GREEN SHEILDS

PILOT

 “UNSPEAKABLE”

Green Shield (adj.) colloquial – referring to recent police academy graduates who are still ‘green’ or inexperienced.

The city of Austin is known for ‘keeping it weird’ and Homicide Detective Decoscos is about to learn why. Working with a group of new academy graduates – Green Shields – investigating the murder of an attorney the team uncovers one of the most bizarre motives in recorded police history.

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INT. – DAY – PRECINCT CAPTAINS OFFICE

The CAPTAIN is sitting behind his desk. He’s a large and simple older man. Old school cop that came up the hard way. DET. DECOSCOS is sitting across from him. He’s very smooth, quiet, polished, with a sharp mind the polar opposite of the Captain.

CAPTAIN

Decoscos until your partner gets back I’m giving you light duty.

DET. DECOSCOS

How light?

CAPTAIN

You’ll love it. Dead divorce attorney, name of Burroughs or Burger or who the fuck cares. Go through his client list, bring in everyone without an alibi. It’ll take you about a week.

 DET. DECOSCOS

A week huh?

CAPTAIN

Well, honestly you can take a little more than that. You’re solo for about ten days. Where the hell is he again?

DET. DECOSCOS

My partner? Family medical leave.

CAPTAIN

For what?

DET. DECOSCOS

Sir I think that’s supposed to be confidential.

CAPTAIN

Like I give a fuck. He told you, you tell me.

DET. DECOSCOS

His wife had a baby and…

CAPTAIN

Fuck’s that got to do with him? Ten days paid leave, the kid won’t even remember it.

DET. DECOSCOS

I think it’s until the stay at home parent can work out some sort of routine.

CAPTAIN

Really? You know this or you making that up.

DET. DECOSCOS

He told me before he left.

CAPTAIN

Maybe I oughta knock somebody up, ten days off she does all the work. How’d that be huh?

DET. DECOSCOS

…Uh…

CAPTAIN

Rhetorical. Here’s the file. Crime scene’s been collected. Single shot to the head, close range while he was getting into or out of his car. Murder weapon was a thirty-two and not found.

DET. DECOSCOS

What kind of car did the lawyer drive?

CAPTAIN

Maybach why?

DET. DECOSCOS

That much money means his client list is going to be huge and…

CAPTAIN

Grab some green shields out of the new recruits, call it a task force or some bullshit and put them all to work online and making phone calls. If they find anything interesting…unless of course you want me to assign you another partner.

DET. DECOSCOS

No, he and I have a system that works for us.

CAPTAIN

Good. And hey, maybe you’ll get a cute one that’s not a dike. Good experience for the rook and it’ll put a positive image on the precinct…you know involving women in the day to day.

DET. DECOSCOS

Ok.

CAPTAIN

Take the remodeled space down the hall.

DET. DECOSCOS

Is the paint dry down there yet?

CAPTAIN

Yeah but the fumes may still kill a few of you.

DET.DECOSCOS

Am I an invalid or was this attorney somebody?

CAPTAIN

As you are aware no victims are given priority treatment based on socioeconomics. That being said this particular shyster handled divorces for some very wealthy people. People who do not want the details of their divorces made public.

DET. DECOSCOS

There it is.

CAPTAIN

Yeah, there it is. If you come across anything juicy in those files, let me know I could use a good laugh.

INT.- DAY – THE REMODELED SPACE

A large room with dozens of cops seated at desks either on the phone or searching the web. Decoscos sits at a desk at the front of the room going over the case file. We hear part of a phone call above the background chatter.

RANDOM COP (off camera)

Yes ma’am I understand, we’re just trying to establish a list of people who ***couldn’t*** have done it. If you could just let me know where you were that evening I can take you off the list…ma’am, or just hang up

The Captain enters the room, looking around, cops start hanging up and looking up from their monitors. The Captain walks straight to Decoscos’ desk.

CAPTAIN

 Well?

DET. DECOSCOS

Fifteen hundred clients going back almost a decade. We started with the most recent cases first and we’re working backwards, but nothing yet. You would think these people would jump at the chance to get their names out of the works.

CAPTAIN

Try it another way then.

 DET. DECOSCOS

Any ideas?

CAPTAIN

You’re crack detective. What would motivate you?

DET. DECOSCOS

Rules of engagement?

CAPTAIN

Get them to cooperate without getting us sued for harassment.

DET. DECOSCOS

Ok Captain.

INT. – EARLY MORNING – DECOSCOS BEDROOM

Det. Decoscos in bed asleep DANA, a rookie on the task force is in bed next to him. His phone vibrates. Decoscos wakes up and looks at the id.

DET. DECOSCOS

Fuck me.

DANA

Hmmm?

DET. DECOSCOS

Don’t make a sound.

# (Decoscos answers.)

Decoscos

INT. – EARLY MORNING - CAPTAINS OFFICE

The Captain is fuming.

CAPTAIN

Get here right now.

The Captain hangs up the phone and stares at his monitor shaking his head.

INT. – EARLY MORNING – DECOSCOS BEDROOM

Decoscos in bed looking exasperated.

DANA

How bad is it?

DET. DECOSCOS

Count yourself lucky this is above your pay grade.

DANA

You mind if I crash a bit longer?

DET. DECOSCOS

Sure, lock up on your way out.

INT. – EARLY MORNING - CAPTAINS OFFICE

Decoscos looking tired and a little anxious sitting in front of the Captain. The Captain is still furious.

CAPTAIN

You told a reporter that some of the attorney’s files were stolen?

DET. DECOSCOS

Yeah, and overnight we had a few hundred people call in with alibis. Apparently helping us solve a murder isn’t as important to these people as keeping their specifics out of the wrong hands.

CAPTAIN

You understand that our competence is being questioned in the press now?

DET. DECOSCOS

Captain we lie to the press all the time to pressure suspects into making a mistake.

CAPTAIN

Yeah, that’s for stupid people who believe what they read in the paper. The people in question aren’t just politicos and campaign contributors. We got the presidents of two banks, a shit-ton of dotcom millionaires, and as a bonus the owners of at least three commercial construction companies.

DET. DECOSCOS

Oh.

CAPTAIN

Yeah, oh. So the Dixies or what there is of organized crime in Austin may be concerned.

DET. DECOSCOS

How concerned do you anticipate?

CAPTAIN

Is there a level of organized crime attention you feel is appropriate?

DET. DECOSCOS

I see your point. What about the rooks?

CAPTAIN

Your name is the only one mentioned so I’m not too worried about the green shields but you have to let them know the situation and offer them the chance to return to their assigned precincts.

DET. DECOSCOS

Damnit I wish my partner were here. He could handle this shit in his sleep.

CAPTAIN

News there. He extended his leave to indefinite.

DET. DECOSCOS

What?

CAPTAIN

He’s a new father. He’s got new priorities. Go deal with your team.

INT. – DAY – REMODELED SPACE

Det. Decoscos standing in front of group and the phones are continuously ringing.

DET. DECOSCOS

I shook a tree and I won’t ask you people to stand under it with me. You have the option to return to your assigned precinct and nothing negative will be on your record.

The phones continue to ring, none of the rookies say a word for a minute.

DANA

So can we answer these fucking phones or what?

INT. – DAY - CAPTAINS OFFICE

CAPTAIN

How many you got left?

DET. DECOSCOS

Five stayed.

CAPTAIN

Shit, that’s not bad. When my shield was green if you said the word mob I pissed my pants. Probably saw too many movies as a kid. You may have some sort of leadership skills.

DET. DECOSCOS

Thank you sir. So far most of the clients have a verifiable alibi.

 CAPTAIN

Most?

DET. DECOSCOS

There are some we haven’t been able to get in touch with. Others directed us to their attorney. Also…I moved all the politicos to the end of the call list.

CAPTAIN

Well that was smart, sort of…

DET. DECOSCOS

I’m certain we’ll find something before we get to them.

CAPTAIN

Ok let me know.

INT. – DAY – REMODELED SPACE

Det. Decoscos enters the phone room. The remaining rookies are MORGAN, DANA, MCCRAY, and CONTRERRAS.

MORGAN

Detective, I just got a call from the wife, scratch that, widow of a Mr. Elwood Hopper. He apparently committed suicide this morning.

DET. DECASCOS

Do I know this person?

MORGAN

He was a client of the deceased attorney

DET. DECASCOS

This couldn’t be that easy could it?

MORGAN

I’m third generation badge sir, so no, probably not.

DET. DECASCOS

You got the call?

MORGAN

Yes sir.

DET. DECASCOS

You’re driving then

INT. – DAY - VEHICLE

Decascos and Morgan in car winding through traffic.

DECOSCOS

So what made you become a cop?

MORGAN

I’m going to be district attorney.

Decoscos

Shit another attorney. I guess if you prosecute I can overlook it since A.D.A.’s do the Lord’s work most of time.