

ELI WILLIAMS

JAKE

Isn't that the problem with women?

ELI WILLIAMS

What's the problem with women?

JAKE

How they can just "say" something about a man, and it's automatically true. Boom. Eli Williams, television journalist for Arc News for the last 15 years. Fired. Because one woman said so.

ELI WILLIAMS

There were two women.

Jake snickers. Eli shifts in his chair.

ELI WILLIAMS (CONT'D)

Tell me about the day of the shooting. What were you feeling that morning?

JAKE

Excited.

ELI WILLIAMS

That's an interesting word to use.

JAKE

Weren't you excited when you made a pass at that woman who reported you?

ELI WILLIAMS

Excuse me?

JAKE

Didn't you feel the power? You had power over her and it felt good. You just didn't expect her to turn you down.

ELI WILLIAMS

It's not about power. I misread the signs.

JAKE

It's always about power. You had it and you wanted her to know it.

(beat)

You don't know true power until you hold a gun to someone's face.

(MORE)

JAKE (CONT'D)

They cry, mucus drains out of their nose, as they beg you to let them live. And you have the power to decide if this person lives or dies. And when you pull that trigger. Nothing. You feel nothing for their miserable soul. Why? Because you still have the power and you go to the next person and feel it all over again.

ELI WILLIAMS

Is that what you did that day?

JAKE

I did it 23 times and each time I felt more and more power.

(beat)

You reported on the shooting.

ELI WILLIAMS

I did.

JAKE

You said I suffered from temporary insanity. That it was a mental illness.

ELI WILLIAMS

I did.

JAKE

Do you still believe that?

Eli pauses for a moment.

ELI WILLIAMS

I believe that a sane person cannot commit those acts.

JAKE

Do you think I was insane or suffered from temporary insanity?

ELI WILLIAMS

I believe you were temporarily out of your mind when you committed the violent acts. So yes, temporary.

JAKE

You see your cameraman over there?

Eli glances to see Corey.

JAKE (CONT'D)

I would want nothing more than to see his brains sprayed across that white wall right now. The red blood dripping ever so slightly from the walls at a rhythm of a slow moving river.

Corey swallows hard, Eli tries not to let Jake know he's been disturbed. But he has definitely been rattled to his core.

JAKE (CONT'D)

So am I temporarily insane still?

Eli fidgets in his seat. Jake notices.

JAKE (CONT'D)

See? Power.

(beat)

Tell me about the women that came forward and reported you. Did you have sex with them?

ELI WILLIAMS

You keep trying to defer the conversation to me.

(to Corey)

Turn the cameras off.

JAKE

Leave them on.

ELI WILLIAMS

What are we doing here, Jake? Your lawyer said you agreed to an interview.

Jake nods his head agreeing. Seizing the opportunity, Eli proceeds.

ELI WILLIAMS

You specifically targeted 23 students that day with an AR-15 and killed them. Why were they all female?

JAKE

Women are manipulative and calculative. That's exactly how I was the day I shot up that campus. Manipulative and calculative. A girl played me and I killed her first, then her best friend that was sitting right next to her.

ELI WILLIAMS

I thought you said there wasn't a
motive.

Gotcha! Jake becomes silent. He seems unnerved. Then...

JAKE

There's a predator inside all of us
just waiting to get out. I released
mine on that day and I never felt
so alive in my entire life.

(beat)

And I would do it again.

ELI WILLIAMS

You have a life sentence without
the possibility of parole. You
won't have the opportunity to do it
again.

A devilish grin appears on Jake's face.

JAKE

Maybe, maybe not. You and I are a
lot alike.

Eli's face turns to disgust. He's been able to compose
himself this whole time, but now he's had it.

ELI WILLIAMS

I am nothing like you.

(deadly stare)

You are a monster.