

"The Riverbank"

by

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"THE RIVERBANK"

FADE IN:

EXT. RIVERBANK - DAY

The trees shiver in the breeze.

A twig floats on the water and comes to rest against a woman's hand.

Lying on the bank, with a knife in her chest, is the body of EMILY THOMAS.

CUT TO:

INT. HOLDING CELL - DAY

JACK THOMAS sits handcuffed.

Across from him sits DETECTIVE PEARCE.

JACK  
I'm innocent.

DETECTIVE PEARCE  
You can do better than that, Jack.

Detective Pearce pulls out an evidence bag containing the bloodstained knife.

DETECTIVE PEARCE  
You recognize this?

JACK  
I think so.

DETECTIVE PEARCE  
Don't think so much. This is your knife, isn't it?

JACK  
Yes.

DETECTIVE PEARCE  
We found it sticking out of your wife's chest.

JACK  
I didn't put it there.

DETECTIVE PEARCE  
So you've said.

Detective Pearce takes the knife back.

DETECTIVE PEARCE  
You should know, we've spoken to  
your *girlfriend* as well, a Miss  
Heather Monroe.

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

Heather and Jack are getting dressed.

HEATHER  
I can't do this anymore.

JACK  
Not this again.

HEATHER  
Do you love me, Jack?

JACK  
You know I do.

HEATHER  
I won't be your whore.

JACK  
Calm down.

HEATHER  
I am calm. It's simple. I will  
have all of you or I will have  
nothing at all.

JACK  
What about Emily?

HEATHER  
Emily can go to hell.

Heather starts for the door.

JACK  
Wait.

Heather stops.

JACK  
I'll tell her.

Heather looks at him.

JACK  
I will. I promise.

Jack pulls Heather into his embrace.

JACK  
I love you.

HEATHER  
You know, she won't let you go.

JACK  
I won't give her any other choice.

CUT TO:

INT. HOLDING CELL - DAY

Jack is rattled and Detective Peace is in pursuit.

DETECTIVE PEARCE  
Is that when you decided to kill  
her?

JACK  
I just talked to her. That's all.

DETECTIVE PEARCE  
Isn't that pleasant. What did you  
talk about?

CUT TO:

INT. BATHROOM - DAY

The bathroom door slams shut.

JACK (O.S.)  
Emily?

Emily locks the door. She is crying.

EMILY  
Leave me alone.

Jack knocks on the door.

JACK (O.S.)  
Emily?

EMILY

How could you do this?

JACK (O.S.)

I'm sorry. I never meant to hurt you. I didn't mean for any of this to happen. It just did.

EMILY

Is that your best apology, Jack. It's pathetic. You're pathetic. It's going to take a hell of a lot more than that for me to take you back.

There is an awkward silence.

JACK (O.S.)

I'm not coming back.

Emily opens the door.

EMILY

What?

JACK

I don't love you anymore. I'm leaving you, Emily.

EMILY

You can't. I won't let you.

JACK

Try and stop me.

CUT TO:

INT. HOLDING CELL - DAY

Detective Pearce is moving in for the kill.

DETECTIVE PEARCE

Now I understand. You had no other choice. You had to murder her.

JACK

You keep saying that, but it doesn't make it true.

DETECTIVE PEARCE

No, Jack, it doesn't. The evidence does.

JACK  
What evidence?

DETECTIVE PEARCE  
Your boots.

JACK  
My boots?

DETECTIVE PEARCE  
We found mud all over them and  
their tracks were all around the  
body.

CUT TO:

EXT. RIVERBANK - DAY

A pair of men's boots come sloshing through the mud.

CUT TO:

INT. HOLDING CELL - DAY

JACK  
That's impossible.

DETECTIVE PEARCE  
I assure you, it's very possible.

JACK  
It wasn't me.

DETECTIVE PEARCE  
If it wasn't you Jack, then who  
killed your wife?

CUT TO:

EXT. RIVERBANK - DAY

Standing in Jack's boots is Emily, carefully leaving tracks  
in the mud.

CUT TO:

INT. GARAGE - DAY

She tucks the dirty boots into the corner of the garage.

CUT TO:

INT. BASEMENT - DAY

Emily takes Jack's knife from his workbench.

CUT TO:

EXT. RIVERBANK - DAY

Emily kneels at the edge of the river. She opens the knife and runs her finger along the blade.

She looks out on the river. It is beautiful.

She holds the knife to her chest.

EMILY

Til death do us part.

Emily closes her eyes and then thrusts.

As the knife finds its home, Emily sucks in one last breath, her eyes open, and she falls to the ground.

CUT TO:

INT. HOLDING CELL - DAY

Jack is scared.

JACK

I'm innocent. I swear. You have to believe me.

DETECTIVE PEARCE

I'm tired of this. I'm tired of you and your lies.

Detective Pearce stands.

DETECTIVE PEARCE

I'm going to see to it that you're wife gets justice. You're going to get the chair for this, Jack. You're going to pay for this with your life.

FADE OUT.