

What Would You Do For Love?

Courtney Snider

(Trigger Warning: Abuse mentioned)

Jacob Harper was pronounced dead on June 17th, 2025. The medical examiners have concluded that he had died by sustaining multiple injuries to his head. They suspect that he was killed by assault. Detectives are unsure if his murder was planned or not.

Suspect One:

First Name: Maelyn

Middle Name: Olivia

Last name: Hawkman

Height: 5 feet, 4 inches

Hair color: Strawberry Blonde

Eye color: Dark Brown

Birthday: September 4th, 2007 (Age 17)

Nationality: American

Maelyn Hawkman was taken into custody by Officer Victor Sallow on June 17th, 2025 at the Everith Mall after the body of Jacob Harper was found in the woods behind his home.

The following recording was the conversation that took place between Officer Sallow and Maelyn Hawkman.

Officer Sallow: "Miss Hawkman, who were you to Jacob?"

Maelyn Hawkman: [silence]

Officer Sallow: "You and Jacob had been dating for 7 months before he was killed, correct?"

Maelyn Hawkman: "He wasn't killed—"

Officer Sallow: "Answer the question, please, Maelyn."

Maelyn Hawkman: [sigh] "Yes, officer. Jacob and I started dating on Christmas last year."

Officer Sallow: "And is it true that you two were arguing before he died?"

Maelyn Hawkman: "Yes, officer. Jacob had gotten drunk and cheated on me with another girl at a party. Winona Finch."

Officer Sallow: “And I’ve been told that you and Winona already had a known rivalry.”

Maelyn Hawkman: “I don’t know who told you that, officer, but that is entirely false. I had no problem with Winona, and I still don’t. She’s new to our school, and I had no idea who she was before all of this went down. I figured that Jacob had lied about being single, and Winona had no idea about our relationship.”

Officer Sallow: “Your sister, Zoey, was the one who told me.”

Maelyn Hawkman: “My sister is a complete and utter idiot, officer. Everything she says should be taken with a grain of salt.”

Officer Sallow: “Why do you say that?”

Maelyn Hawkman: “She’s always been jealous of my relationship with Jacob. When we got together, she had sulked in her room until New Year’s. When she wouldn’t talk to me, I admittedly read her diary. Apparently, she had a crush on him since she was in 7th grade.”

Officer Sallow: “How did she react when she found out about Jacob’s death?”

Maelyn Hawkman: “I’m... not sure. I haven’t seen her since it was announced.”

Suspect Two:

First Name: Zoey

Middle Name: Joan

Last Name: Hawkman

Height: 5 feet, 7 inches

Hair color: Strawberry Blonde

Eye color: Hazel

Birthday: May 31st, 2009 (Age 16)

Nationality: American

Zoey Hawkman was taken into custody on June 17th, 2025, from her home after being accused of suspicious behavior by her sister, Maelyn Hawkman, who had been taken into custody earlier that day.

The following recording was the conversation that took place between Officer Sallow and Zoey Hawkman.

Officer Sallow: "How did you and Jacob meet?"

Zoey Hawkman: "I was in his math class when I was in 7th grade."

Officer Sallow: "You must be smart, then, as Jacob was a grade above you."

Zoey Hawkman: "Yes, sir. I was placed in the 8th-grade math class. We sat next to each other and quickly became friends."

Officer Sallow: "And did you have feelings for him?"

Zoey Hawkman: [pause] "I'm not comfortable sharing that."

Officer Sallow: "I'll inform you now, Zoey, any information you withhold now will affect you later in this case."

Zoey Hawkman: "Are you trying to tell me that you think I did it?"

Officer Sallow: "On the contrary, I don't want to see you falsely accused."

Zoey Hawkman: [silence]

Officer Sallow: "I'll ask you again, did you have romantic feelings for Jacob Harper?"

Zoey Hawkman: [scoff] “Fine. I did. When I found out that he and Mae were together, I wanted to ram her head against a tree.”

Zoey Hawkman: “Why are you looking at me like that?”

Officer Sallow: “It’s funny that you say that, because Jacob’s body was found in the woods. He had a large gash in his forehead with a few pieces of tree bark stuck in his hair. The detectives suspect that whoever killed him had somehow pushed him—or perhaps, run his head—hard enough against a tree.”

Zoey Hawkman: “Were there any fingerprints on the body?”

Officer Sallow: “Why do you feel the need to ask that, Zoey?”

Zoey Hawkman: “Because if there’s fingerprints on the body that proves I’m innocent!”

Zoey Hawkman: “I promise you that I didn’t kill him, I loved him!”

Officer Sallow: “Mhm. Well, there were no prints on the body. It had rained between the time of death and when he was found.”

Zoey Hawkman: “Was there hair? Or *any* piece of identifiable information?”

Officer Sallow: “If there were, we wouldn’t be having this conversation, would we?”

Suspect Three

First Name: Winona

Middle Name: Rose

Last Name: Finch

Height: 5 feet, 2 inches

Hair color: Black

Eye color: Green

Birthday: June 10th, 2008 (Age 17)

Nationality: American

Winona Finch had been taken into custody on June 17th, 2025, from her home after suspect Maelyn Hawkman mentioned that she had relations with Jacob Harper.

The following recording was the conversation that took place between Officer Sallow and Winona Finch.

Officer Sallow: "Congratulations on your recent birthday."

Winona Finch: "Thank you, officer."

Officer Sallow: "Of course. I'm sorry that you were put in this situation, but of course, I hope you know the importance."

Winona Finch: "Of course I do. I'm open to answering any questions you have for me."

Officer Sallow: "I appreciate your openness, Winona."

Officer Sallow: "I understand that you and Jacob got along at the party, I presume."

Winona Finch: "I have to be honest, officer. That's not the entire story."

Officer Sallow: "Oh?"

Winona Finch: "Yes. I'm new to Everith High School, so I thought it would be a good idea to host a party to get to know some people. It wasn't supposed to be a big thing like it turned out to be. I told the few friends I *did* have to invite a few people, but then those people invited a few people, and it all turned into this crazy mess."

Winona Finch: “At the party, there was a girl named Zoey Hawkman. She offered me \$200 to go and flirt with Jacob. Jacob and Maelyn are quite popular at school, so I obviously knew they were together. But Zoey said that Maelyn had already cheated on Jacob, so it was okay.”

Officer Sallow: “If you knew that Jacob already had a girlfriend, why would you accept the offer?”

Winona Finch: “My parents had been struggling a lot with money! The only reason we were able to afford the apartment that we moved to is because my Grandma is paying for it. I thought I would be able to help them out, even if it wasn’t much.”

Winona Finch: “Plus... I can’t deny that he’s a cute guy.”

Officer Sallow: “I see...”

Officer Sallow: “What happened between you and Jacob?”

Winona Finch: “Almost nothing. We kissed a few times, but that’s it. I mean, he did stay at my house after the party, but it was only because none of his friends would drive him home, and I didn’t want him driving himself home when he’s drunk. So I let him sleep on the couch, and I made him some breakfast in the morning, but that was it. He left after that.”

Officer Sallow: “What day was your party, Winona?”

Winona Finch: “My birthday, June 10th. I told my parents that it was just going to be a birthday party.”

Officer Sallow: “And did Zoey tell you who Maelyn was cheating on Jacob with?”

Winona Finch: “No, sir. I’m sorry. I wish I could’ve given you more information.”

Officer Sallow: “It’s alright, Winona. You’ve given more than enough.”

The following recording was the second conversation that took place between Officer Sallow and Zoey Hawkman.

Officer Sallow: “Zoey, did you give Winona \$200 to flirt with Jacob?”

Zoey Hawkman: [pause] “Maybe...”

Officer Sallow: “Would it be possible that you wanted to split up Maelyn and Jacob so you could swoop in instead?”

Zoey Hawkman: [sigh] “Am I that obvious?”

Officer Sallow: “It’s an interesting plan, to say the least. Would you say it was successful?”

Zoey Hawkman: “No, officer. I wouldn’t.”

Officer Sallow: “And how do you feel about that?”

Zoey Hawkman: “I don’t see how that relates to the case, officer.”

Officer Sallow: “I see.”

Officer Sallow: “And why were you so adamant of them splitting up? You seem to have a good relationship with your sister.”

Zoey Hawkman: “It’s all a façade. My sister is a menace. I would do anything to protect him from her.”

Officer Sallow: “Anything?”

Zoey Hawkman: “Anything.”

The following recording was the second conversation that took place between Officer Sallow and Maelyn Hawkman.

Officer Sallow: “Maelyn, where were you the night of June 10th?”

Maelyn Hawkman: “I was at my friend’s house. We were having a *Harry Potter* movie marathon.”

Officer Sallow: “And which friend was this?”

Maelyn Hawkman: “My best friend, Cole.”

Officer Sallow: “Maelyn, were you cheating on Jacob with Cole?”

Maelyn Hawkman: “What?! Why on *earth* would I do that?!”

Officer Sallow: “In Winona’s statement, she said that Zoey had paid her to flirt with Jacob. She said that Zoey had told her that you had been cheating on Jacob, but she didn’t say with who.”

Maelyn Hawkman: “That’s completely false! I loved Jacob! I wasn’t even going to break up with him over the whole party fiasco!”

Officer Sallow: “Why not?”

Maelyn Hawkman: “I...I don’t know! I just wasn’t!”

Officer Sallow: [Silence]

Suspect Four

First Name: Coleman

Middle Name: Elijah

Last Name: Peters

Height: 5 feet, 10 inches

Hair color: Dark brown

Eye color: Brown

Birthday: November 19th, 2007 (Age 17)

Nationality: American

Coleman Peters had been taken into custody on June 17th, 2025, from Everith National Park after Maelyn Hawkman said she had been with him during the night of Winona Finch's party.

The following recording was the conversation that took place between Officer Sallow and Coleman Peters.

Officer Sallow: "I've reviewed the camera footage of your home on June 10th. I can confirm that you and Maelyn were having a *Harry Potter* movie night."

Coleman Peters: "Why did you need to review the footage? He wasn't found until a week later."

Officer Sallow: "The medical examiners can't confirm the date of death because of the inconsistent weather in the area. We need all the facts we can get."

Coleman Peters: "Right. Of course."

Coleman Peters: "If I may ask, Officer. Why am I here? I didn't know Jacob. Personally, anyway."

Officer Sallow: "As I stated previously, we need all the facts we can get."

Officer Sallow: "You say you didn't know Jacob personally. What did you know of him?"

Coleman Peters: "Well... Mae would tell me stories. The dude was... a character, to put it lightly."

Officer Sallow: “What do you mean?”

Coleman Peters: [pause] “Every once in a while, Maelyn would call me or come over to my house, and she would be in tears. She would tell me these awful things like Jacob throwing a textbook at the wall or threatening to leave her or other sorts of bad stuff.”

Coleman Peters: “But then a day or two later, she would call me and tell me that he apologized and got her flowers or a candle or took her out for a fancy date or something. It got on my nerves.”

Officer Sallow: “Would you say that Jacob abused Maelyn?”

Coleman Peters: “That’s one way to put it, I guess. He never hit her or anything. And he would always apologize. Nonetheless, he wasn’t a good guy. I’m kind of glad Maelyn never let me meet him.”

Officer Sallow: “She never *let* you meet him?”

Coleman Peters: “Nope. I figured he would flip out or something if she mentioned that her best friend was a dude.”

Officer Sallow: [Pause] “Coleman, there was an accusation from Maelyn’s sister that she had been cheating on Jacob. Do you know anything about this?”

Coleman Peters: “Maelyn wouldn’t do that. She’s a lover.”

Officer Sallow: “What do you mean by that?”

Coleman Peters: [Pause] “She always sees the best of every situation. She’s the ‘there’s a reason that everything happens’ kind of person. She thinks it’s all going to turn out good in the end.”

Officer Sallow: “I see...”

The following text messages were found on Maelyn Hawkman’s phone. This conversation took place between Jacob Harper and Maelyn Hawkman on April 29th, 2025.

Jacob: Who was that guy you were talking to?

Maelyn: ???

Jacob: In the hall. Who were you talking to?

Maelyn: Oh, Isaac. We’re doing a science project together.

Jacob: Ask your teacher to switch partners.

Jacob: I don't want you to be partners with him.

Maelyn: Why not?

Jacob: Did you not see the way he was looking at you?

Maelyn: He wasn't looking at me in any way! He has a girlfriend!

Jacob: I know how guys think, Maelyn. Switch partners.

Maelyn: No! You're insane!

Jacob: Maelyn Hawkman, you are going to switch partners, or I'll do it for you.

The following recording was the third conversation that took place between Officer Sallow and Maelyn Hawkman.

Officer Sallow: "Maelyn, would you say that Jacob was a controlling boyfriend?"

Maelyn Hawkman: "I mean, I guess. But it was all out of love."

Officer Sallow: "Did he initiate your last argument before he died? Did he do anything to hurt you?"

Maelyn Hawkman: "No. I approached him. He was in his garage, fixing his car. I went in there and started yelling at him."

Officer Sallow: "What day was this?"

Maelyn Hawkman: "June 16th."

Officer Sallow: "The day before he was pronounced dead."

Maelyn Hawkman: "Correct."

Officer Sallow: "I'm going to send some detectives to inspect the garage, if you don't mind."

Maelyn Hawkman: "No, of course. Do whatever you need."

The next day, June 18th, Zoey Hawkman was pronounced dead in her room. Medical examiners have concluded that she had died from suffocation.

The following recording was the fourth conversation that took place between Officer Sallow and Maelyn Hawkman.

Officer Sallow: "I'm sorry to hear about your sister, Maelyn."

Maelyn Hawkman: [crying]

Officer Sallow: "I know this is a difficult time right now, but I can't ignore the fact that there was a wrench found with your fingerprints on it."

Maelyn Hawkman: [sniffle] "It was the wrench he was using on his car. He kept flailing it around and I got nervous, so I took it from him and chucked it across the garage."

Officer Sallow: "Maelyn, his fingerprints weren't on the wrench."

Maelyn Hawkman: "He was wearing gloves! I wouldn't kill my boyfriend! I loved him!"

Officer Sallow: "I can't deny the facts, Maelyn, and it's not looking good for you. You had a motive to kill him: he had been controlling and had cheated on you. We have a potential weapon. All we need is a confession. It'll be a lot easier if you confess now."

Maelyn Hawkman: "I didn't kill him! I swear on my life! There has to be something missing! After the argument, I called Cole, and he came over, and we hung out to get my mind off of it."

Officer Sallow: [sigh] "I'll go speak with him."

The following recording was the second conversation that took place between Officer Sallow and Coleman Peters.

Officer Sallow: "Coleman, where were you the night of June 16th?"

Coleman Peters: "Baseball practice."

Officer Sallow: [pause] "Do you play for the school team?"

Coleman Peters: "Yes."

Officer Sallow: "You are aware that the school doesn't have baseball practice in June."

Coleman Peters: "I play for a different team over the summer. The Pitching Pirates. It's a stupid name, I know. It's a local team."

Officer Sallow: "I see."

Officer Sallow: "Maelyn told me that you went to her house after the argument."

Coleman Peters: "I went after practice was over."

Officer Sallow: "Of course."

Officer Sallow: "I'll have you know that we linked Maelyn to a possible murder weapon. If she can't get a solid alibi, she may be arrested."

Coleman Peters: "What? You can't do that to her! Her sister just died! She was killed in her own bedroom, suffocated by her own pillow!"

Officer Sallow: "How did you know she was suffocated by a pillow?"

Coleman Peters: [silence]

Officer Sallow: "That information was never released."

Coleman Peters: "Well, I just figured—"

Officer Sallow: "Cole, did you kill Zoey Hawkman?"

Coleman Peters: "Of course I didn't!"

Officer Sallow: "You would have been at her house. There was no broken window, so no one broke in. Unless Maelyn did it..."

Coleman Peters: [sigh] "Fine, I did. I couldn't believe she would try to hurt her sister like that! Maelyn is *perfect*. And all because of a stupid boy, too! He wasn't even a good guy!"

Officer Sallow: "Did you kill Jacob, too?"

Coleman Peters: "I did. With my own baseball bat. Maelyn deserves way better than... than *him*."

Coleman Peters: "Maelyn called me when she left Jacob's house after the argument. I tracked her location to get to his house, and when I saw him taking a walk to cool off, I figured I should get it over with. She would never break up with him, so I had to take matters into my own hands."

Coleman Peters: "And honestly? I don't regret a single thing."

Officer Sallow: "That's... that's absurd, Cole."

Coleman Peters: [Laughs] "I would do worse things for love."

Coleman Peters: "What would you do for love, officer?"