

SHANE

Sc 1

MEGAN

And you can't understand at all why  
this might bother me...

Todd says nothing. Megan throws up her hands, walks away...  
to see Kate standing just down the hall. Megan turns and  
goes the other way --

INT. POLICE STATION - INTERROGATION ROOM - EVENING

SHANE RAWLINGS, 29, sits alone. He's scruffy, dressed in  
jeans and a sweatshirt. He looks up as Sam and Peter enter.  
Sam takes a seat across from Shane. Peter stands back.

SAM

You know why you're here, right,  
Shane? We found your DNA on Nikki  
Fielding's bedsheets.

SHANE

Okay. I'm not denying it...

SAM

Why would you, right?  
(smiles)

No offense though... but you're kind  
of low-rent ~~to be a suitor to someone~~  
~~of Nikki's caliber.~~ Makes me think  
you might've been ~~up to no good,~~  
~~maybe~~ taking advantage of her in her  
weakened state, or worse... rape.

SHANE

Rape? Nikki and I were in love.

PETER

(barks a laugh)  
Did Nikki know that?

SHANE

I'm serious.  
(then)

Look. I'm a delivery driver,  
right? I delivered a "get well"  
basket to her a coupla months ago.  
I had a copy of "Catcher in the  
Rye" in my back pocket. Turns out  
it was her favorite book too. I  
ended up staying a while and  
reading to her... We hit it off.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SAM

That's you and her sitting in the parlor. Long way from messing up her sheets.

SHANE

I kept going back -- sometimes with deliveries, sometimes just to hang out. Nikki was cool. We liked the same stuff... and she didn't care I wasn't rich or anything.

PETER

How did her family react to you being there all the time?

SHANE

At first, I think they were just happy Nikki had someone to talk to. But as things got more serious, they didn't like it. Her mother tried to bar me from the house.

PETER

But that didn't stop you...

SHANE

Me and Nikki were into each other. She'd sneak me in through her bedroom window.

SAM

That's a beautiful story, Shane. ~~But I look at your record: auto-theft, burglary. You pled out to pet possession coming in from Costa Rica just a few months ago.~~

(then)

You like excitement. Hard to believe you were getting that from a sick little rich girl.

SHANE

You can believe what you want.

SAM

What I believe, is that maybe you tried to liven things up. Things got a little rough in bed. You put your hands on her throat...

SHANE

What are you talking about?

(CONTINUED)

SAM

You strangled Nikki, then tried to make it look like a suicide.

SHANE

Uh-uh, never happened.

SAM

You were in her room. Right after that, she's dead!

SHANE

She was alive when I left, I swear.

PETER

And we should just take your word?

SHANE

Ask that other girl, the sister. She was there, she walked in on us.

~~STOP.~~

Sam and Peter react, not something they expected to hear.

EXT. FIELDING HOUSE - FRONT PORCH - NIGHT

Peter and Sam stand with Sara as she confirms Shane's story.

SARA

It's true. I was out that evening. When I got home, I went up to Nikki's room. We'd gotten in the habit of talking at night, looking at old photos. It was like we were kids again.

SAM

What time was that?

SARA

I don't know exactly. Close to ten.  
(then)  
Anyway, when I got to Nikki's door, it was closed. I didn't think for a minute anything was going on, so I walked in.

PETER

And Shane was there?

SARA

They weren't... doing it, thank God. It was after, they were just snuggling. My first reaction was anger.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

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

Sam has Shane back in the hot seat, as --

INT. POLICE STATION - OBSERVATION ROOM - INTERCUT

-- Megan and Peter observe through the glass.

SAM

You know how it works with the rich and the poor, don't you, Shane? You know which one of you is gonna get stung for Nikki's murder.

SHANE

I don't know what you're talking about.

SAM

We made the connection. You and Sara. Costa Rica...

Shane tries to hide his reaction. Sam leans in closer.

SAM (CONT'D)

Right now, Sara's family's getting her a big fancy lawyer. ~~The lawyer's gonna call his friend, the Judge. The two of them are gonna~~ offer Sara a sweet deal to drop this all on you. That's just the way it works, Shane. The rich have it better than the rest of us.

Shane slowly shakes his head, finally looks up --

SHANE

No. No way am I taking the blame alone. It was her plan...

SAM

Okay. So walk me through it.

Shane takes a beat. Then --

SHANE

I met Sara on a beach in Costa Rica... four months ago. We'd hang out, drink. One day she told me about her rich little sister back home who was dying. Sara had a plan to use the sister to get a share of the family's money...

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SHANE (CONT'D)

She was pretty bitter about  
scraping by when her family had so  
much cash...

SAM

And your job in this was what?

SHANE

Just to cozy up to Nikki...

SAM

And convince her to will all her  
money to the fake rainforest  
foundation Sara set up.

SHANE

(nods)

Sara told me everything I needed to  
know about Nikki -- her favorite  
books and foods, the kind of music  
she liked -- all that stuff, so  
getting tight with her was easy.  
And the environment was already her  
thing, so... piece a' cake.

SAM

If that's the case, all you had to  
do was wait for Nikki to die -- the  
money would've gone right to Sara.

(then)

But you didn't wait. Why? What  
happened?

Shane goes silent... On the other side of the glass --

Megan suddenly puts it together --

MEGAN

Nikki changed her mind.

(turning to Peter)

She wanted to change charities.

That's why Billy was looking to  
have the beneficiary reassigned...

Megan turns, heads off. Peter follows --

INT. POLICE STATION - HOLDING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Sara waits in a holding area, looking utterly put out. She  
glances smugly at Peter and Megan when they approach.

MEGAN

I know why you killed her now.

(CONTINUED)