

**ALCOHOLIC CSI** December 22, 2004

*(Sara and Nick carrying their kits enter as Grissom and Catherine are examining the scene with rubber gloves on and flashlight)*

**SARA:** Hey, Grissom and Catherine, we got here as soon as we can. Whattya got?

**GRISSOM:** Well, since you are up for your annual review, Sarah, why don't you tell me what you see?

**SARA:** Looks like a meeting place of some kind as far as I can tell. Chairs, tables, nothing special. Maybe some sort of civic club or something.

**GRISSOM:** Exactly.

**SARA:** So...where's the body?

**CATHERINE:** There is no body.

**NICK:** Um, excuse me but why are we investigating a room where there is no body? We're Crime Scene Investigators. Where's the crime?

**GRISSOM:** Glad you asked. You see, guys, this used to be the meeting place for a vibrant Alcoholics Anonymous home group and now, due to several factors, the group is dead. And that, my friends,...is a crime.

*(CSI theme "Who Are You" blares )*

**(SIGN: "DISTRICT 90 PRESENTS")**

**(SIGN: "AA CSI")**

**(SIGN: "FEATURING THE NOT A GLUM LOT PLAYERS")**

**(SIGN: "CBS TRADEMARKS ARE USED WITHOUT PERMISSION, GUILT, OR APPROPRIATE SHAME")**

**CATHERINE:** Man, do we have the coolest theme music on TV or what?

**NICK:** I know! Every time I hear it I wanna play air guitar and then

**smash something.**

**GRISSOM:** Excuse me you two, we do have a crime scene here to process.

**SARA:** So tell me Grissom, how do you know this meeting is dead?

**GRISSOM:** Well the first sign for me was when I walked in and noticed that a staple of all AA meetings was conspicuously absent. Anyone care to guess what it is?

**CATHERINE:** Um, horny sober people looking for someone to hook up with?

**GRISSOM:** No, Catherine. Anyone else have a guess?

**NICK:** A coffee pot?

**GRISSOM:** Bingo, Nick. Catherine, you might wanna try cold showers; I hear they help.

**CATHERINE:** Sorry.

**GRISSOM:** Anyway, an AA group with no coffee pot is like a Raider fan without tattoos. Yeah it may happen, but it is extremely rare.

**SARA:** *(pulls coffee pot out of cabinet)* Well hey, Grissom, I found the coffee pot but it looks like it hasn't been used for a long time.

**GRISSOM:** Which means the group didn't have a regular coffee maker because...

**NICK:** ...because many people in AA think that coffee just magically appears and so no one volunteered to make the coffee and thus the ancient looking pot we now see.

**GRISSOM:** Very good, Nick. Wait, there appears to be a dried liquid on the table. *(sprays it with bottle and then swabs it and puts it on a slide and then looks at it under a microscope)* Yep, it tests positive.

**SARA:** For blood?

**GRISSOM:** No...for Starbucks coffee. This backs up the theory that the group had no coffee because members were bringing their own.

**CATHERINE:** *(shining her flashlight on the pamphlets)* Hey take a look at this.

**GRISSOM:** Whaddya got?

**CATHERINE:** It looks like this is where the group kept their literature *(blows dust off it)* Man, it doesn't look like it got much use.

**SARA:** *(picking up a pamphlet)* Well, maybe if they had invested in an attractive and functional rack for their literature it would have been used more.

**CATHERINE:** Plus these pamphlets are from the 1970s. AA has surely updated many of them.

**SARA:** Do you notice what's not there? Meeting schedules. How are newcomers supposed to find meetings without a schedule?

**NICK:** That's not all. Check this out. There are books here for Overeaters Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous, Gamblers Anonymous...and Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous. *(the latter has a centerfold, Nick starts to try and put it in his pocket)*

**GRISSOM:** Don't even think about it Nick! That's evidence!

**NICK:** I was just kidding. Lighten up, boss man.

**GRISSOM:** No, I won't lighten up! Not only was it a violation of Tradition 10 for the group to be selling literature from other 12 step programs, but you compromising evidence compounds the problem!

**NICK:** Sheesh, Grissom, have you ever though about maybe going to A-hole Anonymous?

**CATHERINE:** Would you two knock it off? So Grissom, what's the big deal if a group is selling literature from other 12 step groups? I mean, they basically use the same steps, right?

**GRISSOM:** Well, Katherine, groups that try to be "Everything Anonymous" instead of staying true to the singleness of purpose of AA usually don't stick around that long.

**SARA:** Wait a minute, Grissom. Overeating and gambling I concede are different, but what about Narcotics Anonymous? I mean, a drug is a drug is a drug.

**GRISSOM:** Well, let me put it this way: if I ever have a heart attack, do me a favor and please call an ambulance and *not* an ice cream truck just because you believe a ride is a ride is a ride, okay?

**SARA:** I guess you have a point there. Hey, take a look at this basket. It says "7<sup>th</sup> Tradition" on the side.

**GRISSOM:** Oh yes, AA's 7<sup>th</sup> tradition states that "Every AA group ought to be fully self-supporting declining outside contributions." Why don't you check it for spectral monetary emissions Sara.

**CATHERINE:** What are spectral monetary emissions?

**GRISSOM:** Wow, I'm surprised that someone who used to be a exotic dancer doesn't know all about money.

**CATHERINE:** Hey, I didn't exactly have time to do a laboratory analysis on it back then Grissom!

**GRISSOM:** Well anyway, all denominations of dollar bills produced since 1966 have a trace element called B-essimum which reacts with the natural oils of the human hand. So if any dollar bills have been put in this basket in the last, say nine months, they should show up under the blue spectroscope. Go ahead, Sara.

*(Sara shines blue light on basket so audience can see)*

**SARA:** Negative. No dollar bills of any kind were put into this basket for some time now.

**GRISSOM:** That doesn't surprise me.

**SARA:** Why do you say that?

**GRISSOM:** Well, it's a strange phenomenon with these recovering alcoholics. The same people who wouldn't think twice about drinking their entire paychecks on a Friday night are notoriously cheap when it comes to giving back to the fellowship once they are sober.

**NICK:** Hey, I've got something over here. *(pulls out format with tweezers)*

**GRISSOM:** What is it, Nick?

**NICK:** It's a document of some kind. *(reads it to himself for a second kinda mumbling)* It's the group format.

**GRISSOM:** Why don't you read it aloud, Nick?

**NICK:** Oh, okay. It says "Welcome to the No Frills Group of AA. Turn off your cell phones now. Sit down and be quiet."

**CATHERINE:** Doesn't sound too inviting to me.

**NICK:** That's not all. Listen to this. "No cross talk. No talking past five minutes. No AA announcements. No court slips. No kids. "

**SARA:** Sounds like no fun. Why would anyone want to join a group like that?

**CATHERINE:** Hey, here's a western directory of AA . I'll look up the name of that group in it.

**SARA:** What is that thing?

**CATHERINE:** *(thumbing through the directory)* It's a directory of all the registered AA groups in the western half of the US. It has the names and

addresses of people who are the contact person for their group. Ah, here it is; The No Frills group. Hmm, that's strange.

**NICK:** What?

**CATHERINE:** Well, the person listed is Howie Willing but I happened to know he died nine years ago. He was probably the GSR.

**NICK:** GSR? You mean gun shot residue?

**GRISSOM:** Try to keep up, Nick. GSR in AA stands for General Service Representative. I think it's fair to assume that Howie Willing was this group's GSR and that means that they have been cut off from General Service since 1996.

**SARA:** General Service? Isn't that the politics of AA?

**GRISSOM:** No, Sara that is a common misconception. Sure General Service uses many of the same methods of politics with elections, voting, and representation, but the difference is in AA everything they do goes back to their primary purpose of staying sober and helping other alcoholics achieve sobriety. Plus I hear they have really fun Unity Days.

**CATHERINE:** Okay, so let's assume that Howie Willing was this group's last GSR and that they haven't had one in years: so what? Is that a big deal?

**GRISSOM:** It is a big deal and on many levels. First, a GSR can help groups stay current with new literature such as new and updated pamphlets and books which may be very helpful to newcomers. Secondly, it helps the group conscience of AA truly be more universal in its scope. Thirdly, it reinforces the autonomy of the group by allowing them to take their rightful place as the decision-makers in AA.

**CATHERINE:** Okay the first two I get but the last one about being decision-makers, what do you mean by that?

**GRISSOM:** Well, how would you like it if I decided for you every morning what you should be wearing that day?

**NICK:** Now that's a job *I* would like. I think I would start with...less.

**CATHERINE:** Where's that Sex and Love Addicts book when you need it? Can someone besides Rick James Superfreak here answer my question?

**GRISSOM:** Gladly, Katherine. The point is if you are the member of an AA group, why would you let other groups be the only ones deciding on issues affecting AA as a whole by not having a GSR?

**CATHERINE:** Oh, I get it.

**SARA:** Hey guys! This is interesting.

**GRISSOM:** Whaddya got Sara?

**SARA:** This chair. It has a deep impression on it like someone sat her for years and years.

**NICK:** Yeah, I noticed that with a couple of other chairs. The group had a few members who sat in the same place for years and their respective backsides left indentations, It's a common occurrence so what?

**SARA:** Well this particular chair is situated at the front of the room so I assume it would be the secretary's. Look at this indentation,

**CATHERINE:** (*walks over and looks at chair*) Now, that's weird. It looks like whoever sat here had...well part of their butt missing.

**SARA:** Yes, the indentation of the left buttock is intact, but the right cheek is missing a chunk. I wonder what this means?

**NICK:** I know! It means the secretary did a half-assed job!

**GRISSOM:** Nick, grow up. This is a significant clue. If we find whose posterior fits that chair, we'll find the secretary.

**NICK:** So what are we supposed to do? Take this chair door-to-door like Cinderella's slipper but instead of a foot we search for someone with

half a booty?

**GRISSOM:** You know, sometimes I'm tempted to just slap all the taste outta your mouth, Nick. No, there's no need for booty calls. This is CSI 101. You take a plaster cast of the indentation and examine it back at the lab. Katherine, will you get on that?

**CATHERINE:** *(reaches for her kit)* Sure.

*(Ivan Dolittle walks in)*

**IVAN:** Hey, what's going on? Who are you people?

**GRISSOM:** We're crime scene investigators. Who are you?

**IVAN:** *(nervously)* I...uh...I think I am in the wrong place. I thought this was a thrift store. I think I should just get out of your way. Um...goodbye. *(starts to leave)*

**GRISSOM:** Not so fast. *(looking outside and pointing)* Is that your car parked outside?

**IVAN:** Yeah, so?

**GRISSOM:** So I notice it has an "Easy Does It" bumper sticker on it. That is a popular slogan of Alcoholics Anonymous. You're a member of this group aren't you?

**IVAN:** Maybe I am, maybe I'm not.

**GRISSOM:** Look, Mr...

**IVAN:** Dolittle, Ivan Dolittle.

**GRISSOM:** Look, Mr. Dolittle, we are just trying to piece together what happened to this group. Can we ask you a few questions?

**IVAN:** Well,...okay.

**CATHERINE:** Please have a seat Mr. Dolittle.

*(Dolittle sits in a chair , grimaces, and then moves to the secretary's chair and looks more comfortable)*

**GRISSOM:** You seem to prefer this chair, Mr. Dolittle. I'm afraid my first question is going to be a little personal. Are you missing part of your right buttock,?

**IVAN:** What the hell kind of question is that? Are you one of those Sex and Love Addict freaks?

**GRISSOM:** Relax, Mr. Dolittle. Look, it's obvious to me that you are not just a member of this group, but its long-time secretary as well.

**IVAN:** No...y-you're mistaken...I...

**GRISSOM:** Look, Mr. Dolittle. Don't play games with us. You felt comfortable sitting in the secretary's chair because there is an indentation which fits you exactly. And that indentation is of a butt with a chunk missing from the right buttock. Now, I can get a judge's order and we can match a plaster cast of the indentation to you, but number one that's a big hassle and number two, no one here wants to see your butt. Am I right on that last one, gang?

**ALL (except Ivan and Nick):** YES!

**NICK:** Well, actually Grissom I've never seen a butt with a big chunk...

**GRISSOM:** Nick! Keep it up and you'll be cleaning the morgue again! So tell us about your half a tush, Mr. Dolittle.

**IVAN:** Alright. My last drunk happened 26 years ago and in a blackout I fell into a shark tank at the zoo. You can figure out the rest. Over the years I've thought about getting a prosthesis, but decided to just keep my butt the way it is as a reminder of the way it used to be when I drank.

**GRISSOM:** So, you admit you are the secretary for this group?

**IVAN:** Yes, I am the secretary for this group. So what?

**SARA: So what? It's dead or hadn't you noticed?**

**IVAN: It is not dead! On the contrary, it is finally perfect!**

**NICK: Perfect? How do ya figure?**

**IVAN: There are no distractions. No more constant cross talk. No arguments about how much we are spending on coffee. No more requests for new literature. This is the way all meetings should be!**

**CATHERINE: Correct me if I'm wrong, but isn't AA supposed to be a fellowship?**

**IVAN: Yes.**

**CATHERINE: Well, it appears that you are the last fellow on this ship. This group is dead.**

**IVAN: None of you know what you're talking about.**

**GRISSOM: That's where you're wrong, Mr. Dolittle. At CSI we deal with evidence and that evidence tells us a story. After processing this crime scene I can piece together fairly accurately what happened here.**

**IVAN: All right smart guy, what is the story?**

**GRISSOM: Many years ago this was a thriving AA group with many home group members. Then a small group of people starting acting as if this group was theirs. The chairs with the deepest gluteus maximus indentations reveals that this was about four members including you Mr. Dolittle. This small group of people didn't like certain things and began using the fact that they had been sober for a long time like their vote counted more than newcomers' in meetings. The age of the literature in the literature rack points out how long the members had been around the program. The crankiness of you four old timers had the desired effect of keeping certain people away but had the unexpected consequence of less 7<sup>th</sup> tradition money in the basket as our spectral analysis showed. How am I doing so far Mr. Dolittle?**

**IVAN: I...well...**

**GRISSOM: (*cutting him off*)** I'm just getting started. Since you had money problems you thought you would sell books from other 12 step groups at a significant markup to make ends meet. That turned even more people off who came to the meeting and also served as a disincentive for anyone to do service in your group. Hence no coffeemaker and people bringing their own coffee just as my Starbucks analyzer detected. Am I on the right track, Mr. Dolittle?

**IVAN: You...well...**

**GRISSOM:** Let me finish. Now, Howie Willing was one of the four oldtimers and evidently served as the last GSR the group had and you guys probably disagreed on something and he left. The group format Nick found with all those "no's" in it matched almost verbatim your description of this "perfect" group so it's safe to assume you were the principal author of it. Finally, the telltale rump indentation on the secretary seat tells us that this group didn't practice the spirit of rotation. You have been secretary and de facto president of this group for a long time. So after all these years, this once vibrant group is reduced to one bitter man.

**IVAN: I'm still sober, damn it!**

**GRISSOM:** Mr. Dolittle, surely you can't be happy here all by yourself. I'm not the coroner, but here's what I think the official causes of death to this group were. First, it was cut off from the body-building nutrients that general service can provide. Secondly, it lacked the necessary exercise of a healthy group conscience. Finally, it was denied the life blood of AA, namely newcomers. Because of those factors the No Frills group suffered a massive heart attack and died.

**IVAN: (*has a far away look then heaves a deep sigh*)** You're right! It's all true! I killed the group!

**GRISSOM:** It's not that easy Mr. Dolittle. The group bears responsibility as well. The group conscience should have long ago seen what was happening to this home group and done something.

**IVAN: What can I do now?**

**GRISSOM: Well, the good news is that unlike the corpses we usually deal with, this dead group can actually come back to life.**

**IVAN: Really? How?**

**GRISSOM: First of all you need to make it more inviting by changing your format from a list of rules to a suggested course of behavior. Practice love and tolerance. Follow the traditions of AA. According to the first tradition, the group comes first. Get people involved in service, get some new literature, and get connected with AA as a whole.**

**NICK: And for God's sake get some coffee in here!**

**IVAN: Thank you so much. I am going to take your suggestions to heart. This is no longer the No Frills group it's new name is ...the Got Thrills group.**

**GRISSOM: Well, our work here is done. Team, put on your shades and let's look as cool as possible while we leave and the cool theme music plays.**

*(they all don shades while theme plays)*

**THE END**