

Intro

The clock ticks softly. People fidget

PHD

You're awfully quiet today.

JON

I have a lot on my mind.

PHD

Anything you care to share?

JON

No.

PHD

Are you feeling okay?

JON

Are you? You don't look so great.

PHD

I'm coming down with something.

JON

Take a sick day.

PHD

I'm not that sick.

JON

Take a sick day anyway. Let's just
both head out now.

PHD

Very funny, Jonathan.

JON

It's flu season.

PHD

Have you spoken with Amelia
recently?

JON

No.

PHD

Are you okay with that?

JON

Why wouldn't I be?

PHD
She was someone close to you.

JON
And now she's not.

PHD
And how has that affected you?

JON
It hasn't.

PHD
Have you cried?

JON
How can I answer that? If I have
cried, it's effected me and you'll
want to talk about it. If I haven't
cried, I'm not dealing with it, and
you'll want to talk to me about it.
Which answer gets us to move on?

PHD
It's something we should talk
about.

JON
Fine. No, I haven't cried because
I'm not upset. I'm not avoiding
dealing with emotions - there just
aren't any to deal with.

PHD
So she didn't mean anything to you.

JON
I don't know what she meant.

PHD
Did she make you happy?

JON
She was a distraction.

PHD
Distraction from what?

JON
When she and I started seeing each
other, it was right after I'd
screwed up a case.

PHD
So you sought some comfort in
another person after you made a
mistake. Interesting.

JON
Don't say that.

PHD
Say what?

JON
"Interesting" like that. I know it
just means you want to say
something, so say it.

PHD
Which case was it?

JON
A few months ago, a farmer was
killed.

PHD
Ah, yes. Sherrif Fran gave me
copies of the closed case files.
She suspected it was an accident,
which it was. I'm guessing you
suspected... Murder? (Pause) That's
what I thought. You see foul play
in everything, don't you? Why do
you think that is?

JON
Because there is always foul play.

PHD
Just not in that case.

JON
Not in that one, no.

PHD
You're from Baltimore, correct? I'd
imagine foul play is pretty common
with deaths in the city.

JON
It's just different.

PHD
So you were wrong. It didn't impact
the case's outcome. Why were you so
upset?

JON
I don't like to be wrong.

PHD
Does it happen so infrequently?

JON
...No.

PHD
So why this one specifically? What was the significance for you?

JON
I don't know.

PHD
Could it be that the last body part you found left a case open, and you were trying to redeem yourself?

JON
I thought Crowley only gave you the closed case files.

PHD
Everyone's heard about Stephen Maur. That was the talk of the town for months. Until your incident.

JON
We never found his body. I couldn't do anything else on that case.

PHD
Fine, fine. We'll move on. If Amelia didn't make you feel better after your initial mistake, then what did?

JON
Nothing. I was wrong about the case, but figured something else out about another.

PHD
About the purple bodies?

JO
Yes.

PHD

What's making you so obsessed with those cases?

JON

There's a mystery. Something that someone has gotten away with for years, and I've discovered it. I'm going to find out who's behind it.

PHD

Even though Sheriff Fran had repeatedly said that there wasn't a case there?

JON

She believes me now.

PHD

Does she? Very intertesting.

JON

There's that word again.

PHD

Other than solving cases, what makes you happy?

JON

Proving people wrong.

PHD

Surely there's something else in your life. You should find something outside of your work that brings you joy

JON

Joy?

PHD

Yes. True bliss, happiness, a feeling of freedom from anxieties. Joy.

JON

I don't know.

PHD

I'd like to bring up a topic that I think will be difficult for you.

JON

As opposed to the ease of the rest
of our meetings?

PHD

Medication.

JON

I'm not on any medication. I
stopped taking ibuprofen weeks ago.

PHD

I'm talking about medication you're
not on. I'd like to suggest trying
a low dose anti-anxiety
prescription.

JON

No thanks.

PHD

You won't be a zombie or anything.
These would be the right mixture
for your body, just to reduce the
amount of stress and negative
emotion you place on yourself.

JON

I'm well aware of how they work.

PHD

Ah, yes. You were on Fluoxetine for
quite some time in your past,
right? Ages... Fourteen to
eighteen?

JON

And then Emsam, for panic disorder.

PHD

And then?

JON

And then I stopped.

PHD

Were they ineffective? (Coughs)
Excuse me.

JON

They weren't treating the right
problem.

PHD
What was the right problem to
treat?

JON
I don't know.

PHD
But you do know they weren't
treating it?

JON
My therapist back then just wanted
to numb me out.

PHD
Of a past trauma?

JON
Do you have something you want to
ask me?

PHD
Do you have something you wanted to
tell?

JON
Depends what you got out of my
patient file.

PHD
We don't need to discuss-

JON
We do need to discuss it. Either
you know the whole story, or you
don't.

PHD
I'd like to hear it from you.

JON
Give me a hint.

PHD
Fine. I received your medical
history paperwork, but nothing
else. No notes from any previous
therapists.

JON
So that means you're inferring that
I experienced some trauma based on
my previous medications.

PHD

And on your recent actions here. It doesn't take much to pick up on queues when you get anxious. Did you experience some trauma?

JON

I'm sure you did your research. That part is public.

PHD

I did... But I want to hear it from you.

JON

Which is not going to happen.

PHD

Why not? It's important for me to know how you interpret what you went through.

JON

I interpreted it as a terrible situation for a kid to experience. That's it.

PHD

And that's how you've dealt with this?

JON

I get it. I'm broken.

PHD

I didn't say that.

JON

It's been implied since our first session. Since Crowley mandated it.

PHD

Therapy isn't about fixing what's broken. It's about growing and healing.

JON

Okay. Healing what's broken.

PHD (RESOLVED)

Have you been working on how you react to people, like we discussed?

JON
Yes. Can't you tell?

PHD
You were showing improvement.
What's changed?

JON
I learned something new.

PHD
Care to share?

JON
No.
Water pouring

PHD
My throat is bothering me. Would
you like something to drink?

JON
I'm fine.

PHD
I learned a lot of new things too,
by the way.
Phd gets up and plays the recording.

PHD (cont'd)
Can I play something for you?

JON
Can I say no?

PHD
Heh. I'm going to play it anyway.
Let's take a listen. (Pause) I'm
sure you'll recognize it.
Recording from jon and curtis plays a bit in the background.

JON
Why are you playing this?

PHD
Because we need to talk about this
day, Jonathan. We've been dancing
around it.

JON
Well, let's keep dancing.

PHD
You dropped off this tape
purposefully.

JON
Uhhh...

PHD
So you must have wanted to talk
about it, right?

JON
No... I thought it might just be
what you wanted to hear.

PHD
Why is that?

JON
Why did I think you wanted to hear
it, or why did I drop it off?

PHD
Both.

JON
I... Dropped it off because I
thought hearing how the actual
situation with Curtis went down
might change your opinion of me...

PHD
Why?

JON
What do you mean why? I'm afraid in
this recording. I'm trying to live.
It's like watching a video of a
mugging.

PHD
Did you share it with Sheriff Fran?

JON
No. But I didn't know I had it. I
wasn't even aware the microphone
was on during it.

PHD
So you discovered evidence to help
clear your name, according to you,
but then you decided to not share
it with the police, but rather with
me first.

JON

Uhh... You are the one clearing my name.

PHD

To work. Not legally. Your case is still open, correct?

JON

Technically.

PHD

I'm going to have to share this with Fran.

JON

That's fine.

PHD

It's okay to be upset while listening to this. I'm sure it's hard to hear.

Clip continues to play

PHD (cont'd)

Have you had any anxiety from going down in the lab?

JON

No.

PHD

No increase in heart rate when you open the door, or dread about coming in to work?

JON

No.

PHD

That's good.

JON

Fantastic. So why does it sound like you don't believe me.

PHD

Because whether you want to admit it or not, this was a traumatic event. And trauma affects us.

JON

Do you have any tissues? I'm going to tear up.

PHD

I do. But I don't like to give them to my patients unless they really need them.

JON

I thought handing over tissues was exactly what therapists did.

PHD

No. That's something you only see on TV. Real counselors know that by handing you a tissue when you start to cry, I'm essentially saying you should clean that up, and stop. And that's the opposite of what we want.

JON

I wasn't really asking.

PHD

I know. (Pause) Can you tell me about this bit?

JON

What "bit"?

PHD

Here.

(Recorded section of John tricking Curtis)

JON

He was paranoid and delusional.

PHD

And he thought the dead woman was-

JON

Becca.

PHD

Right. Is that a sensitive area for you? The naming of the victims.

JON

It is now. It's her name.

PHD

You mean, was, her name, right?
 (Pause) You tricked Curtis
 perfectly here. You said Becca was
 still alive in the room.

JON

I was feeding into his delusion.
 Like a hostage who plays along with
 the captor.

PHD

It was quick thinking.

JON

It was what saved me.

PHD

And gave you the chance to strike.

JON

Like I said... It was what saved
 me.

PHD

On which stab were you safe? The
 first. The second... The eighth? Do
 you want to listen?

JON

No.
 Stabbing section plays

PHD

Do you regret what you did?

JON

If I say yes, can I go back to
 work?

PHD

Most likely. If we continue working
 on your anger.

JON

I don't...

PHD

Why not?

JON

Because.

PHD

Please go on. (Pause) I'm trying to help you, Jonathan.

JON

I've heard that before.

PHD

Well you haven't heard it from me.

JON

I feel like I should have.

PHD

You know what I mean. Please continue. Why do you not regret what happened?

JON

I didn't say I didn't regret what happened. I said I'm not sure if I regret what *I* did. I defended myself. I saved myself in a moment of fear.

PHD

And you killed someone.

JON

I had to.

PHD

Did you think stabbing him was necessary?

JON

I& I think so.

PHD

How about stabbing him nine times? Was that necessary to survive? (Pause) Let me ask another way: you don't regret what you did. Do you think you could have handled it differently. How it played out?

JON

I'm not going to live in what ifs. Next time you're face to face with a person with a gun pointed at you, let's see how well you can talk them off a bridge.

Crowley saves jon on the recording

PHD

Were you aware that Sheriff Fran was the one who saved you?

JON

Not until recently.

PHD

Has that changed your relationship at all? You mentioned she believes you about the purple bodies.

JON

That's because there's actually a killer.

PHD

Or she now feels closer to you and wants to help.

JON

She signed me up for these damn sessions.

PHD

Because the other option was to fire you outright and keep you unemployed in Springfield until your court date. You should consider this a favor.

JON

Great. Now I owe her two...

PHD

Have you noticed that you're more cordial with her as well?

JON

Yeah, but that's because she...

PHD

Have you been having trouble sleeping?

JON

I barely slept before.

PHD

Does that mean you're not sleeping now? (Long pause) Jonathan, anxiety and Guilt are all normal emotional responses. (Sighing) Fine. We can

(MORE)

PHD (cont'd)
try something else. How were you
sleep habits and stress levels
after your father killed your
mother.

JON
Fucking wowwww. Is this how
therapy is supposed to be helpful?
You're saying that what I did was a
byproduct of experiencing a death
as a child?

PHD
You seem so nonchalant about this
one, that I can only assume that
you deem your mother's death
equally inconsequential.

JON
She was NOT inconsequential.

PHD
There you go. Let it out. Do you
want to yell at me?

JON
Yes.

PHD
What's stopping you?

JON
A favor.
Another glass of water is poured.

PHD
Anything to drink now?

JON
Still fine.

PHD (FINISHING UP THE WATER)
Ahh. (Pause) Did you see your
father kill your mother?

JON (LONG PAUSE, THROUGH GRITTED TEETH)
No.

PHD
Did you see anything else?

JON

What else would there be to see?

PHD

You tell me, Jonathan.

Long pause. Clock ticking.

JON

I walked in on them. He was roughing her up, but I didn't get the sense that he would...

PHD

Kill her?

JON

Yes.

PHD

Do you blame yourself?

JON

Why would I blame myself?

PHD

No reason.

JON

You're asking for a reason.

PHD

Fine. You said your father didn't look homicidal at the time. So to me, that means that somewhere deep down, you think your interaction with them prior to your mother's death may have been the catalyst for increasing your father's rage.

JON

Gee. You got all of that out of a single comment?

PHD

Just like you glean information from a particulate, and Fran finds an inconsistency in a perpetrator's alibi.

JON

So now you're a detective for emotional baggage? I'm sure Crowley would love the metaphor.

PHD
Jokes aside, you can't blame
yourself for what happened.

JON
I don't.

PHD
You saw physical abuse as a child.

JON
And experienced it after she died.

PHD
So then you've got to see how
that's affected your personal
relationships. With Amelia, with
Fran, and even with... The dead.

JON
What? What do you mean?

PHD
I'm referring to Curtis. But also
to your profession.

JON
Oh...

PHD
You killed someone, and refuse to
let it affect you. Your mother
died, and you refuse to admit it
affected you. You chose forensic
pathology as a profession. You
chose to surround yourself with
death. Even if you'd always wanted
to become a doctor, there were
plenty of specialties where you
could have helped people, prevented
death, made people happy.

JON
Like psychology?

PHD
Why did you choose to stick
yourself in a dark lab, working
with the dead. What made you do
that

JON
I don't know.

PHD
Finish this sentence. I choose
pathology because I...

JON
What do you want me to say?

PHD
Do you feel like you deserve to
work alone in the dark? Is a lab
the only place you feel you're
worth?

JON
Are you saying pathologists are
undervalued, because if I do end up
getting approved to stay, I'd be up
for a raise.

PHD
Are you chasing after ghosts here,
trying to find the answer of your
mother's death, through solving
others?

JON
Is this really supposed to work?
You just pose one theory after
another at me until, I, what? Snap
and tell you the truth, or run out
of witty comments?

PHD
There doesn't seem to be a chance
of that last one.

JON
Yeah. Not likely.

PHD
I'm trying to find meaning in your
life, Jonathan. Meaning that I'm
sure you know, but would be helpful
for you to hear.

JON
I know my meaning.

PHD

Then what is it?

JON

If I already know it, then why does it matter to you?

PHD

Because I need you to express it. You've got rage inside you. You've got sadness and shame. And you're only expressing one of those.

JON

I don't-

PHD

Your meaning is to make a difference. To solve crime to prevent future ones. Am I right? (Pause) That's what I was trying to get you to say. You need to say it aloud. You need to acknowledge your current position. Because you've failed, Jonathan. YOU failed in your mission by killing someone. And that hurts you. So you lash out. ...But it's okay. You need to realize that failing is okay.

Knock at the door

RECEPTIONIST

Doctor Kim. Can I talk to you for a second?

PHD

Is it urgent? We're in the middle of-

RECEPTIONIST

I wouldn't be interrupting if it wasn't.

PHD

Okay. (Pause) Sure. Um. Jonathan, give me a minute?

RECEPTIONIST

Maybe five to ten...

PHD

Don't leave. Regardless of how much it seems like the perfect opportunity.

Door closes

JON

Pfft. I had a different opportunity
in mind.

Movement, shuffling, Jon is searching for something. He
starts thumbing through a file.

JON (cont'd)

You had to have notes from your
time at Springfield... Where are
they? I know they're not going to
be digitalized. Fucking sketchy
fucks didn't want any way for their
work to be tracked. Damn it. There's
a locked safe. That's probably
where they are. Hmmm... Wow. A
medication cabinet in the office?
That's odd. Lots of medications...
Chemo bags and pill bottles...
There are some old patient files in
the cabinet here. Wow... Very old.
I see Ray and Mike Melba... Alex
Mendez... That could be
interesting. Nothing on the Bubble
or the actual project at
Springfield. Just a bunch of -
wait. Roger Benhoff? That's R.B.
the pathologist before me...
(Reading). Distrusting...
Self-destructive tendencies...
Benhoff showed hesitation toward
doing what needed to be done.
Reluctancy to sign off paperwork
and increasing feelings of anxiety
and guilt. Prescribed
anti-depressants What the fuck...
There's a note attached: "Stop the
leak." Underlined. There's an
obituary under, titled Roger
Benhoff's "suicide"... in air
quotes.

Door opens

RECEPTIONIST

What are you doing?

JON

Is Kim coming back?

RECEPTIONIST

Is that a patient file?

JON

How long have you known her?

RECEPTIONIST

You need to leave. Doctor Kim is stuck with a patient in the psych wing, and they won't be back before the end of your session.

JON

Of course they won't. Can't have any more whistle blowers in the psych wing.

RECEPTIONIST

Excuse me?

JON

Nothing. Tell Kim I'll be back.