Shepherd the Young by Robert Campbell

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM

DET. CONNORS, 40s, is questioning NURSE GWEN MORGAN, 50s.

CONNORS

"The hospital is over capacity."
"The epidemic is stretching resources thin." I've heard the same stories from everyone.

GWEN

Then you know I'm telling the truth.

CONNORS

The truth? No. What you need to believe is the truth? Definitely.

GWEN

Sarah is a good nurse. If she's a little young, that's nothing we all weren't guilty of at one time.

Connors's phone "dings." He opens it up. Reads a message.

CONNORS

(switching gears)

It's the job of older, wiser heads to shepherd the young. Right?

GWEN

Yes.

CONNORS

Help them learn from their mistakes.

GWEN

That's correct.

CONNORS

How about cover up for murder?

GWEN

Murder? It was an acc--

CONNORS

(shows her the message)

Another patient died. On your floor. Of a drug overdose.

(beat)

Who's on duty tonight?

GWEN

I'm not certain.

CONNORS

Yes you are.

She purses her lips shut. Digging in her heels.

CONNORS

(gently)

You're a good person, Gwen. A good nurse. That's what everyone says. That's why she picked you.

GWEN

Picked me?

CONNORS

It's a gift some sociopaths have. To know who will believe in their innocence even while the prison doctor is sticking a needle into their arm.

A flicker of doubt.

CONNORS

Tell me, does Sarah make you feel like the big sister you always wanted? Or the mother you always wanted to be?

Gwen looks away. Can't -- won't -- meet his eyes.