

Someone dragging a body in the woods. They dump it.
Intro
Phone rings

JON
Hello?

CROWLEY (ON PHONE)
SPACER!

JON
What?

CROWLEY
I almost hate to tell you this...
We found a purple body.

JON
Another heavily decomposed person?

CROWLEY
No... Well, yeah. Definitely looks
like it's been here a while, but
it's purple and bloated... Like the
old case files.

JON
You've got to be shitting me.

CROWLEY
There's an ambulance leaving in
five to head here. Make sure you're
on it.

JON
I can do that.

CROWLEY
Good.

JON
Crowley, did you take my...
Nevermind. I'm on my way.
Hangs up. Door opens. Jon is startled.

JON (cont'd)
Sheesh. Curtis. Why are you here?

CURTIS
Jon.

JON

Out of the way. I need to catch an ambulance.

CURTIS

I don't want to burden you, but I-

JON

Move. I don't want to walk through you.

CURTIS

It's just...

JON

Ugh.
Jon starts walking.

CURTIS

Wait! I need to talk to you.

JON

Please stop. I don't care what you have to say.

CURTIS

You will.

EMT

Doctor Spacer, we're about to leave.

JON (TO EMT)

I'm all set. Is Amelia coming?

EMT

She's off today. Here. Hop in the back. Will you be okay alone?

JON (MUMBLING)

I wish.
Doors close. Siren starts. They drive

CURTIS

Jon...

JON (WHISPERING)

Curtis, I'm just biding my time until you can't stand to exist any more.

CURTIS

Are you going to forget me, forget me when I'm gone?

JON

Yes, Curtis - After you move on, and my hip heals, I'm never going to think about you again.

CURTIS

Even if-

JON

It makes sense why you're sticking around now. Killers get off on seeing their victims again, huh?

CURTIS

What? After all this time, you still think I killed them?

JON

I'm done with you.

CURTIS (YELLING)

I know who the killer is.

JON

Because it's not you?

CURTIS

No. It's not.

JON

Okay then. Who did it?

CURTIS

You know... For months now, all I've wanted to do is talk-talk-talk to you. But you never wanted to listen. Now that I have the power-

JON

Nevermind. You've been losing your mind for two months. That's for damn sure.

CURTIS

You don't know what it's like. To be alone, unable to feel ANYTHING. It's miserable. I can't even feel the space around me. It's like I'm-

JON
Are you lying to me just so I'll
listen to you complain?

CURTIS
You know what? Fine. You'll regret
trying to get rid of me.

JIN
Why's that?

CURTIS
Because I'm going to grant your
wish. I'm going to move on. Without
telling you who the killer is. Then
you'll never forget me.

JON
Good. Bye.

CURTIS
I hope you never catch her.

JON
Wait. Her?
Long silence. Pound on the door.

EMT:
We're here.
Emergency sirens Stop and doors open and close.

CROWLEY (DISTANT)
Over here!

JON
Where are we?

CROWLEY
On the side of route 83.

JON
"You are now entering Springfield."
I remember this road...

CROWLEY
You should've turned around.

JON
Funny. Where's the body?

CROWLEY
You were the one who started the
small talk. Off the side of the
(MORE)

CROWLEY (cont'd)
ditch down here. You know...
Surrounded by all this crime scene
tape.

JON
You're just abandoning all pretense
of us getting along, huh?

CROWLEY
Come on.

JON
We're pretty far in... No way you
could see something from the road.
How did someone find the body?

CROWLEY
Guy named Greg Casa who called it
in. Says he went to go take a leak
in the woods, but...

JON
Back this far?

CROWLEY
Yeah... I don't like it either. So
I don't know whether he knew the
body was here, or he put the body
here...

JON
Creepy... But then why call it in?

CROWLEY
Who knows. But if you can get ToD,
we can answer that quickly.

JON
If the body really is the same kind
as the others, time of death is
going to be hard to confirm out
here.

CROWLEY
Hmph. That's what I figured.

JON
Then why call me if I'm just going
to need to look at it back in the
lab?

CROWLEY

With how weird you are about these?
If I didn't tell you, you'd be
pissed. Or accuse me of tampering
with evidence again.

JON

Look, I'm sorry. I just want to get
to the bottom of this. Especially
if it really is something. I never
meant to -

CROWLEY

Here.

JON

Geez. You didn't mention that it...

CROWLEY

Yep. It's missing a head.

JON

Why didn't you say anything on the
phone?

CROWLEY

I mention a purple body missing a
head and you instantly jump to
Stephen Maur from last year.

JON

Well I mean... Maybe... But this is
a woman's body.

CROWLEY

She's also missing fingertips.
That, plus the head, are probably
to prevent us from ID'ing.

JON

And she's covered in leaves.

CROWLEY

Exactly. Which means that whoever
put her here didn't want her to be
found.

JON

That's weird... The other bodies
weren't hidden at all. Two were out
in the open.

CROWLEY

Yup. They're embarrassed about this one. Or afraid. If this was their first kill, it could've been someone they knew or someone who was a stand in for their type of victim. Most serial killers are sloppy like that, especially early on.

JON

This is another woman.

CROWLEY

That's two men and two women, right?

JON

Right. You've been studying up on the past cases?

CROWLEY

I was never ignoring them. It's just... There was another case taking precedent.

JON

And now?

CROWLEY

It's still ongoing.

JON

Did anything you notice on these point to Curtis?

CROWLEY

Not at first.

JON

Well what was first? An unlucky case of Shock sickness?

CROWLEY

Storm Shock.

JON

Right. It decays a body like this?

CROWLEY

No idea. I've only seen it before it kills people.

JON
Your son...?

CROWLEY
If you want to know the medical
part, ask someone from the
hospital.

JON
...sorry.

MENDEZ (DISTANCE)
Boss lady and super doc. Back to
look at the body.

CROWLEY
Mendez.

JON
Hey.

MENDEZ
Cheery bunch as usual.

CROWLEY
What's up?

MENDEZ
I got a confession from the creepy
dude.

JON
He confessed to killing her?

MENDEZ
Nah. He did confess to finding her
and moving some of the leaves.

JON
So we'll find some DNA of his on
her, I'm sure...

CROWLEY
We found her mostly like this. None
of my guys touched the body, but we
did comb the scene around here.

MENDEZ
We also got some drag marks from
the road down to here. You probably
saw the markers.

CROWLEY

Spacer, if you can take a look and give us an estimate to how old those are.

JON

The tracks? Sure.

MENDEZ

Right behind you a few steps.

CROWLEY

Watch the -

JON

I know. I know.

MENDEZ

Greg's a skinny dude, and dead bodies are heavy. It's possible he had to drag here here.

CROWLEY

Yeah but why here? Why in the middle of the woods in a shallow gave?

JON

They don't look... Recent. But that's about all I can tell.

CROWLEY

Well how recent is recent?

JON

I would need to look at the sediment...

CROWLEY

A guess, Spacer.

JON

A few weeks old, maybe.

CROWLEY

And when did Greg say he found her?

MENDEZ

Today.

CROWLEY

First time?

MENDEZ

Yep.

JON

And do you believe that?

CROWLEY

Maybe.

JON

What are you thinking?

CROWLEY

I'm thinking what I'm thinking.

JON

Please don't start this again. This body clearly isn't here by accident.

MENDEZ

She could have been out for a run when she collapsed.

CROWLEY

Into a ditch about the same size as her body?

MENDEZ

I'm just offering theories.

CROWLEY

She's not even wearing shoes.

MENDEZ

Because her feet are so swollen.

JON

Let me see.

CROWLEY

A shallow grave, drag marks, and a piss poor job of covering up the body..

MENDEZ

Plus no shoes.

CROWLEY

It all points to a rush job. Like whoever did this was in a hurry.

JON
Patichial hemorrhages.

MENDEZ
What?

JON
Small patches of blood under her skin from internal bleeding. Look at her leg. It's not completely purple.

CROWLEY
What does that mean?

JON
It looks like the same type of death, but inconsistent.

MENDEZ
Cryptic. I like it.

JON
Well, from what I can see here, here right arm and all of her stomach are very bloated... But if you look at her left at least from what's sticking out...

CROWLEY
It's not as stretched.

JON
Yeah. I'm not sure what that means yet, but it could be a new clue.

MENDEZ
Another clue that points to this being a rush killing.

JON
You don't think this was an accident any more?

CROWLEY
I never thought it was an accident. It was either storm shock or Curtis.

MENDEZ
Plus, we've been kind of dealing with another big issue around here...

JON

And now?

CROWLEY

Now it's either an old body, and still Curtis... Or...

MENDEZ

Or a killer that's still out there.

CURTIS

Knock it off.

JON

Is that how this works? You just go from one theory to the other?

MENDEZ

When one fits.

JON

I had one that fit months ago.

CROWLEY

You had Curtis as your prime suspect. And he's dead, so until you prove time of death, there's no proof it's not him.

JON

And if someone else goes missing?

MENDEZ

Then it obviously isn't Curtis.

JON

And more people die because you don't believe me.

CROWLEY

There wasn't anything to do then.

JON

You could have looked into it. You could've not cremated potential evidence.

CROWLEY

Mendez, do you mind?

MENDEZ

Sure thing, boss.

CROWLEY

Spacer, I am not the bad guy. But if you want to argue with me or accuse me of fucking up, then you do it one on one. Do not do it in front of my team.

JON

Don't want to look like you're bad at your job?

CROWLEY

I'm done fighting with you. There's so much shit going in this fucking town that no one knows what evidence belongs to what.

JON

And that's an excuse?

CROWLEY

No. It's not. But I won't be missing anything again. I believe you that this isn't a freak accident.

JON

Oh... Well good... Because Becca said that -

CROWLEY

What?

JON

What?

CROWLEY

You said Becca said...

JON

Yeah... As in, the evidence I got from her body... Told me...

CROWLEY

Like... They spoke to you.

JON

No. I misspoke. The evidence from Becca's body told me that she was held against her will.

CROWLEY

...sure. But that wasn't in any of your records.

JON

I didn't really have time to get much off of the body.

CROWLEY

And I was getting pressure to release the body to the family. We both screwed up here.

JON

Pressure from who?

CROWLEY

The hospital. (Pause) but don't go getting any crazy ideas.

JON

Like how the hospital could be involved in the cover up?

CROWLEY

You said it was the Sheriff's Department, too.

JON

You were in charge. You should have seen this, too.

CROWLEY

I wasn't the sheriff in 2014. I got promoted after. And that was a very shitty year.

JON

Right... But I think there's some sort of conspiracy going on around here.

CROWLEY

Are tinfoil hats contagious now?

JON

I'm serious. Even if you weren't involved, *someone* at the sheriff's Department knew. And they were working with someone named R. B. who signed off on these cases.

CROWLEY

Roger?

JON

You knew him?

CROWLEY

Of course I knew him. He was the pathologist right before you.

JON

And he's the one who signed the old case files.

CROWLEY

I'm sure it wasn't on purpose.

JON

Why?

CROWLEY

Because he wouldn't do anything like that.

JON

How well did you know him?

CROWLEY

Well enough.

JON

Mhmmm. Well what happened? I can't find anything on him.

CROWLEY

He... Killed himself. About 9 months before you started.

JON

Oh geez. I'm sorry.

CROWLEY

It's fine.

JON

Do you know...

CROWLEY

I have no idea. Maybe this place was too much for him. He was always nervous toward the end...

JON

Maybe he was pushed into signing those documents...

CROWLEY

You really do love crazy theories. But... Who knows. I didn't investigate it.

JON

Didn't you listen to my tapes?

CROWLEY

No, what tapes?

JON

The... Tapes. My tapes. My recordings of case files.

CROWLEY

I told you I didn't go through your office. For fuck's sake - we can't even go two minutes of a normal conversation without you accusing me of something?

JON

I'm sorry. I thought you took the tapes. They're missing.

CROWLEY

Wasn't me, Spacer. Find another scapegoat.

JON

The door was locked. Only you and I have keys. I just assumed you took them since you wanted to get me fired.

CROWLEY

Why would the tapes get you fired...?

JON

They... Wouldn't. It would just be a way to look for dirt or something. Prove I'm not doing my job.

CROWLEY

Ha. I have more than enough evidence for that, don't worry.

JON

Come on...

CROWLEY

It's not about getting you fired. Okay... It might have been at first. But other than that, it's about the disrespect and the overstepping.

JON

Yeah well maybe now that you start opening your eyes to what's really going on here...

Crowley grunts

JON (cont'd)

Sorry. I mean... Well I mean that, but I should have said now that we're coming together with thinking about these cases.

CROWLEY

And who says therapy doesn't work?

JON

Ugh. Don't remind me.

CROWLEY

But first: Time of death. Before we go agreeing on any time of killer or conspiracy, I need the proof. Do what you do. I'll do what I do.

JON

I can do that...

CROWLEY

Call me down here if you need anything.

JON

Uhh... Thanks. (Pause) Weird... Okay... Let's see what we've got... The first thing of note is obviously the missing head... The curf marks look smooth, just like the Stephen Maur case from last year... Whoever did this has both the tools and knowledge. She is fully clothed, at least where the clothes didn't rip due to the bloating... There are... Puncture

(MORE)

JON (cont'd)
wounds or some sort of track marks
on her arm. I'll have to ask her
about drug usage, if I can find
her...

JON (cont'd)
Is anyone here...? Please still be
here. I have no idea how long it's
been... They could've moved on a
long time ago. Damn it.
Shaking starts

JON (cont'd)
Oh my shit... Hello?

BIANCA
Hello? Are you talking to me?

JON
Yes, I am. Where are you?

BIANCA
I'm... I don't know.

JON
I can't see you...

BIANCA
I can't see you either.

JON
Wait, really? What do you see?

BIANCA
Nothing at all. I've been... Laying
here. I think I'm laying.

JON
Wait... Are you still... Inside
your body?

BIANCA
Is this a Hallucination, or a
dream? I'm not sure what you're
asking me.

JON
What's your name?

BIANCA
I'm Bianca... I think. Bianca
Matthews. Yeah.

JON

You couldn't remember?

BIANCA

It all feels... Fuzzy. Like I know a name but it doesn't feel like it was mine.

JON

Interesting... Bianca... I don't know how to tell you this, but... you are dead. I'm Jon, a pathologist with the sheriff's department. We found your body... Or... You in the middle of the woods.

BIANCA

The woods, huh?

JON

Yeah, off of route 83. Do you know how you got here?

BIANCA

Not a clue. So this isn't a nightmare after all...?

JON

I'm afraid not.

BIANCA

I guess I should've known that.

JON

Why?

BIANCA

I couldn't wake myself up. I can usually wake myself up from a dream. Especially one like this.

JON

Do you know how long you've been here?

BIANCA

Oh yeah... It's been forever.

JON

Years? Months?

BIANCA

Oh. No... I was being facetious.
It's been... Maybe a week or a week
and a half.

JON

Wait. Seriously?

BIANCA

Yeah. I thought I'd be trapped here
indefinitely.

JON

I'm kind of glad you stuck
around...

BIANCA

I had other options?

JON

To be honest... I'm not sure. You
said you're stuck?

BIANCA

I think so.

JON

Inside your body?

BIANCA

Where else should I be?

JON

Normally you appear nearby your
body as a ghost and you're free to
move around... And move on when
you're ready.

BIANCA

Well ain't that some shit.

JON

How sure are you about the time
you've been here?

BIANCA

Pretty sure. I mean... I started
counting at first, just because I
was bored. And I got a good feeling
about how long an hour was. Why?

JON

If it's really only been a week... Hell, even a few months means that Curtis didn't do this... Someone else did. Damn it... Was he telling the truth?

BIANCA

Curtis? Is that name supposed to mean anything to me?

JON

No. I... I don't think so. But could you tell me if any other names do sound familiar?

BIANCA

Sure.

JON

Becca Camden?

BIANCA

Hmmm... No. It's not ringing a bell.

JON

Jake Drazzer? Frank Reynolds?

BIANCA

Both of those. Why?

JON

How did you know them?

BIANCA

Hmm... It's right there... On the tip of my tongue... I knew them years ago, I think. I went to... High school with Jake.

JON

Really? What about Frank?

BIANCA

He was... Hmmm. I don't know. But it sounds familiar. I think I knew him somehow.

JON

Is there any other connection between you and Jake? Just high school?

BIANCA

That's it. I think I went to senior prom with him. No wait! I went to his senior prom. I was a junior. Late birthday, haha. Why?

JON

Did you know that he died in 2014?

BIANCA

Oh man... That does sound familiar. That's super sad. I went to the funeral...

JON

Hmmm. Did you go to Frank Reynolds' funeral.

BIANCA

He died too? Damn. Now that you mention it... I remember hearing about it, but I didn't go. Maybe that's where I heard it.

JON

Maybe.

BIANCA

I love playing 20 questions as much as the next dead person, but what does any of that have to do with me being stuck here?

JON

The stuck part, I have no idea... But I am certain those two deaths are related to yours. Do you remember anything about what happened or how you ended up here?

BIANCA

Hmmm. I remember being moved a few times... At one point I could see, Most of it was dark, but I could hear. And feel, for the most part.

JON

What did you hear?

BIANCA

Umm... Let me think. I heard... A low hum... Or a... whistling?

JON
Whistling?

BIANCA
Wait. Yeah. Both. A whistling Like someone walking around making noise to themselves. And the hum was... A machine of some sort. And it made a click over and over. Like a strobe.

JON
Any flashing?

BIANCA
I don't know... I lost my vision at that point. But I remember being strapped down. And then I lost feeling in my arms and legs for a bit. Next thing I know, I was moving with my feet dragging across the ground. Then I was dropped. That was it.

JON
And then you were here.

BIANCA
Laying on the cold, hard ground and stuck inside my head, thinking for a week...ish.

JON
Wait. Cold ground? Are you telling me... You can feel the ground?

BIANCA
Yeah... Why?

JON
You're kidding me. Can you feel this?

BIANCA
Ouch. Yes! I felt everything this whole week - leaves falling on me. Animals walking over me. You're not even the first person to visit me, but the last two people didn't respond...

JON
Two people? You mean the police officers that were just here? Or

(MORE)

JON (cont'd)
the creepy guy who discovered you
earlier today?

BIANCA
Well, the creepy guy earlier, but
also the person a few days ago.

JON
Who was that...?

BIANCA
No idea. They didn't say anything,
or touch me. I just heard them walk
up and just stand there, breathing.

JON
Hmmm... I need to look around here
then.

BIANCA
What about me?

JON
We'll need to move you back to my
lab... But I'll need help, and I
can't talk to you with other people
around.

BIANCA
You're going to leave me...

JON
I'll talk to you again soon. I
promise.

BIANCA
Okay... Just... Don't let me be
stuck in here, please.

JON
I won't. I promise. I'll be back...

BIANCA
I'll be here...

JON
Crowley! We're ready to move her.

CROWLEY
All set? Alright guys. Let's get
her loaded up. Anything we need to
be aware of?

JON

Not for moving the body. But I have some other news.

CROWLEY

Oh?

JON

First: I think there was someone else here looking at the body - not just Greg. I want to check around after we move her to see what I can find.

CROWLEY

Done. What's the other thing?

JON

I've got an estimated time of death... It was in the last few weeks....