



OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL EXAMINER • HAGENS 1ST • LEVEL 2







Was she really that good, B?

The best. That's why it has to be murder, right? No way she'd have gone out in the burst.



Perhaps, but that is not evidence.

Fear not, Detective. I've got plenty of that.



The most obvious of which is her lungs.

I'm no doc, but they look normal.

Precisely.




When someone dies "sucking black", the lungs rapidly decompress. I would also expect to find evidence of perimortem internal freezing.

That's not the case here. Ms Kuang died of asphyxiation... but not because she was exposed to vacuum.




In other words: she was strangled.







I can't be precise about the method. The body is covered in bruises, but they could all be simply from the freezing and thawing, rather than violent trauma. And the hyoid bone is intact...




...Which is more than can be said for her ankle, most likely broken by a strong bodily impact while her boot's magnetic seal was still active.




An impact from the meteoroid burst?



Possible, but unlikely.



An impact that strong would definitely have ruptured her suit, but the break itself is clean and normal. Only the bone and ligament are broken.



So she wasn't dead, or at least wasn't frozen, at the time. If she had, her ankle would have shattered like... well, like ice.





She goes out onto the grid... breaks her ankle...dies of asphyxiation...then gets hit by the meteoroid burst.

All while carrying a box full of drugs. What on earth happened out there?

Was she a dealer? Maybe even a junkie herself?



I'll get her bloodwork back soon, but man, I hope not.

Why would someone so rich and successful need to deal drugs? Or take them?



A question for the ages, Ms Zimonja. But for what it is worth, Ms Kuang has no record of drug arrests, or even any suspicion of such.



Records can get wiped. Especially by rich parents.

You find anything on the brick, B?



For starters, this was embossed on the cellophane wrapper. I guess it's a gang symbol? Kind of odd, though. I'd expect more...bullets and guns and stuff.













Welcome to the end of Midway. We call it the Wall.



Why is it here? If GP-CON has jurisdiction, why must we pass a checkpoint?

Because I-SEEC territory is earth territory. Hell, technically so is Midway, but as soon as we demanded sovereignty...

Well, that argument's gonna run and run.



As far as I-SEEC's concerned, we're parasites. Ever since we started building Midway city, they've made life as difficult as possible for us.