

Moonlight Masquerade

911 INCIDENT REPORT

Date: April 2026

Time: 9:42pm

Reporting Party: anonymous

Statement: Unnamed caller said there was a fight behind the dumpsters at the Château des Rêves, and they think someone got hurt. There's a high school prom event occurring there. The caller hung up. No other information.

Dispatching officers to the scene

Date: April 2026

Time: 10:56pm

Reporting Party: Fire Department, Station 19

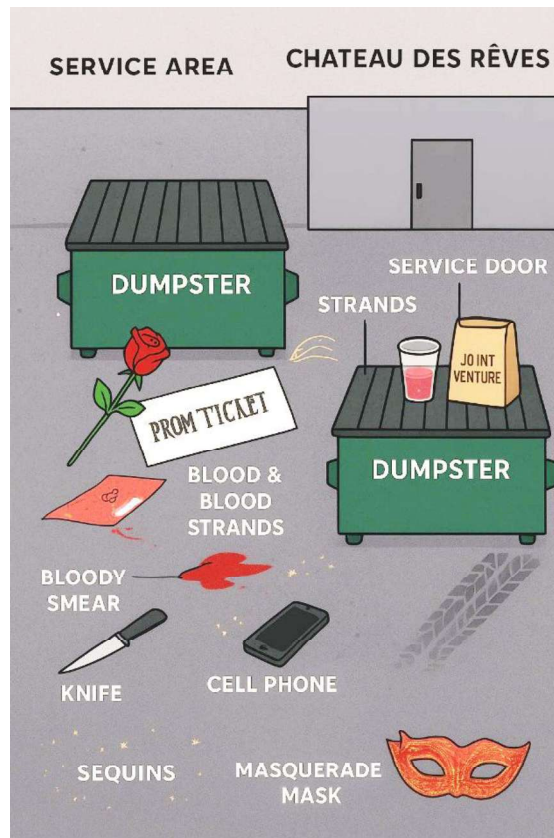
Statement: One of our firefighters discovered an unconscious white female outside of our station. There's an apparent head wound and we're transporting to the hospital. No I.D. or cell phone. She's white, blond hair, approximately 5 and a half feet tall, wearing a fancy red dress.

Scenario Analysis:

Your team of investigators will need to document the scene, identify relevant evidence, and package the evidence to route to the crime lab for analysis. By interpreting the results of the physical evidence from the scene and statements provided by witnesses, can your team determine if there is foul play and, if so, a motive, opportunity, and means to identify the suspect of this crime? The goal is to use forensic science techniques to identify and submit evidence to the crime lab and also interviewing skills to aid in this investigation.

INSTRUCTOR PAGES

Evidence



CRIME SCENES

Primary Crime Scene: Service Entrance, Château des Rêves

Scene Overview: The rear service entrance of Château des Rêves — a dimly lit area behind the prom venue — contains two industrial dumpsters positioned 30 feet from each other near the service door. The ground is a mix of concrete and gravel, with partial tire impressions visible near the loading area. The scene contains clear indicators of a violent encounter.

Setting: On the closed lid of the dumpster closest to the service door (dumpster #1) there is a single, long-stem **red rose** and a **prom ticket** with a handwritten message on it. There is **blood** and long strands of **blond hair** caught on the outer corner edge of the dumpster (where Ashley’s head struck). There’s a **bloody smear and partial palm print** on the dumpster toward the bottom, consistent with someone’s bloody hand bracing against it while standing up (after Paul tried to revive Ashley and then leaned on the dumpster with a bloody hand to stand up). There is a **knife** (it’s not bloody) under the dumpster (Paul set his **knife** on the ground when he squatted down to revive Ashley. He accidentally kicked it under the dumpster when he scooped up Ashley’s body and carried her to his car.) There is a **small pool of blood** (Ashley’s) on the ground at the corner edge of the dumpster. Also on the ground near the pool of blood are a couple of **sequins** (from Ashley’s prom dress). On the ground a few feet away is a **cell phone** (Ashley’s - having dropped out of her hands and scattered a few feet away when she was struck and fell backward). A **masquerade mask** (Ashley’s) was on the ground, too, near the pool of blood (opposite of where the cell phone is. She would have had her cell in one hand and the napkin/ticket in the other when she came outside. She could have flicked the ticket back at Paul or slammed it down on the lid of the dumpster. Perhaps that’s when Paul displayed his knife. Ashley could have been holding her mask when she got shoved backward into the corner of the dumpster, or Paul took it off when he was trying to revive her. **Tire tracks** (from Paul’s 2018 Honda Accord) are on the ground near the dumpster from when he drove around back to move Ashley’s body. On top of the *other* dumpster (dumpster #2) is a clear **plastic cup** with some colored liquid in it and **lipstick stains** on the rim (Elayna’s cup of punch), a bottle of **alcohol** (Scott’s). On the ground, there are a couple of **sequins** or glitter (from Elayna’s dress).



Secondary Scene - **off-scene evidence** that students can request and/or “results just in” that can be offered during the interview phase for teams who need assistance:

Paul Matthews’ Vehicle (2018 Honda Accord)

- Tire tread comparison: Matches the tire tracks lifted from the Château des Rêves service drive.
- On the floor of the passenger seat: Glitter or sequins consistent with Ashley’s prom dress
- Gray wool blanket (car blanket): glitter or sequins, blood, and long, blond hair strands (suggests Paul placed the blanket in the seat to avoid getting the seat bloody when he placed Ashley’s body in the car).
- Sketchbook wedged between seat cushions — several drawings of Ashley

Props to set the scene

- 4 tables. These should be stacked, one table on the other, to form two “dumpsters”. If there are desks instead of tables, 8 or more (if possible) total would be better (4 desks total/dumpster) just to create larger dumpsters. The dumpsters should be spaced apart.
- Strands of long blond 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)
 - Double-side sticky scotch tape or craft glue dots can secure the hair on the vertical plane
- Fake blood (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)
 - On the corner of the dumpster ~4-5’ from the ground
 - On the side of the dumpster ~1’ from the ground (If there’s no side, poster board or butcher paper could be used to create a side surface. This stain could also be pre-printed on paper and taped to the side of the table.)
 - On the ground at the corner edge of the dumpster (the fake blood could be placed on a clear sheet protector or plastic wrap to preserve the floor. Or also be pre-printed on paper.)
- Knife (**not bloody**) (Halloween props or martial arts rubber or plastic training knives are possibilities depending on the venue and its weapons policy. The bright colors are more expensive [Amazon.com : Rubber Training Knife for Martial Arts \(Blue\) : Sports & Outdoors](#), but might be more appropriate as a quick visual for law enforcement personnel to recognize it’s not real? If it’s not in the budget and/or the venue has a strict policy, then plastic cutlery can be substituted as the representation)
- Cell phone
- Single stem red rose (craft supply like Michael’s, Hobby Lobby)
- Printed prom ticket with handwritten note
- Masquerade mask (Amazon has a huge price range of masks)
- Loose sequins (Amazon, craft supply like Michael’s, Hobby Lobby)
- Glitter (unless you don’t want to fool with glitter clean-up, and just place a few more sequins instead)
- Alcohol bottle (wine or liquor, the type doesn’t matter – the owner is of legal age)
- Plastic “punch” cup with lipstick stains and colored liquid “punch” inside
- Lipstick – not as a prop, but to create the lip marks
- Colored liquid to resemble punch (water + food dye)
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- Tire Tracks (props for students to key in on, but not take up the whole floor, can be made with regular paper (or butcher paper if you want a longer prop), WD40, fingerprint powder, and a tire. Given the small space, it may be better to use a small tire as a representation of a regular size car tire. Examples: wagon, wheelbarrow, baby stroller, riding lawn mower, toddler ride-on toy (like the electric cars or Big Wheel). In my lab, I've scuffed up ab rollers to create unique marks. Students **lightly** coat the wheel with a small amount of WD40 on a paper towel, roll it along the butcher paper, and then "sift" black fingerprint powder along the track on the paper.
- Fingerprints (on the cup of punch, on the alcohol bottle, on the knife blade handle, on the cellphone, on the side of the dumpster, on the Joint Venture paper sack – 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. You can make your own TenPrint card (Fingerprinting ink, such as Sirchie brand, is far superior to regular craft inkpads when it comes to identifying minutiae. You can also find and download TenPrint cards from the internet.)**
- Optional: table coverings to make them look more like dumpsters. For example, solid color flat sheets (like gray or green), plastic tablecloths, poster board, or butcher paper
- Optional: "Waste Management" type of signs to tape onto the "dumpsters"
- Optional: large, tied off trash bags to simulate full bags of trash set next to the dumpsters. If air-tight, they may not need to be stuffed. Perhaps the classroom trash can could be placed inside so that it looks full? Used as prop only to enhance the depiction.

Evidence Analysis:

A note on DNA. DNA technology is, indeed, a game changer in the world of crime scene forensics. (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? 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.):

Fingerprints:

- Cell Phone: Ashley's fingerprints
- Printed prom ticket (if students know about ninhydrin): Paul's and Ashley's
- Plastic cup [of punch]: Elayna's and Scott's
- Alcohol bottle: Scott's
- On knife handle: Paul's or no viable print recovered from the textured handle. Depends on how challenging you want it
- On dumpster #1 (the one w/ blood): if powder-processing then potentially Paul's or too many/no hits. If requested from photos of the bloody hand smear, either Paul's or inconclusive. Depends on how challenging you want the clues to be.
- On dumpster #2 (the one with the drinks on top): Scott's and Elayna's

Trace Evidence:

- Long blond hair on corner of dumpster: class characteristics are similar to Ashley's. If you want to have the root ball intact (since the hair was forcibly removed from the fall) then the DNA = Ashley
- Long blond hair in gray blanket in Paul's car: class characteristics are similar to Ashley's

- Fiber: Fibers consistent with gray blanket in Paul's car were found on Ashley's clothing and in her hair. These fibers match the class characteristics of gray blanket in Paul's car.
- Sequins/glitter found in gray blanket in Paul's car as well as on the floor of the passenger side.

Blood

- Blood: on the dumpster, on the ground at the corner of the dumpster, and on the gray blanket in Paul's car all = blood type O+ (Ashley's)

Questioned Documents:

- Handwriting on a prom ticket that says, "I want to show you something. Meet me out the back door". Jazlyn handed this to Ashley when she was in the bathroom fixing her makeup.
- Handwriting Analysis: A forensic handwriting expert conducted a comparative analysis of the handwriting on the note to samples that the detectives had requested during questioning. After studying samples from Jason, Jazlyn, Scott, Elayna, and Paul, the analysis yielded multiple consistencies, particularly in the way certain letters were formed, with Paul's handwriting.

Tire Tracks:

- While there were many sets of tire tracks in the back parking lot, only a couple led directly up to the dumpsters. The condition of the surface was not suitable to make 3D casts, but several photographs were taken of tire impressions. The tread was consistent with a tire commonly sold for 2018 Honda Accords. A deep-dive into tire databases is still pending, but a cursory overview shows similar design and description of the Michelin brand of tires.

Other Physical Evidence

- Dumpster #1
 - Handwriting on the printed prom ticket on top of the dumpster
 - Single stem red rose on top of the dumpster
 - Sequins on the ground next to the dumpster
 - Masquerade mask on the ground next to the dumpster
 - Cell phone a few feet away on the ground
 - Knife under the dumpster
- Dumpster #2
 - Plastic "punch" cup w/ lipstick marks on rim and liquid inside, on top of the closed lid
 - Alcohol bottle on top of the closed lid
 - Sequins and/or glitter on the ground next to the dumpster

Digital Evidence:

- Ashley's cell phone
 - Log of calls and texts: During the weeks leading up to prom, Ashley had many texts and a few phone calls to her friends, her mom, and her boyfriend, Jason. These were all typical school-related, friend-group banter, routine check-ins, and plans about the upcoming prom. Of particular interest are texts from "a secret admirer"
- Jason's cell phone
- Paul's cell phone

- Jazlyn's cel phone
- Lily's cell phone
- Social media messages on Ashley's account from a jealous classmate

CHARACTERS

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



Quick glance of Who is Who

Ashley (the victim)

- **Central connection:** Everyone revolves around her — love, jealousy, friendship, or rivalry.
- Was pregnant (Jason likely the father, though some students might suspect otherwise).
- Recently stressed, distracted, and feeling trapped — juggling a deteriorating relationship, an anonymous admirer, and mounting social pressure.

Jason (boyfriend)

- On-and-off relationship with Ashley. Outwardly charming, but emotionally volatile.
- His “flirtations” made Ashley question his loyalty.
- He felt trapped when he learned about the pregnancy — scared it would ruin his image and college football prospects.
- **Tension:** May have been overheard saying something like, “We’ll talk about this later — not here.”
- **Conflict:** Public argument with Ashley at prom.

Lily (best friend)

- Extremely close to Ashley since middle school — like sisters.
- Protective and loyal but jealous of the attention Ashley gets.
- Recently noticed Ashley pulling away, especially after the pregnancy news.
- **Hidden resentment:** Lily secretly hooked up with Jason once when they were “on a break.”
- **Guilt + fear:** She knows if Ashley found out, it would destroy their friendship. Her recent overprotectiveness might stem from guilt.
- **Potential motive:** Jealousy and self-preservation.

Paul (secret admirer)

- Emotionally unstable and fixated on Ashley.
- Began as admiration; spiraled into obsession.
- The “note” on Ashley’s prom ticket (asking her to meet “out back”) was in his handwriting.
- **Delusional relationship** — believes Jason doesn’t deserve her and that Ashley “owes” him affection. He has a plan to eliminate Jason from the picture.
- His tone in texts shifted from sweet to controlling (“I know what’s best for you, Ashley. Just trust me.”).
- **Possible motive:** Rejection and obsession.

Jazlyn (friend)

- Loyal friend who cares about Ashley, but often distracted by her own drama.
- The one who found the pregnancy test.
- Handed Ashley a note at the prom (believed it came from Jason — but it was actually from Paul).
- **Key role:** The unknowing messenger — a linchpin clue for students to connect how Ashley was lured outside.
- **Conflict:** She feels guilty for passing the note, and her memory of who gave it to her is fuzzy due to alcohol.

Elayna (classmate / antagonist)

- Jealous of Ashley’s popularity and appearance.
- Runs a fake account that trolls Ashley anonymously online.
- Was caught smoking/drinking behind the dumpsters with Scott (event staff).
- Overheard the confrontation between Ashley and “a guy in a mask.”
- **Possible motive:** Envy and cruelty.
- **Interesting clue:** Might have posted something snide on social media that same night (“Some girls just get what’s coming to them 🍷”).

Scott (event staff)

- Tangential but important witness.
- Confirms part of the timeline — saw or heard Ashley outside.
- Afraid to go to police due to illegal activity.
- Alibi supported by Elayna.
- No direct motive, but could be framed or viewed suspiciously due to criminal record.

VICTIM

Ashley Bennett – the victim

- Age: 18
- Ethnicity: white
- Sex: female
- Height: 5'5"
- Weight: 130 lbs
- Hair: blond
- Eyes: blue
- Blood Type: O+
- Shoe size: women's 7
- Allergies: peanuts
- Scars/Marks/Tattoos: small butterfly behind her left ear
- Marital status: single
- Children: n/a
- Pets: 2 Corgi dogs
- Vegetation at residence: hibiscus and bougainvillea
- Hobbies: cheerleading,
- Occupation: student, volunteer at Sun City Assisted Living
- Vehicle: 2022 Hyundai Elantra



Background: Ashley is an attractive and popular senior at the local high school. She is an only child, and while her parents are supportive, they are very focused on her achievements. They have high expectations and push her to excel in all areas. Ashley is a high-achieving student and also considered a leader among her peers. She is captain of the cheerleading squad, an officer in student government, and a volunteer at her grandmother's assisted living facility. She has been dating Jason Brooks for the past year. Jason is a gifted football player who is entertaining several scholarship offers from colleges. He has a little bit of a temper and has grown more jealous when he sees Ashley interacting with other boys, which has caused some strain in their relationship. Lily Stokes has been Ashley's BFF for years. Because Ashley's high GPA automatically qualifies her for a free tuition ride with any of the three state universities, she promised Lily that she would not compete against her in any athletic scholarships. However, Lily just learned that Ashley was awarded a prestigious and highly coveted college cheerleading scholarship. This has caused some strife with Lily.

WITNESSES/INVESTIGATIVE LEADS:

Jason Brooks

Relationship to the victim: boyfriend

- Age: 18
- Ethnicity: white
- Sex: male
- Height: 6'
- Weight: 200 lbs
- Hair: black
- Eyes: brown
- Blood Type: B-
- Shoe size: men's 13
- Allergies: none
- Scars/Marks/Tattoos: none
- Marital status: single
- Children: n/a
- Pets: German Shepherd named Scout
- Vegetation at residence: jasmine
- Hobbies: football, cooking
- Occupation: student and part-time employee at the car dealership
- Vehicle: 2020 Subaru Outback

Background: Jason is a senior at the local high school. He comes from a middle-class family, but, being the oldest of 4 kids in this economy, he knew paying for college was not something his family could afford to do. He was not academically gifted, like his girlfriend. He saved all that he could from his p/t job at the car dealership, but he knew his ticket for a promising future was dependent upon his athletic prowess on the field. He is an extremely talented wide receiver in football and has several offers of college scholarships. His dedication to football means he often has to balance practice, games, training, and his job, leaving limited time for other aspects of his life. He has been dating Ashley for a year. Though extremely popular, he's known for his temper and has a history of jealousy, especially when it comes to Ashley. The jealous streak is ironic, as Jason sees no issue with being flirtatious with other girls. On the night of the prom, witnesses saw them arguing.

Alibi: He admitted that he and Ashley had had a fight at the dance, but said he was inside the venue during the entire prom. When he couldn't find Ashley to leave, he figured she had gone home with her friends. Other students had said that they saw him storm out the door after the fight and didn't recall if he returned or not.

WITNESSES/INVESTIGATIVE LEADS:

Lily Stokes

Relationship to the victim: BFF

- Age: 17
- Ethnicity: African American
- Sex: female
- Height: 5'1"
- Weight: 100 lbs
- Hair: black
- Eyes: blue
- Blood Type: AB+
- Pets: Irish Setters named Copper and Penny
- Vegetation at residence: rose bushes and oleander
- Hobbies: cheerleading,
- Occupation: student
- Vehicle: 2020 Kia Soul

Background: Lily is co-captain of the high school varsity cheerleading team and arguably one of the best flyers in the school's history. Additionally, she was a top contender for a highly coveted and competitive cheerleading scholarship at the University of Hawaii. Ashley and Lily both always scored in the top 5 in statewide competitions. But Ashley had promised Lily that she would not apply for the cheer scholarship because she was already receiving the merit-based full tuition ride if she attended one of the state schools. Their friendly rivalry intensified, and Lily felt betrayed when she discovered a couple of weeks ago that Ashley had applied for, and was just awarded, the cheer scholarship that Lily was counting on receiving.

To add insult to injury, Lily received a photo text from Jazlyn of a positive pregnancy test. After learning it was Ashley's, Lily confronted her about being pregnant and was infuriated when she learned that Ashley was planning on seeing the pregnancy through and possibly giving the baby up for adoption. Lily lost that scholarship to Ashley, and now Ashley was going to throw that scholarship away!

On the night of the prom, Lily was noticeably avoiding Ashley and spent the evening with her boyfriend and his circle of friends. She witnessed the altercation between Ashley and Jason (who didn't?!?) and was secretly pleased to see that things weren't going so well for Ashley. Lily felt like Ashley deserved what was coming to her and that she needed to face the consequences of her actions.

Alibi: Lily told police she was with her boyfriend and other friends on the dance floor all night. She confessed her anger about the scholarship issue but insisted that she knew nothing about Ashley's disappearance.

WITNESSES/INVESTIGATIVE LEADS:

Paul Matthews

Relationship to the victim: classmate and “secret admirer”

- Age: 17
- Ethnicity: white
- Sex: male
- Height: 6’1”
- Weight: 180 lbs
- Hair: brown
- Eyes: brown
- Blood Type: A+
- Allergies: shellfish
- Pets: none
- Hobbies: drawing, computer games
- Occupation: student
- Vehicle: 2018 Honda Accord

Background: Paul is an average student at the local high school. He comes from a modest background. His parents are loving but somewhat distant, often busy with their own lives. He’s typically quiet and introverted, and known for being a bit of a loner. He has a crush on Ashley. Paul's infatuation with her began when they were paired for a science project. While Ashley saw it as a typical assignment, Paul viewed it as a bonding experience. He has been in love with her ever since. He deeply resents Jason for dating Ashley, viewing him as unworthy and hypocritical. Paul is aware of Jason's flirtations with other girls and believes Ashley deserves better. Paul is desperate to make Ashley see him as her true love, leading to increasingly erratic behavior. Paul has been texting Ashley, posing as “a secret admirer”. The progression goes from friendly to increasingly obsessive and manipulative. He creates drawings and paintings of Ashley, which she finds flattering but increasingly uncomfortable. His obsession with Ashley has escalated from admiration to unhealthy fixation. He constantly seeks her attention and validation, ignoring her pleas to respect her relationship with Jason. He's been frequently texting her and was spotted near the back exit around the time Ashley went missing.

Alibi: When confronted with the handwriting comparison on the prom ticket, Paul admitted that he wrote the note and waited outside for Ashley because he wanted to confess his feelings to her, but said she never showed up.

WITNESSES/INVESTIGATIVE LEADS:

Jazlyn Hernandez

Relationship to the victim: friend and neighbor

- Age: 18
- Ethnicity: Hispanic
- Sex: female
- Height: 5'4"
- Weight: 115 lbs
- Hair: brown
- Eyes: brown
- Blood Type: AB-
- Pets: parakeets
- Vegetation at residence:
- Hobbies: cheerleading, theater
- Occupation: student

Background: Jazlyn is a cheerleader at the local high school and also very active with the theater department. She has been Ashley's neighbor and in her social circle since 5th grade. Jazlyn noticed Ashley seemed distracted lately, but chalked it up to their busy senior year, Jason (Ashley's boyfriend) sometimes behaving like a jerk, and also an unknown individual who kept posting insults and derogatory remarks on Ashley's social media page. They all figured it was a jealous prankster, but Jazlyn could tell that Ashley wasn't used to having someone *not* love her or want to be her.

During a cheerleading bonding session at Ashley's house about three weeks before prom, Jazlyn discovered a pregnancy test in Ashley's bathroom trash can. Jazlyn was also the first person Ashley told about winning a cheer scholarship. She told her best friend, Lily, that she wasn't going to compete with her over the scholarship, but was pressured by her parents and her coach to apply for it.

As prom approached, Jazlyn's life became a blur of rehearsals and late-night costume runs for the spring musical. She and Ashley saw each other less, though she kept checking in. Ashley always said she was "fine." Jazlyn wanted to believe it.

Then came prom night — the masquerade dance everyone had been buzzing about for weeks. Jazlyn attended with her theater friends. The atmosphere was electric, half magic, half mayhem. Everyone was sneaking drinks when chaperones weren't looking, the anonymity of the masks making the night feel dangerous and thrilling.

During the prom, she witnessed the verbal altercation between Ashley and Jason (who didn't?!?). Shortly afterward, a tall figure in a dark suit and mask approached her. She couldn't be sure who it was — the masks made everyone anonymous — she *thought* it might have been Jason Brooks, but honestly, they had been drinking and most of the guys resembled one another in their tuxedos and masks. He handed her a folded note and said, simply, "Give this to Ashley." Before she could ask anything, he was gone. She found Ashley in the bathroom fixing her makeup after the fight with Jason, and passed her the note. Ashley opened it and froze. Her face drained of color. "I'll be right back," she murmured, grabbing her phone as she hurried out of the restroom. Jazlyn shrugged it off — Ashley probably needed a breather. Everyone did. Jazlyn didn't see Ashley go outside or know anything about her not returning home after the prom.

Alibi: Jazlyn and her boyfriend double-dated with some theater friends. They drove to and from the prom together. Jazlyn's parents also confirm that Jazlyn arrived home around 10:30 pm

WITNESSES/INVESTIGATIVE LEADS:

Elayna Reynolds

Relationship to the victim: classmate

- Age: 17
- Ethnicity:
- Sex: female
- Height: 5'6"
- Weight: 145 lbs
- Hair: short and often dyed bright colors – currently it's blue
- Eyes: blue
- Blood Type: A-
- Scars/Marks/Tattoos: Harley Quinn on right forearm
- Pets: 2 black cats named Hocus and Pocus
- Hobbies: enjoys music and alternative genres, Anime, and vtubing
- Occupation: student
- Email: ElaynaReynolds@gmail.com

Background: Elayna lives with her single mother who works long hours, resulting in Elayna often being left to her own devices. Her father left when she was young, and she has little contact with him. Elayna is an average student who struggles with grades and motivation. She has a history of behavioral issues and has been in trouble for minor infractions at school due to her rebellious nature. She has a small group of friends who share her interests in edgy fashion and alternative music. She often wears dark make-up and provocative outfits. She is impulsive, envious, and enjoys stirring up drama. She views Ashley as the embodiment of everything she wishes she could be. Their brief interactions are often tense, with Elayna going out of her way to antagonize Ashley. Her deep-seated envy of Ashley is the driving force behind her online harassment.

During the prom Elayna caught the attention of Scott Turner, one of the employees at the Château des Rêves. The two of them were outside near the dumpsters drinking and getting a little frisky. They were "occupied" and out of sight around the other dumpsters when Ashley came outside to confront her "secret admirer". The music inside was loud, but they could overhear some of the interaction between the two.

Alibi: Elayna initially said she was inside the venue. When questioned about her cup of "punch" being discovered on the dumpster lid, she said she didn't intervene because she was "busy" and also avoiding getting into trouble due to her illicit activities. She shared what she heard/saw about the confrontation between the 'guy in the mask' and Ashley, and it looked like he was taking her to get help, anyway.

WITNESSES/INVESTIGATIVE LEADS:

Scott Turner

Relationship to the victim: none

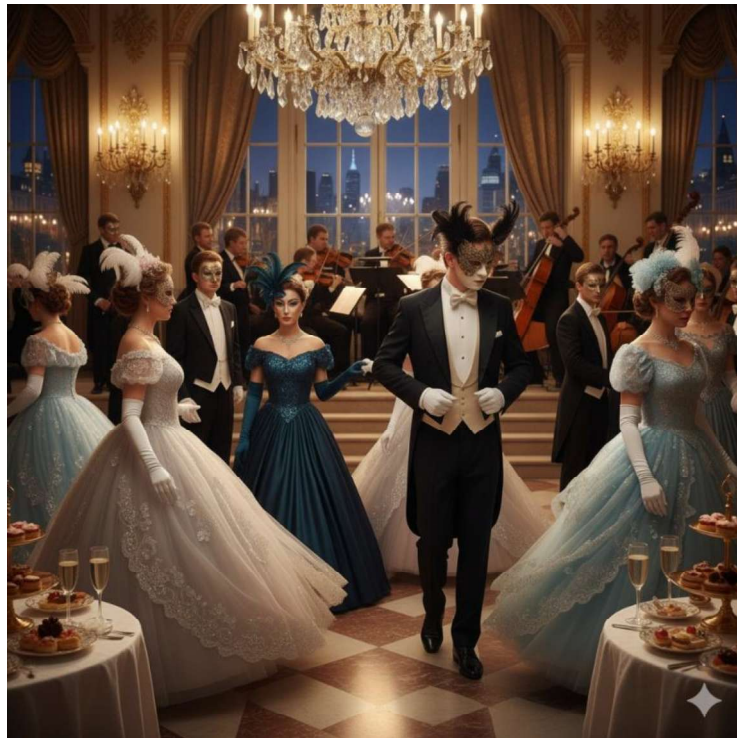
- Age: 27
- Ethnicity: white
- Sex: male
- Height: 5'8"
- Weight: 150 lbs
- Hair: blond
- Eyes: brown
- Blood Type: O+
- Scars/Marks/Tattoos: Walter White and Jimi Hendrix
- Marital status: single
- Children: none
- Hobbies: gambling, playing guitar
- Occupation: event staff and bartender at Château des Rêves

Background: Scott grew up in a dysfunctional family with a history of substance abuse and maintains little contact with his family. He has a record of petty crimes, including drug possession and minor theft. He spent time in juvenile detention and has been in and out of jail as an adult. He is grateful that his manager at work believes in rehabilitation, and his job is one of the few stable aspects of his life, . Generally, he keeps a low profile to steer clear of law enforcement, but doesn't always make the best choices.

Alibi: Claimed he was working, but when being interrogated by the police – who now had his fingerprints on the bottle of alcohol, he confessed that he had hooked up with someone behind the dumpsters and didn't want to call the police or get involved due to the illicit activity in which he was engaged. He didn't want to lose his job and he certainly didn't want to go back to jail! He said the girl [attending the prom that his venue was hosting] told him she was 18, and he didn't exactly ask for photo verification. Scott's story aligned with Elayna's about the confrontation between the teen prom goers, and there was no other evidence to suggest that Scott had any knowledge of or prior contact with Ashley.

RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN CHARACTERS

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



Quick-glance at Relationship Summaries

Ashley & Jason (boyfriend)

Ashley (cheer captain, honor student) and Jason Brooks (star wide receiver) were the high school's "it" couple. Their relationship frayed under Jason's jealousy and his single-minded pursuit of a football scholarship; Ashley's pregnancy exposed a clash between love and future plans. Prom night ends with a public argument and Jason storming out.

Ashley & Lily (best friend)

Lily and Ashley are longtime best friends and co-captains of the cheerleading team whose friendly rivalry turned poisonous when Ashley secretly applied for — and won — a cheer scholarship Lily expected to have. Lily also learns of Ashley's pregnancy shortly before prom; betrayal and envy replace sister-like loyalty.

Ashley & Jazlyn (childhood friend)

Jazlyn, Ashley's neighbor and childhood friend, is the first to discover Ashley's positive pregnancy test and becomes her confidante. At prom, Jazlyn (mingling with her theater friends) is handed a folded note and asked to deliver it to Ashley — a small act that becomes tragically consequential.

Ashley & Paul (classmate & secret admirer)

Paul is a quiet junior and a secret admirer who escalates from drawings and anonymous notes to increasingly possessive messages. He authored the prom note and was waiting outside the venue; his obsession provides the clearest potential for direct confrontation.

Ashley & Elayna (classmate & online bully)

Elayna, an edgy classmate who resents Ashley's popularity, stokes rumors and posts harassing comments online. She was behind the dumpsters on prom night and overheard parts of the confrontation — a peripheral but useful witness.

Ashley & Scott (venue employee & witness)

Scott is a venue employee who was preoccupied with Elayna behind the dumpsters. He overheard parts of the confrontation between two other prom-goers and observed a masked student carrying a girl in a red dress to a car. Afraid that his own illicit activity that night would land him back in jail, he did not report what he saw — making his involvement suspect but critical for timing.

Ashley and Jason – the perfect couple that wasn't:

Jason Brooks and Ashley Bennett's relationship began in their junior year of high school, sparked by mutual attraction and the social dynamics of being high-profile students. Jason, the star wide receiver on the football team, was known for his athletic prowess and charm. Ashley, the captain of the cheerleading squad, was admired for her beauty, grace, and leadership. Their coupling was seen as the perfect match by their peers, cementing their status as the "it" couple at the local high school.

Despite their seemingly perfect exterior, their relationship had underlying complexities. This occasionally caused friction with Ashley, who desired more emotional connection and quality time than Jason was able to provide. Though she was the captain of the varsity cheerleading squad, Ashley broke the stereotype of dingy, bitchy, and self-centered cheerleaders. She was an honors student and made being smart a cool status. She was also nurturing and sociable, and went out of her way to help others. Her caring nature was one of the things that attracted Jason to her, but it also meant she sometimes felt neglected due to Jason's single-minded focus on football.

As their relationship progressed, Jason's jealous streak became more apparent. He was intensely protective of Ashley, sometimes to the point of possessiveness. He would frequently question her interactions with other male students, often interpreting friendly gestures as flirtation. This jealousy stemmed from a mix of insecurity about losing Ashley and the competitive nature ingrained in him from sports.

Ashley, while initially flattered by Jason's attention, began to feel disheartened by his controlling behavior. She valued her independence and the ability to make her own choices, leading to arguments about trust and freedom. Jason's temper would flare during these disputes, causing heated exchanges that left Ashley feeling emotionally drained. She felt if she could reassure Jason of her commitment, then he would lighten up and not be so quick to snap.

The discovery of Ashley's pregnancy added a significant strain to their already unstable relationship. Ashley discovered she was pregnant only three weeks before prom and was conflicted about how to break the news to Jason. She knew his dreams of playing college football were paramount and feared his reaction. Ashley's decision to keep the baby was rooted in her values and belief in taking responsibility for her actions. She was also influenced by her religious beliefs, which played a prominent role in her life. This decision solidified her resolve, and she hoped that this pregnancy was a mixed blessing in disguise - that bringing Jason's baby into the world would demonstrate to Jason her true commitment to him and their relationship. When she finally told him at prom, his response was worse than she imagined.

Jason was adamant that Ashley should get an abortion, viewing the pregnancy as a direct threat to his future. He expressed that he was not ready to be a father and could definitely not provide financial support, emphasizing that his scholarship was his only escape from a life of limited opportunities. This conversation turned into a loud, public argument that was witnessed by several students at the prom, further embarrassing Ashley.

The argument at prom was the culmination of months of tension. Witnesses described seeing Jason and Ashley engaged in a heated discussion near the refreshments table, with Jason throwing his hands up and making angry gestures, and Ashley, fighting back tears, trying to calm him down. Jason was seen storming out of the main dance room. Ashley, overwhelmed and needing a moment to herself, told her friends she was going to the restroom to fix her makeup. Though she was, indeed, feeling distraught, this excuse also served as a pretext to confront the sender of the mischievous texts, and then find Jason to see if they could salvage their senior prom experience.

For Jason, the revelation of Ashley's pregnancy and her refusal to get an abortion felt like a selfish decision that jeopardized everything he had worked for. His love for Ashley was overshadowed by his fear of losing his future, causing a conflict between his emotions and ambitions.

For Ashley, Jason's reaction left her in shock. Being a pregnant teen was certainly not on her wish list - the situation impacted her immediate plans, as well, and it's not like she was the only one who created this predicament! Not only did she expect him to show a little more sympathy for what she was going through, but also to accept a little more responsibility for the role he had in it.

Ashley and Lily – Best friends and bitter edges

Ashley Bennett and Lily Stokes had been inseparable since childhood—the kind of best friends who finished each other’s sentences, shared clothes, and planned their futures side by side. On the surface, they were as close as sisters. Where Ashley was light, Lily was fire: bold, competitive, fiercely loyal, and sometimes too proud for her own good. Together, they dominated the high school’s cheer squad, pushing each other through long practices and statewide competitions, always landing within a few points of each other at the top.

Their friendship was built on shared ambition, but that same drive was also the slow poison between them.

Ashley’s natural charm drew people in easily—teachers, coaches, even rival squads. Lily had to fight harder for every ounce of recognition, and though she loved her friend, envy lived quietly beneath the loyalty. Ashley promised her that she wouldn’t compete for the big cheer scholarship at the University of Hawaii since she already had her academic ride secured with an in-state school. That promise meant everything to Lily. It symbolized fairness, friendship, and a rare chance for Lily to shine on her own.

Then came the betrayal - Two weeks before prom, Lily learned that Ashley had gone back on her word and applied for—then *won*—the very scholarship Lily had been fighting for. It wasn’t just disappointment. It was humiliation. The announcement was made publicly, and Lily had to smile through the applause, clapping for the friend who had just shattered her chances.

The resentment festered - It reached a boiling point when Jazlyn, another cheerleader, texted Lily a photo of a positive pregnancy test that she had discovered in Ashley’s bathroom trash. Lily confronted Ashley, already hurt and furious, only to discover that not only was Ashley pregnant, but she intended to *keep the baby* and possibly give it up for adoption later.

To Lily, this was unthinkable. Ashley was the golden girl who had everything handed to her—grades, attention, the boyfriend, now *her* scholarship—and she was about to throw it all away. Meanwhile, Lily had done everything right, sacrificed everything, and still came up short. The injustice stung like betrayal layered on betrayal.

Their conversations grew tense and clipped in the days before prom. Ashley tried to mend the rift, assuring Lily that their friendship meant more than any scholarship, and that her parents and coach pressured her into applying for it, but Lily couldn’t believe her. She saw Ashley’s kindness as pity and her apologies as manipulation. Underneath her anger, though, there was still love—a twisted sort of love tangled with grief. Lily missed her friend, but she also wanted her to hurt the way she did.

On prom night, they exchanged hollow compliments and forced smiles for photo ops. To everyone else, they looked like the picture of friendship, but everyone in the friend circle could feel the frost between them. Ashley had no idea just how deep Lily’s bitterness ran—or how close they were to breaking forever.

Ashley and Jazlyn – the confidante and the catalyst

Ashley Bennett and Jazlyn Hernandez had been neighbors and close friends since fifth grade — the kind of friendship built on sleepovers, shared secrets, and matching friendship bracelets that somehow survived the chaos of adolescence. They remained good friends through middle school and high school. Their bond was easy and familiar, like the comfort of knowing someone who'd seen every version of you and still stayed.

As high school progressed, differing schedules and expanding interests had pulled the girls in some different directions. Ashley was the golden girl of the high school — cheer captain, honor student, the face everyone recognized. Jazlyn, meanwhile, had found her passion under the stage lights. She'd fallen in love with theater — the expressive, eccentric, caffeine-fueled world of rehearsals, costumes, and cast parties. Though their social circles had expanded, they remained in each other's orbits, tethered by years of shared history and the common denominator of cheerleading.

During a cheerleading bonding session at Ashley's house about three weeks before prom, Jazlyn discovered a pregnancy test in Ashley's bathroom trash can. Later that night Jazlyn inquired about the test, and Ashley, in tears, confirmed that it was hers and that it was positive. The two sat on the edge of Ashley's bed for nearly an hour as Ashley cried and confessed everything — the missed period, the fear of Jason's reaction, the crushing uncertainty about her future.

Only a few days later, Ashley learned she'd been awarded the prestigious cheerleading scholarship she'd applied for months earlier — before she knew she was pregnant. Jazlyn was the first person she told because she didn't know how to share the news with Lily since she had promised Lily she wouldn't compete with her to get it. Ashley tried to smile through the phone, but her voice cracked. "I got it, Jaz. The scholarship. But... what's the point now?"

Jazlyn told her to hang on to hope, to take things one step at a time. But she could see the storm brewing — the lies Ashley would have to tell, the stress she was under, the way Jason's temper had been flaring lately.

Ashley and Elayna – Jealousy is a shade of green

Ashley Bennett and Elayna Reynolds were not friends. In fact, in many ways, they were natural adversaries. Ashley embodied the world Elayna wished she could inhabit: admired, accomplished, and effortlessly in control of both appearance and reputation. Where Ashley was polished, disciplined, and well-liked, Elayna thrived in chaos, rebellion, and the alternative subcultures of music, fashion, and online drama.

Their interactions were usually brief but loaded with tension. A hallway greeting might be met with a sarcastic smile from Elayna, a neutral nod from Ashley. Elayna often lingered online, posting thinly veiled criticisms about “perfect” students, leaving snide comments under Ashley’s social media posts, or sharing anonymous memes that mirrored her resentment. Though Ashley rarely engaged, she was aware of the hostility, sensing the jealousy and envy behind Elayna’s provocations.

Elayna’s envy was rooted in aspiration and frustration. She admired Ashley’s athletic skill, academic achievement, and social influence — but these same qualities were reminders of her own struggles and perceived inadequacies. Ashley had no personal vendetta against Elayna; she had occasionally tried to include her in events or casual conversations, only to be met with dismissiveness or mockery. Over time, Ashley learned that avoidance was the safest route.

The tension between them came to a subtle head on prom night. Elayna had arrived with her small group of friends, dressed in her bright, edgy costume, and was lingering near the service entrance and dumpsters — drinking and smoking, hiding from the strict supervision of teachers and staff. From that vantage point, she inadvertently became a witness to the confrontation between Ashley and her “secret admirer.” She and Scott Turner, one of the staffers, were preoccupied with each other and their own activities, but Elayna could hear snippets of the interaction. Though she didn’t intervene, she recognized the intensity of the moment and would later report what she saw — framing Paul as someone moving Ashley rather than harming her.

Their relationship, in essence, was defined by envy and distance. Elayna’s admiration of Ashley twisted into hostility; Ashley’s awareness of Elayna’s behavior led to polite avoidance rather than confrontation. Though not directly involved in Ashley’s life, Elayna’s presence on prom night positioned her as an important peripheral witness, one whose observations would be crucial to understanding the sequence of events.

Ashley and Paul – Obsession in the shadows

Ashley Bennett barely noticed Paul Matthews at first. They were assigned as partners for a science project during the fall semester — a routine pairing, one of many that Ashley, as a high-achieving student, took seriously. She remembered him as quiet, polite, and a little awkward, with a habit of avoiding eye contact until he spoke about a topic he loved. Ashley liked that about him. He seemed genuine, unpretentious, even a bit endearing compared to the loud, showy personalities that filled most of her social world.

For Paul, however, that class project was transformative. Working with Ashley made him feel seen — really seen — for the first time in years. She treated him with kindness and respect, laughed at his dry humor, and thanked him for his work. That simple decency, the kind that came so naturally to Ashley, became the foundation for something much darker in Paul’s mind. He mistook her warmth for something deeper, something personal.

After the project ended, Paul’s fascination with Ashley grew quietly but persistently. He followed her on social media, lingered after class to catch a glimpse of her, and began writing messages that he never sent. He convinced himself that Ashley was surrounded by people who didn’t truly appreciate her — people like Jason, whose temper and arrogance Paul despised. In Paul’s mind, he wasn’t just a bystander; he was her protector, her soulmate waiting to be recognized.

It started innocently enough — a secret admirer message in Ashley’s locker, a sketch of her cheer uniform left anonymously on her desk. Ashley was flattered, even teased by friends about having a “mystery fan.” But the tone of the messages shifted over time. Compliments turned into confessions. Confessions turned into veiled warnings about who she could trust. The admiration began to feel invasive, the tone possessive.

When Ashley politely asked the admirer to stop, Paul’s messages became erratic — oscillating between apologies and anger, between declarations of love and guilt-tripping laments about her “betrayal.” Ashley didn’t realize it was Paul. He hid behind anonymous usernames, unsigned notes, and masked accounts.

By the time of prom, Paul’s obsession had reached its peak. He had convinced himself that Ashley’s relationship with Jason was toxic and that he could save her from it. He wrote one final note — a plea to meet him outside near the service entrance to “talk privately.” He believed this was the night she would finally see the truth, that fate had been guiding them toward each other.

Ashley never intended to meet her admirer romantically. She wanted to confront whoever had been tormenting her and put an end to the messages once and for all. She was upset, emotionally exhausted after her fight with Jason, and ready to clear the air before the night ended.

Paul waited in the shadows near the dumpsters, heart pounding beneath his tuxedo jacket. When Ashley appeared, the confrontation was nothing like he imagined. She was angry, not grateful — frightened, not affectionate. What Paul had built up in his mind as a moment of destiny quickly unraveled into confusion, rejection, and panic.

Whatever happened next would forever blur the line between intent and tragedy.

Ashley and Scott – the Witness Who Looked Away

Ashley Bennett and Scott Turner had never met before the night of the prom. To her, he was just one of the countless service staff at the Château des Rêves — someone who blended into the background of glittering lights, polished glassware, and slow songs echoing through the ballroom. To him, she was another one of the glittering teenagers passing through, oblivious to the quiet machinery that made their night sparkle.

Scott Turner had been working events like this for years. He was used to fading into the edges of other people's celebrations, polishing glasses behind the bar or slipping through the kitchen doors with trays of hors d'oeuvres. He noticed Ashley that night not because she stood out among the sequins and satin — though she did — but because of the tension that hung around her like perfume. She'd been laughing with friends earlier, radiant and carefree, but later in the evening, her demeanor had changed. He saw her near the refreshment table, arguing with her boyfriend, her voice tight and her eyes glistening.

Scott didn't think much of it at the time. He'd seen plenty of high school drama play out at proms and weddings. But hours later, while sneaking outside for a break — and indulging in activities best left off the clock — he would see something that he could never forget.

The area behind the venue was dimly lit, the throb of bass from inside vibrating through the brick walls. Scott wasn't alone out there; Elayna Reynolds, one of the students, had accompanied him for a drink and a smoke, and perhaps a little hook-up. They lingered behind the dumpster, half-hidden from the security lights. That's when Scott noticed movement — a girl in a shimmering dress walking quickly toward the back lot, her blond hair catching the glow of the exit light. Then, a man in a dark suit and mask waiting near the edge of the other dumpster.

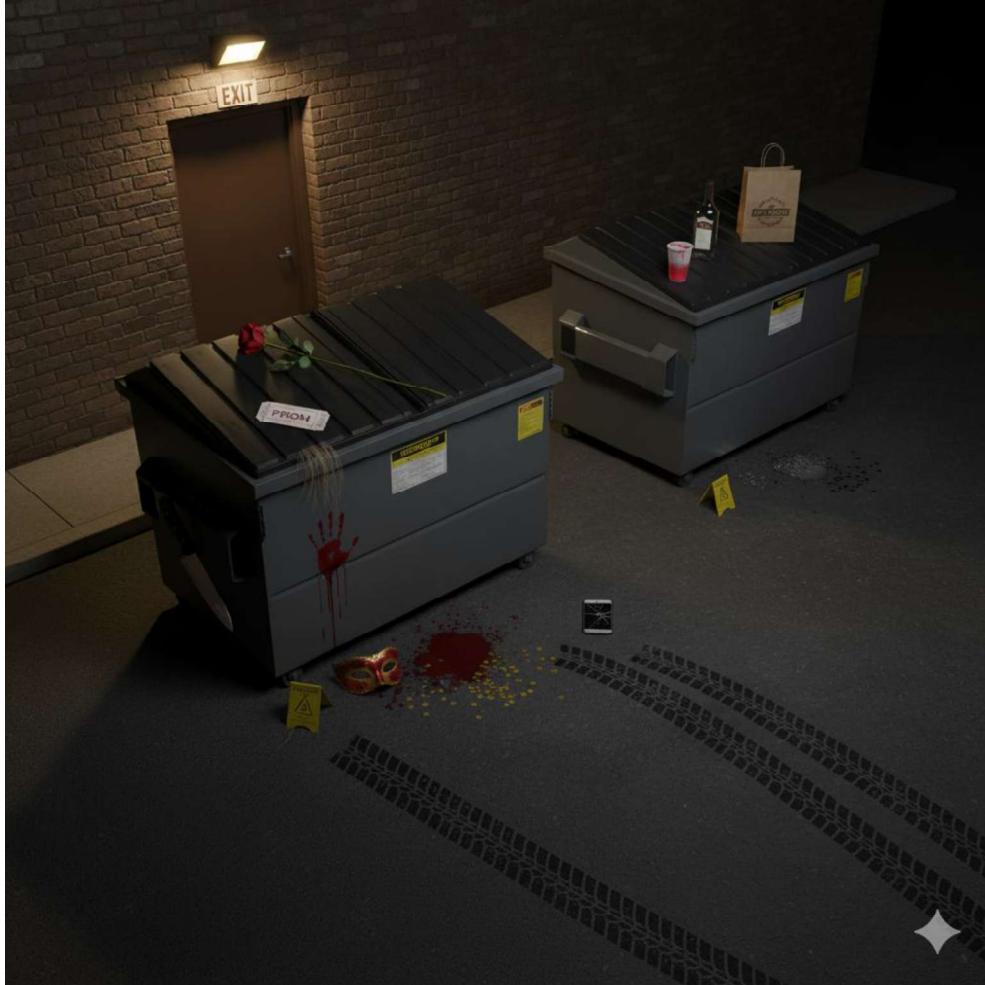
At first, Scott thought it was just another secret rendezvous — prom nights were full of them. But the tone shifted fast. Voices rose. There was anger in the girl's voice, pleading in the boy's. Then came a sound like a scuffle, a gasp, a dull metallic thud. Scott froze. Elayna whispered something, but he didn't move. He told himself they were just arguing, that it wasn't his business, that he couldn't afford to get caught high and risk losing his job, or worse.

Then they heard nothing for a couple of minutes until a vehicle pulled into the back lot next to the dumpster. When the boy — the one in the mask — lifted the girl in the red dress and placed her in the passenger seat, Scott assumed she was drunk, hurt, or maybe being taken home. He convinced himself of it, because the alternative meant getting involved, and involvement meant questions. Questions meant exposure.

Later, when the police questioned him, Scott's story wavered between guilt and self-preservation. He admitted he'd seen something but insisted he didn't understand what it was. His fingerprints on the discarded liquor bottle and paper bag tied him to the scene, forcing him to confess he'd been outside. Still, he held firm to one detail: the masked boy seemed frantic but not predatory — more like someone panicking after a mistake. He told police if he had seen the boy place the girl into the trunk rather than the passenger seat, then he would have intervened.

For investigators, Scott's reluctant testimony provides a crucial timeline — an overheard argument, a brief struggle, a hurried departure. For Ashley, tragically, it was one more chance encounter with someone who might have helped her, if only the fear of consequence hadn't kept him silent.

SOLUTION



Solution

Guilty: Paul

Motive: Unhealthy Obsession

Planning:

Ashley Bennett had recently been receiving messages on her social media account from unknown senders. Some were petty in nature, someone being envious of her popularity and achievements, but there were others that were a little more unsettling. Most concerning were some new text messages from 'a secret admirer'. What was flattering at first was starting to feel more threatening.

During the prom, one of Ashley's friends passed her a message written on a prom ticket asking her to meet in the back parking lot by the dumpsters. Deciding to put an end to the harassment once and for all, she told her friends she was running to the restroom to fix her makeup after her fight with Jason. She went outside by the dumpsters to confront this mysterious individual. He (Paul) was still wearing his masquerade mask. He displayed a knife and stated he had a solution to removing the ties that bind Ashley to Jason. She demanded he remove his mask, but he refused to do so until she dropped the pretenses that she didn't share the same feelings for him, and pledged her undying love and devotion to him. Ashley scoffed at those words and called him a coward and a loser. She blurted out that she was pregnant and demanded to know if Paul, being so "in love" with her, was willing to take care of both her and her baby since Jason was not interested! This news agitated Paul even more because he was angry that Jason was not accepting responsibility for his child, and was even more convinced that Jason absolutely did not deserve Ashley's misguided love. Ashley argued that she would rather be a single mom than be seen with such a freak. After being rejected again by Ashley, Paul's obsessive behavior escalated into violence. In a fit of rage, he struck Ashley, causing her to fall back into the dumpster, hitting her head on the corner. Panicked, Paul attempted to rouse Ashley and begged her to get up, but she was out cold and blood was quickly spreading out from under her head, staining her hair and the ground. Paul ran quickly around the building and returned two minutes later in his car. He scooped up Ashley's limp body, laid her in the trunk, and sped off. This whole encounter was overheard by one of the employees (Scott) at the venue, who was outside by the service entrance, taking a break and partaking in some illicit activities (with prom-goer Elayna). What they were doing delayed them from immediately contacting the police. It was also dark enough by the dumpsters that they didn't get a clear look at the students – plus the guy was still wearing his mask.



Moonlight Masquerade
at the *Château des Rêves*
Junior/Senior Prom

Date: April 26
Time: 7:00-10:00 pm
Address: 400 Promenade Lane, Glendale
Dress Code: Semi-formal attire (masks required)




Ticket
Admit One
Jr/Sr Prom
Spring 2026

Case File #2025-0426 – Text Message Transcript

Ashley & Jason — Text Conversation

≈ 5 Weeks Before Prom

Ashley:

guess what!! 🎉 just found out I got the cheer scholarship!!!

Jason:

wow. congrats. that's huge.

Ashley:

thank u 🙏 all that practice finally paid off!!

Jason:

yeah, just... hope u don't lose ur bff over it. 😬

Ashley:

what's that supposed to mean?

Jason:

nothing. just know lily wanted that one bad.

Ashley:

she'll be fine. she's amazing too. we'll both get where we're meant to



Jason:

sure. just... don't let it get weird.

≈ 4 Weeks Before Prom

Ashley:

can u believe we're only a month out from prom??

Jason:

yeah feels like everything's happening at once. midterms, comps, practice...

Ashley:

i know 😞 coach is killing us.

Jason:

and u got that big scholarship out of state now. guess you're basically famous 😁

Ashley:

lol hardly. it's just weird thinking we'll be in different places next year.

Jason:

yeah well some of us can't afford to leave the state 😬

Ashley:

jase... i didn't mean it like that.

Jason:

it's fine. it is what it is.

Ashley:

hey—let's not fight. anyway, they just dropped the prom theme!
"moonlight masquerade" 🌙 ✨

Jason:

sounds fancy lol. guess I gotta find a mask now.

Ashley:

red + gold. that's what I'm thinking for my dress 👗

Jason:

sure. whatever matches.

Ashley:

"whatever matches"? that's ur input: 🌈

Jason:

I'll grab a gold tie. problem solved.

Ashley:

romantic as ever 🤩

≈ 3 Weeks Before Prom

Ashley:

hey, can we talk tonight? kinda important.

Jason:

about what now? 🙄

Ashley:

not something I wanna text. can u call when ur home?

Jason:

ash, it's always "we need to talk." what's wrong this time?

Ashley:

just... please. call me later.

Jason:

idk, kinda done w/ heavy convos lately. can we not ruin another night?

Ashley:

ruin?? seriously? it's important.

Jason:

fine. tomorrow.

Next Evening

Ashley:

u never called.

Jason:

yeah, sorry. practice ran late. what's up now?

Ashley:

can we talk in person? tomorrow maybe?

Jason:

depends. depends on if it's another "we need to figure things out" talk.

Ashley:

wow. that's nice.

Jason:

look, I'm just tired. feels like every convo turns into a fight.

Ashley:

maybe bc u never actually listen.

Jason:

here we go again 😬

Two Days Later

Ashley:

fine. I took a test today. it was positive.

Jason:

...what test??

Ashley:

pregnancy.

Jason:

ur kidding.

Ashley:

I wish.

Jason:

ash this can't happen rn. i got scouts. college. everything—

Ashley:

I know. I'm scared too. we can figure it out together tho.

Jason:

i can't deal w this rn. not over text.

Ashley:

then call me.

Jason:

no. need time.

≈ 2 Weeks Before Prom

Ashley:

did u sleep? we need to talk about what to do.

Jason:

i said i need time. stop pushing.

Ashley:

i'm not pushing, i just—

Jason:

u don't get what's on the line for me.

Ashley:

and what about me?? 😞

Jason:

idk ash. i just... i can't think straight rn.

≈ 1 Week Before Prom

Ashley:

ppl keep asking if we're still going to prom together. we are, right?

Jason:

yeah. not gonna cancel now.

Ashley:

...okay.

Jason:

let's just get thru the night without more drama, alright?

Ashley:

sure. "more drama." got it. 🙄

Prom Day

Ashley:

dress = done 🧑‍🦱 hair = perfect. u?

Jason:

tux fits. picking u up 6:30.

Ashley:

ok. drive safe ❤️

Prom Night — After the Fight

Jason:

when ur done being an embarrassment, come out of the bathroom.

Jason:

where r u?

Jason:

u with Jaz?

Jason:

it's time to go.

Jason:

still nothing?

Jason:

I'm leaving. hope ur happy. u ruined our senior prom. must be time for another break 🤔

(End of recovered thread)

Case File #2025-0426 – Text Message Transcript

Ashley & Jazlyn — Text Conversation

≈ 5 Weeks Before Prom — Scholarship Announcement

Ashley — 6:42 PM:

omg jaz i got it!!! 🎉 🎊

Jazlyn — 6:43 PM:

got WHAT??

Ashley — 6:44 PM:

the cheer scholarship!! the big one 🤔

Jazlyn — 6:45 PM:

NO WAY!! girl that's insane!!! 🤔

Ashley — 6:46 PM:

ik but i feel kinda sick about it...

Jazlyn — 6:46 PM:

why?? this is like ur dream!!

Ashley — 6:47 PM:

bc i promised lily i wouldn't apply 🤔

Jazlyn — 6:48 PM:

oh... 🤔 she's gonna lose it.

Ashley — 6:49 PM:

i'll talk to her soon. coach & my parents made me do it.

Jazlyn — 6:50 PM:

still. that's rough. but hey, it's a big deal. congrats babe 💕

≈ 3 Weeks Before Prom — Pregnancy Discovery

Jazlyn — 9:42 PM:

hey random q... u ok??

Ashley — 9:43 PM:

yeah? why

Jazlyn — 9:44 PM:

i'm sorry but... i saw the test in ur bathroom 😬

Ashley — 9:45 PM:

oh god jaz please don't tell anyone

Jazlyn — 9:45 PM:

it's yours??

Ashley — 9:46 PM:

yeah. positive. i'm so scared.

Jazlyn — 9:47 PM:

oh ash 😬 what r u gonna do

Ashley — 9:48 PM:

idk. i haven't told jason yet.

Jazlyn — 9:49 PM:

maybe wait. think it thru first.

Ashley — 9:50 PM:

i'm trying. just pls don't say anything.

Jazlyn — 9:51 PM:

ofc not. u know i got u 🙏

≈ 1 Week Before Prom — Checking In

Jazlyn — 5:10 PM:

haven't seen u all week 🙄 u alive??

Ashley — 5:11 PM:

barely lol

Jazlyn — 5:12 PM:

u sure ur ok?? u seem off lately

Ashley — 5:13 PM:

just tired. school + practice + stress = me 🙄

Jazlyn — 5:14 PM:

ok just making sure. prom's coming! u ready??

Ashley — 5:15 PM:

i guess. red dress is done. not sure if i even wanna go tho.

Jazlyn — 5:16 PM:

what?! it's our last one. u have to.

Ashley — 5:17 PM:

yeah... guess u right.

Prom Night

Jazlyn — 8:36 PM:

hey u ok?? saw u & jason arguing 😬

Ashley — 8:37 PM:

ugh yeah. just fixing my makeup.

Jazlyn — 8:38 PM:

ok weird thing—some guy just handed me this folded note for u?

Ashley — 8:38 PM:

huh? who??

Jazlyn — 8:39 PM:

idk tbh. we were by the punch bowl & ppl were sneaking stuff in 🤪
kinda fuzzy lol. he just said "hey jaz can u find ash & give this to her"

Ashley — 8:40 PM:

weird. ok i'll check it. thx.

Jazlyn — 8:41 PM:

i'll bring it to u in the bathroom. u still there??

Ashley — 8:42 PM:

yeah.

Jazlyn — 8:43 PM:

omw 🚶

Jazlyn — 9:12 PM:

u left ur clutch by the sink btw

(Message unread)

Case File #2025-0426 – Text Message Transcript

Ashley & Lily — Text Conversation

≈ 5 Weeks Before Prom – Scholarship Announcement

Ashley — 6:42 PM:

guess what!! 🎉 i got the cheer scholarship!!

Lily — 6:44 PM:

omg... wow. that's big. congrats.

Ashley — 6:45 PM:

thx 🙌 i can't believe it either! coach already posted about it on insta
😁

Lily — 6:47 PM:

yeah i saw. my mom did too. she was like "ashley's really got it all figured out." lol.

Ashley — 6:49 PM:

aw that's sweet 😊

Lily — 6:50 PM:

yeah. sweet. must be nice having everything just... work out.

Ashley — 6:51 PM:

hey... i didn't even think i'd get it. u know i wasn't gonna apply at first.

Lily — 6:52 PM:

mhm. yeah, i remember.

≈ 4 Weeks Before Prom – Prom Plans

Ashley — 8:05 PM:

sooo prom theme dropped!!! moonlight masquerade 🌙 ✨

Lily — 8:06 PM:

yesss i saw! gonna be so glam 🥰

Ashley — 8:08 PM:

i'm thinking red & gold dress. u??

Lily — 8:09 PM:

black & gold maybe? classy villain vibes 🦇

Ashley — 8:10 PM:

lol stop. we'll look fire together 🔥

Lily — 8:12 PM:

yeah... guess we will.

Ashley — 8:13 PM:

jason said the guys are renting masks from some place downtown if u & chris wanna match w us

Lily — 8:14 PM:

uh yeah maybe. we'll see.

Ashley — 8:15 PM:

u ok? ur being weird lately.

Lily — 8:16 PM:

just tired. cheer + exams = death.

Ashley — 8:17 PM:

same 😞

≈ 3 Weeks Before Prom – Pregnancy Discovery

Lily — 9:02 PM:

jazlyn just sent me a pic of a pregnancy test... from ur bathroom??

Ashley — 9:03 PM:

omg she went thru my trash?? 🤔

Lily — 9:04 PM:

so it's true??

Ashley — 9:05 PM:

...yeah. i was gonna tell u. i just needed time.

Lily — 9:06 PM:

time?? to do what?? figure out how to throw away ur whole future??

Ashley — 9:07 PM:

it's not like that. i'm scared too.

Lily — 9:08 PM:

u win the scholarship i needed and now ur just tossing it. u promised u weren't even applying.

Ashley — 9:10 PM:

i know. mom & coach pushed me. i didn't wanna lie. i just— everything got crazy.

Lily — 9:11 PM:

u always have an excuse, ash. "it just happened." "i didn't mean to."

Ashley — 9:12 PM:

that's not fair. u know me.

Lily — 9:13 PM:

yeah i do. better than anyone. maybe that's why it sucks more.

Ashley — 9:14 PM:

pls don't be like this 😞

Lily — 9:15 PM:

can't talk rn.

≈ 2 Weeks Before Prom – Silence and Distance

Ashley:

u still mad at me?

Ashley:

it's just been really hard lately. i feel like i'm falling apart and no one even notices.

Ashley:

jason won't talk about anything, my parents keep pushing college stuff, and i can't tell anyone the truth 😞

Ashley:

i just thought maybe u'd get it. ur the only one who ever has.

Lily:

no. just busy.

Ashley:

i miss us. things got weird.

Lily:

it's fine. stuff happens.

Ashley:

u sure? u sound like u hate me.

Lily:

i don't hate u. i just... need space.

Ashley:

ok 😞

≈ Prom Week

Ashley — 5:01 PM:

dress fitting done  u ready to slay?

Lily — 5:02 PM:

almost. hair appointment ran late.

Ashley — 5:03 PM:

can't wait to take pics together 

Lily — 5:04 PM:

yeah.


Ashley — 5:05 PM:

u sure u good? feels like we're not us anymore.

Lily — 5:06 PM:

i said i'm fine. see u there.

Ashley — 5:07 PM:

ok. love u 

(Read 5:08 PM)

Case File #2025-0426 – Text Message Transcript

Ashley & Unknown — Text Conversation

≈ 3 Weeks Before Prom — 7:56 PM

Unknown:

hey ash, u killed it on that science proj today 🔥 so smart and confident 🥰

Ashley:

thx 😊 um... who's this?

Unknown:

just someone who pays attention. u looked rly happy presenting. ur hair smelled like strawberries lol

Ashley:

ok that's kinda weird 🤪 srsly who is this?

Unknown:

someone who notices things others don't 😊

≈ 2½ Weeks Before Prom — 4:09 PM

Unknown:

hey. just wanted to check in. long day?

Ashley:

yeah practice was brutal. coach is in full comp mode 😞

Unknown:

i bet u still looked amazing tho. even when ur tired u glow.

Ashley:

that's sweet... but still don't know who u r lol

Unknown:

does it matter? i get u more than ppl who pretend 2 care.

≈ 1½ Weeks Before Prom — 9:23 PM

Unknown:

u seemed sad today. kept staring off in class. something happen?

Ashley:

nah just tired. lot on my mind.

Unknown:

u can tell me. i listen better than jason does 🙄

Ashley:

don't start. he's fine. we're fine.

Unknown:

idk... he doesn't look at u like i do. like u matter.

≈ 1 Week Before Prom — 6:07 PM

Unknown:

i saw jason w/ those girls again. he had his hand on one's shoulder. u deserve better than that.

Ashley:

he's just being friendly. y are u watching us anyway??

Unknown:

i just care. hate seeing u hurt. he doesn't deserve someone like u.

Ashley:

I'm not hurt. and u rly need 2 tell me who this is.

Unknown:

soon. when the time's right.

≈ 4 Days Before Prom — 10:22 PM

Unknown:

can't sleep. keep thinkin abt u. ur laugh. ur eyes. u make everything else fade away. 🌀

Ashley:

pls stop. this isn't ok. I'm w/ jason.

Unknown:

he doesn't get u. he doesn't protect u. u've been different lately. distant. like ur hiding something.

Ashley:

what?? how would u even know that??

Unknown:

i see u walking home alone. i see the look when he yells. i just wanna help.

Ashley:

STOP following me. this is messed up.

Unknown:

i'm not following. i'm watching over u. there's a diff.

≈ 2 Days Before Prom — 9:03 PM

Unknown:

made u something. drew u from memory. ur hair, ur smile, everything.
took all night but worth it 😊

Ashley:

that's really not ok. ur crossing a line.

Unknown:

don't say that 😞 i just want u to feel safe. i'd never let anyone hurt u.

Ashley:

protect me from what??

Unknown:

from ppl who pretend they love u.

Prom Night — 7:12 PM

Unknown:

u just walked in right? red + gold = perfect. 🔥 can't believe u went w/
him. he doesn't deserve 2 stand next 2 u. u look perfect. princess 💔

Ashley:

ok whoa. this is getting scary. stop texting me.

8:44 PM

Unknown:

he embarrassed you again. he's gonna ruin u. he's not what u think. ur
crying rn aren't u? i kno it.

Ashley:

stop. leave me alone.

8:46 PM

Unknown:

i can make it better. u don't have 2 be sad anymore. just come 2 me.
back doors. no1 else needs 2 know.

Ashley:

what does that even mean?

Unknown:

For my Princess. meet me out the back doors. 🌙

Ashley:

ur srsly messed up.

Unknown:

trust me. it'll all make sense tonight 🌀

(End of recovered thread)

Case File #2025-0426 – Text Message Transcript

Ashley & Jason — Text Conversation

≈ 5 Weeks Before Prom

Ashley:

guess what!! 🎉 just found out I got the cheer scholarship!!!

Jason:

wow. congrats. that's huge.

Ashley:

thank u 🙏 all that practice finally paid off!!

Jason:

yeah, just... hope u don't lose ur bff over it. 😬

Ashley:

what's that supposed to mean?

Jason:

nothing. just know lily wanted that one bad.

Ashley:

she'll be fine. she's amazing too. we'll both get where we're meant to



Jason:

sure. just... don't let it get weird.

≈ 4 Weeks Before Prom

Ashley:

can u believe we're only a month out from prom??

Jason:

yeah feels like everything's happening at once. midterms, comps, practice...

Ashley:

i know 😞 coach is killing us.

Jason:

and u got that big scholarship out of state now. guess you're basically famous 😁

Ashley:

lol hardly. it's just weird thinking we'll be in different places next year.

Jason:

yeah well some of us can't afford to leave the state 😐

Ashley:

jase... i didn't mean it like that.

Jason:

it's fine. it is what it is.

Ashley:

hey—let's not fight. anyway, they just dropped the prom theme!
"moonlight masquerade" 🌙 ✨

Jason:

sounds fancy lol. guess I gotta find a mask now.

Ashley:

red + gold. that's what I'm thinking for my dress 👗

Jason:

sure. whatever matches.

Ashley:

"whatever matches"? that's ur input: 🌈

Jason:

I'll grab a gold tie. problem solved.

Ashley:

romantic as ever 🤩

≈ 3 Weeks Before Prom

Ashley:

hey, can we talk tonight? kinda important.

Jason:

about what now? 🙄

Ashley:

not something I wanna text. can u call when ur home?

Jason:

ash, it's always "we need to talk." what's wrong this time?

Ashley:

just... please. call me later.

Jason:

idk, kinda done w/ heavy convos lately. can we not ruin another night?

Ashley:

ruin?? seriously? it's important.

Jason:

fine. tomorrow.

Next Evening

Ashley:

u never called.

Jason:

yeah, sorry. practice ran late. what's up now?

Ashley:

can we talk in person? tomorrow maybe?

Jason:

depends. depends on if it's another "we need to figure things out" talk.

Ashley:

wow. that's nice.

Jason:

look, I'm just tired. feels like every convo turns into a fight.

Ashley:

maybe bc u never actually listen.

Jason:

here we go again 😞

Two Days Later

Ashley:

fine. I took a test today. it was positive.

Jason:

...what test??

Ashley:

pregnancy.

Jason:

ur kidding.

Ashley:

I wish.

Jason:

ash this can't happen rn. i got scouts. college. everything—

Ashley:

I know. I'm scared too. we can figure it out together tho.

Jason:

i can't deal w this rn. not over text.

Ashley:

then call me.

Jason:

no. need time.

≈ 2 Weeks Before Prom

Ashley:

did u sleep? we need to talk about what to do.

Jason:

i said i need time. stop pushing.

Ashley:

i'm not pushing, i just—

Jason:

u don't get what's on the line for me.

Ashley:

and what about me?? 😞

Jason:

idk ash. i just... i can't think straight rn.

≈ 1 Week Before Prom

Ashley:

ppl keep asking if we're still going to prom together. we are, right?

Jason:

yeah. not gonna cancel now.

Ashley:

...okay.

Jason:

let's just get thru the night without more drama, alright?

Ashley:

sure. "more drama." got it. 🙄

Prom Day

Ashley:

dress = done 🧑‍🦱 hair = perfect. u?

Jason:

tux fits. picking u up 6:30.

Ashley:

ok. drive safe ❤️

Prom Night — After the Fight

Jason:

when ur done being an embarrassment, come out of the bathroom.

Jason:

where r u?

Jason:

u with Jaz?

Jason:

it's time to go.

Jason:

still nothing?

Jason:

I'm leaving. hope ur happy. u ruined our senior prom. must be time for another break 🤔

(End of recovered thread)

Case File #2025-0426 – Text Message Transcript

Ashley & Jazlyn — Text Conversation

≈ 5 Weeks Before Prom — Scholarship Announcement

Ashley — 6:42 PM:

omg jaz i got it!!! 🎉 🎊

Jazlyn — 6:43 PM:

got WHAT??

Ashley — 6:44 PM:

the cheer scholarship!! the big one 🤔

Jazlyn — 6:45 PM:

NO WAY!! girl that's insane!!! 🤯

Ashley — 6:46 PM:

ik but i feel kinda sick about it...

Jazlyn — 6:46 PM:

why?? this is like ur dream!!

Ashley — 6:47 PM:

bc i promised lily i wouldn't apply 🙄

Jazlyn — 6:48 PM:

oh... 🙄 she's gonna lose it.

Ashley — 6:49 PM:

i'll talk to her soon. coach & my parents made me do it.

Jazlyn — 6:50 PM:

still. that's rough. but hey, it's a big deal. congrats babe 💕

≈ 3 Weeks Before Prom — Pregnancy Discovery

Jazlyn — 9:42 PM:

hey random q... u ok??

Ashley — 9:43 PM:

yeah? why

Jazlyn — 9:44 PM:

i'm sorry but... i saw the test in ur bathroom 😬

Ashley — 9:45 PM:

oh god jaz please don't tell anyone

Jazlyn — 9:45 PM:

it's yours??

Ashley — 9:46 PM:

yeah. positive. i'm so scared.

Jazlyn — 9:47 PM:

oh ash 😬 what r u gonna do

Ashley — 9:48 PM:

idk. i haven't told jason yet.

Jazlyn — 9:49 PM:

maybe wait. think it thru first.

Ashley — 9:50 PM:

i'm trying. just pls don't say anything.

Jazlyn — 9:51 PM:

ofc not. u know i got u 🙏

≈ 1 Week Before Prom — Checking In

Jazlyn — 5:10 PM:

haven't seen u all week 🙄 u alive??

Ashley — 5:11 PM:

barely lol

Jazlyn — 5:12 PM:

u sure ur ok?? u seem off lately

Ashley — 5:13 PM:

just tired. school + practice + stress = me 🙄

Jazlyn — 5:14 PM:

ok just making sure. prom's coming! u ready??

Ashley — 5:15 PM:

i guess. red dress is done. not sure if i even wanna go tho.

Jazlyn — 5:16 PM:

what?! it's our last one. u have to.

Ashley — 5:17 PM:

yeah... guess u right.

Prom Night

Jazlyn — 8:36 PM:

hey u ok?? saw u & jason arguing 😬

Ashley — 8:37 PM:

ugh yeah. just fixing my makeup.

Jazlyn — 8:38 PM:

ok weird thing—some guy just handed me this folded note for u?

Ashley — 8:38 PM:

huh? who??

Jazlyn — 8:39 PM:

idk tbh. we were by the punch bowl & ppl were sneaking stuff in 🤪
kinda fuzzy lol. he just said "hey jaz can u find ash & give this to her"

Ashley — 8:40 PM:

weird. ok i'll check it. thx.

Jazlyn — 8:41 PM:

i'll bring it to u in the bathroom. u still there??

Ashley — 8:42 PM:

yeah.

Jazlyn — 8:43 PM:

omw 🚶

Jazlyn — 9:12 PM:

u left ur clutch by the sink btw

(Message unread)

Case File #2025-0426 – Text Message Transcript

Ashley & Lily — Text Conversation

≈ 5 Weeks Before Prom – Scholarship Announcement

Ashley — 6:42 PM:

guess what!! 🇺🇸 i got the cheer scholarship!!

Lily — 6:44 PM:

omg... wow. that's big. congrats.

Ashley — 6:45 PM:

thx 🙌 i can't believe it either! coach already posted about it on insta
😁

Lily — 6:47 PM:

yeah i saw. my mom did too. she was like "ashley's really got it all figured out." lol.

Ashley — 6:49 PM:

aw that's sweet 😊

Lily — 6:50 PM:

yeah. sweet. must be nice having everything just... work out.

Ashley — 6:51 PM:

hey... i didn't even think i'd get it. u know i wasn't gonna apply at first.

Lily — 6:52 PM:

mhm. yeah, i remember.

≈ 4 Weeks Before Prom – Prom Plans

Ashley — 8:05 PM:

sooo prom theme dropped!!! moonlight masquerade 🌙 ✨

Lily — 8:06 PM:

yesss i saw! gonna be so glam 🥰

Ashley — 8:08 PM:

i'm thinking red & gold dress. u??

Lily — 8:09 PM:

black & gold maybe? classy villain vibes 🐈

Ashley — 8:10 PM:

lol stop. we'll look fire together 🔥

Lily — 8:12 PM:

yeah... guess we will.

Ashley — 8:13 PM:

jason said the guys are renting masks from some place downtown if u & chris wanna match w us

Lily — 8:14 PM:

uh yeah maybe. we'll see.

Ashley — 8:15 PM:

u ok? ur being weird lately.

Lily — 8:16 PM:

just tired. cheer + exams = death.

Ashley — 8:17 PM:

same 😞

≈ 3 Weeks Before Prom – Pregnancy Discovery

Lily — 9:02 PM:

jazlyn just sent me a pic of a pregnancy test... from ur bathroom??

Ashley — 9:03 PM:

omg she went thru my trash?? 🤔

Lily — 9:04 PM:

so it's true??

Ashley — 9:05 PM:

...yeah. i was gonna tell u. i just needed time.

Lily — 9:06 PM:

time?? to do what?? figure out how to throw away ur whole future??

Ashley — 9:07 PM:

it's not like that. i'm scared too.

Lily — 9:08 PM:

u win the scholarship i needed and now ur just tossing it. u promised u weren't even applying.

Ashley — 9:10 PM:

i know. mom & coach pushed me. i didn't wanna lie. i just— everything got crazy.

Lily — 9:11 PM:

u always have an excuse, ash. "it just happened." "i didn't mean to."

Ashley — 9:12 PM:

that's not fair. u know me.

Lily — 9:13 PM:

yeah i do. better than anyone. maybe that's why it sucks more.

Ashley — 9:14 PM:

pls don't be like this 😞

Lily — 9:15 PM:

can't talk rn.

≈ 2 Weeks Before Prom – Silence and Distance

Ashley:

u still mad at me?

Ashley:

it's just been really hard lately. i feel like i'm falling apart and no one even notices.

Ashley:

jason won't talk about anything, my parents keep pushing college stuff, and i can't tell anyone the truth 😞

Ashley:

i just thought maybe u'd get it. ur the only one who ever has.

Lily:

no. just busy.

Ashley:

i miss us. things got weird.

Lily:

it's fine. stuff happens.

Ashley:

u sure? u sound like u hate me.

Lily:

i don't hate u. i just... need space.

Ashley:

ok 😞

≈ Prom Week

Ashley — 5:01 PM:

dress fitting done  u ready to slay?

Lily — 5:02 PM:

almost. hair appointment ran late.

Ashley — 5:03 PM:

can't wait to take pics together 

Lily — 5:04 PM:

yeah.


Ashley — 5:05 PM:

u sure u good? feels like we're not us anymore.

Lily — 5:06 PM:

i said i'm fine. see u there.

Ashley — 5:07 PM:

ok. love u 

(Read 5:08 PM)

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Ashley & Unknown — Text Conversation

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Unknown:

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Ashley:

thx 😊 um... who's this?

Unknown:

just someone who pays attention. u looked rly happy presenting. ur hair smelled like strawberries lol

Ashley:

ok that's kinda weird 🤪 srsly who is this?

Unknown:

someone who notices things others don't 😊

≈ 2½ Weeks Before Prom — 4:09 PM

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hey. just wanted to check in. long day?

Ashley:

yeah practice was brutal. coach is in full comp mode 😞

Unknown:

i bet u still looked amazing tho. even when ur tired u glow.

Ashley:

that's sweet... but still don't know who u r lol

Unknown:

does it matter? i get u more than ppl who pretend 2 care.

≈ 1½ Weeks Before Prom — 9:23 PM

Unknown:

u seemed sad today. kept staring off in class. something happen?

Ashley:

nah just tired. lot on my mind.

Unknown:

u can tell me. i listen better than jason does 🙄

Ashley:

don't start. he's fine. we're fine.

Unknown:

idk... he doesn't look at u like i do. like u matter.
