

TEXTS FROM THE DEAD

By

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INT. HOME - DAY

A bedroom with a television playing the news. The report shows a picture of JOSH EVANS (teens to young adult).

REPORTER
(on television)
Josh Evans was laid to rest today
even as officials search for his
body. He was only X years old..

PULL OUT TO REVEAL CASSIE (teens to young adult). She's watching dressed in funeral black. She turns away from the tv. Removes her blazer and shoes.

REPORTER (cont'd)
The cause of death is still unknown
but the police do suspect foul play.

REVEAL A PICTURE of Cassie and Josh as a couple (prom, cheek kiss, whatever). Her entire room is covered in mementos of their relationship: stuffed animals, letters, pictures, etc.

Cassie takes out a box and begins putting these items inside.

REPORTER (cont'd)
We now go to the chief of police for
more.

Cassie's phone plays a notification. (NOTE: Text messages should be displayed on screen in semi-transparent bubbles with the name (omit time) similar to House of Cards below. Sound effect should be something like this:
<https://youtu.be/bKEzVW6024g>)

MESSAGE FROM ASHLEY: Do you need anything?
MESSAGE FROM CASSIE: No thx.

More packing from Cassie.

CHIEF OF POLICE
(on television)
We're continuing the hunt for
answers, but his family can rest
assured we will find--

CLICK. Cassie turns it off.

MESSAGE FROM MOM
Should I come over?

MESSAGE CASSIE

Just want to be alone.

More packing. Cassie stops on the picture of her and Josh. They look so happy. She leaves it and closes the box.

MESSAGE FROM JOSH

Cassie?

CASSIE

PLEASE Just leave me

Cassie pauses. Backspaces it all as she realizes...

CASSIE (cont'd)

Who the hell is this?

JOSH

It's Josh. I have something important to tell you.

CASSIE

WTF R U?

JOSH

It's me. Really.

CASSIE

My boyfriend is dead, you sick sob.

JOSH

You need to listen to me.

CASSIE

I'm not listening to shit.

CASSIE (cont'd)

Tell me who you are NOW.

JOSH

When we first met, you had a coffee stain on your shirt. It looked like Mr. Hanky.

JOSH (cont'd)

Among other things.

Pause.

CASSIE
Everyone knows that story.

JOSH
Ask me something only I would know.

CASSIE
What's the worst thing you ever did?

Pause.

CASSIE (cont'd)
You won't find it on Google.

JOSH
Hard to say. On the top of the list
is the money I "borrowed from work"
to design my own app.

CASSIE
Anyone at Josh's work would know
that.

JOSH
None of them know what the app was
for. Are you going to make me text
it?

CASSIE
Yes.

JOSH
All I said to you was everyone's
literal life would change.

Cassie's eyes go wide.

JOSH (cont'd)
The first time you told me you loved
me was on the ferris wheel.

JOSH (cont'd)
It was as if you were waiting for a
time to say it when we were as far
away from everyone as possible.

JOSH (cont'd)
That was the best day I ever had.

There is no doubt now. Cassie knows this is Josh. She exits
the messaging and hits the call icon for his number.

It rings once... twice... then cuts off.

JOSH (cont'd)
I can't talk.

CASSIE
Why not?

JOSH
I can't tell you.

CASSIE
Where are you? I'll go there right now.

JOSH
You can't.

CASSIE
If I can't see you right now, I swear I'm going to...

CASSIE (cont'd)
I don't know. Just please PLEASE let me see your face.

CASSIE (cont'd)
Hear your voice.

CASSIE (cont'd)
If you want me to leave 5 seconds later, I will.

CASSIE (cont'd)
I'll just hug you and go.

JOSH
I wish I could.

She lets out a sob.

CASSIE
I can't do this. I can't be without you.

JOSH
Be strong.

CASSIE
I don't want to be strong.

JOSH
You have to because

JOSH (cont'd)
The people who came for me are coming
for you.

Cassie freaks out. Looks around in a panic.

CASSIE
What do you mean?

JOSH
They are coming for you RIGHT NOW.

JOSH (cont'd)
Get out of the house. They're almost
there.

Cassie runs to the front door. Sees a car's headlights
pulling up.

CASSIE
Someone's here. In the driveway.

JOSH
How many are there?

Cassie peeks through the window. Two men exit the car.

CASSIE
2

JOSH
I'll look up their phone signals.

CASSIE
I'm going to dial 911.

JOSH
I already did. Find a place to hide
until they get there.

Cassie hides inside a closet.

JOSH (cont'd)
No, that's the first place they will
look. Not under a bed either.

Cassie exits the closet just as her front door is knocked on.

She is able to get out of their view before they come in.

JOSH (cont'd)
Are you there?

CASSIE
I'm here.

JOSH
Please tell me your phone is on
silent.

Cassie is about to text back when she sees the intruders
smash the door.

INTRUDER 1 (O.S.)
Think she's here?

INTRUDER 2 (O.S.)
We're about to find out.

They look for her through the home, rifle papers, etc.

INTRUDER 2 (O.S.) (cont'd)
Put that the hell down.

INTRUDER 1 (O.S.)
What? If her purse isn't turned over
it won't look like a robbery.

INTRUDER 2 (O.S.)
We find her first.

INTRUDER 1 (O.S.)
I don't even think she's here.

Cassie takes a breath of relief just before she sees Intruder
2 PASS THROUGH via the crack in the open door. Instead of
looking, he stops and stares around the room. Intruder 1
joins him.

INTRUDER 2
Then why are her shoes here?

INTRUDER 1
So she changed them.

INTRUDER 2
Her outfit isn't.

INTRUDER 1
So?

INTRUDER 2

She just got back from her boyfriend's funeral. You think she changed into her sneakers and went for a run in a black dress.

JOSH: Are you still there? Text a period if you are.

INTRUDER 1

Then where is she? This place isn't that big.

She looks up to see Intruder 2 looking around and leaning in to where Cassie can see him. If he turns his head, he'll see her.

INTRUDER 2

I don't know.

He pauses. Straightens up and out of Cassie's view. Heads for the front door.

INTRUDER 2 (O.S.) (cont'd)

Let's look for her outside.

Intruder 1 follows him. Cassie sighs. Hears the door close. Comes out.

CASSIE

They left

BAM! Intruder 2 tackles her from behind. Gets her on the ground right in the doorway.

INTRUDER 2

They always fall for the going outside bit.

She cries out as they struggle. He puts his hands around her throat.

She begins to cough and gag.

Intruder 1 leans in to see. Because they are in the doorway, he can't do anything.

INTRUDER 1

Need a hand?

INTRUDER 2

What do you think?

Intruder 1 hangs back wishing he didn't have to hear the murder happening in front of him.

INTRUDER 2 (cont'd)
(to Cassie)
Not to worry. It'll be over soon.

It actually is. Cassie is running out of breath and strength to claw at his hands. She turns her head. Sees her phone titled towards her.

JOSH
They like to strangle people.

JOSH (cont'd)
If they do, go for their balls and/or eyeballs.

Intruder 2 also turns and leans in.

INTRUDER 2
What are you loo-

Cassie grabs his hair, brings him closer, and RAKES him across his eyes. He screams and grabs them, letting her go in the process. She wriggles out from under him.

Both intruders stalk into her bedroom where she can only back away into the exterior wall.

INTRUDER 2 (cont'd)
I am so paying you back for that...

With one hand, Cassie instantly lifts the window, turns, and SCREAMS.

The intruders rush over to Cassie, unsuccessfully cover her mouth, and try to get her away. A neighbor's light flicks on. Then another.

And another.

The intruders look at each other. Get the hell out of the house.

Cassie falls to her knees gasping. She crawls to her phone. Several messages from Josh are displayed.

JOSH
Are you still there?

JOSH (cont'd)
Please answer me.

JOSH (cont'd)
I love you so much.

CASSIE
I love you too.

Police sirens in the distance. She doesn't hear them.

JOSH
It's time for me to tell you.

JOSH (cont'd)
They wanted to kill me because of the app.

CASSIE
But it's just a stupid app. It can't be different than any one I use.

JOSH
I programmed the app to mimic and send the most likely replies of whoever has entered their information to it.

JOSH (cont'd)
I'm using it right now.

Cassie covers her mouth in horror.

JOSH (cont'd)
I'm dead, Cassie. They strangled me to death in my own house.

Cassie shakes her head.

JOSH (cont'd)
I programmed the app to text you if their phones ever got near your house.

JOSH (cont'd)
I'm so sorry. For everything.

Tears fall.

JOSH (cont'd)
The only copy of the app now is on your phone.

JOSH (cont'd)
For your own safety, you have to
delete it.

JOSH (cont'd)
I don't know how the spiritual world
works, but I know I will see you
again.

A prompt to delete the app appears on her phone. Cassie
stares at it.

Tucks the phone away. Heads for the sirens.

THE END