

Do You Know Billy Jackson?

a ten-minute play

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“Do You Know Billy Jackson?”

Cast: 1 man, 1 woman

The Agent - mid 30's - female

The Kid - late teens - male

Set:

A plain table with a chair on both sides.

Synopsis:

The Agent has been working the same case for years now, but she thinks she might have finally found someone who can give her the keys to solving the mystery. If only he would actually tell her anything.

(Lights up on THE AGENT and THE KID sitting on either side of the table. It is a harsh light, like something from an interrogation scene.)

THE AGENT

Do you know Billy Jackson?

THE KID

I don't know. Do you know Billy Jackson? I think that's the better question here.

THE AGENT

I'm just gonna take that as a yes. Sometimes people are a little disoriented when they get here. So, what can you tell me about him?

THE KID

Far as I'm concerned I can't tell you anything.

THE AGENT

C'mon. Give me something. Had you noticed anything peculiar? Any odd habits?

THE KID

He's a teenage boy. I think an odd habit here or there is pretty par for the course.

THE AGENT

Right, but, were there any clues about his true motives?

THE KID

Look, I really don't know what you're trying to get from me. Is he in some sort of trouble? Because I'm not selling him out.

THE AGENT

Is he in...? Of course he's in trouble! And I'd think you'd be more than happy to help us catch him.

THE KID

I don't know what gave you that idea. Anyway, aren't I supposed to be talking to a lawyer or something?

THE AGENT

No. We just need you to answer a few questions so we can-

THE KID

Then you'll have to talk to my lawyer.

THE AGENT

You'd only need a lawyer if you did something wrong.

THE KID

Exactly, so why am I even talking to you in the first place?

THE AGENT

Look, we don't have that much time here, so can you please just tell me what I need to know?

THE KID

What do you mean?

THE AGENT

I mean I just have a few things I need to ask-

THE KID

Not that, you said there's not much time?

THE AGENT

Right. We don't have much time before you have to go.

THE KID

Go where?

THE AGENT

I mean, you do know where you are, right?

THE KID

Some sort of freaky police place.

THE AGENT

Sort of. You do know how you got here, right?

THE KID

Not really. Wait, why don't I know how I got here?

THE AGENT

Do you have any idea what happened last night?

THE KID

Did I get drunk? Is that why I'm here? I don't remember drinking or anything but...

THE AGENT

What do you remember from last night?

THE KID

I was going to hang out with Billy.

THE AGENT

And what did you do with Billy?

THE KID

I don't know. He wanted to take me somewhere. And we got in his truck. And after that...what did we do after that?

THE AGENT

They didn't debrief you. Of course they didn't.

THE KID

What're you talking about?

(THE AGENT stands up and grabs a phone from her pocket. She paces as she dials a number.)

THE AGENT

Yeah. Do you want to explain why you didn't do your job?

THE KID

You're kind of freaking me out now. Where am I? Who are you?

THE AGENT

Yes, I realize how hard it is to break the news. I did it for 50 years!

THE KID

Break the news? Is something wrong with Billy?

THE AGENT

Because that's your job! You get him over the shock. I get the information out of him. And then They take him away.

THE KID

Did something bad happen to Billy? Who's taking me away? Where am I?

THE AGENT

Well I don't want to have to be the one to tell him!

THE KID

Tell me what? Is Billy dead?! What happened? Oh God, what happened last night?

THE AGENT

(to THE KID)

You're the one that's dead.

(to the phone)

We will talk about this later. Right now I need to clean up *your* mess.

THE KID

What do you mean I'm dead? I can't be dead.

THE AGENT

Look kid, I'm sorry, but we have bigger things to worry about here.

THE KID

What's that supposed to mean? Seems like a pretty big deal to me.

THE AGENT

The important thing here is finding Billy Jackson.

THE KID

But if I'm dead, then where is this?

THE AGENT

Focus. We don't have time.

THE KID

Time. What do you mean time? Because apparently I'm all out of that so what more time do I have?

THE AGENT

By my count I'd say we've got about five minutes until you're gone so we need to focus on-

THE KID

I'm not going anywhere nice, am I? That's why you won't tell me anything. Oh God.

THE AGENT

Look, we don't have that info. We're just trying to focus on your last few hours. Where you go from here is not up to us. But hey, don't you think someone else might be watching?

THE KID

How many people are here?

THE AGENT

I mean, who knows. Maybe if you help us... I'm just saying it might help your chances.

THE KID

Will it really?

THE AGENT

I can't guarantee anything. I'm just saying, it wouldn't hurt.

THE KID

But I don't know anything.

THE AGENT

Well come on. We're got four minutes for you to remember so think.

THE KID

How did I die?

THE AGENT

No, the question is *where* did you die? So we can find Billy-

THE KID

What does Billy have to do with anything?!

THE AGENT

Kid, take a hint. He's the one who killed you.

THE KID

(beat)

You take that back.

THE AGENT

Don't you remember anything?

THE KID

I remember that Billy isn't a murderer. That's what I remember.

THE AGENT

Don't take it personally. You're not the first one.

THE KID

What?

THE AGENT

Billy Jackson is currently suspected of 27 murders, make that 28, across 7 states. All of a similar nature. We've been trying to track him for a while now, but he keeps evading us. Kill a few people here, cross a few state lines, give it a couple months and then kill some more, over and over. But we believe you're his first in this area, so if we can just figure out where he took you, we should be able to send that info down and finally catch him.

THE KID

By down, do you mean like, DOWN down, or-

THE AGENT

To the police. How would that even make any sense?

THE KID

I don't know! None of this makes any sense. And I'm still not sure I believe you.

THE AGENT

Here, just look for your pulse.

(THE KID puts two fingers to his neck and feels around. Realizing he can't find it, he gets frantic and checks his wrist. He is still unable to find anything.)

THE KID

I...I can't...I really am dead.

THE AGENT

Hard to have a pulse when Billy took out your heart.

THE KID

What?

THE AGENT

And most of your other internal organs.

THE KID

He wouldn't...

THE AGENT

Your friend's a real freak. Now can we move on?

THE KID

Why would he do that to me?

THE AGENT

I told you, he does it to a lot of people. So give us something. What do you know about last night?

THE KID

We got in his truck. He started driving. Oh man, is my body in that truck?

THE AGENT

Doesn't matter. We have very little time left, and we need more. What direction was he going?

THE KID

I'm really not good with directions. Or, I guess, I wasn't good with directions.

THE AGENT

You don't give us info, then it's not going to help you get somewhere nice after this.

THE KID

Okay! I'm...I met him at his house.

THE AGENT

Did he say anything about where he was taking you?

THE KID

There was something about him finding this really cool area.

THE AGENT

More details. This is not the time to be vague.

THE KID

It was just some cool spot.

THE AGENT

And that was a normal thing? This was something you guys did?

THE KID

Not really. No. We usually just watched movies or like, normal stuff.

THE AGENT

How long were you driving?

THE KID

I don't remember!

THE AGENT

I really need you to try here! We've got maybe a couple minutes.

THE KID

I am! But it's not exactly easy to remember anything when your entrails are spilled everywhere and... Oh.

THE AGENT

You remember. Good. More details. Now!

THE KID

Billy. He really did. Why?

THE AGENT

Don't focus on why, focus on where.

THE KID

I thought we were friends. I thought I knew him.

THE AGENT

Where? Physical landmarks. An address. Give me anything!

THE KID

I even let him borrow my Back to the Future Blu-ray set! And he never returned it!

THE AGENT

If you want him brought to justice we need to know more.

THE KID

Do you realize what he did to me?

THE AGENT

I am very aware. Now give me details!

THE KID

We were driving out into the country, somewhere real rural.

THE AGENT

Good. What else?

THE KID

We stopped for gas.

THE AGENT

Then?

THE KID

And then we kept driving until we reached...oh.

THE AGENT

Oh? Oh what?

THE KID

That would make sense.

THE AGENT

Just spit it out!

THE KID

Where we went. It was where he-

(Lights go out on THE KID. When they come back up, he is gone.)

THE AGENT

And this is why we follow procedure.

(THE AGENT pulls her phone back out.)

Yeah. Go ahead and send the next one in.

(Lights out.)