



ENTERTAINMENT'S BIGGEST SUCCESS STORY!

## **'MYSTERY 101'** **Synopsis**

Literature professor Amy Winslow (Jill Wagner) specializes in crime fiction at Elmstead College in the Pacific Northwest, and after years of teaching her Mystery 101 class she's become an expert in figuring out *whodunnit*. She's also good at sizing people up, which is why when she meets Detective Travis Cole (Kristoffer Polaha) in a local café she instantly knows by his accent he's from Chicago and that he's new to the police force and no longer married. How? There's red mud on his shoes, indicating he's staying at the Scarlet Ridge Inn, and the fourth finger on his left hand is tanned except for a sliver of lighter skin where there once was a ring.

Along with Travis at the café is his colleague Claire Tate (Sarah Dugdale), a plainclothes detective who was once in Amy's crime fiction class. Now solving real crimes, Claire is with Travis to investigate the theft of a genetically engineered plant missing from the Life Science Lab. Professor Sara Morales (Tosca Baggoo), who reported the theft, has pointed to the motive for the crime, claiming that the plant is no ordinary shrub, as it was created to resist climate change and is potentially worth millions.

Although Travis can't discuss the details of his investigation, he and Amy do engage in playful banter. She's at the café with her grad student/assistant Bud (Preston Vanderslice) waiting for Lacey (Louriza Tronco), another of Amy's students, who is going to work with Bud on the mid-term mystery. But when Lacey doesn't show, Amy is worried. Lacey was uncharacteristically preoccupied in class, and Amy suspects the girl is having trouble with her boyfriend, who hasn't been answering calls. As it turns out, Amy's worries are justified when she gets a disturbing call from Lacey, who is about to describe a scary message smeared on her mirror, until the phone suddenly goes dead. Now the fictional crime professor fears she's facing a crime that is all too real, especially because Lacey *and* her boyfriend have disappeared.

Reporting Lacey as a missing person, Amy now finds herself working directly with handsome Detective Cole as the mystery of the plant theft becomes entwined with the enigma of Lacey's disappearance, *and* the shocking discovery of her boyfriend at the bottom of a mountain overlook. Adding to the suspense is the sudden "suicide" of Professor Miller (Alvin Sanders), whose office window just happens to look out on the Life Science Lab. As Amy figures out who is behind her student's disappearance and the two deaths, she also discovers who stole the plant, and puts her own life in danger. Now Travis must do some quick sleuthing himself, or the romance that was blooming with the Mystery 101 professor could quickly die on the vine.

-- HALLMARK MOVIES & MYSTERIES --