

Richard

Richard Sides

START HERE

ARIELLA

Who are you? What do you want?

RICHARD

My name is Richard, but you most likely know me from that.

He lifts up his arm stiffly to point at the cassette player.

ARIELLA

You're... the guy from the tape?

RICHARD

Yes, I am.

The tape starts to sound like static, screams and song vocals only surfacing for a second.

RICHARD

Ariella, I need your help. I was killed years ago, but they arrested my best friend instead of the true killer.

ARIELLA

(Fearful)

You, you won't kill me, right? And the umm, music, is there a way to shut it off?

Richard groans, resembling a death rattle, whilst he turns to face the cassette player, which stops playing.

RICHARD

I can't kill you, ghosts can't kill those who are alive. Very common stereotype that isn't true.

Ariella tilts her head.

RICHARD (CON'T)

Ariella, this is truly urgent. You're the only one I see fit to help me. Ariella, when you wake up, search "Richard Knox murder, 1987."

ARIELLA

Why me?

RICHARD

Don't ask questions you don't have the answers too yet.

ARIELLA

Great, but, how will this case be re-opened after so long? How will that work?

RICHARD

It will work. Everything happens for a reason.

END SCENE

START SCENE

RICHARD

Does it all make sense now?

ARIELLA

(Defensive)

How come you couldn't just tell me up front it was her?

RICHARD

I needed you to find out for yourself, who your mother really is.

ARIELLA

(stuttering)

This- this can't be right!

ARIELLA (CON'T)

No wonder she didn't tell me about her younger years when I asked. I should've known that Sandra Parks looked too familiar. How did she get away with it?

RICHARD

Framed it all on my best friend, but now she can't run any further.
Ariella seals up the box, and sits for a moment taking everything in.

RICHARD

It's time to put this all to rest, Ariella. My family and I need this.

ARIELLA

(Crying)

I can't! I just can't! It's the right thing to do, but I can't!

RICHARD

You must, please.

ARIELLA

You just chose me to help you because I happen to be the daughter of the woman you once loved, who you thought you could trust! Why not anyone else?!

Richard is silent. Light flickers.

RICHARD

(calmly)

How would you feel if you found out with the cops showing up at the door and taking her away? Would that have sat any better with you?

ARIELLA

Either way, I wouldn't have liked it.

RICHARD

It wouldn't have worked any other way. All the evidence is here. The police wouldn't believe anyone else, not after the case has been supposedly solved for... 50 years.