

WILL  
This is gonna be great.

CANDACE  
I love you.

WILL  
I love you too.

CANDACE  
Now let's hit it!

WILL (YELLING)  
Yeah! Ahaha, woooooo - (gags  
sharply)

Bone breaking  
Candace screams  
Intro song

JON  
Alright. Let me get this tape  
recorder on and... Put it in a safe  
spot. We've got a New case this  
afternoon - file number 3367.  
William Horton, Male, aged 52 was  
brought in a few minutes ago after  
a car accident, found dead on the  
scene. Let's move this sheet...  
Whoa. VERY dead on the scene.  
Victim has been nearly completely  
decapitated. Interesting. Although  
the notes mention it was an  
accidental death with no  
complications. And we know how  
wrong they were last time.  
Honestly, I don't know why these  
beat cops keep putting down cause  
of death on the files. That's not  
their job. (Pen scratching sound.)  
Keep... To... The... Facts. Alright  
Today, we'll be reattaching  
vertebra and stitching up the skin  
around the neck tear in order to  
preserve the body for a funeral  
viewing, requested by the family.  
Right, Will? Your family misses  
you.

Shaking and then silence

JON (cont'd)  
Will? Hello? Anybody around?  
Heavy Breathing

JON (cont'd)

I can hear... something. Are you there?

Jon

Okay... I guess I'll get started then. Maybe this can be my first case in peace and quiet. I never needed to rely on the ghosts in Med School, and I don't need them now. Hmm... Where did I put my foreceps? Behind me?

SOUND: Heavier Breathing

JON

Holy shit!

SOUND: METAL TRAY FALLS OVER AND CRASHES

ON THE GROUND

JON

Will? My god... is that you? You scared the shit out of me. Why are you just staring at me? I- I'm sorry, if you're confused as to what's going on. My name is Jon Spacer - I'm a forensic pathologist. Your body was found at the site of a car accident, and I'm trying to confirm your cause of death. Which... was kind of obvious. Why are you making that face? You can speak, you know. I can hear you even if you're dead...

muffle mumbling

JON (cont'd)

I don't understand... what that means... Ugh. Now I've got to get a new set of foreceps.

JON

Okay... You can just watch me if you want, but I need to get started. (Pause) A quick overview of the body indicates blunt force trauma to the sternum, seemily caused by the seatbelt of the car. Radial lacerations on the arms and legs. Lots of bruising and possible subdermal hematomas.

Wheely chair and medical instruments  
Squishing sounds. Gross noises.

JON

First we'll get the base of the skull realigned. There are some bone fragments in the neck that need to be removed. Okay, you know what, Will? You're making me a little nervous just staring over my shoulder like that. L-let's put on some music. How about that? Get in the zone a bit. (Mumbling) make this a little less awkward.

Clicking on a stereo

JON (FURTHER AWAY)

What cds did this last guy have?

Song plays for a moment

JON

Why is it that every doctor likes classical music to operate to? I'd rather listen to whatever middle of the woods radio station we have out here.

Click

(Strange radio sounds - someone mumbling something about the factory. It then becomes un-staticed and back to normal.

RADIO GUY

And now back to the music. Coming in on the top hits this month, it's Monplaisir with Vestiaire.

JON

This'll work. Not too bad, huh? I'd ask what type of music you like, but... ya know... Oh, good, you're nodding now. Great. That's not creepy at all.

Chair scoots back in

JON (cont'd)

Now, let's get these bone fragments out of you and reattach your head, huh, Will?

Squishing sounds. Dropping bone into metal dish.

JON (cont'd)

I've really got to stop addressing the bodies, too.

More working sounds

JON (cont'd)  
And here...we...go. Back on.

WILL  
Thanks. Finally!

JON  
Ah jesus!

WILL  
Sorry doc. Didn't mean to scare  
you.

JON  
I just didn't expect you to be  
so... Loud. You couldn't speak?  
Music stops

WILL  
Nope. Not til you put my head back  
on it seems.

JON  
That's... Unusual.

WILL  
It doesn't always work like that?

JON  
Not at all. Your body shouldn't  
affect you as a ghost...

WILL  
Is that what I am? I was wondering  
why my body was on the table...  
Thought it might be a stunt double  
or something. Thought I woke up in  
a movie or something. Invasion of  
the body snatchers.

JON  
Unfortunately, no. It's more a  
nightmare than a movie.

WILL  
Being dead?

JON  
I meant for me... But I'm sure It's  
not great for you.

WILL

Uh... Thanks for your compassion?  
It's not my fault I showed up here.

JON

True... But being alone would have  
been a nice change of pace to be  
alone.

WILL

I can stop talking if you want.  
Don't let me rain on your parade.

JON

Sorry. I mean, you seem like a nice  
enough person. I'm just a bit...  
Tense.

WILL

Try being decapitated.

JON

Do you remember how it happened?

WILL

Can I ask you a question first?

JON

Uhh, sure.

WILL

You always talk to the dead?

JON

At least once a week.

WILL

Seems like you need to get out  
more.

JON

I'm more well off than you. Thanks  
for your concern.

WILL

Ha. You've got me there. At least  
you're alive, right?

JON

Let's just say I've had a bad run  
when it comes to ghosts recently.

WILL

Maybe it's because you start off so grumpy.

JON (SIGH)

Do you remember what happened?

WILL

Right to business, huh? Fine. One moment I've got the wind blowing in my hair, driving down the road in my corvette. The next, I'm being wheeled into here, unable to talk.

JON

You were wearing a scarf. Looks like the paramedics cut it off you. I'm seeing some red fibers in the exposed tissue.

WILL

I'd call it a convertible driving-ascot, but yeah. Why?

JON

Well, if I can read the chicken scratch on these notes, the officers on the scene assumed the scarf got caught in the steering wheel and nearly "yanked his head clean off." Great policework.

WILL

Y'ouch! Glad it killed me quickly.

JON

You're an odd one, you know that?

WILL

How so?

JON

Shouldn't you be... I don't know... Sad to be dead?

WILL

Yeah, see. I thought that was weird too. I felt... Really at peace once I woke up here. Or... Didn't wake up, I guess.

JON

Strange. Did you want to die?

WILL

Not at all! Actually, if we're being completely honest - and there's no reason not to be right now, since you're literally the only one around who can hear me - I was kind of terrified of dying.

JON

And now you're... At peace with it? You're not pissed off or regretting anything?

WILL

Nope. Not really.

JON

Definitely a rare occurrence.

WILL

Heh. I just turned 56 last weekend. Bought that corvette with the money I should've been saving. Ditched work early to go on a little road trip with the love of my life, and... Next thing you know.

JON

Sounds like a mid-life crisis gone wrong.

WILL

Hey, no sense in worrying about death now. At least I went out having fun.

JON

So it was... Worth it?

WILL

Maybe. Too early to tell.

JON

Well you let me know as soon as you make that judgement call, okay?

WILL

So I can stick around?

JON

For a few days should be fine.  
Maybe finish any "unfinished  
business."

WILL

Maybe see my kids.

JON

There ya go.

WILL

Make me look decent for the  
funeral, will you, doc? Can't have  
my wife thinking I look awful the  
last time she sees me. Say. I  
didn't catch your name.

JON

Spacer.

WILL

Odd first name.

JON

It's Jon... And it's hard to look  
any worse than you did a minute  
ago. I'm sure your wife won't be  
thinking that as the last time she  
sees you.

WILL

Heh. You don't know my wife.

JON

I'd say having your head reattached  
is a solid first step at least.

WILL

Aha! A joke. Look at that! Listen,  
kid, take it from me - it's not  
worth being unhappy your whole  
life. You're young still. Enjoy  
your 30s and 40s. You have kids?

JON

I don't.

WILL

Don't have kids! They ruin  
everything. I had a great marriage  
before kids. Great sex. We'd  
travel. Decent job. It was  
fantastic. You married, doc?

JON

No. But can we not talk about me, please? I need information about you-

WILL

See, everyone lies to you. Old dudes like me always used to say "don't get married." But that's not the thing. Marriage is great. It's the kids that ruin it.

JON

Mmm. Ah, this isn't about me anyway. Didn't you say you missed your kids?

WILL

The kids end up driving you apart. You bicker when you talk, if you even get to talk. Your love life completely stops. Then you have to worry about more bills, food, college funds. I had to get a second job.

JON

And yet you spent the money on a car.

WILL

I did. Speaking of - You think my wife will be able to sell it back, even with all my blood and crap on it?

JON

It's nice you're worried about your wife's financial wellbeing, but I have no idea.

WILL

Ahaha, no way. You got it all wrong. I don't want her to get a cent back.

JON

Wait. What?

WILL

Oh yeah... No way. I hate that woman.

JON

Oookay. . Either way, the car got smashed into a tree. Look at the photos.

WILL

Smashed into a tree...?

JON

You must've kept your foot on the pedal even after you died.

WILL

Wow... Look at that.

JON

Yeah. But you were already dead by the point of impact.

WILL

Did they find anyone else?

JON

No. You said you were about to pick up your wife?

WILL

Oh god no. I said "the love of my life."

JON

Which... At this point, I'm guessing meant it wasn't your wife.

WILL

Not at all. It was my receptionist, Candice.

JON

Of course it was.

WILL

And, Doc, I wasn't the one driving....

JON

You weren't?

WILL

No. It was Candice. We were out for a joyride. SHE was driving us. I was in the passanger seat.

JON

That can't be possible. The paramedics found you in the driver's side.

WILL

What? What's that mean?

JON

Hold on.  
Wheely chair moving. Metal running across skin.

WILL

What are you doing?

JON

I'm tracing the bruising pattern on your sternum.

WILL

What? Why?

JON

You see this big bruise in the middle of your chest?

WILL

Yeah...

JON

Well these happen when a seatbelt is yanked across you, hard. Usually in a car accident, you might get some severe bruising, but a seatbelt will keep you alive.

WILL

Not in this case...

JON

Trust me. Extenuating circumstances. But look. The central bruising occurs at the point of highest impact - the broadest part of your chest. But after, you get radial bruising in the line where the seatbelt was... Here. It's very faint. Look.

WILL

It's a bruise across my right shoulder.

JON

Exactly. Indicating that you WERE in the passenger side when your head came off.

WILL

What a visual. But yeah... I just told you I was.

JON

You'd be surprised how many dead people have been trying to lie to me recently.

WILL

So wait. Candice wasn't brought into the ER?

JON

The report says no one else was on the scene when they found your body.

WILL

I don't understand. What happened?

JON

If the bruising on your chest was from the right side... It means she drove the car into a tree and then moved your body into the driver's side to make it look like you were driving.

WILL

Wow... And here I told her I'd leave my wife for her.

JON

We need to call someone.

WILL

I wasn't really going to leave my wife for her anyway, but I mean, she didn't know that and she still tried to cover up my death! What are you doing?

JON

Calling the hospital.

WILL

Why?

JON

Cause - hold on. Hi; It's Jon  
Spacer from the morgue downstairs.  
I need someone to Check the E.R.  
for a woman named Candice...

WILL (FAR AWAY)

Breks.

JON

Candice Breks. She would've come in  
with some sort of bruising or  
car-accident style injuries. Can  
you see if she has a chart there?  
Great. Yeah.

WILL

Do you think she went in?

JON

With this bruising on you, I'm sure  
she's at least there for something.  
(Pause) Yeah I'm here. She's there?  
Fantastic. Keep her there. I  
appreciate it.

Phone hanging up. Dialing again

WILL

Now who are you calling?

JON (FURTHER AWAY)

Calling the Sheriff. Damn. I got  
her voicemail. Hey, Crowley. It's  
Jon. Listen: The decapitation  
victim - He wasn't driving. He's  
got seatbelt bruising starting at  
his top right shoulder. He was in  
the passanger seat. I'm sure there  
was someone else driving. I've  
called the hospital and they have a  
Candice Breks in the ER with  
brusing and trauma mirroring a car  
accident. She was our vic's  
secretary. My guess is she was  
driving and fled the scene. Not to  
do your job for you, but that's  
what I got on my end. Give me a  
call back when you can.

WILL

Wow. I can't believe she left me  
for dead.

JON

Any idea why?

WILL

What do you mean?

JON

Well, if she moved a dead body and  
crashed into a tree, she must have  
some pretty convincing reason to  
not want to be on the scene.

WILL

The affair?

JON

Was she married?

WILL

No, what do I look like, a  
homewrecker?

JON

Uhh.. Any past criminal records?

WILL

I would've found them when I was  
hiring her.

JON

I wonder why though.

WILL

Is this what you get to do all day?  
Solve crimes?

JON

Oh... Sort of. I mean... I'm  
supposed to just be gathering  
evidence. Sheriff Crowley is the  
one whose supposed to come to the  
conclusions.

WILL

You just can't help yourself,  
though, huh?

JON

What?

WILL

I mean, look at you. You're practically beaming right now. No more grumpy Gus.

JON

Shut up.

WILL

You love this crap.

JON

I don't say this lightly, but... I couldn't have done this without you, Will. And I think the cops would've missed it too - they didn't even try to check the wheels any further. They would've seen the scarf fragments.

WILL

In fairness, I was very dead.

JON

Hah. And now Candice is very busted.

WILL

Ayy, jokes now, too? Who is this new doctor?

JON

I feel... Good right now.

WILL

Say. Is this the craziest case you've ever seen?

JON

Not by a long shot.

WILL (DISAPPOINTED)

Oh, damn.

JON

But you are the first skull I've had to reattach post-mortem.

WILL

Now that's what I'm talking about!  
What else do you have to do to me?

JON

First I've gotta make sure your  
head doesn't come back off when we  
move you to a coffin. Clean off  
some blood. Maybe make you smell a  
little better.

WILL

Some cologne?

JON

Embalming fluid. Slows the rate of  
decay.

WILL

Gross. (Long pause) Man. I can't  
believe I'm dead. Is this what it  
always feels like?

JON

I've never really asked. What does  
it feel like to you?

WILL

Kind of... Calm. It doesn't feel a  
lot like anything. Maybe a bit  
cold.

JON

For what it's worth, I have heard  
that before.

WILL

What do I do now? How's this  
usually work? Do we hang out, or  
what?

JON

Ha. Most of the spirits just kind  
of... Go.

WILL

Go?

JON

Like move on.

WILL  
To an afterlife?

JON  
I have no idea, really.

WILL  
Ah. Do any of them stick around?

JON  
Some do. It takes different times for everyone to come to terms with their own death. I've heard of a ghost sticking around for a few years, but... It's hard.

WILL  
Ha. I don't know about years, but a few days might be nice.

JON  
I'm sure your funeral will be soon. Why not go check in on your family until then?

WILL  
I think I'll skip the funeral, actually. Seeing yourself lying there is a weird feeling. But I'll definitely go see my family for a bit.

JON  
Sure.

WILL  
Hey Doc, before I go: Are there other people like you?

JON  
I don't-

WILL  
I'm only asking cause... I mean... Is there... Any chance my kids could see me?

JON  
I don't think so. I'm sorry, Will.  
Phone starts ringing

WILL  
Gotcha. Well. Nice meeting you.

JON  
Hey, Hold on a second

WILL  
Yeah?

JON  
For what it's worth, I realized I  
could see ghosts as a kid, too. In  
a very similar situation. So...  
It's not out of the question. Who  
knows.

WILL  
Thanks, doc.  
Jon answers phone

JON  
Hello, Crowley?

SHERIFF (ON PHONE)  
Get your ass to the ER. We've got  
bodies coming in.  
Music clicks back on

(Outro)