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Episode 09: Killer Heels

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EPISODE 9: Killer Heels

Standards of Behavior contains mature language, content and themes. Please listen with care.

1. INT. DISCIPLINARY HEARING. Pen TAPPING on a desk.

HEARING MODERATOR

Ms. Jennings, now that we have discussed information prior to the incident, we would like to hear your account of the evening leading up to your classmate's death.

DR. SEIDEL

Take your time if you're uncomfortable, I'm right here. They just want to know if you saw or heard anything relevant to what happened with Mr. Malvolio. Let me know if you need a break, I know this isn't easy for you.

ALLISON

(Breathing in shakily)
I'm... I don't... I'm not feeling very well.

DR. SEIDEL

It's okay, just breathe. Do you want some water?

ALLISON

(Breathing in slowly and deeply)
Yes, please. I think I'm just a little dehydrated. (Weakly) I'll be fine.

Allison takes a DRINK.

HEARING MODERATOR

Why don't we start with your activities earlier in the day?

2. FLASHBACK.

CHARLOTTE

Allie, thanks again for understanding. I would never intentionally do anything to-

Door SLAMS.

MAGGIE

(Interrupting)

Ugh I have nothing to wear! Let me search your closet.

ALLISON

Hey! Hold on, hold on! They are in a specific order! You're gonna mess them-

MAGGIE

Yeah, yeah. Hey do you have anything tight and red? The guy I've been seeing said he was coming to Will's party and I need something to match my lipstick.

CHARLOTTE

Mags, she is so not the person to ask. Allie's closet hasn't seen an update since velvet came back.

ALLISON

Hey! I happen to like my style; comfy and casual is the go-to.

MAGGIE

What are you wearing tonight anyway?

ALLISON

(Mumbling)

I don't know... I was thinking a black t-shirt and jeans.

MAGGIE

Seriously? No way am I letting your first night out this semester happen without showing some skin.

CHARLOTTE

I'm not sure Allie's that comfortable with-

ALLISON

No, it's okay Charlotte. Mags, I really appreciate the enthusiasm but I just don't know... what if... if someone... (Trails off).

CHARLOTTE

Allie, I'm going to be with you the entire night, I won't let anything happen to you. I promise.

MAGGIE

Yeah, girl. You deserve a night out! Have some fun! I'm gonna go try this on, brb.

Door SLAMS.

CHARLOTTE

Allie? You ok? You don't have to wear anything you don't want to.

ALLISON

Yeah, Maggie didn't mean anything by it. She just doesn't really know... I think I just need to take baby steps. Dr. Seidel said it was a good idea for me to start going out again and be social, and Will said he really wants me to be there. He's really struggling with Penny leaving him. But if you want to let me borrow shoes, I'd love to try on some killer heels.

CHARLOTTE

Now you're speaking my language!

FLASHBACK ENDS.

3. FLASHBACK. The morning after the party. Allison's room. PHONE ALARM. After a few seconds, PHONE ALARM STOPS. BIRDS TWEETING.

ALLISON

(Muttering to herself) Ohhh my head is pounding. Shit that hurts. I really shouldn't have had that much to drink at Will's party. Oh shit, I forgot... (Louder, to wake Will) Will. Will. Good morning, sleepyhead. (Yawns).

WILL

(Groaning, then sleepily)
What time is it?

ALLISON

Too early. (Inhaling sharply) Ooh I did not miss hangovers; my head feels like its gonna explode.

WILL

Tell that to my back. Your floor did not do me any favors last night.

ALLISON

I don't know if it was my floor that did that. You were going pretty hard to the music up until... when Jack... when we had to leave.

BEAT.

ALLISON (CON'D)

Hey, thanks for staying with me last night. I really thought I would be able to... get past everything. I know you really needed this party to get away from your own problems and you

ALLISON (CON'D)
didn't really need to deal with mine
too, so, I-I appreciate it.

WILL
Are you kidding me? Allison, I will
always be there for you. But next
time, I'm bringing an air mattress.

ALLISON
Next time, you won't perform Madonna
karaoke in a mini-dress at 3a.m. to
make me feel better. Because- let's
be honest- you should stick to
singing in the shower.

WILL
What? That did not happen. Right?
There's no way...

ALLISON
No, you didn't, I'm just messing
with you. But you did really stand
up for me, and that means a lot. If
you ever need anything... actually, I
can get you some more ice for your
hand if you want.

WILL
Huh? (Realizing the bruises on his
hand) Oh... yeah. Thanks. Man, I must
have been really hammered, I think I
blacked out for part of the night.

FLASHBACK ENDS.

4. INT. DISCIPLINARY HEARING.

HEARING MODERATOR
Ms. Jennings?

ALLISON

Oh, sorry. I got ready with some friends before the party, then went to the pregame, and after the party, Will walked me home and stayed with me for the night.

HEARING MODERATOR

Alright, thank you. Before we talk about the party, could you elaborate more on your relationship with the victim? It seems that your classmates had some strong opinions about Mr. Malvolio. What was your personal opinion of him?

ALLISON

He was just... ummm... he was a dick. I'm sorry, that probably wasn't appropriate. I didn't really know him well... I just avoided him when I could. Dr. Seidel has really helped me... kind of get over any social anxiety I have. And he just... came on very strong and made me uncomfortable.

5. FLASHBACK. A couple of weeks before the party, in DR. SEIDEL'S OFFICE. CLOCK TICKING.

DR. SEIDEL

I would recommend printing out some information from the ADA website, just to have with you when you encounter a situation that makes you anxious. That's one thing about our therapy sessions, you have to learn how to handle these problems even when we cannot meet every week to discuss them.

ALLISON

Thanks, I kinda wanted to talk to you about that too. It seems like no matter how much I isolate myself from any potential situation involving... him... I still can't get

ALLISON (CON'D)

anything right. I study all the time but sometimes the smallest thing triggers my brain and it just takes over and it's the same thing playing over and over again in my head and I -and I can't turn it off. And it really sucks because I'll be taking a test, and then there will be a question with his name on it and I can't answer it. It's like everything stops working. So no matter how much I try to do my work, my brain won't let me do it, and I end up failing that test or whatever it is. And I'm tired of *him* taking up my whole life.

(starts to get emotional) I want to move on. I want to be able to go out on the weekend and not worry about seeing his face and reliving *that* night all over again. (words getting caught in her throat) It just... If I hadn't been drinking so much... maybe... maybe...

DR. SEIDEL

(With compassion)

Allison, you cannot blame yourself for what happened that night. No one should have to go through anything like that, and no one deserves to go through anything like that. His actions cannot be justified in any way, you know this. It is not your fault.

ALLISON

(Sniffing)

I know, like my brain knows that but it just keeps resurfacing. And I even had to drop out of one of my classes because he was in it. Honestly, the chances of him choosing the one class I'm in, out of all the others on campus, with my favorite professor... I mean seriously? I felt so bad when I had to email her and tell her I was dropping because I had another class conflict. It just isn't fair that this is taking over everything. What do I do?

DR. SEIDEL

Well, for starters, you have options. You have taken a very courageous step by coming here. Allison, I have something I would like you to try. To cope, and when you are ready and comfortable, begin to use *his* name instead of saying "him" all the time. I think it could really help you feel stronger and overcome some of the stress it is causing in your life. Are there other options that you want to pursue? Legal action? The Statute of Limitations extends for several years if it is something you aren't comfortable with pursuing right now. But don't feel like you have to take any legal action.

ALLISON

I don't know... I mean, I've thought about it. But I'm just not sure I want everyone to know. Maybe one day... if someone else comes forward with an accusation. It's so painful to think that this could be happening to someone I know... and I don't want to let it happen to

ALLISON (CON'D)

them, but I'm just not ready to tell the rest of the world.

DR. SEIDEL

And that is alright. We don't have to talk about it anymore if you don't want to. Why don't we talk a little bit about how you can try to go back into a regular social routine? You said you've been struggling with going out with friends. Tell me a little about your friends.

ALLISON

Yeah, I spend a lot of time with my roommate Maggie, she goes out a lot and is really nice but sometimes gets overly enthusiastic and pushes me into situations I'm not too comfortable with. And then I've actually been getting close with a transfer student, Charlotte, and her friends. She's gone through some stuff too and so I really can connect with her. And then my friend Will that I told you about a few weeks ago, he's really been like a brother to me and it's nice to have reconnected with him.

DR. SEIDEL

That's great, I'm glad you have people you can rely on. I think you should try going out with them sometime soon. Even if it is just a small game night or you all go get dinner, a support system like that can really help.

ALLISON

What... what if I see *him*?

DR. SEIDEL

I do not think you should talk to him or engage in any activity that he's involved in. If you see him, call a friend and have them walk you home. You can call me but I usually do not pick up my phone in the evening, so have a reliable friend that will make sure you are not getting into a potentially dangerous situation. Have you confided in anyone about your situation?

ALLISON

Uh... Will does. And Charlotte knows, she's really been helping me get through everything when I'm not meeting with you.

DR. SEIDEL

That's great, she sounds like a good friend. When you do decide to go out, just make sure you avoid him and get away from the situation as soon as possible.

FLASHBACK ENDS.

6. FLASHBACK. PARTY. Allison is in the bathroom. Muffled PARTY MUSIC, VOICES overlapping in the background, FAUCET RUNNING.

ROY

(Voice muffled by the door)
Dude, hurry up!! I gotta take a piss!

ALLISON

Just a minute! (Trying to sober up, but still drunk) Oh my god, oh my god. I can do this. (Rapid deep breaths) Charlotte will be right back, and then we'll... we'll go confront him. I just have to get him to admit that he... what he did, and Charlotte will get everything on video and it will all be over.

ALLISON (CON'D)

Just breathe Allie. (Slow inhale
and exhale) Okay, I can do this.

FAUCET turns off, PARTY MUSIC gets louder/clearer as Allison
makes her way back into the party.

SOFI

(Drunk)

Allisoon! There you are girlfrand!
You almost missed me fucking
dominating Roy in beer pong. I- am
the beer pong champion!! He is
going downnnn! Yeahhhhh!

ALLISON

Hey, Sofi, have you seen Charlotte
or Jack? I just saw them a couple
of minutes ago.

SOFI

That dickwad? I think I saw him
hitting on some innocent freshmen
and giving them jungle juice. Ya
know, you really shouldn't talk to
him. (Whispering loudly as only a
drunk person does) He's really
creepy, and he dresses like Ace
Ventura so I don't think you should
go for him. There are wayyy better
guys. (Stops whispering) I don't
know where Charlotte is, but I just
saw her. She spilled something on
her shirt and had to fix it. She
looked sooo good in that shirt.
Wait, you were there. I don't know
where she is. I should go find her,
I miss her. Maybe she went
upstairs?

ALLISON

(Distracted and looking for
Jack and Charlotte)

Thanks, Sof, I'll check upstairs.
Hey, get some water in you,
alright?

SOFI

Awwwww, you're such a great friend.
You reeeally care about people. We
should be best friends! Okay, bye
Allieeee!

FOOTSTEPS as Allison walks upstairs toward a
room. KNOCKS on door and enters.

ALLISON

Charlotte? Hello?

A BEAT.

JACK

I was hoping I'd bump into you at a
party again. It's been a while,
huh?

ALLISON

No...I... (Voice trembling) I have to
go! (She becomes too shaken to
continue)

Allison RUNS out of room.

JACK

(Shouting after her)
Oh, you wanna play hard-to-get?
Alright, baby, I can play that
game.

FLASHBACK ENDS.

7. INT. DISCIPLINARY HEARING.

HEARING MODERATOR

So, you were having a good time at
the party, and then you started to
feel sick? Did you have too much to
drink?

ALLISON

Yes, and then I was in the bathroom
for a while until I felt a little
better.

8. FLASHBACK. PARTY MUSIC in background. Allison is outside
with Charlotte. CRICKETS CHIRPING. Will comes outside, DOOR
CLOSES.

CHARLOTTE

It'll be okay Allie, I promise.
We'll get you home.

WILL

(Drunk but coherent)
Hey, Allie, I took care of that
asshole. Are you alright?

ALLISON

(Fighting back tears) Yeah... I mean,
I think so. I don't know. I just
thought that it would help if I
could hear him confess, but
Charlotte disappeared and I-I
thought I could do it on my own.
But th-then he tried to... (openly
crying now)

WILL

Shhhh. Hey, it's alright, I'm here.
You're okay. I've got her
Charlotte, I'll stay with her.

CHARLOTTE

Ok, thanks Will. Allie, let me know
if you need anything. I'm gonna go
find that son of a bitch and make
sure he pays.

HEELS CLICKING as CHARLOTTE walks back inside. DOOR CLOSES.

WILL

Why don't I walk you home and stay
with you tonight? I'm gonna need a
cooling off period anyway, I need
to sober up.

ALLISON

(Sniffing)

But, you're supposed to be getting over your problems with Penny. This is supposed to be your party. I don't want to ruin it.

WILL

You are not ruining it, I promise. I just want you to be alright. So do you wanna go home?

ALLISON

Yeah.

WILL

Yeah? Okay, good. Do you wanna get something to eat? On me.

ALLISON

If it's on you can we get a large pizza and cheesy breadsticks?

WILL

(Laughs)

Yes, I think I can manage that.

ALLISON

Okay.

A BEAT.

ALLISON (CON'D)

Hey, your hand is bleeding.

WILL

Oh, that's nothing. I'm fine. Let's just focus on getting you home.

ALLISON

And the pizza.

WILL

(Laughs)

Yes, and the pizza.

FLASHBACK ENDS.

9. INT DISCIPLINARY HEARING.

HEARING MODERATOR

You only remember seeing the victim talking with people at the party, and then Mr. Thomas walked you home early because you weren't feeling well? You didn't talk to the victim at all before leaving?

ALLISON

That's correct. I saw him briefly when I first arrived and then I left with Will before Jack died. I didn't see anything happen.

THE END.