

EXCEPTIONALS

INTERVIEW 24

An original web series screenplay  
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## **INTERVIEW 24**

**FADE IN**

### **1. INT. STATE PRISON - VISITATION ROOM - DAY**

DONALD TRENT sits waiting in a prison visitation room. He has a briefcase and clipboard with him.

The door opens and JIM MARTIN enters. He's in prison clothes and looks around confused. The door closes behind him.

Donald stands to greet Jim. Donald puts out his hand to shake Jim's hand. Jim tentatively goes to shake his hand back.

DONALD  
Hello, Jim Martin, I'm -

JIM  
I don't get this.

DONALD  
What?

JIM  
Where's the guards?

DONALD  
I asked them not to be present.

JIM  
There's a trick. Didn't they tell you I'm a dangerous man?

DONALD  
I thought it best to speak alone, considering...

Donald takes a seat and indicates that Jim should take a seat opposite him.

Jim sits.

JIM

You're not my lawyer.  
You're not from the parole  
people.

DONALD

One of the people on your  
last Parole Board contacted  
a psychiatrist who  
contacted the man I work  
with.

JIM

You a psychiatrist?

DONALD

No, I'm a Doctor though. I  
study people who have  
unusual traits.

JIM

What do you know about my  
traits?

DONALD

Only what you told an  
earlier Parole Board -  
what's in your file and an  
observation from a previous  
psychiatrist.

JIM

They didn't believe me so I  
don't try that no more.

DONALD

You said you cause people  
to act a certain way.

JIM

That's what I said.

DONALD

What way is that?

JIM

Look - what - why am I  
talking to you?

DONALD

I can help get you out of  
here.

JIM

That's what my second  
lawyer said. Something  
like, oh yeah in 10 years,  
which was like 15 years  
ago. Then my last lawyer  
said something like that,  
too. Don't mind if I'm  
skeptical.

DONALD

I know people in the  
federal government who have  
much more pull. They helped  
me arrange this meeting  
with you. They convinced  
the warden to let me see  
you alone.

JIM

What do you wanna know?

DONALD

Just what I asked - how do  
you believe you cause  
people to act a certain  
way.

JIM

I don't know how it works.  
It just does. If I get  
angry, then they do, too.

DONALD

Just like that?

JIM

Just like that. I don't  
'spect you'd believe me.

DONALD

Can you prove it?

Jim smiles.

JIM

I don't think you want me to prove it. Not sure I could anymore anyway. But let me tell you this: when I came to this place, they had maybe one riot in 30 years, right? My first month here, there was a riot every other day. I mean guys going ape-shit, guards, too. Said I started it - ins - what's that word?

DONALD

You "incited" them?

JIM

Yeah. Said I incited the riots. Didn't know how. I spent weeks in solitary. That made it better when I wasn't out with everyone else.

DONALD

So with you in solitary confinement, no more riots.

JIM

Yeah. I got to like it in there. It hit me that I was causing it then, too. I wish I'd have known that before - well, before I came here.

DONALD

So the riots stopped and you got out of solitary?

JIM

I didn't get the thing,  
the, you know, the  
connection - not right way  
- I'd get pissed off, bunch  
of guys around me would get  
pissed off. I'd be back in  
solitary.

DONALD

They haven't had riots  
lately, then?

JIM

No. When I finally figured  
out what was going on, I  
decided to fix it. Get my  
head straight. They gave me  
stuff to read. I read a lot  
of Buddhist stuff.  
Meditation. Eight-fold path  
and right intention. Really  
worked on that. Still  
working on it.

DONALD

So you don't get angry  
anymore?

JIM

I don't get much of  
anything. When you take  
away those thoughts -  
desires, jealousies,  
wanting things, you know -  
life gets easier. Time gets  
easier here.

DONALD

So nothing pisses you off?  
Doesn't it make you angry  
how you got in here?

JIM

I was getting into fights  
all the time. I'd have

ended up here one way or another.

DONALD  
But your wife, I mean...

Jim looks down.

DONALD  
The jury sure didn't believe you or your lawyer.

Jim shakes his head.

JIM  
What's done is done. No point in going over it again.

DONALD  
And the judge - he said he never -

JIM  
Not talking about this.

DONALD  
I guess he was angry, too, huh?

Jim starts repeating a mantra quietly to himself.

JIM  
"It's my resolve. I control my thoughts." "My resolve. My thoughts."

DONALD  
Your lawyer antagonized the judge, too. Everyone was angry.

Jim stands up and turns his back to Donald. Jim continues to repeat the phrase to himself:

JIM  
"My resolve." "My thoughts."

DONALD  
Didn't I read that she was  
like 105 pounds? Small  
woman, your wife.

Jim speaks through the door, then immediately goes back to the mantra.

JIM  
Guards. "My resolve."

DONALD  
Not very likely that it was  
self-defense.

Jim starts getting more agitated. Donald does, too.

JIM  
Guards!

DONALD  
Damn near every bone in her  
body was broken, yet you  
said she just kept coming!

Jim turns and glares at Donald.

Jim gets angry.

JIM  
You don't know a goddamn  
thing.

Donald stands.

DONALD  
You're a liar! You fucking  
animal - they should've  
killed you!

Donald slams his clipboard down on the floor.

JIM  
I'm no liar.

Donald throws the chair between them to the side and steps up to Jim.

Donald grabs for Jim's throat.

Jim pushes Donald back and Donald stumbles down. Jim moves away from him.

DONALD  
I'll kill you!

Donald lunges at Jim and Jim throws him down.

Donald gets up and wildly swings at Jim's head. Jim dodges.

Jim punches Donald in the stomach and Donald goes down.

Jim grabs Donald from behind and gets Donald in a headlock. Jim is on his knees with Donald in front of him.

Donald thrashes in Jim's hold, but can't get away.

DONALD  
Fuck! I'll kill - you  
fuck!!!

JIM  
I'll snap you boy!

Donald yells and shrieks in incoherent rage.

Jim closes his eyes. He squeezes Donald and Donald looks like he can't breathe.

Jim starts to relax as though he's begun to meditate.

Jim lets go of Donald and Donald falls to the floor gasping for air.

Jim stands up and backs away from Donald. Jim goes to the chair that was thrown down and sets it upright again. Jim looks more relaxed now and he leans on the chair.

Donald rolls over onto his back. Donald doesn't seem angry anymore either. Donald sits up.

JIM  
I guess you got what you  
needed.

Donald gets up and picks up his clipboard and other items that he brought. Donald is clearly embarrassed.

DONALD

Um - yes - I'm - that was -

JIM

Not like you, right?

Donald shakes his head.

Donald dials on his cell phone as Jim talks.

JIM

I can tell you it was quite  
a day in court that day.  
Quite a day.

Jim chuckles a bit.

Donald chuckles, but it's from nervousness.

DONALD

(to someone on the phone)  
Yes, I'm ready to leave.

Jim sits down in a meditative pose and closes his eyes.

DONALD

I'll tell my people about  
this - about what you can  
do. You'll be hearing from  
us.

JIM

Sure I will kid. Sure.

Donald exits through another door.

**FADE OUT**