

THE NIGHT ON THE BOAT

sides: Jason and his mother-in-law Ellie

written by Ross

A short film as a baseline for a series outcome

In this scene, Jason is questioned by his
wife's mother.

INT. JASON'S HOME - DAY

JASON

I wish I had more to say. We all
need answers.

ELLIE locks eyes with Jason. She is not believing him but
trying to not appear obvious.

ELLIE

It just doesn't make sense. You
told the authorities that Shannon
talked suicide recently. ***I find
that hard to believe.***

JASON

You weren't around her like I was.
She was saying crazy things.

ELLIE

Crazy things like what?

JASON

Just about life in general. Things
I didn't think so much about when
she was saying them, but in
hindsight seems like they were
signs.

ELLIE

Why would she be talking suicide
Jason?

JASON

I don't know. She was unhappy about
a lot of things.

ELLIE

(insistent)
Like what?

JASON

Like her job. She hated the
direction her work was heading. She
was struggling with the fact that
doctors declared her barren. *There
were a few things.*

Ellie moves in to Jason to accentuate her next words.

ELLIE

I know my daughter and those
'things' would not lead her into a
late night suicide spectacle on a
boat. Besides she loved you, why
would she do it that way? Why Would
she put your freedom in jeopardy?

JASON

When you are having a mental
breakdown, sometimes ones actions
are not about anyone's but their
own.

Ellie shakes off Jason's last words.

ELLIE

I need answers Jason. Not some
manufactured lies and theories. **I**
need facts. I want to know what
happened to my child!

JASON

And believe you me I want to know
what happened to her as well.
Shannon meant the world to me. **She**
means the world to me. I too need
answers.

Ellie looks at Jason with a side eye.

ELLIE

Did you just have a slip of the
tongue? She **meant** the world to you?
Sounds like you are talking in past
tense.