

David Brown was found deceased in his hotel room bed at 3:15 PM on January 4 by the hotel maid. There were no apparent signs of foul play, and a cryptic note was left behind, so police initially assumed that David had taken his own life. However, a detective was called in just to be safe, and he immediately suspected foul play. David was a young man in his 20s, was engaged to be married, and was a successful businessman who also taught Sunday school. He was disciplined, waking up early at 7 AM and sleeping at 11 PM. In his free time, he enjoyed reading the Bible and was known for his intelligence and routine-driven lifestyle. On the surface, he seemingly had no reason to commit such an act.

Since David passed in his hotel room and there was no sign of forced entry, the detective theorized that if he had been slain, it had to be one of the three people closest to him, as he didn't trust people easily. The three people closest to him were his sister, Emily, his brother, Mark, and his fiancée, Sarah.

**Emily** was a school teacher who often assisted David with teaching Sunday school. She had access to medical drugs, and although she and David had arguments about minor decisions, they didn't have any major conflicts. However, Emily had been struggling financially, and David had recently refused to lend her a substantial amount of money, causing a significant rift between them. Additionally, Emily had started to feel overshadowed by David's achievements and resented him for always being the "perfect" sibling.

**Mark**, David's brother, ran a small, semi-successful business and always helped David with his business. While there were no apparent conflicts between the brothers, it was possible that Mark was jealous of David's rapid growth and success. In fact, Mark had secretly harbored resentment towards David for years, feeling that their parents always favored David. Recently, David had discovered that Mark had been embezzling money from the family business and was planning to confront him about it, putting Mark in a precarious position.

**Sarah**, David's fiancée, had a good relationship with David, although they often fought over small matters. Lately, their relationship had been strained due to Sarah's suspicions of David's infidelity. Sarah had found messages on David's phone from an unknown number that suggested he was seeing someone else. Despite David's assurances, Sarah was not convinced, and their engagement was on the rocks. Additionally, Sarah had her own financial troubles and stood to gain a considerable inheritance from David's life insurance policy.

Finding no obvious motive among the three, the detective held off on declaring David's end a suicide until after the medical examiner performed an autopsy. David had apparently perished from a lethal injection that killed him instantly. He was found approximately 11 hours after he passed.

Still confounded by the evidence, the detective then began scouring the note for clues. It read:

Jan 04/2009 4:10 AM

"My loved ones,

Sarah, Sis, Mark, I would just like to tell you how sorry I am. Blame God for why I am to die today. Blame Him. Seek Him if you want to know why I did leave you. Do not mourn my death. Please move on.

Goodbye,  
David"

The detective found it strange that a seemingly pious and devout man would take his own life and then blaspheme against God, but the handwriting was verified to be David's. After some thought, the detective deduced that David had been slain and arrested one of the three suspects. How did he know this, and who was the culprit?

The detective arrested David's brother, Mark. He deduced that David had suspected his brother of being jealous of him and his business and written the note to point the authorities in his brother's direction in case anything happened to him.

The first clue was the passage, "Seek Him if you want to know why I did leave you," which pointed the detective towards the Bible. He then surmised that "4:10" might actually be referring to a specific Bible passage and not a time, and that "AM" might be referring to the Old Testament. He then needed to know which book of the Bible to check and deduced that "Sarah, Sis" might refer to the book of Genesis. When he checked the passage, he found that it was the story of the very first murder, in which Cain killed his brother Abel out of jealousy.