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THE WORLDWIDE LEADER IN *Celebrations*

'HAILEY DEAN MYSTERIES: DEATH ON DUTY'

Synopsis

Detective Fincher Garland's (Viv Leacock) former Marine buddy Kurt Cullen (Sean Poague) is killed, execution-style, and his body left in a local park, where it is discovered by Garland and psychologist and former prosecutor Hailey Dean (Kellie Martin). When Marine MP Nesbit (Sean Kuling) shows up to lead the investigation of the active duty serviceman's murder, Hailey and Fincher are off the case. Unwilling to stand by and do nothing, Hailey and Fincher launch their own unofficial investigation, with some help from Hailey's boyfriend, Medical Examiner Jonas McClellan (Matthew MacCaull).

Kurt's wife Kayla (Rebecca Davis) admits she had suspected an affair because he was keeping secrets from her and was often unaccounted for; also, she intercepted a threatening note addressed to her husband. They question Elisa Greystone (Eliza Weinstein) and Tom Houston (Todd Thompson), two of the military suppliers over whom Kurt had oversight. Either one may have had a motive for wanting Kurt dead, especially if Kurt had somehow put their business with the military in jeopardy. Hailey and Fincher visit Cullen's military base, but Kurt's commanding officer, Lt. Nathan Young (Christopher Rosamond) refuses to share information regarding what is an internal military investigation. Kayla remembers that Kurt had mentioned an altercation with Martin Pisceck (Chris Nowland), who was next in line for the job Kurt got instead, and Pisceck becomes a suspect.

The body of a Jane Doe who had Kurt Cullen's number on her cellphone is found in the same park as Cullen's, and the implication that they were somehow involved with one another is clear. Jane Doe is Pvt. Cheryl Parks (Amanda C. Marier), a Marine who was directly under Cullen's command and who was AWOL the day Hailey and Fincher visited the base. When videotape footage surfaces of a confrontation between Kayla and Pvt. Parks from the day Parks went missing, Kayla becomes the prime suspect, though Fincher is convinced she didn't do it.

As Fincher and Hailey pursue every clue that might lead them to the killer, Hailey must use her sharp powers of observation and uncanny ability to read people to crack the case. Just as Hailey puts together the pieces of a conspiracy that ultimately led to the murders of Cullen and Parks, she is surprised by the killer, who is prepared to add Hailey to the body count in order to avoid justice.

-- HALLMARK MOVIES & MYSTERIES --