

INT. OFFICE

JAMES sits across from KIRK in Kirk's law office.

KIRK

And the time Tammy Wade fell asleep in class and everybody got up and left her in there by herself?

JAMES

That was hilarious! Even Ms. Kilpatrick got in on it. So funny. Mmm... good times.

(smiles)

So... what do you think about my situation?

KIRK

James, I can't just wipe something like that away, it's not that simple.

JAMES

Well, I just want that part of my life to be gone and I figured if anyone could do it and would wanna help me, it'd be you.

KIRK

When you signed the confession it stipulated that this was for life... there was no confusion about that, right?

JAMES

I was twenty! She was sixteen! It was consensual! It's not fair. Every time I move I shouldn't have to do the whole "a sexual predator" lives in your neighborhood thing. It's just... fuck, it's not fair. We were just a couple of kids having fun. You know me, come on, Kirk.

Kirk is noncommittal.

KIRK

I could do some research and see if there's any sort of precedent.

(stares at James)

Why did you choose to move back here after... what is it, twenty-five years?

JAMES

Twenty-seven. My mom. She's not doing well... Hodgkins Lymphoma.

KIRK

Oh, man. I didn't know that, I'm sorry. I don't go to the church we went to when we were kids, so I never see your mom or anybody from back then.

JAMES

It's not good. I'm staying with her right now and flying under the radar, cause this is technically a vacation; still have my house in Mesquite. But when she passes, her house is gonna be in my name and I'll probably be forced to deal all this since my name will be turning up on legal documents and such. It's just... it's embarrassing.

KIRK

Embarrassing? Do you remember her name?

JAMES

My mother? I would hope so.

KIRK

No. The girl. The sixteen year old.

JAMES

Of course, we were dating.

KIRK

What was her name?

JAMES

Sheila.

KIRK

Right... Sheila. I don't know what you've told yourself over the years, James, but how you remember things... I have a pretty good feeling that's not how it went down.

James shifts in his chair.

JAMES

What makes you think that?

KIRK

Sheila went to my new church. I didn't know her that well, but...

(pregnant pause)

she killed herself, James. It was a few years after you left, but she uh... yeah. I guess your mom didn't tell you.

James absorbs the news.

JAMES

No. I didn't know that.

KIRK

I went to the funeral... lots of people did. Her mom talked about "the incident" and how Shiela never recovered from it. You absolutely sure that it was consensual?

(lets his question land)

You sure about that?

END.