

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

EXT. STABLES - DAY

Bud, Peter, Megan and Lacey with Will outside a STORAGE SHED.

WILL

This is where Ms. Walker kept her riding equipment. Do you have a warrant or something? *

BUD

Bryn Walker's dead because someone sabotaged her saddle. Open it.

Will gives Bud a look, then unlocks the shed, opens the door. Bud gloves up and starts to enter as --

JAMES SAVAGE, 30's, a walking Ralph Lauren ad in his riding britches, tall boots and polo shirt, approaches. He has a beautiful BLACK HORSE in tow.

JAMES

Can I help you?

BUD

Police business, sir.

JAMES

Police? That's my girlfriend's shed. What the hell is going on?

~~MEGAN~~~~(to Lacey)~~~~Honey, go wait in the car.~~~~LACEY~~~~But this is getting good.~~~~MEGAN~~~~Now, please.~~

EXT. STABLES - DAY

Megan and Peter talk to James outside his horse's stall. *

JAMES

I can't believe this is happening.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MEGAN

I'm so sorry, Mr. Savage. How long
have you two been together? *

JAMES

About a year. We met at a
competition a few years ago. We
just moved in together. *

Peter and Megan trade a look. If that's the case...

PETER

Why didn't you call the police when
Bryn didn't come home? *

JAMES

I assumed she was here at the
stable. *

MEGAN

Overnight? *

JAMES

She crashes at the stable office
sometimes. It might seem strange,
but when Bryn needed to work
through something, she preferred
the company of horses to people. *

MEGAN

Doesn't seem strange at all. What
was bothering her? *

JAMES

She wanted to leave professional
riding and focus on the therapy
program. But horses aren't cheap,
and riding was how she made money. *

PETER

Did she ever mention getting in a
fight with one of the prisoners? *

JAMES

No, why? *

MEGAN

Someone sabotaged her saddle. We
think that might have had something
to do with how she died. *

James takes a moment. He looks like he's going to be sick.

(CONTINUED)

MEGAN (CONT'D)

Are you okay?

JAMES

No, no I'm not. You want to know who had it in for Bryn, it's that creep who runs the stables.

MEGAN

Will Paisley?

JAMES

He made a couple of passes at Bryn. Wouldn't let her alone.

INT. STABLES - SHED - DAY

Bud pokes through this organized space. Saddles, reins, buckets with brushes. As he scans a WALL of PICTURES: Bryn's riding career -- dressage, jumping, cross-country competitions -- he hears a NOISE and spins to see. Lacey.

BUD

You scared the living crap out of me. Didn't your mother tell you to wait in the car?

LACEY

Didn't she tell you to watch your language?

BUD

Do what she said.

LACEY

Do you even know what this stuff is?

BUD

I'll figure it out.

Bud finds a HORSE HOOF PICK. He looks at it --

BUD (CONT'D)

(to himself)

Now we're getting somewhere. This looks like a weapon --

LACEY

It's a horse pick, it cleans their feet. How will you know if it's messed up if you don't know how it's used?

(CONTINUED)

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

INT. POLICE STATION - INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY (DAY 3)

OPEN ON James Savage, Bryn's boyfriend. Bud across from him.

INT. POLICE STATION - OBSERVATION ROOM - INTERCUT

Megan watches from the observation room. In interrogation --

JAMES

When I was disqualified, I wondered who buted my horse, but I had no idea it was Bryn.

BUD

You sure you didn't try to teach her a lesson? Sabotage her saddle and then slip her some kind of drug so she would fall off?

JAMES

What? Why would I do that?

BUD

You were rivals. ~~Which you failed to tell us. See, horse "eventing" is the only sport where men and women compete equally.~~ And I gotta be honest, it would really bother me if I found out my girlfriend kept winning because she was a cheater.

JAMES

I didn't kill Bryn.

Both men are distracted by a TAPPING coming from the observation room window. OFF Bud's look --

TIME CUT TO:

CONTINUE
NEXT
PAGE

INT. POLICE STATION - INTERROGATION ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Megan settles across from James. Megan studies James a beat -- then, she turns to Bud.

MEGAN

~~Do you know why you aren't allowed to bute a horse before competition, Detective?~~

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

~~BUD~~

~~No, Doctor. Why?~~

~~MEGAN~~

~~Because if it needs bute then that means it's injured. Kind of like a football player using Icy Hot for a muscle strain. It numbs his injury and enhances his performance. The problem is, horses don't have a choice as to whether or not they want to compete when they're injured.~~

Megan turns her attention back to James.

CONTINUE

MEGAN (CONT'D)

You and I both know Bryn wasn't the kind of person who would bute a horse before a competition.

(off James)

You buted your own horse, didn't you?

JAMES

What?

MEGAN

You've probably done it before. Sometimes the judges check at these things, sometimes they don't.

JAMES

The only thing I use on my horse during competition is coat oil -- I make it myself and it's legal.

Megan removes a swab from her purse.

MEGAN

Good, then you won't mind if I test your fingernails for bute.

JAMES

Don't you need a warrant or something?

BUD

We do. But when we request it, we're also going to get one for your trailer, house, your car.

MEGAN

The riding world loves a scandal.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

JAMES

Okay, hold on. I did it. I buted
my own horse. Happy?

STOP

INT. POLICE STATION - BULLPEN - DAY

Bud and Megan.

BUD

What I don't get is if that Bozo in
there buted his own horse, why did
Bryn have it on her hands?

MEGAN

Maybe Bryn was using it for another
reason. Did you find any in Bryn's
shed?

BUD

No. Then again, you might want to
check with your daughter.

MEGAN

I'm sorry about that, she should
have waited in the car.

BUD

She's too much like you. By the
way, I think she misses you.

MEGAN

Excuse me?

BUD

I got a sense she wants to spend
more time with you. I don't know.

As Megan processes that, her cell BUZZES. She checks a text.
Off her look of concern --

BUD (CONT'D)

What is it?

MEGAN

Results from the chromatography
test. Bryn was shot up with a
lethal dose of succinylcholine.
It's a paralytic vets use to put
horses down.

BUD

And we've come full circle.

(off Megan)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

James 3

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CONTINUED:

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MEGAN

They look like flecks of glitter.

Peter looks over the autopsy history notes.

PETER

You found a similar substance on
Bryn's face during the initial
autopsy. You attributed it to...
makeup.

Megan studies Bryn's face. She dabs Bryn's left eye with a
gloved finger -- REVEAL a spec of glitter. Next, Megan
inserts a long swab up Bryn's nose. She does the same down
Bryn's throat. More glitter.

PETER (CONT'D)

So this other horse eats glitter,
and then licks the victim's face?

MEGAN

This didn't come from the horse.
It came from the killer's hands.

Megan places her hand over Bryn's face -- like she is
suffocating Bryn with her hand.

MEGAN (CONT'D)

She inhaled it. That's why she
stopped breathing. The killer
suffocated her.

CURTIS

Why would a horseback rider have
glitter on his hands?

MEGAN

To cheat.

START

EXT. STABLES - RIDING RING - DAY

OPEN ON James and his BLACK HORSE riding "patterns" in the
ring. Megan blocks his path. Bud and Peter just beyond her.

MEGAN

Hi there.

JAMES

Doctor Hunt?

James looks around -- a beat to survey an escape route.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

~~Don't even think about it. Megan
got down from there.~~

As James climbs down, Megan approaches the horse. As she swipes her gloved hand over the horse's coat --

MEGAN

You gave your horse every advantage, didn't you James? You used bute to numb its pain and --

Megan shows James the little flecks of glitter on her finger.

MEGAN (CONT'D)

~~Gel coat to make him look
prettier.~~

PETER

~~Glitter, almond oil and silicon.
It's a proprietary blend. You told
us you make it yourself.~~

JAMES

That's not illegal.

MEGAN

It is when you kill someone. We found it in Bryn's esophagus and nasal cavity. You forgot it was on your glove when you suffocated her.

JAMES

You're crazy. Why would I ever do that?

MEGAN

You were jealous. You thought she was having an affair with Will Paisley.

~~PETER~~

~~She spent two nights in a row in
Will's barn. "Will the scumbag's"
barn.~~

~~BUD~~

~~You couldn't believe Bryn would
fall for that guy, so you decided
to teach her a lesson. You
sabotaged her saddle and shot her
up with succinylcholine.~~

CONTINUE
NEXT PG.

(CONTINUED)

~~MEGAN~~

~~But you didn't give her enough of
the drug to kill her. That's why
you rode out to the ravine, to make
sure she was dead.~~

EXT. WOODS - RAVINE - DUSK - FLASHBACK

Bryn's body in the ravine. Her eyes blink. FOOTSTEPS approach. REVERSE to see James over Bryn -- Bryn's lips barely form the words, "Help me."

~~MEGAN (V.O.)~~

~~You found her lying there
paralyzed. And then you simply
stepped up and suffocated her.~~

BRYN'S POV -- James leans over her. He places his gloved hand over her face. BLACKOUT.

EXT. STABLES - RIDING RING - DAY

Megan steps up to James.

MEGAN

It's over James. Bryn won.

James gives Megan a defiant look.

JAMES

That bitch made me think she loved me. She even said she wanted me to be a part of that stupid therapy program. "Do something good for the world." I actually fell for that b.s. And then I see her at the stable with that scumbag?

MEGAN

She wasn't having an affair, James. She was in Will's barn because she was trying to save a horse's life.

JAMES

That's not true.

MEGAN

I'm afraid it is. ~~She was very
much that person you fell in love
with.~~ You were just too jealous and competitive to see that.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JAMES

But... it looked -- What did I do?

Bud moves in to cuff James --

BUD

You're under arrest for the murder
of Bryn Walker. You have the
right...

Megan's cell phone RINGS. She checks the caller ID, moves
off to answer. OFF Peter, hmm --

TIME CUT TO:

EXT. STABLES - PADDOCK - DAY

Megan at the rail watching Bryn's horses. As Peter walks up -

MEGAN

Bryn did a good thing here.

PETER

Yeah, she did. Who called?

MEGAN

Todd. He's agreed to let Lacey
stay with me every other weekend.
We're going to tell her tonight.

PETER

That's great.

Megan nods, careful what you wish for.

MEGAN

Did I ever tell you I operated on a
Buddhist nun?

PETER

I would have remembered that.

MEGAN

She was preparing to give a talk on
Buddha and during pre-op used me as
a "test audience."

PETER

What was it about?

(CONTINUED)