

MR. BASSETT

Written by

Gerald Williams

Synopsis: Ron, a young forensic psychologist is consulting with Laura, a mentor, over a puzzling case of an eleven year old boy and the deaths of his parents. Ron is looking for help in sorting out just how the parents died.

Ron: late 20's early 30's. Scientist, practical.

Laura: Early 40's or more. Scientist. Teacher.

Set: A table, two chairs.

Props: A hand mirror with a handle, a sheaf of papers.

828 Gilford St. Apt. #303, Vancouver, BC, V6G2N6, Canada  
604-417-0714  
geraldwilliamsperforms@gmail.com

RON AND LAURA ARE SITTING AT A TABLE. THERE IS A HAND MIRROR ON THE TABLE NEAR RON. LAURA IS LOOKING THROUGH A SHEAF OF PAPERS.

LAURA  
He killed his parents?

RON  
While they were sleeping.

LAURA  
When do you have to submit your assessment to the court?

RON  
I have a few more days.

LAURA  
You're taking unusually long.

RON  
There are anomalies. I want your opinion.

LAURA  
There are always anomalies.

RON  
This case is special.

LAURA  
He's only eleven years old, that's an anomaly.

RON  
He seems like a perfectly normal boy.

LAURA  
A perfectly normal boy who killed his parents.

RON  
He doesn't know they're dead.

LAURA  
How can he not know?

RON  
He was sleeping when the police showed up. They didn't suspect him of course, took him out of the house shielding him from the bodies of his parents.

LAURA

It's highly unusual for delusions of that nature to be paired with severe memory loss.

RON

First anomaly.

LAURA

If he doesn't know their dead, why does he think he's here? What's he said about why he's not at home?

RON

He shows no awareness that being in this facility is abnormal. It's as though this is his normal routine.

LAURA

He doesn't ask for his parents?

RON

No. Or his school, his toys, video games, nothing. The only thing he asks about is a Mr. Bassett.

LAURA

And the police have found no one in his life with that name.

RON

The closest they've come is a former colleague of his mother from years ago, a woman named Barrett.

LAURA

They did an exhaustive search.

RON

Everyone involved in this case is committed. The crime scene was...a horror.

LAURA

How did the police come to suspect him?

RON

Blood. His pajamas were soaked. His footprints, in their blood, were everywhere.

LAURA  
 (disbelievingly) He was in bed  
 asleep and covered in blood?

RON  
 Police now believe he was drinking  
 their blood.

LAURA  
 These elements don't fit into a  
 conclusive pattern. Cannibalism is  
 tied to a significant ego, not with  
 a loss of memory and denial of  
 events. What you're describing  
 seems a poor attempt at putting all  
 the horrific behaviours of a  
 psychopath and sociopath into one  
 case. If I didn't know you better  
 I'd suspect you were putting me on.

RON  
 You need to hear about the mirror.

Laura reaches to touch the mirror.

LAURA  
 I was wondering about this.

RON  
 (sharply) Don't touch it.

LAURA  
 (startled) What?

RON  
 Sorry.

LAURA  
 This case is affecting you.

RON  
 The child claims that Mr. Bassett  
 lives in the mirror.

LAURA  
 Mr. Bassett told him to kill his  
 parents.

RON  
 No. He claims Mr. Bassett lives in  
 the mirror and comes out to play.

LAURA

He's psychotic. It isn't relevant if the psychosis presents itself through a talisman like this (indicating the hand mirror) or through a delusion that he's Jesus or Napoleon, he's still psychotic.

RON

That was my initial prognosis.

LAURA

He's eleven, he's killed his parents and drank their blood. There can't be another explanation.

RON

One piece of forensic evidence doesn't fit.

LAURA

What evidence.

RON

The angle of the wounds. His mother was standing when she was stabbed in the neck. The wound indicates the attacker stabbed in a downward trajectory. The killer must have been over 6 feet.

LAURA

He could have stood on something?

RON

No, the blood splatter indicates where she was standing and there was nothing for him to stand on.

LAURA

He couldn't have moved a chair?

RON

Could have, but there would be some sign of that, either in the pattern of blood, or at least a chair with blood residue.

LAURA

Nothing?

RON

Nothing.

LAURA

Which leaves us where?

RON

We've received a new piece of evidence.

LAURA

Are you deliberately dragging this out?

RON

I want you to follow the train of thought I did. So when you get new evidence you can see where it fits.

LAURA

Ok. We know the boy was alone in the house, there's evidence he drank his parents blood, but there is the possibility of someone taller, probably older, actually doing the stabbing.

RON

All correct.

LAURA

You must have something else otherwise you wouldn't be talking to me.

RON

One of the forensic technicians killed his family last night.

LAURA

What?

RON

He was found asleep in his bed this morning covered in blood. His wife and infant daughter had been stabbed....ripped apart is probably more accurate. It appears he drank their blood.

LAURA

My god.

RON

When the police arrived they found him in bed covered in so much blood they assumed he was dead, too.

LAURA

When did they discover he was alive?

RON

When he rolled over and asked them why they were in his bedroom.

LAURA

This resembles the case of the eleven year old, but I'd hardly put it in the same category.

RON

He claims to have no memory of the event. He went into shock when he was told his wife and daughter were killed. He's been sedated, after trying to kill himself.

LAURA

I'm sure the police are looking into motives, insurance policies he might recently have taken out.

RON

He's in hospital now, under observation.

LAURA

I grant there are similarities, but I still don't see the direct connection to the case of your eleven year old.

RON

The mirror. It was found in his house, under the torso of his baby daughter. When he's lucid he says we should talk to Mr. Bassett, Mr. Bassett can explain what happened.

LAURA

He took the mirror home from the first crime scene?

RON

No. He was part of the initial response team. His signature shows that he was the one who bagged it, and recorded it along with all the other evidence sent in to the crime lab.

LAURA

He could have kept it?

RON

Everyone on the chain of evidence's been interviewed. There's been no mistake.

LAURA

He has access to the evidence room. All forensic tech's do.

RON

True. However, the cctv at the crime lab doesn't show him entering or leaving the evidence room.

LAURA

Someone could have helped him?

RON

You're following the same path I did. Each new piece of evidence adds another layer of supposition. Each layer is filled with unanswered questions.

LAURA

So.

RON

So. I think there's a more simple explanation.

LAURA

You're suggesting that the mirror contains evil?

RON

It's clear now that the mirror was the murder weapon in the case of the parents. Casts of their wounds suggest they were stabbed with the handle. It becoming clear the deaths last night of the mother and daughter will show the same thing.

LAURA

What you're suggesting is ridiculous.

RON

Furthermore, there's no evidence of blood on the mirror. None.

LAURA  
It's been cleaned.

RON  
No. No fibre, no epidermal cells,  
no microscopic traces of anything.  
It's as though the mirror has never  
been touched.

LAURA  
This isn't possible.

RON  
I agree.

LAURA  
So that leaves us where?

RON  
Right. Where does that leave us?

LAURA  
Evil? You're suggesting there's a  
supernatural element to these  
murders.

RON  
I'm not suggesting anything. I've  
got the evidence and no  
explanation. I'm looking for an  
explanation.

LAURA  
Concluding there's a supernatural  
explanation is too easy.

RON  
What do you mean?

LAURA  
Once you believe that there's a  
supernatural explanation you're  
relieved of any responsibility to  
find cause. The cause is  
"unexplained", thus you're work is  
done.

RON  
I'm not avoiding my duty.

LAURA

Aside from the obvious; that there must be a connection between the forensic technician and the boy, you have a unique case that you are duty bound to record and share with colleagues.

RON

Duty bound?

LAURA

Each of us benefits from the experiences of our colleagues. You're professionalism demands you treat this case through accredited science.

RON

You want me to focus on the advancement of my career?

LAURA

Don't be crass. I want you to explore a unique situation and share your findings with colleagues so that Forensic Psychology as a profession can advance. As long as we reject the ludicrous notion of the supernatural, I'm happy to help.

RON

Mr. Bassett told me you'd say that.

LAURA

What?

Ron picks up the hand mirror, looks into it.

RON

Mr. Bassett told me you'd be willing to help.

LAURA

Mr. Bassett? What are you talking about?

RON

He's on his way. He'll be here in a minute.

Ron turns the hand mirror towards Laura so she can see who will be exiting from the reflective glass.

Gasp!

LAURA

RON  
He wants to meet you.

-End-