

BROTHER'S DEFENSE

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INT. COURTROOM - DAY

After a month, the trial of JEROME WHITMORE, 28, stern older brother, continues.

The defendant's brother, CHASE WHITMORE, 21, slacker who wants to be taken seriously, is on the witness stand. He breathes heavily with anger as the PROSECUTOR, 30s, backs away smiling with an evidence bag in hand.

The bag has a black ski mask within it.

Chase looks to his brother who shakes his head. But Chase nods back, determined.

CHASE
Ladies and gentlemen, a short demonstration.

Chase closes his eyes and takes a deep breath as JUDGE, 40s, gives him a confused glance. Chase's eyes snap open.

CHASE (CONT'D)
Let's start at the top, shall we?
Our judge today has just come from
a bike ride, but was late and
didn't have time to take a shower.

Judge looks shocked and embarrassed.

CHASE (CONT'D)
You really should get that watch
fixed, it may be right twice a day,
but who really needs to know when
it's 11:07?

Judge looks at his watch, then at Chase with wide eyes.

Chase turns to the juror's box. JURORS SIX and EIGHT, both early 30s, jump at the sudden attention.

CHASE (CONT'D)
Moving on, jurors six and eight had
an affair last night. Her perfume
still lingers on the both of them.

Jurors Six and Eight look embarrassed towards each other then quickly stare forward.

CHASE (CONT'D)
And you both took off your wedding
rings that you were wearing two
days ago, how sweet, solidarity
through sin.

Case looks down from the witness stand at the court
STENOGRAPHER.

CHASE (CONT'D)

In more uplifting news, our amazing
stenographer, who has somehow kept
up with every word I've said, is
pregnant. That second heartbeat is
strong. Congratulations.

Stenographer gives a coy smile, and resumes typing.

CHASE (CONT'D)

The raised heartbeats of everyone
in here lead me to believe I'm
correct on all counts. Anyone
opposed?

The courtroom is in shock, as everyone looks around to meet
eyes with one of the people Chase "demonstrated" on.

PROSECUTOR

How...

CHASE

I've had this power since I was
born. My senses are more powerful
than any human, and most animals.

Jurors look at each other in disbelief.

CHASE (CONT'D)

My brother didn't want me to
testify today because he sees my
powers as cheating.

Jerome looks at Chase.

CHASE (CONT'D)

He wanted to be cleared with only
the truth. Not some unbelievable
story that I would have to validate
by intruding into people's private
lives. But my story is the truth.
My brother is being framed, and
there is no way this court could
believably find him anything but...

INT. JEROME'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

A champagne bottle POPS as Chase opens it.

CHASE
... Not guilty!

Chase and his brother sit on Jerome's sofa in a humble apartment.

Chase pours Jerome and himself a glass of champagne.

JEROME
Thanks for not listening to me. I'm so sorry that I've been limiting you for all these years. I just felt like acknowledging your powers would make our lives more difficult.

CHASE
Jer, it's okay. In a way I understand where you're coming from. But if cheating allows you to help a loved one, it is always worth it.

JEROME
Let's hope so.

The brothers cheers and drink.

JEROME (CONT'D)
So, you saw the killer dump the body, any idea who it is?

CHASE
Oh, yeah. When was the last time you saw your roommate?

JEROME
Very funny, Chase.

Chase remains silent

JEROME (CONT'D)
You're not kidding? What the hell, Chase, how do you know?

CHASE
Seriously, I'm tired of explaining this, you know I have superpowers.

JEROME
Chase, you're telling me Peter, the roommate I've lived with for the past three years, killed an employee of mine.

CHASE

And set you up for the murder,
don't forget that part.

Jerome gives a stern look.

CHASE (CONT'D)

Jer, I know it's hard to hear, but
that's the truth.

JEROME

But, you told me, and the court
that when you saw the murderer push
the body off the boat he was
wearing the ski mask.

CHASE

Yes, the ski mask I bought you for
your 25th birthday.

JEROME

The Aspen trip.

Jerome buries his head in his hands. Chase puts his hand on
his brother's shoulder.

CHASE

Do you need a minute? Cause I don't
know if we have one. I haven't seen
Peter around here for a while, but
he could come back. We may have to
go out and search for him.

JEROME

Search for him? Chase, I need you
to understand, as soon as the
detective's office opens tomorrow,
we're going and you're telling them
everything.

CHASE

Why, Peter is our problem, and with
my power and your... testimony we
can find him and bring him in and
lock him up ourselves.

Jerome stands rubbing his head in an attempt to process his
brother's idea.

JEROME

Are you stupid? This is a job for
the police, not a recently
acquitted convict and his brother,
the human bloodhound.

Chase stands.

CHASE

You promised you'd never call me
that again!

JEROME

Chase! We are not going after
Peter. We'll let the police deal
with it--

CHASE

But that could take weeks, we don't
know if, or when, Peter will come
back. And what's to stop him from
killing us if he comes back.

Jerome turns from his brother and massages his forehead.

CHASE (CONT'D)

Face facts, we are the best hope
for finding him tonight.

JEROME

Fine, but we're stopping by the
police station first, so that
someone knows. Get your coat.

CHASE

Alright!

JEROME

Remember when I apologized for
thinking your powers would make
life difficult, I take it back.

CHASE

So, when exactly was the last time
you saw--

As the brother's walk for the door, PETER, 28, disheveled
businessman, enters the apartment with a large suitcase. He
sees Jerome and instantly stops moving.

The brothers stare and Jerome sets himself in-between Peter
and Chase.

PETER

Well, look who's back.