

SPADE
EPISODE 5: MERCEDES

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INT. CAR / OUTSIDE SCHOOL - MORNING

KAREN and her young daughter, MERCEDES (9), are sat in the car - KAREN looks fraught with fear. She smiles.

KAREN

Come on, sweetheart. It's not *so* bad, is it? Why don't you just-

MERCEDES

No.

MERCEDES folds her arms in defiance.

KAREN

But you've got to go.

MERCEDES

(stubborn)

No I don't. Who says?

KAREN

...Well, everyone, I suppose. I'm not sure if it's the government, the council or-

MERCEDES

Well, I don't care! I say what happens to me, and I say I'm not going.

KAREN

What if I promise to buy you a new barbie doll if you go and-

MERCEDES

Urgh. Barbie?

MERCEDES looks at KAREN disapprovingly.

MERCEDES (CONT'D)

Are you serious? Only babies play with Barbie!

KAREN

Oh, I thought you liked-

MERCEDES

Don't be so stupid all the time, Mum! Cor. As if.

KAREN

You're turning into a right madam, do you know that? I don't know what's got into you recently.

MERCEDES

I'm not going to school today, and that's the end of that. Now drive me home.

KAREN

No, you're going!

MERCEDES

I'm not!

KAREN

You are.

MERCEDES

I'm not!

KAREN

(screaming)

You fucking are now get out of the fucking car before I throw you out!

Silence.

KAREN looks over at a parent standing outside the gate who is in shock at what they've just heard - KAREN waves and smiles reassuringly.

MERCEDES

I tell you what, I'll make a deal with you. I don't go to school today, and I don't tell Dad about the affair you're having with Mr Fernham, my form tutor.

MERCEDES smirks - knowing that she's won the battle. KAREN in turn deflates, knowing full well that MERCEDES has indeed won the battle.

TITLE: SPADE

EXT. OUTSIDE BILL'S HOUSE - MORNING

The front door opens and we see BILL tentatively step aside - he squints at the brightness of the morning, raising a hand to the sky to block the sun.

BILL

(to himself)

Je-sus christ.

He yawns wildly and tries to shake of the tiredness.

BILL (CONT'D)
(to himself)
Come on, Bill. You can do this!
Time to get fit. Time to get...
fit. You can do this... Come on...

BILL begins jogging on the spot, psyching himself up. Until eventually he decides to just go for it and he starts running.

He breaths well - making large inhales and deliberately deep exhales.

He smiles to himself.

BILL (CONT'D)
(to himself)
Ah, this isn't so bad. Yeah, I
reckon I could do this.

He speeds up a little bit.

But suddenly, a sharp, shooting pain in BILL's side causes him to yelp out in pain.

BILL (CONT'D)
What the fuck?! Ough! Bloody
hell... What on earth?

He tries stretching his back to relieve the pain.

BILL (CONT'D)
Arggh!

But it only makes it worse.

Suddenly his phone starts ringing - it's attached to his arm in a runners armband.

BILL (CONT'D)
Ah, typical. Of course you'd ring
now, you couldn't wait could you?

BILL starts talking to the phone.

He tries to answer it, with some difficulty. He then tries to place the phone to his ear whilst it's still in the armband.

BILL (CONT'D)
He... Hello- he... hello? Can you
hear me?

KAREN (O.S.)
(distant)
Is that Stacey Spade?

BILL
Hello? One sec...

BILL rips the armband off so he can talk properly.

BILL (CONT'D)
(to himself)
Fucking thing. What a load of
bollox!

KAREN (O.S.)
Excuse me?

BILL
(to KAREN)
Oh, not you! Just this armband
thing I'm wearing.

KAREN (O.S.)
Armband?

BILL
Yeah, it's for running.

KAREN (O.S.)
Oh, I didn't know you needed
armbands for running. Is that just
incase you fall over?

BILL
(frustrated)
What? No. It's not an armband like
the *armbands* you wear for swimming,
it holds your phone whilst you run.
You must have seen them before!?

KAREN (O.S.)
(unsure)
Oh, yeah.

BILL wants to scream with frustration.

BILL
Anyway, what do you want?

KAREN (O.S.)
I'm looking for STACEY, STACEY
SPADE.

BILL
It's Bill.

KAREN (O.S.)
Okay, but I'd like to speak to
STACEY.

He grits his teeth. He contemplates telling her, but stops himself.

BILL
If you tell me, I'll tell her.
Okay?

KAREN (O.S.)
Okay, you got a pen?

BILL
I don't need a pen.

KAREN (O.S.)
To write it down?

BILL
It's fine, just tell me. I'll remember.

KAREN (O.S.)
Oh, do you have one of them
photographic memories or something?

BILL
Yes.

KAREN (O.S.)
(impressed)
Oh, wow! That's great. Are you like
a clairvoyant then?

BILL
A what?

KAREN (O.S.)
You know, one of those really smart
people.

BILL
I think you mean *savant*.

KAREN (O.S.)
No, I don't.

BILL
You do.

KAREN (O.S.)
I know what a servant is! And
that's not what I mean.

BILL
Okay terrific, is that the whole
message then or?

KAREN (O.S.)

I haven't started yet! Have you been writing this all down? Sorry, no. It's my daughter. She's terribly, terribly, ill and I don't know what's wrong with her. I think she's been poisoned.

CUT TO:

INT. MERCEDES'S BEDROOM - SOMETIME LATER

BILL and KAREN are looking down at MERCEDES who is pretending to be asleep.

BILL

How long has she been like this?

KAREN

Oh, I don't know? A couple of hours. Maybe? If that makes sense?

BILL

What did she have for breakfast?

KAREN

Frosties... Do you think it was them? 'Cos I had some too! Do you think I'm going to get ill?!

BILL

I doubt it was the Frosties.

KAREN

Thank goodness for that!

BILL steps forward.

BILL

Mercedes... Mer-ce-des? Can you hear me?

BILL turns back to KAREN.

BILL (CONT'D)

(sarcastic)

Beautiful name by the way.

KAREN

(genuine)

Aw, thanks. I chose it me-self.

He turns back to face MERCEDES.

BILL
What's wrong with you MERCEDES, are
you feeling ill?

MERCEDES
(groaning)
Yes, very ill.

BILL
And where does it hurt?

MERCEDES
(groaning)
Everywhere.

BILL
Everywhere?

MERCEDES
(groaning)
Mhmm.

BILL
Oh no. That's bad.
(to KAREN)
Very bad.

KAREN covers her mouth in shock.

BILL (CONT'D)
I'm afraid, we're going to have to
chop everything off. That's the
only way we're going to cure you.

KAREN
What?

MERCEDES
No! I'm not really sick. Mummy told
me to do it. Don't cut anything
off. Please don't!

BILL turns and smiles at KAREN.

BILL
It's a miracle!

MERCEDES
Mummy, please tell the old man not
cut me into pieces. I feel fine, I
promise.

KAREN
(to BILL)
You can't tell the school!
(MORE)

KAREN (CONT'D)

If they find out she's not really ill, then I'm scared they'll stop inviting me to the parent-teacher conferences. Please! Please, promise me you won't tell them?

BILL

What? I'm not going to-

He studies KAREN for a second, but suddenly she bursts into tears and falls to the floor.

BILL (CONT'D)

(to himself)

Je-sus christ.

(to KAREN and MERCEDES)

Right, so, if my services are no longer required here, I'll be on my way. Expect an invoice.

BILL leaves the room.

INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

BILL walks down the stairs, but KAREN quickly follows.

KAREN

Umm, excuse me? Bill?

BILL stops and turns. KAREN is wiping away a tear.

KAREN (CONT'D)

Can I have a quick word?

He check his watch.

BILL

It'll cost you another hour.

KAREN

It's just, Mercedes, my daughter. You know the little girl in there? I love her and everything, but I just... you know? Really... Really... dislike her. And I was just wondering, whether, you know, there was anything you could do?

BILL

To make her less unlikeable?

KAREN
(suspicious)
Yeaaaaaaah. Or, you know? To umm...
Get rid of her.

BILL
You want me to get rid of your
daughter?

KAREN
(nervous)
Ha-ah! No- no, when you put it like
that, it sounds terrible, doesn't
it?

BILL
And slightly illegal.

KAREN
What I meant was, is there anyway,
in your professional experience,
that someone could be... *silenced*?
If they knew something about you
that you didn't want anyone else to
find out.

BILL reluctantly walks back upstairs and stands in front of
KAREN.

BILL
What does she have on you?

KAREN
(nervous)
Umm, well, kid's have ears, don't
they? They listen to everything.

BILL
They also have mouths.

KAREN
Exactly! Right? Yeah. Totally.

BILL
Do you want me to have a word with
her?

KAREN
Would you? Yeah, that would be
terrific. You can charge me
whatever you like. Or we could come
to some sort of *arrangement*? That's
if you're not married, but even if
you are, it wouldn't bother me.

BILL stares at KAREN for a moment - studying her. He rolls his eyes and walks back in to MERCEDES' bedroom.

INT. MERCEDES'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

MERCEDES is dancing around the room taking selfies of herself with an iPad.

BILL
Listen, *Mercedes*, I need to talk to you about something.

MERCEDES
Get lost! Can't you see I'm busy?!

BILL
(mock polite)
...If you could just put the phone down, then we could-

MERCEDES
Urgh. It's *not* a phone, it's an iPad. Idiot.

BILL
(disbelief)
You are calling *me* an idiot?

MERCEDES stops dancing and looks at BILL.

MERCEDES
I don't see any other idiots around here, do you?

BILL smiles - somewhat in admiration, but also to prevent himself from screaming with anger.

INT. HALLWAY - SOON AFTER

There is a huge smash and then we hear MERCEDES scream. Her bedroom door quickly swings open and BILL steps out. He smiles at KAREN - who is waiting there patiently.

BILL
She promises to keep her mouth shut.

BILL walks past KAREN - who is in shock, and heads down the stairs and out the front door.

We hear MERCEDES crying in the background

END OF EPISODE 5