

KILLING MADISON

Written by

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INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - EVENING

AUBURN, 19, dressed in a t-shirt and jeans sits at the interrogation table. Across from her DETECTIVE STANLEY, 42, dressed in a dingy grey suit. His hair is disheveled and his eyes are sunken in. He places photos of the deceased MADISON, 20, on the table in front of Auburn.

AUBURN

I don't want to see these. Take them away

Auburn pushes the photos towards Detective Stanley fall to the floor. She is crying.

AUBURN (CONT'D)

Who would do this to her? She was such an amazing person.

DETECTIVE STANLEY

That's what we're trying to figure out.

Auburn wipes her face and straightens. Her face is cold and angry.

AUBURN

I know where this is leading.

DETECTIVE STANLEY

Auburn, tell me, where were you last night?

AUBURN

I told you, I was at home.

She looks at her reflection in the two-way mirror.

DETECTIVE STANLEY

Can anyone verify that?

AUBURN

No, therefore I don't have an alibi, and you are going to try to pin this on me. I didn't do it.

Auburn stands. She paces slowly.

DETECTIVE STANLEY

It's my understanding that you are bipolar and are prone to manic episodes.

AUBURN

And I'm on medication. There hasn't been a problem in years. What does this have to do with anything?

DETECTIVE STANLEY

You two had an altercation, did you not?

AUBURN

Yes. But it was nothing.

DETECTIVE STANLEY

Didn't seem like nothing. Patrons said you were screaming. Your regulars were scared of you.

AUBURN

That's bullshit.

Detective Stanley slams his hand against the table making a loud THUD. He stands up. Auburn looks at him.

DETECTIVE STANLEY

So you're telling me that you haven't seen Madison since you two fought earlier that day?

AUBURN

That is correct. I've told you a thousand times. I would never harm my best friend.

DETECTIVE STANLEY

Then can you explain why a witness places you at the scene?

AUBURN

This is absurd. You're wasting your time. The real killer is still out there.

DETECTIVE STANLEY

I guess we'll let the evidence determine that now won't we?

Auburn puts her elbows on the table and rests her head on her hands looking expectantly at Detective Stanley.

AUBURN

Oh, I can't wait to prove you wrong. What did this witness say? Enlighten me.

DETECTIVE STANLEY

The witness states that you followed Madison when she left work that evening, and you had another altercation at her vehicle.

Auburn places her hand over her face and speaks through her fingers.

AUBURN

That is impossible. I worked at the coffee shop until 8 and she gets off work at 6. Flaw number one.

DETECTIVE STANLEY

Being a smart ass isn't going to make this any easier for you.

Auburn sits back in her chair. Detective Stanley stands up.

AUBURN

Just figured I would point out all the flaws in your wonderful plan to blame a murder on me. One that I didn't commit.

Detective Stanley sits back down and laughs.

AUBURN (CONT'D)

Tell me detective, what evidence do you have aside from a "witness" that places me at the scene?

DETECTIVE STANLEY

There's a voicemail on the victim's phone from you. It's clearly an angry one. Definitely seems like you had motive.

Auburn speaks through her fingers. Her hand is over her mouth masking laughter.

AUBURN

What, you've never been pissed off at a friend for doing something stupid? I didn't threaten her life or anything.

DETECTIVE STANLEY

But she turned up dead, Auburn.

Auburn, frustrated, sits back in her chair and sighs.

DETECTIVE STANLEY (CONT'D)  
So, if you didn't do it, who did?

AUBURN  
For starters, you should probably check out her cheating ass of a boyfriend Dustin. Then get back to me.

Auburn winks and lays her head on the table.

DETECTIVE STANLEY  
You'll stay here until I contact your mother. You may want to think about getting a lawyer. A good one.

Detective Stanley leaves the room. Auburn shifts uncomfortably in the chair looking around the room.

AUBURN  
I have to get out of here.

EXT. POLICE STATION - EVENING

Auburn, dressed in a pair of blue jeans and a black hooded sweatshirt, walks down the stairs of the police station with haste. An OFFICER approaches her.

OFFICER  
Ma'am, you have to return to the interrogation room. I have strict orders you aren't to leave.

AUBURN  
The hell I'm not. If you guys aren't going to find the real killer, I sure as hell am.

The officer grabs her arm and in an effort to get away she elbows the officer in the face and falls down the stairs hurting her ankle.

OFFICER  
Stop!

With her hands in her pockets, she picks up pace and heads to MADISON'S house limping.

AUBURN  
Alright Auburn, think. Who would want to kill Madison and why?

EXT. MADISON'S HOUSE - 20 MINUTES LATER

Auburn limps up the back stairs to the door outside of Madison's room. The house is empty and dark. She grabs the key from inside the porcelain frog's mouth.

She unlocks the door and enters.

INT. MADISON'S HOUSE - MIDNIGHT

Auburn scans the room looking for things that are out of place. The cat knocks something to the floor causing a CRASH.

AUBURN

Shadow, you scared me girl. Come here.

She sits on the floor and puts SHADOW, the cat, in her lap. The cat PURRS loudly and rubs against her.

AUBURN (CONT'D)

There has to be something out of place, some indication of where she was going and what she was doing.

The cat runs to the open closet and MEOWS. Auburn gets up from the floor and walks to the closet door, she opens it.

AUBURN (CONT'D)

(whispers)

What's in here girl?

There's noise coming from the hallway. She hears FOOTSTEPS. DUSTIN, 21, enters the room. He is dressed in all black. Auburn closes the closet door and watches from inside.

DUSTIN

Where the fuck did you put it Madison. This whole situation could have been avoided.

Dustin rummages through Madison's bedside table.

DUSTIN (CONT'D)

Damn it.

Dustin throws the pillows off of Madison's bed. Auburn pulls her phone from her pocket, opens the voice notes app, and begins recording.

DUSTIN (CONT'D)

Blackmailing bitch, where is the flash drive?

The cat exits the closet, opening the door.

DUSTIN (CONT'D)  
(irritated)  
Damn cat.

INT. MADISON'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Dustin's phone begins to RING. He pulls it from his pocket and answers.

DUSTIN  
What?

Dustin nudges Shadow away as she PURRS and rubs against his leg. He walks to the desk.

DUSTIN (CONT'D)  
I told you, I am looking for it.  
I'll find it. She wasn't very  
smart.

Dustin opens Madison's laptop on her desk. He begins typing.

DUSTIN (CONT'D)  
I'll call you when I find it.

He tosses his phone onto the bed. Auburn slides out of the closet. She grabs the phone from the bed and quickly returns to the closet.

She turns the brightness down and enters the passcode  
1,2,3,4.

AUBURN  
(Laughing quietly)  
Dumbass.

She moves to the floor and back towards the wall slowly.

AUBURN (CONT'D)  
Now lets see who you were talking  
to.

She hits send and calls back the number. It goes straight to an automated voicemail that repeats the number she called and beeps.

AUBURN (CONT'D)  
Voicemail, damn it.

Dustin sits at the computer desk. He looks through the drawers. Auburn slips from the closet and puts the phone back on the bed.

Shadow reenters the room and trips Auburn. She falls to the floor with a CRASH.

DUSTIN  
Who's there?

Dustin stands up. Auburn moves close to the bed and slides under it.

DUSTIN (CONT'D)  
If someone is there, show yourself.

The room remains dark and silent. Auburn shifts under the bed. Dustin walks towards the door.

He looks out.

DUSTIN (CONT'D)  
This house always creeped me out.

Auburn looks to her left. There is a small opening in the box spring. She puts her hand inside and removes the flash drive.

She puts it in her pocket. To her right is Shadow. Dustin walks near the bed. Shadow swats at his feet.

DUSTIN (CONT'D)  
Get out from under there cat.

Dustin bends down and looks under the bed. He sees Auburn.

AUBURN  
(whispers)  
Shit.

DUSTIN  
Auburn, what the hell? Get out from under there.

Auburn slips out the other side of the bed. She stands facing Dustin.

AUBURN  
Better question, what are you doing here?

DUSTIN  
That's none of your damn business.

Dustin walks to the door, locks it.

AUBURN  
What are you doing?

DUSTIN  
Why did you do it?

AUBURN  
Do what?

DUSTIN  
Kill her.

AUBURN  
You and I both know I didn't do  
that.

Auburn backs up towards the back door.

DUSTIN  
Ha, the cops think you did. Guess  
that means I'm off the hook.

AUBURN  
You killed her! Why?

DUSTIN  
Also none of your business.

Dustin walks towards Auburn.

AUBURN  
What did she find out about all the  
other girls Dustin? She actually  
thought I slept with you.

Auburn sticks her finger in her mouth making a GAGGING noise.

AUBURN (CONT'D)  
Did she realize how terrible of a  
person you are? Who was that on the  
phone Dustin, another one of your  
girlfriends?

DUSTIN  
You don't know anything. Do you  
have any idea what you just stepped  
into?

AUBURN  
Sure don't, but you brought me into  
it by hiring that woman to testify  
that I followed Madison after work.

Auburn steps forward meeting Dustin face to face. She shoves him. He stumbles backward a bit.

DUSTIN

Oh sweetheart, you don't know the half of it. That sweet innocent best friend of yours was far from sweet.

AUBURN

I don't believe you.

DUSTIN

Her stupidity got her killed. She deserved what she had coming. Wish you could have seen it.

He walks up to Auburn pushing her against the wall next to the door.

DUSTIN (CONT'D)

Watching the life leave her as my hands wrapped around her throat.

He wraps his hands around Auburns throat. Auburn struggles and tries to scream. She punches him repeatedly.

DUSTIN (CONT'D)

She cried and begged for her life. But she couldn't live. I couldn't have her tell anyone about what we were involved in.

Auburn flails. Dustin turns her around and tosses her to the floor.

AUBURN

(gasping)

What is so bad that you had to kill her Dustin? NO one deserves to die.

DUSTIN

You see, her and I have been doing business with this man in Chinatown. Your little friend had a drug problem.

Auburn tries to get up from the floor. Dustin kicks her. She falls.

AUBURN

You're lying.

DUSTIN

You know nothing Auburn. You don't even know your best friend.

AUBURN

I know she wouldn't do anything like that.

DUSTIN

She was blackmailing our supplier, and I had no choice but to kill her or be killed.

Dustin kicks her again, she SCREAMS. She scoots away and stands up. She holds her stomach.

AUBURN

You're never going to get away with this.

DUSTIN

You escaped questioning, you have guilty written all over you. No one is going to believe you.

He walks over to the desk. He trips and hits his head on it. He is bleeding.

DUSTIN (CONT'D)

I can claim self defense.

Auburn backs up towards the bedroom door.

DUSTIN (CONT'D)

No use in running Burn, your fate is just as fucked as hers.

INT. MADISON'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

There is a table next to the door. Auburn grabs the scissors from the half open drawer and hides them behind her back. Dustin approaches her.

AUBURN

I am smarter than you think Dustin.

She smiles.

AUBURN (CONT'D)

That flash drive you have been desperately searching for, I know where it is.

DUSTIN

Give it to me.

AUBURN

Not so fast, who is top dog now?  
That little flash drive is my get  
out of jail ticket. It proves my  
innocence. It gives you motive to  
kill.

DUSTIN

You have no idea what you're doing.

AUBURN

I think I do.

Dustin lunges towards Auburn. She stabs him in the arm and runs towards the door.

He grabs her leg. She falls to the floor.

DUSTIN

How dare you, give me the flash  
drive!

AUBURN

Let go of me!

Auburn kicks at Dustin's hand trying to loosen his grip.

DUSTIN

You're going to die just like she  
did. I am going watch the life  
drain from those pretty green eyes.

Auburn grabs the corner of the bed and pulls her self towards the door.

AUBURN

No chance in hell.

She kicks him in the head hard. He lets her ankle go. She gets to the door and opens it.

Dustin stands and chases after her.

EXT. MADISON'S HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Dustin tackles Auburn to the ground. SIRENS sound in the background.

Dustin chokes her. She struggles to get away.

DUSTIN

I always thought your eyes were the prettiest shade of green. Such a shame no one else will get to see them.

Auburn sticks her fingers in his eyes. He yells and falls over covering his face.

DUSTIN (CONT'D)

You bitch.

Auburn puts her hand in her back pocket. She feels the flash drive. She crawls to the stairs.

Detective Stanley stands at the end of the stairs with his gun drawn.

DETECTIVE STANLEY

Don't move!

AUBURN

Man am I glad to see you.

DETECTIVE STANLEY

Put your hands where I can see them!

Auburn puts her hands up and reaches the end of the stairs. An OFFICER handcuffs her.

AUBURN

Just wait a minute. I know who killed her. Dustin is up there. I have it all recorded and I have a flash drive that proves it.

She reaches into her pocket and pulls out the flash drive.

AUBURN (CONT'D)

I don't know what is on this, but Dustin was pretty frantic about getting it back. He said there is stuff on there that Madison was going to turn into you guys.

Detective Stanley lowers his weapon. Two OFFICERS, guns drawn, head up the stairs.

The deck is empty. The door to the house is open. Dustin is gone.

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - THREE A.M.

Auburn sits with her head on the table. She is alone.

AUBURN  
This is bullshit.

Detective Stanley enters the room.

DETECTIVE STANLEY  
We checked out your story. You were right. Dustin and Madison were involved in a drug deal that went wrong.

Auburn looks up at the detective.

AUBURN  
I told you, I didn't do it.

Detective Stanley sits across from Auburn.

DETECTIVE STANLEY  
Dustin has been apprehended and is being charged for the murder of Madison Blake. You are free to go.

Detective Stanley gets up and walks to the door. Holds it open for Auburn to exit.

He stops her before exiting.

DETECTIVE STANLEY (CONT'D)  
Good job kid.

AUBURN  
I guess crazy does come in handy sometimes.

Auburn smirks and exits the interrogation room.