

**M.S.C.U**  
METROPOLIS . SPECIAL . CRIMES . UNIT

METROPOLIS: SUPPLEMENTAL  
EPISODE 5: "*UNDERSTUDY*"

Written by

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CAST

MAGGIE SAWYER ..... Jill Teed  
WALLY WEST ..... Fran Kranz  
JUANITA MENDOZA ..... Gina Rodriguez

and

DR. TINA MCGEE ..... Tina Majorino

EXT. S.C.U. PRECINCT, DOWNTOWN METROPOLIS - DAY

Establishing shot of the precinct.

MAGGIE (PRE-LAP)

So, Ms. Mendoza, tell me why do you think I'm offering you the position?

INT. MAGGIE'S OFFICE, S.C.U. PRECINCT - CONTINUOUS

Inside the well-sized office, at least twice the size of Maggie's previous office space, Maggie perches on the front of her desk, legs casually crossed. She's dressed a lot smarter than normal, but still business-casual.

Sitting in front of her, dressed in a slightly more formal manner, is a mid-20s Latino girl - JUANITA MENDOZA. She's eager-to-please, very bubbly and off-the-chart smart.

JUANITA

(confident)

Because I'm the best person for the job, Captain Sawyer.

MAGGIE

Your qualifications and your resume do make it look that way, I'll agree. In fact, you're technically overqualified.

(beat)

Why forensics?

JUANITA

I love science, I always have done. I love the methodical movement from A to B when solving a problem. I grew up watching "CSI" and my uncle was a patrol officer in Coast City, he used to tell me stories about life on the force.

MAGGIE

Is that why you took the job as an entry-level lab technician last year?

JUANITA

Yes, ma'am. I wanted to get my foot in the door, so to speak.

(excited)

You see, I studied at MetU, and I kind grew to love this city.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JUANITA (cont'd)

Plus, I'm not just a fan of the work you're doing with the S.C.U, but also of Mr. West.

MAGGIE

(surprised)

Wally? You're a fan of Wally?

JUANITA

I interned at Central City Police Department, I studied a lot of the cases he worked on there, not to mention his work in Keystone City and then here as well. He's a genius.

Maggie can't help but smile at her eagerness as we:

FADE TO:

INT. FORENSICS FACILITY, S.C.U PRECINCT - CONTINUOUS

This new facility puts Wally's previous lab to shame. It's a large, ultra-modern expansive space, split into various sections with plain-glass dividers, allowing everything to be visible.

An office on a slightly raised upper section allows the lab's supervisor to monitor everything from on high, but the opaque walls allow for some privacy.

It's empty at the moment aside from the supervisor himself - WALLY WEST. He is working at a section, where several test tubs are stood in a rack, focusing on an experiment of some kind.

MAGGIE (V.O.)

So you're aware of the details of the position? That you'll be on six weeks probation and working alongside Wally but reporting to him?

JUANITA (V.O.)

Yes, I'm looking forward to the work.

MAGGIE (V.O.)

I assume you're aware of the issues Wally has had to deal with of late.

As Wally casually picks up a couple of empty test tubes, he suddenly GRIMACES - his hand SPASMS, and the tubes fall to the floor, shattering on impact.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JUANITA (V.O.)  
You mean, the injury to his hands?

MAGGIE (V.O.)  
Wally is undergoing physical therapy,  
but he won't be ready for fieldwork  
for a while, so essentially, you'll  
be primary field investigator for the  
S.C.U. to begin with.

Wally looks at the mess on the floor, angry and frustrated.

INT. MAGGIE'S OFFICE, S.C.U. PRECINCT - CONTINUOUS

Juanita, brimming with confidence, simply nods.

JUANITA  
I believe I can handle that, Captain.

Maggie smiles.

MAGGIE  
Well then.  
(beat, she stands)  
Welcome to the team, Juanita.

Juanita quickly stands, grinning from ear to ear, as she  
shakes Maggie's extended hand.

INT. FORENSICS FACILITY, S.C.U. PRECINCT - CONTINUOUS

Wally is just finishing up cleaning the mess of the smashed  
test tubes, as Maggie and Juanita walk in through the main  
double-door entrance.

MAGGIE  
Wally? You busy?

WALLY  
Not right now, no.

Wally quickly dumps the evidence of his mishap, putting his  
hands in his pockets as he walks over to join them, an easy  
smile on his face.

WALLY (cont'd)  
What can I do you for?

MAGGIE  
I think you've already met Juanita  
Mendoza?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

WALLY

Yeah, one of the lab monkeys at Metro Central's main forensics lab, right?

JUANITA

(excited)

Yes, sir, that's right. I also did a couple of extra shifts helping out with your backlog of lab work every so often.

WALLY

(clueless)

You did? Oh, right, okay. Sorry, I don't remember.

JUANITA

(crestfallen)

Oh. Oh, that's okay.

WALLY

So, are you one of our new dedicated techs? You moving over to work in the S.C.U lab now instead?

MAGGIE

(annoyed)

Anyway, Juanita is going to be covering for you in field duties while your hands heal.

Wally's smile fades, just a little, his interest waning quickly.

WALLY

Is that right?

MAGGIE

So, I have a ton of other paper work to do, and a few more applicants to deal with. Why don't you give Juanita a quick tour and intro to "Working with Wally 101"?

WALLY

Sure. No problem.

JUANITA

Thanks again, Captain Sawyer.

With a nod and a smile, Maggie heads on out of the room. Juanita immediately spins back to Wally, a huge grin plastered on her pretty face.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JUANITA (cont'd)  
 (breathless, thrilled)  
 Oh my God, Mr. West! I can't tell you how excited I am to be working here! And with you! You are one of my heroes, I've studied practically every case you've worked on. Actually, I explored some of your work in my dissertation, and was hoping we might be able to run an experiment I devised to determine-

WALLY  
 (cold, interrupts)  
 Ms. Mendoza, I know you have a job to do, and we'll have to work together closely, but as we're still the only real staff this lab has until our new technicians start next week, so I think we shouldn't waste time gossiping, don't you?

JUANITA  
 (disappointed)  
 Oh, right, yes, of course, sir.  
 (beat, unsure)  
 May I call you Wally?

WALLY  
 I'd prefer you keep calling me "Mr. West" for now.

JUANITA  
 Of course. What should we start with?

WALLY  
 Actually, for the sake of efficiency, I think it best if we work individually for now.  
 (beat)  
 Excuse me.

With that, he turns on his heel, and leaves a brokenhearted Juanita alone in the middle of the lab.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. S.C.U. PRECINCT, DOWNTOWN METROPOLIS - DAY

Establishing shot of the building, which is now progressively busier outside, with a lot more patrol vehicles and unmarked cars parked outside.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

**ONE MONTH LATER**

WALLY (PRE-LAP)

(annoyed)

This is not good enough, Juanita.

INT. WALLY'S OFFICE, FORENSICS FACILITY - CONTINUOUS

The office is spartan, no personal touches, just a desk, chairs and filing cabinets. It's clear Wally doesn't spend much time there. Through the windows, several lab-coated technicians work away at various stations of equipment.

Juanita stands in front of Wally's desk, hands clasped together, lips tightly squeezed together, oozing nervousness and agitation, while Wally sits at the desk glaring up at her.

JUANITA

I'm doing my best, Mr. West.

WALLY

You say that, but it's not showing in your reports or your lab work. I'm spending most of my time going through everything you do, finding obvious mistakes that a 1st year rookie could spot.

(sighs)

Maybe you're not the 'rising star' Maggie thought you were.

Juanita stands there, wringing her hands, TEARS in her eyes, not defending herself at all, as Wally shakes his head in frustration.

WALLY (cont'd)

You're done for the day. Go home.

Managing to barely hold on to her remaining dignity, Juanita sharply exits and nearly runs out of the lab. A few of the technicians look up from their work briefly as she leaves, as does Wally, a fleeting look of guilt on his face.

EXT. CAR LOT, REAR OF THE S.C.U. PRECINCT - MOMENTS LATER

Juanita leans against the wall, brushing away the few tears that escaped, taking some calming breath.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TINA (O.C.)  
(worried)  
Hey, you okay?

She looks up to find DR. TINA MCGEE approaching, blue eyes wide with concern. Juanita swallows the lump in her throat, nodding.

JUANITA  
Yeah, I'm fine, really.  
(sighs)  
Just a lousy day at work, you know.

TINA  
(sympathetic)  
Yeah, I've had one or two of them myself.  
(beat)  
I'm Tina. Tina McGee.

JUANITA  
Juanita Mendoza. Hi.

TINA  
You wanna talk about it?

JUANITA  
You know how they say never to meet your heroes? Well, I didn't listen, and now I've started second-guessing myself all the time because I can't seem to measure up. It's like he's made his mind up to hate me no matter what I do.

TINA  
You work with the police?

JUANITA  
Yeah, it's what I've wanted to do all my life, you know. Moving to Metropolis for college, it was a dream come true. Then coming back at working here, it was everything I hoped for. Now, I'm not so sure.

TINA  
I know you've only just met, but let me give you some advice, okay?  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TINA (cont'd)

(beat)

If you're working here, you've already proved yourself, and if some asshole can't see that, it's his problem, okay?

(beat)

If he can't recognize how awesome you are, then it's up to you to make him see that, and not hold you to an impossible standard. You can't change what happened before, but you can go forward knowing just how valuable your contribution is, and make sure they see that.

As she speaks, Juanita can't help but be drawn in to what she is saying, standing that little bit straighter, the confidence she had in her interview returning.

JUANITA

(heartfelt)

Thank you. I think I really needed to hear that, even if it was from a complete stranger.

They share a laugh at the circumstances, before Tina squeezes Juanita's shoulder in a supportive gesture.

TINA

No problem. It was good to meet you.

JUANITA

You too.

(beat)

Anyway, I should be heading home. I think I just need a good night's sleep before I face the beast tomorrow.

With a smile and a small wave, Juanita walks into the car lot, as Tina heads towards the door. She suddenly stops, and turns around.

TINA

(curious)

By the way, what's the name of this 'beast'?

JUANITA

Wally. Wally West, the forensics supervisor.

Tina's smile FREEZES in place, her eyes widening in shock.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TINA (PRE-LAP)  
Wallace Rudolph West, what the hell  
has gotten into you?!

INT. KITCHENETTE, FORENSICS FACILITY - LATER

Wally *jolts* in surprise, almost dropping the large mug he is carefully pouring coffee into, spinning around with the coffee pot still in hand to find Tina *GLARING* at him. Coffee starts to dribble into the floor as she stands, *dumbstruck*.

WALLY  
What'd I do now?!

Noticing the coffee, he quickly places it back on the counter, along with the mug, before grabbing some tissue and cleaning up the spillage.

WALLY (cont'd)  
(under breath)  
Damn it!

TINA  
Don't you play Mr. Innocent with me  
right now, not after what I just  
found out.

WALLY  
Is this about that picture of you I  
put on Instagram? Honestly, you just  
looked so cute when your mouth hangs  
open when you're asleep-

TINA  
(shocked)  
You did what now?

WALLY  
( 'uh-oh' )  
Uh, never mind, nothing.  
(beat)  
What are you talking about?

TINA  
I just found a girl fighting back  
tears in the car lot because she's  
being badly treated by her boss.

Wally has the decency to look away, guilty, but Tina is not letting him off the hook.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TINA (cont'd)  
Care to explain?

WALLY  
(quietly)  
Maybe she deserved it.

TINA  
What's that supposed to mean?

WALLY  
(incensed)  
She came in here, all gung-ho and ready for action, but she's the low man on the totem pole, she's got to earn her place here!

TINA  
Don't give me that! She wouldn't have been given the job if she couldn't handle it. You should have heard the way she spoke about you, you're her hero!

WALLY  
That's not why I'm here though, is it! I'm the boss now, so I have to be professional!

Tina shakes her head. *Disappointed.*

TINA  
What's gotten into you, Wally? You're not a mean person, sarcastic, with moments of occasional crazy and selfishness, but not hurtful.

WALLY  
Maybe it's because I'm angry, okay?!

TINA  
(calmer)  
About what, babe?

WALLY  
(letting loose)  
That she's here to do a job because I can't!

He holds up his hands, flexing them gently, but wincing.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

WALLY (cont'd)

I'm doing the therapy, but I still can't always make my hands do what I want them too! It's driving me crazy!

(laughs darkly)

You wanna know what's truly ironic, and not in an Alanis Morissette way? I hate being stuck in the lab! Yeah, I love working on the puzzles they bring me, but miss looking forward to getting out of the lab and out to crime scenes. It was different, and it made the puzzles that much more fun to see the pieces as they fell.

TINA

(understanding)

Oh, babe. You know it's only temporary until your hands get better, right?

WALLY

But what if they don't? Even with the physical therapy, all the work Artie's got me doing, what if it isn't enough.

Tina steps forward, and takes Wally's hands in her own, kissing them gently.

TINA

Then, we'll deal with it then. Okay?

(beat)

But none of this is Juanita's fault, you get that, right? She's here to help, to make life easier for you, and to learn from you, not replace you.

(beat)

She deserves better than you've been giving her.

Wally looks up, his eyes WET with tears, but he nods slowly...

FADE TO:

INT. CORRIDOR, S.C.U. PRECINCT - THE NEXT DAY

Juanita, looking a lot more confident and emboldened, walks down the corridor, exchanging nods with passing coworkers, before stopping at the main entrance to the lab facility.

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CONTINUED:

Setting her shoulders, she takes a deep breath and walks in...

INT. WALLY'S OFFICE, FORENSICS FACILITY - CONTINUOUS

Wally is sat at his desk, two piles of folders and paperwork on either side - one smaller than the other. He is reading through a case report, studying it in detail.

*TAP, TAP!*

He looks up, startled to see Juanita standing on the other side of his office door. Taking a moment to organize himself before waving her in, which she promptly does.

WALLY

Juanita, I was just about to see if you'd arrived yet.

JUANITA

(quickly, nervous)

Mr. West, I think that we need to address something...

She trails off, frowning. She takes note of the open file in front of him. Recognizes it.

JUANITA (cont'd)

(confused)

Is that my report on the Hartford case?

Wally nods, closing the file and placing it on top of the larger pile.

WALLY

Actually, yes. I was reviewing it again. I was going over all of your case reports, actually.

He gestures at the two piles of folders as he speaks. Juanita's lips purse in frustration.

JUANITA

May I ask why? Is there something wrong?

(beat, annoyed)

Again?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

WALLY

Not at all. I was very impressed with the detail and attention you paid in all of them.

JUANITA

(surprised, defiant)

Really? That's not what you said yesterday.

Wally sighs, shakes his head.

WALLY

(apologetic)

Yeah, about that? I'm sorry, I've been holding you to an impossible standard I doubt even I could match, and it's not been fair.

JUANITA

To say the least, sir. Since I transferred in, you've been...

(pauses)

'objectionable', shall we say?

WALLY

You can call it what it was.

(beat, blunt)

I was a complete dick.

Juanita can't help it - a surprised, much needed short burst of laughter escapes her. Wally GRINS in reply.

WALLY (cont'd)

I want you to know, that I'm writing a review to end your probation early, and make you permanent.

JUANITA

(stunned)

You are?

WALLY

('duh!')

I'd be insane not to. You're an asset to this lab, and this Unit. Both your field skills and lab work, not to mention that brain of yours.

(beat, excited)

I read your dissertation last night, actually. It was brilliant!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Juanita stands there, grinning from ear to ear, blushing just a little from the praise, as Wally stands and comes around the desk.

WALLY (cont'd)  
I was hoping you'd let me help with that experiment you came up with. I think you mentioned wanting to do it on your first day here.

Juanita frowns, and Wally balks a little, rubbing his neck, self-consciously.

WALLY (cont'd)  
I mean, if you want to, that is? I'd understand if you don't.

After a second, Juanita smiles warmly.

JUANITA  
Are you kidding? I'd love to!

Wally's grin returns, every bit as excited and enthusiastic as Juanita, as he opens the door for her, allowing her to bound into the lab, a definite spring in her step.

As she heads over to an empty work-space and pulls together various equipment, Wally watches for a moment, basking in the energy Juanita is exuding, a gentle, pleased smile on his lips as we:

FADE TO BLACK:

**END OF EPISODE**