

THE GLASS APPEAL

EPISODE 2: LAS VEGAS KILLJOY

Written by

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JASON

The wealth gap in the fractured United States is horrible. The rich have access to everything, including new life-saving procedures, while the poor are stuck with age-old fixes. That's where we come in, the Tinkers. What we do isn't for ourselves. It's for those less fortunate and the betterment of humanity.

SFX: Jail door closing.

SFX: Opening theme.

INT. THE GLASS ROOM - AFTERNOON

SFX: The buzz of a flickering light will always be in the background along with the occasional drop of water falling onto the ground.

SFX: Lucas walks and sits down on a chair. They both pick up their phones.

LUCAS

(nervous)

Hey, Jay.

SFX: Silence for a beat.

LUCAS (CONT'D)

I-I know it's been a little while, but I'm here now.

SFX: Silence for a beat.

LUCAS (CONT'D)

Are you going to say anything or am I going to talk for the both of us?

SFX: Silence for a beat.

LUCAS (CONT'D)

Okay then.

(beat)

I've been good.

(beat)

Oh? Why haven't I been here these last few months?

SFX: Silence for a beat.

LUCAS (CONT'D)

Well, I have a campaign that I've been taking care of with the help of my family.

(beat)

I recently had a pretty invasive interview.

JASON

That must have been *so* awful for you to deal with.

LUCAS

I *know*. It got worse when they asked about you. Like, who wants to talk about you?

SFX: There's a slight pause until both of them burst out laughing.

JASON

Damn it.

(beat)

I was trying to be mad at you longer.

LUCAS

But you couldn't. It's obviously because I'm so amazing, but really Jay, you don't know how sorry I am.

(beat)

I tried coming here the first few days when you were transferred, but media followed me everywhere.

JASON

You couldn't have just came in here with them? They would've been turned away.

LUCAS

You don't think I tried? They turned *me* away. "For causing a disturbance" or some other bull.

(beat)

I instead sent letters. I hope you enjoyed them though I kno--

JASON

What wait? What'd you just say Luke?

LUCAS

I *said* I hope that you liked the letters I sent. I know they weren't a substitute for me being here.

JASON

I never got any letter from you.

LUCAS

What the hell do you mean you didn't receive any letters from me?

JASON

I didn't get anything from you, so...

(beat)

I thought...

(beat)

you had... left me.

LUCAS

Shit Jay. You know I wouldn't do that.

(beat)

Fuck!

SFX: Lucas jumps out from his chair.

LUCAS (CONT'D)

I'll go find out what the fuck happened to those letters.

JASON

(hastily)

Okay okay. First, can you please calm down? Alexander might come back in here and tell you to leave.

LUCAS

(angry)

Some little shit in here probably has them.

SFX: Lucas sits back down.

JASON

(sadly)

Yeah probably.

LUCAS

Jay, are you okay? What's wrong? Did something happen these last few months?

(MORE)

LUCAS (CONT'D)

I thought you were mad at me for not being able to come, so that's why you didn't write back.

JASON

(sadly)

Well, I didn't think you wanted to hear from me since it'd hurt your camp--

SFX: Lucas hits the glass partition.

LUCAS

(serious)

If that's a joke Jay. It's a really bad one. Ok?

(beat)

Not laughing over here.

(exhale)

Even if I'm busy with the campaign, I'm never too busy for you. Don't forget that okay?

JASON

(meekly)

Yeah, I know.

LUCAS

Say it like you mean it!

JASON

OKAY! Jeez Luke. You're gonna make the guard come in.

LUCAS

Let him come in. See if I care.

JASON

You might not, but I do. So, please don't.

LUCAS

I won't, if you tell me what's wrong.

JASON

Nothing's wrong, really.

LUCAS

You don't think I know you Jay? Now fess up or I'll keep banging.

JASON
(hurriedly)
Okay okay. It's nothing big just
that I thought my guard was a good
guy.

LUCAS
(confused)
Your guard? You talking about the
guy that brought me in here?

JASON
Yeah. Every tinker inmate has a
guard who follows them around to
make sure they can't get their
hands on anything useful.

LUCAS
Useful for what? Escape?

JASON
Yeah, that's one of the reasons.

LUCAS
With the others being?

JASON
Weapons. If a tinker wanted to,
they could easily find a way to use
what they got.

LUCAS
Even you?

JASON
I mean I *could*.

LUCAS
You wouldn't though, right?

JASON
Really? Did you just ask your
husband if he'd kill people? You
think I'd do something like that?

LUCAS
No, but prison does change people.

JASON
I'm not other people Luke.

LUCAS
I know I know.

JASON

Alexander's the one who hands it over and sends it off.

LUCAS

(angrily)

So your guard's been holding onto my letters?

JASON

That's the only logical thing unless the prison held on to them the moment they were received.

LUCAS

The prison itself? Damn. I might not be able to do anything with that.

JASON

Yeah, that's what I thought. Maybe they'll give them to me, when I'm released. Who knows.

LUCAS

There's no reason for them to have them now though.

JASON

That's true, but not much you can do if they say they never got it.

LUCAS

I had no time to send them off myself so I did have to give them to my assistant to send off. I'll have to ask her about it.

JASON

Wow. Downgraded to getting stuff from an assistant.

LUCAS

Don't be like that. I would've sent them myself if I could. Plus I'm here now and not going anywhere.

JASON

What do you mean? What about the campaign?

LUCAS

Everything's sorted out. Don't worry about it.

(MORE)

LUCAS (CONT'D)

(beat)

Worry about yourself and how you're getting out of here. I convinced my dad to talk to the McAlesters.

JASON

(confused)

What does that have to do with me?

LUCAS

You don't remember what the dad owns?

JASON

Oh yeah! A law firm, right?

LUCAS

Yes, slowpoke. His son also works for him.

JASON

I remember now. Tim? Todd?

LUCAS

Thomas.

JASON

That was my next guess.

LUCAS

Sure it was.

JASON

Isn't he against tinkers? Isn't their *whole* family against tinkers?

LUCAS

I don't know about him, but his family... it'll... it'll be fine. Dad should be able to convince them.

JASON

Thanks Luke.

LUCAS

You don't get to thank me until you're out of this shit hole.

JASON

Fine. So... how are the parents?

LUCAS
They're good. Healthy.
(beat)
Oh yeah, mom recentl--

JASON
Lucas. You know exactly what I
mean.

LUCAS
(sigh)
Dad's a bit upset over the whole
thing, but mom is still pretty
angry about it. She even told me to
forget about you and find someone
else.

JASON
(dejected)
Oh... I see. I should've figured as
much.

LUCAS
She's settled down... for the most
part.
(beat)
She hasn't been saying anything as
extreme lately.

JASON
As extreme? So she's still saying
things at her "parties" I presume.

LUCAS
Yeah... I've told her to stop doing
it many times, but then she
started... well you know how she
is.

JASON
Unfortunately.

LUCAS
I'll keep trying t--

JASON
Luke, it's fine. If I get out of
here, I'll go apo--

LUCAS
You *will* get out of here.

JASON
(slight chuckle)
Okay. *When* I get out, I'll try and talk it out with the in laws.

LUCAS
And when you do, I'll be right there.

JASON
Thanks Luke.

LUCAS
Stop that. I forbid you from thanking me until you get out. What else has happened here?

JASON
Umm. I have to schedule checkups, but haven't had to just yet.

LUCAS
(concerned)
Are you sick? What's wrong?

JASON
Nothing's wrong. Doesn't it seem strange that I'm here? Talking to you even though I'm a tinker inmate?

LUCAS
No not really. I mean visitations are a right for inmates right? Even tinkers.

JASON
You'd be right, if they treated tinkers as just normal citizens.

LUCAS
What? They don't normally let a tinker inmate have visitations? Why not?

JASON
We're seen as a liability. They prevent us from having a lot of freedoms that regular inmates are allowed.

LUCAS

Damn. I didn't know that. If you can't have them, then how are you able to?

JASON

I have to have checkups with a doctor after I have a certain amount of visitations.

LUCAS

(worried)

They're not going to do experiments on you or anything right?

JASON

(chuckle)

They won't be some mad scientist, but I won't really know until I go to one.

(beat)

Thinking about it, I might have to actually schedule one now, since you're my second visitor.

LUCAS

Second? Who was your first visitor?

JASON

Brian.

LUCAS

(surprised)

Really? I thought he'd be the last person to show his face around you.

JASON

Yeah me too. I mean he was pretty pissed when we talked, but he got better as we talked.

LUCAS

So are you two on good terms now?

JASON

Well... I wouldn't really say that. It was going well, but then he left angry.

LUCAS

Who pissed who off first?

JASON

(chuckle)

Me, but he wanted to know about tinkers, so I told him to go through the motions and become one.

LUCAS

Ah. Yeah, I can see how that'd piss him off. He hates not getting quick answers.

JASON

I mean it's not like I could've told him right?

LUCAS

You could've been nicer. I mean you haven't even told *me* about your tinker operations.

(beat)

If I didn't know any better, I'd think you were cheating on me.

JASON

You know I can't get enough of that ugly mug of yours.

(chuckle)

No way I'm screwing up my chances to see it everyday.

LUCAS

Ouch. You're calling *this* an ugly mug.

SFX: Lucas pats his cheek a (2) times.

LUCAS (CONT'D)

What are we going to call that face of yours then?

JASON

I mean... there are so many words that come to mind, but I can't think of the best one off the top of my head.

LUCAS

Oh? Is that so? Are you sure it's not coming up because you can't think of a word?

JASON

Now what would give you that impression?

LUCAS

Let's just call it a hunch.

SFX: They both start laughing and settle down after a bit.

LUCAS (CONT'D)

So. Can I ask you about... you know.

JASON

About Tint?

LUCAS

You barely talk about it.

JASON

(sigh)

I'd rather not talk about any of them, if I could.

LUCAS

Sorry. I just want to know what happened to you there, but you won't let me in.

JASON

I know! But we already talked about this Luke. I'll tell you when I'm ready and now isn't a great time.

(beat)

It's worse then when we were moving into our house.

LUCAS

Well, tell me something Jay! Anything.

JASON

Fine. Umm.

(beat)

I'll tell you about my pre-training.

LUCAS

Pre-Training? Was it required before you went abroad?

JASON

Yeah. So before Tint accepts you to do work abroad you have to pass a pre-screening.

LUCAS

So you passed a lot of exams?

JASON
Well, yes and no.

LUCAS
Huh? Explain.

JASON
I did have an exam, but it wasn't the paper kind. You remember the Las Vegas Killjoy?

LUCAS
That was when an unknown virus was spread to all the major casinos, right?

JASON
Yeah. For weeks the US government had no idea what to do. They quarantined the state, so they could determine the cause and locate patient zero. Bu--

LUCAS
They weren't able to find them though. So, their next step was to up the blockade.

JASON
They thought that they had lost Los Vegas to bio-terrorists.

LUCAS
But they didn't, because a week or two after the escalation the doctors and researchers had a breakthrough. They were able to lift the blockade soon after.

JASON
That's the official story, at least.

LUCAS
Official story? You're telling me the government covered up what happened?

JASON
You act like this surprises you.

LUCAS

It kind of does actually. Like I know they're pretty shady with the new uhhh "management" and direction they're going, but I didn't think they'd do something like cover up something like this.

JASON

"New management" that's a light way of saying it.

LUCAS

Well it's not like it's all of the US.

JASON

Yeah, only the southern half. That makes it *so* much better. Texas *is* in the south, if you didn't remember.

LUCAS

Obviously. I didn't forget and no I'm not saying that, but once you get out yo--

JASON

If.

LUCAS

When you do, we can leave the south and head up north. I heard Seattle's a nice place to settle in.

JASON

Yea and we can go to Canada too if anything.

LUCAS

See? I thought of everything.

JASON

Really? So you thought of how to get me out of here yet?

LUCAS

Hey. I said I'm working on getting you a good lawyer didn't I?

JASON

I know I know. I just really hate it here.

LUCAS
I can imagine. So...

JASON
So?

LUCAS
Continue your story. Gosh Jay.

JASON
Oh right. So, yeah, that's the official story, but what actually happened wasn't because of them. Trying to save the city was our exam.

LUCAS
Wait. To go abroad you had to... save a city?

JASON
Well, try to save one. It was pretty unorthodox too. Instead of working in pairs or by ourselves, we were each assigned a team. Each team was given places to secure and objectives to complete.

LUCAS
Sounds like the military.

JASON
I guess you could say that. Except we weren't killing anyone, we were saving them. The team that I was on had to secure Caesars' Palace.

LUCAS
Wait. *The* Caesars Palace? I heard it's freaking gorgeous.

JASON
You're right about that, but we didn't have time to take in the sights. First, we had to get through the blockade.
(beat)
I thought was going to be the most difficult part of the whole mission, but I was wrong and things only escalated later.

LUCAS

You guys weren't sanctioned by the government to try and fix the outbreak?

JASON

(laughs)

You really think the government would want a tinker organization to *publicly* achieve something they weren't able to?

LUCAS

Good point.

JASON

After about a day or two, we were finally able to past the blockade and enter the city. It was a mess.

(beat)

People rioting, and looting stores. Others going crazy because of the virus. Complete and utter chaos.

LUCAS

Where were the cops? Military?

JASON

They were completely overrun. It was too much for them to contain, so they were essentially useless.

LUCAS

How'd you guys get through it all and make it to the casino strip?

JASON

It involved... lots of stuff. I'll stop there to not implicate myself any more than I already have.

LUCAS

Okay. So what'd you guys do, once you made it to your casino?

JASON

Caesar's palace was particularly bad. It was one of the first places hit, so it was under lockdown and was being monitored.

LUCAS

They were under lockdown while already under a lockdown?

JASON

Stupid, I know. Anyway, once we got in, we set ourselves up in one of the security rooms on the bottom floor. Afterwards, we got people who had the virus and took samples.

(beat)

It took a while, but we were finally able to synthesis a countermeasure that the government called a "cure".

LUCAS

Why'd you say it like that? Was it not a real cure?

JASON

It was and it wasn't.

LUCAS

What does that mean? Was it or was it not a cure? The US didn't lose Los Vegas to it, so it was obviously a cure Jay.

JASON

I wouldn't call it a cure.

LUCAS

And why is that?

JASON

Because cures shouldn't come with side effects. Especially life threatening ones.

LUCAS

Oh... Umm...

JASON

Sorry. Can we stop talking about this. I think I'm done for the day.

LUCAS

Yeah, that's fine. Sorry Jay. Didn't mean to upset you. Especially on our reunion.

JASON

It's fine. It's not your fault. It's mine.

LUCAS
Hey, you can't blame yourself for
what happened.

JASON
You don't understand Luke.

LUCAS
I'm trying, but you're making this
pretty difficult.

JASON
I know. I'm sorry, but I just
can't. Not now anyway.

LUCAS
Okay then. I'll come back and visit
you soon okay?

SFX: Lucas puts his hand on the glass wall and Jason follows
suit.

JASON
Yeah, that sounds good.

LUCAS
In the meantime, I'll find out the
bastard who took my damn letters.
They're a pretty good read if I do
say so myself.

JASON
(slight chuckle)
If you say so babe. See you soon.

LUCAS
See you. Love you.

JASON
Love you too.

SFX: They both hang up the phones.

SFX: A bit of silence then the news show theme starts.

EMILIA
(enthusiastic)
Hello everyone! I've just gotten
word from an inside source that
Jason Cawfield's husband, Lucas
Cawfield, who's currently running
for governor, visited him earlier
today.
(beat)
(MORE)

EMILIA (CONT'D)

How would ya'll feel about an
inside look at the "global tinker"?
We've put up a poll on our website.
If you want someone on our team to
do an interview, go vote at
www.rebornnews.com/poll.

SFX: Ending news show theme.

End of episode.