

INT. OFFICE

JAMES sits across from JILL in her law office.

JILL

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, and it was totally your brother's idea. So funny. Mmm... good times.

(smiles)

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

JILL

James.

Takes a moment.

JILL (CONT'D)

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

JAMES

Well, I 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.

JILL

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, Jill.

Jill is noncommittal.

JILL

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 so long?

JAMES

My mom. She's not doing well... Hodgkins Lymphoma.

JILL

Oh, wow. I didn't know that... so sorry. Your mother's a sweet woman. I don't go to the church we all 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 with all this since my name will be turning up on legal documents and such. It's just... it's embarrassing.

JILL

Embarrassing? Do you remember her name?

JAMES

My mother? I would hope so... it's Deanna and, interesting factoid, she has no middle name.

JILL

No. The girl. The sixteen year old.

JAMES

Of course, we were dating.

JILL

What was her name?

JAMES

Sheila.

JILL

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?

JILL

Sheila went to my new church. I didn't know her that well, but...  
(pregnant pause)  
she killed herself. It was a while 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.

JILL

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 her question land)  
You sure about that?

END.