

CONTINUED:

The trance breaks when he spots Riley jogging out from the hospital, newspaper over her head to shield her from the rain. She scurries up to the passenger door and pulls. It's locked.

RILEY

Damnit, Chase!

Chase snaps to and unlocks the door. Riley climbs in. She looks at him anticipating an explanation, instead he simply returns the stare.

RILEY

Speak!

CHASE

I was comin' back from Greta's place after haulin' that fridge 'n on my way home I stopped over at Gravelston Farm to pick up some eggplant 'cause I was hoping you'd fix up one of them eggplant casseroles but they wasn't sellin' em'cause of the rain n' all. But at that point I had my mind set on eggplant cassarole so I headed over to that stand out there on Rokeby with the little boy who got the eye that point in towards his nose but they had the road blocked off, somethin' 'bout downed power lines then--

She ~~also~~ doesn't even have to talk.

RILEY

Whaddaya mean you think you killed someone?

CHASE

I was gettin' to that.

1) Don't interrupt me  
2)

RILEY

How you know for sure they dead?

CHASE

She dead.

RILEY

How!?

CHASE

I think her neck was broke.

Really  
Get it!

(CONTINUED)

RILEY  
I'm sayin' how you know she dead  
for sure?

CHASE  
She dead, Ry.

*Don't insult me*  
Riley buries her face into her hands.

*This is the beat change*  
RILEY  
This can't be real.

CHASE  
I'm tryin' to figure out why  
Guthrie's daughter was just walkin'  
'round in the rain like that.

Riley's head pops out of her hands.

RILEY  
Guthrie?! As in Luther Guthrie?!  
Isn't he the one who you--

CHASE  
Yeah.

RILEY  
Jesus. He's gonna think--

CHASE  
I know.

RILEY  
How you know it was her?

CHASE  
That's what the cop said.

RILEY  
Cop?!

CHASE  
He ain't see her.

RILEY  
Cop?!

CHASE  
He ain't see her, Ry.

RILEY  
Why was police there?!

CHASE

The girl ran off from home. Cop was lookin' for her.

RILEY

And he saw you?!

CHASE

Yeah, but I had already hid her body.

RILEY

Hid her body!? Jesus fuck, Chase. You better hope you wasn't spotted.

CHASE

Ain't no way. I was all the way up on route 149, nobody saw me.) But here's the issue I took--

RILEY

You know one of them farmers up there is gon' find her first thing in the mornin'. Then the whole state gon' be lookin' for who done it and that cop gonna put two and two together.

CHASE

They ain't gon' find her, Riley, that's the issue I--

RILEY

The hell they won't. Right there on the side of the road like that. Won't take 'em but a few minutes.

CHASE

They ain't gon' find her.

RILEY

No? On what miracle?

Chase glances into the REARVIEW MIRROR. Riley doesn't understand. Chase jerks his head several times back towards the TRUCK BED. This time Riley follows the cue. She twists around and peers through the WINDOW back into the TRUCK BED where her eyes find the TARP COVERED BODY.

She looks back at Chase. He studies her expression. SLAP! Riley's hand across his face.

CONTINUED:

CHASE

I couldn't just leave her there! By the time I seen she was dead there was another car on top of me!

~~RILEY~~

~~So you took her?! That's about the dumbest thing you coulda done!~~

Chase's eyes tell us he's realizing just how fucked he is.

CHASE

I dunno, I could--what if--whaddaya say we just roll her out here in front of the ER? It'll look like she died on the way.

RILEY

If brains was grease you couldn't slick the head of a pin. Think 'about what you're sayin' before you say it.

Chase doesn't realize why his "plan" doesn't line up.

~~RILEY~~

~~They get hold of her n' forensics won't only tell how you killed her but what you had for supper 'fore you did it.~~

Anger and fear wells inside his gut.

CHASE

(shouting)

She was in the middle of the road!  
In the rain! In the dark!

RILEY

(shouting back)

And she's dead! What's your point!?

Chase ponders.

CHASE

It was a damn accident. People will understand.

RILEY

~~What people?~~

Chase studies his wife's face. Has something he wants to say, quietly deliberates whether he should say it.

(CONTINUED)

CHASE

I could tell the police I found her on the road and was tryin' to save her and I was bringin' her here and that--and that, she musta, she musta, died after I left.

RILEY

Why would you just leave her here?!

CHASE

I dunno Ry, with the storm and the, the--there's always deer jettin' cross that road. They'll understand.

(beat)

I'll think of somthin'.

RILEY

'You'll think of somethin'. Chase, if you go to the police you won't be comin' back.

CHASE

And I ain't gonna have you dodging the law when you got my daughter in your stomach.

RILEY

We ain't have to run! The girl up an' ran off on her own which means she gotta reason to be missin'. They're lookin' for a runaway girl not a suspect.

CHASE

How you know the forensics won't come looking for us?

Riley considers taking a low blow but decides against it.

RILEY

In three months I'm having this baby and she ain't being raised without her father. End of discussion.

Chase goes quiet. Can't argue against that.

CHASE

Alright. What's next then?

(CONTINUED)