

INTERVIEW WITH A SERIAL KILLER

WRITTEN BY

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FADE IN.

EXT. PRISON

Barbed wire fence surrounds the perimeter of the building.

INT. INTERVIEW ROOM

HERCULES GERALDO SMOTHERS, (20), dressed in prison whites, hat, interviews with RUM PODER (50) slicked hair, goatee, glasses.

We hear "Time is on my side" by the Rolling Stones.

CLOSE on Hercules' hand cuffed to metal bar.

WIDE to Hercules and Rum sitting across from each other.

Hercules rolls a lollipop around his mouth.

MODERATOR (O.S.)

This is the last known interview of
serial killer Hercules Geraldo
Smothers.

CLOSE on Rum.

RUM

Good evening ladies and gentlemen,
welcome to another edition of
Execution Day. I am your host Rum
Poder. Today we interview notorious
serial killer Hercules Geraldo
Smothers.

CLOSE on Hercules. He pulls out lollipop.

RUM (CONT'D)

Before we get started, I like your
hat. Where did you get it?

HERCULES

Parting gift from the warden.

Rum nods head, smiles.

RUM

Well, today's the day. How do you
feel?

HERCULES

I feel great, very angry, but overall, I feel great.

RUM

What led you to this point in your life that you have built up so much rage and anger?

HERCULES

Listen motor oil hair.

Rum leans away from table wrinkles forehead.

HERCULES (CONT'D)

Here's what went down. I was hanging around, minding my own, kicking back, trying to relax. All a sudden, two sliding doors open-

Rum leans cheeks to one side. Lets one loose.

RUM

Excuse me, I had some bad watermelon.

HERCULES

I had no idea what was going on. So I popped my head out a little. Then the doors opened wider and a pair of hands grabbed my skull something fierce.

Rum leans cheeks to other side. Lets one go.

RUM

That's my bad. The seedless does it to me every time.

Hercules clears his personal air with his free hand.

HERCULES

Dude, this is the last thing I need before I get zapped.

Shot of microwave being turned on.

RUM

It won't happen again. By the way, you know you have a choice. The chair, beheading, mauling, firing squad, Kevorkian special, continuous re-runs of Wheel of Fortune.

HERCULES

Let me think about my options.

CLOSE on wall clock. It reads 11 PM.

RUM

Those hands that you speak of,
whose were they?

HERCULES

I had no idea at first, I later
found out they belonged to the same
guy that assaulted me.

CLOSE on Rum nodding.

HERCULES (CONT'D)

He pulled, I fought back. Then all
of a sudden he dragged me out of my
house and there I was.

RUM

Where were you?

HERCULES

Where the hell do you think I was
Mr. Magoo?

Rum leans away again, bends arms, point palms skyward.

The telephone rings.

CLOSE on phone.

Hercules and Rum both eye phone, then each other.

RUM

Could be the governor. Go ahead,
answer it.

Hercules unable to reach phone.

RUM (CONT'D)

I got it. Hello? No, this isn't
Clancy O'Grady's Cat and Kimche
restaurant.

He shows minimal signs of perspiration.

RUM (CONT'D)

Go on.

HERCULES

I was in a very bright room full of strangers. My eyes couldn't focus. I wasn't sure what to do, so I just froze. That's when I was assaulted.

RUM

Assaulted? How so?

HERCULES

That same guy that dragged me out of my house gave me a right hook. Then he stuck some device up my nose and down my throat. I tell you, If I had any teeth he would have lost a finger or two.

CLOSE on wall clock. It reads 2 AM.

Rum shows a little more perspiration.

RUM

What did you think about that?

HERCULES

What do you mean what did I think. Jesus Christ, give me the juice now.

Deadpan stare from Rum. Loud noise of passing gas.

Rum shrugs his shoulders.

RUM

Were there any witnesses to the assault on you?

HERCULES

Listen ant brain, I just told you I was in a room full of strangers. I'm sure they saw the beating I took.

RUM

Did you recognize anyone?

Hercules takes lollipop out of mouth, bangs against his head.

Breathes in and holds pop up.

HERCULES

On second thought I did. One of them was my mom.

(MORE)

HERCULES (CONT'D)

I don't think she saw me get my ass whipped because she was crying. My dad, well, he couldn't stand the sight of me, he passed out. The rest of the gang members I didn't know.

RUM

What were you feeling at this point?

HERCULES

I thought I was in a low budget "B" movie. I was covered in blood from head to toe.

CLOSE on clock. It reads 5 AM.

We hear knock on door.

ALYSSA, (18) waitress enters with tray of hot tea and teacups.

Sets them down, exits.

We see ANTS IN THE PANTS game on table.

HERCULES (CONT'D)

You wanna get that for me? I need a hand.

Rum pulls out "hand", places on table.

Rum pours a cup for Hercules.

MODERATOR (O.S.)

Gentlemen, ten minutes til post time, ten minutes.

RUM

Now where was I? Oh, yeah, did you try to fight back, or tell your assaulter to stop?

We hear a loud passing of gas.

HERCULES

For crying out loud. This might be worse than the chair.

Hercules pinches his nose with thumb and index fingers.

HERCULES (CONT'D)

I yelled and screamed. No one came to my aid. It was a big conspiracy.

RUM

Did anyone try to intervene?

Hercules looks up, left, right.

HERCULES

Warden! Warden! Is this guy deaf? No one came to my rescue, did you not hear me?

RUM

That's not what you told the police according to this report.

Rum holds up incident report document.

HERCULES

Well, eventually some lady wearing a cheap welder's mask snatched me from the child beater. I stand corrected.

Rum Rises from chair.

RUM

And I stand to let another one loose.

We hear an extra long gas bomb. Rum sits back down.

Alyssa enters room with assorted muffins. Sniffs, frowns.

ALYSSA

What died in here?

RUM

They don't call me Rum Poder the exploder for nothing.

Alyssa exits.

CLOSE on wall clock. It reads 7 AM.

Hercules noshes and sips tea.

RUM (CONT'D)

So Herc, would you call this welder lady your guardian angel?

HERCULES

For a second, yes. Then the impromptu yoga class arrived. She stretched my arms and legs out to maximum length and measured me. That was rough.

RUM

And after that (ahem) yoga class, what happened?

HERCULES

Well, thankfully, she gave me a warm sponge bath and massage. I think she charged my parents some \$75.00 for it.

RUM

So at this point, you're all cleaned up. How were you feeling?

HERCULES

I was so-so. I was still upset about that guy who abused me while the others stood around and watched. Before I caught his name, he was gone.

Rum shakes his head in approval. Then makes a face and rips a loud one.

Hercules shakes his head.

HERCULES (CONT'D)

Anyway, the masseuse lady finally gave me some warm clothes to cover up.

RUM

That must have made you feel a little better.

HERCULES

No, not really. The outfit was hideous, and the beret she wrestled onto my dome was way too big.

Rum takes a quick sip of tea.

RUM

At least you weren't naked anymore.

HERCULES

You're right I wasn't. But I was embarrassed to be out in the free world looking the way I did.

RUM

Free world? What do you mean by that?

Hercules twirls the lollipop in his finger tips, thinking.

HERCULES

What do I mean? I mean I didn't realize I was incarcerated. I was *in* jail.

Rum softly laughs at the comment.

RUM

Jail? You're telling me you were in jail?

HERCULES

Yes, jail. Look at me, I'm still in jail you clown. Ask me something else before I cut that Chia Pet off your chin.

Rum takes offense and strokes his chin hairs.

Hercules sips his tea.

RUM

I get it. What happened after you were given some warm clothes?

HERCULES

I'm sorry what?

RUM

I said, what happened after you were given the warm clothes?

HERCULES

After the clothing fiasco I was given back to my mother. She was talking the same way as the others.

Rum intently listens, nods.

HERCULES (CONT'D)

And I thought to myself, "This is going to be just great." It was very odd though.

Rum looks down, and leans left in his chair.

RUM

Ha, just kidding ya. You were saying?

Hercules shakes his head in disapproval, continues.

HERCULES

It was odd because my mom acted like she knew what I was saying. Heck, I didn't know what I was saying.

RUM

Sounds like you had it pretty tough. What occurred next?

HERCULES

After all the trauma and calisthenics, I was quite hungry. One of the unnamed witnesses stuck some round rubber thing in my mouth and force fed me. It tasted like vomit.

Phone rings. CLOSE on phone. Rum picks up.

RUM

Hello, Mr. Governor? No, this isn't the phone company, Oh you ARE the phone company. One second, let me put you on hold.

Rum hits hold button, hangs up receiver, giggles.

RUM (CONT'D)

Screw them. Now, why did they force the rubber thing in your mouth?

HERCULES

I had no idea. I figured I better play along before I took another beating. After a while I got used to it. I guess I was pretty hungry. I ate and crashed.

Alyssa enters room with fruit tray, including the dreaded seedless watermelon.

Rum eyes watermelon, perspires.

Hercules grabs a slice and chows.

RUM
I wouldn't if I was you.

Hercules chomps on melon.

HERCULES
What do I have to lose?

RUM
Well, I guess nothing. Can you tell me about the prison you were in?

HERCULES
Isn't that why we're here you bozo? Listen carefully, this happens more often than you think. This is the therapeutic relief for all the others that have gone through this.

CLOSE on Hercules juice-ridden face.

RUM
I'm waiting. Unless the governor calls, you're going to have 100,000 volts running through you in about seven minutes. Let's put a move on.

Shot of clock.

HERCULES
Listen chubbs, I'm getting sizzled, not you.

Shot of bacon landing in an oily frying pan.

Rum stares at watermelon.

We hear stomach gurgling sounds.

RUM (V.O.)
I'm never gonna make it.

Rum leans, let's a watery one loose.

HERCULES
Will you cut the crap?

RUM
Pardon me. Let's continue. The prison. You were describing the prison.

HERCULES

I woke in a dormitory setting surrounded by other inmates. The place stunk. Most cellies were crying or sleeping. What a depressing place.

RUM

Sounds like it.

HERCULES

The kid next to me bawled like a baby, and smelled like diarrhea soup, which I found out later was lurking in his diaper.

We hear more stomach gurgling.

RUM

I know the feeling.

Massive spewing of a gasser.

HERCULES

I called him Mr. Stinkles. He must of had some bad moo goo gai pan from the Chinese take out across the street. I knew I was in the slammer.

RUM

What else convinced you that you were a prisoner?

HERCULES

We all had a plastic GPS tracker attached to our ankles. I tell ya, modern technology. I didn't know what to do so I just stared at the ceiling until I dozed off.

Alyssa enters and takes away teapot and cups. Exits.

RUM

Sounds like you were getting settled into your new surr-

HERCULES

Listen crater face, no one gets settled into this type of place.

RUM

What do you mean?

HERCULES

The masseuse lady was back before I knew it. I thought I was going to get another Turkish bath. But, oh no, she just changed my diaper.

RUM

Was it full?

HERCULES

Not as full as the bad breath aliens in your mouth right now.

Rum licks his chops. Burps. Blows towards Hercules.

HERCULES (CONT'D)

No it wasn't full. The girl next to me, hers was full. I just had a few skid marks. But it wasn't a pleasant smell. Then I thought, did they force feed me chop suey?

Phone rings. Hercules and Rum look at phone.

Rum perspires, sweat beads down forehead.

RUM

Mr. Governor? No, this isn't Bobby "break your legs" the bookie. Geez.

HERCULES

Who was it?

RUM

Wrong number. Anyway, did you think you were ever going to leave the dorm?

HERCULES

At first no. Then after one of my force feedings, I noticed Mr. Stinkles got transferred out of the unit. Man was I happy to see him go.

RUM

Did you ever run into him during rec time?

HERCULES

No, but if I did I would have punched his lights out.

MODERATOR (O.S.)
Five minutes, five minutes to post
time.

Alyssa enters and retrieves muffins. Exits.

CLOSE on clock.

RUM
Did a new prisoner take his cell?

HERCULES
It's jail you dumb-ass. They're
always filling the cells. The new
inmate was a monster. He had to
weigh about 14 pounds. I was afraid
of him, everyone was afraid of him.

RUM
You're not so tough are you?

HERCULES
I can hold my own cowboy, but this
dude was big. I tried to keep my
distance. Unfortunately for me,
every time I was awake he was
filling his diaper, sawing wood, or
both.

Shot of fruit on table. CLOSE on watermelon.

HERCULES (CONT'D)
You gonna have any melon?

RUM
No, that stuff is dangerous. Oh
boy.

Rum leans and fires off a healthy sounding gasser.

HERCULES
You better check your trunks.

Rum cheeks left, right. We hear squish-squash sounds.

RUM
I read in your bio that you hatched
an escape plan. Did you get far?

HERCULES
What do you think you idiot. I was
dealing with a bunch of kids. They
were of no help.
(MORE)

HERCULES (CONT'D)

Besides, my diaper rash and colic made it impossible. So I slept as much as possible.

RUM

Every time you sleep, something bad happens. Did that trend continue?

CLOSE on clock.

HERCULES

Now you're catching on Einstein. The yoga lady came back. No yoga, no bath, no nothing. I thought, "this can not be good".

RUM

And?

HERCULES

She packed up my stuff, well, there wasn't anything to pack. Anyway, she picked me up and brought me to the warden's office.

Rum leans to side. Splat!

RUM

Pardon me.

Hercules leans to his side. Splat! Splat!

HERCULES

Two can play that game you know.

Rum grins, nods head, whisks air away from nose. Coughs.

RUM

Getting back tot the warden, did you think you were in trouble?

HERCULES

I didn't know what to think. My mom and dad were there waiting, all smiles. If they only knew the hell I went through they wouldn't be smiling.

RUM

What happened next?

Hercules inserts another lollipop into mouth.

HERCULES
The warden signed my release
papers.

RUM
That was good right?

Hercules takes out pop from mouth, stares at Rum.

HERCULES
I'll give ya good Mr. Potato Head.
I was leaving Hospital County Jail.
BUT, I was headed for supervised
home release. Parole, you jerk.

RUM
How was that for you?

HERCULES
It sucked. I longed for my old
cellmates. My parents put me in
solitary confinement.

RUM
What do you mean?

HERCULES
You are stupid aren't you? Yeah, I
had my own room and a bigger cell,
but so were the bars. No way I was
getting out.

MODERATOR (O.S.)
Two minutes, two minutes to post
time.

Shot of clock.

RUM
Were you able to sleep better?

HERCULES
A little bit. I had dreams of
holding my head up. I had dreams of
sitting up and burping myself. I
had visions of elaborate feasts
instead of that puke they were
feeding me.

RUM
What was stopping you from doing
those things?

HERCULES

I wasn't strong enough nasal oyster nose. Uh oh.

Hercules leans and fires off a bun vent round.

Rum and Hercules nod and say "watermelon" together.

CLOSE on watermelon with ants crawling on it.

RUM

You did have a bigger cell.

HERCULES

Yes I did. It was full of fake dogs, giraffes, and bears. Not one of them said a word. If I had a hunting rifle in my cell, they would have been dead meat.

Phone rings.

Rum perspires more. Water runs down forehead and cheeks.

RUM

Mr. Governor? Who? Hold on he's right here.

HERCULES

Yes mom, yes, I made my bed mom, I brushed my teeth mom. Yes, I have a clean pair of underwear on mom. Yes mom, It's on TV mom.

Rum grimaces, lets a bomb go. Disperses air.

CLOSE on ants.

Love you too mom, yeah, you can shred the visitor's pass, yes mom, and the parking pass, okay, bye.

CLOSE on ants all over food and table.

RUM

How have you been able to survive such trauma?

HERCULES

I took solace in the bible and found God.

The "Final Countdown" song is heard.

MODERATOR (O.S.)
One minute, one minute to post
time.

RUM
It's almost time. Any final
thoughts?

HERCULES
Yeah, I think I hate you.

Executioner, dressed in all black, smiley face on chest, face
concealed, enters room.

Phone rings.

Rum sweats profusely.

Hercules inserts another pop.

RUM
What. Mr. Governor? Yes, this is
he. Pardon? Yes sir. Thanks for the
call.

HERCULES
Did he pardon me?

RUM
No he said "pardon yourself" after
you pass gas.

MODERATOR (O.S.)
Time to wrap it up. The witnesses
are in place.

CLOSE on thousands of ants in witness room.

RUM
Why did you kill so many?

HERCULES
I took enjoyment out of seeing them
suffer and that I could easily
overpower them. They were just
ants.

MODERATOR (O.S.)
Let's go, Sparky's warmed up.

RUM
Last question, do you blame anyone
or feel any remorse?

HERCULES

Maybe I should blame you, you
Neanderthal. I feel no remorse.
I've been on death row for 15
years, so I'm ready. I was just
doing what any five year old kid
would do.

Rum, with mouth agape, looks at Hercules.

Executioner arms Hercules up from his chair.

HERCULES (CONT'D)

If I'm going to the chair for
killing ants, then that will be my
legacy.

RUM

Bad attitude.

We hear "The Trial" by Pink Floyd.

In slow motion, Executioner leads Hercules to door with sign
that reads "Fry me a river" below a picture of an electric
chair.

They walk through.

Shot of clock. It blinks all zeroes.

Lights flicker, we hear zapping sounds.

HERCULES

Ahhhhhhhhewwwwwweeeeeooooohhhhhh.

MYSTERIOUS MAN

You got the wrong guy.

We hear Billy Joel verse, "and so it goes, and so it goes,
and so will you soon I suppose", from And so it Goes.

Right after the line "And so it goes"

RUM (V.O.)

And so goes Hercules Smothers,
inmate number 5293, erased from the
system, off to a new world. Aren't
we all just ants? Or, are we more
like Hercules? You be the judge.

THE END

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