

JULIA

BRYANT

She was a horrible, terrible mother. She deserved to die.

GLORIA

What made her so terrible?

Bryant walks around the sofa couch and sits down.

BRYANT

She started to lose her mind when my father left us. I would come home from school everyday into a house of horrors.

CUT TO:

17

INT. BRYANT'S FAMILY HOME. AFTERNOON.

A fourteen year old Bryant, home from school with a girl, JULIA, to do some homework. Bryant's mother, MARGERET, is playing the piano with a cigarette in her mouth. Bryant and Julia come up behind Margeret and attempt to go upstairs. Suddenly Margeret stops playing.

START

MARGERET

Where have you been?

BRYANT

At school Mom. This is my friend Julia. We are partners for this project we have to do for science class.

Margeret quickly turns around and walks over to Bryant and Julia.

JULIA

Nice to meet you Ma'am.

MARGERET

How long have you been fucking my son?

Julia steps back startled.

JULIA

Excuse me?

MARGERET

Don't you excuse me, you fucking slut. Get out of my house.

Bryant steps towards Margeret.

BRYANT

Mom!

Margeret immediately slaps Bryant's face hard.

MARGERET

Don't you talk back to me, I am your mother, you will respect me.

(CONTINUED)

1/2

JULIA

34.

17

CONTINUED:

Bryant falls to the floor, Julia kneels down to see if he is alright.

MARGERET (CONT'D)
You better get your filthy slut
hands off him. Get out or you're
next.

Margeret pulls out a thick metal yard stick from behind her chair and slams it on the kitchen table.

MARGERET (CONT'D)
Get out!

JULIA
I'm so sorry Bryant.

Julia picks up her bag and runs out. Bryant starts crying.

BRYANT (V.O.)
That yard stick would become her
weapon of choice to tame me as she
would call it.

END

CUT TO:

18

INT. BATHROOM IN BRYANT'S FAMILY HOME. NIGHT.

A young Bryant is standing in front of the mirror looking at the severe bruising and scars he has from his mother lashing him with her yardstick.

MARGERET (V.O.)
Get in the tub Bryant, I will be up
in a minute to make sure you are
clean.

Bryant gets in the tub.

BRYANT'S (V.O.)
The beatings were just the warm-up,
my mother had no boundaries or
limits to the levels of degradation
and pain she would put me through.

Margeret comes into Bryant's bathroom. He is in the tub. She is wearing a semi see-through nightgown. She walks over to the tub and kneels down next to it and grabs the soap off the ledge.

MARGERET
Let's make sure you got everywhere
clean.

The door shuts, and you can hear Margeret humming the tune she was playing on the piano through the bathroom door.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

19

INT. BRYANT'S BEDROOM. LATE NIGHT.

Bryant is sitting on his bed rocking back and forth.

(CONTINUED)

2/2