

THE GLASS APPEAL

EPISODE 5: A PARTY INVITE

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.

SFX: New shows theme.

EMILIA

Hello everyone. This is Emilia from Reborn News and boy do I've got a scoop for to today.

(beat)

As requested, I went to the US Penitentiary Supermax's tinker section, where I spoke with the infamous tinker, Jason Cawfield.

(beat)

I've gained an appreciation for the tinker culture after much research. After speaking with Jason, I've also learned what kind of person he is.

(beat)

He's someone who has friends and family that love him, but who's also been shunned by society. It used to be innocent until proven guilty, but how many of us can really say that that's the case now?

(exhale)

The moment he was captured, what did we see? A villain and a media agenda punishing him and not hearing his side of the story. I wouldn't call that innocence. I'm not asking ya'll to like tinkers or accept the culture, but at least try and see both sides of the story before you make up your minds. Thank you and until next time!

SFX: Ending news show theme.

INT. THE GLASS ROOM - DAY

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

LUCAS

Did you hear the broadcast?

JASON

No, I couldn't. Alex tried, but they wouldn't let him.

LUCAS

Well, she only said good things about ya. Defended you really.

JASON

(impressed)

Wow. She *actually* defended me.

LUCAS

(chuckle)

Is that so surprising?

JASON

A bit. Yeah.

(beat)

I'm surprised you're able to see me again so fast. What about the campaign?

LUCAS

Jay, I told you to stop worrying about that. Everything's under con--

JASON

(sigh)

Luke, just stop.

LUCAS

Stop what?

JASON

I know you're not in the race anymore.

LUCAS

(sigh)

Was it the reporter?

JASON

Does it matter? Why didn't you tell me?

(MORE)

JASON (CONT'D)

You know how it felt to be told something like that from someone other than my husband?

LUCAS

I've been meaning to. I was going to tell you that I was going to, but...

JASON

But what?

LUCAS

I didn't know a way to tell you without you thinking that it wasn't your fault.

JASON

But it *is* my fault. If I wasn't in here, then you'd still be--

LUCAS

See. *This* is why I didn't say anything about it. I knew you'd worry about it and blame yourself. I didn't want that to be how our reunion went.

JASON

I still don't think it went how you wanted it to.

LUCAS

I suppose not, but at least I'm finally able to see you. That's worth more to me than winning any election.

JASON

Awww. Thanks Luke.

(beat)

But, you can't keep protecting me. If something's my fault, just say it.

LUCAS

I'm not protecting you. This isn't your fault.

JASON

We both know it is. You took a hard stance when you sided with tinkers and it blew up in your face when I was captured.

LUCAS

(sigh)

It kind of did, but I was also getting fed up with the process and the interviews. There was no privacy. It was becoming too much.

JASON

You should've taken a hard stance against me. Used me as an example. That my behavior would not be accepted.

LUCAS

(angry)

Jay, if you don't stop talking like that right no--

JASON

(sadly)

You'll what? Leave? Maybe, it'd be better for you if you did instead of being stuck with me.

SFX: Lucas slams his hands down.

LUCAS

Jay, shut up!

(sigh)

I'm not stuck with you. We're in this together, through thick and thin. Okay?

JASON

Thanks Luke.

LUCAS

I said you can't thank me before you're out of here.

JASON

Fine fine. Speaking of which, how's getting that lawyer guy coming along? Todd?

LUCAS

Thomas.

JASON

Yeah, him.

LUCAS

Well... it's going. That's the best way to put it.

JASON

It's fine, really. I didn't expect much from him and his family anyway.

LUCAS

(sigh)

It's not his fault. At least not entirely.

(beat)

Mom hosted another one of her "parties".

JASON

Oh god. Here we go. Lay it on me.

LUCAS

You sure? We can talk about something else if you want.

JASON

It's fine.

(sarcastic)

Hearing about mother-in-law just brightens up my day, you know?

LUCAS

(chuckle)

Stop that. I know you two hate each other and that I can't do anything to stop that.

(sigh)

No matter how hard I've tried.

JASON

(laughs)

I think that's a sign that you should stop trying. Now, get on with the story.

LUCAS

So impatient. Anyway, mom was her usual self. She may have actually been a little *too* happy for this one.

JASON

Gee. I wonder *why*.

LUCAS

She made the party invites such a hassle. They *had* to be perfect, or else they'd need to be redone.

JASON

Was it as bad as a few years ago?

LUCAS

Worse.

JASON

How? Is that even possible?

LUCAS

I know. I didn't think she had it in her, but she did. Every time someone messed up, whether it was us or the butlers, she'd flip her shit.

JASON

That doesn't seem *as* bad as a few years ago.

LUCAS

Just wait. It gets better.

JASON

I don't think you know the meaning of the word, but go on.

LUCAS

Hush. So, she then had everyone in the house run ragged looking for just the right gifts to send along with the invites.

JASON

Gifts? Isn't she the one usually receiving them?

LUCAS

Exactly, but you'll see why later. Anyway, all the butlers, including dad and I, were given a specific gift to go out and buy.

JASON

What about Becca? She didn't have to get anything?

LUCAS

You know how it is. She's mom's little princess, so she didn't have to do anything.

JASON
(chuckle)
Lucky.

LUCAS
(is he)
You don't know the half of it.
(beat)
I chose to get a gift for Thomas
and his family. I thought if I got
them something nice, that it'd, you
know, persuade them more.

JASON
Why'd you need to persuade his
family too? You couldn't have just
bought Thomas something?

LUCAS
No, since he's working as an
attorney in his father's firm. So
essentially all clients are
technically his clients.

JASON
Ah, I see.

LUCAS
Yeah, when dad told me that...
let's just say I wasn't exactly
thrilled. So, mom wanted some
expensive antique coin.

JASON
A coin really? My future rested on
an old coin.

LUCAS
(chuckle)
I mean if I found it heads up, you
could've gotten some good luck.

JASON
Which means you found it on tails?

LUCAS
Bingo.

JASON
(chuckle)
That's why I fell off my bed this
morning. It all makes sense now.

LUCAS

(chuckle)

Exactly. Anyway, I had to go and find a collector in Chicago and man *that* was an adventure. I eventually found the little shit and something extra for Thomas.

JASON

How's the north?

LUCAS

It's crazy how much it's changed. *Especially* Chicago. There's no fighting, or shootings everyday anymore. Just growth and happy people.

JASON

Sounds like a great place. Hopefully I'll see it one day.

LUCAS

You *will* see it Jay. I promise.

JASON

(sigh)

We'll see about that.

LUCAS

When I got back home, after that trip, everyone and I mean *everyone* was still preparing.

JASON

How many days till the party?

LUCAS

Two days.

JASON

Your mom usually has everything done a week in advance.

LUCAS

Yeah, which was strange coming back to.

JASON

Regardless of how I feel about her, that woman, if anything is precise. I'm guessing something went wrong while you were gone?

LUCAS

Not really. Mom was just going crazy, as usual, and wanted to send invites to 10 more families.

(sigh)

No one refused and we went back to work. Well, except for me.

JASON

Why not? What'd she have you do instead?

LUCAS

If you can believe it, rest.

JASON

I can't. She told you to go rest while everyone else worked? What'd she have up her sleeve?

LUCAS

Oh, that's the best part. So the day of the party comes and mom makes me wear some designer suit. No big deal. She always does that. Now, once I entered the hall of where, I saw what kind of party it was.

(beat)

It was umm... a bachelor party, or better yet a match-making party.

JASON

Oh, she's never done one of those before. Who was the host of the party?

LUCAS

Actually, she has and... it was... me.

JASON

Excuse me?

(beat)

Luke, I don't think you heard me well enough. I asked you *who* was the bachelor. You know, the one that was being matched up.

LUCAS

(sigh)

Jay, I'm being serious. It was a party for me.

(hurriedly)

(MORE)

LUCAS (CONT'D)

Now before you get mad at me, I swear I didn't know before I went.

JASON

(angry)

What the hell! Is she for real? A *match-making* party for a *married* man.

LUCAS

Jay, I *need* you to calm down. Please.

JASON

(angry)

How aren't you angry? To set this up she probably told everyone that we weren't together anymore!

LUCAS

I know. She did. She even had a cheeky beginning speech.

(sigh)

JASON

(angry)

Tell me you left.

LUCAS

Of course. What the hell did you think I did? Stay there?

JASON

No, it's just... I donno. I've been here a while. You've only just started coming here...

LUCAS

(angry)

Jay, now *I'm* getting angry. Are you kidding me? You really think I'd do that to you?

JASON

(sigh)

No, I don't. It's just--

(frustrated sigh)

Sorry Luke. I didn't mean it.

You're mom's just--

(sigh)

LUCAS

I know. That's why while she was giving her big speech I went up and interrupted her.

JASON

Oh shit, really?

LUCAS

Hell yeah. No one disrespects you like that. I thanked everyone, but told them to all leave.

JASON

I doubt your mom was happy about that.

LUCAS

(chuckle)

Not at all. I had to add that I was in fact still married to my lovely husband and told them all to go hook up with each other.

JASON

(chuckle)

Awww. Thanks.

LUCAS

What'd I say about thanking me?

JASON

This is different. Speaking of which, what happened with Thomas?

LUCAS

Oh yeah, thanks for reminding me. After that whole ordeal I was in the parking lot and Thomas found me.

JASON

Why were they invited anyway?

LUCAS

Don't ask me. A lot of her friends were invited, even if they didn't take part in the ridiculousness.

JASON

So what'd he want?

LUCAS

He wanted to talk, but he needed to be away from his fam, so I took him to In & Out.

JASON

Ahhhh. Man, I miss their burgers.

LUCAS

You want that to be your first meal when you get out of here?

JASON

If. If I get out of here. I don't think it'll be easy winning an appeal. Even if I have a good lawyer.

LUCAS

What if you had a *really* good one helping you?

JASON

What do you mean? Who'd take up my case? There's no way that Thomas can. With his dad and whatnot.

LUCAS

You'd be surprised. He actually wanted to help. He didn't like what mom did, either.

JASON

Well, that's a bit surprising considering his family.

LUCAS

Hey, give him some slack. He's not his family.

JASON

Yeah, I know.

LUCAS

I mean... am I like my mom?

JASON

What? No, of course not.

LUCAS

Well, then there's your answer.

(beat)

So we were eating and he told me that he wanted to help.

JASON

What about his dad? He still works at his firm right?

LUCAS

He does, but he's thinking about starting his own firm.

JASON

Wait, so he's going to help with the appeal? How much is asking for?

LUCAS

Get this. Nothing. Pro bono. He's going to do it under the name of his own firm, so his dad can't say shit.

JASON

Oh my god. That's... that's great! I've gotta thank him in person.

LUCAS

(chuckle)

I'll let him know and see what I can do. He has to work on the case during his free time, so his dad can't sue him for using company time or whatever.

JASON

Damn. Sounds like a pain in the ass.

LUCAS

It is. Trust me.

JASON

Luke, tha--

LUCAS

(cheeky)

Huh? What were you about to say?

JASON

Nevermind.

LUCAS

(chuckle)

Oh yeah! I forgot to tell you, but Alexis is staying over.

JASON

What, really? For how long?

LUCAS

She came in yesterday. She wanted to see her big bro.

JASON

I'm surprised mom and dad let her come.

LUCAS

Oh, they don't know. She told them that I got her an interview for some internship.

JASON

I see she threw you under the bus.
(chuckle)

LUCAS

(chuckle)
It's fine. I'm used to it by now.

JASON

Well, don't let her party too hard now.

LUCAS

You can be the one to scold her, not me. I'm the fun one, remember?

JASON

"Fun"

LUCAS

(fake hurt)
Ouch.

JASON

Awww, did I hurt someone's feelings?

LUCAS

(fake hurt)
Yeah. Kiss it to make me feel better.

JASON

(sigh)
You know I would.

LUCAS

I know I know. Bad joke. Before I go, I've gotta tell you something.

JASON
What is it?

LUCAS
I won't be able to come around for
a little while.

JASON
(disheartened)
Why not?

LUCAS
It's part of the agreement with
Thomas.

JASON
Agreement? I thought you said it
was pro bono.

LUCAS
I did. It is, but that doesn't mean
he didn't want nothing in return.

JASON
So he wanted you to... travel?

LUCAS
No, he wants me to be a partner of
the firm.

JASON
Okay? But, you're not a lawyer.

LUCAS
Really? I thought I was.

JASON
What are you going to be doing
then?

LUCAS
It'll be a consulting firm. He'll
handle Law, while I handle
politics.
(beat)
I'm going to various cities and
looking for investors and maybe a
partner or two in different
industries.

JASON
When will you be back?

LUCAS
I donno. A month, two tops. You'll
be the first person I see when I
get back.

JASON
Okay.
(beat)
Wait, what about Lexi?

LUCAS
She'll be fine. Don't worry. She's
not a little kid anymore.

JASON
Yeah, I know, but still.

LUCAS
The fridge is stocked and I gave
her an allowance for her to use
while I'm gone.

JASON
Thanks Luke.

LUCAS
Jay, we're family. Stop thanking me
or I'll have to reconsider that.
(chuckle)

JASON
Okay okay.

LUCAS
I've gotta go. I'll see you when I
get back.

JASON
Okay. Love you.

LUCAS
Love you too.

SFX: They both hang up their phones. The door is opened.

ALEXANDER
Are you ready?

JASON
(sigh)
Really? I've gotta do the
appointment now? It can't wait?

ALEXANDER

No, it can not. You *don't* want this doctor to be angry with you.

JASON

Okay okay. Lead the way.

ALEXANDER

It shouldn't take too long.

JASON

Depending on?

ALEXANDER

Whether you give her what she wants.

JASON

Oh, that sounds greaaaat.

SFX: The door is closed.

End of episode.