

A gunshot is heard in the home of CHRIS, a WELL-DRESSED man in his late 40's. CHRIS falls to the floor and blood flows down his abdomen. The man who shot runs away and there is no one else home and he LIES there bleeding. He lies in a room, WITH a MEDIUM-SIZED wooden dresser across the room, a small dresser next to the bed, a KING-SIZED bed, and two chairs sitting across from each other.

CHRIS

I can't reach my phone. It hurts so much.

He coughs up blood and screams in pain. He puts his arms to his side and closes his eyes

CHRIS (CONT'D)

Ok

He goes limp. JUSTIN enters and sits in a chair next to a waking Chris

CHRIS (CONT'D)

Who are you? Are you the guy who shot me?

JUSTIN

I'm not the one who shot you. You really don't remember me?

CHRIS

No, I don't. Are you going to call for help?

Chris's middle finger twitches

JUSTIN

Nope, I'm not.

Chris sits up and feels around his body.

CHRIS

where is the gunshot wound?

He looks down

CHRIS (CONT'D)

IS THAT ME LYING THERE?

JUSTIN

Yes, it is but you won't find me anywhere near.

Chris stands up

CHRIS

I am a ghost, I've died and now
I'm a ghost

JUSTIN

you're not dead yet, you can't die
yet but I am here to help with
that.

CHRIS

Who are you? And why can't I die
yet?

JUSTIN

I am an old acquaintance of yours.
From February 3rd, 1989.

Chris looks down and his middle finger twitches. He sits in a
chair next to him directing in front of Justin. Taking a deep
breath in and an exaggerated exhale.

CHRIS

I'm sorry but I don't remember
you. Do you have a name?

His middle finger twitches

JUSTIN

You are going to have to figure
that one out.

CHRIS

Ok, would you mind letting me die?
I bet talking to you here would be
really nice but I would like to die
already.

JUSTIN

Why the rush?

Chris looks at Justin and smiles

CHRIS

I have done so much good in my
life. Rebuilding communities,
helping the homeless, assisting the
troubled youth, and many other
things. I am just happy to die
being such a good man.

JUSTIN

Do you have any regrets?

CHRIS
There is nothing for me to regret?

His middle finger twitches

JUSTIN
Everyone has regrets.

Justin leans forward and looks closely at Chris. Chris retreats in his chair

CHRIS
Not when you have done nothing wrong.

His middle finger twitches.

JUSTIN
And everyone has done some type of wrong

Chris clenches his jaw

CHRIS
Maybe one thing from a long time ago nothing major.

His middle finger twitches. Justin moves back in his chair

JUSTIN
So what does the great man in front of me regret?

CHRIS
It's nothing important.

JUSTIN
Then tell me

CHRIS
Why did you say I can't die yet?

JUSTIN
This is why. You can't tell me what you regret.

CHRIS
Ok fine, three years ago I had an affair. She was a younger woman, the thought of it has been a stain on my mind for a very long time.

Justin puts his face in his palm and shakes his head.

CHRIS (CONT'D)

what? I told you what it was.

JUSTIN

No, you just lied to me.

CHRIS

I just told you I am a good guy.
Why are you holding me here?

JUSTIN

I'm not holding you here. You are
being held because you have been
living a lie.

CHRIS

What lie? You don't know anything
about me.

JUSTIN

Ok. February 3rd, 1989, what were
you doing?

CHRIS

Nothing, I was working.

JUSTIN

What was the work?

CHRIS

What happens if I don't talk to
you? Will time run out or something
and I'll die?

JUSTIN

We will sit here silent, forever.
By the end of this conversation,
you'll be honest with yourself and
with me. Then and only then, you
will die. You're not allowed to die
on your terms.

CHRIS

I haven't lied to you.

JUSTIN

Almost everything you have told me
has been exclusively a lie.

He takes a breath

JUSTIN (CONT'D)

Look to your left.

They both turn their heads

CHRIS
It's an old dresser of mine, what
about it?

JUSTIN
What's in it?

CHRIS
Clothes, what else?

JUSTIN
What is in the 3rd compartment?

Chris clenches his fist

CHRIS
Old shirts I haven't worn in a
long time.

His middle finger twitches

JUSTIN
And?

CHRIS
Nothing

JUSTIN
What about the gun?

CHRIS
How do you know that I have a gun?

JUSTIN
I know pretty much everything
about you.

CHRIS
Everything?

JUSTIN
Everything Chris.

CHRIS
Then you should know that I carry a
gun for protection.

JUSTIN
That's true, might be the first
true thing you've said.

(MORE)

JUSTIN (CONT'D)

Although, that gun is in the dresser next to your bed. Why do you have another one in the other dresser?

CHRIS

Just in case I can't get to the other one.

His middle finger twitches

Chris points to the dresser next to his bed

JUSTIN

You were next to it when you heard someone break in. You still came across the room to the dresser next to your bed instead of grabbing the other one. Why did you do that?

Chris stares at Justin, his jaw clenched as much as it can be, sweating and shaking.

CHRIS

I didn't realize, I was worried.

JUSTIN

That gun, in the dresser across the room, has no ammo. It hasn't had ammunition for a long time.

CHRIS

Is this what you like to do? Go around and interrogate ghosts or whatever I am right now.

JUSTIN

Why do you have an empty gun for protection?

CHRIS

I have had it forever, I can't let it go.

JUSTIN

That is true.

CHRIS

How much longer do we have to do this? Please, let me pass on or fall into nothingness, wherever we go when we die. Please, I want to die a good man.

JUSTIN

You have to also die an honest man.

Tears fall down Chris's face

CHRIS

I'm sorry

JUSTIN

Do you know who I am?

CHRIS

I have a pretty good idea

JUSTIN

What is your one regret?

CHRIS

On February 3, 1989, I shot and killed you, Justin Herrera after being hired on my first job. I did it with the gun in my dresser. I threw all the bullets into a river but haven't been able to let myself get rid of that gun. After killing you, I couldn't live with myself. I tried to live the rest of my life only doing good hoping it would rid me of my sin. I've been running away from and trying to forget you.

JUSTIN

Thank you for telling the truth. I didn't want this to be a painful process for you.

CHRIS

Please, if possible, forgive me.

JUSTIN

I already forgave you.

CHRIS

That's great to hear.

JUSTIN

You're allowed to forgive yourself.

CHRIS

Justin.

JUSTIN

Yes?

CHRIS

I don't want to die.

JUSTIN

I'm sorry but I can't help with
that.