

Eye to Evil Eye

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Cast of Characters

Fiona Warren:

Sammi Lockett:

Guard:

ACT I

Scene 1

At Rise: Lights up. FIONA WARREN is sitting at a table (centre stage). She dries her eyes with a tissue, and quickly stuffs it into her sleeve.

SOUND OF DOOR OPENING

Enter SAMMI LOCKETT and GUARD

Guard ushers Sammi into the room. Sammi is wearing handcuffs and prison attire.

GUARD

Come on now, don't keep the nice lady waiting.

Sammi stumbles and is caught by the guard.

GUARD

Woah! Watch yourself. I'm not up for the paperwork of another cracked head.

(to Fiona)

GUARD

It's the drugs that does it...makes 'em clumsy. Docile-like too, but clumsy all the same.

The guard helps Sammi to sit. Sammi, head down, stares at the table.

GUARD

There you are.

The guard stands back, watching in case Fiona starts to slip out of her chair. She sways a little but remains upright.

GUARD

Good. Now, are you two going to play nice?

Fiona stares at the guard.

GUARD

Of course you are.

(to Fiona)

But I don't know why you are bothering? You won't get much sense out of her. She hasn't spoken since she has been here; at least, not to my knowledge.

(CONTINUED)

FIONA

I wanted to see her.

GUARD

Well...I just do what I'm told, so here she is. Not much to look at is she? Despite how the media love to build her up.

FIONA

No. She isn't.

GUARD

Honestly, the things they say...you'd think she was one with the devil.

(beat)

But you'd know all about that, I suppose...

Fiona nods.

beat

GUARD

Is that it, or..?

FIONA

Can you give us a moment?

GUARD

I'm assuming you were searched on your way in? I mean you don't look the type to smuggle a shiv, but in my job you can't be relying on first impressions.

FIONA

Yes, I was searched. I've nothing sharp on me.

GUARD

You understand, right? It's not her I'm worried about, it's you. If she got hold of -

FIONA

(interrupting)

It's fine. I've nothing on me that could harm either of us.

GUARD

OK. Then I'll leave you to it, but you really are wasting your time with his one. Not even the judge could get a word out of her.

FIONA

I know. Thank you.

(CONTINUED)

GUARD

I'll be just outside. Call if you need me.

Fiona nods.

Exit Guard

Fiona regards Sammi for a long moment. Sammi has yet to look up.

FIONA

They called you a monster.

(beat)

For a long time I believed you were...but sitting across from you, breathing the same air...

(Fiona inhales sharply)

Smelling you...you're no monster. You are a pathetic, little girl.

beat

Slowly, Sammi begins to let tablets fall from her mouth.

SAMMI

(mutters)

Fucking pills. If they don't get me high, I don't wanna know.

She continues to stare at the table.

SAMMI

So, I'm trying to figure out who you are? You ain't dressed well enough to be a head doctor.

FIONA

I imagine you've seen a few since you got here?

Sammi looks up and grins

SAMMI

Yeah. And you. I imagine.

beat

Which one was yours? I don't remember seeing you in court...not that I was paying much attention.

FIONA

(assertive)

My name is Fiona Warren. You murdered my daughter, Karina.

(CONTINUED)

SAMMI

Karina? Which one was that? Forgive me, I'm terrible with names.

FIONA

She was seven years old. She had her whole life ahead of her, and you took it from her...took her from us.

SAMMI

Still struggling to recall her...

FIONA

You dumped her body in a landfill outside Rugeley.

SAMMI

Ah, Karina! Brown hair? High bunches? Yes?

FIONA

Yes.

SAMMI

I liked her; her face tasted like raw bacon, once you got past the blood I mean. You ever eat raw bacon?

FIONA

No.

SAMMI

I used to all the time as a kid. Mum said I'd get worms. I thought she meant as a pet, that they'd turn up one day on my doorstep, in a wicker basket with a yellow bow. They didn't, though. Probably for the best...I imagine they make awful pets; it's not like you can walk them...or-

FIONA

(interrupting)

Are you finished?

Sammi raises her hands and jangles her cuffs.

SAMMI

It certainly appears so, wouldn't you agree?

beat

How'd you get access? To the freak show I mean? I get all sorts of fan mail from people wanting to say hello, but not even my own mother can get visitation.

FIONA

I've got contacts.

SAMMI

And money, I'll bet?

FIONA

Some, though not now. You've cost me everything, one way or another.

SAMMI

Stop, you'll make me blush! I sure hope I'm worth it?

FIONA

You will be.

Fiona removes the pin she had used to tie up her hair, and places it on the table, safely within her reach. It is long and dangerously sharp.

Sammi sees it and grins.

SAMMI

Naughty, naughty!

FIONA

I suppose, yes. Honestly, I didn't think I'd be able to get it in here, but the officers were surprisingly lax. I'll be sure to put in a written complaint...after we are done.

SAMMI

It'll be your disarming dress sense that did it. You do know I could call the guard. He'll know I didn't bring it in. That one in particular is painfully thorough. It'll be on you, the consequences I mean. Whatever they be.

FIONA

I know. But somehow I don't think you are going to.

beat

SAMMI

You're right. Call me curious. I wanna see how this plays out.

Sammi eyes the hairpin

SAMMI

That's a nice piece, good length, clearly sharp... I could redecorate this room with your entrails fifty different ways before the guard even got through the door. Just saying.

FIONA

(smiling)
I don't doubt it.

SAMMI

But you don't seem fazed...there's no fear in you, not even a little.

FIONA

There's nothing to fear from you; you've already hurt me the worst way possible. If anything, death would be a release from pain.

SAMMI

You'd welcome it?

FIONA

Wholeheartedly. I would be with my Karina, again.

SAMMI

But you haven't done yourself in? At least not yet?

FIONA

No. I've matters to attend to before that day comes.

SAMMI

Including a face to face with your's truly?

FIONA

Exactly.

Fiona toys with the pin

SAMMI

Is that supposed to intimidate me?

Fiona holds up the pin

FIONA

This little pin? No. What I can do with it? Maybe? It depends how much you value your life now that you are behind bars. You see, I've been reading since you...well, I've been reading. Did you know there is a leaflet they give to the parents of murdered children? It's written by someone with no idea, of course, but I read it in the hope it would help. It didn't. I'm not ready to forgive. I'm not ready to move on. If anything it only made me more angry, as if I was supposed to accept that I was a victim, and that I had to rely on justice being served by someone "better" placed than I.

(CONTINUED)

SAMMI

You have your justice.

FIONA

No I don't.

Fiona places the pin back onto the table.

FIONA

So I started reading other books, books on the psychology of anger, the old testament, even the Satanic Bible...

SAMMI

That's quite the list.

FIONA

And I related more to those than I ever thought possible. It was as though what you did...opened my eyes to another way of looking at things.

SAMMI

No need to thank me.

FIONA

That's not the reason I came here either. Did you know that the quickest way to kill somebody is to sever the carotid artery? It's in the throat by the way...in case you were unsure. The victim collapses almost instantly, due to a violent drop in blood pressure to the brain. It takes less than a couple of minutes for you to bleed out completely.

SAMMI

Is that so?

FIONA

Or a less messy approach would be to slide a long needle up between the ribs, puncturing the Pericardium. Your heart drowns in its own blood.

SAMMI

I guess I should thank you for the tips! I mean this stuff is gold...I wish I'd brought my notebook.

beat

SAMMI

What did you make of the Satanic Bible? I've not read it myself...doubt I'll be able to get a copy in here. I couldn't borrow yours, could I?

(CONTINUED)

FIONA

It was interesting. Definitely not what I expected. I mean, I'm probably too old for all of the orgies and debauchery...but one point stuck with me. The bible says "turn the other cheek", and I think I always did. Not out of being a good Christian, I don't think it was in my nature to hit back, so to speak. But Satanism encourages that; not in any kind of evil way. It encourages you to worship not the devil, but the self, and part of that is if somebody wrongs you, wrong them back.

beat

FIONA

And I'd never felt the urge to do that until now.

beat

SAMMI

You're not what I expected.

FIONA

And neither are you.

SAMMI

I mean you have the cardigan, the bags under your eyes and all of that middle aged nonsense, but not the pitiful air of misery I'd hoped for.

FIONA

Sorry to disappoint.

SAMMI

It's alright, this version of you might turn out to be more fun. I haven't decided yet.

FIONA

I'm sure I won't give a damn either way.

SAMMI

I'm wondering whether this mask of yours will slip.

FIONA

It's no mask. Life shapes us all, even you.

SAMMI

Your daughter's nose was surprisingly crunchy.

FIONA

Don't.

(CONTINUED)

SAMMI

It took me by surprise actually. I had a piece stuck in my teeth for about a week. Her taste stayed with me.

Fiona grasps the pin in her hand

SAMMI

Does hearing that piss you off? Does it make you wanna "wrong" me?

FIONA

You couldn't possibly imagine.

SAMMI

Well, what did you expect from me? A grovelling confession? Do I look even a bit sorry?

FIONA

I know you don't understand the meaning of the word. That isn't why I came. I want to know why you chose Karina?

SAMMI

I didn't.

FIONA

She died by your hand! I want to know why?

SAMMI

And why would I tell you that?

Fiona leans in close to Sammi

FIONA

How many more opportunities are you going to get to savour the torment of another. You know you can really stick it in and break it off with me. So, why deny yourself that chance? Unless you are afraid?

SAMMI

What's to be afraid of?

FIONA

Yourself, perhaps?

SAMMI

Ha!

FIONA

Then perhaps you are afraid of me?