

CAST OF CHARACTERS:

JACK: Student apprenticed to head investigator. Deputy investigator for Student Investigations at The University. Drinks and smokes. Age 22. White male.

EMILY: Friend of Katie, the girl who was murdered. Comes from money. Desperately trying to get someone to help. Age 21. Any race female.

NATALIE: Close friend to JACK. Student Forensic Investigator for The University. Age 21. Any race female.

DYLAN: JACK's best friend. One of the frat brothers. Age 22. White Male.

KYLE: Frat guy. BENJAMIN's yes man and muscle. Age 21. White male.

BENJAMIN: Frat leader. Good looking, charming, and polite. Age 22. White male.

JIMMEL: Fraternity cook. Age 20. Black male.

STAN: Tech geek at The University. Age 21. White Male.

FRAT BROTHERS or FRAT: Group of identical looking young white men. Act as one mindless entity and very robotic.

DEAN: Dean of Students for The University. Only adult in the play. Age 45. White Male.

SETTING:

Place:

The University. Looks like any university.

Time:

Present or Future.

SPECIAL NOTES:

This world looks the same as ours but should feel very different by the roles characters are assigned in this world and the way they dress. Uncanny. Think *A Series of Unfortunate Events* by Lemony Snicket.

ACT 1
Sc.1 Jack's office

Dim lights come up on JACK asleep on his desk in a small office. He wears jeans, converse, a white button up shirt with rolled up sleeves and a black tie. He has several tribal tattoos on his arm and neck. On the desk is a single lamp, an ashtray with smoking cigarettes in it, a lap top, several papers and books, a small T.V., a gun, and several empty cans of PBR. Around him on the floor are several more cans and papers. In the room is another chair, a coat rack with a bowler hat and black zip up hoodie. There is a board with several papers, graphs and writings on it. In big red letters all over it is written "All Bullshit". There is a door opposite the desk on which is written "Student Deputy Investigator". The light from the T.V. is on JACK's face as the news is playing.

T.V.

Today in The News of Truthiness, The Solecism Lawmakers gave The Authority more breathing room for furthering their break measures on The University of Jericho, this gives The Investigators at the school more time to relax and not worry so much about their work to help relieve stress and anxiety caused by solving crime. In recent events an undisclosed girl was found dead at an undisclosed location at an undisclosed time under undisclosed circumstances. It has been determined to be an accident. In others news a one legged man has just been drafted into The Sports team and a puppy swims The Ocean. More details about that later. And now the weather. Ignorare City will be experiencing another heat wave, so unseasonable for the season. Back to the news.

EMILY knocks at the door. JACK stirs and sits up. Several of the cans are knocked over. JACK picks up the gun of the desk and puts it on his side. He lights a cigarette and inhales.

JACK

Go away, I'm on break until I graduate.

EMILY

I need to talk to someone. I need to talk to an Investigator.

JACK

Talk to The Head Investigator. Leave me alone

EMILY

He's not here.

Bummer
JACK

EMILY
You're the Deputy Student Investigator, you're supposed to help people.

JACK
Fine, come in.

EMILY enters. She is dressed in black gothic dress with a vest. She carries a purse and her cell phone in her hand. She stops and looks at JACK. He opens a beer can and begins drinking.

EMILY
You're drinking? And smoking?

JACK
Yes.

EMILY
You're a student investigator. You can't drink at The University.

JACK burst out laughing. Then stops.

JACK
Oh you're serious?

EMILY
You're not supposed to do that. It's inappropriate.

JACK
Did you come here to lecture me on things no one cares about? What do you want?

EMILY
I'm here to report a crime.

JACK
You have to report it to the main office then fill out a form in the security desk then it will make its way to the main office to meet with the report you made there then both make their way to the Inspection office where they decide if they should send it to The Principle who then decided what gets here and what is unimportant.

EMILY

I did that. And nothing happened.

JACK

Then it's not important.

EMILY

That's ridiculous. The whole process is ridiculous.

JACK

You're talking to a University student who is the Deputy Student Investigator, with a gun, a badge, and an office, who hasn't graduated yet, drinks and smokes on the job and spends most of his time doing nothing else, and is given authority over other students. Don't talk to me about ridiculous.

EMILY

Well I need your help.

JACK

Have a beer.

EMILY

No thanks.

JACK

Then I can't help you.

EMILY

How did you even get this job?

JACK

Good grades. Drive, ambition. All sapped out when I came here.

EMILY

So then what are you doing here?

JACK

I have one year left and then I graduate and I'm going far away from all this.

EMILY

Well I need your help. I want to report a murder.

JACK

And?

EMILY

And?!

JACK

Is that it?

EMILY

What more is there?!

JACK

Your report is noted thank you, if you'll show yourself to the door that would be great.

EMILY

You're not going to do anything?

JACK

Well if it's not here

(Gestures to papers around him)

Then it must not be that important.

EMILY

How can you say that? Someone is dead and you don't even care.

JACK

I'm not the one who decided that it's not important. I've just accepted what other's choose to be important.

EMILY

Please I need you to help me. Someone killed my friend.

JACK

I'd love to help you but I'm tied up trying to collect more student debt so I can pay to graduate next year. If I don't I'm stuck in this fucking city.

EMILY

If you do this I'll pay for your education next year.

JACK

You have a great sense of humor.

EMILY

I'm serious. I can do it. I have the money.

Pause. JACK sighs and shotguns the beer. He crushes the can and tosses it.

JACK

Sit down.

EMILY sits in the chair.

So what happened?

EMILY

My friend Katie was murdered.

JACK

Oh yeah. The girl on the news who was murdered. Report says that it was an accident.

EMILY

You call getting stabbed thirteen times an accident.

JACK

No. But that's what they said.

EMILY

It was murder.

JACK

Ok. Murder. What else?

EMILY

Well she went to a party last night and she turns up dead the next day.

JACK

Why did she go there?

EMILY

She was invited by a friend.

JACK

Friend or boyfriend?

EMILY

It was a guy she knew that she was hooking up with every now and then.

JACK

Where was the party?

EMILY

She went to a party at Omicron Tau Phi.

JACK

In that case it was suicide.

EMILY

What?

JACK

Going to a party at a frat is like going to a meeting for a cult. If you're not in it, no one cares what happens to you.

EMILY

So what are you going to do?

JACK

Nothing.

EMILY

What?

JACK

I'm not in the fraternity. There's not a lot I can do. It's hard to get in let alone go in there if you're accusing people of murder.

EMILY

Please you have to do something.

JACK

It difficult for you to understand princess but money doesn't solve everything. Even if you paid for my tuition next year it wouldn't help me at all now to be accusing a member of Omicron Tau Phi of killing a person.

EMILY

Please I'm begging you. She deserves justice.

JACK rises and walks to the door. He opens it and gestures out it

JACK

I'm afraid our time is up. Please make an appointment with the main office if you have further inquiries.

EMILY

No. Please. If you do this I'll pay for your tuition and pay off your student debts, please!

JACK doesn't move. EMILY stands up and shows JACK her phone.

This is Katie. She was sweet, friendly, and full of life and someone took it from her. She didn't deserve this and you're telling me she's not that important. I'm not doing this because I don't like fraternities and I'm not offering you money because I'm rich. I don't care about you and I don't care about the money I care about her and I won't let them get away with what they did.

JACK still unmoving. EMILY begins to cry collapsing back into the chair. JACK looks at her.

JACK

What's your name?

EMILY

Emily.

JACK

What's your major?

EMILY

Psychology.

JACK

And you can afford to pay for someone else's education?

EMILY nods. JACK closes door and sits back down at desk. He pulls out a notepad on his desk.

What was the guy's name?

EMILY

Benjamin.

JACK

I'll see what I can do. No promises.

EMILY

Thank you.

JACK

Don't thank me yet.

EMILY

Here's my number if you have any questions.

JACK

(Hands her his phone)

Put it here.

EMILY

What are you going to do now?

JACK

I have a friend in Omicron Tau Phi. He'll at least get me in the door. I'll see what I can find there, and I'll check the forensics department and check with a girl I know there.

EMILY

Why don't you just use your badge to get in?

JACK

I don't want them to suspect me of suspecting them of murder. I'll get them to suspect me of suspecting someone else of suspecting them of pissing on the private property or something that The University would actually care about. My friend would understand, keeps them from suspecting anything.

EMILY

I have to get to class now. Thank you for your time. Have a good day.

JACK

I never have a good day.

Lights down. End scene