

EXT. BEVERLY POLICE STATION HOUSE. DAY.

Establishing shot of the big police station.

INT. BEVERLY POLICE STATION INTERVIEW ROOM. DAY.

SLOW PUSH IN ON LEE at a table, facing two POLICE DETECTIVES.

1ST DETECTIVE
Were you drinking, Lee?

LEE
Yes sir.

1ST DETECTIVE
How heavily? Would you say.

LEE
You know. We were partyin' pretty hard. Beer, and somebody was passin' around a joint. Somebody else had some cocaine.

2ND DETECTIVE
Cocaine.

LEE
Yes, sir. Which -- is not the usual for me, but. Usually I just drink beer.

The Detectives look at each other.

1ST DETECTIVE
Go on.

LEE
And my wife's asleep. Our bedroom's in the downstairs. The girls sleep upstairs. So Randi makes everybody leave around two o'clock, maybe three AM, and she went back to bed. So everybody leaves, and I'm still kinda wired. Wired, stoned, drunk, everything.

1ST DETECTIVE
OK.

2ND DETECTIVE
OK...?

LEE

So...anyway...(Pause) I'm sorry --

1ST DETECTIVE

Take your time.

2ND DETECTIVE

That's OK: Take your time.

LEE (CONT'D)

So after everybody's gone, I go inside, and it's really cold inside. So I go check on the girls and it's fuckin' freezing up there. We sleep downstairs. The girls sleep in the upstairs. So I turned up the thermostat a little bit, but Randi doesn't like the central heat because it dries her out -- her sinuses -- her nose -- and she gets these headaches. So I went downstairs and built a fire in the fireplace, and I sit down to watch TV, except there's no more beer. And I'm still jumpin' like a jackrabbit. So I put a couple more big logs on the fire so the house would warm up when I was gone, and I went to the 7-11 for more beer...It's about a fifteen minute walk, but I didn't wanna drive 'cause I was really flyin'. And I'm halfway there, and I realize I can't remember if I put the grate back on the fire. But I figure it's probably OK. So I kept goin' to the store. And one of the logs musta rolled out on the floor when I was gone. I don't know what else it coulda been. The girls were all upstairs...And that's it. The firemen got Randi out before the furnace went up...And that's what I remember. 'Cause I know she woulda gone upstairs before she went outside to save herself...So that's it.

1ST DETECTIVE

OK, Lee. That's all for now.

The Detectives stand up. Lee stands up slowly, confused.

1ST DETECTIVE (CONT'D)

We'll call you if anything else comes out we want to ask about.

LEE

That's it?

1ST DETECTIVE

Look, Lee: You made a horrible mistake. Like a million other people did that night, and the night before that. You were all stupid. They got lucky. You got the worst there is. It's why you shouldn't do that stuff. It's a horrible tragedy, but we don't wanna crucify you.

2ND DETECTIVE

You say you left the screen off the fireplace. But you don't know for sure that's what happened...And even if you did, that's not a crime.

LEE

So...What? I can go?

1ST DETECTIVE

Unless somethin' else comes up that we don't know about already, yeah.

Lee gets up slowly.

2ND DETECTIVE

You got a ride back home?

LEE

Yeah.

PRESENT --

INT. LAWYER'S WAITING ROOM. DAY.

LEE comes out of the lawyer's office. Patrick gets up.

LEE

Alright. Let's go.

PATRICK

Where to, the orphanage?

LEE

Shut up.