

# The Truth Behind Closed Doors

By Jessica Repta

The night was off. Sarah could tell something was off with her dad. He looked at the wall as if he did something wrong. She sat there and looked at him. He was always at work and was home maybe 1-2 days a week. Her family always had tons of money. Something did not sit right with Sarah about her dad. Her friends always joke around and say he's in the mafia, or is a serial killer, but she never believed them. But tonight those moments replayed through her head and started to connect the dots. Maybe her friends were right, maybe he was a killer.

That Morning, Sarah woke up and ran downstairs to see her mom making her favorite breakfast, banana pancakes with cheesy scrambled eggs. "Hey mom, where is dad? I haven't seen him in like 6 days, I'm starting to get worried." Sarah asked her mom. "He's at work and he should be home tonight before dinner." her Mom replied, "You should start getting ready for school sweetheart, you're running a little late today, and your older brother Noah will drop you off and pick you up." "Mom he doesn't need to pick me up, remember I'm going to play kickball with some friends." "Sorry hun, I forgot about that, I'll let Noah know" "Thanks mom, love you" "love you too hunny"

When Sarah got to her room, she got dressed, put on makeup, and went downstairs. Noah texted her "I'm here, please hurry up, I have something to tell you but it stays between us" Knowing your brother he's probably going to ask about girls. She grabbed her bag and said goodbye to her mom. When she got to Noah's car, she asked, "What do you want, loser?" Noah replies, "Ryder is still missing, it's been 2 days since I've seen or talked to him. Can you try to contact him since you're his favorite person?" Ryder and Sarah have always been close. "I'll try to but he hasn't been talking to me either" Sarah said.

When they got to the school, Sarah got out and started walking in. As she walked in the air was cold and damp. Everyone turned their head to her. Sarah is one of the popular athletic girls, but at the same time she is lonely because everyone thinks she is like her dad. As she continues to walk through the hallway people are whispering just loud enough for her to hear "Isn't her dad a serial killer" "No, I thought he is in the mafia" "Killer" "I bet she killed her missing brother." Sarah's eyes started to tear up. How come people can be so cruel, but yet, still be her friends. That's when she saw him. Jake, the most popular guy in school, walking to his first class. Sarah has liked Jake since the 7th grade. They are now in 11th. As he's walking into the room he sees Sarah. He notices she is crying and runs over to her. "You okay?" he asks. "I guess, it's just people keep talking about my dad, and Ryder" "I'm sorry to hear that, Why don't you swing by later, I have something to ask you" Jake says "Ok, sounds good, I'll let Noah know, I'll see you at lunch. Bye"

When Sarah was done with class, she went to find Jake. She found him hanging with the popular boys. As she walked up to them she overheard them say "Are you going to ask her out already? She is into you and Noah accepts, "Shoot your shot." You giggled when you found out that the most popular guy in school was too much of a chicken to ask you out. When you met up with him, he was all red. "Hey there Sarah," He says. "What's up, dummy" you said in a flirty voice. As soon as he went to reply she saw her 5 best friends, Mary, Lisa, Macy, Holly and Kyra. Kyra quickly comes over and hugs Sarah "Hey girly, I haven't seen you since Ryder went missing. Have you had any luck finding him" Kyra says in a concerned voice. "I bet her serial killer of a dad did something to him" Holly said while giving Sarah a death stare and laughing. Holly always said stuff about Sarah's dad being a serial killer. Jake looked at Sarah and he saw that she was heartbroken by what Holly said. "Why do you have to say things like that Holly, You're not worthy of being a friend of Sarahs, if all you're going to talk about is her dad" Jake said to Holly in a stern voice. Holly rolled her eyes and walked away. Jake pulls Sarah in for a hug.

They all started to walk to the lunch room. They have a specific table in the cafeteria. It's in a corner in the dark. After they get their food they sit down. Jake and Kyra sit next to Sarah. All of Jake's friends sit on the opposite side of the table. Holly, Lisa and Mary sit at a different table. At Sarah's table they all talk about their families. Sarah stays quiet. Jake looks at Sarah and says "You good" "Yeah, It has just been a long day."

After lunch is over, they all have the same class, Agriculture. Before the school year started they all planned to take the class and surprisingly they all got in. It was their favorite class. When they walk in they find their teacher, Ms. Bermer, crying. Their class fish, Barney, had passed away. So during Agriculture, they didn't do any work. They fed the animals and comforted Ms. Bermer.

The school day was done and it was time to go home. The group packed up and walked out to their cars. Noah was there waiting for Sarah. "What's up guys," Noah said. "I haven't seen you all in a bit and Jake can I have a talk with you?" Jake had a confused look on his face but walked over to him. "What's up Noah?" "So I know you're going to ask Sarah out tonight. SHE has liked you for years, but she can't come to your house tonight. So if you want to ask her out, do it right now." "Okay, well I'll do it later because I have a perfect plan to ask her and right now is not a good time." Jake said to Noah. "Okay well i'm taking her home so say goodbye." "Ok" Jake walks over to Sarah and hugs her goodbye. "Have a good night and text me if you need anything." Jake says that everyday to her. "Okay, talk to you later."

Once Sarah gets in the car she gets a text from a random number. "Your dad is a killer, Sarah, He killed your brother the other night, I saw it with my own eyes, don't trust him -a"Then a second text came through, "Don't tell anyone about this or Jake is next." Sarah was freaked out, but she didn't say anything. As soon as she got home all she could think about was her dad and the text. She walked in the door and there he was.

Damian, Sarah's dad. Sarah freaked out and ran up to her room. Noah saw Sarah run up to her room and ran up to her. Sarah sat on her bed and thought about everything. Her dad's schedule lined up with her brother's disappearance, the missing kid, the bank that was robbed. Sarah put everything together, maybe Holly was right, maybe her dad was a killer. Noah knocked on the door, " You okay, I saw you run up here, please let me in" Sarah didn't move. How can she explain to her own brother that their dad might be a killer? " Please go away, I need space" Sarah finally managed to say. Downstairs, Damian was talking to Sarah's mom, " Whatever I'll sleep on the couch, goodnight." Noah overheard their argument and it didn't sound too good. THE main thing that stuck out to Noah when hearing his dad talk was when he brought up Ryder. He knew his father had something to do with his disappearance. Meanwhile upstairs, Sarah started a board of all the cases in their town and connected them to her dad's schedule. They all lined up. She finally heard her mom go to bed. Sarah did not feel good. Having her dad home gave her a bad feeling. Little did Sarah know, Noah had already connected the dots and called the cops.

Around 6 am Sarah woke up to hearing police sirens. When Noah called the cops they didn't show up till 8 hours later. Sarah didn't know what was happening so she quickly threw on Jake's sweatshirt and a pair of shorts. She ran downstairs to see her dad in cuffs. Sarah was so confused because she didn't call them. SHE pulled out her phone and texted Jake. " Can you come over, it's urgent" SHE knew he was up because he told her he gets up at 5 to go workout. Her phone went off and she saw a text from Jake " Yeah I'm on my way, you okay, did he hurt you" " I'm okay just need support right now" Sarah replied. She asked one of the officers what's going on. The officer told her they found Ryder's body in the woods, and the fingerprints were her dads. Sarah started to cry, Noah ran to her and slowly lowered her to the ground. Jake arrived, and ran to the scene. He ran into the house and saw Noah cradling Sarah as she was crying. He ran over to her and took Noah's spot. Noah started to tear up. THE thought of his own father murdering his son did not sit right with him. Anger built up in Noah and he ran and punched his father in the face. Then he went and sat next to Jake and Sarah.

Sarah later found out that her dad committed all of those crimes to get back at his boss for killing his dad. Sarah hated her dad for not telling her about his job. She hated everything about him. The main thing was that he had killed her best friend, her brother, Ryder. Sarah was too traumatized to go back to school. She only kept contact with Jake and Kyra.

The truth about Sarah's family was dark. But they were good at keeping behind closed doors.