

# **Family Bonds**

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**Setting: In a big mansion**

## **Characters:**

RICHARD: 54 years old, an old man, lost his wife years ago, has 2 sons, very wealthy man

JASON: 22 years old, blonde, working and living with his father, into fighting sports, selfish about the things he loves, has a girlfriend named Maria, gets along with his brother, but doesn't like his brother very much. He is the killer.

OLIVER: 22 years old, adopted after Richard's wife's death, sometimes works in a mansion and helps the staff, friendly, brunette, tries to get along with everyone.

MARIA: Jason's girlfriend, into cooking, blonde, very calm, likes spending time with Jason, looks alike with Jason's mother.

ANTHONY: The butler of the big mansion, lives in the mansion over 15 years, bald, tall, old enough to retire, knows the family and Richard's wife very well, doesn't get along with Jason, after those years he's been working he started to steal very tiny but valuable diamonds of Richard's wife.

## **SCENE 1**

*(MARIA and JASON sitting in the living room of their mansion. It is very snowy outside therefore they are drinking a cup of tea to warm up with some lemon cake which Maria cooked. At the same time, Anthony is dusting off the antique lamps.)*

JASON: Delightful as always, darling. Every time I eat something you made with your own hands, I can't help myself thinking of what's going to be the next masterpiece.

MARIA: You know how much I love cooking, bon appetit.

*(MARIA looks sideways at ANTHONY, MARIA and JASON knows about ANTHONY'S stealing issue. They are getting more and more suspicious every day.)*

MARIA: *(whispering)* What are we going to do about him?

JASON: *(sighs)* I don't know, my father trusts him with all his heart. We need to catch him doing this.

MARIA: Okay, but how will we manage to catch him? He's been here for over 20 years. He knows this place more than anyone else.

*(JASON laughs loudly to cover the bad weather of conversation.)*

JASON: My love, he does this in a very obvious way. Right now, he is trying to hide it. However, I saw him taking one of the mom's rings. It's the right time.

*(JASON stands up and quickly approaches ANTHONY. ANTHONY knocks his knees together and drops a valuable antique vase from the 1500s. ANTHONY is shocked for a few seconds.)*

ANTHONY: I am very sorry, Mister Jason, I will definitely pay for this.

*(With those words ANTHONY said, JASON gets angry more than ever. " He stole every valuable thing in this house and now he is telling me that he is going to pay? " JASON thinks and starts to shout.)*

JASON: *(shouting)* You will pay? What are the other things you have to pay us? Tell me, Anthony.

*(As those words come out of JASON'S mouth, he starts to look for the ring. When he finds the ring, he holds it aggressively towards ANTHONY. JASON feels the hatred deeply. He is hardly holding himself to punch ANTHONY.)*

JASON: One more thing that you should have paid earlier. We are going to search your room right now.

*(ANTHONY looks down. He pushes JASON back. He tries to prevent JASON to get to his home.)*

ANTHONY: No! It was just one ring. My room belongs to only mine. You can't get in without my permission.

*(Suddenly, both of them get aggressive and push each other. They hold the collars of each other's shirts.)*

ANTHONY: I have worked here over 20 years and all I got is a salary. I am stuck in this place.

*(JASON can't believe what ANTHONY is saying. His father trusts ANTHONY more than anyone and now, all he gets is betrayal. He pushes ANTHONY towards a big mirror on the corner of the wall. ANTHONY breaks the wall with his fall. Before he tends to stand JASON takes a piece of broken mirror and cuts ANTHONY'S throat within milliseconds. JASON is out of breath and looking at the body who tries to breathe. Blood is spreading everywhere. At the same time, a big scream comes out from MARIA'S mouth.)*

MARIA: *(crying)* Jason, what have you done?

*(JASON can't keep his eyes somewhere else. He is just looking at the corpse. He is in shock.)*

*(After a while, JASON and MARIA clean the whole room and decide to keep the corpse in the basement. They take ANTHONY to the vault, the coldest place in the mansion. While doing these, they don't even say a word.)*

## **SCENE 2:**

*(MARIA, OLIVER, JASON, and RICHARD are having dinner in the evening. Everything seems normal and very calm. They are eating the ordinary dinner. But everyone feels someone's disappearance. Anthony's absence. Richard looks for him while eating his miso soup.)*

RICHARD: Have you seen Anthony recently? I haven't seen him for a while. There are things that he must do, but the last time I saw him was in the morning. But now, he disappeared.

*(The question isn't for someone specific but two people at the table feel the concern deeply.)*

JASON: Maria and I were not at home all day long; therefore we don't know, father.

OLIVER: So do I. Today, I was occupied with many things. If the snow doesn't stop, all the work will pile up. We need Anthony around.

*(After those words, everyone is silent and the only noise was coming from their spoons.)*

### **SCENE 3:**

*(After dinner JASON and MARIA withdrew to their room. Jason is sweating, has a headache and starts to hallucinate voices such as footsteps. MARIA is trying to calm him but he is very anxious because of the weight of killing someone.)*

MARIA: Jason, you know that we need to bury him. Now, get some rest darling. I'll wake you up when everyone is asleep.

*(The time he is asleep, MARIA is thinking everything about what they did. She is also a murderer, she helped JASON. She thinks that they should confess everything or it is going to be worse. When it's midnight, MARIA wakes Jason up.)*

MARIA: Jason. Come on, we should finish this today or the scent of corruption will be all around the mansion soon.

*(They go downstairs and arrive at the vault. While going, at the same time Oliver is up for water and he sees them. Forgetting about the water, he just wants to explain the weird attitude of JASON and MARIA. He starts to follow them. When he sees the dead body of Anthony, immediately he covers his mouth so no sound is heard. He isn't expecting something like this from his brother and his wife in law. He understands what's happened to Anthony. Everything was solved like a puzzle in his mind. Even though JASON is her brother, he is still a murderer*

*from that perspective. He doesn't sleep all night and thinking what he should do, with the sunrise he decides to tell his father about the topic.)*

JASON: We should bury him far away, I'll bring a wheelbarrow.

*(JASON heads towards the stairs and OLIVER narrowly escapes from the stairs, he goes back to his room to watch them from his bedroom's window while JASON brings the tools for burying.)*

MARIA: If someone knows about this, we should immediately leave the town  
JASON. It's now too dangerous for us.

JASON: *(digging)* I know Maria, I know. Please be quiet and let me do this thing. I can't stand looking at the corpse anymore.

*(After they are done, they go back to their room without knowing OLIVER has been watching them for every single moment.)*

#### **SCENE 4:**

*(Everyone is having breakfast and Anthony's absence is still a mystery for Richard. Silence of the family continues.)*

OLIVER: Last night I had a dream. Anthony was also in.

*(OLIVER is doing this on purpose, to make them more anxious because he hopes maybe they confess.)*

JASON: We will be in our room, excuse us.

*(OLIVER and RICHARD are aware that something's wrong with them but are not saying a word about it. Instead, OLIVER talks.)*

OLIVER: Father, I have important things to say, are you available after breakfast?

RICHARD: Let's go to my room now, I'm available now.

*(From the day OLIVER was adopted, he feels a gap between him and his father. He doesn't know why, but he protects that space. The room they are in is RICHARD'S special room for work.)*

OLIVER: I don't know where to start but saying it directly is better I guess. Last night, I saw ANTHONY... dead.

*(At first RICHARD can't comprehend the situation, but then his face becomes a stone.)*

OLIVER: I saw JASON and MARIA burying him. Father, I didn't know what to do so I came to you. We should send a letter to the police about that and-

RICHARD: Oliver, listen to me. We are not going to mention this to anyone, you understand?

*(OLIVER can't believe what his father is saying. Someone innocent died and his father is covering it up just like his brother did. He thought " If I was in JASON'S situation, would he do the same for me? The answer is not clear for him. He is disappointed but he doesn't say anything. He nods and leaves the room with big plans in his head. It shouldn't be that easy to kill someone. He is going to prove it.)*

## **SCENE 5:**

*(RICHARD is sitting in the living room, the walls he furnished with valuables looks very empty and wooden to him. He starts to understand that OLIVER decides to*



*report them. He is out for a few hours now. He needs to make a decision about what is going to happen to his family. It is already separated. He needs to pick either his son or his life. He is already an old man with no wife, all he has is his sons and this mansion. He is now losing one of his sons and thinks that everything will be pointless if one of her sons leave.)*

RICHARD: *(Sighs)* I can't lose one of my members here. I can't lose him too. Instead, I will lose myself.

*(RICHARD walks through JASON and MARIA's room to let them know about OLIVER's betrayal. Meanwhile, MARIA and JASON are in the big bedroom of ANTHONY's and are looking for the jewelry that ANTHONY took. They are trying to comfort themselves by seeing what ANTHONY did to the family's heritage. When RICHARD eventually finds them in ANTHONY's room, he gives his son a big hug and takes out the nuts and a few diamonds from his pocket.)*

RICHARD: *(In a very sad tone)* You two don't have much time to escape. OLIVER is now on his way to the police office. Get your bags and leave immediately.

*(JASON and MARIA are surprised by RICHARD's information about the murderer. They cannot comprehend for a few seconds but after that, MARIA starts crying.)*

MARIA: *(Crying)* I swear MR. RICHARD, JASON didn't do it on purpose. It was an accident.

RICHARD: I know MARIA, I know my son better than anyone else. He is not a person that kills and be proud. Please, make haste. Pack your things and leave. JASON, first, go to our chalet, stay for a while. I will contact you afterwards, you understand? JASON?

*(RICHARD knows that they won't see each other ever again, but still he is trying to calm his son with his words.)*

JASON: *(Confused)* I.. I understand father. *(Looks back to MARIA)* MARIA, let's go.

*(They hug each other for maybe the last time in their lives. JASON AND MARIA leaves the town before OLIVER comes.)*

## **SCENE 6:**

*(OLIVER and a few policemen come to the mansion in the evening when the sun is slowly setting. In the living room, all they see is RICHARD lying down on the couch and sleeping. OLIVER wakes his father up.)*

OLIVER: Father, where is JASON and MARIA?

RICHARD: *(Thoughtful and sleepy)* They left a few hours ago.

*(When RICHARD sees the policemen, he greets them.)*

RICHARD: I guess you are here for me. I, RICHARD, killed the butler of my mansion in a minute of anger. I admit and confess.

OLIVER: *(Surprised)* Father, no!

RICHARD: Son, I know you have no bad intentions, however you should understand me too. I can't tolerate even one of you feeling sad in your life. I am not angry at you.

*(One of the policeman handcuffs RICHARD while OLIVER is denying and crying over what he did to his father. After they leave the mansion, OLIVER is all alone in that big mansion just by himself.)*