

Another Police Interrogation

by

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INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY

JAMES is wearing a suit and sitting by a blank table. He taps his fingers on it, anxiously. He is facing a seated, suited and bearded INTERROGATOR (50). The room is bare, gray and bleak.

INTERROGATOR

Hello, James. Do you know why you're here?

JAMES sighs.

JAMES

I crashed Dan's car again.

INTERROGATOR

And how many times have you done that now?

JAMES

I've lost count. I didn't do it though.

INTERROGATOR

I'm sorry, I don't know what that means...

JAMES

I have crashed Dan's car before. Lots of times, but not this time. That's what I meant.

INTERROGATOR

You claim you were somewhere else at the time of your joyride?

JAMES

Yes. I was at my friend Ben's house.

INTERROGATOR

I see. The thing is, Ben said he was alone watching hardcore...

JAMES

Ok, I'll stop you there.

INTERROGATOR

Why?

JAMES

I get the point.

INTERROGATOR

Is hardcore boxing embarrassing?

JAMES

Oh, hardcore boxing. Ok. I thought that was an odd thing to say.

INTERROGATOR

What?

JAMES

Never mind.

INTERROGATOR

What do you say to Ben saying that?

JAMES points his finger in the air for a couple of seconds as he speaks.

JAMES

Ok, I wasn't at Ben's house. I was picking apples at the local farm. Do you grow apples in farms? Well you know what I mean.

INTERROGATOR

You're changing your story?

JAMES

Right.

INTERROGATOR

Ok. So, why were you picking apples?

JAMES

I like to help people out.

INTERROGATOR

I see. But you famously said 'you hate helping people. It's really really boring.'

JAMES

You know about that?

INTERROGATOR

I've read your Faceface page you know? Us interrogators have to do research. You just keep posting the same things over and over. It's really antisocial, and you look like an asshole. People are wondering what's going on in your head.

JAMES points his finger in the air again, and nods with confidence.

JAMES

Ok, fine. I wasn't picking apples to help people, I was doing it for the money.

INTERROGATOR

You're changing your story a second time?

JAMES

Yes.

The INTERROGATOR makes quote marks with his fingers.

INTERROGATOR

So if I were to contact the 'apple farm', they'd back you up.

JAMES

Wow, you'd go to all that trouble?

INTERROGATOR

Yes. So me contacting the apple farm will be ok?

JAMES

No, please! Look, I wasn't at Ben's house or the apple farm for the money, really I was STEALING apples. I know that's bad, but come on. Scrumping? Who cares? It's just a harmless pastime at the end of the day!

INTERROGATOR

So you'll be on the CCTV?

JAMES points his finger in the air very briefly.

JAMES

I set fire to the cameras.

INTERROGATOR

That's very serious, you know?

JAMES

Yes, of course it is. Turns out I DIDN'T set fire to the cameras, I was miles away going for a drive in my OWN car. That looks like Dan's. Hence the confusion.

INTERROGATOR

You drive a Mini, and Dan drives a limo...

JAMES

Yes.

INTERROGATOR

They look completely different.

JAMES

They're both cars, though.

The INTERROGATOR concentrates hard.

INTERROGATOR

This is basically what you've said so far: I was at Ben's house, no not Ben's house, I was picking apples. Just to be nice, even though I hate being nice. No wait, that doesn't make sense, I was stealing them, which is much better. I kind of set fire to the CCTV cameras, which is fine! Whoops, no it isn't. Which is why I didn't. I was ACTUALLY driving my car that looks like Dan's! I drive a mini and he drives a limo, but that's pretty close, they're both cars!

JAMES folds his arms, looking cocky.

JAMES

Sounds about right to me.

INTERROGATOR

Is there anything you'd like to add to that?

JAMES

Nope, that's pretty much 100% accurate.

INTERROGATOR

It's just that we have proof you weren't driving your own car at the time.

JAMES

What was I doing then?

INTERROGATOR

Driving Dan's car.

JAMES

Really? How do you know?

INTERROGATOR

CCTV.

JAMES closes his eyes and nods with complete confidence. He then opens them.

JAMES
Ahhhhhhhh. I have a doppelganger.

INTERROGATOR
A doppelganger who crashed Dan's car?

JAMES
Yes!

INTERROGATOR
Do you know why he'd do such a thing?

JAMES
Nope.

INTERROGATOR
It's just that the CCTV picked up audio as well. And that audio said 'This is I! James Ian Zack Ziegler, and I'm going to crash Dan's car! Never have I felt so alive! Apart from the last times I did so, obviously!'

JAMES answers very fast.

JAMES
My doppelganger has the same name.

INTERROGATOR
Wow. What are the odds?

JAMES
Actually I don't know his name so I can't report him. But I do know he's framing me.

INTERROGATOR
Why??

JAMES
We just fell out.

INTERROGATOR
And why did you do that?

JAMES
Spending too much time together, basically. We just argued more and more.

INTERROGATOR

And can you provide us with ANY evidence you were ever with him? And I mean come on. If you know him so well, you'd know his name at least surely?

JAMES

Oh you know me. I'm rubbish with names.

The INTERROGATOR rubs his beard.

INTERROGATOR

James, this is your story now: You're 'doppelganger' friend slash enemy who you know very well, but don't know his name framed you because you argued with each other.' If you argued with each other so much to the point he framed you for a very serious crime, why did you spend so much time with him?

JAMES

Dunno.

INTERROGATOR

There is no doppelganger is there? You've made him up. Tell me the truth and I'll go easy on you.

JAMES exhales deeply.

JAMES

How easy?

INTERROGATOR

Really easy.

JAMES smiles.

JAMES

As easy as possible?

INTERROGATOR

Exactly.

JAMES

Fine. I crashed Dan's car for the thrill of it. It made me feel important.

INTERROGATOR

And you have a grudge against him because he ruined your new year's eve party?

JAMES

Yes. The rage just built and built over time. I couldn't hold it in any more.

INTERROGATOR

Great, that's all I needed.

JAMES

So I'll be walking free?

INTERROGATOR

No, when I said I'll go easy on you, I meant with my fist. I'll hit you so softly you will barely even notice. But you're going to jail.

JAMES

Dammit!

INTERROGATOR

Yes.

The INTERROGATOR leaves his seat and hits JAMES as softly as possible.