

Innocence

By

Jacob Harris

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Student Number:941625

It's a rainy Saturday morning at the Police station, in central London. In the interrogation briefing room, papers are scattered everywhere, with posit notes on the walls, the room is only lit with a single lamp looking down on the desk.

CLINT PARKER, Detective constable, 28, scans over his notes, mumbling faint words to himself, while he sits next to the desk impatiently tapping his finger. He takes a sip from his coffee.

His superior walks in, Chief Inspector VANESSA WADE, 56, she is also known as INSPECTOR.

VANESSA
Still no leads?

Vanessa faces Clint but stays stood up.

CLINT
nah, nothing inspector. It's all gone dry

VANESSA
Strange, been two days since the body was found and we've got nothing.

Vanessa looks through the viewing screen

Who is she?

ELLIE WILLIAMS, 27, is sitting down in the interrogation room, she seems tired and has a blank expression.

CLINT
Just a friend of the victim, she's not a suspect, but maybe she can help.

VANESSA
Yes, she what information she has.

(sarcastically)
Oh, and take it easy on the coffee.

Clint laughs, before turning his back to her to look at the computer, where he has documents of notes and information.

Vanessa leaves the room.

(Door shuts)

Clint faces the computer, completely still, then turns it off leaving a black screen with his reflection left.

2 INT, POLICE STATION, INTERROGATION ROOM, MOMENTS AFTER

2

Ellie is sitting in the interrogation room, alone. She faces forward looking at the wall, with her hands fidgeting on the table

(Door opens)

Clint walks in, with his coffee in one hand and a pile of folders, as the folders start to slip out of his hand, he just about plants them on the table. He sits down.

CLINT

(politely)

Again, Ellie I'm so sorry bringing you here on a Saturday, you must be busy.

Ellie kindly responds

ELLIE

erm no no, its fine, I'm happy to try help.

Ellie becomes more relaxed, Clint leans back on his chair, a very casual atmosphere is created. Doesn't feel like a police interview.

CLINT

Okay great, just to clarify this is a conversation, not an interrogation, we can take a break whenever.

Ellie stays silent but nods her head.

Clint hits the recording device

(Audio beep sound)

CLINT

Obviously, you know the story but I'll have to explain in anyway.

Clint begins to explain the story and context of the case

So, four days ago a missing person reports case was called for JESS WOOD.

Ellie's face begins to change, her eyes start watering, she looks pale.

Then two days ago, we found her dead body in the woods, she was poisoned and later died through injury. She first went missing after a work-related party the night before, minutes away from the same woods,

We believe somebody at this party killed her. A party which you attended correct?

ELLIE

erm yes, I did

CLINT

You've stated that you were a good friend of Jess, and you also worked together?

Ellie starts to cry and weeps as she is reminded of her friends' death

ELLIE

(Continuous to cry)

sorry I just can't believe she's gone, but yes great friends which came from our time at work together.

CLINT

(Softly)

It's okay we can take this slow don't worry

Clint leans over the table, and briefly taps her hand to try give her a sense of comfort.

Ellie smiles

Clint moves slightly forward in an attempt to speed up the conversation a bit

So, do you have any idea of who would do such a thing?

Ellie takes a deep breath before she speaks and sits up straight

ELLIE

I don't know why someone would do such a thing, she was so nice, although...

Clint's eyes open up in anticipation, and quickly grabs his notepad from the chair to his right

ELLIE

There always was loads of weird people at our work. Could have been a few people.

Ellie becomes almost excited by the conversation, her face brightens up, speaking very quickly, as she goes on a tangent of blaming people.

ELLIE

Dave the cleaner, so gross

Clint grabs his pen and writes down the name 'Dave'

Our boss, Michael, such a perve

Then he writes the name 'Michael'

Oh, and Janet, so quiet

Clint stops writing, at looks back up at her in confusion

Oh and...

Clint interrupts Ellie

CLINT

Sorry I'm confused, you seem to be blaming a lot of your colleagues here. Are you suggesting they worked together? Do you have any real evidence to back this up?

Ellie slightly raises her voice, with a defensive look in her eyes

ELLIE

Well no. No real evidence, all I'm saying is there was lots of very strange people our work, me and Jess were the only nice people there, believe me!

Clint looks frustrated, as he leans back and looks at Ellie in disappointment. Clint seems shocked and taken a back with Ellies rash allegations. He looks slightly suspicious of her behaviour

CLINT

Okay... In your statement you said you left the party early, why?

ELLIE

Yes, mhm because I was ill. Yes, I was ill

Clint freezes, something is wrong, his eyes start to sharpen. He then looks down to his notes then responds.

CLINT

Well Ellie, here on your official statement, you stated you left the party due to a family emergency

Which one is the truth?

Ellie has a panicking look in her eyes

ELLIE

(Stuttering)

Oh sorry, yes it was a family emergency. I forgot, sorry the night was very stressful

There is moment of silence as Clint looks suspicious and looks straight at Ellie

CLINT

Okay, thanks Ellie, were going to take a quick break okay.

She nods

Clint leaves the room. Ellie leans back, looks slightly relieved

3 INT. POLICE STATION, INTERROGATION VIEWING ROOM, MOMENTS AFTER 3

From the viewing room, Ellie can be seen sitting down on the table on her own, with her hands fidgeting on the desk.

Clint walks into the briefing room where his chief inspector Vanessa is waiting for him. Clint is in a rush; he walks straight past Vanessa in order to sit next to his computer.

VANESSA

Steady on!

CLINT

I know, sorry, but are you thinking what I'm thinking?

VANESSA

Yes, I know, she is acting very suspicious. Do you think she did it?

CLINT

Yes, no doubt, I just need a confession

Vanessa hands Clint a USB stick. He quickly smirks at her, before he turns and puts it in his computer, he flicks through the content, with CCTV footage, screenshots of phone calls and other documents. He nods his head.

CLINT(CONTINUED)

yes yes, these are brilliant, send them through.

He jumps out of his chair, and heads to the exit

You're the best, Thanks!

VANESSA

Go get her!

He leaves the room, door closes

4 INT.POLICE STATION,INTERROGATION ROOM, MOMENTS AFTER 4

Clint comes back into the interrogation room, facing Ellie. Ellie smiles, he doesn't smile back, he seems more serious and keeps a blank expression, Ellie seems slightly shocked.

CLINT

Okay, here is the deal. You are now a suspect, your actions have...

Ellie interrupts Clint in anger, she leans forward before shouting.

ELLIE

WHAT! you can't be serious, this is so stupid, I'm meant to be helping you

CLINT

As I was saying, you action today have raised lots of suspicious around you. However, you can still help us, by telling what really happened.

ELLIE

I can't believe this

CLINT

Do you want a lawyer?

ELLIE

NO, why would I need one

CLINT

Well then, it's just me and you, let's begin

Clint presses the recording device

(Audio beep sound)

Ellie looks at the ground, while shaking her head

CLINT

Time is 12:07, here interrogating suspect Ellie Williams, over the murder of her colleague Jess Wood

Ellie becomes more stressed with a slightly red sweaty face; the real interrogation begins. The room becomes darker, a screen on the wall, comes down. Clint begins to question Ellie on the night Jess disappeared. Clint becomes more confident, as he presents the evidence to Ellie

CLINT

Here Ellie, you will see a CCTV time-lapse of all the guests, leaving the party via the front exit, between the hours of 12 and 2 in the morning.

Apart from you Ellie, you cannot be seen. Meaning you must have used the back exit, why?

Ellie seems shocked by this evidence, he voices starts shaking, as Clint keeps pushing

ELLIE

Well, I just used the closest exit,

that's all

CLINT

and one more person, was not seen
using the main exit, Jess

ELLIE

I don't know anything about that

CLINT

Sure, you don't, and here you'll see 3
miss calls from Jess to You, this was
half hour before you left the party
early. Why did she call you?

ELLIE

erm, I don't know, maybe she was
trying to find my in the party, where
ae you trying to get with this

Clint interrupts Ellie

CLINT

And what about lying in your original
statement?

ELLIE

Sorry I was confused; I left the party
early due to a family emergency.

Clint becomes more aggressive, raising his voice, having more
power behind his words, intimidating

CLINT

(Aggressively)

Ellie let's stop playing. Leaving the
party much earlier than everyone else,
via the back exit, which only you and
maybe Jess used...

The miss calls from Jess, which you
didn't answer, and finally lying in
your statement. It's time to tell us
the truth!

This evidence would hold up in court
you would get serious time. Come on
Ellie!

ELLIE

NO please stop, this doesn't make

sense

CLINT

Ellie listens to accidents can happen,
a confession would help everyone
including you, get it off your chest,
come on!

ELLIE

(Weeping and shouting)
PLEASE STOP

CLINT

This evidence Ellie in court would...

Ellie interrupts Clint

ELLIE

OKAY! I didn't mean it! it was an
accident...
(Softly)
I'm sorry, okay

Clint freezes, his pen drops from his hand, she has finally
confessed, he was right.

CLINT

Glad you've told us the truth, how and
why did you did it.

5 INT. WORK PARTY.11:45, 3 DAYS AGO...

5

(FLASHBACK)

(Muffled pop music)

At the work-related party, music is playing, people are
drinking and having fun but not Ellie. Ellie is sitting on
the stairs staring at Jess. Jess is very youthful, blonde and
had people all around her dancing, she is the life of the
party.

ELLIE (VO- IN REAL TIME SCENE)

Like I said it was an accident, I had
been jealous of Jess for ages, she was
the better version of me. I liked her
boyfriend, she had more friends, her
lifestyle everything.

Jess puts her drink on the side, and leaves the dancefloor.
Ellie stares at her cup, and begins to make her way through

the busy crowd, barging past people.

ELLIE (VO, CONTINUED)

(Angrily)

I was sick of it. My breaking point was this job promotion coming up, it was life changing, we both wanted it.

So, I planned to poison her, which was make her ill for 1 to 3 days, missing her promotion interview, meaning I would get the promotion, and finally be enough, I would finally be better than her.

Elle gets to her drink, she gets a small bottle out of her purse and pours it into the cup, she has a quick look around before she give sit a quick stir, then she quickly leaves the dancefloor.

Ellie sits on the stairs, declining Jess's calls.

ELLIE (VO, CONTINUED)

I could not believe what I had done, I sat on the stairs just waiting for something to happen, then she kept calling me.

I finally went to find her, but it was too... it was too late

Ellie walks up upstairs to find Jess at the bottom of the stairs, bleeding from her head. she was dead.

ELLIE (V'O, CONTINUED)

I panicked, I could not believe what I'd done, so I started to, clean up

She frantically wipes the surface in an attempt to clean the crime scene. She wraps up the body in a white sheet, and then picks it up

ELLIE (V'O. CONTINUED)

I then left though the back exit with her. Then into my car

Ellie puts the body in the car, and closes the boot

CUT TO:

6 EXT. WOODS, JUST PASTMIDNIGHT

6

(Erie, dark, dramatic music)

Its pitch black, nobody is around, until two headlights of a car can be seen, parked in an open space between the trees. The boot opens, then we see Ellie, with makeup running down her face, she looks exhausted.

ELLIE (V'O, CONTINUED)

(Weeping)

I knew I had to get rid of the body,
so I went to the woods, it was too
late to turn back. I was still in
shock. I thought the only place would
be the woods.

With a black expression she looks at the dead body of Jess. She picks up the body and begins to throw dirt on her, completely covering her.

FADE TO BLACK:

7 INT, POLICE STATION, INTERROGATION ROOM

7

Cut to the interrogation room, where Ellie has tears running down all her face, as she has finally told the truth.

Clint however, seems shocked, completely speechless, he stays silent.

Suddenly two police officers burst into the room. They pick Ellie up, and start to drag her away.

ELLIE

(Screaming, loud as possible)

Please NO, NO, I DIDN'T MEAN IT!

Clint stays silent, as he gives one of the police officers a little nod, as they take her away.

The police officers and Ellie have left the room,

Clint continuous to sit in the interrogation room on his own, almost like a brief moment of reflection. He finally jumps up grabs his belongings and leaves through the same exit

We are left with an empty interrogation room

THE END