

These Walls That Listen  
By Liza Litten

Characters

**Irene Thomas** - player character, investigator, a young woman in her late 20s/early 30s with enthusiasm for her career but is serious about the cases given to her. She tries to view situations with optimism but knows she has to be realistic on the job.

**Stephanie Morgan** - mother, a 37 year old stay at home mother who used to work as a secretary. She was traumatized from losing her daughter at childbirth and hallucinates that the child is still alive to the point of neglecting her real son. She speaks whimsically as if in a dream and becomes irritated if that dream is interrupted.

**William Morgan** - father, a 39 year old insurance office worker who works long hours and just wants to live a peaceful life with his family. He tried to ignore his wife's odd coping mechanisms from the loss of their daughter in hopes that she just gets over it until their son comes along. His wife's neglect of their living child causes him to resent her.

**Robert Clark** - neighbor, landlord, a 65 year old man who used to own the house the Morgan's currently live in. He is friendly to everyone in town and is always willing to lend a hand. He tries his best to respect the privacy of the Morgan family, but he can't help noticing odd behaviors.

**Sandra Turner** - Stephanie's mother, a 62 year old retired teacher who believes her way is the best way. She believes in tough love and that you just have to do it regardless of what you think is right. She is very stern with her daughter and believes that Stephanie should take after her.

**Daniel Turner** - Stephanie's father, a 67 year old retired mechanic who just wants to travel the world after working his entire life. He would rather travel with his best friend but is traveling with his wife because she wanted to go along. He is not enthusiastic about it. He is very serious about everything until someone mentions his grandkids.

### Summary

Irene Thomas is tasked with investigating the disappearance of a family. During the investigation, Irene finds a series of cassette tapes of conversations over the years that tell the story of the downfall of Stephanie's mental state and William's perseverance. The tapes reveal that the couple's first child died in childbirth and almost killed Stephanie too. Stephanie became mentally unstable with hallucinations of having a living daughter. After some time, Stephanie's mental state broke and she and the rest of the family disappeared.

### Talk to Robert the first time

Irene walks up to Robert with a serious look on her face. Robert seems upbeat.

Robert

Hello. I see you've come to investigate the situation. I'm sure a missing person case is pretty common, but this is a whole family we're talking about.

Irene studies Robert's physical appearance to cross-reference to her notes.

Irene

Hello. I'm here to see if they're worth a full scale search or maybe they just went out for a little vacation.

Robert speaks very carefully and cautiously.

Robert

I know they aren't out for a trip because William always tells me about his family outings. He tells me everything.

Robert

Sometimes it feels like he just needs someone to talk to. That's why he tells me things I don't need to know.

Irene speaks deliberately to get information out of Robert.

Irene

Oh? Is he the friendly type?

Robert

William works at an insurance business. I'm sure it's just him and his stack of papers there, so he gets bored and lonely.

Robert

I'm sure his wife, Stephanie, isn't helping with that considering her behavior.

Irene

Her behavior? Is she...?

Robert realizes he may have given too much information to Irene.

Robert

She's weird. But not like that. She rarely leaves the house and when she does she keeps her head down.

Irene

Could she just be shy?

Robert

I'm not sure. But William is always complaining about her taking care of the kids. He's not complaining that she doesn't take care of the kids, but that

she cares for them too much. Not sure  
what he means by that though.

Irene  
Thank you for the information.

Robert  
Come talk to me if you have any  
questions.

Cassette 1

Robert was renting the place to the family and became friends with them when the young couple moved in. Couple talks about being excited to have a place to grow their family.

Robert walks up to William and Stephanie as they are getting out of the car. Robert, William, and Stephanie speak excitedly.

Robert

Hello, you two!

William

Ah! Hello there, Mr. Clark! Wonderful day, isn't it?

Robert

Very! Have you two gotten comfortable in the new place?

Stephanie

Everything has been moved in and we're almost unpacked. The place is gorgeous.

Robert

I think this place is a great fit for you guys

Stephanie

It's perfect for us to grow our family.

Robert

You know, this place was my own daughter's until she decided to move away. I always hoped she would come back but it's been many years.

Robert

Well, I hope you enjoy the new place. You should come over next Friday. I'm having a cookout. I'm in that house beside you, if you decide to drop by.

William

I think we'll take you up on that offer.

Cassette 2

Robert sees them moving baby stuff into the house. Couple excitedly tell him that they are expecting a baby.

William makes grunting sounds while carrying heavy boxes.

Robert

Hello, Morgans! Seems you had a successful shopping trip.

William grunts while putting a heavy box down.

William is sweating and out of breath.

William

You could say that.

Stephanie is very upbeat and excited.

Stephanie

We got a bit more than I anticipated, but it's worth it.

Robert looks at the packed car surprised.

Robert

Goodness! Your entire car is packed full!

Stephanie laughs lightly.

Stephanie

Like I said, we went a bit overboard.

William is exasperated because he's the one that had to pay for everything.

William

That's what happens when you say "What if we need this?" to every other thing in the store.

Stephanie is upset at William's comment.

Stephanie

No, I did not do that!

William

Well we certainly bought things we do not and will not need.

Robert

Oh? Are you guys remodeling part of the house?

Stephanie

Something like that.

William finally catches his breath and composes himself. He takes a heavy breath. He perks up.

William

We're finally cleaning out one of the bedrooms that we've just been using as storage since we moved in last year.

Robert

A guest bedroom? Very smart of you two.

Stephanie

No... we're preparing it for the baby.

Robert

Baby?

William

Yes, Stephanie is about five months along. Things are going to be quite hectic.

Robert

I suppose congratulations to you both. Do you know if it's a boy or a girl?

William

Stephanie wants it to be a surprise.

Robert

I see. Well, if you two need any help putting stuff together, you know where to find me.

William

I may need some help getting these boxes inside, if you wouldn't mind.

Robert

Hah! Of course.

Cassette 3

Stephanie lost the baby at childbirth and almost died. Robert is concerned about Stephanie because he's only seen her through the windows for a few months. William is very quiet about the whole event.

Robert is upbeat.

Robert

Good morning, William.

William pauses before responding slowly in a low voice.

William

Good morning, Robert.

Robert

Another exciting day at the office, eh?

William

Oh, yes. I finally got through that case with a client I've been dealing with for the past three months. Though, I sense this isn't the last I hear of him.

Robert

Ah, I see.

[Pause]

Robert

Uhm. William.

William

Yes?

Robert

Is Stephanie alright? Did something happen? I haven't seen her in months. I only see her staring out the window.

William lets out a heavy sigh while holding back tears.

William

Things went wrong. Very wrong. And there's no one to blame. It just all happened so fast.



Robert realizes what happened and speaks softly. He speaks carefully.

Robert

The baby...

William

Yeah... it almost took Stephanie as well. She was in the hospital for almost a week.

Robert

I'm so sorry.

William

She begged the doctors to save the baby and forget about her. But it was already too late.

Robert

Is there anything I can do to help your family?

William

I don't think so. If Stephanie does come out, be kind to her.

Cassette 4

Stephanie is distraught about the baby. So much so that she hallucinates that the baby is still alive. A baby doll that was meant for the child takes the physical place of the baby. William still doesn't understand her hallucinations.

William knows his wife is going through a lot and talks cautiously.

William

Knock knock.

Stephanie is quiet and speaks lightly, as if she's dreaming.

Stephanie

Yes, dear?

William

I brought you some food.

Stephanie

Thanks...

William

What are you up to today?

Stephanie

Just...sewing.

William

A doll?

Stephanie

I-

William

It's lovely.

Stephanie

She is...dear Olivia.

Stephanie pats the doll softly.

William

Are you wanting to leave it at her grave?

Stephanie is startled by William's comment and screams.

Stephanie

No!

Stephanie takes herself by surprise by her outburst and is embarrassed.

Stephanie

Er. No, I want to keep her here.

William is visibly shaken by Stephanie yelling.

William

Um. Okay. I noticed the baby blankets are out of the closet.

Stephanie

Of course they are. I don't want the baby to get sick.

William

Baby? My dear. It's been months.

William realizes Stephanie thinks the baby is still alive.

William

She's gone...

Stephanie seems to realize what's happening, but not quite. She begins to cry.

Stephanie

N-no. She's right here. In my arms. Safe.

William

My dear. You've been through a lot.

Stephanie

My little girl will grow up to be so strong and she'll be so smart.

William feels bad for making her cry.

William

Yeah. She's going to grow up and be a wonderful person.

Cassette 5

Stephanie is convinced her daughter is sick because she isn't growing. William finally decides to try to get her to snap out of her hallucination. Stephanie accuses William of abusing the daughter and that's why she isn't growing. William wants her to see sense but does so aggressively.

Stephanie is upset.

Stephanie

I don't get it. She isn't growing how she should be at her age.

William is exasperated.

William

Of course she isn't.

Stephanie becomes angry at William.

Stephanie

What do you mean of course?!

William starts raising his voice.

William

Open your eyes and look at your "daughter!"

Stephanie raises her voice to match William's.

Stephanie

She's sick! She hasn't been eating!

William

Of course she isn't eating. That's a doll you made last year!

Stephanie

She's as cute as a doll, certainly. But you will not reduce her down to an inanimate object.

William

You've put way too much time and effort into...into this crazy dream of yours!

Stephanie

It's not crazy! I'm trying to take care of OUR daughter.

William

I'm starting to think this is all one big joke you're playing on me. At first, it seemed genuine. But now it feels like you're just trying to get out of doing any work.

Stephanie

This isn't a joke! This is reality.

William

It doesn't feel like it. It feels like you're feeding off of my money. My hard work.

Stephanie

Well it feels like you don't care about our daughter. You never talk to her. You never spend time with her. It feels like you don't see her.

William

Stephanie! Wake up from your delusions! Look at what's in front of you.

Stephanie

In front of me? All I see is my wonderful child and a man who doesn't care for his family.

William

I should put you in a crazy asylum. You've completely lost it.

Stephanie

No. You've lost it when you stopped caring.

William takes a step back and quiets himself.

William

I...I still care about you, Stephanie. I've always wanted to have a beautiful family with you. It's just hard when you stay locked in this room by yourself all the time.

Stephanie is out of breath and lowers her voice.

Stephanie

You're right. I need to get out more.

William

I can't remember the last time you left the house.

Stephanie

Maybe it'll help Olivia grow. Keeping her in her room isn't healthy.

William

Of course...

Stephanie

William?

William

Hm?

Stephanie

I still love you.

William

I love you too.

Cassette 6

Stephanie is pregnant again and overjoyed her daughter will have a friend. Robert asks why he's never seen daughter out and about and why William never talks about her. Stephanie says Robert just has never been out at the right time. Stephanie tries to make excuses as to why William never talks about daughter.

William is very upbeat.

William

Good afternoon, Robert!

Robert

Ah! Hello Morgans! Especially to you, Stephanie.

Stephanie speaks politely and quietly but in a dreamy way as if she doesn't recognize Robert.

Stephanie

Good to see you're doing well.

Robert

And I you. I was getting worried about you, you know. I never saw you leave your house and when you did, you would just sit in your yard.

Stephanie

Well...

William

Oh! Robert, could I borrow your screwdriver set again?

Robert

Of course! Is that cabinet falling apart again? You should just replace it at this point.

William

I sure do. But that's not what it's for this time.

Robert

Hm? Is your couch falling apart too?

William

Not yet, no. But you could say we're doing a bit of renovating.

Stephanie

Oh, just tell him.

Robert

Tell me what?

William

Stephanie is pregnant.

Robert speaks excitedly.

Robert

My goodness! That's wonderful news.

Stephanie

I'm so happy our little girl will have someone to play with.

Robert is suddenly confused.

Robert

Little girl?

Stephanie

Yes, we have a little girl named Olivia. She's turning three next month.

Robert lets out a small laugh as he becomes even more confused.

Robert

I must be getting old. I've never seen her.

Stephanie

Well, she doesn't play outside much. But when she does, I usually take her to the park.

Robert

I - William, why haven't you told me about your little girl?

William never talked about their daughter. He feels a little guilty.

William

I thought I did...

Stephanie

I heard that you two only talk about William's job and you getting a new roof.

Robert

Hah! You might be right. Sorry about that. I should let you talk more about your family.

William

It's quite alright.

Robert

Well. If you two need any help, you know where to find me.

Cassette 7

Son is born. Stephanie gives more attention to daughter and William takes care of son mostly. Stephanie accuses William of not caring about daughter. Daughter is very sick and needs all the support she can get. William tells Stephanie



that a newborn needs a lot of attention from Stephanie. Stephanie accuses William of keeping secrets and that's why he's pushing her to take care of both kids.

Stephanie speaks happily but dreamily.

Stephanie

Oh, Olivia. You could try getting up today. I'll help you walk to the living room.

William is stern and exhausted from a long day at the office.

William

What are you doing in here?

Stephanie

Trying to get her to walk around today.

William

Could you take care of Timothy for a bit? I have some work I need to get done.

Stephanie

Can't you care for him while you work?

William becomes more irritated.

William

Absolutely not. I can't be distracted by a baby while I'm working on a crucial case.

Stephanie becomes exasperated. She becomes sassier.

Stephanie

Sounds like you don't really care for him.

William

Look who's talking. You never watch him or clean him or feed him.

Stephanie gets defensive.

Stephanie

Yes I do.

William

When I'm at work. I get home and he's covered in food and spit and his diaper is full.

Stephanie

Well, I have to take care of Olivia.

William snaps at Stephanie.

William

You're his mother! You need to be spending time with him to bond.

Stephanie raises her voice.

Stephanie

And you're supposed to be Olivia's father, but do you spend any time with her or take care of her or feed her or give her medicine.

William

You need serious help.

Stephanie

No, you do. Why are you trying to push everything on to me?

William

I work hard in the office every day to provide for our family. It's the least you can do.

Stephanie

I'm sure if the roles were reversed, I would care for our family more.

William

Sure. Keep telling yourself that.

Stephanie

And why are you so obsessed with work lately?

William

I got a promotion last month. With promotions, you get more responsibilities. More work.

Stephanie

A promotion?

William

Yes? I told you when it happened.

Stephanie

Well, I don't see the extra money.

William is taken aback by Stephanie's behavior and comment.

William

And now it's about money. Well, I've been spending it on the new baby WE have. Diapers, food, clothes. It adds up.

Stephanie

Well, money wasn't an issue when Olivia was born.

William

You still had money from your job from before you quit.

Stephanie

I think you're trying to make excuses.

William

Excuses?

Stephanie

What are you hiding from me?

William takes a deep, deep breath.

William

I'm hiding my anger and frustration from you.

Stephanie

I mean someone else. Are you hiding someone from me?

William

What in the world do you mean?

Stephanie

You seem to be spending a lot of time on "work things."

William

Stephanie! Don't you dare accuse me of such things.

Stephanie

Then what is it?

William

I already told you, I got a promotion last month and now I have more work than ever on my plate.

Stephanie

I'm sure you do.

William takes a breath and pauses to think.

William

Can you just take Timothy for two hours? Maybe Olivia can play with him or they can get used to each other or something.

Stephanie suddenly perks up like nothing happened.

Stephanie

That's a great idea. Come here, little Timmy.

Cassette 8

Stephanie barely takes care of Son and spends all of her time in Daughters room. William talks to Robert about the situation. Robert suggests getting rid of the daughter to make Stephanie see sense. William thinks it would be too cruel to kill their daughter twice. Suggests sending their Daughter to school.

Robert is very upbeat.

Robert

Good evening, William! Long day at the office?

William sighs heavily.

William

The day is long but the evenings are longer.

Robert

That's a good way to see things. Evenings are when you get to relax and spend time with your family.

William

Hah. I wish that's how it was. At this point, I wish I had MORE work.

Robert

Is everything alright?

William becomes very stern.

William

Of course it's not.

Robert becomes concerned and puts down his garden tools.

Robert

Oh dear. Well, I'm here to listen if you need.

William

Stephanie is getting worse. She doesn't take care of Timothy, our son. Instead, she just sits in Olivia's room playing dress up talking to herself. The only time she takes care of Timothy is when she gets up to get Olivia lunch.

Robert

Olivia is about five now, right?

William

I suppose.

Robert

What?

William looks into the distance thinking about his life.

William

I can't believe it's been five years already. It's gone on for too long. And I just played along. And this is what happens.

Robert

What's happening with Olivia? And Stephanie?

William shakes his head and looks down at his hands.

William

Stephanie is beyond hallucinations. At first, I just thought it was a weird way for her to cope with the loss of our daughter.

Robert pauses to process what William said and becomes quiet.

Robert

So, she did pass at birth.

William

Yes. And Stephanie has covered it up so well that she's convinced herself that she's still alive and growing. She's been making life size dolls for Olivia's body that she dresses up and cares for.

Robert

It seems she's so dedicated to her daughter, but not to her real, breathing son.

William

I'm just happy that she hasn't done anything extreme to Timothy while I'm at work. But it isn't exactly good. Leaving him to practically starve in his soiled clothes.

Robert tries to brighten the mood.

Robert

Surely there's something you can do about it.

William

I can't understand a single thing she's thinking. I tried to get her therapy but she refuses to go and I can't do much about it since I'm at work all day.

Robert

Maybe you need something a bit more extreme.

William

What are you thinking?

Robert

Throw out all of her stuff for Olivia. The dolls, the clothes, and whatever else that she has exclusively for her.

William thinks about it for a moment and considers it for a second.

William

I...I don't think I could do that to her.

Robert tries to convince William.

Robert

It would show her that Olivia was never there to begin with.

William

But it would be like killing our daughter again.

Robert seems almost embarrassed for suggesting it.

Robert

Well...I suppose you have a point. Maybe tell Stephanie that Olivia has to go to school. She would be at that age.

William becomes more upbeat and motivated.

William

You're right. Most kids are in school at this point in their lives.

Robert is excited that William seems happier.

Robert

See? I have good ideas sometimes.

William

You do. Well, I'll talk to you later.

Cassette 9

Stephanie's parents called because she hasn't talked to them in a while. Stephanie says she's upset because they got Son Christmas gifts but not Daughter. They don't know Stephanie is hallucinating. Parents say they're going to visit.

Stephanie paces around the house impatiently huffing about.

Stephanie

This is so stupid.

William is sitting at the table with a pile of papers in front of him. He talks to Stephanie off-handedly.

William

What is it this time?

Stephanie gets increasingly upset.

Stephanie

My parents said they want to come over to spend time with us soon.

William

So, what's the problem?

Stephanie

They want to stay with us at our house. We don't have anywhere for them to stay.

William briefly looks up from his work.

William

We could let them have our room.

Stephanie

And where do we sleep? The couch?

William

We could stay in the kids' rooms if they're only going to be here for a few days.

Stephanie

I don't even want them to come around.

William

Why not?

Stephanie

They're so mean about the kids.

William

They're not around to be mean to them.



Stephanie

They sent us and Timothy Christmas gifts last year. They didn't get anything for Olivia.

William

Well. Did you tell them what she wanted?

Stephanie

Um. Not really. I said clothes for a little girl so I assumed they would know what to get her.

William looks up, exasperated.

William

That's awful.

Stephanie tries to find a reason.

Stephanie

I think they were a little confused because when I told them to just get Olivia little girl clothes they just asked why they would get Timothy girl clothes.

William

What did they get Timothy then?

Stephanie

Clothes and some toys.

William goes back to his work.

William

Maybe the toys were meant to be for Olivia?

Stephanie

They were not toys for a six year old. They were baby toys.

William

Er.

Stephanie

I don't even know when they're going to be coming. I know them. They're just going to show

up some random Tuesday afternoon and announce they're staying the rest of the week.

William

Very true. I wish they would stop doing that.

Stephanie

At least they let me know this time that they're thinking about coming over.

William

I guess we're just going to have to keep the house presentable enough for them.

Cassette 10

Parents yell at Stephanie for neglecting her son. They take the doll that was the body. Stephanie has another breakdown. Tells William that he let it happen. Stephanie disappears. William disappears the next day.

Sandra bursts through the door, overjoyed.

Grandmother Sandra

Hello! We're here!

Stephanie jumps up from the couch in surprise.

Stephanie

Mother?!

Grandmother Sandra

We're only staying the night. We're on a little road trip across the country. We're heading south to Florida after this.

Daniel slowly enters the house smiling.

Grandfather Daniel

Ah! It's so good to see you! I haven't seen you two in so long!

William sighs but puts on a happy face for his in-laws.

William

Well, that's what happens when you two live across the country from us.

Grandfather Daniel  
And you two couldn't be bothered to come visit  
us.

William  
Unfortunately, work has been a lot and I don't  
want Stephanie traveling alone with a baby.

Grandmother Sandra  
Speaking of, where's he at?

William  
Timothy is in his room playing.

Stephanie  
And Olivia is in her room reading.

Sandra looks around confused.

Grandmother Sandra  
Olivia?

Stephanie  
She's our daughter. She's almost seven years old.

Daniel is taken aback.

Grandfather Daniel  
I didn't know you had another kid. Why didn't you  
tell us?

Stephanie sighs.

Stephanie  
I did.

Sandra is slightly outraged.

Grandmother Sandra  
You didn't send us any photos of her. You never  
tell us much about her. But you also never call  
us.

Grandfather Daniel  
I want to see my granddaughter I didn't know I  
had.

William realizes Stephanie is going to be caught in her lie

and he can't do anything to cover up his family. He stutters and sweats.

William

W-w...I

Grandmother Sandra

Timothy looks like you so Olivia should look like me.

Stephanie

That one is Olivia's room.

Grandmother Sandra

Knock Knock! Olivia! Hello! I'm your grandm-

Stephanie

She's a bit shy.

Daniel looks around confused.

Grandfather Daniel

Um. Where is she?

Stephanie has a moment of clarity but quickly snaps back into her dream.

Stephanie

What do you mean? She's right here on the bed.

Sandra becomes increasingly upset.

Grandmother Sandra

All I see is a doll. Shoddily made so I assume you made it, Stephanie.

Stephanie

Olivia. Say hello to your grandparents.

Grandmother Sandra

That's Olivia?

Stephanie

Yes! Isn't she adorable?

Daniel doesn't understand what is going on but is overwhelmed by the situation.

Grandfather Daniel  
What's going on here? What happened to our  
granddaughter?

William  
Um...

Grandmother Sandra  
Spit it out, William! What is going on here?

William  
Olivia...

Stephanie  
Don't run your mouth and start lying to them.

William realizes Stephanie's lie has been going on for way  
too long and wants to stop it to have a normal life and a  
normal family.  
William speaks softly.

William  
Stop lying to yourself, Stephanie. You're too  
deep into this life you created for yourself.

Daniel quickly turns to Stephanie, terrified.

Grandfather Daniel  
Stephanie? What did you do?

William is quiet and numb from the situation.

William  
Olivia is dead. And she's been dead. She never  
lived.

Stephanie is slowly being ripped from her dream and sees  
reality and gets angry.

Stephanie  
I told you to stop spewing lies about her! She's  
right here. She's alive and breathing!

Sandra snaps at Stephanie.

Grandmother Sandra

You're delusional, Stephanie.  
Daniel seems to be piecing events together in his head, but is still confused.

Grandfather Daniel  
I knew you two were having a kid years ago but I never heard anything of it. It certainly lines up.

Grandmother Sandra  
I get that losing a kid is hard but you're being so dramatic. All this? For a child you killed.

Stephanie goes quiet and begins to cry.

Stephanie  
I...killed...

William gets angry at Sandra for being harsh on Stephanie.

William  
Stop it. You're going too far. You shouldn't be saying stuff like that.

Stephanie  
William...I...did I?

William  
There were problems no one could have predicted. Nothing we could have prepared for.

Grandmother Sandra  
It sounds like Stephanie was weak. And all of this is proof.

Grandfather Daniel  
Is Timothy even real? Looking at all this, I wouldn't be surprised if you conjured up a little friend for this...thing.

William seems desperate to try to salvage the pieces of his family now that their secret has been found out.

William  
Timothy is real. He is very much alive. You can go see him for yourself.

Sandra almost laughs at Stephanie, thinking she's pathetic.

Grandmother Sandra

I can't believe this. Such a complex ruse to make yourself feel like you could have a proper family.

William

Listen. She-

Grandmother Sandra

And you! William. Didn't do anything about it. You let all this happen under your roof. You're a man who's only as good as a donkey.

William is stern and isn't afraid to stand up to Sandra.

William

I took care of Timothy.

Grandmother Sandra

You say that like it's the only thing you did.

William

I'm the one that was caring for him when he was a baby. Well. Me and my parents who live a few miles away.

Grandmother Sandra

Stephanie? Does this mean you didn't take care of a real baby in favor of a pile of rags?

Stephanie is in shock by the events and goes back to her dream.

Stephanie

Olivia is sick. She needs a lot of extra care. She can't do it herself.

Daniel comes back excitedly.

Grandfather Daniel

Oh my goodness! Little Timothy does look like his grandpa!

Grandmother Sandra

So, at least it isn't all sick delusions.

Stephanie

Olivia isn't a delusion. She's real. She's growing. She's doing amazing in school. She has a hard time expressing herself, she-

Sandra raises her voice at Stephanie.

Grandmother Sandra

That's enough. You're too far gone in this dream you've created for yourself. We're leaving.

Daniel looks at Sandra confused but willing.

Grandfather Daniel

Oh? We're going already?

Grandmother Sandra

This makes me sick.

Stephanie yells at Sandra as she walks out the door.

Stephanie

And don't come back if you aren't going to accept my family with love.

Sandra turns back and looks around the room.

Grandmother Sandra

You know what. I'll be taking this stuff and it'll be thrown in the ocean as we drive by.

Stephanie is taken aback.

Stephanie

What?

Sandra picks up the Olivia doll and examines it.

Grandmother Sandra

It really is gross up close.

Daniel is blissfully unaware of what Sandra is doing and leaves the house.

Grandfather Daniel

I'll go pack up the car then.



Stephanie  
Don't hold her like that, Mother.

Grandmother Sandra  
And these are all the clothes you got her. What a waste of money. No wonder William has to work overtime. He has to feed your weird obsessions.

Stephanie looks at Sandra horrified.

Stephanie  
What are you doing with her?

Grandmother Sandra  
I told you. I'm taking this stuff. But I don't want it, so I'll probably throw it in the trash. Where it belongs.

Stephanie realizes what Sandra is doing and gets up quickly.

Stephanie  
Wait! Stop! Give her back! NO!

William  
I...

Sandra quickly leaves, slamming the door behind her.

Stephanie  
They're gone.

William  
...  
William stands silently, stunned by the recent events. Stephanie turns to yell at William.

Stephanie  
And you let them! You let my mother take our daughter! You were standing right there!

William  
Stephanie...

Stephanie  
That proves it. You don't care. You never did.

William looks at Stephanie with pity.

William

I'm sorry. I couldn't do it any more. I can't keep playing house with you and Olivia. We have a real son we need to care for. He is my priority.

Stephanie puts on her shoes.

Stephanie

I have to get her back.

William

They drove off. You'll never catch up.

Stephanie becomes more desperate by the second.

Stephanie

I have to try.

William

I'm not going to drive you around to chase them.

Stephanie

Please...

William tries to calm Stephanie down.

William

Maybe this will be good for you. Maybe you can finally open your eyes.

Stephanie

No. I have to...if you won't help me, then I'll have to do it myself.

Stephanie runs out the door.

William

Hey! Where are you going?

Stephanie yells back with the door still wide open.

Stephanie

I have to get her back.

William  
Don't tell me you're going on foot.

Stephanie  
I don't have another choice.

William  
Yes you do. Stay here. With your family.

Stephanie pauses halfway down the driveway.

Stephanie  
I...

Stephanie suddenly starts running.

William  
She'll be back. Soon. Timothy probably needs to eat now.

After finding 2 cassettes

Irene  
Mr. Clark?

Robert  
Ah! How can I help you?

Irene  
I've found a few cassette tapes.

Robert is suspicious of Irene and very cautious.

Robert  
Going through their stuff? Is that part of the investigation?

Irene  
It is. I'm looking for evidence of a crime.

Robert  
I thought CDs were in style now.

Irene  
These cassettes aren't songs. They're conversations.

Robert

Perhaps they recorded messages for their little ones?

Irene

These sound like private conversations that weren't meant to be recorded.

Robert

Maybe they were recorded by accident.

Irene

It doesn't sound like these conversations should have been heard by anyone else.

Robert

And yet you're listening to them.

Irene

Very true. I was intrigued at first because they don't have labels.

After finding 9 cassettes

Irene

Hello.

Robert seems annoyed that Irene is still here.

Robert

You seem a bit less enthusiastic than you did earlier.

Irene

I guess you could call it concern.

Robert

About the Morgans? You should be. You're investigating their disappearance.

Irene

Yes, I am concerned about their well being. But I found nine of these cassette tapes and if I'm to

believe them, then there's something bigger here than I thought.

Robert is reluctant but knows it's the right thing to do and knows it will help his friends as he hands over the last cassette tape.

Robert

Ah. Speaking of... I found this on my porch earlier. It's not mine. I don't even have anything to play it with.

Irene

Another cassette tape?

Robert

It might be related to your case.

Irene

Thank you.

Robert

Keep me updated with your investigation. I quite liked William.

End of game

Ending the game without finding all 10 cassettes

<2 cassettes found

Does not let the player end the game

Irene

I feel like I've barely scratched the surface of this case. I must have missed something.

3 - 5 cassettes found

Irene

I've found some evidence. But what should I report back to the Chief?

> The mother ran off somewhere. The rest of the family is probably nearby.

> The father killed the family somewhere. We should be searching for their bodies.

> The family just went on vacation somewhere. The case should be closed.

> Robert is suspicious. He should be investigated.

> Don't end the investigation.

6 - 9 cassettes found

Irene

There's a lot of evidence here. I need to report back to the Chief. He'll decide where to go from here.

> Stephanie is in a care facility. William took Timothy and fled the area.

> The family is traveling south with Stephanie's parents.

> Robert couldn't handle the drama and ranting from William. He should be investigated.

> Stephanie needs to be searched for. William and Timothy are safe somewhere and will return soon.

> Don't end the investigation.

Ending with all 10 cassettes

Irene

This is a lot of evidence. I'm confident I know what happened. What am I going to report to the Chief? I know he'll decide where the case goes afterwards.

> Stephanie became hysterical and ran off. We should search for her. William and Timothy are safe nearby.

> Stephanie's parents kidnapped Timothy and both of the parents went after them.

> Robert convinced William to get rid of Stephanie and run away with Timothy

> William took Stephanie to a care facility for her mental health and is staying with his parents.

> William killed his family and maybe even himself. We should search for their bodies.