



Samhain Case Interview 4

Interviewing Officer: Det. Sgt. Luke Duffy
Interviewee: Father Jeremiah Kane
Location: Garda Headquarters, interview room 14

[Begin Transcript]

Det. Duffy: Thanks for agreeing to this interview, Father. Let's start with when you last saw Mrs. Byrne.

Kane: Sinead was at mass last Sunday as always. She seemed a bit more...withdrawn than usual, but loneliness weighed heavier on her at this time of year.

Det. Duffy: You would have known Sinead's late husband?

Kane: Yes, I knew him, absolutely tragic what happened. Poor Sinead was never the same after that.

Det. Duffy: Did she ever confide in you?

Kane: In general terms, yes. Lingering after mass to speak to me about all manner of things. Questions she had about her spirituality, strange books she's been reading, all sorts. Sometimes she'd be agitated, other times just sad. But I've seen grief manifest in many ways, so it didn't stick out to me as particularly worrisome. I can't speak to the contents of any confessions, but she did mention once that she feared certain people thought poorly of her for keeping certain friendships. She was a very trusting woman, and that kind of trust combined with the grief she held close was perhaps a volatile combination.

Det. Duffy: Which friendships do you think she was referring to?

Kane: Oh I don't want to speculate. People talk in a village like this. Whispers. Colm Driscoll being one of them. I never saw any impropriety myself, just kindness. But she being a widow, and him a married man, well you can imagine how tongues wag around here. What struck me more was how she mentioned how she felt she couldn't step into the Little Gem without feeling the frost. I don't think she meant Tony himself as much as his wife, she can be sharp tongued when she wishes. Sinead was not a sinful woman, Detective. She wanted so much to find peace, and I'm not sure she knew how.

Det. Duffy: Did Sinead ever mention the name James O'Sullivan to you?

Kane: Not that I recall. He's a troubled soul, that fella. Some members of the parish feel a bit unsettled by him. Enough to mention it.

Det. Duffy: It's normal procedure for me to clarify everyone's whereabouts on the evening of the 31st, are you happy to share that with me?

Kane: Don't worry, Detective, I won't take it too personally that you'd need to consider the possibility that a man of the cloth would have anything to do with something as demonic as this. I was in the rectory, preparing for the special service on November 2nd. I heard the fireworks from the bonfire, but didn't attend.

Det. Duffy: So you were inside the whole evening?

Kane: Come to think of it, I may have stepped out around ten to check the churchyard gates, it's not uncommon for children to play pranks on Halloween.

Det. Duffy: I understand this is a busy time for you, Father, but if you have time for one more question.

Kane: Ask away and I'll do my best to answer.

Det. Duffy: What do you know about pagan rituals on death?

Kane: Well I must admit that's not a topic that's covered in the seminary in much detail, Detective. I do know that many pagans believe in an afterlife, but this can take varying forms.

Det. Duffy: Some items present at the crime scene indicates Sinead may have been performing some sort of ritual at the time of her death. Does that seem strange to you?

Kane: As I said before, Sinead was dealing with a great amount of grief and pain. It's not uncommon for people in that situation to look in as many places as they can for some sort of relief. She mentioned she might hurt others by keeping all this in, and I told her to come back to me in confession this week, but of course she'll never get that chance. It's no coincidence to me that this crime happened when it did. This time of year is a time of death. Of endings and beginnings. Sinead knew this better than anyone else.

Det. Duffy: Thank you for your help, Father.

[End Transcript]