

# Suspect 2 Interview Transcript part 2

**Tuesday, December 20, 2022 – 10:45 a.m.**

Sylvia Mason was a close friend of Jackson Walker.

Detectives Murphy and Parker talked to her again at the Yoknapatawpha County Sheriff's Department.

## **Participants:**

Detective S. Murphy

Detective E. Parker

Sylvia Mason

*Detective Parker:* Well, Sylvia, we found out what type of person Joshua Walker is.

*Sylvia Mason:* Like I said, not the type to kill someone.

*Detective Parker:* I wouldn't say that. But he's definitely the type of person who's not into you.

*Sylvia Mason:* What?

*Detective Parker:* Remember that love note you left on his car? He thought it came from the Chili's waitress he hooked up with, not you.

*Sylvia Mason:* No.

*Detective Parker:* Afraid so. He said he barely read it, crumpled it up, and tossed it like garbage.

*Sylvia Mason:* I don't believe you. You probably tricked him into saying that. Like you were doing to me earlier.

*Detective Parker:* If you like, we can get the video recording of his interview, but you're probably going to want us to stop it before he calls you a crazy b\*\*\*h and blames you for Jackson's murder.

*Sylvia Mason:* You really have that on video? Detective Murphy?

*Detective Murphy:* Yes, we do, I'm afraid.

*Sylvia Mason:* Oh.

*Detective Murphy:* Sylvia, you know that we collected seven different kinds of liquid cold medicine from your house. That's not normal.

*Sylvia Mason:* After COVID, we all have to be more careful. I was just making sure to keep it on hand.

*Detective Murphy:* No. We know that's not the truth.

*Sylvia Mason:* It is the truth.

*Detective Murphy:* Sylvia, the medical examiner found the cause of Jackson's death. That's why you're here.

*Sylvia Mason:* Jackson died because he was sick.

*Detective Murphy:* No, Sylvia, Jackson was poisoned with antifreeze.

*Detective Parker:* And the Crime Lab found that two of your open cold medicines contain antifreeze, almost like someone was mixing and matching, trying to get the color right.

*Sylvia Mason:* It wasn't me.

*Detective Murphy:* Yes, it was. We have your email printout with a description of a lethal dose of ethylene glycol for someone Jackson's size. It has your fingerprints on it.

*Detective Parker:* Along with your fingerprints on the cold medicines and a funnel—a funnel that tested positive for ethylene glycol.

*Sylvia Mason:* I don't know what ethylene glycol is.

*Detective Murphy:* It's the main lethal substance in antifreeze.

# Suspect 2 Interview Transcript part 2

*Sylvia Mason:* I'm in trouble, aren't I?

*Detective Murphy:* Yes. Very much so. Are you ready to stop lying?

*Sylvia Mason:* I guess I don't have much of a choice.

*Detective Parker:* Tell us Josh's role in this scheme of yours.

*Sylvia Mason:* He's the one that wanted Jack dead.

*Detective Parker:* Funny, that's what he told us about you.

*Sylvia Mason:* He lies. I wasn't the one that hated Jack for an entire lifetime. If I could have had Josh by simply dumping Jack, I would have in an instant.

*Detective Murphy:* Are you saying that Josh predicated your affair with him on the condition that you kill his brother?

*Sylvia Mason:* That's what I'm saying.

*Detective Murphy:* Why? Was Josh really worth killing over?

*Sylvia Mason:* I thought so.

*Detective Parker:* Well, in his eyes, you're just some crazy b\*\*\*h who's no more significant than the nearest Chili's waitress.

*Sylvia Mason:* Why do y'all say things like that?

*Detective Parker:* To get you to see some reality here. Josh isn't the guy you thought he was. He used you. We need to know how.

*Sylvia Mason:* Uh... Back in late October, I met with Josh. You know I partied with him at The Roadhouse then. Josh wasn't like Jack. Jack was always uptight and boring, kind of a stiff. He was a nice enough guy, but you know what they say about nice guys. They finish last for a reason. They're as dull as dishwater. Not Josh. He's fun, spontaneous, charming.

*Detective Parker:* Saw none of that side of him last we talked.

*Detective Murphy:* Were you secretly dating Josh then by November?

*Sylvia Mason:* No, Josh said he was into me but wouldn't pursue anything as long as I was with Jack. I told him I'd dump Jack right away, but Josh didn't go for it. Josh said he had a plan, and I should stay with Jack until I was "ready."

*Detective Murphy:* What happened next?

*Sylvia Mason:* He spent all November playing a nasty game of hard-to-get. After Thanksgiving, he said I was ready to hear the plan, but he was going to sleep with me first. I was on cloud nine. I was used to getting sex on the regular but hadn't had any action since I dumped Adam Cooper. I was starving, and let me tell you, Josh is a good lover.

*Detective Murphy:* So, did Josh tell you his plan afterward?

*Sylvia Mason:* In pieces. He didn't come right out and say he wanted to kill his brother. I don't even remember if he said why he wanted him dead. He hated Jack. I think there was maybe family money involved. I don't know. But he persuaded me slowly over a few weeks, like a frog slowly heating in boiling water.

*Detective Parker:* At most, it was two weeks between when you found out about this plan and when Jackson died.

*Sylvia Mason:* It wasn't supposed to be that soon. Frankly, I don't even remember telling Josh I would kill Jack. Josh brought up the antifreeze. He said maybe Jack would get

# Suspect 2 Interview Transcript part 2

sick sometime this winter. That I could pour a little antifreeze in his cold medicine, and that would be it. I didn't know Jack was going to be sick so soon. Neither did Josh.

*Detective Parker:* So when Jackson got sick on December 9th, what did you do?

*Sylvia Mason:* I phoned Josh and told him. But I guess you know that since y'all confiscated my cell phone.

*Detective Parker:* Oh, that log is on its way.

*Sylvia Mason:* Josh said it was time to put the plan in motion. I asked if he was sure. He told me not to think about it, just act. He would walk me through it step-by-step. I think you know what happened then.

*Detective Parker:* We have an idea, but we'd like to hear it from you.

*Sylvia Mason:* Josh bought some antifreeze. It was green, so he told me to buy some cold medicines that were green or blue to match. I bought a whole bunch of kinds. Eventually, I got one that matched. I funneled the antifreeze into the cold medicine and put it in the care package I gave Jack. I never made him drink it.

*Detective Murphy:* But you knew he would.

*Sylvia Mason:* How could I know that?

*Detective Murphy:* Because you knew how Jack felt about you. He was the one who was smitten, not you, right?

*Sylvia Mason:* That's not my fault.

*Detective Murphy:* That doesn't matter.

*Sylvia Mason:* But I'm being honest now. This was all Josh's idea. I didn't really want to see Jack dead. I just wanted to break up with him. Josh made me do it.

*Detective Murphy:* None of that excuses your actions.

*Sylvia Mason:* Why not? Josh is the one that caused all of this. If it wasn't for him, I'd be happy with Jack right now.

*Detective Parker:* But you didn't do anything to stop it, did you?

*Sylvia Mason:* What could I do?

*Detective Parker:* Did you contact Jack at all that weekend after you dropped off your so-called care package?

*Sylvia Mason:* No.

*Detective Parker:* Did you take him to a doctor so he could get treatment?

*Sylvia Mason:* No.

*Detective Parker:* Did you call an ambulance for him?

*Sylvia Mason:* No. Look, my part was over once I delivered the cold medicine.

*Detective Parker:* Your "part?"

*Sylvia Mason:* What happened after that was up to Josh. It's not my fault he freaked out.

*Detective Murphy:* What do you mean he freaked out?

*Sylvia Mason:* He ambushed me at IHOP on Sunday. He was all worried because Jack wasn't dead yet.

*Detective Murphy:* How did he know that?

*Sylvia Mason:* He called him the night before to check, and Jack answered the phone. When Josh told me that, I said maybe we should just get Jack to the hospital and forget the whole thing.

*Detective Murphy:* How did Josh respond?

# Suspect 2 Interview Transcript part 2

*Sylvia Mason:* He got really angry. He said there was no turning back at that point, and we needed to make sure Jack was dead before anyone called or came over to check on him.

*Detective Parker:* So what did y'all do to make sure?

*Sylvia Mason:* I didn't do anything! I told Josh he was on his own because it was all his idea in the first place, and I didn't want any part of it. I'm telling you, this is all Josh's fault!

*Detective Parker:* Well, he still says you caused all of this. I think we'll go ahead and let the district attorney sort it out. Ms. Mason, put your hands behind your back.

**Interview suspended – 11:16 a.m.**