

It didn't matter what I used (the color was still red). The sample on the dish was always that same color (red), always belonging to some one who came and left; leaving no other trace of himself.

Clyde is my surname. It's short for Clydesdale. "Whatever you do don't touch that sample. It's the only thing we have." I murmured to one of the laboratory technicians as I dodged around several others moving about the exit.

I peeked back through the glass windows on the doors unsure of leaving it behind. I had to - more samples of it were still being used to decipher the missing person.

"He's not missing." I heard myself stating to one of my comrades in the investigative department.

"You still think it's deliberate." he implied to me smiling as though knowing that I'd do or say anything to keep a case wide open. "Well, . . . Prove it. I" he added with his arms stretched as he yawned from exhaustion.

"I will. Just give me time." I insisted.

"The boss said that you have one week."

We both headed outside of the building- a municipal building -wearing our long winter coats saying nothing else to each other as we descended the outside stairs to a forty-fourth floor office place, then I heard myself commented as we walked opposite directions of the street, "It's better than nothing." Jashua just smiled, shook his head) and walked on.

Seven days. First, I'd have to start with the hotel where this man was in, presumably. I hoped someone there would remember his face or his name, but the front desk clerk wasn't much help. He claimed not to have been working the night of the suspense, only behind him, half hidden against a wall to the back glass office, stood a woman with long brown hair. The part of her that I saw exposed was her long hair in front of the left side of her face. She wore a Japanese style dress (dark blue) that split right at the knee.

I began to leave when I found myself turning to glance at this woman again. She still stood there nearly frozen, staring right into my eyes.

She smiled a bit (her lip stick color was dark red), then she turned to enter the office as though

