

THE HONESTY ROOM

by

TRIAL N ERROR

(c) 2025

Brian D

INT. ROOM - DAY

MARK (50's) and SARA (30's) walk through automated doors into a sterile white room. The room contains a white pedestal, upon which rests a silver Beretta 92 handgun.

MARK

Thirteen million dollars and
this--

An AUTOMATED VOICE plays through large speakers in the room.

AUTOMATED VOICE

Welcome to Marriage Counseling!
You have elected to participate in
our cutting-edge, emotionally
liberating, and legally gray
method of resolving your marriage.
Now that your non-refundable
process fee has been successfully
cleared, you are entitled to all
the benefits of our Honesty Room.
In this room no physical harm can
come to you! Which means--for the
first time--you can be completely
honest with one another, without
the fear of physical recourse. You
will find the weapon of your
choice in the center of the room.
Please use it in your healing
process. Enjoy your time and
remember: while you cannot
physically die in the Honesty
Room, everything you do will be
remembered.

SARA

Mark, what the hell is the crazy
robot voice trying to tell me?

MARK

Uh, well, uh, Hun. Last time we
had the chance to really talk you
said you were thinking about
filing for divorce. So--

SARA

No. Mark. I didn't say I was
thinking about filing for divorce.
I said I was going to file for
divorce. Do you see the
difference, Mark? Do you
understand the difference?

MARK
Listen, I paid--

Sara begins pacing in front of the doors.

SARAH
I said I would humor you with
marriage counseling. You said we
could have a vacation apart which
would be generously sponsored by
the person I need space away from.

MARK
Yes. I said space. Not forever
space. Every time you want
something your way you make it
sound like I have a chance to--

SARAH
What magical fucking chance are
you waiting for, Mark? You've had
twelve birthdays, twelve
anniversaries, six failed couple
retreats and a daughter raised by
the nanny with her latest
masterpiece showcasing us burning.

Sarah abruptly stops pacing. She wipes away the tears
swelling up in her eyes.

MARK
This magical fucking chance.

Mark walks over to the pedestal and grabs the gun. He
slowly walks back to Sarah holding it by his side. Sarah
watches him while drying her eyes.

SARAH
(Defiantly)
This is it, huh? Your magical fix?
Kill me, bury me under the rose
bushes, and dig me up when you get
murder-horny and nostalgic.

MARK
Sarah. Just stop.

Mark embraces Sarah and places the gun into her hand. Sarah
has tears streaming down her face.

SARAH
(Confused)
Mark, what am I supposed to--

MARK

I brought you here for this,
Sarah.

Mark guides Sarah's hand holding the gun and aims it into his shoulder. He takes a deep breath and the gun goes off. Mark walks back two paces, blood stains appear on his shirt. Sarah screams.

SARAH

(Distraught)

Mark! What are you doing? What are
you doing?

MARK

Holy shit. It didn't even hurt.
Look, it's healed up already. I
didn't feel anything.

Mark yanks on the collar of his shirt to expose the gunshot wound. He wipes away the fresh blood--there isn't even a scar.

SARAH

Mark! What the fuck is going on?

MARK

This is why I brought you here,
Sarah. This is how we fix
everything. We can't die. You can
get all your pent up anger out and
I'll still be here ready to
forgive you.

SARAH

Forgive me?

Sarah points the gun and fires it at Mark. The bullet goes through the center of his chest. He takes a step back with a surprised look on his face that turns into a smile.

MARK

(Chuckling)

I didn't feel anything! Try my
head next!

SARAH

You. Moron! This isn't going to
fix anything! Our entire problem
has been your inability to be
honest with me. You have
completely lost the ability to
tell me the truth.

MARK

Because you tell me that you didn't want to hear it! But fine, okay. I'll tell you everything. Just promise me you will get all your anger out now. Can you promise me that?

SARAH

(Cold)

I promise.

MARK

Great. So, what do you think I lie about?

SARAH

(Pause)

How many times have you cheated on me, Mark?

Mark sighs and takes a long pause as he stares at the ground.

MARK

I think it's about twenty now? I lost count a couple years--

Sarah fires twice at Mark. One bullet through Mark's chest and the other blasting through his right-eye. Mark quickly clutches his eye in a panic, but a split second later his mutilated face is back to normal.

MARK

Jesus Christ. Wasn't ready for that. Actually. I think. I think I can see things clearer.

Sarah squats down crying. Mark squats down and holds her.

SARAH

How could you?

MARK

I'm sorry, Sarah. None of them meant anything to me. It was always you I wanted at the end of the day. But this is all for you. You can rip me into a million pieces and I will come back in love with you.

Sarah looks at Mark and gives a faint smile.

MARK

And ya know, you will never have to worry about me hurting you. Unlike you, there is nothing that would make me fire that gun at you. I love you too much.

Sarah's face goes cold. Tears still stream down her face yet she has a controlled look on her face.

SARAH

Unlike me, huh? Ya know, Mark. You never tried to hide any of the cheating. You never tried to spare my feelings, even with deceit. Not like I did for you.

MARK

I didn't hide them because they didn't mean anything and--wait, what do you mean 'like you did for me'?

SARAH

(Beat)

I cheated on you too, Mark.

Mark's face contorts.

MARK

With who? Who was it?

SARAH

Principal Edward.

(Beat)

He does mean something to me. I have used him to get through things without you.

MARK

The guy from Jennifer's school? He is like a hundred years old. What were you even thinking?

Mark rips the gun out of Sarah's hand. He angrily throws his hands up in the air and begins pacing. He stops abruptly and faces Sarah.

MARK

I forgive you, Sarah. We can move past this.

SARAH

Honesty, Mark. That's what we are here for.

(Pause)

I'm not letting him go.

MARK

Sarah! Think about what you are about to say right now.

SARAH

I need him emotionally and...

Sarah takes a deep breathe and acts like someone preparing themselves for a performance.

SARAH

...I need him sexually. He's better at--

Rapid shots ring out in the confined space. Sarah is interrupted by the bullet that separates her jaw from her face. The gun keeps firing until the only sound is a dull clicking. The Automated Voice plays from the speakers once again.

AUTOMATED VOICE

You have exhausted all available uses of the handgun. Please relinquish control to the other participant. Thank you, and enjoy your continued healing cycle.

The room is silent until Sarah's laughing fills the room.

SARAH

(Laughing)

Unlike me, huh? You won't even let me be honest. While you nonchalantly admit you've lost count.

Mark silently walks over to Sarah and stares at the ground.

MARK

What do we do now, Sarah? I don't know what to feel anymore.

SARAH

As dumb as you are, I still love you. We still have Jennifer to think about. She deserves a say.

MARK

What's next?

Sarah grabs Mark's hand as they walk to the entrance. The white room now resembling a murder scene. Their clothes stained red and tattered with bullet holes.

SARAH

Let's go home. I think we can be honest with each other without the emotionally healing handgun.

Mark smiles and holds her hand. As Sarah and Mark walk through the doors all their previous injuries immediately return. Mark's eye propels from his head and Sarah's jaw falls to the floor as their bodies are riddled with bullet holes.

Nearby, two workers in hazmat suits with the name tags BIGGS and WEDGE start mopping and shoveling what's left of them into a bucket.

BIGGS

Another couple that didn't read their waiver. The wounds only heal in the Honesty Room, dumbasses. Sucks to be them.

WEDGE

How is this place still running with crazy shit like this going on?

BIGGS

Oh, all the couples that don't kill each other always leave great reviews. Every once in awhile you get a straggler but they usually off-themselves right after.

WEDGE

What happens if they don't?

BIGGS

Don't worry. You'll get that training when it happens.

THE END