

HE DIDN'T DO IT (EXCERPT)

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3 INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - NIGHT

JASON, the DETECTIVE, and the DA are sitting in a comfortable, spacious room. Jason is sitting in a soft CHAIR next to the door.

Fast food bags and drinks are on the table before them. Jason's food is untouched, but the detective and DA have eaten theirs.

The detective and DA are wearing black, as if for a funeral. Jason is dressed up, but he didn't put his clothes on correctly.

DETECTIVE

Jason, when we leave this room, you need to be aware that your window of opportunity for coming clean ends, okay.

JASON

I just want to go home and find Sherry and eat Peter's fish.

DETECTIVE

Jason, I don't think you understand the gravity of what is going on right now. This is not going away, okay. If we leave this room and you haven't confessed, you're gonna spend the rest of your life in prison.

JASON

I want to go home.

DETECTIVE

Jason, let me paint a picture for you, okay? There's a cell in a prison not too far from here and it doesn't look much different from this room, okay? That's where you are going to go to sleep tonight, okay? Tonight. If you don't confess right now before we leave this room, in 27 years, do

DETECTIVE (CONT'D)
you know where you're going to be sleeping?

JASON
I just want my stuffed animals.

DETECTIVE
In 27 years and 42 days, you are going to be sleeping in the exact same jail cell. Unless you tell me what you did.

JASON
But I already told you. I didn't do anything!

DETECTIVE
I don't believe you.

JASON
Well what do you want me to say?

DETECTIVE
Jason. Your wife, the woman you married and lived with for 10 years, she is dead, okay. Her heart is no longer beating, okay. Her body is decomposing, okay. She was only 36 years old. And you have not shed one tear.

JASON
That doesn't mean I'm not upset.

DETECTIVE
And your daughter, your own blood, your daughter, she is dead too, okay. Your daughter just died, Jason, why are you not reacting to that? You're sitting here like I'm telling you what I had for breakfast this morning. And now you're smirking. Is this funny, Jason?

JASON

It's not. Funny.

DETECTIVE

Well I'm baffled.

DA

Jason, let me try to explain to you what we expect to see when someone loses a child. Sherry's dad is just in the other room. Sherry's dad is extremely upset and he just can't stop thinking about how his daughter is dead. He is extremely distraught. He is fixated on the fact that his daughter is dead and it's like he can't comprehend what just happened.

DETECTIVE

Jason, what Becca and I are trying to get at is that you are not acting like someone who just lost a child and there was nothing they could do to stop it, okay. Did someone break into your house and kill Sherry and Sarah and you caught them doing it and you're trying to cover for them?

JASON

No. I don't know what happened. I wanna talk to Sherry.

DA

Jason, something really bad is about to happen to you and we just don't want that to happen to you. You need to help us so we can help you.

JASON

I already told you I don't know what happened. I heard the gunshot upstairs and then I-

DETECTIVE

Jason, stop it. We're not here to listen to you lie. We know you're lying to us. Okay? That's not up for debate right now. The residue was on your hands. We know you killed Sherry. That is not up for debate, okay.

JASON

I don't know -

DETECTIVE

Stop it, Jason. You're not that stupid.

DA

If there's something we don't know, please tell us, Jason. Why aren't you telling us?

DETECTIVE

Becca, stop it. He's a monster.

DA

Jason, please tell me what happened!

DETECTIVE

He's just a stone-cold killer, Becca, you can see it in his eyes. There's no remorse.

DA

Jason, please help me fix this! Please tell me how you're a good person!

JASON

I didn't do anything wrong. I wanna talk to Sherry.

DETECTIVE

You murdered Sherry!

DA

Did this happen because she started fighting you? Is that what happened? Did Sherry try to kill you and so you had to kill her? And then you killed Sarah because she was a witness?

JASON

I just want to talk to Sherry. I need to talk to Sherry. I need to talk to Sherry. I don't know what to do.

DETECTIVE

Becca, we already know what happened here. He's a horrible monster, a stone-cold killer. He hasn't shed one tear.

DA

Jason, if you don't tell me what really happened, you aren't going to ever walk out of that cell. I want you to walk out of here. I don't want you to die in prison.

JASON

I just want to be with Sherry and Peter and Sarah.

DETECTIVE

Because he wants to finish the job.

DA

Jason, I understand that you want to make your son feel safe and protect him, and that warms my heart. But I can't let you do that until I know who killed Sarah. Who killed Sarah, Jason?

DETECTIVE

You're lookin at 'em.

DA

Jason, who killed Sarah? Who killed Sarah? Did Sherry kill Sarah?

JASON

But I didn't do anything! I want my stuffed animals! I want to see Peter!

DA

Jason, I want you to be able to be with your son, but we can't let that happen if it's true that you murdered Sarah! Do you think we can just let you be with Peter if you murdered Sarah?

JASON

I didn't kill anybody and I don't know what I'm supposed to do. I just want to be with my stuffed animals.

DETECTIVE

What a wuss. What a pathetic, emasculated, effeminate, pathetic, miserable coward. He's gonna go cry for his stuffed animals but he won't cry for his wife and daughter.

DA

Jason, listen to me, okay? I want you to be with your stuffed animals. If you want your stuffed animals, you have to tell me what really happened.

DETECTIVE

Becca just STOP.

DA

Jason, if you don't tell me who really killed Sherry, you are going to be executed by the state. You are going to die. We are going

DA (CONT'D)

to kill you. I don't want that to happen—

DETECTIVE

I'm done with this, Becca.

DA

Shut up. Jason, listen to me, look at my eyes. I am trying to help you. If you tell us what really happened, we will not seek the death penalty and you will go home with Peter. Do you hear that? If you tell us what really happened, everything will be okay, alright?

DETECTIVE

He's not supposed to know that—

DA

Jason, I want to help you. I believe in you. I think you're a good person, ok? I think you were in the wrong place at the wrong time. Please tell me I'm right!

DETECTIVE

Don't.

JASON

But I don't understand why you think I hurt someone when I didn't hurt nobody!

DA

We're past that point, Jason! The gunshot residue was on your hand!

DETECTIVE

Becca. Look at that man. What you're looking at right now is the personification of evil. He's just pretending to care about them. He's putting on a magnificent act. You know what I think happened?

DA

I want to hear the truth, and I want to hear it from Jason.

DETECTIVE

Well what I think happened is I think that Nick, your father in-law realized what a miserable, no good scum bag you are. Nick figured you out! He probably convinced Sherry to leave you. Isn't that right, Jason. Sherry was gonna leave you and so you murdered both of them so they could never escape!-

DA

No no no no no

DETECTIVE

-Because that is who this man is!

The Detective's phone rings and he immediately exits the stage, putting the phone to his ear, visibly annoyed with the phone.

DA

Jason look at me in the eyes. I know for a fact that you are not a bad person. I see it. I think you really loved your wife and kids. But something happened and you made an honest mistake that anyone could make. I could have made that mistake too. We just need to talk about what that mistake was. I don't think it was your fault.

JASON

I want Sherry.

DA

I don't think you would make the same mistake over again. Tell me I'm right.

JASON

What do I need to do?

DA

Just tell me the truth! Are you ashamed of the truth? It's okay. We all make mistakes. But it's what we do with those mistakes that defines us. Let this moment be the moment that defines you, Jason!

JASON

It was all my fault. Everything was my fault.

DA

Tell me the truth. Anything you say to me can only help you. I am here to help you. I am your ally in this.

JASON

I don't want to tell you.

DA

It's time, Jason. This happens whether you like it or not. There's no stopping this. It's absolutely certain.

JASON

I'm just supposed to confess to everything and it will all be okay?

DA

Jason, did this happen because you couldn't hold a job?

JASON

I don't think so.

DA

The detective will be back soon. I'm extending a lifeline and you need to take it.

JASON

Was it my fault?

DA

This is your opportunity to make it better.

JASON

I don't understand why it was my fault.

DA

Jason, you didn't pull the trigger, but this is going to be a weight on you for the rest of your life. To live with it, you need make things right.

JASON

How? How can I make this right?

DA

You have to tell the world that you are a bad man.

JASON

Why?

DA

Good men don't let this happen. Good men hold their jobs, they support their families. This happened because of you. But you can turn it around. You can become a good man by taking the fall, by taking away her blame.

JASON

Will you let me see Peter?

DA

Of course.

JASON

It was because of Nick. Nick told me to leave and then I got angry and then I got the gun and I shot

JASON (CONT'D)

Sarah. And then I smothered Sherry.

DA

What was it about Sherry that made you feel like you had to kill her?

JASON

She wanted to leave me. Because he found out I lost my job again.

DA

How did that make you feel?

JASON

It made me super, super angry.

DA

Did it make you feel like she was challenging your authority?

JASON

Yes.

DA

So when Sherry said she was leaving you, that made you feel disrespected and so you responded by saying, "If I can't have her, no one can?"

JASON

Why did Sherry do it?

DA

Sometimes when people feel they can't support their families, they get really scared. When they're that scared, sometimes they think turning everything off is the only way.

JASON

Why was she so scared?

DA

Because you weren't good enough.

The detective enters with a GUARD and the guard begins arresting Jason.

GUARD

(to Jason, robotically)
Stand up, face the wall, and put your hands behind your back. Do you have anything on you that can poke me, stab me, or cut me?

JASON

(betrayed)
What's going to happen? I want to see Peter.

DETECTIVE

You're never going to see your son again, Jason.

DA

You're never going to see your son again, Jason.

JASON

But you said—

DA

(laughing creepily)
Why are you so upset?

JASON

I want to see my son.

DA

Why are you taking this so seriously, Jason?

JASON

But I trusted you!

DA

Don't you have a sense of humor?

JASON

But what's gonna happen next?

Lights down.