SA Cycop:

Ms. Soto called you and told you that? Did she tell you anything else?

Mildred Stevenson:

Well, I really don’t know what to say. What she told me was for me, I don’t discuss things like this with others. She really didn’t say anything but tell me you were going to be talking to me, you know?

SA Cycop:

Ms. Stevenson, if Ms. Soto told you more than just that I was coming to see you then there may be a problem. I find it hard to believe that Ms. Soto only called and said that. If there is more that you’re not telling me, it could get you in a lot of trouble. Remember just a few minutes ago you were wondering if someone was spreading rumors around about you and SSgt Holcomb? To get you in trouble or have us have to take a closer look at you for our investigation. If you’re holding something back, whatever it is, that can do the same thing when we find out about it; and we will. Then you’ll have been lying to us here when you said Ms. Soto really didn’t say anything but tell you that you were going to be talking to me. Now is the time to clear the air and tell me what you need to before it gets worse later if you’re not.

Mildred Stevenson:

Well, I don’t really want to get her in trouble, or tell her personal business or anything. I do want to do the right thing and not get in trouble. You won’t tell her, will you? I don’t want her to hate me.

SA Cycop:

Ms. Stevenson, if what Ms. Soto told you has no bearing on the case, there would be no reason for me to tell her. If it does have bearing on the case, I still may not have to tell her, at least now, but she may be made aware of it later. This is about you, and doing the right thing, and keeping yourself out of trouble later. So what else did you and Ms. Soto discuss on the phone when she told you I was coming to see you?

Mildred Stevenson:

Ok, ok, just don’t tell her. She told me you were coming to ask question about her and Avery because you weren’t sure about how Avery died and that if I told too much it would confuse you and maybe make you think wrong about her and make her life real complicated until it was cleared up. She told me that if you asked, she and Avery had a loving relationship and only occasional disagreements, like most couples, but that both of you loved each other.

SA Cycop:

Why would Ms. Soto ask you to report something that specifically, for what purpose? Why did she have to tell you to do that before I came to talk to you? If all that was true, you would have told me that yourself, so what Ms. Soto seems to be doing is trying to get you to tell a story that she wants but might not be exactly what you would tell me if she hadn’t talked to you before I did. So with all of that, I believe there is more to the story of the relationship between Ms. Soto and SSgt Holcomb, that you are aware of that information, and that you’re being asked to withhold that information and get yourself in trouble by doing that. Is Ms. Soto that good of a friend that you want to do that?

Mildred Stevenson:

She’s a friend and I like her but I can’t do this, I can’t get myself in trouble for this, I had nothing to do with any of it.

Alexandra and Avery have been going together for a number of years, I think three, and for the first two, two-and-a-half years it was love. Avery wanted to marry Alex, did everything he could for her. He loaned her money, bought a brand new car he was paying for so that she had something nice to drive, he even told me once that he had made her the beneficiary on his life insurance policies. For the past year he’s been asking Alex to marry him and she keeps putting him off with excuses, has to think about it, it may be too soon, she needs to talk to her family; like that. I just don’t think he was exciting enough that she would marry him. He was too nice a guy and Alex likes the ‘bad boy’ types; but she was getting loans and the use of a new car and had his life insurance in her name. She had it all without the marriage, so why bother. And I also know she was seeing someone else on the side, another military man, Tyler ‘H’ something. He works on base and lives there and I think they met online. Alex and this Tyler hooked up online about six months ago and it didn’t take them long to get together and start seeing each other hot and heavy. Alex used to tell me about a lot of it. She’d spend hours and hours each day and night talking to him on her computer.

I met Tyler once or twice, that’s when he and Alex tried to set me up with a close friend of Tyler’s, Charlie Walker. I remember Charlie Walker’s name because we did go out once, but weren’t really compatible so we didn’t date anymore after that. Talking with Charlie on that date, Charlie did tell me that he is a close personal friend of Tyler’s and that they blog and email (Charlie and Tyler) a lot online.

I think Avery noticed a change in the way Alex was acting towards him, not much, but maybe enough that he started asking her a lot of questions, which she didn’t like, and they started arguing a lot these past six months; and it kept getting nastier and nastier for awhile here. I heard him yelling at here once, when they were both in her room here, about how if she didn’t love him anymore than she could pay back the loans, give back the car, he would take her off of his life insurance as beneficiary, and they could call it quits. She calmed him down and he seemed happy again, but she was still seeing this other guy Tyler so I guess she put on a great act for Avery.

SA Cycop:

Would you recognize Tyler’s last name if you heard it?

Mildred Stevenson:

Yes, I did hear it once or twice.

SA Cycop:

Would it have been Hyatt?

Mildred Stevenson:

Yes, that’s it. I remember it now because I thought at the time, ‘Gee, just like the Hotel’, you know?

SA Cycop:

Is there anything else out of the ordinary that Ms. Soto did in the past year, or six months or so, that you consider unusual that you want to tell me about?

Mildred Stevenson:

Well, she told me that she and this Tyler guy were going down to Mazatlan, Mexico for the weekend (Tyler was paying for the trip) and I asked why and she said they were going down to get something and have some fun. I was kidding here and told her that I hoped she wasn’t going there to get drugs or like that and she said ‘No it’s not what you’d call drugs like that; at least not exactly’ and I asked her to explain but she just smiled and wouldn’t talk about it any more.

Well, she lied to Avery, told him she was flying home to see a sick relative for the weekend and went down there to Mazatlan and back with Tyler; left Friday night and came back Sunday afternoon. While I was talking to her Sunday afternoon in her bedroom, while she was unpacking her suitcases, she reaches inside one bag and pulls out a zip lock bag that has these spiny green fruit looking things in it; about half a dozen. I asked her, what the heck are those? And she gave me a smile and told me they were for a science experiment that she was doing for work. She took one out of the bag and it looked like it had started to split, so she opened it the rest of the way and three large shiny black or mottled seeds came out in her hand. The seeds looked beetle-shaped like a blood-filled dog tick; I know because I used to work for a veterinarian before I did nursing and we treated quite a few dogs for that. I told her they were pretty and where did she buy them and she told me they grew wild in the forests sections of the county and a person could just pick them. I asked her if people down there ate them and she said no, it was the oil inside that people used, but that they never-never-never ate the pod unless they were stupid, and that they only got one chance at that; then she laughed and put them away and we didn’t talk about them again. I don’t know what she did with them. And that’s all I can think of.

SA Cycop:

Do you know when she made this tip to Mazatlan, Mexico with Mr. Hyatt?

Mildred Stevenson:

I don’t know the date offhand, but it was the weekend before Halloween.

SA Cycop:

Do you know if the computer that Ms. Soto has here is her only computer?

Mildred Stevenson:

No, she actually took an older model laptop that has internet access over to Avery’s (SSgt Holcomb’s) place. She leaves it over there for her use when she’s staying over at his (SSgt Holcomb’s) place with him.

SA Cycop:

Thank you, Ms. Stevenson. This concludes the interview. 11NOV2010 1400 Hours.