

CALLING

Written by

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9783057929

FADE IN:

INT. POLICE PRECINCT INTERROGATION ROOM BEHIND MIRRORED WALL  
- AFTERNOON

Three people stand in a room observing and discussing the man on the other side of the glass. All three middle aged. DETECTIVE BURKE holds a open file.

DETECTIVE BURKE  
(Deep breath and speaks  
on the exhale)

His name is ABE BRIGGS. He went on a murder spree. Two prostitutes, two men and a woman that he said accosted' him in the street. Bystanders said he walked in front of her in a line, quoted scripture and she told him she was in front of him. Witnesses say he yelled, "God says man must cull women." and then shot her point blank in the head in front of everyone. She was only 25 years old.

He said he is on a mission from God to punish sinners.

DETECTIVE TESSAY  
Aren't they all these days.

DETECTIVE BURKE  
I think we are looking at an insanity plea. He freely admits to killing these people. Says that the word of God came to him and told him to smite whores and the disobedient.

DETECTIVE TESSAY  
Do you believe him?

DETECTIVE BURKE  
(sarcastically confused)  
Do I believe that a god told him to kill people?

DETECTIVE TESSAY

No. Do you believe that HE believes that? Or is he just trying to get a stay in a hospital instead of prison?

DETECTIVE BURKE

I've seen a lot of holy rollers in my time. And I've seen a lot of murderers turn to God to avoid paying for their crime. They're all liars, so it's hard to tell.

The third person in the room, a woman in her 40s. Long dark hair, jeans, long flowing dark colored shirt, and sandals. She continues to watch ABE BRIGGS through the mirror glass, while listening to the detectives.

DETECTIVE TESSAY

My grandfather was a holy man. A medicine man. He never lied. He also never blamed any god for anything. Except maybe for being old when I was young.

DETECTIVE BURKE

(curious)

What does that mean?

DETECTIVE TESSAY

He used to say he was sorry he was so old this time we met, and that the next time we meet, I will be old. But the time after that we will find each other again, much closer in age. He said we will be twin brothers in that life.

DETECTIVE BURKE

I don't know if that's creepy or if its sweet.

DETECTIVE TESSAY

Me either. But the older I get and the longer he is gone, I find myself hoping its true.

The woman smiles with honest sentiment for the story she's heard. ABE BRIGGS begins to yell.

ABE BRIGGS

Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God! Do not be deceived!

(MORE)

ABE BRIGGS (CONT'D)  
Neither the sexually immoral, nor  
idolaters, nor adulterers nor men  
who practice homosexuality!

The woman and two detectives roll their eyes and shake their heads.

ABE BRIGGS  
The wages for sin is death! Women  
should not be permitted to speak,  
but be in submission!

ISABELLA  
That's my cue. These assholes  
always love to quote Corinthians.

ISABELLA walks past the two detectives and to the door to leave the room.

CUT TO:

INT. POLICE PRECINCT INTERROGATION ROOM

ISABELLA walks into the room and sits down in a chair on the opposite side of the table that ABE BRIGGS is chained to, sitting.

ABE BRIGGS  
Who the fuck are you?

ISABELLA  
Is that anyway to address a person  
you have never met? Have I shown  
you that kind of malicious  
disrespect since I've walked into  
the room?

ABE BRIGGS  
(unapologetic answers)  
No. You're not a cop. Who are you?

ISABELLA  
(comfortable in her skin)  
I guess I'm a kind of counselor.  
My name is ISABELLA.

ABE BRIGGS shines a wicked smile. ISABELLA isn't intimidated.

ISABELLA  
Spare me the theatrics. I know  
you're not insane.

ABE BRIGGS  
(raises his voice)  
I am a messenger and angel of God  
sent here to do his work.

ISABELLA  
To do his work? What work is that?  
Murder?

ABE BRIGGS  
(prideful)  
To smite the sinners, the  
unrighteous and those who would  
live their lives against God.

ISABELLA  
Which god?

ABE BRIGGS  
(thrown off)  
What?!

ISABELLA  
Which god is it that they are  
sinning against?

ABE BRIGGS  
The one true God!

ISABELLA  
(knowingly)  
The one true god. Okay, so I think  
I know exactly which one you're  
talking about, ABE. But, you, like  
the men before you who wrote those  
fictional novels, including the one  
you keep referencing, are not a  
messenger nor are you of any  
resemblance of an angel.

ABE BRIGGS  
(irritated)  
Angels are the soldiers of God. And  
I am God's soldier.

ISABELLA  
You think that your god is a  
military general? That your god has  
rules that not only match the  
structure humans have created to  
fight one another, but is actively  
recruiting?

ABE BRIGGS  
(self possessed)  
God called on me to smite those who  
would sin against him. Those who  
live their lives in sin.

ISABELLA  
(not convinced)  
What is it god said to you to get  
you to do these things?

ABE BRIGGS  
(smug)  
You wouldn't understand. You've  
never heard the voice of God cry  
out for your help.

ISABELLA looks down and covers her mouth, slightly muffling  
a snicker.

ISABELLA  
(amused)  
Please. Describe it to me. Was it  
words? A feeling?

ABE BRIGGS  
(sits erect)  
I get a feeling when I see a  
sinner. When I watch them sin, it  
evokes the message and I know that  
God wants me to do his work.  
(praying hands)  
And I do his work.

ISABELLA  
What did the 25 year old do? You  
know. The one you shot point blank  
in the head in a crowd.

ABE doesn't flinch. He is prepared.

ABE BRIGGS  
She dare walk before a man. The  
word of God is very clear on the  
role of women. They are to be  
obedient to all men. They are to  
serve men who serve God.

ISABELLA nods her head and examines ABE. She looks him up  
and down. ABE becomes agitated.

ABE BRIGGS  
What're you looking at, bitch?

ISABELLA smiles closed mouthed. Takes in a deep breath and puts both feet flat on the floor. She leans forward and against the table.

ISABELLA

The girl you killed had just signed up for Doctors Without Borders. She was no sinner. No more than you. (beat) The two men you murdered...

ABE BRIGGS

Smite!

ISABELLA looks him dead in the eye for correcting her. He is confused that he is intimidated.

ISABELLA

I've listened to your rant. You will be quiet until I finish.

ABE throws himself back in the chair and motions his hand to give ISABELLA the floor.

ISABELLA

The two men you murdered had just taken custody of the 3 nieces of one's recently deceased sister. These children have no other family and a father that's righteous path of rebornism allows for total abandonment of his children in service of himself. You have created three orphans, and their future is grim. Thanks to you.

ABE'S demeanor is slightly changed. His self righteousness keeps him from accepting guilt.

ABE BRIGGS

(rationalizing)

I saved them from a life with degenerate sinners. Their suffering will bring them glory in Heaven.

ISABELLA is neither convinced or amused.

ISABELLA

The two women you killed...did you mention in your confession that you had engaged in paid sex with both of them before you murdered them?

ABE'S jaw drops. He hasn't told anyone this secret.

ABE BRIGGS

How do you know that?

(shakes off the shock)

It doesn't matter. Women are made to serve the pleasure of men. God ordered it. He told me to tempt these women and if they chose the wrong path and engaged in sin then I was to kill them. He wanted me to be rewarded for my devotion.

ISABELLA

(deep sigh)

The rationalization of evil has yet to become boring or mundane to me. Unfortunately, for the human race it seems to have become a kind of entertainment. Lucky for you, that sin was your pleasure before their punishment.

ABE BRIGGS

Blessed are you when others revile you. Martyrs are hated because those who do not follow God think our deeds are evil instead of necessary.

ISABELLA isn't moved. She knows he is performing. She leans back in her chair and gets comfortable.

ISABELLA

You spit a lot of scripture. However, I do not feel any faith in it, just venom. You preach out of self serving desperation, not love.

(beat)

This is blasphemy.

ABE BRIGGS

(angered)

God has called on me to do His work. Blasphemy is to question that calling.

ISABELLA takes a deep breath and exhales.

ISABELLA

Blasphemy is to commit sin in the name of god. Not nothing else. I'm here to inform you that you were not called on by god.



ABE BRIGGS slams his fists hard on the table, and takes on an intimidating posture, his chains exhaust the attempt.

ABE BRIGGS  
(violent)  
How do you know that, bitch?!

ISABELLA  
Because I have never spoken to you before this day.

ABE BRIGGS demeanor changes quick. He is confused.

ABE BRIGGS  
What?

ISABELLA  
I'm sure you are confused. Let me explain. I have never spoken to you before this day. You have never heard my voice and I have never called on you. Though you have seen me once. The lives you took were to feed your own appetites and are not my fault.

ABE BRIGGS  
(fearful laugh)  
You're crazy, lady.

ISABELLA leans forward.

ISABELLA  
Look into my eyes, ABE.

ABE BRIGGS looks into ISABELLA'S eyes. He sees his crimes looking back at him. He is terrified.

ABE BRIGGS  
(scared, angry)  
How did you do that? You're the devil! You're the devil!

ISABELLA is unaffected by his accusation.

ISABELLA  
Evil men think they see the devil when they are confronted by God. The devil shows you what you want to see. I hold up a mirror.  
(beat)  
Consequentially, Lucifer's job is to judge your evil, not ask you to do it.

(MORE)

ISABELLA (CONT'D)

A punishment for blaming me for the murdering he was doing. And like him, the evil you have done was all you. No voices in your head, no greater hand steering your course. Just you.

ABE BRIGGS doesn't know what to think. Being in her presence, he knows it is true. She sits feet flat again and puts her hands on her lap.

ISABELLA

I'd like to clear something up for you. All the scripture that talks about raping, murdering and killing women and children to appease god, these were all written by men. Written to excuse their sins and to justify their greed and revenge. I have never asked for this carnage nor have I ever propelled the subjugation of women. Those words were written by men for men, and no one else.

ABE BRIGGS frightened demeanor doesn't sway ISABELLA.

ABE BRIGGS

But its the word of God. Are you saying that all the holy books are fake?

ISABELLA

For the most part, yes. There's a few things in each of them that are true. "Love each other as I have loved you." That I did say, to John, in a dream. The Druids, they almost got it right, but the human sacrifices were uncalled for. The superstition you follow with the culling of women, the murdering of homosexuals and the building of exclusivity, that's ALL you people exploiting your free will. And be sure, in my court that holds a charge of blasphemy.

ABE BRIGGS

Why would people do it if not for the word of God?

ISABELLA  
Jealousy. Hate. Greed. Sexual  
dominance. That's all. It doesn't  
go very deep.

ISABELLA stands up. She is ready to leave.

ABE BRIGGS  
(pleads)  
Wait? Why are you here?

ISABELLA smiles and turns her head.

ISABELLA  
Because when anyone, anywhere  
creates bloodshed in my name, I  
come to them. I want them to know  
that their lies have been exposed  
to the very deity they have  
exploited. Your race has decided to  
embrace the actions of evil with  
petty excuses that are more fashion  
than faith.

ABE BRIGGS shaking yells out to ISABELLA.

ABE BRIGGS  
(preaches)  
I am the son of Abraham and I  
follow the word of the Lord and my  
father.

ISABELLA rolls her eyes.

ISABELLA  
(stern)  
Abraham was a misogynistic sadist.

ABE BRIGGS  
(praying)  
Please oh Lord forgive me my sins.  
Glory be...

ISABELLA stops him. Hand up and fed up.

ISABELLA  
(tired)  
Stop, stop, stop. Those are  
incantations. Prayers are just  
spells without the props. They will  
not help you and they cannot help  
you.

ISABELLA walks to the door and faces ABE again.

ABE BRIGGS  
What can I do?! Please?! PLEASE!

ISABELLA  
You were given a choice before the  
first murder you committed.

ABE BRIGGS  
(heavy breathing)  
When? When did you give me a  
choice?

ISABELLA  
  
Do you remember when you held that  
kitten, that looked in your eyes  
for love and you broke its neck? Do  
you remember the betrayal that  
destroyed the love in his eyes,  
while you strangled the life out of  
her?

ABE BRIGGS  
(shamed)  
Yes.

ISABELLA  
I was that kitten.

ABE BRIGGS is overcome with emotion and tears of fear and  
regret.

ABE BRIGGS  
(screams)  
NO! Please? NO! I didn't know it  
was you!  
(trying to break free of  
his chains)  
I didn't know! I didn't know!

ISABELLA leaves the room. She does not speak.

CUT TO:

INT. POLICE PRECINCT INTERROGATION ROOM BEHIND MIRRORED WALL  
DETECTIVE BURKE is on his phone, looking into the room  
through the mirror.

DETECTIVE BURKE

You better get the shrink down here. He's been having some kind of imaginary fight with "god" alone in the interrogation room for the past five minutes.

ISABELLA walking behind the two men touches DETECTIVE TESSAY'S back and walks into the shadow at the corner of the room, and disappears. He reacts as if to a chill. DETECTIVE BURKE ends the call while looking at his partner.

DETECTIVE BURKE

What is it? This guy getting to you?

DETECTIVE TESSAY

(enlightend)

No. I swear for a second I felt a rush through me and I swear I just heard my grandfather.

DETECTIVE BURKE

What did he say?

DETECTIVE TESSAY

He didn't say anything. I could hear him laughing, like he was here in front of me.

DETECTIVE TESSAY'S phone rings, he looks at it, sees its his wife and answers it.

DETECTIVE TESSAY

(phone conversation)

Hey love, whats up.

(beat) (happy)

That's wonderful. I'll be leaving here in a couple of hours and I'll meet you at the hospital.

(to DETECTIVE BURKE)

My daughter had her baby boy. I am a grandfather.

DETECTIVE BURKE

(congratulatory)

That's great, man!

DETECTIVE TESSAY is struck by something his wife said on the other end of the phone.

DETECTIVE TESSAY

Wait. What? Say that again?

DETECTIVE TESSAY'S eyes fill with tears of joy, he is overcome.

DETECTIVE TESSAY  
(choking back emotion)  
I'm leaving right now. I'll meet  
you at the hospital in 10 minutes.

DETECTIVE TESSAY ends the call, puts the phone in his pocket and tries to collect himself, but the smile on his face and the tears in his eyes give him away.

DETECTIVE BURKE  
(fiercely curious)  
Hey, man, TESSAY what is it?

DETECTIVE TESSAY  
My grandson's name is AHANU.

DETECTIVE BURKE puts his hand on DETECTIVE TESSAY'S back.

DETECTIVE BURKE  
(soft)  
A traditional native name, that's  
awesome, man. Congratulations.

DETECTIVE TESSAY looks up at his partner, fighting his smile to talk and wiping his eyes.

DETECTIVE TESSAY  
AHANU means "He laughs."

DETECTIVE TESSAY laughs through his tears overcome with joy.

FADE OUT.

CALLING