

EXCEPTIONALS

INTERVIEW 7

An original web series screenplay
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INTERVIEW 7

FADE IN

1. INT. PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL - CONSULTATION ROOM - DAY

CANDICE, a patient at the hospital is sitting at a table. She is being interviewed by DONALD and ABE who are guests at the facility. Donald sits across from Candice and Abe sits to her side.

A video camera sits on a tripod behind and to the side of Donald.

They are at the beginning of an interview after introductions.

DONALD
You told your doctor you
heard voices. Specific
voices -- from real
people's heads.

CANDICE
I didn't say that.

DONALD
He wrote down what you
said. It's why he contacted
Dr. Morris.

CANDICE
That's bullshit. What do
you want from me?

DONALD
We --

Donald winces a bit and loses his train of thought.

DONALD
Look -- we're trying to
help you.

CANDICE
I didn't ask for you.

DONALD
You're incarcerated here.
You don't get that kind of
say.

CANDICE
Why do you have to film
this?

DONALD
I told you -- we document
all our interviews with
patients.

CANDICE
Turn it off.

DONALD
Your doctor gave us
permission.

CANDICE
I'm not talking.

DONALD
We're just trying --

Abe gets up and goes to the camera.

Donald looks at Abe.

DONALD
What are you doing?

ABE
Just for a little bit.

DONALD
We're not --

Abe gives him a look.

DONALD
Fine.

Donald looks back at Candice.

DONALD
Your doctor doesn't believe
you have schizophrenia.

CANDICE
I'm taking my meds. What
more do you want from me?

Donald is impatient and seems to lose track of his thoughts for a
brief moment.

DONALD
You know you don't have
schizophrenia. You told
your doctor that.

CANDICE
I didn't say that.

DONALD
It's in your file.

CANDICE
I was put in here because
I'm schizophrenic.

Donald winces.

DONALD
Dammit! Stop lying to us.
We're trying to help you.

ABE
Donald.

DONALD
There are people out there
who would hurt you and you
are looking at the only two
people who can help you --

ABE
Donald!

DONALD

-- so you'd better start
being honest with us.

Abe stands up.

ABE
(to Donald)
Let's you and I talk
outside.

Donald looks at Abe then back at Candice.

Donald stands up then snaps back at Candice.

DONALD
Stop it!

Candice looks very disturbed and confused.

Donald and Abe step outside and close the door.

2. INT. PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL - HALLWAY OUTSIDE CONSULTATION ROOM - DAY

Donald and Abe stand in the hallway just outside the door to the
consultation room. Donald closes the door.

Donald indicates that they should move farther down the hall.

DONALD
A little bit farther.

ABE
No, I've got it.

Donald starts to relax. He nods in agreement and they stay outside the
door.

DONALD
These people just piss... she
is so stupid.

ABE
These people? You mean
people like me.

DONALD

You know what I mean.

ABE

Well, I can't read minds,
so you should explain it.

DONALD

You know she's being an
idiot, Abe. She has this
amazing ability, yet she
doesn't realize the power -
- or danger with it.

ABE

We have one job here: we
just identify them and then
we see if we can get them
to Dr. Morris if HE
authorizes it.

DONALD

We may not have that kind
of time with her. Other
people know she's here.

Pause.

ABE

What do you suggest?

DONALD

Let's just drop it on her -
- all of it. See if she
makes a good choice.

ABE

That is crazy.

Donald shakes his head.

ABE

This is very impulsive of
you. I'm surprised. I think
she's affecting your
judgment.

DONALD

She keeps getting into my damn head and it's hard not to be distracted. You'd think she'd have figured out that I know what she's doing.

ABE

She's not wise. She is strong though.

DONALD

At least a five. You know Morris'll want to see her.

ABE

But that's not our decision.

DONALD

Indulge me.

ABE

We'll do it your way, but we will let Dr. Morris know we didn't follow protocol.

Donald nods and they walk back in the room.

3. INT. PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL - CONSULTATION ROOM - DAY

Donald and Abe enter the room. Candice looks indignant.

Donald and Abe sit down again.

DONALD

Here's the thing --

He winces.

DONALD

We know you can read minds. And I know that you keep trying to do it with me.

She looks mortified.

DONALD

There's no sense lying to us, because we can both sense it.

CANDICE

You can read minds?

DONALD

No, but I've been around telepaths long enough that I can tell when they try to read my mind.

CANDICE

Telepaths?

DONALD

Yes, mind readers... and others.

CANDICE

There are people who can do what I do?

ABE

Yes. You're rare. It's why we're here.

She looks at Donald.

CANDICE

What's all that 1 plus 1 equals 2, 2 plus 2 equals 4 --

Donald laughs.

DONALD

Anytime someone tries to read my mind, I can tell, so I just start thinking of math.

CANDICE

It's weird.

DONALD

It's distracting what
you're doing, I can tell
you that.

She looks at Abe.

CANDICE

And you, what's with you? I
can't read you.

ABE

I have the opposite ability
as you. I'm a suppressive
telepath. My mind can't be
read and, when I try, I can
suppress telepathic
activity around me so you
can't read other people's
minds.

CANDICE

Telepathy. I never knew
what this was. I mean I
never knew anyone called it
anything -- you know, named
it.

ABE

We do need to get you to
Dr. Morris -- he studies
telepaths.

CANDICE

What did you mean danger?

DONALD

There are people out there
who want to control people
like you or worse -- and
I'm sure they are looking
for you now.

CANDICE

How do I know you're not
these people?

ABE

Candice.

She looks at him.

CANDICE

Everyone lies all the time.

ABE

Candice, I know you're used
to people thinking one
thing and saying another. I
don't have to read minds to
understand that. I'm going
to relax my power and I
want you to listen to what
I'm saying. My words will
echo my thoughts.

She stares at him.

ABE

Can you read my mind now?

CANDICE

Yes.

ABE

When I was a boy, there was
a man in the village I
lived in -- a criminal who
ran a large crime gang. He
also owned some legitimate
businesses -- my mother
worked for him in one of
those. He could read minds.
One day, he and I both
learned that he couldn't
read my mind. It threatened
him -- I genuinely
frightened him. My mother
knew I was in danger so she
got me far away from there.
That was the last I ever
saw her. He tortured her

and killed her to find me.
She never talked.

Candice is disturbed by Abe's thoughts. She's desperate to talk and her words come out rushed and rambling as she shakes.

CANDICE

It's so hard to keep it out
-- overwhelms me. They just
-- bombard me -- the
negative -- lies, insults -
- I can't -- I just -- you
know? It's hard to be
around people. It's so
hard. I can't tell
anyone...

Abe takes her hand across the table. He nods.

CANDICE

When I was 14, my step-dad
found out about this
ability. Said I had some
kind of mental problem --
told my mom, so he got her
to help him commit me. But
it's really because he knew
I knew the kind of sick
shit he thought. I ran away
from home then. I've been
living wherever, doing what
I can. This thing helps
sometimes -- I can tell
when people are distracted
so I can make a few bucks
now and again.

Abe and Donald listen as she continues.

CANDICE

I can't stop the thoughts -
- I haven't felt safe...
it's like one long tunnel -
- with no -- there's no end
--

ABE

There are real dangers out
there.

CANDICE

What do you need from me?

DONALD

Thank you for being honest
with us. Can we...?

He indicates the video camera.

She nods.

He gets up and turns the camera on.

He sits back down.

DONALD

Now we've told you what
we're here for. Tell us
when you can first remember
you were able to read
someone's thoughts.

FADE OUT