

HELLER (cont'd)

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

LUTHER

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

HELLER

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

LUTHER

I don't know.

HELLER

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

LUTHER

I don't know.

Out on Luther. Considering Alice.

CUT TO:

INT. SSCU - INTERVIEW ROOM - DAY

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

LUTHER

Your chair okay? Comfortable?

ALICE

It's fine, thank you

LUTHER

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

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

ALICE

Really. I'm fine.

A connection between them. A knowledge. Almost flirtatious.

Luther glances at his notes.

- Start

LUTHER

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

ALICE

"Dark Matter Distribution in Disc  
Galaxies."

LUTHER

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

ALICE

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

LUTHER

Well, I just like to read books.

ALICE

It beats burning them.

LUTHER

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

ALICE

Practically?

She raises a feline eyebrow.

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

LUTHER

So you went to the Sorbonne at -?

ALICE

Thirteen.

LUTHER

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

(beat)

I expect your parents were proud,  
though.

*I'm  
freak*

ALICE

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

LUTHER

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

ALICE

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

He meets that challenge with unwavering eye.

LUTHER

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

ALICE

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

LUTHER

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

ALICE

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

LUTHER

There's no evidence of an intruder.

ALICE

But absence of evidence isn't evidence of absence.

LUTHER

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

She gives him a celestial smile.

ALICE

Is this where you ask if I hated my parents?

LUTHER

It's about that time, yeah.

ALICE

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

LUTHER

Can you prove that?

ALICE

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

LUTHER

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

ALICE

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

He sits back. Gazing at her in frank admiration.

LUTHER

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

ALICE

Well, you can certainly try.

LUTHER

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

ALICE

Is that a compliment?

LUTHER

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

ALICE

I hope you're not trying to beguile me.

LUTHER

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

ALICE

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

LUTHER

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

ALICE

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

They share a knowing smile.

Then Luther stands. Picks up his paperwork. Exits.

- Fin

CUT TO:

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

Luther and Heller.

HELLER

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

LUTHER

Killing them!

HELLER

We've got no evidence, no motive.

LUTHER

She hated her parents.

HELLER

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

LUTHER

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

HELLER

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

Out on Luther. Knowing she's right.

CUT TO: