

## Chapter 1

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# The 1<sup>st</sup> Crime Story DOMESTIC VIOLENCE DEMYSTIFIED “BREAKING THE CYCLE OF VIOLENCE”

As a high school student, Amanda was very cheerful. In her senior year, she was voted most spirited and most likely to-succeed. She graduated at the top of her class.

When Amanda moved away to go to college, she continued to be very ambitious and she was well liked by all of her peers. She was captain of her volleyball team, and a highly ranked honor student. During Amanda’s first three months of college, she was extremely joyful.

One day, she phoned her mother, who lived out of state. “I really love this school,” Amanda said. “Besides all of my studies, I get the chance to help out a whole lot of other students who need help in math and English. I even get a chance to talk with some of the other students that are having personal problems in their lives.”

Besides volunteering all of her time and energy, Amanda managed to keep her test scores high. She lived on campus and became great friends with her roommate, Jennifer. Amanda and Jennifer shared a two bedroom dorm on the campus at their university. “Jen and I,” Amanda told her mother, “have so much in common. She wants to be

a doctor and you know I plan to be a pediatrician, like Dad. Every Saturday night, we go out to the movies or just go get some ice cream and hang out. We like the same types of movies and TV shows, and Jen is great in volleyball as well.”

One Saturday afternoon, Amanda was sitting down and began to study in the students’ lounge. She received a phone call from her mother, who told her that her cell phone bill was getting kind of expensive, due to her constantly calling friends at her current school as well her high school friends who were attending other colleges, many of which were out of state and some even out of the country.

The conversation seemed to start well, but later on, things became a little heated. Amanda’s mother mentioned that since she did not feel she could cut back on her phone expenses, it was probably time for her to get a part-time job.

### **Choose Your Area to Mope and Dope Carefully**

“I knew it,” Amanda said with tears pouring from her eyes. “I knew that you were going to say that.” Amanda’s mother asked her to calm down and assured her that they could discuss the issue at a more appropriate time. Amanda agreed that would be better and they both said goodbye and hung up the phone.

Amanda usually took things much better, but she thought that getting a job would conflict with her volunteering hours. Whether she was in the right or in the wrong does not really matter.

What matters is that we all have feelings that can produce an array of emotions. Sometimes, as you will learn, there are certain people who will attempt to use those emotional moments to build a quick and almost instantaneous connection with you for their own selfish purposes.

As Amanda began to dry her watering eyes, one of the students on

campus, 22 year-old Justin, walked up and stood directly in front of her. Justin was known for his big smile and charming personality.

Justin was 6 foot 2, 205 pounds and athletic. He had wavy brown hair that was combed back, and light green eyes. He seemed very concerned as he approached Amanda. He smiled at her and asked, “Are you okay?”

Amanda smiled back at Justin, and he asked if he could sit down next to her. She said, “Thank you, sure, go right ahead.” Amanda still had tears in her eyes, but she started to wipe them away.

Justin asked her what happened. Amanda told him about her conversation with her mother.

“I know exactly how it is,” he said, grinning from ear to ear. Justin then began to tell her how he experienced the same unreasonable lecture when he was a freshman, three years ago from his parents.

Amanda said, “Well, I guess this situation is not really too unreasonable. If I stay on the phone.”

“No, you don’t see what’s happening,” Justin interjected. “This is just the beginning of your parents still trying to control you, even though you’re all grown up.”

After about half an hour of talking, Amanda smiled and said, “Thank you for taking the time to talk to me, I really appreciate it.”

Justin said, “No problem. But hey, I have to go. I’m running late. Would it be inappropriate if I asked you for your phone number or email address? I think you’re really nice and I would like to keep in contact with you. You know, to become friends.”

Amanda said, “Sure,” and gave him her information.

“Oh, yeah, just one more thing,” Justin said. “My parents finally gave in. I have this incredible phone service. I can call anywhere and talk for as long as I want for only \$200 a month. Hey, if you want to call