

THE GLASS APPEAL:

EPISODE 4: A STORY REBORN

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. ALEXANDER'S GUARD ROOM - AFTERNOON

ALEXANDER

Okay sign here.

SFX: Signing.

ALEXANDER (CONT'D)

And here.

SFX: Signing.

EMILIA

(sigh)

Am I done? Please tell me I'm done.

ALEXANDER

That's all.

EMILIA

(excited)

Then let's get going! I can't wait to see him. What's he like up close?

SFX: She opens the door.

ALEXANDER

Whoa, hey. Calm yourself. Before we're going *anywhere* I need you to agree to this.

EMILIA

What is it?

ALEXANDER

You *must* get verbal confirmation to record, document, or film anyone. If they don't consent then you are not to film. Understood?

EMILIA

Yes, of course. I'd never do anything that'd compromise my journalistic integrity.

ALEXANDER

Let's hope that statement stays true. I'm just making sure that you do not forget to ask his permission befor--

EMILIA

I know I know. I *am* a journalist after all.

(excited)

Now can we get going?

ALEXANDER

Follow me. It's the door at the end of the hall.

SFX: The pair start walking. The door is shut behind them.

INT. US PENITENTIARY [HALLWAY] - AFTERNOON

EMILIA

(excited)

So is he the first tinker that you've had to guard?

ALEXANDER

He is. I was previously a guard on the other side of the jail.

EMILIA

(excited)

And how is it?

ALEXANDER

It's fine. Not much different than a normal convict.

EMILIA

I see. Is it true that tinkers get less rights? I've heard rumors that some are treated horribly.

ALEXANDER

No answer.

EMILIA

What about their treatment? Is it any different than normal convicts?

ALEXANDER

It's roughly the same.

EMILIA

(excited)

What's the craziest thing you've--

ALEXANDER

We're here.

(beat)

Remember, if he wants you to leave at any point, I will be forced to take you away.

EMILIA

I understand.

SFX: The door opens, Emilia walks.

EMILIA (CONT'D)

Thank yo--

SFX: The door is closed.

INT. THE LIGHT ROOM - AFTERNOON

SFX: The hum of light will always be in the background. Occasional bird chirping in the background.

EMILIA

This isn't as bad as I thought. A lot brighter than I would've imagined too.

SFX: She grabs the chair and sits down. The two of them pick up their phones.

EMILIA (CONT'D)

(excited)

Hello! How are you doing? Nice to officially meet ya. As you know, name's Emilia Whitehall.

JASON

You also already know who I am, but Jason Cawfield, the "Global Tinker"
(MORE)

JASON (CONT'D)

(sigh)

Such a stupid name.

EMILIA

(laughs)

I agree. Not descriptive enough, I'd say. Is it okay if I record this interview?

JASON

That's fine, I guess. I don't expect much privacy here anyway.

EMILIA

But the law states that it's illegal for prisons to record visitations.

JASON

(chuckles)

You really believe any of them follow that rule?

EMILIA

I mean... yes. They've given me no reason *not* too.

JASON

I'm surprised. Truly. That a reporter who'd come talk to an alleged terrorist for the truth, yet would believe the government.

EMILIA

(confused)

Alleged? Are you saying that you didn't do it?

JASON

(laughs until he starts coughing)

Excuse me, but how incompetent are you? Didn't you say that Reborn News "does things differently". Have you've done any research?

EMILIA

(angry)

I'm not incompetent. How *dare* you. I've done my research, but information's scarce.

JASON

(sigh)

And here I thought accepting a journalist from a smaller outlet would've helped my case.

EMILIA

We may be small, but we go to lengths for our stories.

JASON

Lengths? Like what? Give me a story that your team has gone to lengths to get.

EMILIA

Umm...

(beat)

Okay, got it. So this one time Michael, another journalist at Reborn News, and I went to a besieged country in Eastern Europe.

JASON

Okay? What'd you guys find out? How'd you guys get in?

EMILIA

We weren't able to get in, but we still made the effort to go to the blockade and try. We *did*, however manage to get enough information from the surrounding area.

(beat)

That has to count for something.

JASON

I guess, but a *better* journalist would've went against all that and found the scoop they were after. Not settle because it was hard.

EMILIA

Well that's...

JASON

Sorry. Don't mean to shit on your previous work, but I do want you to understand where I'm coming from.

EMILIA

I get it, I guess. Doesn't mean it wasn't rude as hell when you put it that way.

(MORE)

EMILIA (CONT'D)

(beat)

I *know* we've got to do better as a news agency. We've just started out after all, but I'm ready for the challenge.

JASON

(chuckles)

EMILIA

What's so funny?

JASON

Sorry. It's just I thought a journalist would be more pessimistic. It's.. .refreshing that you're not. Slightly odd, but refreshing nonetheless.

EMILIA

(clears throat)

What you were saying before.

(beat)

You said that there was the possibility that you were innocent.

JASON

Not just the possibility. I *am* innocent.

EMILIA

Can you talk about why you say that?

JASON

That's not too specific now is it?

EMILIA

Okay. Ummm...

(beat)

Before going abroad you were a professor at the University of Texas, correct?

JASON

Yeah, I had just finished getting my PhD and was offered the job.

EMILIA

Well, what made you go with Tint?

JASON

I felt like it was something I had to do.

EMILIA

That's not what I meant.

JASON

Then what did you mean to say?

EMILIA

Why didn't you go with them earlier? If that's what you wanted to do, why go through the trouble of getting a doctorate?

JASON

Ah, I understand the question.

(beat)

That... I don't know. I felt like teaching was something I was meant to do, but Tint was... something different. I tried doing both, but it was too much.

EMILIA

Now who's not being specific.

JASON

(chuckle)

Okay okay. I'll try and be more specific.

(beat)

Tint's different from every other volunteering program. At least in my opinion.

EMILIA

What do you mean by that? Isn't it essentially Doctors Without Borders? What makes it so special?

JASON

Because we don't accept donations from corporations. If we did, then they'd have a say in where we go and who we help.

EMILIA

But many volunteer organizations state their impartialness to race, religion and affiliation.

JASON

They do and while that might be true, it'd be different for us.

EMILIA

Why would it be different for Tint than other organizations?

JASON

(sigh)

Because we're trying to spread the knowledge around the world. We try to build a community of tinkers there and leave when it's set up. Less reliance that way.

(beat)

Let's not forget that the government has a monopoly over that knowledge.

EMILIA

I see. Has it ever occurred to you that there's a good reason for that?

JASON

Not particularly.

(beat)

There's no good reason for the government to restrict that. Tinker knowledge and tools shouldn't be available to only the rich.

EMILIA

It's not only available to the rich. Anyone has the opportunity to get a procedure done.

JASON

Really? You think normal, average day citizens can afford the prices for the procedures?

EMILIA

No. Not regularly at least, but it's not as if it's a necessity for most.

JASON

(flabbergasted)

Not necessary? It's currently the best defense against diseases.

EMILIA

It is, but there are other alternatives. What makes this any different than when the cancer-cure was created?

JASON

There isn't. This is the *same* shit the corporations and hospitals did back then.

(beat)

The only reason why that cure is cheaper, is because the tinker procedures are better.

EMILIA

I haven't done too much research into the various tinker procedures, but are they really a cure-all to ailments?

JASON

(sigh)

Not necessarily, but they're the closest that we'll probably get to one in a long time.

EMILIA

Can you talk about some of these procedures? I only know about the neural implants procedure and only a bit at that.

JASON

Didn't you just imply that there's a good reason why that information is hard to come by?

EMILIA

No, I didn't say that. I believe that the information should be available to anyone.

JASON

At least we agree on that.

EMILIA

However, I also think there should be requirements on getting that information. These procedures, in the wrong hands, are dangerous.

JASON

Then do you believe that people who tinker are already criminals?

EMILIA

I don't know. The way that it's described seems dangerous to the public, but that's not the whole truth.

(beat)

Since you're well versed, why don't you set the record straight.

JASON

I'd rather not.

EMILIA

And why is that?

JASON

Look around. You haven't forgotten where you are, have you?

EMILIA

Of course not.

JASON

Then do you think the public would care what I'd have to say about tinker culture?

(beat)

If *I* had to wager a guess, I think it'd make it worse.

EMILIA

Hmmm.

(beat)

I suppose you're right.

JASON

Is that all the questions you had? Are we done here?

EMILIA

Of course not! I have a lot of other questions that I want answered.

JASON

Let's see if I feel like answering any of them.

EMILIA

I came all this way. I don't expect to leave without some of them being answered.

JASON
(chuckles)
That's not really your choice now
is it?

EMILIA
I suppose, but can't knock me for
trying.
(beat)
So, how'd did you feel after your
sentencing?

JASON
That's rather obvious, don't you
think?

EMILIA
Is it? I wouldn't agree. Even
though the trial & hearing was
broadcasted to the public, we never
saw you testify.
(beat)
No one's heard your side of the
story. It was very unusual.

JASON
That's not the only thing that I'd
deem strange.

EMILIA
Oh, of course. There's also the
fact that it was broadcasted live,
which hasn't happened for a few
years now.

JASON
What would you say the reason for
it is?

EMILIA
Hmmm.
(beat)
If I had to wager a guess, I'd say
it was to make you an example.

JASON
I'd be inclined to agree with you.
At least you catch on quick.
(beat)
Anyway, me not testifying is due to
my lawyer. He thought it would've
been better if I didn't speak.

EMILIA

That's only if you'd be forced to self-incriminate yourself.

JASON

Correct. My time abroad, according to him was incriminating and he suggested for me not to testify.

EMILIA

Seems like it didn't matter. If you spoke, at least the public wouldn't see you as a monster. They would've been able to see a different side of you.

JASON

So it seems.

(sigh)

You're right. Thinking back on it now, I should've said screw it and testified.

EMILIA

Everyone would've been forced to make a decision about your innocence instead of letting the media control the narrative.

JASON

(laughs)

Aren't *you* a part of the media?

EMILIA

I'm *indie*. There's a difference. We're not out here to control the masses. We want real, *factual* stories. Nothing sensationalized.

JASON

I see. It seems I misjudged you a bit.

EMILIA

(chuckle)

A *bit*?

JASON

Okay. A lot.

(sigh)

Damn, I really should've spoke.

EMILIA

There's nothing you can do about that now. It's not like you knew the outcome beforehand, but I do agree.

JASON

That's true, but I should've planned for it. My only hope is for my appeal to go through.

EMILIA

You're appealing the court's decision? Who's the lawyer helping you on this?

JASON

I'm not at liberty to say.

EMILIA

Understandable. I've got one more question that I'd like to ask you. If it's too personal then you don't have to answer it.

JASON

Okay? That's what I've been doing, but thanks for warning me, I guess?

EMILIA

What's your opinion on your husband, Lucas Cawfield, no longer pursuing his candidacy.

JASON

(confused)

What'd you just say? Luke's no longer running for governor?

EMILIA

No, he just announced his resignation from the race a few weeks ago.

(beat)

My sources state that he's already visited you. He didn't tell you himself?

JASON

I think we're done with this interview.

EMILIA
Did something happen between you
two? Did you two have a fight? Why
didn't he tell you this?

JASON
Alex!

SFX: The door opens.

ALEXANDER
What is it?

JASON
She can go. We're done here.

EMILIA
What's your plan going forward?

ALEXANDER
Let's go miss. Time's up.

SFX: Alexander grabs her chair and she puts down the phone.

ALEXANDER (CONT'D)
Miss, we can go about this as
civilly as you want.

EMILIA
(resigned)
Okay okay. I can get up myself.

SFX: She stands up.

EMILIA (CONT'D)
Jason, I'd like to say one last
thing.

ALEXANDER
(irritated)
Miss... did you not hear me? I said
it's time to go, now.

JASON
(through the phone
speaker)
It's fine Alex. She won't be back
here anyway.

EMILIA
First, I'd like to apologize for my
outburst. I get a bit...
enthusiastic with stories. Meant no
harm with my questions.

JASON

(sigh)

I should apologize too. I didn't mean to get that way, but after hearing that, I just...

EMILIA

I get it. It was hard hearing something about your husband from someone else.

JASON

Yeah...

ALEXANDER

Okay miss. Time to g--

JASON

Hold on Alex. I didn't mean to call you in so quickly. She can stay. I've a few questions of my own for her.

ALEXANDER

Okay then. Only call me, when you *actually* mean to.

JASON

I understand.

SFX: Alexander walks away, and shuts the door. Emilia sits back down and picks up the phone.

SFX: Awkward silence for a beat.

EMILIA

So...

JASON

Was it a big announcement? Luke's resignation.

EMILIA

Yeah, he held a press conference for the announcement. It was pretty shocking since he seemed like a shoe-in to winning.

JASON

I *know*.

(sigh)

Were you able to interview him or anything?

EMILIA

No, unfortunately our outlet's not big enough. We couldn't get credentialed.

JASON

Ah, I see.

(beat)

Damn. If all the big outlets were there, they probably grilled him about me.

EMILIA

More than likely. Is it alright with you if I ask you another set of questions?

JASON

Yeah, but only if they don't have to do with Luke.

EMILIA

Okay. I understand.

(beat)

How's your family been taking all... this?

JASON

I wouldn't know. None of them have come by to see me.

EMILIA

(surprised)

Your family hasn't come to visit? Not even once?

JASON

Yeah, I know. A good friend of mine said the same thing when he visited me.

EMILIA

I mean... even if you *did* do it, that's pretty harsh.

JASON

Yeah, but that's how they are. Well, at least my parents. My mom specifically.

EMILIA

What do you mean? If you don't mind me asking.

JASON

They always pushed us, my siblings
and I, to do our best.

EMILIA

I don't see a problem with that.
Mine were the same way.

JASON

Yeah, but I bet they were okay with
some failure.

EMILIA

I mean... they'd be disappointed
for a bit, but they'd understand.

JASON

See. Now, *that's* normal.

EMILIA

And your mom isn't normal?

JASON

Not in the slightest. One thing
goes wrong and *bam*, she'd never
forget it. Even the small shit too.

EMILIA

What'd she do?

(gasp)

She didn't beat you, did she?

JASON

No, nothing like that. I guess you
could call it close to
psychological abuse. She'd go on
and on about the smallest shit we
did for weeks, months even. Call us
a failure... you get the picture.

EMILIA

Oh my gosh... that must've been
horrible. What'd your dad do?

JASON

He'd threaten to file a divorce,
but she knew he couldn't afford to,
so she kept doing it. She stopped
though, once she saw that he was
serious.

(beat)

Luckily, it happened when my
sister, Alexis, was young and
before my brother Hank was born.

EMILIA

That's good that she stopped, but what about you?

JASON

It was... difficult. Getting through college was the worst since even though she wouldn't say anything, I knew her looks pretty well by then.

EMILIA

Wow. I don't think I could've stayed in that house, let alone in school with a mom like that.

JASON

(chuckle)

I actually planned on running away hundreds of times.

EMILIA

Why didn't you? Did your dad find out?

JASON

No, I think he would've been fine with it, but I didn't want to do that to my siblings. I stayed, graduated early and got the hell out of there.

EMILIA

I bet it felt a whole lot better being out on your own.

JASON

Oh, hell yeah! It was still hard, but without her around, I could get by. Then I met Lucas and he's helped me through it.

EMILIA

Aww. That's so sweet. Where'd you two meet?

JASON

We met when I was out for coffee with a group of friends after mid-terms.

EMILIA

That's so cute.

JASON

(chuckle)

It was.

(beat)

Well, is that all you wanted to say?

EMILIA

Yeah.

(beat)

Before I go, I want you to know that I won't publish anything regarding your husband or your family.

JASON

I'm surprised. It'd be quick views and easy revenue.

EMILIA

As I said that's not what Reborn News is about. I'm not trying to get views. I want the truth and though what you said was true, I know others will spin it.

JASON

That's true. I can see it now "Jason Cawfield was abused as a child and turned to killing people or something stupid."

EMILIA

Exactly. I don't want that to happen.

(beat)

Will you able to listen to the broadcast?

JASON

I don't think so.

EMILIA

I see. All I can give you is my word then. If you are able to listen to it and see my sincerity, I'd like to come back. I wasn't that prepared this time.

(beat)

The call. The visit. It was a spur of the moment type-thing, but next time, I'll be prepared.

JASON

Well, we'll see. I still don't like
journalists, but you're not like
the other ones.

EMILIA

I'll take that as a compliment.
Good talking with you.

JASON

Likewise.

SFX: They hang up their phones. After a few moments Alex
opens the door behind Jason.

ALEXANDER

She's a feisty one.

JASON

(chuckle)

You don't do well with those types,
do you?

ALEXANDER

I do just fine handling you, don't
I?

JASON

I'm not feisty! I'm...

ALEXANDER

Exactly.

JASON

I know the answer to this already,
but is there anyway I can listen to
the broadcast?

(beat)

You'll be watching me the whole
time, but I need to hear it.

ALEXANDER

(sigh)

Jason, you know the rules.

JASON

I know, but is there anything you
can do?

ALEXANDER

I'll try. That's the best that I
can give you.

JASON
That's fine. Thanks.

ALEXANDER
Don't thank me yet. Now, let's get
going.

JASON
(sigh)
I know I know.

SFX: Jason gets up and places the phone on the receiver.

End of episode.