relationship, leading to frequent and intense conflicts about responsibility and being a good role model. The couple's relationship deteriorated rapidly, culminating in a bitter divorce.

The primary issue was the custody of their son, Michael. Emily fought for full custody, citing Ethan's alcohol abuse and financial instability.

The divorce left both parties bitter. Emily resented Ethan for his inability to contribute financially and emotionally to the family, while Ethan felt wronged by Emily's refusal to support him during his struggles, which he felt were due to Emily's actions just as much as his own. The court awarded Emily primary custody, and granted Ethan visitation rights. This did not sit well with Ethan. To appease him, Emily arranged for Michael to go to Ethan's after school on Wednesdays and stay through the evenings so that she, Emily, could continue what had become a routine "meeting" time with clients or colleagues at Sorsa's "Wine-Down Wednesday".

The custody arrangement for Michael remained a sore issue. Ethan argued that Emily's career and long, demanding hours was not a suitable or stable environment for Michael. However, due to his ongoing struggle with alcohol abuse, he frequently missed visitation appointments, which he felt were ridiculous anyway. To add insult to injury, Ethan struggled to make child support payments consistently. Ethan learned about Emily's involvement in the Sunset Ridge project through mutual acquaintances. He felt further marginalized and jealous of her success, which manifested in heated arguments during custody exchanges. Most recently she threatened to withhold visitation, including the Wednesday afternoon/evening arrangement, if he did not get help with his drinking.

Relationships

Alayah Thompson and The Parkers:

Prior to their divorce, Ethan lived with Emily in a suburban neighborhood in Chandler, Arizona. Alayah Thompson has been the next-door neighbor for many years, making her a familiar and constant presence in their lives. Alayah, being friendly and sociable, welcomed them with a homemade pie and offered assistance with settling in. Emily and Alayah bonded over gardening – both loved and maintained beautiful rose gardens – and over the years became close friends. Alayah frequently looked after Michael when Emily had work commitments and Ethan was not available, and sometimes would walk their dog, a friendly black lab named Shadow. She was someone Emily could rely on.

As Emily's career took off, she became increasingly busy, leading to fewer interactions with Alayah. Their relationship remained close, but Alayah missed the depth that their friendship had in the beginning. During Emily and Ethan's divorce, Emily occasionally confided in Alayah about her frustrations, especially regarding Ethan's drinking problem and the challenges of balancing her demanding career with single parenthood. Alayah offered a sympathetic ear to Emily. She provided emotional support and understanding of the difficulties of the situation. She helped with childcare, especially when the arguments got particularly nasty, to ensure Michael had a stable environment when things were tumultuous between his parents. Post-divorce, Alayah was the "back-up plan" for Michael (and Shadow), which she thoroughly enjoyed and was honestly relieved since, both leading up to and after the divorce, Ethan's drinking had become more frequent and he had become more unreliable. Whenever Alayah's grandchildren came to visit, Michael always came over and played well with them. Alayah and Emily would sometimes enjoy a "catch-up" session with a bottle of wine on a late Friday night. Alayah worried about Emily always seeming consumed by her work.

Alayah and Ethan: Alayah initially had a more interactive relationship with Ethan than with Emily. Ethan, being more available due to his less demanding job, often engaged in conversations with Alayah about home maintenance, cars, and local news. They shared an interest in classic cars, and Ethan occasionally helped Alayah with minor car repairs, strengthening their neighborly bond.

Alayah and Michael: Alayah became a surrogate grandmother figure to Michael, especially when Emily and Ethan were preoccupied with their careers and later, their marital issues. She would babysit him and involve him in activities with her grandchildren when they visited. During the turbulent period of his parents' divorce, Alayah provided Michael with a sense of stability and normalcy. She was a familiar and comforting presence in his life.

Relationships

John and Emily:

John Miller and Emily Parker have been professional rivals for several years. Both are prominent real estate agents in Phoenix, specializing in high-end properties. Due to the nature of their work, John and Emily frequently crossed paths at industry events, open houses, and networking functions. Their interactions were often marked by professional courtesy but underlying tension. Their competition intensified when Emily started gaining more clients and accolades, often at John's expense. He perceives her as a significant threat. John has a reputation for aggressive and sometimes underhanded business tactics. In contrast, Emily, on the surface, is regarded as being very professional and accommodating. John knows this is only on the surface. This difference in methods often led to clashes and public disagreements.

Recently, Emily won a lucrative contract with the Sunset Ridge development that John was also vying for. That project was worth millions and would have been an excellent addition to his professional portfolio. Emily being awarded that contract not only symbolized her professional superiority but also meant a substantial financial blow to John's agency. John's failure to secure the project and Emily's success became a turning point, fueling his determination to expose her shrewd tactics and tarnish her reputation.

John has a history of confrontational behavior. He has openly expressed his disdain for Emily in various industry circles. He has been overheard making derogatory remarks about her business practices and questioning her integrity. Emily, aware of John's animosity, has always been wary of him. While she thus far has maintained a professional demeanor, she harbors personal grudges due to his attempts to undermine her career.

Relationships

Laura and Emily: Laura Sanchez worked as Emily Parker's assistant for three years. During this time, Laura handled various administrative tasks, scheduled appointments, and occasionally assisted with client interactions. Emily relied on Laura for day-to-day operations, which gave Laura insights into Emily's business practices and client relationships. Initially, Emily trusted Laura and delegated significant responsibilities to her. Laura felt valued during Emily's early days in the business, and felt her own role was crucial in successfully managing Emily's schedule and growing clientele, especially during the busy periods of high-profile property deals.

Laura learned that Emily's charm and easy-going demeanor toward her clients was not consistent once behind closed doors. Emily has a manipulative streak, often using her charm to get what she wants. She can be calculating and is known to twist situations to her advantage, sometimes at the expense of others. Emily can also be highly controlling. She insists on having things done her way and can be very demanding of those around her. Emily rarely acknowledged Laura's efforts and was quick to blame her for any shortcomings or setbacks. As pressure mounted and Emily became more successful, she became more critical of Laura's performance. What at first seemed like a partnership evolved much more into Laura being subservient. At first Laura chalked up the criticisms of her job performance were due to Emily being stressed over her marital problems. But Emily's increasingly dismissive attitude about Laura's ideas and contributions made Laura feel undervalued and undermined. This led to growing resentment on Laura's part.

Over time, tensions grew between Emily and Laura. Emily's high expectations and demanding nature led to frequent conflicts. Laura felt overworked and underappreciated, while Emily believed Laura was not meeting her standards. The situation culminated in Emily recently firing Laura. Laura accused Emily of unfair treatment and withholding commissions. Emily, on the other hand, cited Laura's declining performance and attitude as reasons for the termination.

After being fired, Laura felt deeply betrayed by Emily, believing that her hard work and loyalty had been disregarded. This sense of betrayal turned into anger and a desire for retribution. She publicly expressed her grievances against Emily on social media and within professional circles. She accused Emily of unethical behavior and mistreatment. Laura's termination led to financial instability, further deepening her resentment toward Emily. She struggled to find stable employment and often blamed Emily for her difficult situation.

In her desperation, Laura began to stalk Emily, keeping track of her routines and interactions. This behavior was partly fueled by her need to gather information that could be used against Emily and partly by her unresolved emotional turmoil. Emily was aware of Laura's public accusations and the potential impact on her professional reputation. This added to her stress, especially with the high-stakes Sunset Ridge project.

Relationships

Laura and John: John knows Laura Sanchez via the real estate industry when Laura worked as Emily's assistant. Laura's role often required her to interact with other agents, including John, at networking events, open houses, and industry conferences. Aligned with the saying, "the enemy of my enemy is my friend" Laura felt as if John was a kindred spirit. After Laura was fired by Emily, she and John bonded over their shared frustration and resentment towards her. John saw Laura's dismissal as another example of Emily's ruthless business tactics, and Laura viewed John as an ally who understood her grievances. Since Laura's dismissal, she and John have met several times to discuss their shared interest in Emily's downfall. These meetings took place in public locations such as coffee shops and restaurants, as well as more private settings like John's office. John and Laura began informally collaborating to undermine Emily's reputation in the real estate community. Laura would share insider information about Emily's business practices, and John would use this information to attempt to discredit Emily among potential clients and colleagues. John provided Laura with emotional support, often consoling her during her difficult times post-termination. This support created a sense of loyalty and dependence, making Laura more inclined to confide in John and act on their shared frustrations. This alliance was mutually beneficial; John gained valuable insights that could weaken his competitor, while Laura felt supported and empowered to take action against Emily. While there is no direct evidence that John explicitly encouraged Laura to abduct Emily, their discussions and mutual disdain for Emily may have fueled Laura's desperation and extreme actions.

Relationships

Laura and Ryan:

Laura and Ryan have known each other since high school. They were part of the same social circle, often hanging out with mutual friends at local spots in Phoenix. They lost touch after graduation but reconnected a few years ago when Ryan started coaching baseball at CCV. His step-brother and Laura's cousin were on the same team. Their renewed and close friendship is based on shared memories and mutual support during difficult times. Laura, who did not own a vehicle suitable for hauling large items, frequently borrowed Ryan's truck for errands and personal projects. Ryan willingly lent her the truck without any hesitation, plus he enjoyed driving Laura's sport car. He remembered it belonging to her dad and thought it was pretty cool that she had maintained it all of these years. So funny, though, that it was an automatic transmission. He teased Laura that a real classic car should be a stick shift, but she didn't know how to drive one, and had no desire to trade in her father's car.

Ryan was aware of Laura's budding struggles with Emily. He listened to Laura's frustrations and offered advice and support. He agrees that Emily is selfish and unreasonable. He considers himself to be a dependable, hardworking, and friendly individual who values his relationships and takes pride in his work. As such, he can't understand how someone can be so successful yet so conniving to stab those in the back who help with your success. His long-standing friendship with Laura Sanchez perhaps clouded his judgment as he unintentionally got more involved in Laura's scheme for revenge. He had no knowledge that recently Laura was surveilling Emily on days when she had borrowed his truck. Ryan's background, interests, and community reputation paint a picture of a well-rounded individual caught in an unfortunate situation due to his trust in a friend.

Relationships

Laura and David:

Laura Sanchez regularly had her vehicle serviced at David's shop. As an aficionado of classic cars, she knew of David's reputation and quality of work. She had inherited her dad's vehicle and went to great lengths keeping it in tip-top shape. Over time, David and Laura developed a friendly rapport. David often teased Laura, that she must be the only lover of classic cars who didn't know how to drive a stick shift! Laura often shared snippets of her work and personal frustrations during her visits, which is how David became somewhat familiar with the situation. To show her gratitude for frequently borrowing Ryan's truck, Laura started bringing his F-150 to David, as well, for auto-detailing and general maintenance. This is, perhaps, how/why Davy Jr. thought he had recognized the truck that almost hit him that one evening.

SOLUTION

Solution

Guilty: Laura Sanchez and Ryan Carter. Laura concocted the scheme to abduct Emily Parker, and enlisted Ryan’s assistance in successfully executing her plan. Despite initial suspicions of Ethan (the ex) fighting for custody or John Miller (the business rival) trying to oust Emily as a competitor, there was lack of forensic evidence and/or alibis that corroborated their accounts of not being involved in Emily’s disappearance. The evidence collected—fingerprints, handwriting analysis, digital data, trace evidence, and more—ultimately led investigators to Laura and Ryan, unraveling their plot and ensuring justice for Emily.

Motive: Emily and Laura’s relationship transitioned from a professional dependence to a highly contentious and personal conflict. Emily’s high expectations and demanding nature, combined with Laura’s perceived mistreatment, created a volatile dynamic that played a significant role in the events leading up to the crime. Laura’s termination and subsequent grievances fueled a deep-seated resentment, leading her to the extreme actions of abduction and extortion.

Planning: Prior to the actual abduction, Laura had borrowed Ryan’s truck (because Emily would have recognized Laura’s car) and conducted surveillance of Emily’s home. She devised a plan of how she could extort Emily for money that she lost as a result of her wrongful termination plus the bonuses she surely would have received at the conclusion of the Sunset Ridge project. Laura used her insider real estate knowledge plus Emily’s schedule and routines to identify a believable ruse to get Emily alone and vulnerable. Laura constructed an email to Emily from a prospective investor, “Dr. Kevin Morris” (heir to the famous Hill’s Pet Nutrition pet food company). She then wrote a script for Ryan to read in his follow-up call confirming the meeting time and place – Wednesday afternoon at 5:00 at the South Mountain Park, south entrance.

Laura decided on a late Wednesday afternoon when Emily often tried to catch “Wine-Down Wednesdays” at the Sorso Wine Room. Emily frequently took clients to Sorso, as well, for business meetings and celebrations. Because of this, Laura also knew that Eric, if he wasn’t passed-out drunk, had custody of their son on Wednesday nights. There were times Eric wasn’t so reliable, but Emily’s next-door neighbor was “on-call” as the back-up plan for the kiddo to stay with her. So, Emily’s absence on Wednesday evening would not raise any alarms. They had planned to abduct Emily and transport her in Ryan’s truck to a vacant property nearby. Laura knew which properties were still on the market as well as the lockbox combination to access the key. After securing Emily in an interior bathroom so that she could not escape they would then drop off Emily’s car at Sorso’s so that nothing appeared abnormal or out of place. Laura’s ultimate goal was extortion - to threaten and scare Emily into paying Laura a handsome fee for her wrongful termination. Threats to Michael’s well-being would ensure payment as well as secrecy in case Emily considered alerting the authorities.

A Willing Accomplice: Laura, desperate and vengeful after being fired, enlisted the help of her close friend Ryan Carter. Ryan, being empathetic to Laura’s plight and having no direct connection to Emily, agreed to assist after being assured that Laura would not hurt Emily. Laura explained that she just needed him to pretend he was a rich investor who wanted to discuss involvement in the Sunset Ridge project. And that she would also need help to hide Emily for a day or two – just enough to scare her into paying the money and not alert authorities. Laura assured Ryan that she knew of several vacant properties that had been on the market for a while and were not currently the most desirable pieces of real estate. She knew the lockbox combinations to the properties and could easily gain entry without raising any suspicion.

Evidence Summary

Car GPS: Requesting the GPS data from Emily's car is key to locating her in a timely manner. While GPS on her cell phone is also a good idea (some locations may not be available due to Laura turning off Emily's phone). Again, the instructor needs to decide how much GPS data will be available on the phone vs the car.

Emily's Cell Phone Data: Text from Emily's phone to Ethan was sent (by Laura) during the time Emily was held, creating a misleading timeline. Other call and texting history with Ethan, John, Amy, and Alayah help build the storyline.

Laura and Ryan's texting history will also show planning of the crime.

Emails: Laura sent an email a month prior to the incident demanding a payment for wrongful termination (establishes motive). Laura also sent a fake email posing as an investor (Dr. Kevin Morris) requesting a meeting at the Sunset Ridge property as a ruse to get Emily alone.

Surveillance footage: David provided footage from his shop's surveillance cameras to investigators of a truck (Ryan's truck) speeding out of the neighborhood and almost causing an accident with his son. This happened on the same evening of Emily's disappearance, thus aiding in a timeline of events near the location where Emily was discovered. There is also surveillance footage showing Ryan purchasing a burner phone at Target the day before, as well as surveillance footage of Ryan entering McDonald's near the vacant property on the evening of Emily's disappearance.

Blood Type: A small amount of blood spatter found in Emily's car, in the back of Ryan's truck, and on the ground at the GPS coordinates at South Mountain park matches Emily's blood type, indicating a minor struggle or injury during the abduction. The instructor can decide to allow DNA requests instead of blood type.

Fingerprints: Fingerprints in/on Emily's car, at the vacant property, and on the duct tape used to restrain Emily match both Laura and Ryan. For potential elimination, Ethan and John's fingerprints are not found.

Trace Evidence: Hairs, fibers, pollen, and dirt all help with crime scene and character linkage. Hairs and fibers found at the vacant property correlate with Laura and Ryan. Fibers from the F-150's interior carpet share class characteristics with fibers found on Emily's clothing and in the duct tape used as restraints. Hair from Laura and from Ryan's cat (as well as hair from Emily and Emily's dog) are all found in Emily's car. Emily's clothing also has some trace white cat fur on it. Pollen specific to the residences of our characters is in Emily's car and the vacant property. Dirt from the South Mountain park is in Emily's car and Ryan's truck, plus also in the tread of their shoes (in case students ask for search warrants to procure shoes from any of the investigative leads).

Questioned Documents: The handwritten script that Laura wrote for Ryan to read for when he called Emily (posing as the investor Dr. Kevin Morris) was unfortunately left in Emily's car. Perhaps Ryan set it in the center console when he helped himself to the tin of breath mints. After loading Emily's body into his truck, Ryan was the one who drove Emily's car to the vacant property because Laura doesn't know how to drive a stick shift!

Shoeprints and Tire Tracks: Shoeprints matching Laura's and Ryan's footwear are found at the vacant property. Tire tracks in the garage of the vacant property match the distinctive tread of the Fury brand of tires. Photos of shoe and tire tracks were taken at the GPS coordinates at the South Mountain park. The instructor needs to decide whether or not any of these will "match".

Other physical evidence: Laura's torn/fake nail is found in Emily's car. If students ask for a search warrant of Ryan's truck, there are drops of O+ blood in the back, along with Emily's sunglasses, and Laura's fingerprints.

10:04

... 5G..

< Inbox

A V



Emily Parker

03/31/2025

To: emily.parker@karas.com >

request for mtg re: Sunset Ridge

Greetings Ms. Parker!

Congratulations! I understand you're the "maker and shake" of this new Sunset Ridge development in South Phoenix!

This is Or. Kevin Morris. Perhaps you've seen some news recently about Hill's Pet Nutrition expanding our operations? Frankly, I'm tired of Kansas and would like a change of scenery, and one of the kids is looking at programs at the University there. I'm traveling down to the Phoenix area tomorrow evening on business and would love to squeeze in a meeting with you and see the property before I head back to the airport. Please let me know if you have some time Wednesday afternoon.

Warm Regards,
Kevin

Or. Kevin Morris
CEO
Hill's Pet Nutrition
6180 Spnnt Pkwy
Overland Park, KS 66251



Tap to Download
Sunset Ridge investment
502KB

Left 1713 W Loughlin Dr, Chandler (home) at 7:45am. Arrived at 4167 N Marshall Way, Scottsdale (The Karas Group) at 8:20am. Left at 4:05pm and arrived at 2902 N 68th St, Scottsdale (ECHO Coffee) at 4:10. Left at 4:20pm and arrived at 5:00pm at 16612 S 2nd Pl, Phoenix (vacant residence). Left at 5:30pm and arrived at 1255 E Chandler Bl, Phoenix (McDonald's) at 5:35pm. Left at 5:37pm and arrived at 15323 N Scottsdale Rd, Scottsdale (Sorso Wine Room) at 6:30pm.



Left 1713 W Loughlin Dr, Chandler (home) at 7:45am. Arrived at 4167 N Marshall Way, Scottsdale (The Karas Group) at 8:20am. Left at 4:05pm and arrived at 2902 N 68th St, Scottsdale (ECHO Coffee) at 4:10. Left at 4:20pm and arrived at 5:00pm at 16612 S 2nd Pl, Phoenix (vacant residence). Left at 5:30pm and arrived at 1255 E Chandler Bl, Phoenix (McDonald's) at 5:35pm. Left at 5:37pm and arrived at 15323 N Scottsdale Rd, Scottsdale (Sorso Wine Room) at 6:30pm.

Text messages on Emily's phone potentially related to her disappearance

Alayah

When I left to p/u Michael I saw a truck parked down the street that's not usually there. The driver ducked when I drove by. Tinted windows so couldn't see much. Truck was still there on the way home. Drove away when I started to walk down the street.

Mon 3:15pm

Mon 3:16pm

Really? You ok? Michael ok? What color truck?

Yeah, we're fine. Just thought it was weird. Black, maybe blue? Idk, definitely dark. With Ethan's latest BS about custody I wasn't sure if I should be alarmed.

Mon 3:17pm

Mon 3:18pm

**Thx. I don't think Ethan's that smart – or that dumb!
LOL! I think I have an idea. No need to worry.
Be home soon.**

No surprise. Ethan's not responding so I'm fixing Michael some dinner. He finished homework and we're playing cards. I'll let you know if Ethan shows.

Wed 7:06pm *unread*

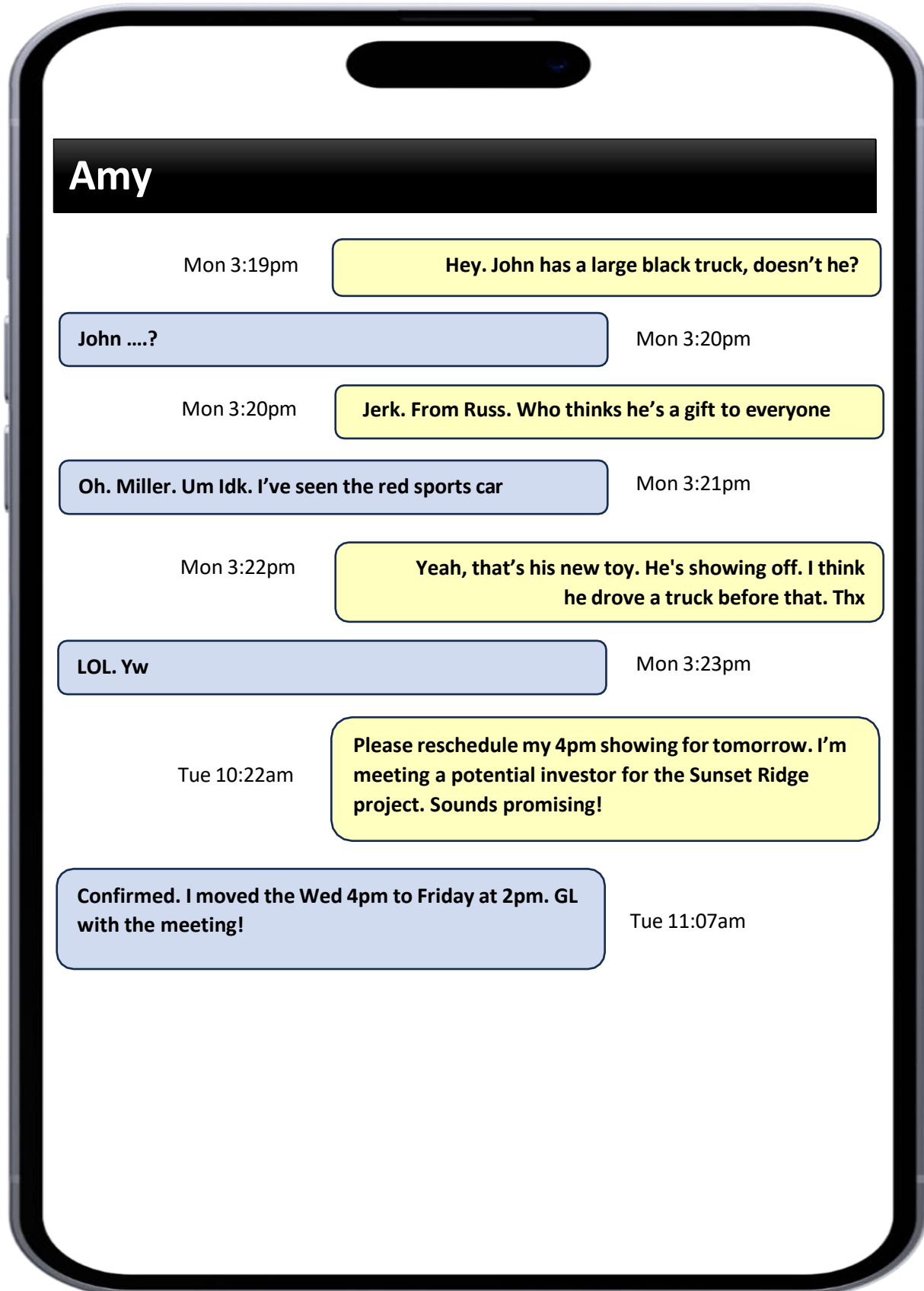
Just tried calling you. Still no response from Ethan (🙄). We've already had evening bath and bedtime story so don't worry about Michael. Lmk when you get home.

Wed 9:01pm *unread*

Hot date last night? I'm surprised I didn't hear from you but didn't want to interrupt anything. Are you home? I've got a couple of Michael's outfits over here so I'll plan on getting him to school if I don't hear back.

Thu 7:30am *unread*

Text messages on Emily's phone potentially related to her disappearance



Text messages on Emily's phone potentially related to her disappearance

John (the Snake)

Mon 3:25pm

Stay away from my house!

You're crazy?!? I'm not at your house! I'm out of town!

Mon 3:45pm

Mon 3:46pm

**The babysitter said she saw you hiding in your truck.
Leave or I'll call the cops! Your intimidation tactics
won't work! You'll never be on this project! Back off!**

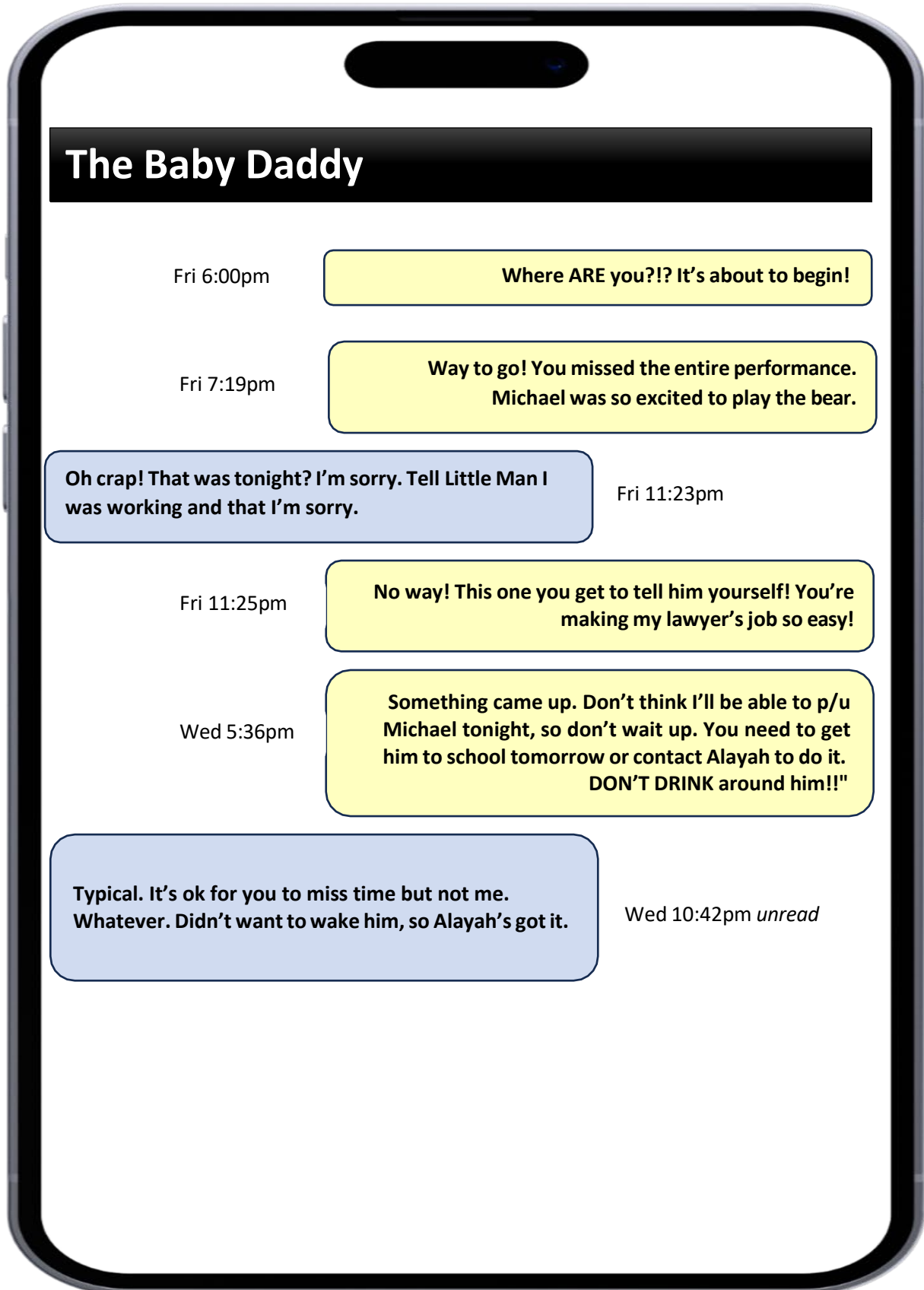
**You wish I was watching you! You couldn't
handle me! What tricks did you use to get that
contract? It certainly was not your charm or
your merits! The kid gloves are off! You're done!
You won't even see it coming! HAH!**

Mon 3:47pm

Mon 3:50pm

**Such a sore loser! Don't let the door hit you on
your way out!**

Text messages on Emily's phone potentially related to her disappearance



Text Messages on Ethan's phone

Emily

Where ARE you?!? It's about to begin!

Fri 6:00pm

**Way to go! You missed the en~~e~~ performance.
Michael was so excited to play the bear.**

Fri 7:19pm

Fri 11:23pm

**Oh crap! That was tonight? I'm sorry. Tell Litle Man I
was working and that I'm sorry.**

**No way! This one you get to tell him yourself! You're
making my lawyer's job so easy!**

Fri 11:25pm

**Something came up. Don't think I'll be able to p/u
Michael tonight, so don't wait up. You need to get
him to school tomorrow or contact Alayah to do it.
DON'T DRINK around him!!"**

Wed 5:36pm

Wed 10:42pm *unread*

**Typical. It's ok for you to miss ~~me~~ but not me.
Whatever. Didn't want to wake him, so Alayah's got it.**

Texts between Laura and John

John

Hey Laura! Sorry to hear what Emily did to you. Would love to grab coffee and talk.

Fri 12:21pm

Fri 12:37pm

Completely uncalled for. Let's meet for coffee on Monday at 10am.

Let's do tomorrow instead. At usual spot.

Fri 12:40pm

Mon 9:05am

I thought of a plan to get what's right ~~fully~~ mine.

I want to help you get what's yours. She's being greedy and we'll make her pay.

Mon 9:50am

I'll call you in a few. We'll figure this out.

Mon 9:51am

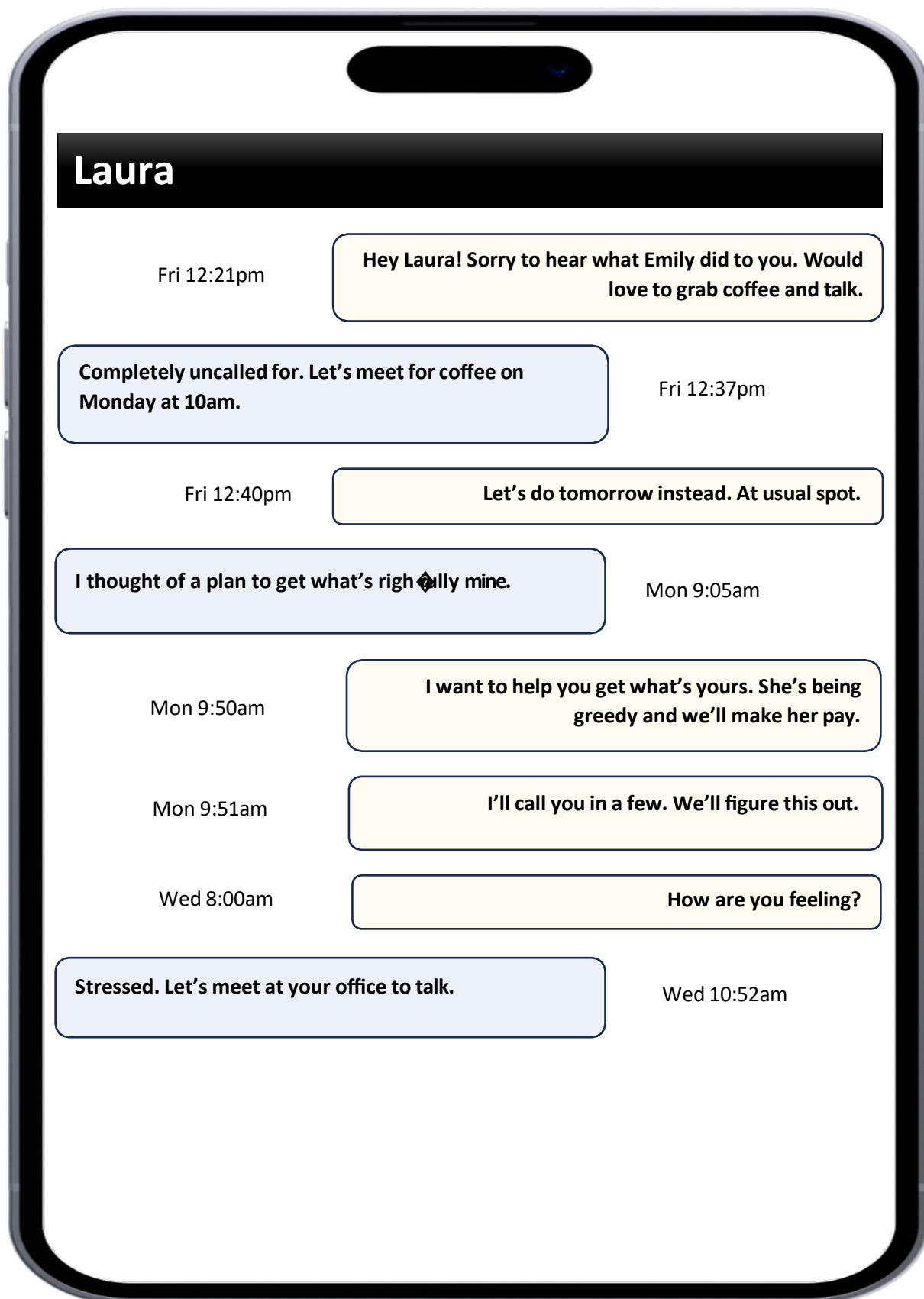
How are you feeling?

Wed 8:00am

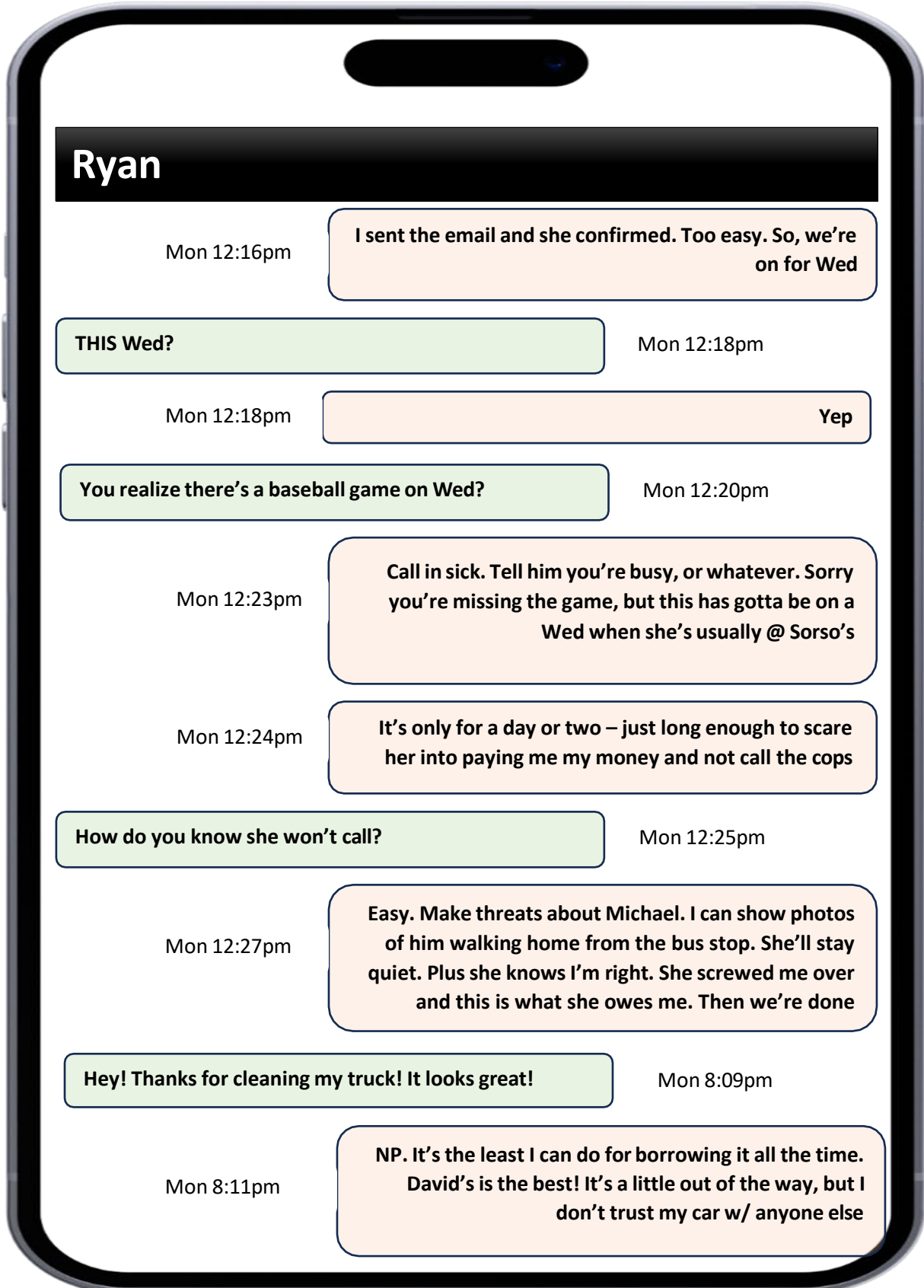
Wed 10:52am

Stressed. Let's meet at your office to talk.

Text messages on John's phone potentially related to Emily's disappearance



Text messages on Laura's phone potentially related to Emily's disappearance



Text messages on Laura's phone potentially related to Emily's disappearance

Ryan

Mon 8:12pm

I wrote down what you need to say when you call her on Wed morning and left it on the seat of your truck. Did you get it?

Yeah, I got it right here. I'm pretending I'm "Kevin"

Mon 8:19pm

Mon 8:21pm

Correct. "Dr. Kevin Morris" who's the heir to the Hill's Pet Nutrition company. You're interested in investing in this huge project. Obviously, if you get her instead of her vm, respond w/ any 'how are you' stuff. But keep it simple and professional. If you have time, you should grab a pre-paid burner phone tomorrow for that call

Where do I get one?

Mon 8:24pm

Mon 8:25pm

Idk. Any place you get a phone?

Ok. I'll look. You sure she'll fall for it?

Mon 8:26pm

Mon 8:31pm

Yep. She's greedy on power now. Out to out-do everyone. She'll make so much \$\$ off this project, and then so many more offers will come pouring in. I just want what's owed to me. Remember, I helped get her where she is, and then she screwed me over! She has gotta make it right

K. I'll talk to you tomorrow

Mon 8:42pm

Text messages on Laura's phone potentially related to Emily's disappearance

Ryan

**I found a phone on my lunch break at XYZ Phone Store.
Super easy.**

Tue 12:45pm

Tue 12:46pm

Ok cool. Use that to call her tomorrow morning

Just called and confirmed the meeting for 5:15today

Wed 10:19am

Wed 10:21am

Her or vm? Any issues?

Her. I don't think it's a good idea anymore

Wed 10:22am

Wed 10:23

**Come on. It's not that big of a deal. Just come check
out the property. I double-checked the property and I
opened the lockbox no problem**

I'm still not convinced. Let me think about it

Wed 10:24am

9:45

••, 5G!!!

< Inbox

A V

Emity Parker

03/912025

To: emily.parker@karas.com >

Immediate Financial Settlement Required for Wrongful Termination

Emily,

I am writing to address the unjust and wrongful termination you imposed on me. Your actions have caused significant professional and personal distress, leaving me without a source of income and with severe emotional distress.

Considering my dedicated service as your assistant, the way you handled my dismissal is unacceptable. You know full well that I was pivotal in your successful rise in the company and you would not have been awarded Sunset if not for my help.

Therefore, I demand a financial settlement of \$75,000 to cover the undue hardships your rash actions have inflicted on me. This amount is extremely reasonable and not negotiable in order to cover lost wages, potential income in the immediate future until I can secure solid employment, and emotional distress.

If this matter is not resolved swiftly and to my satisfaction, I will be forced to take further action, including legal proceedings. I strongly urge you to address this immediately to avoid any additional complications that will inevitably arise. Other prominent agents in the business are well aware of your undermining tactics. Your reputation cannot afford to be tarnished more at this juncture. Essentially you have everything to lose- including custody of your son!

You have 7 days to respond to me with details of finalizing this settlement. I suggest you take this seriously.

Laura

EI

"Hi Emily, this is Dr. Kevin Morris, the investor about the Sunset Ridge project. Thanks again for squeezing me in! I'm just confirming our meeting at South Mountain Park today at 5:00 PM. The south side park entrance, correct? I think your property might be perfect for our expanding operations. I'm looking forward to discussing the investment opportunities and potential collaboration. I believe you will be quite interested in my proposal. See you there!"



TICKET NO. 12345

\$10



TICKET NO. 12345

\$10

NORTH GARAGE
PARKING
APRIL 2 6:29PM
15323 N SCOTTSDALE RD
WWW.PARKOPEDIA.COM

TICKET NO. 12345

\$10

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TICKET NO. 12345

\$10

NORTH GARAGE
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Text messages on Ryan's phone potentially related to Emily's disappearance

Laura

I sent the email and she confirmed. Too easy. So, we're on for Wed

Mon 12:16pm

Mon 12:18pm

THIS Wed?

Yep

Mon 12:18pm

Mon 12:20pm

You realize there's a baseball game on Wed?

Call in sick. Tell him you're busy, or whatever. Sorry you're missing the game, but this has gotta be on a Wed when she's usually @ Sorso's

Mon 12:23pm

It's only for a day or two – just long enough to scare her into paying me my money and not call the cops

Mon 12:24pm

Mon 12:25pm

How do you know she won't call?

Easy. Make threats about Michael. I can show photos of him walking home from the bus stop. She'll stay quiet. Plus she knows I'm right. She screwed me over and this is what she owes me. Then we're done

Mon 12:27pm

Mon 8:09pm

Hey! Thanks for cleaning my truck! 😊 It looks great!

NP. It's the least I can do for borrowing it all the time. David's is the best! It's a little out of the way, but I don't trust my car w/ anyone else

Mon 8:11pm

Laura

I wrote down what you need to say when you call her on Wed morning and left it on the seat of your truck. Did you get it?

Mon 8:12pm

Mon 8:19pm

Yeah, I got it right here. I'm pretending I'm "Kevin"

Correct. "Dr. Kevin Morris" who's the heir to the Hill's Pet Nutrition company. You're interested in investing in this huge project. Obviously, if you get her instead of her vm, respond w/ any 'how are you' stuff. But keep it simple and professional. If you have time, you should grab a pre-paid burner phone tomorrow for that call

Mon 8:21pm

Mon 8:24pm

Where do I get one?

Idk. Any place you get a phone?

Mon 8:25pm

Mon 8:26pm

Ok. I'll look. You sure she'll fall for it?

Yep. She's greedy on power now. Out to out-do everyone. She'll make so much \$\$ off this project, and then so many more offers will come pouring in. I just want what's owed to me. Remember, I helped get her where she is, and then she screwed me over! She has gotta make it right

Mon 8:31pm

Mon 8:42pm

K. I'll talk to you tomorrow

Text messages on Ryan's phone potentially related to Emily's disappearance

Laura

Tue 12:45pm

**I found a phone on my lunch break at XYZ
Phone Store. Super easy.**

Ok cool. Use that to call her tomorrow morning

Tue 12:46pm

Wed 10:19am

Just called and confirmed the meeting for 5:15 today

Her or vm? Any issues?

Wed 10:21am

Wed 10:22am

Her. I don't think it's a good idea anymore

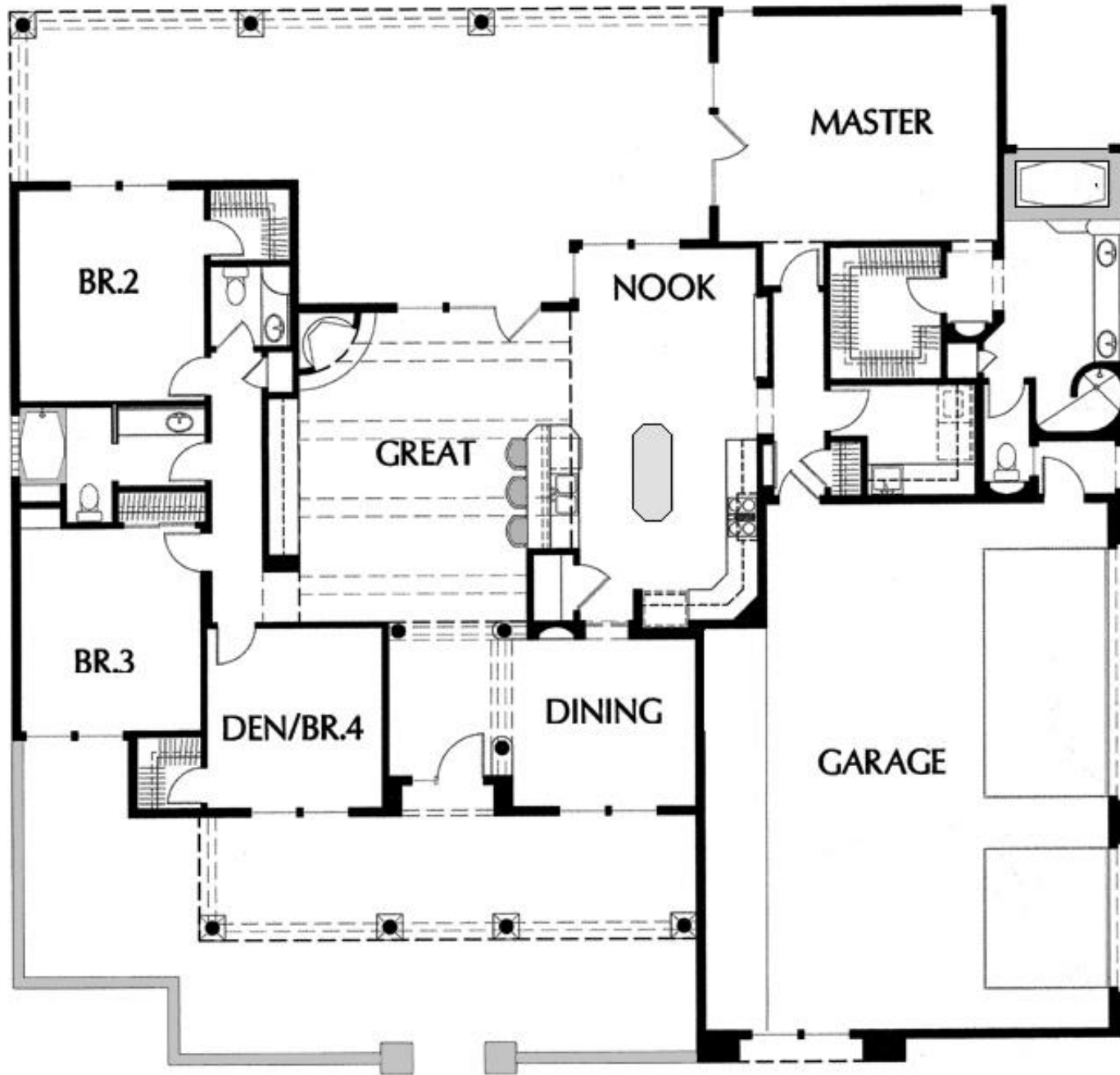
**Come on. It's not that big of a deal. Just come check
out the property. I double-checked the property and I
opened the lockbox no problem**

Wed 10:23

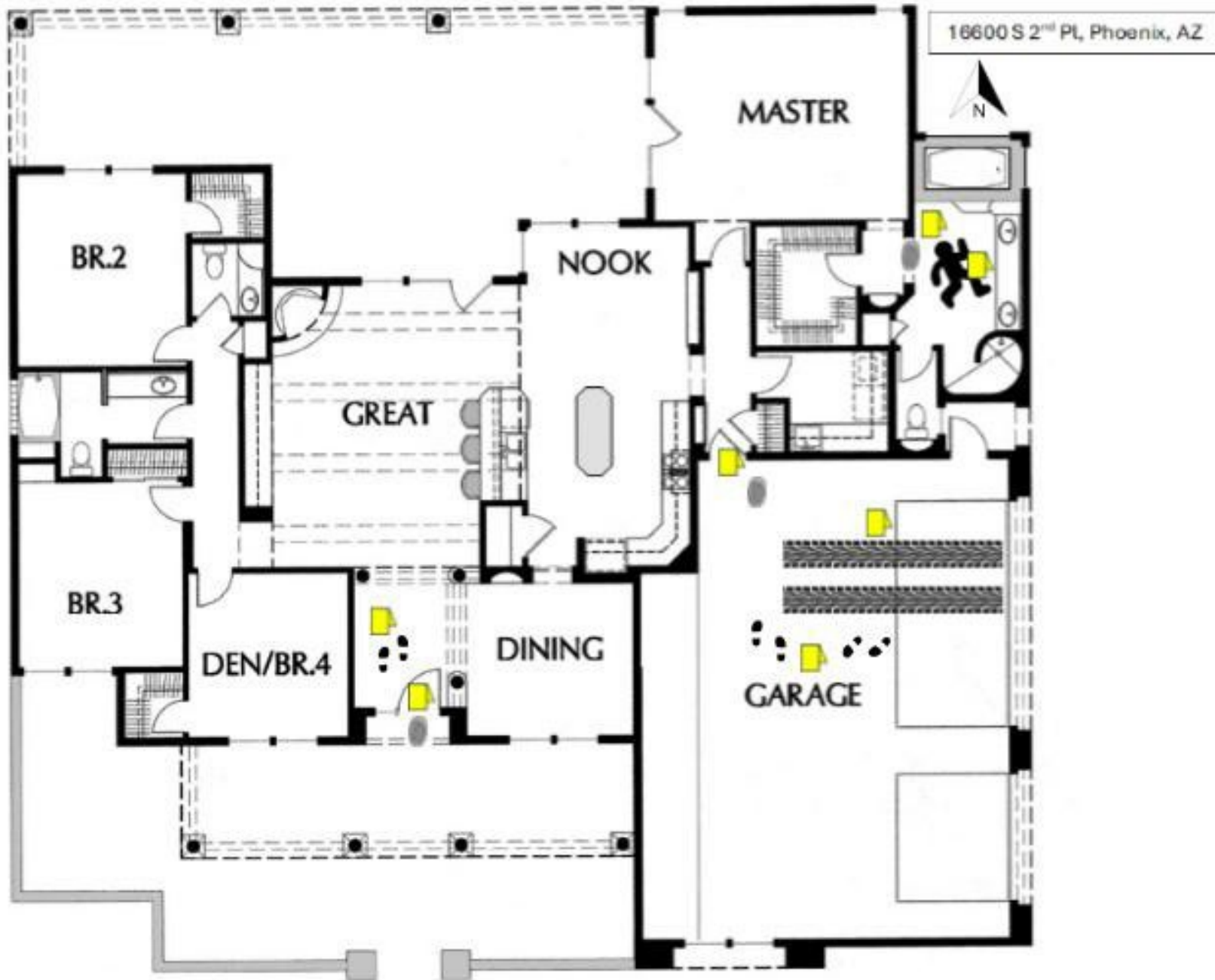
Wed 10:24am

I'm still not convinced. Let me think about it

Sunset Ridge Project. Crime Scene Sketch at "vacant property" 16600 S 2nd Pl., Phoenix, AZ



Sunset Ridge Project. Crime Scene Sketch at "vacant property" 16600 S 2nd Pl., Phoenix, AZ



Sunset Ridge Project. Crime Scene Sketch at “vacant property” 16600 S 2nd Pl., Phoenix, AZ

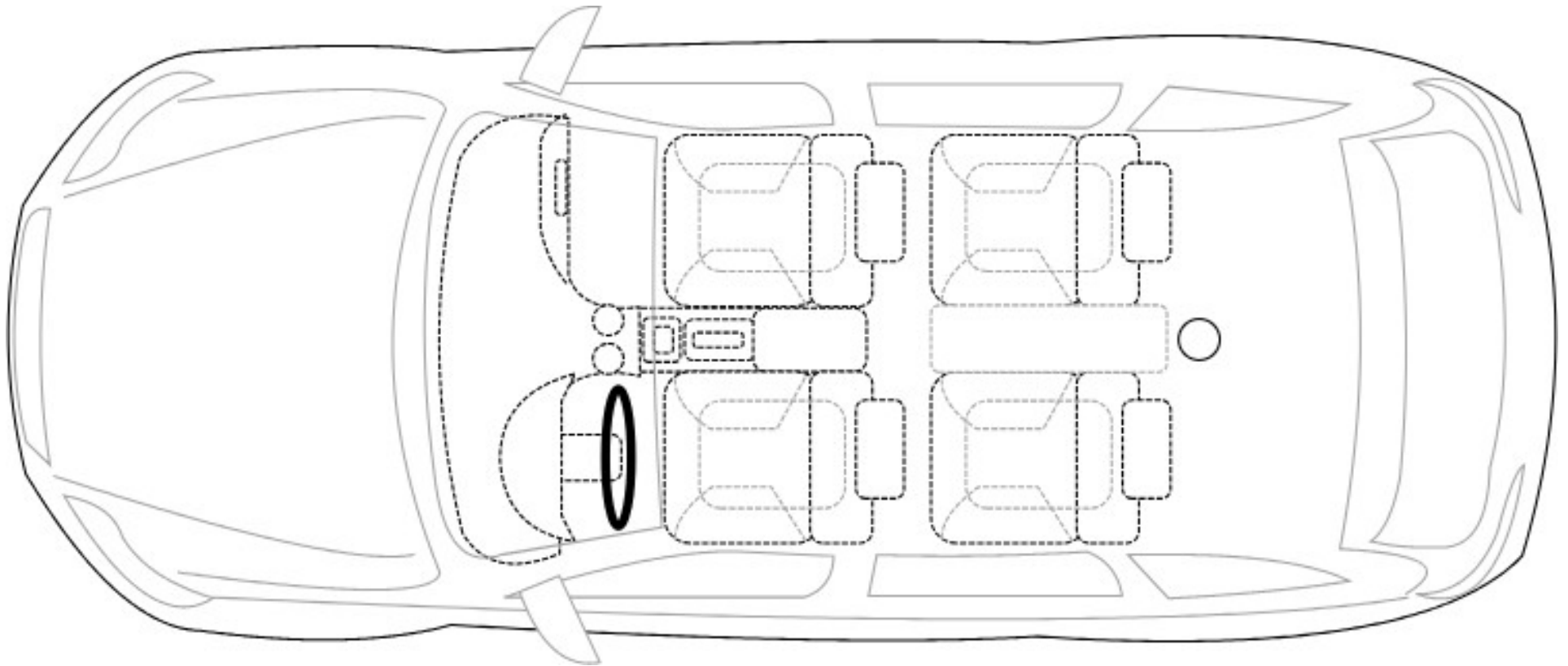
	Evidence available at this location		Relevance
	fingerprints	Realtor’s lock box on front door	Laura’s
	fingerprints	Front door handle (interior and exterior)	Laura’s
	fingerprints	Interior door handle to the garage	Laura’s
	fingerprints	Garage door button	Laura’s
	fingerprints	Exterior door handle to the bathroom	Laura’s
	fingerprints	Rocker light switch in the bathroom	Laura’s
	fingerprints	Duct tape used as Emily’s restraints	Ryan’s
	Short black hair	Emily’s clothing	Emily’s dog
	Short white hair	Emily’s clothing	Secondary transfer from Ryan’s cat
	Short black/ charcoal fibers	Emily’s clothing, caught in the duct tape	Consistent with vehicle floor mats manufactured for trucks and SUVs
	Soil/dirt	Garage floor	Consistent in composition with samples taken from the South Mountain development site
	Tire tracks	Garage floor	Belong to Ryan’s truck
	Shoeprints	Garage floor	Belong to both Ryan and Laura
	Shoeprints	Front door entry	Belong to Laura
	Pollen/vegetation	Bathroom floor	consistent with the Sonoran Desert (such as Palo Verde and Mesquite trees) as well as higher concentrations of rose, hibiscus, and oleander
	Pollen/vegetation	In Emily’s hair and on her clothes	consistent with the Sonoran Desert (such as Palo Verde and Mesquite trees) as well as higher concentrations of rose but also some hibiscus
	Pollen/vegetation	Scarf used as Emily’s gag	consistent with the Sonoran Desert (such as Palo Verde and Mesquite trees) and high concentrations of oleander
	Black cotton scarf	In Emily’s mouth - used as a gag	Monogrammed with the letter “L”
	Duct tape	On Emily’s wrists and ankles – used as restraints	Ryan’s fingerprints. Additionally, Ryan will have a roll of duct tape in the back of his truck, and the fracture match will align with one of the pieces used as restraints

Sunset Ridge Project. Crime Scene Sketch of victim's car at the North Garage Parking Structure

North Garage Parking Structure
15323 N Scottsdale Rd
Scottsdale, AZ 85254



Arizona Foundation for
LEGAL SERVICES
& EDUCATION
THE ARIZONA BAR FOUNDATION

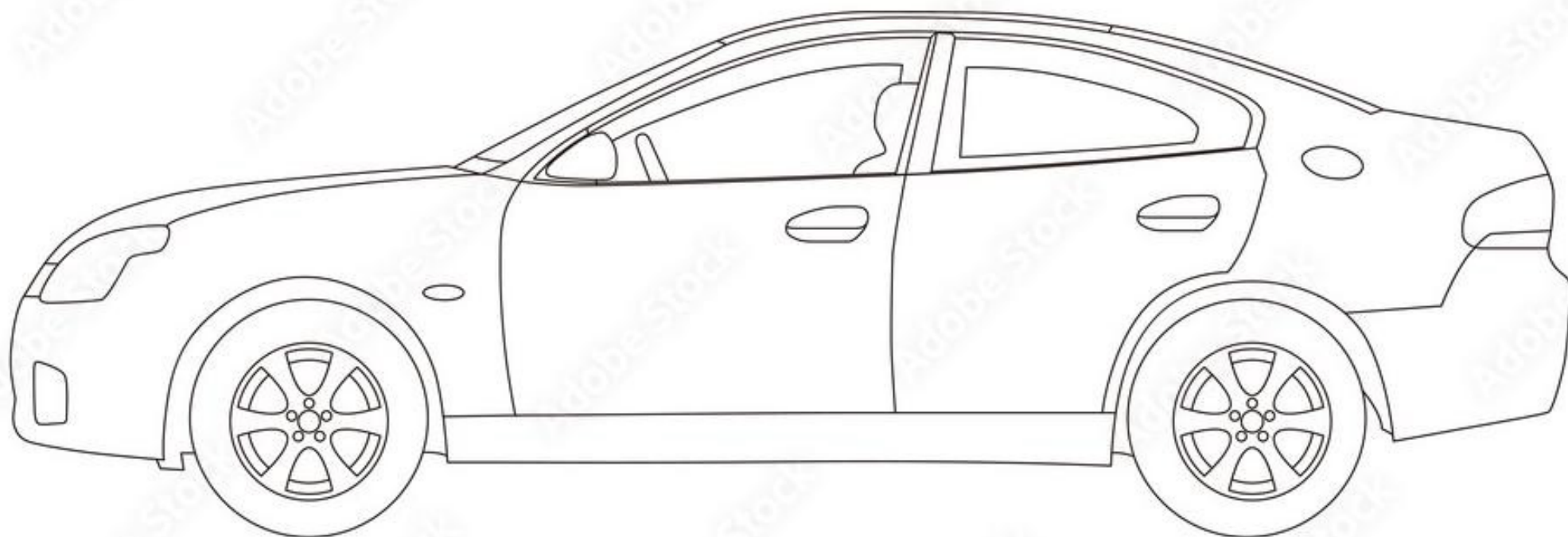


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Sunset Ridge Project. Crime Scene Sketch of victim's car at the North Garage Parking Structure

Some of these props, and placement of these props, depend upon availability, budget, storage space, and the materials available to simulate a car.

	Set-up of props / evidence	Relevance
Briefcase	Floorboard behind the driver's seat	Contains the crumpled email from Laura
Crumpled email	Inside the briefcase (alternatively it can be under the seat if we don't have briefcases)	Email from Laura demanding payment for wrongful termination
Purse	Floorboard of the front passenger seat	Contains Emily's wallet and cell phone
Wallet and cell phone	Inside the purse (alternatively, we just need the cell phone so it can be somewhere in the car where there's room)	Text message history (potentially GPS if students ask for that from phone rather than from car); fprints from Emily and also a couple of partials from Laura
Tin of breath mints	Center console	Fingerprints from both Emily and Ryan
Gear shift		Fingerprints from both Emily and Ryan
Rear view mirror		Fingerprints from both Emily and Ryan
Driver's side door handle (exterior and interior)		Fingerprints from both Emily and Ryan
Folded handwritten note	Center console	If students know about ninhydrin, then fprints from Laura and Ryan. Handwriting analysis will point to Laura as the author. It is the script Ryan needed to follow when posing as a potential investor. He accidentally left it in Emily's car when he drove it back to the parking garage
Broken fingernail (red, unless we need to change it due to availability)	Floorboard of the driver's seat	Laura's, as a result of a struggle with Emily as Laura and Ryan were attempting to subdue and abduct Emily at the South Mountain development site
Dirt	Floorboard of the driver's seat around the pedals	The composition will match that of samples at the South Mountain development site
Strands of long, auburn hair	Either floorboard of the driver's seat or in the seat	Emily's

Sunset Ridge Project. Crime Scene Sketch of victim's car at the North Garage Parking Structure

Strands of long, black hair	On the driver's seat back or in the driver's seat	Laura's, from when she got in the car to drive it from the vacant property, but then realized it was a stick shift and had to drive Ryan's truck instead
Short black hair	On or in the driver's seat, could also be in the passenger seat or back seat (if evidence needs to be distributed)	Dog hair from Emily's black labrador retriever
Short white hair	On the driver's seat back or in the driver's seat	Secondary transfer of cat hair from Ryan's Maine Coon cat.
Small blood spatter drops	Inside of driver's door and on the dashboard near the left A/C vent	Type O+. Emily, Ethan, and John all have type O+. It's Emily's, as a result of a struggle with Ryan and Laura at the South Mountain development site
Garage ticket stub	On the dash	Shows the time the vehicle entered the garage
Pollen / vegetation	Driver's seat	If students ask for pollen, we can give them Palo Verde, mesquite, higher concentrations of rose and hibiscus, much lower concentration of oleander