

MURDERS DON'T HAVE TO BE PERFECT

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FADE IN:

EXT. WINERY - DAY

On a steamy summer morning darkened by smoke in the distance, an elegant 2016 *Rolls Royce Phantom* races into the parking lot of an exclusive winery and B&B. The main sign reads: "Yarbrough Y-nergy, Bed and Breakfast" A temporary sign reads, "Closed for Private Party."

We see BEES buzzing around rosebushes near the parking lot. The light is more fitting for a funeral than a wedding.

BRANSON WRIGHT (60s), a lecherous Hollywood producer responsible for more "Me Too's" than Harvey Weinstein, steps out of the driver's side wearing a gray suit, white shirt, and a face in need of a smile. He puts a liquor flask in his inside coat pocket, and tosses his signature light-yellow scarf around his neck as he slowly walks around the car to reluctantly open the passenger door.

BRANSON

Let's get this over with!

SHERYL WRIGHT (50s), an actress with a frozen-Botox smile, shaded by a floppy white hat, steps out wearing a tight blue sun dress begging for attention. She tosses a lit cigarette onto the gravel parking lot.

SHERYL

Be civil for twenty-four hours,  
Branson! This is what our son is  
marrying into. Smile, keep your  
dick in your pants, and don't use  
that stupid scarf of yours to tie  
up a housekeeper, and we'll be rid  
of our deadbeat son once and for  
all. He'll own this winery and B&B  
soon enough.

Sheryl sees the bees by the rosebushes.

SHERYL (CONT'D)

And get me away from these bees!  
You know I'm deathly allergic!

Branson ignores the bees, and forces a smile as he guides Sheryl to the tasting room. He takes out his flask, takes a sip, and returns it.

BRANSON

Try to move your lips when you speak, Sheryl, so you don't look like a blow-up doll when we meet our future in-laws.

Sheryl stops and faces the surrounding hill slopes.

SHERYL

Do you smell something burning?

BRANSON

Your career?

SHERYL

I'm serious!

BRANSON

News radio said there was a fire in the area. More reason to get this over with, and get back to L.A.

Sheryl looks over her shoulder as Branson pulls her arm.

A beautiful African-American woman, DR. MILLIE JACKSON (early 30s) in a stunning pink dress walks up a pathway toward the tasting room. She smiles at Branson and Sheryl.

MILLIE

You must be Evan's parents. Described you perfectly. Hollywood producer in a yellow scarf, and a beautiful actress.

Sheryl smiles, because the Botox demands it. Branson eyes Millie like the big bad wolf that he is.

BRANSON

Branson and Sheryl.  
(laughs)  
She can't speak. Face is frozen.

Branson takes the keys to his car out of his pocket as Millie steps in closer. Millie SEES his keys, starts to shake their hands, but changes her mind and hugs them.

MILLIE

I'm Millie Jackson, Maid of Honor. Love your son, too. Makes everyone around him sparkle.

BRANSON

Odd that they don't want any photos of the wedding.

MILLIE

Mandy says it's so they both have to keep clear heads forever to remember it.

SHERYL

I'm sure my sexist and racist husband assumed you were here to get our bags. Don't get too close to him, or he'll have another "Me too" on his hands.

Branson glares at his wife.

BRANSON

Isn't she sweet. I hope they perform exorcisms along with weddings here.

MILLIE

Evan said you two were funny. You have met Mandy and her delightful parents, haven't you?

SHERYL

Mandy has been to our Bel Air home a few times. We haven't had the pleasure...

They all turn to see big JERRY YARBROUGH (60s) in a western suit, bolo tie, and cowboy boots striding toward them with his Amish-looking wife, JENNY (early 50s), trying to keep up. Jenny wears a plain print dress reminiscent of the Little House on the Prairie, and black lace-up boots. She wears a white orchid corsage, and carries four pink flower boxes with her. Jerry has a booming voice.

JERRY

Jerry Yarbrough, welcome to my "Y"-nery. Get it? "Y" for Yarbrough. It's a Bed and Breakfast, too. Twelve rooms plus a bridal suite! You must be Evan's parents. This here's my wife, Jenny.

Jerry sneers at her. Sheryl smiles insincerely at Jenny, and extends a hand to shake.

SHERYL

Ciao, Jerry. Hello, Jenny, darling, pleasure to finally meet you. We understand our Evan was the only illegible bachelor in the county. Isn't that a riot!

(MORE)

SHERYL (CONT'D)  
I'm Sheryl, and this is my  
overbearing husband, Branson.

Branson glares at his wife.

BRANSON  
Thanks for hosting the wedding. I'm  
sure our children couldn't be  
happier.

JENNY  
You're the actress, Sheryl Wright!  
I've seen all your movies. Acting  
must be quite difficult!

SHERYL  
Know your lines and know your  
spots. It's all about timing, my  
dear.

JERRY  
And you've met Doctor Millie  
Jackson.  
(beat)  
Jenny has corsages for each of you.

Jenny attempts to hand Branson, Sheryl, and Millie corsages,  
but Sheryl steps away, offended.

SHERYL  
I'm sure Evan mentioned I'm deathly  
allergic to bees. Carry two Epi-pen  
in my purse at all times. Die in  
five minutes. The corsage might  
attract bees. Can't wear one. You  
understand, darling.

Jenny smiles disingenuously.

JENNY  
So sorry. He did mention it. I  
guess I forgot.

They all continue walking to the tasting room, with Jerry  
leading the way.

Jenny hangs back as if she's praying for help.

Sheryl takes Millie's arm.

SHERYL  
Doctor Jackson? Please tell me you  
do touch-up work.

MILLIE

I work on wrinkles on people's insides. I'm a psychiatrist.

Jerry hears Millie, turns his head, and glares at his wife in the back of the pack. He laughs.

JERRY

We could use a good shrink around here.

INT. TASTING ROOM - DAY

TINA RYAN (early-30s), the sommelier-in-training behind the bar, holds a glass of white wine to the sunlight, as if it were a religious experience. Tina is beautiful, inwardly dark, and intelligent. She wears a traditional, Italian tunic with gold trim. Above all else, she is mysterious.

The handsome groom in a black tuxedo, EVAN WRIGHT (30s), smiles at the glass of wine, and Tina. He holds up his glass to the light.

Leaning on Evan, is best man, CHARLIE TURNER (30s) impeccably dressed in a gray suit. He's looking fondly at his childhood friend, Evan, holding back tears. Charlie holds up his glass.

The parents tip-toe in the side of the room, listening to Tina's description of the wine.

TINA

This is a Louis Latour, Meursault, from twenty-twelve. It's a clean, limpid, medium yellow with a splash of green. A rich, yet delicate color. Now, gently sniff it.

Tina sees the parents enter, as Evan and Charlie sniff their wine, giggling and smiling. Tina sniffs the wine.

TINA (CONT'D)

Sense the touch of new wood on the nose. Next comes a soft, ripe melony fruit, very expressive, but not distracting. Now sip, just a little, and hold it on the tip of your tongue.

Evan, Charlie, and Tina sip. Tina spits her wine into a bucket excitedly.

EVAN  
You're making this shit up. Nobody  
talks like that.

Charlie pats Evan on the back.

CHARLIE  
Wine smelly-airs talk like that?

TINA  
Sommeliers.

EVAN  
Whatever.

Tina ignores them, and continues like a professional.

TINA  
There! There! A light mist of  
floral, honeysuckle on the palate,  
with hazelnut overtones, rich and  
buttery, leaving a good lemony  
acidity.  
(smiles)  
Elegant, young, and alive. And a  
great future!

Jerry is defensive.

JERRY  
Our sommelier-in-training is the  
best in the state!

Tina turns to see her boss. Evan turns to see his parents.

TINA  
Mr. Y! Mrs. Y. I was just...

Evan races to greet his parents, and interrupts.

EVAN  
Dad, Mom, you made it! I see you've  
met the Yarbroughs.

BRANSON  
Yes, son. I hope you're keeping  
your nose clean.

EVAN  
Little wine isn't gonna hurt anyone  
on their wedding day.

Branson steps in front of Sheryl to hug his son. Sheryl  
squeezes in next for a hug.

SHERYL

Congratulations, son. So glad this day is finally here.

Evan points to Charlie, who toasts them from the bar.

EVAN

You remember Charlie Turner from Little League. My best man.

Evan sees Millie, and puts the wine glass behind his back.

EVAN (CONT'D)

Doctor Jackson, Charlie over there is dying to meet you. He keeps peoples' secrets too. He's with the National Security Agency in Washington, DC. But Mandy's been calling for you every five minutes!

Millie glances over at Charlie. They politely smile at each other.

MILLIE

It's just Millie, today, Evan. Can't wait to meet your best man, but where can I find Mandy?

Jenny grabs Millie's hand, wanting urgently to leave.

JENNY

I'll take her to Mandy's room. I should be with her, too.

Jenny rushes Millie away whispering to Millie, but everyone hears her.

JENNY (CONT'D)

Sorry to get you involved in all this, Doctor.

MILLIE

(whispers)

Thought I should be here, if you know what I mean.

JERRY

Tina, this is Mr. and Mrs. Benson Wright, Evan's parents.

TINA

Welcome to the Y-nery. Are there any particular types of wines you'd like to taste before the wedding?

JERRY

Open our best for our guests.  
There's a little matter I need to  
discuss with Evan and his parents.

CHARLIE

I can take a hint.  
(laughs)  
I'm heading to the kitchen for a  
snack anyway.

Charlie waves as he exits.

Jerry pulls out legal documents from his coat pocket as he  
sits at the bar.

TINA

I'll be down in the wine cellar  
picking out some favorites.

Tina begins to leave, but Jerry grabs her arm forcefully.

JERRY

I'll need a witness from a third-  
party.

Tina stops, and shakes her arm free.

TINA

Perhaps, if you asked politely, Mr.  
Y.

JERRY

I'm sorry. Tina, will you help me?

EVAN

What's this about?

BRANSON

Yes, what's the meaning of this?

JERRY

Settle down.  
(whispers)  
I...I...I'm giving the Y-nery and  
B&B to my daughter as a wedding  
present.

Branson slaps Jerry on his back.

BRANSON

A generous gift. Good man! I'll  
drink to that!

Branson pulls the flask from his inside coat pocket, takes a sip, and returns it.

EVAN

Oh, my God!

SHERYL

Your future's secure.

(beat)

For once!

JERRY

Under two conditions.

Evan looks away, then back.

EVAN

Here it comes.

JERRY

That you sign this pre-nuptial agreement, which states my daughter will be the CEO, maintaining individual ownership -- even after your married.

Evan looks away and back again.

EVAN

And the second condition?

JERRY

She has to continue weekly counseling with a professional.

EVAN

Doctor Jackson?

JERRY

I didn't specify. You know as well as I do that both of you need a little extra guidance.

Branson, Sheryl, and Evan look away with guilty looks.

SHERYL

Evan has been off hard drugs for almost two years now...

JERRY

(in Evan's face)

Not about you, Evan. It's about my daughter. The responsibility will do her good. Just what she needs.

(MORE)

JERRY (CONT'D)

Now, I want this marriage to work, but you both must stay clean, and I'm not giving this entire place to a druggie. I'm giving it to my daughter. You sign this pre-nup or the deal's off the table, and you two can find your own way!

Evan looks away, pauses, then looks into Jerry's eyes.

EVAN

Fine! I'll do it for Mandy! Not for you! For Mandy! She doesn't need you!

Jerry slams the pre-nup on the bar with a pen. Evan signs and dates two copies of the agreement, and pushes it to Tina.

Tina signs and dates both copies.

Jerry picks up his copy and storms out. Evan folds the other copy and shoves it in his inner-tuxedo pocket.

Everyone is stunned.

TINA

Mr. Y can be like that at times. And that's before he hits the Merlot's hard.

Evan holds Tina's hands, and stares softly into her eyes. They share a moment, making Branson and Sheryl a little uncomfortable.

EVAN

Thanks, Tina.

Tina looks to the entrance and sees PASTOR RACHEL PENDLETON (40s) enter wearing a black pastor's robe and white collar. Tina slowly pulls her hands back from Evan, who turns to see the pastor.

EVAN (CONT'D)

Rachel! I mean, Pastor Pendleton, come and meet my folks.

Evan races to bring Rachel up to his parents.

TINA

Welcome, Pastor Pendleton. I'll select a few vintages for this afternoon.

(smirks, walking away)

(MORE)

TINA (CONT'D)  
Unless you'd prefer to turn water  
into... never mind.

Evan guides Rachel over to shake Branson's hand.

EVAN  
Dad, Mom, this is the pastor I told  
you about. Saved my life.

Rachel blushes.

RACHEL  
Soul maybe...

EVAN  
Branson and Sheryl.

Rachel shakes their hands then freezes at Sheryl.

RACHEL  
Sheryl Wright, the actress? Journey  
to Everywhere? Thanksgiving Parade.  
They wouldn't let us see Miss  
April's Confession, but...

SHERYL  
Guilty as charged. I had no idea  
the part required that much nudity.

EVAN  
Stop there, Mom.

BRANSON  
She'd better or we'll all be  
arrested.  
(beat)  
Again!

They laugh. Evan is uncomfortable.

EVAN  
Seems all I did for two years is go  
from my shrink to my pastor.

RACHEL  
The Lord shows the way, but you  
have to walk it every day.

Branson rolls his eyes.

BRANSON  
Clean, and out of jail, anyway.

SHERYL

Branson, must you be so crude.  
Pastor Pendleton, how well do you  
work with perverts like my husband?

Rachel excitedly changes the topic.

RACHEL

Smell the smoke driving in? Big  
fire on the main road south.

SHERYL

Fire and brimstone, I hope.

RACHEL

Grasslands and shrubs mostly. They  
hope to have it stopped before it  
hits the trees.

BRANSON

Should we be worried.

RACHEL

No. I ran into the new Sheriff who  
said, 'tomorrow morning we can all  
drive north, and go around it.'

EVAN

After the wedding, then.

Rachel grabs Evan's hand.

RACHEL

Can I speak with you a minute about  
the vows you've prepared? In  
private.

EVAN

Out on the porch okay?

RACHEL

Fine.

Evan leads Rachel out to the porch. They look like they're  
having a serious discussion, when Tina returns with Charlie  
carrying a case of wine.

TINA

Anywhere on the bar is fine,  
Charlie. Thanks. Who is ready to  
try an aromatic sweet white wine?

Branson bellies up to the bar.

BRANSON

Wine tasting flowery-description  
bullshit?

Sheryl is distracted by the deep conversation on the porch.  
The pastor is kissing-close to her son.

TINA

I enjoy subtle differences in fine  
vintages. I enjoy describing them  
to others.

BRANSON

(flirting)

I heard some terms coming in here  
that need some explaining. What did  
you mean by limpid? Not like...

Sheryl slaps his arm, and glares at her husband.

SHERYL

Get you mind out of the gutter,  
Branson.

TINA

Limpid means: literally  
transparent, like clear water,  
while retaining its color.

BRANSON

More bullshit! And what did you  
mean by melony? Certainly not...

Branson pretends to fondle his wife's breasts. Again, she  
slaps him.

TINA

Melony signifies ripe, slightly  
exotic fruit, usually referring to  
Chardonnay. It may also refer to  
pineapple or guava.

BRANSON

Passion fruit?

CHARLIE

Same old Mr. Wright, eh? How's the  
acting coming along, Mrs. Wright?

SHERYL

Know your lines and know your  
spots. It's all about timing. And  
as you see, it's time to ditch my  
husband!

Sheryl storms away.

SHERYL (CONT'D)

Such a perv. I'll go freshen up in my room.

CHARLIE

Separate rooms, eh?

BRANSON

May I have a couple of glasses of whatever!

CHARLIE

Me too, I guess. Tina, what's it take to become a sommelier?

TINA

Years of training a testing. Four steps, each one where very few tasters move on.

CHARLIE

Number of taste buds?

TINA

Partially. A supertaster has twice as many taste buds as an average taster, and three times more than a non-taster.

Branson guzzles down a glass of wine.

BRANSON

All tongue action, then huh?

TINA

Actually, the tongue map of taste regions was wrong; salty, sweet, bitter. Each taste bud or papillae, can taste the full range of flavors, but some people train to detect subtle differences.

BRANSON

(snarls)

But you're a woman! Aren't you all impervious to bullshit by now?

TINA

Women are twice as likely to be supertasters than men.

CHARLIE

All men?

TINA

Asians, South Americans, and  
Africans often have better tongues  
than Caucasians.

Branson slams down another glass of wine, and snarls at Tina.

BRANSON

On that, I can attest. The rest of  
wine-tasting is bullshit.

Tina looks out on the porch, overlooking the grounds, and  
sees Rachel and Evan standing under the flowered wedding  
treacle.

TINA

Looks like the wedding is starting.  
Better get out there.

Branson takes out his flask, sips from it, returns it to his  
inside pocket, then staggers out.

Charlie takes out his smartphone and powers it down.

CHARLIE

No photos or video they said.  
That's so weird.

TINA

Why do you suppose that was?

CHARLIE

(laughing)  
I don't know, but Evan always had a  
funny saying that 'Photos become  
evidence,' and he knows I work for  
the NSA in Washington. Ha! They  
both fit the terrorist profile!

Charlie laughs. Tina looks up at the security cameras in the  
corners of the tasting room.

TINA

Ha! I guess they do.

Charlie starts to exit to the smoke-filled patio and grounds.

CHARLIE

You coming?

TINA

Too much smoke, and I'm not the biggest fan of my new boss-to-be.

CHARLIE

Me neither.

(whispers)

Don't know what Evan sees in her.

Charlie smiles and heads out. Tina smiles back and mumbles.

TINA

Two-hundred-million-dollar winery, maybe.

EXT. WINERY GROUNDS - DAY

We SEE the beautiful bride-to-be, MANDY YARBROUGH (30s), in a gorgeous wedding dress, strolling slowly down the aisle, arm in arm with her dad, Jerry. The guests all turn and smile. We see TWO CATERERS (20s; male and female in white kitchen aprons, standing next to one long table, exquisitely adorned with a white tablecloth, fine china, crystal glasses, and six ice-buckets filled with Champagne bottles.

CUT TO:

INT. TASTING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Tina secretly snaps a photo on her smartphone. All the guests are genuinely smiling as they look back to the bride. Likewise, Evan is smiling. Curiously, Rachel is stoic. We FAST-FORWARD through a quick, lackluster wedding from Tina's vantage point in the tasting room. She snaps a few more photos.

BEGIN MONTAGE

-- We SEE the bride and groom face each other and smile weakly.

-- We SEE MANDY reading a very short list of vows.

-- We SEE EVAN reading a shorter list of vows.

-- We SEE them exchange rings in a clumsy fashion, during which time, Rachel, glances away.

-- We SEE Evan kiss Mandy for an unreasonably long time, causing Rachel and the guests to squirm a little.

-- We SEE Evan and Mandy lead their guests to the table.

END MONTAGE

Tina is flipping through the photos on her phone, when SHERIFF STEPH WINDSOME (30s), a handsome, meek, African American in full uniform and eyeglasses steps into the tasting room.

Tina puts the phone behind her back. The Sheriff sees this.

TINA

Hi, Sheriff.

SHERIFF

Hi, Tina. Heard about the wedding today. Stopped by to give the guests a heads-up about the fire.

TINA

No danger here, right? They have a safe boundary plowed around the vineyards. They irrigated...

SHERIFF

No. No. The vineyard is the safest place in the county.

(laughs)

And the best food and drink. I may hide out here with you.

TINA

You're welcome to, of course.

SHERIFF

Dropped by to tell your guests that getting out of here may be a problem. Fire jumped the road.

TINA

Both sides? I thought the smoke was getting thicker. I'm having more trouble sniffing the wines.

SHERIFF

They're pulling in crews from all over. Town's been evacuated. It's serious. I'd have to force them to stay here tonight, if they weren't planning to already.

TINA

I'll let you tell them if you don't mind. They think I'm making things up about the wine!

The Sheriff and Tina look out to the wedding table. Only the bride and groom look happy.

SHERIFF

How did the wedding go? If it were a wine?

TINA

It was surgically efficient, with more than a hint of apathy, with a lingering aftertaste of disdain, surrounded by a shroud of unspoken mistrust and well-aged uncertainty.

The Sheriff chuckles.

SHERIFF

That bad, huh?

TINA

I wouldn't serve it to rats. They'd probably prefer to drink strychnine.

They move to the patio door, and stare out the window. The Sheriff sees no smiling faces standing around the patio's brick fireplace and pizza oven, which has a roaring blaze, adding to the background smoke.

The Two Caterers are removing pizza plates and replacing them with desert plates.

SHERIFF

They'll be okay with the news?

TINA

All but Mrs. Y had enough Champagne to fail a Breathalyzer from here!

SHERIFF

Oh, great! Can't have them drinking and trying to drive through the fire. They gotta stay here tonight. Fire should be controlled in a day, as long as they can keep it out of the trees.

The Two Caterers reach behind them to a small table, and produce a two-tiered wedding cake.

Charlie stands to make a toast, but Jerry waves him off, and leaves the table quickly. Everyone else stands and takes a break.

TINA

Looks like they're taking a potty-break before the toasts and cake-eating parts of the ceremony.

SHERIFF

I'll break the news to them as easy as I can, when they get back.

Tina and the Sheriff leave the patio door and return to the bar.

SHERIFF (CONT'D)

Where are they all sleeping?

TINA

A dozen guest room, but both sets of parents demanded separate rooms. Ha!

SHERIFF

Some example! What about you?

TINA

The field workers have a dorm on the back side of the vineyard. Plenty of room if you need a place...

CUT TO:

EXT. WINERY GROUNDS - NIGHT

It's dark and the guests and the Two Caterers mill around the dinner table, lit by a few candles and lanterns. No one looks very happy, but they're civil.

Charlie smiles very quickly at the male caterer, before beginning his toast. He smiles convincingly at the crowd.

CHARLIE

Never thought I'd see the day. Don't mind telling you all I have mixed feeling, but I suppose I'm still honored to toast my dearest life-long friend, Evan Wright...

BACK TO:

INT. TASTING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Tina wipes down the bar as the Sheriff checks his phone.

TINA

I've got to run to the wine cellar to check the temperature of the Chardonnays. Hold down the fort.

Tina races out.

LATER Tina races in with two bottles of Chardonnay.

TINA (CONT'D)

Perfect. Fifty degrees. Perfect pairing with light and delicate raw or lightly cooked shellfish, steamed or grilled fish, chicken or vegetable terrines and pasta. Also good with risotto with spring vegetables, or creamy vegetable soups.

SHERIFF

You're making me hungry.

Tina produces a plate of crackers and cheese from below the bar.

TINA

Dinner is served!

The Sheriff digs in. He smiles.

SHERIFF

Have you considered my marriage proposal?

Tina acts shocked.

TINA

Steph Windsome! You propose every week on Thursday! Right here in this tasting room! And only after I produce the plate of cheese and crackers!

The Sheriff reaches a hand across and covers her hand.

SHERIFF

Tina, you're the smartest and sweetest person I've ever met in my life. Marry me, and I'll never drink wine from a box again!

TINA

You know how to win a girl over.  
But, I'm going back to San  
Francisco when I complete my last  
sommelier test next month.

The Sheriff takes his hand back.

SHERIFF

I know. Your home.

TINA

I'm sorry, Steph. You have been the  
only truly lovable person I've met  
here during my training. But, you  
love your new job and this county,  
and I would never ask you to leave  
them to follow me home.

Tina leans and kisses the Sheriff on the lips softly.

SHERIFF

I'll never find another woman like  
you.

TINA

You'll forget me when you meet the  
right woman carrying a box of wine  
in each arm!

They chuckle, and kiss again.

The Sheriff and Tina stroll to the patio door and look out at  
Charlie giving his toast.

TINA (CONT'D)

Smashing cake into your spouse's  
face should be next.

SHERIFF

I'd better go tell 'em about the  
fire.

TINA

Give 'em a minute to smear  
frosting.

SHERIFF

Ya sure.

Tina takes a video of Mandy shoving a piece of cake into  
Evan's face. He, and everyone else, chuckles.

Mandy opens her mouth widely, and Evan shoves in the cake, causing Mandy to gag, and appears to be in pain, and a little stunned. She swallows most of the cake, and looks angered.

SHERIFF (CONT'D)

I better get out there and gently  
share the fire report before they  
kill each other.

Tina watches as the Sheriff chuckles and walks outside to the table calmly. She can't hear anything from the tasting room. The Sheriff obviously introduces himself, and shakes Evan's hand, then, Mandy's, and Jerry's hand before calmly delivering the news, as the Two Caterers remove the top tier of cake, and cut, and deliver slices of cake to all the guests.

Tina takes out her phone, and snaps another photo, as the Sheriff addresses the table.

Suddenly, the Two Caterers bolt to the kitchen. Everyone stands at the table in horror, and pandemonium reigns.

Charlie pulls out his phone and tries to make a call. He's unsuccessful.

Tina snaps photos as the guests stagger in different directions toward their rooms.

The Sheriff is alone at the table. He cuts two pieces of wedding cake, grabs two forks, and heads into the tasting room.

TINA

That went well.

SHERIFF

Like I said, safest place in the  
county. Just can leave right away.

TINA

So, where are they running to?

SHERIFF

They've decided to pack their cars.  
I'm to call them the moment I know  
it's safe for them to evacuate.

TINA

And that will be...?

SHERIFF

Tomorrow morning, if they're lucky!

Tina and the Sheriff HEAR a van screech out from the parking lot.

They run to the front door to see the catering van racing away recklessly.

SHERIFF (CONT'D)

Damn kids! They're driving right into the fire! Tell them all if they leave, I'll arrest them, and they'll do sixty days in jail!

The Sheriff drives off with lights and siren.

Tina smells smoke and shuts the door.

We HEAR the Sheriff screech away with his SIREN blaring, as Mandy storms into the tasting room. She's still wearing her wedding dress, but she is drunk, angry, and holding her jaw with one hand, and stomach with the other.

MANDY

Gonna be some big changes around here! Ruined my wedding day!

TINA

No one could have predicted the fire...

MANDY

I'm talking about my controlling, manipulative Daddy! God damn him! Making my husband sign a pre-nup! What I do with my vineyard is my business! I'll kill him!

Mandy, in a little pain, races out the front door, leaving Tina speechless.

Jerry races in from the wine cellar carrying a case of fine wines.

JERRY

We're getting out of here! You seen my wife?

TINA

Sheriff ordered us to stay.

JERRY

I don't give a...

TINA

The vineyard is the safest place in the county. Fire all around us.

JERRY

Caterers left.

Jerry paces, desperately trying to call his wife.

TINA

Won't get far. Drove right into the fire.

JERRY

I'll call Jenny.

Millie races in. She's changed into street clothes, drags a suitcase on wheels, and has a garment bag over her shoulder.

MILLIE

I got a reverse 9-1-1 call. The whole town's been evacuated.

Jerry slams his phone on the bar.

JERRY

All circuits are busy.

TINA

You're perfectly safe here.

Millie paces wildly.

MILLIE

I'm claustrophobic! The smoke! The fire! It's walled us in.

Branson stumbles in. Everybody looks and acts tipsy, but Branson slurs his words and can barely stand.

BRANSON

Get me out of thish two-bit cowboy h... h... hell!

JERRY

You're not driving anywhere!

Branson takes a swing at Jerry, and misses. Branson falls to the floor.

Evan enters from the front door. Jenny, Charlie, and Rachel are carrying in three pieces of cake each from the table outside.

EVAN

Everybody have their cars packed in case the Sheriff calls?

Jerry helps Branson to a seat at the bar.

TINA

Please sit down, everyone. Nobody's driving anywhere. Sheriff said it's an automatic sixty days in jail if you disobey his orders.

Sheryl enters from the patio carrying two pieces of cake.

EVAN

She's right. Smell the smoke.

TINA

We're safe here. We have a plowed boarder between the vineyard and the forest. We have provisions for weeks.

Millie squeals.

MILLIE

Weeks?

TINA

Sheriff said we'll be out tomorrow.

Branson raises his chin from the bar. He takes out his flask, takes a sip, and returns the flask to inside coat pocket.

BRANSON

We're all gonna die!

Sheryl glares at him from across the room.

SHERYL

(mumbles)

Please, dear Lord, take Branson first!

Everyone gathers around the bar, except Jenny who stands by the door heading to the patio. Jenny yells at Jerry.

JENNY

The Devil's brew! We're trapped!  
It's all your fault!

Jerry sees Rachel step up and sniff Jenny's breath. Rachel grabs Jenny's arm and glares at her.

JERRY

The Sheriff says we're safe.

JENNY

From ourselves? Evil liquor! I was against this winery from the start!

Jerry charges at his wife.

JERRY

You were our best customer for years!

Jerry picks Jenny up, and shakes her violently. A pint of gin slips from her waistband and crashes on floor. Only a tiny bit of gin was left.

JERRY (CONT'D)

I knew it! Back on the bottle!

Jenny cries, embarrassed and repentant.

JENNY

I am powerless. I am powerless against it!

Tina races over with bar towels and a dustpan, as the Sheriff enters the front door with his head down.

SHERIFF

They're dead!

RACHEL

You warned them.

MILLIE

We all heard you.

Rachel and Millie race to comfort the Sheriff, but he shakes them off and warns everyone in a deep voice.

SHERIFF

Right through the traffic cones, into the fire. Smoke so thick they couldn't see.

Millie steps back, frightened.

SHERIFF (CONT'D)

Hit a great big burning oak doing sixty, maybe sixty-five. The awful noise. The explosion. Two lives lost. I had to turn around. I had to come back.

(MORE)

SHERIFF (CONT'D)

(beat)

No one leaves 'til I say so! Got it?

Everyone nods.

Mandy races in from the wine cellar holding her throat with one hand, and stomach with the other. She releases her throat, and punches her dad, Jerry, in the gut. He grunts after the punch.

MANDY

Where are my car keys, you manipulative asshole?! Evan didn't marry me for my money!

SHERIFF

Nobody's going anywhere!

Evan struggles to speak up.

EVAN

I hid them. We're in no shape to drive.

Evan tries to comfort his wife, but she pulls away.

MANDY

And you signed it! Spineless worm.

SHERYL

(mumbles to Evan)  
Match made in heaven.

JERRY

(to Mandy)  
Honey, you'll own your vineyard forever!

MANDY

I wish everyone would quit controlling my life!

JENNY

But, honey...

MANDY

You too, Ma! You're worse than any of them. You're hiding more than gin bottles in this place. You know what I'm talking about!

Jenny falls to the floor in an instant depression.

Tina tries to smile.

TINA

Why don't you all have some cake,  
and forget about the fire? We have  
a wedding to celebrate.

The Sheriff smiles, and strides to a piece of cake.

SHERIFF

Sounds reasonable!

TINA

I'll get coffee from the kitchen.

Tina races out to the kitchen.

The guests shake their heads in a disgust and sorrow. They  
exit individually, and without speaking.

Tina returns with two carafes of coffee on a platter, and  
eight cups.

The Sheriff is eating a slice of cake, alone.

TINA (CONT'D)

Where did everyone go!

SHERIFF

Called it a night. Great wedding,  
huh?

Tina pours two coffees.

TINA

Don't see how it could have been  
worse. The fire and those two  
caterers who died. Horrible.

The Sheriff grabs a cup of coffee, and takes a step toward  
the front door.

SHERIFF

Tragedy. I'll rest in my patrol  
car, and listen for updates on the  
fire. Thanks for the coffee.

TINA

You're the only reasonable one  
here, Steph. Door will always be  
open to you.

SHERIFF

Thanks, Tina. You're the only here  
I trust. Good-night.

The Sheriff trudges out the front door.

Evan returns in a white fluffy bathrobe and slippers. He's  
sad.

EVAN

Came back for a pot of coffee.

Tina smiles.

TINA

I've got a carafe and two cups  
right here.

Evan smiles back, and takes a seat at the bar.

EVAN

You're the only one who smiled from  
the heart all day! Have a cup of  
coffee with me.

Tina pours two coffees.

TINA

Fraternizing with the help when you  
should be in your wedding chamber?

Evan flirts with Tina. He places a hand on hers.

EVAN

You've always been more than the  
help. You breathe life into this  
place.

Tina moves her hand back.

TINA

How's Mandy?

EVAN

Tired, and depressed, I guess.  
Coffee may help.

TINA

Better bring it to her, then.

Evan looks into her eyes.

EVAN

Give me a minute of peace?

Tina shows compassion, and places a hand on his.

We SEE the video cameras in the tasting room capturing it all.

They stare into each other's eyes. They share a moment or two.

TINA  
You'd better get back.

EVAN  
You're right. Thanks, Tina.

Evan leans in and kisses Tina on the cheek. He smiles, and grabs the platter with a carafe of coffee and two mugs.

Evan exits, after he turns and smiles one more time at Tina.

Tina buses the plates of cake into a gray tub, and wipes down the bar.

She takes a last sip of coffee before she begins to exit via the patio door.

She hears a blood-curdling SCREAM from Evan in the bridal suite.

EXT./INT. BRIDAL SUITE - CONTINUOUS

Everyone runs toward the bridal suite, in bathrobes and slippers. Jerry arrives first. He hears Evan screaming, and pounds on the door.

EVAN (O.S.)  
Wake up! Wake up, Mandy!

Jerry pounds on the door, as Jenny, Branson, Charlie, Millie, Sheryl, Rachel, and Tina come running to the door.

JERRY  
Open up!

Jerry breaks the door down.

Everyone races in the door to see Evan on top of Mandy (still in her wedding dress) on the bed shaking her shoulders.

EVAN  
Wake up! Wake up!

Jenny sees a half-empty bottle of pills and an empty bottle of Champagne on the side table and picks it up the pill bottle.

JENNY  
Pills! Call 9-1-1.

Jerry, Branson, Sheryl, and others examine the pill bottle, while Evan grabs his phone and dials 9-1-1.

EVAN  
Where's the Sheriff?

TINA  
Out front in the parking lot. I'll get him.

Tina races out. Charlie follows her. Everyone else in the room touches Mandy and hugs her and Evan. Jenny and Millie cry. Jerry and Branson stomp around.

Moments later, the Sheriff barges into the bridal suite, while Millie is checking for a pulse.

MILLIE  
She's dead.

The Sheriff sees the pill bottle, now in Rachel's hand.

SHERIFF  
Don't touch anything. Back out, please.

EVAN  
Oh, my God!

LATER

The Sheriff investigates the body and the room, while everyone waits in the hallway, taking turns peeking in the room.

SHERIFF  
Evan, how long did you say you left her alone in the room?

Evan peeks in the door.

EVAN  
Ten minutes, I guess. I went for coffee.

TINA

More like fifteen minutes. I was getting him a tray with coffee and mugs.

JERRY (O.S.)

That doesn't take fifteen minutes!

EVAN

(angry)

Then walking to and from. Mandy was mad as hell. Looked like she needed a few minutes to compose herself.

BRANSON (O.S.)

Unstable from the start, but I'm terribly sorry.

JERRY (O.S.)

You and your looney wife any less stable? Drunken fools!

SHERYL (O.S.)

More stable than you and your gin guzzler...

The Sheriff races to the door of the suite and yells at everyone.

SHERIFF

I'm trying to gather facts! None of you are helping!

CHARLIE

Think it was... ya know... suicide?

SHERIFF

I don't know. Ambulance and coroner can't get here because of the fire, and we can't take her in to get examined for the same reason. I need time to think!

MILLIE

No note. No suicide note.

Millie storms into the room.

SHERIFF

Only twenty-four to thirty-six percent of suicide victims leave notes. Doesn't mean anything!

MILLIE

I think it does.

JENNY (O.S.)

She's attempted it before.

MILLIE

Twice. Matter of record. Three years ago, and five years ago. Both times she left a note.

SHERIFF

She was stressed out. Maybe she didn't have time. Fifteen-minute window of opportunity.

MILLIE

Can I see the pills?

SHERIFF

Why not? Everybody's handled the bottle from what I heard.

EVAN

Twelve. She had twelve pills.

Millie counts the pills.

SHERIFF

How do you now?

EVAN & MILLIE

Carried 'em everywhere.

SHERIFF

What?

EVAN

To prove she had more power than the opioids.

MILLIE

Still twelve.

SHERIFF

Might have taken others earlier.

Everyone drops their heads.

SHERIFF (CONT'D)

How many of you carry or have access to sleeping pills, painkillers, or prescription meds right now!

The Sheriff peeks out in the hall. Slowly everyone but Tina raises a hand, then puts it down.

SHERIFF (CONT'D)

Exactly.

Branson is defensive, and tipsy.

BRANSON

What about the empty bottle of Champagne?

SHERIFF

Which, again, most of you handled. How many of you drank Champagne tonight?

All but Tina and Jenny raise a hand, then put it down.

Jerry scoffs at Jenny.

BRANSON

You snuck gin. You filthy...

SHERIFF

(yells)

I said civil! We're dealing with a tragic suicide here!

Millie looks sadly down at Mandy's body.

MILLIE

Not right. Her two previous attempts were identical. Bourbon and opioids. The pills are here, and there's no bourbon.

SHERIFF

Every year, one million adults attempt suicide, and women are more likely to attempt suicide by self-poisoning.

MILLIE

True! All the warning signs were there tonight: feelings of hopelessness, desperation, social isolation, irritability, and rage.

JENNY (O.S.)

(crying)

Feelings of being a burden.

Millie exits to hug and comfort Jenny.

Evan examines the Champagne bottle.

EVAN

This had less than a quarter bottle  
in it when I left.

Evan stares at the Champagne.

SHERIFF

What?

EVAN

I went to get coffee. I didn't  
drink it. She must have. Wasn't  
enough to kill her.

The Sheriff looks under the bed.

SHERIFF

No other pill bottles or liquor  
bottles?

Evan looks around and finds nothing. Evan collapses on the  
bed and weeps.

EVAN

She was cold when I came back.  
Cold!

(beat)

I shook her. I wanted her to wake  
up! I don't believe it!

The Sheriff paces. Everyone is peeking in the door, as the  
Sheriff covers Mandy's body with a blanket. He's sad.

SHERIFF

I'll need statements from everyone.  
And don't return to your rooms.

BRANSON

Why?

SHERIFF

If she committed suicide, we'll  
have to find whatever it is she  
ingested.

TINA

You said, if.

The Sheriff stares at each of them, one at a time.

SHERIFF

If she didn't commit suicide, she could have died of natural causes or by accident.

RACHEL

You said, could have died of natural causes.

SHERIFF

Can't tell without an autopsy.

JERRY

What are you really saying, Sheriff?

SHERIFF

It's a little suspicious, that's all! I have to ask you all some questions.

(beat)

In the absence of an autopsy, and because of her young age, I'm afraid I need something for my report other than 'she died.'

Everyone stares at everyone else individually.

Jerry grabs Evan by the collar of bathrobe and shakes him violently.

JERRY

It was you, you son of a bitch! You wanted the winery! You killed her!

The Sheriff breaks up the fight.

SHERIFF

We'll talk this through together. Civilized! All of you! Go to the tasting room!

They trudge down the hall in a sad silence.

INT. TASTING ROOM - NIGHT

The Sheriff and Tina set up coffee cups around the wine-tasting bar. Tina has a laptop computer.

SHERIFF

Thanks for helping me, Tina. You're smart, and you read people better than I do.

TINA

Glad to help. People are like fine wines to me.

SHERIFF

Think I should have searched everybody's room?

TINA

You know the answer. She didn't have a knife in her back? No sign of struggle. Guests were all in separate rooms. If she took something, there was no evidence of a container. If she was poisoned by someone, he or she would have had time to destroy the container before she was found.

SHERIFF

Do you think it was an accident?

TINA

I don't know. Your interviews may be very enlightening.

Everyone enters, casually dressed. Jerry and Jenny glare at Evan, the others look upon him with pity or sorrow.

SHERIFF

I'm sorry to put all of you through this. Routine questions, and absolutely necessary.

(beat)

I've asked Tina to take notes for my report.

BRANSON

Why her?

The Sheriff points to the Two Security Cameras in the ceiling corners of the tasting room, while everyone takes a seat.

SHERIFF

Ms. Ryan was on camera before, during, and after the wedding. She had no time alone with Mandy. No opportunity, as we say. And...

Sheryl stands angrily.

SHERYL

Opportunity for what?

TINA

Come on, Mrs. Wright, the Sheriff has a report to fill out. He needs facts! Facts from everyone here! Please! Let's help him for Mandy's sake.

Sheryl sits, as Jenny stands angrily.

JENNY

You never liked Mandy, Tina. 'Cause she guzzled the cheapest wine!

Everyone pauses, but ignores Jenny.

CHARLIE

Speaking of wine, I could use a glass!

JERRY

Tina, pour 'em anything they want! Nobody's driving. I'll have our new Chardonnay.

TINA

It's our most elegant, ripe wine, with tropical fruit notes layered with honeycomb and hints of citrus.

Branson snickers and rolls his eyes.

BRANSON

(sarcastic)  
Yeah, yeah.

Tina glares at him, as she pours the wine.

TINA

It's highlighted by crisp, ripe apples that taste like they came right off a tree, but the complex aroma underlines honeyed notes of vanilla and toasted oak for a satisfying, silky finish.

CHARLIE

(chuckles)  
How does all that fit in the bottle?

BRANSON

That will do.

CHARLIE  
Yeah, hit me up!

SHERYL  
I'll sleep better with a glass.

MILLIE  
Me, too.

RACHEL  
Coffee for me. Always and forever,  
now. Thanks.

Evan pours Rachel coffee, then helps himself to coffee.

EVAN  
Coffee for me, too.

TINA  
Make it three. Thanks, Evan.

Evan pours Tina a cup, while she smiles weakly.

Sheryl is sitting between Jenny and Rachel, who are both eyeing Sheryl's full glass of wine. Sheryl places both hands around the wine glass, as if guarding it.

Jerry chugs his wine and yells, pointing a finger at Evan.

JERRY  
He was the last one to see her  
alive! He knew I gave Mandy the  
winery. What a fool I was with that  
pre-nup.

Tina is typing as fast as she can.

SHERIFF  
What pre-nup? And slow down, and be  
civil -- all of you!

TINA  
Before the wedding, Mr. Y produced  
a prenuptial agreement for Evan to  
sign. I witnessed it right here, so  
it's on the security tape. It said  
that Mandy would maintain sole  
ownership and leadership of the  
winery after they were married.

MILLIE  
When Mandy heard about it, she was  
furious with her dad.

SHERIFF  
And she punched him.

JERRY  
Ungrateful, spoiled...

Jenny slaps Jerry in the face.

SHERIFF  
Hey! I said civil, or I'll arrest  
any or all of you for impeding an  
investigation!  
(beat)  
Mandy have a will?

JERRY  
Not that I'm aware.

JENNY  
(to Jerry)  
Aren't you the smart one? It all  
goes to her husband anyway!

JERRY  
Shut up, Jenny. I had enough of  
you!

SHERIFF  
One more time, Mr. Yarbrough. I'm  
talking sixty days in jail!

Jerry pouts as Jenny snickers.

The Sheriff points at Jenny.

SHERIFF (CONT'D)  
You too, Mrs. Yarbrough, and I'll  
lock you up together!

Jenny shuts up immediately.

TINA  
Evan, I'm sure the Sheriff needs to  
know Mandy's condition and state of  
mind when you last saw her alive.

Evan cries. Everyone leans in to hear the answers.

EVAN  
We were a little drunk, but not  
sloppy, know what I mean?

TINA  
Explain, please.

EVAN

She laid on the bed, in her wedding dress, pretty as can be.

He cries, unable to go on.

Jerry isn't buying it.

SHERIFF

She complain about anything?

EVAN

Throat was a little soar.

CHARLIE

From getting the cake shoved in, I bet.

MILLIE

Too violent and forceful!

RACHEL

I've seen worse.

BRANSON

Just kids being kids.

SHERIFF

Go on. Anything else?

EVAN

Said her stomach hurt a little bit, but she needed coffee.

TINA

What was her mood? State of mind?

EVAN

We were about to make love. I was already, you know...

CHARLIE

What?

Evan glares at Charlie, who looks away, embarrassed.

EVAN

Ready.

TINA

Mood? State of mind?

EVAN

Mood? Complicated! She jumped around from happy and giggly, to mad about her dad.

JERRY

I just gave her a multi-million-dollar winery, for Christ's sakes.

Jenny snickers, then yells.

JENNY

Millions in debt!

Jerry stands and threatens Jenny.

JERRY

Wine recession. Extended drought. Competition from everywhere! Fires!

Evan charges at Jerry.

EVAN

Mandy knew! She told me you were dumping the place for a tax write-off, so she could take the bankruptcy. Some gift!

BRANSON

But you signed the pre-nup!

Evan gets in his dad's face.

EVAN

Now, I'm bankrupt, you idiot!

The Sheriff separates everyone, and calms them down.

TINA

Mandy would have been furious.

EVAN

She was! Like she wanted to throw up. Champagne, didn't help.

JENNY

(mumbles)  
Devil's brew.

TINA

What else did you talk about?

EVAN

Private stuff.

SHERIFF

It was their wedding night.

Evan looks away.

EVAN

(mumbles)

I loved her anyway.

SHERIFF

What did you say?

EVAN

(yells)

She had problems, but I loved her  
anyway!

Tina, Rachel, and Millie go to hug Evan. Sheryl looks away.

Everyone falls silent, and puts their heads down. Jenny cries loudly, and Jerry tries to comfort her.

JENNY

(to Jerry)

Look what you've done! The Devil's  
brew and your cold heart!

Evan pushes back Tina, Rachel, and Millie, and he looks away.

EVAN

I didn't know what to say to her. I  
froze. I said, "You want coffee?"

(beat)

I can't believe it. I said, "You  
want coffee?" I didn't hug her. I  
didn't jump for joy. I froze.

(pacing)

She gave me a tiny smile. Not very  
long. But I threw on the bathrobe  
and slippers and ran down here.

SHERIFF

Then what?

EVAN

I let her rest and clear her mind  
for a few minutes.

TINA

Fifteen minutes. It's on the  
security camera.

EVAN

Okay? Fifteen minutes. I needed time to think, too.

SHERIFF

Right! Married for an hour!

MILLIE

She wasn't suicidal. Quite the opposite. She thought a future baby would turn her life around.

RACHEL

She told me that, too!

EVAN

Can't believe she didn't tell me that first!

Rachel gets in Evan's face.

RACHEL

The way you would have reacted?  
Flirting with every woman you see!

Evan is defensive, as Tina types furiously into the laptop.

EVAN

Bullshit! I do not!

Millie gets in Evan's face.

MILLIE

You do, too! That's why I had to stop seeing you.

Evan is more defensive.

EVAN

You stopped seeing me when Mandy and I got engaged! Six months ago!

MILLIE

That's not the only reason, and you know it. Doctor-patient confidentiality is the only reason I've been quiet tonight, but now one of my patients is dead!

EVAN

I didn't kill her, if that's what you're suggesting.

JERRY

It's exactly what I'm suggesting.  
You killed my daughter, inherited a  
winery, then took a coffee break!

Everyone freezes for a few seconds.

Evan looks away, as Jenny turns irate.

JENNY

I wanted grandchildren to make me  
and Jerry better people!

Jenny, crying, begins punching Evan.

JENNY (CONT'D)

Look what you've done!

EVAN

I didn't kill her! I loved her!  
More than I loved anyone in my  
entire life.

Evan paces around as he rants.

EVAN (CONT'D)

She had problems, but who doesn't.  
I had bigger ones. I didn't know  
who I was. The psychoactive  
prescriptions didn't help!

Evan turns on Millie.

EVAN (CONT'D)

Therapy sure as hell didn't help.  
No proof it helps anyone. May as  
well ask yourself questions. How  
did that make you feel? Bullshit!  
It's all bullshit.

Rachel races in to defend Millie.

RACHEL

We all need someone to talk to!  
Mandy came to me on several  
occasions.

Evan turns on Rachel.

EVAN

She told me! She didn't like the  
way you recruited me into your  
dying church!

Tina and the Sheriff whisper to each other.

TINA  
We're getting off topic.

SHERIFF  
Let 'em vent, Tina.

RACHEL  
All churches need money these days.  
Empty every week!

EVAN  
Not at your A.A. meetings!  
(turns to Jenny)  
Isn't that right, Mrs. Y? We are  
powerless over alcohol. We need God  
to save us! Turn your life over to  
a greater power -- an imaginary  
friend! None of my imaginary  
friends ever had the power to turn  
down a free drink or a fix!  
(glares at Tina)  
Or a free wine tasting!

Tina looks away and mumbles.

TINA  
They're not free.

EVAN  
We've all seen your generous pours!

SHERYL  
This is getting exciting!

EVAN  
Shut up, Ma!

Branson gets in Evan's face.

BRANSON  
Don't you dare tell your mother to  
shut up!

EVAN  
'Cause that's been your job her  
entire marriage. If she complained  
about another starlet on your  
casting couch, you said you'd ruin  
her reputation in Hollywood, and  
she'd never work again! I heard  
that dozens of times.

(MORE)

EVAN (CONT'D)

God knows what you were like when I wasn't home!

BRANSON

I gave your mother everything!

EVAN

If you mean sexually transmitted diseases, you're probably right.

Branson slaps Evan.

BRANSON

You spoiled, drug-addicted spineless brat! Since middle school, you were stealing pills...

EVAN

(interrupting)

They were everywhere in the house. You both dropped more than you swallowed!

BRANSON

No one forced them down your throat!

EVAN

I haven't used in almost two years!

BRANSON

You traded up for fine wine! You traded addictions.

EVAN

Like you traded in mom for newer models? How many lawsuits are you facing now?

BRANSON

None of your...

Sheryl stands and gets in Branson's face.

SHERYL

He'll be cleaned out and thrown out of town. Wants to divorce me, so he can bury half his assets in my name! But, I'll have a little surprise for him. I'll never grant that loser a divorce!

Branson turns on Sheryl.

BRANSON

You said...

SHERYL

That was before. This is now!

Branson paces.

SHERIFF

How much trouble are you in, Mr. Wright?

Branson takes out his flask, and takes a drink. He waves the flask like a flag as he speaks.

BRANSON

Enough to break the Internet.

(beat)

Enough to ruin me. Sheryl's right. For once. You've seen what happened to the politicians, movie stars, many producers and directors! Women stepping forward in record numbers, and encouraging others to do the same.

TINA

Sounds self-inflicted to me.

Branson stops, and puts away his flask. He glares at Tina, as he forms fists.

He relaxes his fists, and paces.

BRANSON

Yes, power and money are as lethal as any drug.

(calmly scolds Evan)

But, I earned my power and money by being a good businessman. You never worked a day in your life. You stole your drugs, and mooched off everybody who knew you.

EVAN

What do I say? Thanks for spoiling me. Thanks for not teaching me the value of hard work. You created me, and you abandoned me.

They get angrier.

BRANSON

I cut you off. Two years ago, after my team of lawyers got you off those drug charges. This is how you repaid us!

EVAN

That was to keep your so-called good name out of the tabloids. Another failed Hollywood father. That story's as old as the sign in the hills.

They are about to come to blows, when the Sheriff steps in to break it up.

SHERIFF

We're looking for motive for Mandy's death, not for you two beating each other up.

TINA

Both benefited from Mandy's death.

Silence. The crowd glares at Tina.

TINA (CONT'D)

I'm stating the obvious. Evan gets the winery, and even if it's in debt, there is always a buyer for a winery. And that reduces the dependence of Evan on his father, or from the father to his spoiled son.

Evan gets in Tina's face.

EVAN

Thanks a bunch! Are you blaming me for Mandy's death?

TINA

I believe each of you had something to gain.

EVAN

So did you! You didn't like the way Mandy worked, when she worked at all. She picked cheap wines, couldn't tell any wines apart in a blind test, and...

Millie stands and interrupts.

MILLIE

Both Mandy and Evan may have mentioned a little jealousy in their sessions.

SHERIFF

(mumbles)

So much for doctor-patient confidentiality.

MILLIE

I said, may have!

Charlie stands and interrupts.

CHARLIE

The shrink doesn't like the way this discussion is going! She's being disruptive and distracting.

(to Millie)

Why else would a psychiatrist use such diversionary tactics?

Millie is defensive to Charlie, as she scans the room in a drunken manner.

MILLIE

I don't know what you're talking about.

CHARLIE

Sure about that? I see the way you look at Evan. You're protecting him. Why?

MILLIE

(softly)

I don't think he did anything wrong.

SHERIFF

You stopped seeing Evan professionally?

MILLIE

I told you. Six months ago.

TINA

When he and Mandy got engaged.

SHERIFF

Did you see him socially after?

MILLIE

Around town, wine tasting here, on occasion...

TINA

(interrupts)

Every two weeks. Like clockwork.

MILLIE

We were friends!

Charlie takes a gulp of wine and laughs.

CHARLIE

So, with Mandy gone, and Evan owning the winery, you slide right back into the tasting room on a permanent basis?

Millie charges Charlie, who hides his face in a cowardly way, while she punches him.

The Sheriff breaks up the fight.

TINA

Maybe everybody should switch to coffee.

Jerry has a tear in his eye.

JERRY

Let them drink wine. It's now officially a wake.

EVAN

I'm so sorry. I miss Mandy already.

Sheryl and Jenny go to hug Evan.

SHERIFF

I need to know if anyone visited the bridal suite prior to Mandy's death.

No one volunteers an answer.

TINA

Was the door locked?

EVAN

No. Why should it be? We're friends and family here. But I locked it when I came back with the coffee. My wedding night. You know.

SHERIFF  
Anything of value in the room?

Branson and Jerry stand defiantly.

JERRY  
Think we're thieves?

BRANSON  
What kind of a question...

SHERIFF  
I needed to ask. The caterers left  
after the wedding cake was  
served...

TINA  
The Champagne? The dinner? The  
cake? Did anyone else feel sick  
after dinner.

Everyone answers 'no,' or shakes their head 'no,' except Tina  
and the Sheriff.

SHERIFF  
Did anyone notice suspicious  
behavior. The caterers. Each other?

TINA  
Wait, Sheriff! They might not want  
to divulge that in a public forum.

The crowd eyes each other suspiciously.

SHERIFF  
Right! They could send me a text  
message if they saw something  
suspicious.

TINA  
Text messages leave a record, and  
it's hardly anonymous from their  
own phones.

SHERIFF  
What do you suggest?

TINA  
I suggest we take a break. Let's  
calm down. Wash up. I'll make more  
coffee!

SHERIFF  
Good idea. Take ten, everyone.

The crowd disperses, except Tina, Evan, and the Sheriff. Sheryl takes a full glass of with her, which Tina notices.

TINA

I'll make some coffee.

Tina exits.

Evan fidgets uncomfortably in his chair. The Sheriff comforts him.

SHERIFF

I'm so sorry, Evan.

Evan stands, angry.

EVAN

You all think I did it!

SHERIFF

Just asking questions. Relax.

Tina returns with two carafes of coffee, and sets them on the bar.

They HEAR Sheryl SCREAM from down the hall. The Sheriff bolts toward the scream. Evan and Tina follow.

INT. GUEST ROOM HALLWAY - NIGHT

Sheryl stands over Rachel, who has an empty wine glass in her hand.

Everyone gathers.

SHERYL

I stepped out of my room and she was lying there.

Millie checks for a pulse. She leans over to provide mouth-to-mouth resuscitation, but the Sheriff leans in and pulls Millie's shoulders back.

SHERIFF

Check her airway first.

MILLIE

Right.

Millie opens Rachel's mouth, and everyone sees her bright red, swollen mouth and throat.

SHERIFF

She's been poisoned!

EVAN

Or, she did it herself. She was an alcoholic. Led the A.A. meetings at the church. Told everyone she took a complex of Antabuse drugs to prevent herself from drinking.

MILLIE

They make you vomit. They don't kill you.

SHERIFF

Maybe she took something else with the wine.

SHERYL

It was my wine. I had to pee real bad when I went to open my door, so I set my glass of wine down. Maybe it was meant for me?

Everyone turns to glare at Branson.

BRANSON

Wasn't me. My wife is my tax shelter to save me from the lawsuits!

SHERIFF

How endearing.

SHERYL

Jesus, Branson!

MILLIE

I've seen suicide attempts where an alcoholic on a combination of antabuse-type drugs need only take a few painkillers and one drink to end it all.

EVAN

That's true.

(looks away)

That's how I was going to... ya know, two years ago.

BRANSON

(sad)

Evan? You?

Evan is angry.

EVAN

You cut me off? What choice did I have? I mean, I didn't do it, did I?

MILLIE

You always have a choice. And you made the right one.

EVAN

To see all this tonight? Not so sure!

TINA

Sheriff, two suicides in one night?

The Sheriff uses his shirt sleeve to pick up the wine glass.

MILLIE

This is awful.

TINA

Sheriff, can I smell the glass?

Everyone watches as the Sheriff lifts the wine glass to near Tina's nose.

JERRY

Has to be the Chardonnay!

Tina sniffs again.

TINA

I need those wearing perfume and cologne to back up.

Everyone but the Sheriff backs up.

TINA (CONT'D)

It's the Chardonnay.

There are sighs of relief.

TINA (CONT'D)

But something else, too.

SHERIFF

What?

TINA

I don't know. A hint of something floral, and not from the wine.

(MORE)

TINA (CONT'D)

(beat)

Do you mind if I see Mandy one more time?

SHERIFF

Jerry and Branson, please gently carry the pastor to her room and shut the door until the coroner can get here. The rest of you, stay here.

The Sheriff carefully carries the wine glass with his shirt sleeve, and guides Tina down the corridor to the bridal suite. They whisper as the Sheriff stops at Rachel's room, and opens the door for her body.

The Sheriff enters the room before Jerry and Branson carry in the body.

Jerry and Branson exit and return to the group.

The Sheriff exits the room and pockets four pill bottles he found in the room.

The others see the pill bottles and shakes their heads in sadness.

The Sheriff guides Tina down to the bridal suite, and they whisper.

SHERIFF (CONT'D)

What's this about, Tina?

TINA

You're the one who knows all the statistics. What are the odds that two people out of nine at one party commit suicide?

SHERIFF

Slim, I guess.

TINA

Slim to none, I guess.

The Sheriff opens the door. Already there is a smell of decomposition beginning, and they plug their noses.

SHERIFF

Warm night. Body's going fast. But don't touch anything. The crime team already has a mess on their hands.

Tina stares at Mandy.

TINA

Why?

SHERIFF

Past alcohol and drug problems, and previous suicide attempts, and four bottles of pills in her room. She was jealous of Evan marrying Mandy. Let's face it, the odds were against her.

Tina stares at the Sheriff and nods sadly in agreement. Then she leans in close to Mandy's mouth and sniffs.

TINA

But, Mandy? Wedding night? The winery is hers? Planning a baby in the future? Doesn't make sense!

She stops sniffing, and turns to the empty Champagne bottle. Without touching the bottle, Tina smells the top of it.

TINA (CONT'D)

Lot of background noise. I need to smell this in the tasting room.

SHERIFF

I'll carry it.

The Sheriff uses his other sleeve to carry the Champagne bottle, as they exit the room. The Sheriff locks the door, as they whisper.

SHERIFF (CONT'D)

We have a lot riding on your nose. How can I be sure it's working well? All the smoke from the fires, everybody's perfumes and colognes, body odor...

TINA

Test me.

SHERIFF

How?

TINA

Set up six Champagne bottles; five are outside on the dinner table.

(MORE)

TINA (CONT'D)

And set up six empty wine glasses that we used tonight for the new Chardonnay, including the glass used by Rachel. Don't tell anyone which glass and bottle are evidence. Number them so you know, and write the correct numbers in your notebook. Then call me down for the test.

The Sheriff looks down the hall at the other guests staring at them from afar.

SHERIFF

You're confident.

TINA

I have to convince myself, you...  
(looking down the hall)  
And them. I hope I'm wrong. I'll explain later.

The Sheriff has the bottle and the wine glass as he walks past everyone in the hallway.

SHERIFF

Stay here for a few minutes more, while I set up a test in the tasting room.

SHERYL

I need a smoke.

SHERIFF

Use the front porch of the tasting room.

Everyone looks puzzled as Tina joins them.

Sheryl follows the Sheriff toward the tasting room.

INT. TASTING ROOM - NIGHT

The Sheriff has set up six Champagne glasses on one side of the bar, and six wine glasses on the other side of the bar.

Jerry, Jenny, Branson, Millie, Charlie, and Evan enter the tasting room to see the bottles and glasses lined up.

SHERIFF

Branson, please get your wife from the porch. Evan, call for Tina to come in.

Branson fetches Sheryl, as a puff of smoke follows her into the tasting room. Evan leads Tina into the tasting room. Branson is edgier than the others.

BRANSON  
What's this about?

SHERIFF  
Only partly sure myself.

TINA  
I thought I sniffed a very slight, but distinct, floral smell from the wine glass that Rachel drank from.

MILLIE  
But you're not sure what she took.

The Sheriff removes four pill bottles from his pocket.

SHERIFF  
Without an autopsy, and full blood chemistry, we can't be sure what Pastor Pendleton took. We do know that she had in her possession:  
(reads the prescriptions)  
Disulfiram.

MILLIE  
That's called Antabuse.

SHERIFF  
Acamprosate.

MILLIE  
Called Campral.

SHERIFF  
Topiramate.

MILLIE  
That one's marketed as Topamax.

The Sheriff pauses and looks away sadly.

SHERIFF  
And fentanyl.

MILLIE  
The strongest opioid out there. Interacts with dozens of other medications, and...  
(grief stricken)  
(MORE)

MILLIE (CONT'D)

It can be fatal when mixed with alcohol.

The others gasp.

SHERIFF

We don't know that she took any!

BRANSON

She's dead, isn't she?

EVAN

So, what's with this test that Tina is taking?

SHERIFF

I'll let her explain.

Tina steps up.

TINA

The Sheriff has arranged six wine glasses, one of which was last used by Rachel.

SHERIFF

I numbered them. They look identical. Tina has no idea which glass and bottle I'm interested in. They were used by many of you right here, after dinner, when the same Chardonnay was served.

TINA

I'm sure you remember the tropical fruit notes layered with honeycomb and hints of citrus; the highlight of crisp, ripe apples...

EVAN

That tasted like they came right off the tree.

TINA

Exactly, but the complex aroma with honeyed notes of vanilla and toasted oak for...

TINA & EVAN

a satisfying, silky finish.

Evan has a weak smile, happy with himself.

TINA

Very good, Evan. But, in this case,  
the wine is gone, except for a very  
tiny bit of residue.

Tina sniffs the first glass without touching it. She pauses.  
She sniffs the second glass the same way.

CHARLIE

What's this prove?

SHERIFF

Patience, Mr. Turner.

Tina sniffs the remaining four glasses, then returns to the  
fourth glass and re-sniffs it. She sniffs it yet again.

TINA

Number four, Sheriff.

The Sheriff is stoic, giving no indication if Tina is  
correct.

Tina moves to the Champagne bottles. She sniffs the first  
one.

JERRY

I don't see that this proves  
anything.

SHERIFF

Patience, Mr. Yarbrough. It may  
mean nothing.

Tina sniffs another bottle.

SHERYL

Why's she doing this?

SHERIFF

All six bottles were served at  
dinner, but Mandy took one of the  
bottles up to the bridal suite.

JERRY

Branson bought the Champagne. We  
don't make it here.

BRANSON

My contribution to the wedding.

JENNY

(snickers)

His only contribution to the wedding.

TINA

The Champagne smells wonderful!

BRANSON

Wasn't cheap! I'll tell ya that!

TINA

Very refined. It's a soft, feminine Champagne, with a creamy mousse and a fine, delicate bead. Top-flight luxury.

BRANSON

(sarcastic)

Well then, thank you!

EVAN

But, there was only one-glass each left in the bottle she took to the room.

SHERIFF

Did you drink any of the Champagne in the suite, Evan?

EVAN

No. I told you that!

SHERIFF

And the bottle was empty when you returned after fetching coffee.

EVAN

That's right. Big deal.

Tina finishes sniffing the last bottle, and returns to bottle number two.

TINA

Bottle number two.

The Sheriff pulls out his notebook from his pocket. He shows the numbers to the others: "Glass #4; Bottle #2"

The Sheriff sinks into a chair at the bar. Tina sinks into the chair next to him.

EVAN

What's this all mean?

SHERIFF

The dinner table? Bridal suite?  
Hallway?

JERRY

But we were all there tonight!

SHERIFF

And you were all in your rooms when  
Pastor Pendleton drank the wine?

They all nod 'yes,' and gather around the Sheriff and Tina.

SHERIFF (CONT'D)

Tell them, Tina. I think I know.

Tina turns sadly, looking at each of the others in the eyes.

TINA

When I sniffed Rachel's glass, with  
you all there, I told you I smelled  
a hint of something floral.

BRANSON

So?

SHERIFF

So, she asked to see Mandy again.

TINA

But the room had overpowering odors  
for me, so I needed to smell the  
Champagne bottle under more  
controlled conditions.

CHARLIE

And?

TINA

When I sniffed wine glass number  
four and the second Champagne  
bottle, I detected the exact same  
floral signature.

JERRY

What do you mean, signature?

TINA

I hold a Master's Degree in  
Chemistry and Chemical Engineering.  
That background helped me in my  
training to become a sommelier.

(MORE)

TINA (CONT'D)

I recognized the smell of the most dangerous plant species in the world: the monkshood family.

EVAN

Purple flower?

TINA

Or white. How did you know?

EVAN

High school. Some stupid kid took them to our biology teacher. She read him the riot act. Poison.

Everyone gasps.

The Sheriff is busy scrolling webpages on his phone. Over his shoulder, we SEE the purple flower. The Sheriff reads:

SHERIFF

Aconite: the active ingredient in common rat poison. The Greeks named it "wolf's bane," because arrows dipped in it could kill a wolf instantly.

CHARLIE

But how...?

SHERIFF

How did it get in the bottle and the glass?

JERRY

Oh, my God!

Tina looks away.

TINA

It... it...

SHERIFF

What Tina is trying to say is that the same poison was used in both deaths.

(looking around slowly)

There remains the possibility that both victims used the exact same poison to end their lives.

They all gasp.

TINA

I'm so sorry.

The Sheriff paces. No one else moves.

SHERIFF

Or, someone could have poisoned them! Everyone but Tina and I were around the table outside during dinner. Any one of you could have slipped a tiny amount of aconite into the Champagne bottle before Mandy carried it to the bridal suite, with Mandy or Evan, or both as the potential targets of the poison.

JERRY

Including the damn caterers, who opened and served the Champagne.

TINA

But everyone went back to their rooms for a few minutes. They took a break. Anybody could have wandered by. I wasn't looking.

JERRY

No security cameras pointed at the table.

TINA

And the caterers were not here this evening when I served the Chardonnay that killed Rachel.

Sheryl collapses into tears.

SHERYL

That glass of wine may have been meant for me!

TINA

Anyone could have slipped the poison into the glass of wine while it sat in the hallway outside Mrs. Wright's door, including a stranger.

SHERIFF

Anyone could have wandered by and saw a nice glass of very good Chardonnay to drink.

(MORE)

SHERIFF (CONT'D)  
 Who could detect only two  
 milligrams of aconite, a tiny  
 pinch, in the wine?

BRANSON  
 Surely, you can't suspect one of  
 us?

MILLIE  
 That's ridiculous!

JENNY  
 I don't like where you're going  
 with this, Sheriff.

SHERYL  
 It's not one of us!

CHARLIE  
 Dumbest thing I ever heard!

EVAN  
 I hope not, anyway!

SHERIFF  
 The bridal suite was unlocked, and  
 none of you saw anyone in the  
 hallway before we found Pastor  
 Pendleton?

Tina is excited.

TINA  
 But, what if we're not alone? Maybe  
 there's a stranger on the grounds.

SHERIFF  
 Right! We can't assume we're alone.  
 Assumptions need to be tested.

Everyone tenses up.

JERRY  
 Big place.

TINA  
 I could search the wine cellar?

MILLIE  
 (to Tina)  
 I could go with you.  
 (to the Sheriff)  
 Sheriff, think we're in danger?

SHERIFF

I don't know.

JERRY

Somebody else could be here, and the smoke from the fires may have forced them here.

SHERIFF

I'll search all the guest rooms.

JERRY

Take my master keys, Sheriff.

Jerry hands his keys to the Sheriff.

The Sheriff starts to exit, then stops to stare at the others.

JERRY (CONT'D)

I'll search the out buildings.

BRANSON

Need help, Jerry?

JERRY

You can come. I'll grab my shotgun, too.

JENNY

I'll search the kitchen and pantry.

Sheryl squeals.

SHERYL

I'll go with you, but what should we do if we find someone?

SHERIFF

Call me, and run back here. Let's all be very careful out there, and don't eat or drink anything!

EVAN

I'll take a flashlight and search the parking lot and grounds.

CHARLIE

I'll go, too.

SHERIFF

Everybody back here in ten minutes. No more!

The Sheriff looks away.

TINA

What's the matter, Steph?

SHERIFF

(sadly)

Half of me hopes we find a  
stranger, and half of me is worried  
we won't.

Everyone scatters with worried looks on their faces.

INT. TASTING ROOM - NIGHT

The Sheriff is on his phone, as everyone filters in from  
their searches shaking their heads, 'no.'

SHERIFF

Right, Chief. I'll tell them. Send  
a coroner and team when the fires  
allow. Call ya soon.

The Sheriff races to the front door, opens it, and peeks out  
without showing the others.

BRANSON

What did they say?

CHARLIE

Come on, Sheriff! Tell us.

The Sheriff slams the door. He paces, very upset.

SHERIFF

Fire's got us surrounded. Nobody's  
getting in or out.

TINA

It's something else, isn't it,  
Steph?

The Sheriff stops.

SHERIFF

We likely have a killer among us.

Everyone gasps. Jerry turns angry. He points at Evan.

JERRY

Arrest him! Handcuff him! Had to be  
him!

Jerry lunges at Evan.

SHERIFF

Settle down, Mr. Yarbrough.

JERRY

He knew he would inherit the winery. What do you call it? Motive, opportunity, and something. He was the last person to see my daughter alive!

Tina steps in and quietly confronts Jerry.

TINA

He loved her. It was his wedding night. They planned to have a baby someday. This cannot be!

Jenny steps in to support her husband.

JENNY

My husband's right. And Evan was never religious. He could have poisoned Rachel, I mean, Pastor Pendleton!

TINA

Pastor Pendleton knew you were hitting the gin again. She exposed you to Mr. Y, who shook that bottle from you. You were glaring at Rachel all night, waiting for a chance to get even! I saw you.

JENNY

She betrayed me. She betrayed my trust. She was after our money for her failing church. I grew to despise her when she began putting her claws into Evan, but I didn't kill her!

Tina responds angrily to Jenny.

TINA

But you had a motive, and as much opportunity as any of them!

CHARLIE

Looks like our sweet sommelier has a temper.

The Sheriff calmly steps between Tina and Jenny, as Tina glares at Charlie.

SHERIFF

We'll not be judge and jury tonight! Tomorrow morning, the crime scene team will be here, and we'll get it sorted out.

Branson steps up, still tipsy.

BRANSON

I'm not staying here with a murderer!

Branson takes out his flask and sips.

TINA

(calmly)

I'm sorry to say, Mr. Wright, that You had a lot to gain by Evan getting off your payroll and inheriting the vineyard. One less thing to worry about. You never doted over your new daughter-in-law. You never said one kind word about her.

Sheryl, also a bit tipsy, gets in Branson's face.

SHERYL

You never doted over your son, either. Or me? But you had plenty of time for every new starlet in Hollywood. I'm surprised nobody's tried to poison you!

Branson grabs his wife.

BRANSON

You chain-smoking, drunken, washed up, cement-faced has-been! Why you weren't the first person poisoned is beyond me!

Evan breaks them up.

EVAN

Mom? Dad? If example is the best teacher, you both flunked marriage and parenting.

(beat)

(MORE)

EVAN (CONT'D)

Do you have any idea how awful it makes me feel to be so ashamed and embarrassed by my parents? Here's a hint. I didn't want to invite you to my wedding, but Mandy insisted! She and I wanted to break the cycle of dysfunctional marriages by rising above them.

Evan trudges to, and collapses into, a seat at the bar.

TINA

And you don't break the cycle of dysfunctional marriages with murder!

SHERIFF

You're all jumping to conclusions.

Millie steps up like a woman possessed.

MILLIE

Maybe not, Sheriff. Who among us has a background in chemistry? Tina, the genius sommelier!

Tina remains calm.

TINA

You don't have to be a genius to buy poison! What about you, Dr. Jackson? You treated both of the deceased. And two others here frequented your couch, if I'm not mistaken.

Jenny and Evan stare at each other.

MILLIE

What's your point?

TINA

Remember, suicide can't be ruled out without an autopsy, isn't that right, Sheriff?

SHERIFF

That's right!

Millie points a finger at Tina.

MILLIE

But Tina could see the dinner table from here.

(MORE)

MILLIE (CONT'D)

She could see everyone get up and leave for the potty break. She could have snuck the poison into the Champagne bottle then!

SHERIFF

Anyone of us could have. Why would she want to kill Evan and Mandy?

MILLIE

Maybe to keep things like they are around here.

TINA

There was no guarantee of that in any case, and I'm not a killer. I'm a sommelier!

MILLIE

And you poured the Chardonnay! You could have slipped the poison into Mrs. Wright's glass!

Tina steps back, and lowers her eyes.

TINA

What for? We just met today. Somehow, just today, I became a serial killer? I don't understand what kind of psychiatrist would accuse me...?

The Sheriff calmly steps between them.

SHERIFF

These accusations aren't helping. I'm at a loss here.

Jenny is furious.

JENNY

I think it was my husband!

Everyone is stunned. Jenny and Jerry square off.

JERRY

Killing my own daughter on her wedding day? You hitting the gin again?

JENNY

The moment after you had Evan sign the pre-nup giving Mandy the winery, you knew you made a mistake!

JERRY

Only mistake I made was marrying you!

JENNY

It was Evan you were after with the poison! You didn't trust him? But, your daughter drank the Champagne instead of her favorite cheap, red wine. Maybe Evan was supposed to drink the Champagne!

JERRY

Don't be ridiculous! And what about the pastor?

Jenny pushes Jerry.

JENNY

Maybe you thought she'd talk Evan into selling the winery and giving all the money to the church! Maybe marry her! Women pastors can get married, ya know?

The Sheriff steps between them, while Sheryl goes after Charlie.

SHERYL

You were the best man, Charlie! Big shot national security guy! You were supposed to see that nothing bad happens to Evan on his wedding day!

CHARLIE

You're his mom! Maybe you were supposed to protect him his entire life, but you fell short there, too!

SHERYL

What do you mean by that?

CHARLIE

Spoiled, drug issues, no work ethic,  
 (looks around)  
 (MORE)

CHARLIE (CONT'D)  
and surrounded by the most unstable  
people I've ever met!

Everyone growls at Charlie and Sheryl.

SHERIFF  
None of this is helping. You're all  
stressed. Nobody has any proof  
about anything! Now, stop it! All  
of you!

They HEAR Evan sob, and SEE him wiping away tears.

EVAN  
Charlie's right. I'm a mess, and  
I've always been a mess. Mandy was  
changing that. She believed in me.  
But look at you people!

They all look around in disgust and sadness.

EVAN (CONT'D)  
You've all turned this into the  
worst day of everyone's life! And I  
know for a fact that Mandy's death  
was no suicide, so one of you  
killed my wife!

Branson steps slowly to his son, to hug him. Evan and his  
father share a moment.

The Sheriff gets another phone call. He stares at the phone.

SHERIFF  
H.Q. This can't be good.  
(answers)  
Sheriff Windsome.

The Sheriff listens and strolls toward the front doors.

He opens the doors a few inches, and smoke enters. He peeks  
out, and shuts the doors immediately in a panic.

SHERIFF (CONT'D)  
Quick! Mr. Yarbrough, your wine  
cellar! Does it have filtered air?

JERRY  
Of course, it does! Fifty-five  
degrees. Chilly for some...

SHERIFF  
Fire just jumped the containment  
zone.

(MORE)

SHERIFF (CONT'D)

It's in the trees, embers are flying more than a half-mile in the wind. We have to hole up in a safe place.

Tina jumps up, but remains calm.

TINA

I'll get a case of water, and a box of cheeses, crackers, and salami.

JERRY

Forget to say thank-you?

SHERIFF

Thanks, Tina. And, thank you, Evan.

SHERYL

Salami? I'm a vegetarian.

SHERIFF

Not tonight, you're not. Grab a coat, a blanket, and a pillow from your rooms. Shut the windows and doors as you leave. Meet us in the wine cellar in two minutes! Got it? Two minutes!

They race off without speaking.

INT. WINE CELLAR - NIGHT

The wine cellar has one regular entrance, and one emergency exit, with rows of wine cases and wine racks. There is a large-screen computer display monitoring the air temperature, humidity, and air purity.

The Sheriff, Tina, Evan, Charlie, Jenny, Jerry, Branson, Millie, and Sheryl enter wearing light jackets, and carrying pillows. The women, except Tina, have blankets. Charlie also has a blanket. They sit in an empty corner of the cellar on folding chairs set in a circle. Jenny has a washcloth with ice on her right eye.

JERRY

This was the space for wines added in the next ten years.

SHERIFF

It'll have to do, until we get the all-clear call. Mrs. Yarbrough, what happened to your eye?

Jenny shakes, full of anxiety, and looks to the ground.

JENNY

Bumped my head on the bathroom  
door. Clumsy me.

Charlie jumps to hug her, while he glares at Jerry.

Jerry looks away.

CHARLIE

Will you be okay?

JENNY

My fault. Gin. I'll be back to the  
meetings.

(panics)

Oh, dear, with Pastor Pendleton  
gone...

SHERIFF

Someone will hold the meetings at  
the church. If no one volunteers, I  
will.

Tina sighs and smiles at the Sheriff. They share a moment.

Everyone else sits, but they glare at each other  
suspiciously.

SHERIFF (CONT'D)

Don't blame you for being  
suspicious of one another, but  
let's focus on being civil until  
help arrives.

Tina points to a box of crackers and salami in the corner of  
the room.

TINA

We have plenty of crackers, salami,  
and bottled water in the box.

(beat)

I forgot the case of bottled water.  
I'll be right back.

Jenny glares at Tina, as she races out of the room.

JENNY

Water's probably been poisoned  
anyway!

Evan stands angrily.

EVAN

Now, Mrs. Y, that was uncalled for.  
Keep your suspicions to yourself!

LATER

Tina returns with a case of bottled water and sets it next to the box of food.

The Sheriff looks at his watch, puzzled.

SHERIFF

What took you so long?

TINA

I had a cup of tea with honey. I needed a moment of reflection.

BRANSON

(snickers)

She probably poisoned each bottle.

SHERIFF

The boxes and bottles are unopened and perfectly safe.

Tina stands calmly as Evan sits.

TINA

I understand your fears. All of you. Two tragic deaths, and it's easy to accuse anyone without direct evidence or witnesses.

(looks around)

It's human nature to be suspicious.

The Sheriff stands.

SHERIFF

I've seen you all glaring at Tina, too. Should be ashamed of yourselves.

The Sheriff sits.

TINA

It happens on American TV all the time. The crime shows we all watch. The stranger from out of town has the highest probability of being the murderer!

Charlie laughs.

CHARLIE

She's right! I bet it's more than half the time. Non-Muslims have carried out more than ninety-percent of the terrorist acts in this country, but we always suspect people from the Middle East!

TINA

I'm a sniffer not a snuffer. I'm not your killer!

Tina sits. Except for Millie, everyone chuckles nervously.

MILLIE

Then, who is the killer?

The group returns to glaring suspiciously at one another.

SHERIFF

I'm not sure the world's best detectives and crime scene investigators will be able to solve this one.

SHERYL

Why?

SHERIFF

First, the bridal suite crime scene was contaminated. Everybody was in there handling everything. I suspected suicide, and it was so unexpected, I didn't do my job keeping everyone away.

TINA

Not your fault, Steph. No one expects a bride to die on her wedding night!

SHERIFF

We didn't think about the Champagne bottle until much later.

TINA

After Rachel's death.

SHERIFF

But if the poison was from the monkshood plant, it will be impossible to detect later. Tell them, Tina.

TINA

The Sheriff asked that I look up aconite, the likely poison used. I knew it was an alkaloid, but I didn't realize that it can only be detected by a gas chromatography with mass spectrometry, fancy laboratory equipment they don't have in most rural towns, and nowhere near here. So, somebody did their research.

The group gasps.

TINA (CONT'D)

But the most devious use of this poison is in the tiny amounts that are used. It doesn't leave much residue. Even if chemists know what they are looking for, it's very hard to find.

SHERIFF

Then the smoke.

TINA

You all smelled it throughout the winery. The smoke is absorbed by our noses, our lungs, our clothes, and everything around us.

SHERIFF

Including the food and drinks.

TINA

The smoke made my tasks as a sommelier very challenging. Like being around those wearing heavy perfume or cologne. The smoke from the fires made everything worse, and I doubt the poison will ever be detected and identified.

EVAN

And no pictures or video of the wedding events. That was so stupid of us.

CHARLIE

Right, because "photos become evidence!"

EVAN

I'm such an idiot. Mandy said the same thing!

JERRY

We have the security video from the tasting room, and the front door looking out to the parking lot.

SHERIFF

I scanned the front door video briefly.

JERRY

(snarls)

So did I. Lot of Sheryl chain-smoking and throwing the lighted butts everywhere.

SHERYL

Tried to give them up.

JERRY

How about littering. Try to give that up, too?

SHERIFF

No one went to their cars, except Mrs. Wright, who looked like she got another pack of cigarettes from Mr. Wright's glove compartment.

EVAN

What did the tasting room video show?

SHERIFF

Only watched the bits when everyone was in there. Not many overly happy faces, I'm afraid, but no sign of malicious intent on anybody's part.

TINA

It will show Evan coming down to the tasting room, just before...

(beat)

You know. He went back and found Mandy.

SHERIFF

Before you all say anything, I saw Evan reach across the bar and put his hand on Tina's.

JENNY

What?

SHERIFF

It wasn't flirtatious. It was friendship. You could see it in their faces.

JERRY

Maybe Evan had something else in mind! You don't know!

SHERIFF

Evan knows that Tina and I have been, ya know, seeing each other.

TINA

But, I've made it clear to everyone that I'm here to complete my sommelier training, then returning immediately home to San Francisco.

The Sheriff drops his head. Evan looks sadly at Tina.

EVAN

And all we've done is disrespect your craft, underpay you, and accuse you of murder!

TINA

I'm humbled by the opportunity to learn about fine wines in my training. I'll never forget the kindness and hospitality shown to me by Mr. and Mrs. Y, Mandy, Evan, and the staff and people I've met here.

Tina sniffs the air. She gives the Sheriff the "thumbs-up" sign.

The Sheriff stands, and lifts his chair to block the entrance to the wine cellar.

BRANSON

What the hell is going on here?

JERRY

I'd like to know also.

SHERIFF

As you know, the smoke in the rest of the building badly affected our sense of smell.

CHARLIE

It did me.

TINA

Smell your clothes, and you'll see  
what the Sheriff means.

Everyone sniffs their clothes.

SHERYL

(mumbles)

I don't smell anything unusual.

TINA

Smoking many cigarettes negatively  
affects your nasal hairs, nasal  
cavity, and taste buds.

Branson goes to take out his flask from his coat pocket, but  
it's not there.

He pats all his other pockets and can't find it.

He glares at Sheryl, then snaps his fingers.

Sheryl reluctantly hands the flask to her tipsy husband.

Before Branson can take a drink, Jerry points at the flask,  
requesting a drink.

Branson, reluctantly obliges Jerry, who takes the flask and  
sits back down in his chair.

Jerry takes a tiny sip, and salutes Branson with the flask.

Branson faces Sheryl, as Tina continues to glare at Sheryl.

TINA (CONT'D)

Smoking is destroying your taste  
buds, Mrs. Wright.

BRANSON

(snickers)

She's always complaining her food  
has no taste.

TINA

The smoke gets filtered by the  
clothes you wear, but I noticed you  
wear a lot of perfume. I've noticed  
that at wine tastings. People who  
smoke tend to wear more perfume or  
cologne, perhaps to cover up the  
cigarette smoke.

Sheryl looks away as she speaks.

SHERYL

Whether I smoke or wear a lot of perfume is no concern to you.

TINA

No, no. I'm sorry. I meant to say that it confuses my sense of smell when I sample and describe wines, that's all.

SHERIFF

I've asked Tina to smell your hands.

EVAN

What?

SHERIFF

To see if her trained nose can detect anything unusual. It's for my report. You don't have to submit to the smell test, but in the absence of fancy equipment, I have to use what I have at my disposal: Tina's nose.

Evan stands and walks to Tina.

EVAN

I'll submit.

Tina smells Evans hands.

BRANSON

Ridiculous!

Tina looks at the Sheriff.

TINA

Nothing.

Even returns to his seat.

JENNY

I don't see how...

CHARLIE

(interrupts)

I'll go.

BRANSON  
Mister National Security Agency,  
Best Man, gives it a go! Big deal!

Tina smells Charlie's hands, as he smiles and smirks confidently.

CHARLIE  
Doesn't hurt a bit.

TINA  
What kind of cologne do you buy,  
Mr. Turner?

Charlie stops smiling.

Tina smells his neck, and Charlie gets nervous.

CHARLIE  
*Christian Dior Sauvage for Men.*  
It's a top-selling high-end brand.  
Only one I buy.

TINA  
Yes. It's very popular. Johnny  
Depp. I smell it on many men who  
enter the tasting room. A very  
distinctive odor and juicy  
freshness of Reggio di Calabria  
bergamot, and the lingering scent  
of an amber wood.

CHARLIE  
Why do you ask?

TINA  
It's moderately-high priced, and  
the only cologne you buy, so I'm  
curious about the additional  
cologne I smell.

Charlie steps back, alarmed.

CHARLIE  
Additional cologne?

TINA  
Yes. *Versace Eros* by Versace for  
Men. It has a distinctly different  
blend of tonka bean, ambroxan,  
geranium flower, mint, lemon,  
apple, vanilla, vetiver, oak moss,  
and cedar wood.

(MORE)

TINA (CONT'D)

The male caterer tonight had it all over him when he came in.

CHARLIE

So?

TINA

I smelled your Sauvage all morning, but when you returned from grabbing a bite to eat in the kitchen, you were covered in Versace!

Charlie paces, embarrassed and repenting.

TINA (CONT'D)

When the two caterers bolted out of here at the news of the fire, you made a phone call. To whom?

CHARLIE

That's classified.

TINA

I don't think so.

SHERIFF

To whom did you place that call?

Charlie begins to sob. Tina hugs him.

TINA

It's okay, Charlie.

BRANSON

What the hell's going on?

Charlie turns away.

CHARLIE

I could lose my security clearance.

EVAN

Charlie?

CHARLIE

Should have told you years ago, dude.

TINA

You're not our killer, Charlie. I would have smelled the colognes on the bodies.

Evan comforts his friend.

JERRY  
Proves nothing.

TINA  
Perhaps, you can be next, Mr. Y.

Jerry steps up and presents his hands to Tina.

She sniffs Jerry's hands for a second, and looks to the Sheriff.

TINA (CONT'D)  
Nothing here.

Millie trembles as she stands, throws her purse strap over her shoulders, and trudges toward Tina, as Jerry returns to his seat.

TINA (CONT'D)  
Nothing to worry about, Millie.

MILLIE  
What you're doing is not science!

TINA  
It's sniffing, nothing more.

MILLIE  
But the Sheriff has watched everybody very closely as they came up, and I'm a nervous person.

TINA  
It's okay, Millie.

SHERIFF  
Just routine, Millie.

MILLIE  
I wasn't telling you the whole truth earlier.

Everyone is stunned. Millie puts out her hands, and they're trembling.

TINA  
It's okay, Mill...

MILLIE  
(interrupting)  
I fell in love with Evan, and I hated Rachel for trying to steal him for herself.

Everyone gasps.

Evan goes to comfort Millie.

The Sheriff stands, perplexed by Millie's confession.

SHERIFF

Enough to kill them both?

Millie looks away, then back at Tina and the Sheriff.

MILLIE

I guess so.

Millie slides her purse strap down her shoulder, and opens her purse.

She pulls out a syringe, and three vials of clear liquid.

The Sheriff RACES over to Millie and rips the syringe and vials from her hands.

The crowd shows sighs of relief as the mystery appears solved.

SHERIFF

Did you have more vials than these?

Millie drops her head, and sulks on the way back to her chair.

MILLIE

I couldn't do it.

Evan strides over to Millie and drops to one knee.

EVAN

Couldn't do what, Millie?

MILLIE

Saw how much you loved Mandy, and I could it.

SHERIFF

And Pastor Pendleton?

Millie shakes her head, 'no.'

TINA

The third vial was for you?

Millie shakes her head, 'yes,' and speaks to the floor.

MILLIE

I know I was wrong. I'm an educated woman. A doctor, sworn to uphold the Hippocratic Oath to protect lives, and heal the sick.

TINA

If anyone here talks about this, you'll lose your license to practice for sure.

MILLIE

I quit my practice three weeks ago, after my last session with Mandy.

Evan salivates over the vials.

EVAN

H.? Where did you score it?

MILLIE

Your old contacts. Recovering patients of mine. I convinced them to prove they were clean, to spend hard-earned money, make a buy, then turn it in to me. I would dispose of it as hazardous medical waste.

EVAN

You put them in danger as buyers.

MILLIE

I wasn't myself.

Evan is angry.

EVAN

That's easy to say!

JERRY

Sure the hell is!

BRANSON

Arrest her, Sheriff!

SHERIFF

This is bad, I agree. I'll have to take you in, Doctor.

TINA

But she's not our murderer.

Millie sobs in her seat.

TINA (CONT'D)  
Mrs. Y.? May I sniff your hands?

Jenny looks at Millie, sobbing, but she steps over to Tina and presents her hands.

Tina sniffs them.

TINA (CONT'D)  
I'm afraid one scent masks all the others.

Jenny stares at the floor, then to her husband, Jerry, whose hands form a fist, until Tina and the Sheriff glare at Jerry.

TINA (CONT'D)  
You need help, Mrs. Y.

SHERIFF  
(to Jenny)  
More than you need a bully.  
(to Jerry)  
And your husband needs you to press charges for his own good to break the cycle of obvious abuse.

Jerry is angry. He stands and stomps away a few steps.

The Sheriff guides Jenny back to her seat.

Jenny glances back at Jerry, then charges at him. She chokes him, and he panics. He can't pull her hands away.

JENNY  
You struck me for the last time,  
you son of a bitch. I'm pressing charges!

The Sheriff runs to Jenny and pulls her off Jerry.

Jenny sobs as she is led back to her chair by the Sheriff.

Jerry takes a big gulp from Branson's flask.

Tina sees Sheryl's eyes widen when Jerry takes the gulp from the flask.

Jerry puts the top on the flask and hands it back to Branson.

As the Sheriff quietly returns to his seat, Branson begins unscrewing to top of the flask.

Tina points at the flask and she yells.

TINA  
No! Don't drink that!

Everyone is stunned.

BRANSON  
Why the hell not?

Jerry is feeling his lips with his fingers.

TINA  
It may be poisoned. Sheriff, get  
Mr. Y. three or four bottled  
waters! Now! Mr. Y., Drink them all  
as fast as you can. I think you've  
been poisoned, too!

Evan helps the Sheriff bring the bottles of water to Jerry.

Jerry, afraid for his life, chugs all the water he can.

TINA (CONT'D)  
Mr. Y., what's your least favorite  
wine in the cellar?

EVAN  
The Retsina wine from Greece. Say's  
it tastes like pine sap.

TINA  
Unkind description, but find it,  
and open it! Quick!

Evan races to find the wine. Jerry keeps chugging water. The others look at Sheryl suspiciously.

Tina gets in Sheryl's face as Evan opens the Retsina.

The Sheriff and Evan force Jerry to drink the wine.

Moments later, Jerry begins to look sick.

SHERIFF  
Bring me a waste can, quick!

Charlie races to the corner of the room, and returns with a trash can.

As Jerry pukes, Tina yells at Sheryl.

TINA  
It was you all along!

SHERYL

Don't know what you're talking  
about.

Tina grabs Sheryl's hands and smells them.

TINA

Bleach.

SHERYL

You're crazy!

TINA

Who uses bleach to scrub their  
hands?

SHERIFF

Someone disguising their handling  
of poison!

TINA

Exactly.

Tina grabs a bar towel, and uses it to rip the flask from  
Branson's hands.

Tina unscrews the cap, and sniffs it. She sniffs again.

TINA (CONT'D)

Nothing?

SHERYL

Idiots!

Tina shakes her head in disbelief, and Sheryl smirks and  
looks away.

Tina puts her head down, and hands the flask to the Sheriff,  
careful not to smudge any fingerprints.

Everyone turns to glare at Sheryl.

SHERYL (CONT'D)

Doesn't prove anything. I scrubbed  
my hands to get the nicotine and  
cigarette tar off my fingers, you  
idiot!

Branson races over to yell at Sheryl.

BRANSON

If it's not you, maybe it was Evan!

SHERIFF  
I'm afraid he still has the  
strongest motive.

Sheryl looks horrified.

BRANSON  
Your life-long underachiever son!

SHERYL  
Our life-long underachiever son!

Evan hangs his head in disbelief.

EVAN  
I didn't do it, I tell ya! I didn't  
do it!

The Sheriff puts an arm around Evan.

SHERIFF  
I'm afraid the statistics show that  
husbands kill their wives, and  
boyfriends kill their girlfriends,  
far more often than anyone else. As  
much as I hate to this, I'm going  
to have to take you in for  
questioning tomorrow when the roads  
clear.

Everyone looks sadly at Evan.

SHERYL  
My son didn't kill anyone! I don't  
have to listen to this! You're  
crazy! You're all crazy!

Sheryl stomps toward the door of the wine cellar.

SHERYL (CONT'D)  
Let me add that I've never met such  
a dysfunctional group of misfits in  
all my life: A wife-beater former  
vineyard owner and his gin-guzzling  
wife.

EVAN  
Mom...

She turns on Evan.

SHERYL  
You've never been able to take care  
of yourself. Never worked.  
(MORE)

SHERYL (CONT'D)  
 Bought drugs with my checks.  
 (beat)  
 Not smart enough to realize you  
 don't marry a girl, you marry her  
 family! Her crazy family!

Sheryl glares at Branson.

SHERYL (CONT'D)  
 Money can't buy love, but it can  
 buy you security! I'm testifying  
 for all your accusers the minute we  
 get home, you pathetic habitual  
 philanderer!

Charlie mumbles to Evan.

CHARLIE  
 What set her off?

Sheryl turns and stomps over to Charlie.

SHERYL  
 One disappointment next to another!

MILLIE  
 (looks away, mumbles)  
 Classic psychotic episode.

Sheryl turns on Millie, and points maniacally.

SHERYL  
 Says the psycho of syringes. You  
 quit your practice and planned two  
 murders and your suicide, with all  
 the evidence in your purse? And you  
 have an M.D. and a Ph.D.? Such an  
 idiot!

Sheryl faces down everyone, one at a time.

SHERIFF  
 Everyone here, but me, went to  
 college. I've never seen so many  
 dumb-ass losers!  
 (beat)  
 You all deserved to die!

The Sheriff glares at her, but gets out of the way and lets  
 her go.

SHERYL  
 I'll be in my room. If I get smoke  
 inhalation, you're all to blame.  
 (MORE)

SHERYL (CONT'D)

(beat)

Funniest thing of all? You left all the crime-fighting responsibilities to an inept rookie Sheriff and failure of a sommelier! Your murderer could have been anyone!

Sheryl storms out.

The Sheriff's phone rings.

SHERIFF

Windsome.

(beat)

Contained?

(beat)

Morning. Right! Thanks.

The group is still too stunned to move.

MILLIE

You're gonna be okay, Evan. You didn't do it.

The Sheriff paces angrily.

SHERIFF

He'll be fine. No coroner. No crime team. I have to haul the bodies in.

TINA

All the traces of poison will be long gone in the bodies, and from the wine glass and Champagne bottle.

SHERIFF

They'll never determine the exact cause of death?

MILLIE

It's not right! Wish I could help.

Charlie puts an arm around Millie.

CHARLIE

We're all a little messed up. Evan, you'll be fine.

BRANSON

He didn't do it! I know it!

EVAN

Thanks, Dad.

JENNY

My poor husband. We lost our daughter and the murderer is going free.

JERRY

I know, sweetheart. I know.  
(hugs her)  
Sorry for being a bully. I really am.

Jenny breaks free angrily, and glares at Jerry.

JENNY

Too little, too late, Jerry! Your party's over!

Jerry hangs his head.

SHERIFF

You can all go back to your rooms. Get some sleep. Roads will open in the morning.

Evan collapses on the floor.

EVAN

What will I do now?

JERRY

Answer a few questions, then run a winery.

JENNY

In remembrance of Mandy.

EVAN

Mrs. Y, Tina, I'll need your help.

All but Tina and the Sheriff sob as they trudge out of the wine cellar.

When everyone is gone, Tina and the Sheriff whisper sadly.

TINA

That was brilliant, Steph. Faking that last phone call so you could get us all down here in the cellar.

EVAN

I needed your nose.

TINA

Evan didn't do it, Steph.

SHERIFF

I know. The coroner will likely rule the two deaths as suicides, given their history, and alcohol abuse. I gotta take him in to answer some questions for appearances.

TINA

Do you think the killer will go free?

SHERIFF

Yes, and the killer will likely kill again. They always kill again.

Tina puts her head down, and holds out her hand. The Sheriff takes it.

SHERIFF (CONT'D)

Murders don't have to be perfect. A third of murders go unsolved.

TINA

The fire, the smoke.

SHERIFF

The contaminated crime scene. The tiny amounts of poison. No eye-witnesses. No cameras.

TINA

Somebody acted the part, but it wasn't Evan.

SHERIFF

I know.

TINA

Somebody knew their lines and knew their spots, but it wasn't Evan!

SHERIFF

(deeply depressed)  
I know. You're right.

Tina squeezes the Sheriff's hand, and smiles to comfort him.

EXT. WINERY - DAY

The sun is up, and the air is clear.

Branson lugs his wife's suitcases out the front door. Tina, and the Sheriff are the only one's waiting to wave good-bye.

We see Sheryl stride out on a stylish dress and sunglasses.

The Sheriff hangs his head in disappointment.

SHERIFF

Road up the way may not open for an hour or two yet.

SHERYL

We'll go now and wait in line.

BRANSON

Sheryl, he says the road to town is still closed.

SHERYL

Anywhere but here!

BRANSON

But we could be trapped at a road block for hours!

SHERYL

I said, we're going now!

Tina strides up to her and gently puts her hand on Sheryl's back, and they whisper so no one else can hear them.

We see a tiny dab of honey and an oily solution on Sheryl's back.

TINA

I know you did it. The video I took of the cake-smashing ceremony shows you rubbing your hands over the Champagne bottle closest to Mandy, the tossing something in the brick fireplace and pizza oven.

SHERYL

Maybe it was dark, fuzzy from the smoke, and probably what the D.A. would call circumstantial evidence.

TINA

You left the poison wine outside your room. You didn't care who drank it. You hated us all. That's twisted!

(beat)

And the fires!

(MORE)

TINA (CONT'D)

You likely added to them on the way here by throwing your cigarettes out the window. It was all perfectly scripted for a deranged actress.

Sheryl glares over her glasses at Tina, smiles, and whispers.

SHERYL

Murders don't have to be perfect.  
They just have to be well-timed.

The Sheriff guides them into the sunlight, by the rosebushes planted out by the parking lot. He holds Sheryl's arm tightly, stalling for time by the buzzing bees.

Branson slowly walks around to open the door to the Rolls Royce Phantom. He stalls as he loads Sheryl's bags in the trunk, except for her make-up bag and purse, which he puts in the back seat.

Several buzzing bees fly around Sheryl. Still, the Sheriff holds her arm.

Sheryl breaks free of the Sheriff's grasp, and stomps to the car and gets in. More bees follow her, but she doesn't notice.

SHERYL (CONT'D)

Get me out of here!

BRANSON

(snarls)  
Yes, dear!

We SEE the car drive away slowly.

We HEAR Sheryl SCREAM.

INT. ROLLS ROYCE - DAY

Sheryl's face begins to redden and swell.

She fumbles for her purse, as Branson speeds away.

SHERYL

They're not here! Who the hell...?

Sheryl grabs her throat and cannot speak. She flails her arms in the car, but Branson speeds up.

BRANSON

Your Epi-pens are missing?  
 (laughs maniacally)  
 Could have been anyone!

CUT TO:

BEGIN FLASHBACK

INT. WINE CELLAR - NIGHT

The Sheriff, Tina, Evan, Charlie, Jenny, Jerry, Branson, Millie, and Sheryl enter wearing light jackets, and carrying pillows. The women, except Tina, have blankets. Charlie also has a blanket. They sit in an empty corner of the cellar on folding chairs set in a circle. Jenny has a washcloth with ice on her right eye.

We see Sheryl is without her purse.

Everyone sits and glares at each other suspiciously.

SHERIFF

Don't blame you for being  
 suspicious of one another, but  
 let's focus on being civil until  
 help arrives.

Tina points to a box of crackers and salami the corner of the room.

TINA

We have plenty of crackers, salami,  
 and bottled water in the box.  
 (beat)  
 I forgot the case of bottled water.  
 I'll be right back.

Jenny glares at Tina, as she races out of the room.

BEGIN MONTAGE

-- We follow Tina as she races to Sheryl's room.

-- Tina takes the Epi-Pens out of Sheryl's purse, shoves them in her back pocket, and races out of the room.

-- Tina races to one of the out-buildings -- a gardening shed. We SEE yellow wasp traps, and small packets of "Wasp Attractants." Tina grabs a packet.

-- Tina races out of the gardening shed, and past the patio's brick fireplace and pizza oven (still burning), where she disposes of the Epi-Pens.

-- Tina races into the kitchen and grabs a packet of honey, which she puts in her back pocket, and a case of bottle waters.

-- We follow Tina as she runs from the kitchen to the wine cellar, and enters with the case of bottled waters.

END MONTAGE

END FLASHBACK

BACK TO:

EXT. WINERY - DAY

Tina and the Sheriff wave good-bye to Branson and Sheryl. The Sheriff looks away, depressed.

SHERIFF

If they kill once, they'll kill  
again.

Tina has a slightly evil smile, and speaks seductively.

TINA

Not necessarily. It would have to  
be perfect.

She turns his head and kisses him softly for a long time.

FADE OUT.

THE END