

"The Man in the Restaurant"

By

Jamie J. Frevele

"Bones" Fan Script

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Jamie J. Frevele
WGA#: I63178

Email: jamie.frevele@gmail.com

EXT. WOODED AREA IN VIRGINIA - NIGHT

BRENNAN and BOOTH follow several investigators through the woods to investigate a body found in a secluded cabin.

BOOTH

You know, I could see myself building a cabin in the middle of nowhere after retirement.

BRENNAN

I couldn't.

BOOTH

Are you kidding? Of course you could...

BRENNAN

I was talking about you.

BOOTH

Me? Are you kidding?

BRENNAN

That's the second time you said that, and I very rarely kid.

BOOTH

I'm just a little surprised that you would question my ability to conquer the wilderness in my golden years. I could see it. Hunting for my own dinner, fire in the fireplace, whiskey in my wrinkly, rugged paw...

BRENNAN

Males tend to feel that as they become less physically capable of carrying out the duties of their youth that they need to compensate for it as they age.

BOOTH

Look, I may not be able to run as fast as I do now in a few years, but I will never let myself go. Couldn't do it.

BRENNAN

You really have no control over the depletion of testosterone. I supposed there would have been a

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

BRENNAN (cont'd)
really attractive, younger woman
with ample breasts serving you that
whiskey? Even she might not be able
to help you with everything...

BOOTH
You just turned my "old man in a
cabin" dream into a pathetic
mid-life crisis. I'll never forgive
you for that.

BRENNAN
I'm sorry. If it's any consolation,
you are in extraordinary shape now,
which will give you some advantage
later on. But you can't stop the
aging process, nor the waning cycle
of your masculinity.

BOOTH
Oh, well, thanks for the
reassurance.

BRENNAN
And I just think you'd be bored in
the woods.

INT. LOG CABIN - SAME TIME

Brennan and Booth enter the log cabin and see human remains,
still sitting upright in an easy chair. There are many, many
cats in the cabin, some of them on the body's lap. Brennan
walks over to take a closer look as the investigators and
techs shoo the cats away.

BRENNAN
Definitely female, definitely
elderly, at least eighty...She's
been partially eaten by her own
cats.

BOOTH
Feral cats?

BRENNAN
Not necessarily.

A detective, DET. QUENTIN, comes close, visibly icked out.

(CONTINUED)

QUENTIN

We're pretty sure it's Patricia May Lewis. She's got a couple of neighbors, if you can even call them that. They're about a mile away right outside the woods. She usually takes walks in their area and they haven't seen her for a week or so.

BRENNAN

The decomposition is consistent with that time frame, even with the animal intervention.

Two cats race past Booth, nearly knocking him over. He notices a couple more cats heading in the same direction.

BOOTH

They must be heading to the kitchen if they haven't been fed for a week.

BRENNAN

Cats are carnivores. Maybe there are rats in there.

BOOTH

I'm not really comfortable with cats eating people.

BRENNAN

Well, they did, and once they were done with Ms. Lewis, they have to move onto something.

Booth shivers and follows the cats to the back door, which has been blowing open, no latch. He sees where the cats were communing.

BOOTH

Or someone.

Brennan perks up, as do the investigators. She meets Booth in the back of the house.

EXT. BACK OF CABIN - SAME TIME

At the back of the cabin, both see the decomposed remains of another body, being eaten by cats and maggots.

INT. FBI HEADQUARTERS - SAME TIME

A sign on the door at the FBI reads "Dr. Molly Sangster, FBI Documents Specialist." MOLLY SANGSTER, early 30s and classically attractive, the kind of woman who has no idea how intimidating she can be with either her words or her looks, is walking back into her office to grab her mug when she sees a folder on her desk that wasn't previously there.

MOLLY

Oh, come on! It's almost 10 o'clock!

Her assistant, TRACY, early to mid-20s, bookish but pretty, comes in at the sound of her boss's distress.

TRACY

I'm sorry. It had been on my desk all day, I just forgot about it. It's another confession.

MOLLY

A confession? You mean one of those things they ask us to analyze, only to ultimately ignore my analysis entirely?

TRACY

Yes, but this didn't come from the FBI. It came from a civilian.

Molly opens up the folder and starts reading it, out of curiosity she can't ignore. She loves confessions.

MOLLY

So, it's like extra credit? I can waste my time on it, and maybe find success, but it won't count for all that much...

TRACY

Pretty much.

MOLLY

Woah...no. Nope, no.

TRACY

What? A liar?

MOLLY

Human beings are not lie detectors, Tracy. But they can be inconsistent.

(CONTINUED)

TRACY

That guy's being inconsistent?

MOLLY

I definitely don't think he did what he said he did. I want everything on this guy, everything he's ever written or recorded.

TRACY

I have to do this now?

MOLLY

And to think you could have let this wait until the morning.

Tracy slumps against the door frame.

TRACY

What's the name?

MOLLY

Zachary Addy.

ROLL OPENING CREDITS

INT. JEFFERSONIAN MEDICO-LEGAL LAB - MID-MORNING

The decomposed remains are laid out and surrounded by Booth, Brennan and the squints - ANGELA, HODGINS and grad student ANDY, mid-20s, who would rather be skateboarding. CAM enters.

CAM

The dentals match those of Patrick McCall, who is - was, employed at the Natural Resource Institute.

HODGINS

An oil man. No wonder he ended up dead in the woods under mysterious circumstances.

ANDY

And ironically enjoyed an environmentally-friendly afterlife.

ANGELA

He was really eaten by cats? House cats? Pet cats?

(CONTINUED)

BRENNAN

When was he reported missing? The decomp suggests that he was dead about as long as Ms. Lewis was.

ANGELA

And Ms. Lewis was...?

CAM

The cat lady. She appears to have died naturally and became the first course before Mr. McCall became...

ANDY

Second breakfast.

They're not that thrilled with Andy and it shows on their faces. His work hasn't impressed them, and he makes bad jokes.

BOOTH

Mr. McCall was reported missing ten days ago by his wife, Rita, who is being brought to the FBI as we speak.

BRENNAN

He has multiple contusions all over, but the body of his sternum is crushed.

CAM

I would imagine an analyst for an energy think tank in DC has quite a few enemies.

BRENNAN

We haven't seen any evidence that this is even a murder.

BOOTH

Bones, someone crushed his chest and left him for dead in the woods. What else could it be?

HODGINS

Jousting?

ANDY

Am I going to get to look at swords?

Brennan looks closely at the shattered sternum and caved in ribs.

(CONTINUED)

BRENNAN

This particular break is too much damage for a sword to have done, unless the sword was thick. And blunt. We'll have to macerate the bones first to get a clearer view. Andy, clean the bones, then assist Dr. Hodgins with the insect activity to confirm the time frame of decomp.

Andy looks squeamish, but knows he really doesn't have a choice. He is under their microscope.

ANDY

Okay, Dr. Brennan.

Andy goes to prepare to clean the bones. Hodgins gives Cam and Brennan a look concerning his opinion of Andy, then turns to leave.

HODGINS

I'll start on my little woodland friends.

BOOTH

I'm going to go question Mrs. McCall.

BRENNAN

Angela, can you use the x-rays of the victim's injuries to come up with a scenario in the Angelator?

ANGELA

Sure can. I'll assume the kitties came afterwards and were not involved in the death.

BRENNAN

I would say that's a safe assumption to make.

Angela leaves.

INT. FBI INTERROGATION ROOM - EARLY AFTERNOON

Booth is questioning RITA MCCALL, a middle-aged housewife, polished but casual, the widow of the victim, Patrick McCall. She is predictably shaken after hearing of her husband's death.

(CONTINUED)

RITA

He had a lot of enemies because of his work, but nothing unusual. Patrick never once felt threatened. Never.

BOOTH

He never talked about any nasty letters from people, no one ever made him feel unsafe?

RITA

Never. I mean, certainly there were people who disagreed with him. He's in politics. The energy industry, no less. Lots of people are angry with him.

BOOTH

Were there any groups in particular?

RITA

Of course there were. Everyone was out to "get" Patrick. But there was nothing out of the ordinary that caused us alarm. An affair would have been more shocking.

BOOTH

Do you think your husband would have an affair?

RITA

No. We were happy. Like any couple, we had our rough spots, but...we loved each other. We had no reason to cheat.

Her manner is sincere. Not defensive, not doubtful, completely confident. The thought of her happy marriage ending overwhelms her.

BOOTH

Mrs. McCall...first of all, I believe you...

RITA

We have three kids. Teenagers. We did everything for them.

(CONTINUED)

BOOTH

Did any of your children's friends have problems with Mr. McCall?

RITA

No. Not at all. Peter, our son, said his friends thought Patrick was cool. He didn't push the kids. And he was glad they had friends. It was hard for Patrick to go to work and come home feeling like he made someone's day better. He sometimes had a lot of regret over what he did.

BOOTH

Did he ever think about quitting?

Rita nods her head.

RITA

He would tell me that it felt like he was working for the wrong people.

BOOTH

So, maybe his enemies were really at work. I'm sure he could have brought a lot of useful information to those who disagreed with the Natural Resource Institute.

RITA

Yes, indeed.

She thinks for a moment. Booth thinks he may have gotten something and waits for her.

RITA

(cont'd)

Terence Baker. He and Patrick were emailing about a month ago.

BOOTH

Who is Terence Baker?

RITA

An activist. He's associated with the green movement.

BOOTH

What did your husband tell you about this? Was it positive? Was he angry?

(CONTINUED)

RITA

Oh, Patrick didn't want to cause a stir. I think he was throwing around the whole whistleblower idea, but thought about the kids and the consequences. He didn't need his own bosses against him.

BOOTH

He would have been a hero to the other side, though.

RITA

Patrick didn't want to be a hero. He didn't want the attention. He just wanted to work, put our kids through college. But he did tell me that after he backed out, Terence soured on him.

BOOTH

And when was that?

RITA

About a week before he went missing. But Agent Booth, I really don't think Terence Baker was a threat. The correspondence just ended. Those people are pacifists anyway. They're not even close to those Greenpeace types.

INT. JEFFERSONIAN MEDICO-LEGAL LAB - SAME TIME

Hodgins is at his computer, checking his email. He appears to be impatient, as if he's waiting for something. Andy comes back, looking a bit green.

ANDY

Are you busy?

HODGINS

(not looking up)

I work here. I'm always busy.

Hodgins looks up.

HODGINS

(cont'd)

Did you just puke?

(CONTINUED)

ANDY

Not yet.

HODGINS

Were you about to ask me permission to vomit?

ANDY

(embarrassed)

I may have been coming by to request a short break from this.

HODGINS

Andy, if you can't handle bugs, you can't handle bodies. It's as simple as that.

ANDY

I understand, Dr. Hodgins, it's just...really...gross.

Hodgins gives Andy a look that categorically says, "You're fired."

HODGINS

What did you find?

ANDY

The presence of maggots is consistent with the 10-day time frame of decomposition.

HODGINS

Did you find any species or particulates that are normally not found in those woods, in case the victim didn't die there?

ANDY

(No.)

Maybe I didn't look hard enough.

HODGINS

Okay. Look, go hurl, then find me more information. Did you even look at the particulates?

ANDY

No.

HODGINS

Go.

INT. JEFFERSONIAN MEDICO-LEGAL LAB ENTRANCE AREA - SAME TIME

Molly enters the lab, noticing Andy walk by her.

MOLLY

Excuse me, where can I find Dr.
Jack Hodgins?

Andy covers his mouth and gestures in Hodgins' general direction, then runs off. Molly sees him, then Hodgins looks up from his desk. He gets up to meet her.

HODGINS

You never emailed me back, Dr.
Sangster.

They give each other a warm but professional peck on the cheek.

MOLLY

Nice place.

HODGINS

What, this dump?

MOLLY

Sorry about not emailing you. My
assistant didn't get me your
homework assignment until almost
ten last night.

HODGINS

So, you thought you'd come ambush
me at my place of work to
condescend to me?

MOLLY

Ambush? I would never...

HODGINS

Oh, no. You're right. Presenting
your thesis, of which I was the
subject, to scores of people in the
Berkeley linguistics department is
definitely not an ambush.

MOLLY

It's not! You knew full well I was
writing a thesis.

HODGINS

Not about me!

(CONTINUED)

MOLLY

I was a grad student. We were dating. How could you not know I was writing a thesis?

HODGINS

You know what?

MOLLY

That's not why we're here.

HODGINS

Right.

MOLLY

Can we go in a private room? Do you have an office?

HODGINS

I can find us an office.

MOLLY

You don't have one? I do.

HODGINS

I'm very happy for you. Come with me.

INT. JEFFERSONIAN CORRIDORS - SAME TIME

As Molly and Hodgins walk down the halls of the lab, Cam and Angela come from the other direction. Angela is taken aback by Hodgins' appearance, in their workplace, with another woman.

CAM

Hodgins, we're looking into people who may have had a problem with Patrick McCall. Booth got the name Terence Baker. Have you heard of him?

HODGINS

Yeah, he keeps a great blog - the Green Machine. Very anti-Big Oil. I would imagine he had some sort of problem with a Big Oil man.

CAM

Actually, Booth said that McCall was writing to Baker, possibly to expose the Natural Resource Institute.

(CONTINUED)

HODGINS

But...?

CAM

Exactly. We're looking into it.

ANGELA

I can't get any beating scenarios to fit these injuries.

HODGINS

It sounds like Mr. McCall had all kinds of people after him though, doesn't it? He's got the environmental activists, ecoterrorists, the blogosphere, then if he was going to blow up his own think tank's spot, maybe someone there wasn't too thrilled with him. Oh, it's all delicious.

CAM

Let's not get carried away.

HODGINS

You mean like someone got all over Patrick McCall? A boy can dream.

ANGELA

I don't think I know your friend.

"Friend" didn't sound like "friend." More like "slut."

HODGINS

Oh, I'm sorry. Cam, Angela, this is Dr. Molly Sangster. She's a documents specialist with the FBI. Molly, this is Dr. Camille Saroyan and Angela Montenegro.

They shake hands. Angela tries not to remain tense. Cam tries not to notice the obvious tension.

CAM

Nice to meet you. You're giving her the tour, I guess?

HODGINS

Yeah. We went to college together. We're going to compare our doctorates. I have two.

(CONTINUED)

MOLLY

So do I.

HODGINS

Really? Wow, good for you.

MOLLY

Yeah, it's been a while.

Angela can't take it.

ANGELA

I'm going to run the scenario again with multiple assailants. Maybe bigger weapons.

She leaves.

CAM

(moving on...)

Did Andy find anything in the bugs?

HODGINS

Not enough. I put him back on it, plus the particulates.

CAM

How many grad students is this now?

HODGINS

I stopped caring. We'll never be able to get what we want anyway.

CAM

I know. Nice to meet you, Dr. Sangster.

Molly and Hodgins leave.

INT. PRIVATE OFFICE IN THE LAB - MOMENTS LATER

Hodgins has Molly in a private office, talking about Zack's confession.

HODGINS

You actually think Zack's confession can be thrown out?

MOLLY

I think there are a lot of inconsistencies that can be presented to a grand jury, yes.

(CONTINUED)

HODGINS

As far as what?

MOLLY

As far as he's inconsistent at certain very crucial points in his confession.

HODGINS

He lied in his confession?

MOLLY

We can't tell if he's lying or telling the truth, but we all verbalize a certain way when we're saying something we believe to be true. And Zack slips out of that at certain points.

HODGINS

But I don't think that misspeaking constitutes getting a confession thrown out.

MOLLY

Neither do grand juries nor judges, actually. But one of these days, dammit!

HODGINS

That's all you have?
Inconsistencies?

MOLLY

They're a big deal. I can show them to you...

Molly tries to show him the confession. Hodgins stops her.

HODGINS

I don't...I'm not ready to see that.

She watches Hodgins for a moment.

MOLLY

I don't know what you were expecting me to find, Jack.

HODGINS

Me neither. I guess I was just really hoping...I just can't believe that Zack could kill

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

HODGINS (cont'd)
someone. None of us can. We know
Zack.

MOLLY
He's obviously a very good liar.

HODGINS
I can't accept that, either. It was
just so out of character for him,
all of this Gormogon stuff. I mean,
I know what I said about secret
societies, but Zack was too smart
to believe that enough to actually
kill someone. He was smart. He was
awkward and naive, but he knew
right from wrong.

MOLLY
And what I'm trying to tell you is
that what he said at certain points
is out of character for him, as far
as what I got from his confession
goes. Isn't it true that he led
police right to this guy?

HODGINS
Yeah. All the gory details.

MOLLY
Then he was in full-blown truth
mode here. He had nothing to lie
about. That aside, there are
moments in this confession where
he's just not being up front.

That catches Hodgins.

HODGINS
Zack was always up front. Well,
when he wasn't hiding things...

MOLLY
And you said every gory detail?

HODGINS
He has a photographic memory. He
remembers *everything*.

MOLLY
Well, there are things he clearly
can't remember here. Like the
lobbyist's murder.

(CONTINUED)

Hodgins looks at her. He looks at the confession; Molly points out the spot, then hands the file to him.

MOLLY

(cont'd)

I noticed there isn't a written, signed confession.

HODGINS

He burned his hands in the explosion.

MOLLY

The one he caused?

HODGINS

Yeah. He might never have full use of them.

MOLLY

Hm.

Brennan knocks on the door of the office and opens it.

BRENNAN

Hodgins, has Andy gotten any information from the insect activity yet?

HODGINS

He's on it. Dr. Brennan, this is Dr. Molly Sangster with the FBI. She's been looking at Zack's confession.

Brennan's interest is certainly piqued, but the mention of Zack's name rattles her. She comes inside.

BRENNAN

Why have you been looking at Zack's confession?

MOLLY

Dr. Hodgins brought it to my attention.

Brennan is slightly peeved by that, but she still wants to hear.

BRENNAN

Why?

(CONTINUED)

MOLLY

Last resort. He wanted to see what I thought of it.

BRENNAN

And?

HODGINS

She thinks she can get it thrown out.

Brennan freezes. It's a lot to take in, and she has a case, and there were already too many thoughts running through her head about Zack.

BRENNAN

I need to find Angela. And Booth.

HODGINS

Don't you want to hear about this?

BRENNAN

We have a case. Meet me by the Angelator.

Brennan leaves, spooked, leaving the door open.

INT. JEFFERSONIAN CORRIDORS OUTSIDE THE OFFICE - SAME TIME

Brennan walks heavily down the corridors to the Angelator. Booth catches up to her to follow.

BOOTH

Are you okay?

BRENNAN

Hodgins has this woman from the FBI looking at Zack's confession.

BOOTH

From the FBI? Whose head did he go over to do that?

BRENNAN

I don't know. He said she can get Zack's confession thrown out.

BOOTH

His murder confession? Is she serious? Is *he* serious?

(CONTINUED)

BRENNAN

I have no idea...

BOOTH

Did you hear what she had to say?

BRENNAN

No, we have to deal with the present case right now. I'll talk to Hodgins later.

BOOTH

Wait, wait, wait, Bones - you have not believed that Zack could kill someone since he admitted to it. And you just walked away?

BRENNAN

I can't deal with it right now. We have a case.

INT. THE ANGELATOR ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Angela, Cam and Andy are in front of the Angelator when Booth and Brennan arrive. Angela has a new scenario set up.

ANGELA

So, we're trying out a new scenario with multiple players and multiple weapons. Here is Patrick McCall.

A figure of Patrick McCall appears in the middle of the display. Two figures representing assailants appear around him.

ANGELA

(cont'd)

Here are the bad guys. In order for McCall to have received the injuries that he did, once person had a normal-sized weapon and is of moderate strength. But this blow to the chest must have been caused by someone with superhuman strength wielding a battering ram.

ANDY

So, no swordplay for Andy.

BRENNAN

Are you saying this is inconsistent with a beating?

(CONTINUED)

ANGELA
It might be.

CAM
Maybe the chest blow came from
above him.

Angela runs the scenario.

ANGELA
It's possible, but I'm not
confident in it.

BRENNAN
I don't think so. That would have
caused more extensive fractures to
not just the sternum, but the ribs
too. The ribs were broken, but
flattened. This was too clean to be
caused by something as destructive
as a stomp.

BOOTH
What kind of weapon could that be?

Booth's phone goes off. He picks it up.

CAM
A pipe maybe?

Hodgins and Molly walk in. Molly is fascinated by the
Angelator.

HODGINS
What's the matter? Nothing working?

BRENNAN
We can't figure out a weapon that
would cause that kind of damage to
the chest. The other injuries are
consistent with trauma by bats,
clubs, blunt objects.

MOLLY
Your toys are so much cooler than
ours.

Booth hangs up his phone.

BOOTH
They picked up Terence Baker for
questioning. Sweets is meeting us
there to observe.

BRENNAN

Good. Angela, keep trying this.
Andy, help her and Cam find a
weapon. Hodgins, take over on the
insects.

HODGINS

I was thinking more along the lines
of a family meeting.

They all pause and stare.

BRENNAN

My office.

INT. BRENNAN'S OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

All, except Andy, are seated in Brennan's office listening
to Molly.

BOOTH

You do realize you're from the most
useless department in the FBI?

MOLLY

I like to think we're
underappreciated, but "useless"
coming from an FBI agent isn't
surprising.

BRENNAN

How did you get Zack's confession?

MOLLY

Dr. Hodgins and I are old friends.

HODGINS

We dated in grad school.

MOLLY

Well, if you want to go into it.

HODGINS

I just thought I'd be honest about
it.

MOLLY

He dumped me.

HODGINS

She wrote her linguistics thesis on
me, saying my letters to her proved
I was a stalker.

(CONTINUED)

ANGELA
(not sure who to hate more)
Seriously?

MOLLY
My professors were extremely
impressed.

HODGINS
I couldn't get a date on campus for
weeks.

MOLLY
I really should have thanked you.

BOOTH
Anyway...

MOLLY
Anyway, after analyzing Zack's
confession, I found several
inconsistencies when he talked
about the murder of the lobbyist.
I'll show you in a second, but it's
better if I start with a
demonstration.

Molly crumples up a piece of paper from her notepad and
throws it at Hodgins.

HODGINS
I hope that had a point.

MOLLY
Angela, do the same.

ANGELA
Gladly.

Angela throws the same piece of paper at Hodgins.

HODGINS
Okay...

MOLLY
Dr. Brennan and Dr. Saroyan, you
may follow suit if you want.

Both crumple up paper and throw it at Hodgins. Booth,
without being asked, crumples up paper and gets ready to
throw.

HODGINS

Molly, you can make your point any time...

Booth throws his paper.

MOLLY

What just happened?

HODGINS

You all threw garbage at me.

MOLLY

Angela?

ANGELA

I threw garbage at Jack.

BRENNAN

I threw garbage at Hodgins.

MOLLY

Or, garbage was thrown at Jack.

BOOTH

As much fun as that was, what does that mean?

CAM

It means anybody could have thrown garbage at Hodgins. We don't know.

MOLLY

Right.

BRENNAN

What does this have to do with Zack?

MOLLY

Well, it depends on what your definition of "is" is. Or, in Zack's case, "was."

Molly takes out Zack's confession and shows it to Brennan.

MOLLY

(cont'd)

Saying something in the active voice means that a subject is performing an action. "I threw garbage at Jack." But the passive voice is the subject receiving an

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

MOLLY (cont'd)
action. The agent performing that
action can be omitted: "Garbage was
thrown at Jack."

BRENNAN
(she gets it)
By whom?

MOLLY
Exactly. Zack does not speak in the
passive voice. If he did something,
he says so. "I mixed the monomer."
"I caused the diversion with the
explosion." But he changes when he
talks about the murder.

Brennan reads a highlighted passage.

BRENNAN
"He was stabbed."

HODGINS
What if he just misspoke?

BRENNAN
Zack doesn't misspeak. He doesn't
say things he doesn't believe to be
true, or if he wants us to believe
it's true. But he would have said
"I stabbed him." "I stabbed
Porter." He didn't say that.

BOOTH
Bones, this is more insignificant
than it seems. The documents
department is used mostly for
profiling. They analyze clues. The
confession stuff is psychology, and
you hate that.

BRENNAN
No, it's not. Dr. Sangster is
telling us what Zack said, not what
he feels. And Zack...Zack could
lie, but he could also remember.
And he's not remembering this
murder. He would have said exactly
what he saw.

ANGELA
How could Zack forget what happened
during the murder of a human being?

(CONTINUED)

HODGINS

Maybe because he was different when he got back from Iraq.

They all stop - they'd never even considered that.

HODGINS

(cont'd)

Zack made a few amateur mistakes when he was a grad student, but once he was in doctor mode, he never missed a beat. Until he went to Iraq.

MOLLY

There's a red freaking flag.

CAM

But we all make mistakes. We could all be making mistakes on the McCall case right now because the evidence is so sketchy.

ANGELA

No, Jack is right. He was different.

BRENNAN

How?

ANGELA

Sweetie, it was hard to notice then. We all thought he came back, just, more grown up. But in retrospect, he was much more clinical. Business-like. But not Zack-like.

HODGINS

There were weeks where we never spoke during the drive in. Granted, Zack was never a chatterbox, but every once in a while, he would just shut down.

CAM

Are you sure it wasn't because he was just lying about working with Gormogon?

BRENNAN

Zack believed what he was doing was logically sound. He wouldn't have

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

BRENNAN (cont'd)
acted any differently. If he was,
it was because of something else.

MOLLY
Did he ever talk to anyone when he
got back from Iraq?

BOOTH
I'll admit, I kind of kept waiting
for him to talk to me. He was
scared to go in the first place,
but he still talked to me. About
that.

BRENNAN
He never said anything to you?

BOOTH
Not a word.

CAM
So, no one else is talking about
the possibility of another Gormogon
killer?

BOOTH
Gormogon's dead. The only person
who would know is Zack.

HODGINS
If he can even remember.

MOLLY
There's only one way to find out.
I'll have to talk to Zack.

INT. BOOTH'S SUV - MOMENTS LATER

Booth and Brennan are on their way to the FBI to question Terence Baker. Brennan is now almost completely distracted by Zack's confession and is still holding a photocopy of the transcript.

BRENNAN
Zack is all over the place in this
confession.

BOOTH
Bones, I know how important this is
to you, but we can't depend on
this. The FBI just doesn't buy this
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

BOOTH (cont'd)
analysis. It's as reliable as a lie detector test, which is to say, it's not.

BRENNAN
Human cultures revolve around language and communication and wouldn't survive without it. Forensic linguistics is merely a different kind of evidence than what we look at in the lab. Dr. Sangster does with words what I do with bones. Why is that so hard for you to believe?

BOOTH
Because human beings talk, and they talk a lot, and sometimes they say things they don't really mean.

BRENNAN
You mean when they're under pressure?

BOOTH
Yes, for one example.

BRENNAN
(waving the confession)
Like in an interrogation?

BOOTH
We were trying to catch a killer who was eating people! Zack knew where he was! Of course he was going to be pressed for answers.

BRENNAN
People making false confessions is not an impossibility, Booth. Plenty of suspects, under enough pressure by an interrogator, admit to doing things they don't do.

BOOTH
Weren't you listening? Zack *couldn't* admit to something he didn't do. That's the voodoo she's going to try to pass off as evidence.

(CONTINUED)

BRENNAN

That's exculpatory. If he can't say it, he couldn't have done it.

BOOTH

You can't be serious...

BRENNAN

Maybe with someone who wasn't like Zack. But Zack admitted to everything else - causing the explosion, giving Gormogon a diversion, boiling the mandible...but he couldn't admit to the murder.

BOOTH

Then why did he claim responsibility?

Brennan looks at the confession again. Those were the words she couldn't understand in the context of everything else.

BRENNAN

He didn't technically say it.

Booth sighs, frustrated at seeing Brennan grasping for straws.

BRENNAN

(cont'd)

The agent asked him "You're responsible for Porter's murder?" and he said "Yes."

Brennan stares at the paper in her hand, wishing it could tell her something else, or give her more.

BOOTH

I still can't believe he never talked to me.

BRENNAN

He probably didn't think you would take him seriously.

BOOTH

I would have listened to him. He knew that. Iraq...he knew that I knew about how it felt to be in a war zone. It's why he'd come to me in the first place.

(CONTINUED)

BRENNAN

Then why wouldn't he have talked to me?

BOOTH

Because Zack is the last person who would tell you something was wrong if it meant he couldn't do his job.

Brennan hates that, but knows it's true.

INT. FBI HEADQUARTERS OUTSIDE INTERROGATION ROOM

SWEETS is watching TERENCE BAKER, a lean, sandy-haired man in his early 40s. He looks like a stereotypical Gen X environmental activist. Booth and Brennan enter the holding area of the interrogation room.

SWEETS

Dr. Brennan, Agent Booth. I think Mr. Baker will have nothing to offer you.

BOOTH

Well, thank God I didn't waste my time then.

SWEETS

He's not denying his dissatisfaction with your victim. Is it true he was eaten by cats?

BRENNAN

Postmortem, yes. That's irrelevant to Mr. Baker though. You already think he's innocent?

SWEETS

He just doesn't strike me as the murdering type.

Brennan and Booth let that one simmer for a second.

BOOTH

I'll go talk to our friend.

Booth walks inside and closes the door behind him. Brennan watches him interrogate Baker.

SWEETS

Dr. Saroyan called me and told me about the confession.

(CONTINUED)

BRENNAN

You didn't think he fit the profile at the time, did you?

SWEETS

No, but Zack's hard to read sometimes. He's a total aspie.

BRENNAN

Aspie?

SWEETS

He has Asperger's Syndrome. You didn't know?

BRENNAN

I guess I suspected, but...It never came up. It wasn't a big deal.

SWEETS

Zack was who he was.

BRENNAN

Right.

SWEETS

You're a little pissed at Agent Booth today.

BRENNAN

He doesn't believe in the linguistic analysis of Zack's confession.

SWEETS

But you do.

BRENNAN

I am very convinced.

SWEETS

If you're so convinced, why didn't you just say "Yes"?

Sweets thinks that was really clever of him. Brennan, on the other hand, is disturbed and continues watching Booth interrogate Baker.

INT. FBI INTERROGATION ROOM

Booth is getting frustrated with Baker since he's getting no new information from him. He sits down at the table.

BOOTH

You're honestly saying that once your conversation with McCall went downhill, and he wasn't going to give you what you wanted, that you didn't want any revenge whatsoever?

BAKER

No, man! Look, the guy could have given me a goldmine of information on Big Oil. I was ready to come out with a bombshell. And he screwed me over. But I'm a journalist! I get screwed over all the time!

BOOTH

Aren't you a blogger?

BAKER

I'm a journalist.

BOOTH

Not a legitimate one.

BAKER

Just 'cause I don't work for the mainstream media? Please...

BOOTH

This kind of story would have gotten you lots of ink, wouldn't it? Don't deny that you crave that sort of exposure...

INT. FBI HEADQUARTERS OUTSIDE INTERROGATION ROOM

Brennan is watching Booth while Sweets watches Baker - and Brennan. She looks at the confession again.

BRENNAN

He's asking him incredibly leading questions.

SWEETS

That's generally how they get the answers they want.

(CONTINUED)

BRENNAN

That's wrong.

SWEETS

It's not really ethical, no.

Sweets focuses back on Brennan; he's done with Baker.

SWEETS

(cont'd)

Aspies are pros at hiding their emotions, Dr. Brennan. It would have been majorly hard to notice a difference in Zack if something was affecting him.

BRENNAN

I can accept that. And I also accept the existence of post-traumatic stress, even if he was hiding it. But why would he join someone like Gormogon? Based on a logical argument alone?

SWEETS

I've thought about that too.

BRENNAN

And?

SWEETS

I don't know.

Brennan looks at Sweets, who just failed her. He shrugs.

SWEETS

(cont'd)

I'm sorry, Dr. Brennan. I wish I could give you an answer to that, but I can only speculate on minds I've examined.

BRENNAN

Zack would never let you.

SWEETS

I do know that.

Brennan continues to watch Booth and Baker. Booth is getting riled up and slams a chair.

(CONTINUED)

BRENNAN

See, I think if I was assaulting furniture, I would have reached the point at which I didn't think he was responsible.

SWEETS

At least he's not assaulting Baker.

At that moment, they see Booth grabbing Baker's collar. Brennan makes a face and opens the door of the room.

INT. FBI INTERROGATION ROOM

Booth, all worked up, lets go of Baker at the sound of the knock and Brennan opening the door.

BRENNAN

Booth? Sweets wants to talk to you.

BOOTH

Yeah, okay.

Booth walks into the holding area, out of breath, and closes the door after him.

BOOTH

(cont'd)

I don't think it's him.

SWEETS

Me neither. Hey, we agree!

Booth gives him a look and turns away from him.

INT. PSYCHIATRIC WARD INTERROGATION ROOM HOLDING AREA

Molly and Hodgins are waiting in the holding room of an interrogation area in the psychiatric ward housing Zack.

MOLLY

Are you nervous?

HODGINS

I'm concerned that he's going to think you're a shrink.

MOLLY

It's a good thing I'm not.

(CONTINUED)

HODGINS

You were at one point.

MOLLY

Not a shrink. A social worker.

HODGINS

You still got your first doctorate
in psychology.

MOLLY

Shhh...I'm not that proud of that
one.

HODGINS

Zack will be able to tell if you're
using psychology on him and he
won't buy it.

MOLLY

Then it's a good thing I'm not
selling it.

HODGINS

What are your plans for him, Molly?

MOLLY

He's going to give me evidence to
present to a grand jury in the form
of his own words. And if that means
talking about something he doesn't
want to talk about, well...that's
just less evidence to exonerate
him.

Hodgins looks inside and sees an orderly and a doctor
bringing ZACK inside. He takes Molly's arm and brings her
inside after getting a signal from the doctor.

INT. PSYCHIATRIC WARD INTERROGATION ROOM

Hodgins approaches Zack and sits at the table.

HODGINS

Hey, buddy.

ZACK

This was unexpected. Is something
wrong?

(CONTINUED)

HODGINS

No, not at all.

ZACK

Is this another psychiatrist?

HODGINS

No, I can assure you that she's not.

MOLLY

I'm Dr. Molly Sangster. I'm a forensic linguist. I work for the FBI.

ZACK

(to Hodgins)

What did I do?

HODGINS

That's the thing. We don't think you did anything.

ZACK

My doing nothing is what brought you and a forensic linguist here to see me?

MOLLY

Zack, your confession is inconsistent. That's why we're here.

ZACK

Inconsistent? I didn't lie during my confession. I gave them all the information I could...

HODGINS

We know.

MOLLY

You gave them all the information you could, but there are parts of your confession where you couldn't give them information, so they supplied their own and you confirmed it for them.

ZACK

You're speculating.

(CONTINUED)

MOLLY

I wouldn't even think of it.

Molly and Zack stare each other down a bit, Zack sizing her up. Hodgins pats Zack on the shoulder and stands to leave.

HODGINS

I'm going to let you and Molly talk. I'll be right outside if you need me, okay?

ZACK

Okay.

Hodgins leaves, closing the door behind him.

ZACK

(cont'd)

Hodgins gave you my confession?

MOLLY

Yes. He doesn't think you killed the lobbyist.

ZACK

You wouldn't be here if you didn't feel the same way.

MOLLY

That's right.

ZACK

And Hodgins knows that I don't trust psychology and speculation.

MOLLY

Also right.

ZACK

So, you must have solid evidence in my own murder confession that I didn't commit murder.

MOLLY

Yes. I do.

ZACK

How?

MOLLY

How did you hurt your hands?

Zack has a visceral reaction to the memory of the explosion.

(CONTINUED)

ZACK

I caused a chemical explosion in the lab that resulted in third-degree burns. I was creating a diversion...

MOLLY

You can stop there.

He stops.

MOLLY

(cont'd)

What did it feel like for you to stab someone?

No reaction, except to think about it. Molly picks up immediately, but waits for him to talk.

ZACK

The sternum was scraped by the blade before reaching the heart. It takes a lot of force...

MOLLY

Okay.

ZACK

I don't understand.

MOLLY

I didn't ask about the lobbyist's sternum.

ZACK

But, that's what happens when someone is stabbed in the heart.

MOLLY

But it sounded like your dissertation, with which I am also intimately familiar.

ZACK

You read my dissertation?

MOLLY

Yes. Didn't understand a word of it, but your language is consistently objective throughout.

(CONTINUED)

ZACK
Science has to be objective.

MOLLY
Murder is not objective.

ZACK
But I confessed to murder.

MOLLY
Then why didn't you say "I scraped
the sternum"?

Zack tries to think about that. It's bringing something up
in him that he doesn't want to recall.

MOLLY
(cont'd)
Because you didn't do it,
Zack. This confession can be
thrown out if I can keep getting
you to tell me what really
happened. And why you really said
that you feel responsible for the
murder.

ZACK
Are you going to try to analyze me?

MOLLY
I won't have to. You're going to
tell me everything.

Molly takes out a digital recorder and puts it on the table.

INT. JEFFERSONIAN MEDICO-LEGAL LAB - AFTERNOON

Cam is looking over the cleaned bones of Patrick McCall,
paying close attention to the shattered sternum. Andy comes
in with a jar.

CAM
The sternum is indeed missing
pieces. Did you finish with the
bugs?

ANDY
Yes. There was evidence of blowfly
larvae, which would make the time
frame of death consistent with that
of ten days.

(CONTINUED)

CAM

Good.

ANDY

I knew that from the maggots.

CAM

Andy, you need to know how to look for everything here. I don't care if a thousand things tell you the same thing - it's all evidence that we need. What's in the jar?

ANDY

Evidence you will definitely need.

INT. JEFFERSONIAN LAB

Andy is in front of a computer, showing Cam the location where McCall was found in Virginia.

ANDY

There was asphalt mixed in with the dirt on the victim's back. This is where he was found.

CAM

He was dragged.

ANDY

Definitely. But he was never on the road itself. There wasn't enough asphalt in what I collected. It was mostly just dirt.

Cam gives him a disapproving look.

CAM

Don't ever let Hodgins know you said that.

ANDY

Right. Anyway, the closest major road to the woods where the victim was found is Lee Highway.

CAM

He was found on the north side of the highway.

(CONTINUED)

ANDY

Probably on his way home from work in DC.

CAM

We don't speculate on that kind of thing.

ANDY

Have they found a car?

CAM

We haven't heard about one, no.

ANDY

Why won't they look for one? We can't find a consistent weapon to match the force that put a hole in this guy's chest. Maybe it was a car accident. The steering column. The size fits.

CAM

Andy, all we work with is what we have in front of us. Evidence. Plain and simple. We can't simply guess if our evidence hasn't told us everything.

ANDY

I understand, Dr. Saroyan, but I am looking at the evidence, and I don't see it pointing to a murder. The evidence is telling me that this was a car accident. There were undigested stomach contents...maybe he was just eating while driving.

Cam stops. She is fed up with Andy, and she also doesn't want to speculate, but it could be a possibility.

ANDY

(cont'd)

Look, I know you're trying to replace someone who meant a lot to you. But I didn't even have a shot the second I walked through the door. I probably don't work like Dr. Addy did, and I know that's hard on you, but I want to help too.

(CONTINUED)

Cam's guilt about Zack, and now Andy, gives her pause. She almost forgets she has work to do. And she was running out of ideas as it was.

CAM

Keep brainstorming weapons. I'll have Angela try a car scenario. That'll be our compromise.

ANDY

Deal.

An administrative employee, TRISH, knocks on the door frame.

TRISH

Dr. Saroyan, you have a phone call.

CAM

Thank you. I'll be right there. And you were right.

Cam turns to leave; Trish follows.

ANDY

Wait, right about which part? The not having a shot?

She's already gone.

INT. BOOTH'S SUV - LATE AFTERNOON

With Sweets in tow, Booth and Brennan are on their way back to the Jeffersonian after leaving the FBI.

BRENNAN

I could have told you Baker was innocent way before you were done.

BOOTH

So, now you're a forensic anthropologist *and* a forensic linguist.

BRENNAN

Seeing Zack's confession shed light on a very important aspect of how you conduct your interrogations and I have to admit that watching you today...was worrisome.

(CONTINUED)

SWEETS

Now this is interesting.

BOOTH

I was doing my job! It's our job to find people who do bad things and put them in prison.

BRENNAN

But Baker didn't do any bad things! How long did it take until you finally gave in?

SWEETS

In Agent Booth's defense, it was rather quickly. But he did break a chair.

BOOTH

He was avoiding answering my questions.

BRENNAN

Because he obviously didn't have the answers!

Booth's phone rings again and he answers.

SWEETS

And physically intimidating someone by demonstrating the potential of your strength on office furniture was going to get you the answer you wanted.

BOOTH

(hanging up the phone)

They just found Patrick McCall's car off of Lee Highway.

BRENNAN

Should we drop off Sweets first?

BOOTH

(sigh)

It's rush hour as it is. Even with the siren, it's going to take a while.

SWEETS

Oh my god - I get to go to a crime scene and ride in an FBI vehicle with the siren on? I feel like I'm six.

Booth pops the sirens and they head for the highway.

INT. PSYCHIATRIC WARD INTERROGATION ROOM

Molly is looking at the original transcript of Zack's confession. Their conversation has been recorded the whole time by a digital recorder on the table while she takes notes of her own.

MOLLY

Well, you've repeated yourself nearly letter for letter since your last confession.

ZACK

I told you everything I know. I don't know what more I can tell you.

MOLLY

I'm not even that frustrated. That's amazing. You really do have quite a memory.

ZACK

I thought I did.

MOLLY

Can you elaborate on that?

ZACK

(hesitant)

There are things I can't remember.

MOLLY

Things that are foggy?

ZACK

There are things I can't remember accurately, and things I can't remember at all.

MOLLY

But you always had a near-perfect memory?

ZACK

I did. After Iraq...

MOLLY

How long were you there?

(CONTINUED)

ZACK

Three months. I was evacuated after 92 days.

MOLLY

Do you remember why?

ZACK

They said I was psychologically unfit to stay.

MOLLY

Were they more specific?

ZACK

They said I had symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder. But I knew that my work was slipping.

MOLLY

What was the trauma?

ZACK

I lied.

MOLLY

That's not...

ZACK

To Cam. I lied to her about why I was sent home. I didn't want to lose my job...

MOLLY

You need to tell me what the trauma was.

ZACK

I didn't want them to think I was untrustworthy, so I did something untrustworthy by definition.

MOLLY

Zack, permission to speculate, based on previous observation?

ZACK

On the condition that I don't have to believe you.

MOLLY

When you lied, you were trying to protect yourself. And them. Because

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

MOLLY (cont'd)
you can't trust a psychological
diagnosis, and why should they?
It's messy without showing a mess.
There's no way to prove it's real.

ZACK
Your speculation was correct, but
it was a lucky guess.

MOLLY
Agreed, but now you're doing the
same thing without lying.

Zack is caught - she's right. But he still won't talk.

MOLLY
(cont'd)
If you talk about what happened,
it's not going to happen again.

ZACK
It feels like it will.

MOLLY
If you talk about what you
saw, right now, to me, in this
room, it won't catch you off-guard
when you're not ready for it.

ZACK
That seems like a logical idea, but
very counterintuitive.

MOLLY
Zack, I'm here to collect evidence.
And I'm going to dig. Really deep.
If you were in a field, looking for
evidence, and you had to dig dozens
of really deep holes to find
hundreds of bone fragments,
wouldn't you do it?

A metaphor Zack understands.

MOLLY
(cont'd)
And even if it came to the most
awful resolution you could ever
see, it's a resolution,
nonetheless.

(CONTINUED)

ZACK
(switching gears)
You have obviously inferred that I
can remember things in perfect,
vivid detail.

MOLLY
I have.

ZACK
If I talk about what you want me to
talk about, I will have to remember
every vivid detail.

MOLLY
Right?

ZACK
I find that course of action to be
potentially unpleasant for me.

MOLLY
Oh my god.

ZACK
What?

MOLLY
You claimed responsibility in your
confession for the sole purpose of
not talking about what happened.

Zack suddenly feels duped, having been analyzed. Molly kind
of knows she jumped ahead.

ZACK
Are you really a psychiatrist?

INT. PSYCHIATRIC WARD INTERROGATION ROOM HOLDING AREA

Hodgins, watching from the outside, realizes this may not
work now.

HODGINS
Uh oh.

INT. PSYCHIATRIC WARD INTERROGATION ROOM

MOLLY

That wasn't psychology. It's the observation that you've been doing everything you can to avoid talking about what happened, from lying to the people you care about most to claiming responsibility for murder if it meant ending the conversation.

Zack is caught again - she's right again.

ZACK

I won't deny that.

MOLLY

But you have to say it. The grand jury needs to hear it. Keep your eyes open and you won't go there. Keep them on me if it helps.

Zack waits, then makes about a second of eye contact, then chooses to focus on a ring Molly is wearing.

ZACK

One night, five soldiers brought us to the site of an explosion. A suicide bomber blew himself up in a restaurant.

MOLLY

Who is "us"?

ZACK

Me and another forensic specialist.

MOLLY

What happened in the restaurant?

ZACK

I went into the kitchen, alone. There were two victims in different locations, stabbed to death. Untouched by the bomb. I was about to photograph them before examining them when a man ran in and saw me.

MOLLY

Who was he?

(CONTINUED)

ZACK

We didn't know. He could have been a civilian, another bomber. I didn't see a weapon.

MOLLY

You said "we didn't know." I thought you were alone.

ZACK

Sgt. Martin came in from the dining area when he heard the man.

Zack stops.

ZACK

(cont'd)

It's the next part.

MOLLY

Tell me.

ZACK

I can't remember it clearly.

MOLLY

What can you remember?

ZACK

The man was killed.

MOLLY

The man was killed?

ZACK

Yes. His throat was slit.

INT. PSYCHIATRIC WARD INTERROGATION ROOM HOLDING AREA

The revelation of Zack witnessing a murder is a shocker to Hodgins, who was about to go find snacks.

INT. PSYCHIATRIC WARD INTERROGATION ROOM

MOLLY

Not by you.

ZACK

But I can't remember...

(CONTINUED)

MOLLY

Who was holding the knife?

ZACK

Sgt. Martin had one. So did I. He told me to grab a weapon. He had the man in a headlock. He was praying. I heard family members of the victims I was identifying saying it a dozen times a day...

MOLLY

Back to the man.

ZACK

Sgt. Martin told me to kill him. He was the enemy. But I didn't see a weapon. He wasn't threatening us.

MOLLY

So there was no reason for you to kill him.

ZACK

I could have stopped it. I had the chance to prevent a death.

MOLLY

Zack, it wasn't your duty to prevent the deaths of civilians.

ZACK

I was so used to being able to finish work on individual cases at the Jeffersonian. But in Iraq...My assignment was never going to end. I came to the conclusion that the only way to expedite the end of my assignment of identifying human remains was to prevent the deaths from occurring in the first place. I knew I couldn't do that. I wasn't a soldier. But I had the chance to prevent a death. And I failed.

INT. PSYCHIATRIC WARD INTERROGATION ROOM HOLDING AREA

Hodgins really can't believe what he's hearing.

EXT. NORTH SIDE OF LEE HIGHWAY - DUSK

Booth, Brennan and Sweets all arrive at the site of the car, which is charred almost beyond recognition. Rush hour is in full force. An investigator, KELLY BARRETT, comes over to tell Brennan and Booth what they've found.

SWEETS

This is awesome. A crime scene with Booth and Brennan.

BARRETT

Agent Booth, Dr. Brennan, I'm Kelly Barrett, one of the crime scene techs. It looks like we found what's left of Patrick McCall's car. Police talked to his wife and she said he took Lee Highway home from DC everyday.

BOOTH

What kind of evidence is left?

BARRETT

It was torched with lighter fluid after it rammed into this tree. We did find some personal effects - briefcase, golfing equipment, food wrappers melted to the seats.

Brennan moves in closer with her flashlight and forceps. She focuses on the driver's side, then the steering column. Carefully she removes - a burnt chunk of bone.

BRENNAN

Booth, I don't like to guess, but given the position of the steering column and the impact of the car on this tree, I believe this may be a missing part of Patrick McCall's sternum.

BOOTH

So, it was a car accident.

BRENNAN

Maybe not...

At that moment, on the road, people are rubbernecking, which really irks Booth.

(CONTINUED)

BOOTH

Oh, come on. You know what? Fine!
Stare all you want! It's rush hour
traffic, no one is trying to get
home or anything. Just sit on the
road, watching the boring police
work...

One SUV full of college kids slowly creeps past, slower than other cars on the road. The window is open, and one of the kids snaps at another to close it. Booth notices that they look a bit too concerned about the scene.

BOOTH

(cont'd)

Hey, wait a minute! FBI, pull over!

The driver panics and tries to change lanes. They successfully slide in to the next lane to the left. Car horns start honking left and right as the SUV tries to get away. Booth starts jumping on the roofs of cars to catch up to the SUV. Brennan turns away from the scene to witness the ridiculousness.

SWEETS

Oh, this is wicked.

BRENNAN

Booth, what are you doing?

BOOTH

Almost got 'em!

BRENNAN

Booth, get down! You're not
Spider-Boy!

BOOTH

Spider-Man!

The SUV suddenly smacks right into the car Booth is standing on, sending him tumbling to the ground. He quickly gets up and recovers, dusting himself off. Now he can pull the kids over.

INT. PSYCHIATRIC WARD INTERROGATION ROOM HOLDING AREA

Hodgins is on the phone with Cam, back at the lab.

HODGINS

"Just dirt"?

(CONTINUED)

CAM

But there is the possibility that this was just an accident, isn't there?

HODGINS

There are always possibilities. That's why we collect evidence.

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. JEFFERSONIAN MEDICO-LEGAL LAB

CAM

How is it going over there?

HODGINS

You know how you need to break a bone to set it right?

CAM

Yeah.

HODGINS

It's pretty rough.

CAM

Listen, you're loaded, right?

HODGINS

(Please, keep reminding me...)
Yes.

CAM

Do you have security on your property?

HODGINS

Yeah, why?

CAM

Security that lets you know when and if people leave the property?

HODGINS

Are you planning on robbing me, Cam?

CAM

You might want to check the night of December 7th.

(CONTINUED)

HODGINS

Why?

CAM

That's the night before Porter was reported missing.

HODGINS

The night Zack supposedly killed him?

CAM

I'm checking the Jeffersonian logs to see if he could have been here.

HODGINS

I'll get on it and let you know.

Cam says goodbye and Hodgins hangs up, turning back to Zack and Molly while dialing another number.

EXT. NORTH SIDE OF LEE HIGHWAY - DUSK

Booth has the college kids from the SUV on the side of the road, interrogating them. Brennan and Sweets are by Booth's SUV, talking to Angela and Cam in the lab on her laptop.

BRENNAN

Did Angela run a new scenario with a car?

ANGELA

Yup. A steering column and steering wheel cause damage consistent with Mr. McCall's injuries.

BRENNAN

And that piece is the missing piece of the victim's sternum.

CAM

We can test the DNA when you come back, but I think it's safe to come to that conclusion.

BRENNAN

Booth is talking to some kids who witnessed the victim driving off the road.

(CONTINUED)

CAM

Good. You should give Hodgins a call.

BRENNAN

I'm going to have Booth take me over there when he done.

ANGELA

Andy had an interesting theory.

Over by the kids, Booth has given up. Especially since most of them are crying.

BOOTH

You're sure you didn't hit this car?

JIMMY

I swear! We saw him, and we almost hit him and he got pissed, but then he just lost control I guess.

MIKE

I was driving. I'm sorry. But I just know I'd remember hitting another car.

Brennan shouts over.

BRENNAN

Booth, ask them if McCall was eating while driving.

Booth really doesn't want to believe that stupid idea. He turns back to the kids.

BOOTH

Was he eating while driving?

JIMMY

Oh my god, he had this huge freaking hoagie.

LORI

I could smell it from the car. I hate cured meat. I thought I was gonna puke.

Booth looks over to Brennan, confirming her query.

(CONTINUED)

BOOTH

Then how did he end up in the woods?

JIMMY

When we saw him crash, we went over to see if he was okay. He was dead already. Then we noticed some of his papers and stuff in the car and saw he was a big DC oil guy.

LORI

We're members of the Green Campus Movement.

JIMMY

It was Ron's idea to move him to the woods and torch the car.

RON

Thanks a lot, dillweed.

BOOTH

Okay.

INT. PSYCHIATRIC WARD INTERROGATION ROOM

MOLLY

Forgive me for making an assumption, but you really don't seem like the cult type.

ZACK

I can't rationalize spirituality or worship, no.

MOLLY

And yet, you joined a cult.

ZACK

I was presented with a strong logical argument that supported the elimination of those who would do harm to other humans.

MOLLY

And after what you saw in Iraq...

ZACK

It seemed like an opportunity to prevent more deaths.

(CONTINUED)

MOLLY

Are you really not seeing the conflict here?

ZACK

(pause)

You weren't listening.

MOLLY

I'm sorry?

ZACK

No need to apologize. But I said "it *seemed* like an opportunity to prevent more deaths."

MOLLY

Obviously, this indicates that you had doubts.

ZACK

You jumped ahead to the circular logic conflict I encountered.

MOLLY

That's true.

ZACK

But if you're referring to the dilemma of murdering murderers making one a murderer oneself, therefore deserving of murder, then you assumed my train of thought. You did it before, too.

MOLLY

So, I was right.

ZACK

I thought you didn't make assumptions.

INT. PSYCHIATRIC WARD INTERROGATION ROOM HOLDING AREA

Hodgins has to giggle a bit at seeing Molly had by Zack. Booth and Brennan, after having been directed down the corridor, enter the holding area.

BRENNAN

How is he?

(CONTINUED)

HODGINS
(looks at her)
Imagine being Zack and finding out
that you lost control of your
brain.

Brennan walks closer to the window and watches.

INT. PSYCHIATRIC WARD INTERROGATION ROOM

MOLLY
Fine. Here's the next logical
conclusion: You joined Gormogon's
cause despite the circular logic.

ZACK
I didn't anticipate being tasked
with murdering someone.

MOLLY
Gormogon was a murderer. His cause
was murder. You knew that.

ZACK
I didn't want to kill anyone.

MOLLY
Then why did you do this?

ZACK
I wanted to prevent death.

MOLLY
But according to you, your own
death was justified, even
inevitable.

Zack stays silent. Molly looks at another part of the
confession.

MOLLY
(cont'd)
You were inconsistent about the
explosion in the lab. You said in
your original confession, "My
intention for the explosion was to
create a diversion that would
possibly cause minor harm to me and
no harm to Dr. Hodgins." But today
you said something different. You
said "My intention for the
explosion was to cause enough of an
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

MOLLY (cont'd)
impact that it would set off
multiple alarms and create a
diversion." I wrote it down because
it sounded weird.

ZACK
I restated what I said...

MOLLY
You would have repeated yourself.
You would have mentioned not
hurting Jack.

ZACK
It doesn't mean that I didn't want
him hurt...

MOLLY
I know that. But that was also what
you were telling the police.

INT. PSYCHIATRIC WARD INTERROGATION ROOM HOLDING AREA

Brennan is watching intently with Hodgins.

BRENNAN
I don't understand what she's
doing.

BOOTH
You don't tell the police what you
tell your therapist.

BRENNAN
She's not a therapist.

HODGINS
She's the closest thing to a
therapist that he'll trust.

BOOTH
Bones, that explosion was meant to
be fatal.

Brennan looks at Booth, then stares at Zack, waiting for him
to explain.

INT. PSYCHIATRIC WARD INTERROGATION ROOM

ZACK

I couldn't hide what I was doing anymore. Clark Edison had access to all the evidence I had worked on. If he had access, then everyone did. They would figure out that I was hiding Porter's remains.

MOLLY

You're avoiding another big piece of this...

ZACK

I couldn't kill Porter. He was a lobbyist. He never killed anyone. It was too indirect. When I refused, Gormogon told me that his apprentices were expendable. If I didn't follow through, I would be killed and replaced, and I wouldn't know how or when or where.

MOLLY

How did you ever think you were expendable?

ZACK

I failed in Iraq. I was sent home. And when I came back to the Jeffersonian, they were working with my replacement.

INT. PSYCHIATRIC WARD INTERROGATION ROOM HOLDING AREA

Brennan and Hodgins are devastated.

BRENNAN

How...?

INT. PSYCHIATRIC WARD INTERROGATION ROOM

ZACK

Everything pointed to my being expendable. But I couldn't face everyone if they found out what I had done.

(CONTINUED)

MOLLY

You took matters into your own hands.

ZACK

(nodding)

I knew Hodgins would find out where I boiled the mandible. I knew they would find out about the hidden remains.

MOLLY

Then what happened when you set off the explosion?

ZACK

I couldn't bring myself to cause an explosion that would hurt Hodgins. I poured less of the monomer than originally planned.

Molly looks at her recorder and her notes. She has no idea where to go next.

ZACK

(cont'd)

So I suppose I ultimately ended up in the right place.

MOLLY

You still claimed responsibility for the lobbyist's murder.

ZACK

I could have warned the police.

MOLLY

Who killed him?

ZACK

Another apprentice. After I rebuffed Gormogon, he found a replacement but still retained me to work on his victims.

MOLLY

What happened to him?

ZACK

A month after the murder, the new apprentice had a disagreement with Gormogon.

(CONTINUED)

MOLLY
Where is he now?

ZACK
No one's going to find him.

MOLLY
Why not?

ZACK
Because Gormogon was a
cannibalistic murderer.

INT. PSYCHIATRIC WARD INTERROGATION ROOM HOLDING AREA

Booth expresses relief and disgust. Brennan is at a loss. He puts his hand on her shoulder. Hodgins' phone rings again. He speaks for a moment, then he hangs up.

HODGINS
That was Cam. She said Zack was
with her at the Jeffersonian the
night Porter was killed and left at
the same time she did. A car
service took them both home at 1:00
AM.

BOOTH
He couldn't have killed Porter.

Brennan watches Molly gather up her things and leave. Zack gets up and walks to the corner of the room.

MOLLY
I think I have enough to convince a
grand jury.

HODGINS
We also have an alibi. Not only did
he come home late from the
Jeffersonian, my security says that
no one left the property until the
next morning.

MOLLY
They'll probably like that, too.

BRENNAN
Can I see him?

(CONTINUED)

MOLLY

I think you should, yes.

INT. PSYCHIATRIC WARD INTERROGATION ROOM

Zack sits in the corner of the room on the floor, exhausted and his head in a fog. Brennan comes inside and closes the door behind her. They haven't seen each other in a while, and she just witnessed him admit devastating things that she thinks she should have noticed.

She joins him on the floor and puts an arm around him. He leans in and accepts the embrace.