

The Story of Robert D. Hurt

Prologue

(In Jim's office, August 4, 2010)

Jim F. Gibson: Are you sure you can execute today? You haven't been yourself lately.

Robert D. Hurt: No, I'm fine boss.

Jim F. Gibson: Ok. Well, get on with it. (jokingly)The criminals have to pay, right?

(Robert D. Hurt exits the room.)

(He enters the execution room, where Darrel M. Smith is strapped in.)

Darrell M. Smith: I'm innocent! You can't do this to me!

Darrell M. Smith(talking to Robert D. Hurt): You won't listen to me either, will you?

(Robert D. Hurt turns towards him with the syringe.)

Robert D. Hurt: No. You've already lost.

(Darrell M. Smith is executed.)

Chorus:

(As Robert's good conscience)

You have a job to do,
but is it right?
Is it just?
Every person has begged for mercy
Every person has said they were innocent.
How can you know,
they weren't telling the truth?

Scene One

Jim F. Gibson(over intercom): Robert, I need you in my office.

(Robert walks into his boss's office. The boss stands up.)

Jim F. Gibson: Ah, you're here. I have another one for you.

(He slides a file across the table.)

Jim F. Gibson: The man is Kevin E. Michael. He's been charged with first-degree murder.

Robert D. Hurt: (sigh) This is happening more and more these days...

Jim F. Gibson: *coughs for attention* I believe you have a job to do.

(Robert D. Hurt nods and steps out of the office.)

Chorus:

(as Robert's good conscience)

All of the people who are sentenced to death
have already had their trial.
You have no choice but to believe,
You have to believe,
that the justice system has made the right choice.
This is what you do
But nobody can reverse death.
Is what you are doing right?

Scene Two

(Robert D. Hurt is preparing to execute Kevin E. Michael)

Chorus:

(As Robert's good conscience)

You may have a difficult job,
but what other choice do you have?
You must kill criminals
for a living.

But it is their life,
their mistake. Not yours.

(As Robert's bad conscience)

*An eye for an eye makes the world go blind.
Is killing criminals really what you should be doing with your life?
Doesn't that make you just as bad as them?*

(As Robert's good conscience)

It is your job,
you must do it to live.
Don't doubt yourself,
just do it.

(Robert D. Hurt turns to look at Kevin E. Michael.)

Kevin E. Michael: I didn't do anything! You have the wrong man!

(Kevin E. Michael looks up at Robert D. Hurt.)

Robert D. Hurt: Don't plead with me. You've already had your trial.

(Kevin E. Michael is executed.)

Scene Three

(the next day, at the execution center, August 5, 2010)

(Robert D. Hurt walks into Jim F. Gibson's office.)

(Jim F. Gibson is sitting at his desk. He looks distraught.)

Robert D. Hurt: Is something wrong?

Jim F. Gibson: That man you executed yesterday...he was innocent.

(He looks up)

(Robert D. Hurt is speechless.)

(Jim F. Gibson stands up.)

Jim F. Gibson: Well, no matter. That *is* considered an acceptable result these days. Anyway, I have another one here today.

(He slides a file across the table.)

(He walks out without looking at the file.)

Chorus:

(as Robert's good conscious)

You killed an innocent
But it is acceptable.
No one has to know,
just go on with your life.
Everything will be alright,
just let go of your past.
You have a job to do, do it.
Don't overthink these things.

Scene Four

(Robert D. Hurt is preparing a syringe. He looks at the criminal, expecting him to plead.)

Andre L. Hollins: I'm not going to beg. I know I'm innocent. That's all that matters. And besides, the death penalty is racially biased. That's been proven. No matter what I say, I will be wrongly executed.

(Robert D. Hurt stares at him, then looks at the syringe in his hand.)

Chorus:

(As Robert's bad conscience)

*You've already killed one man who
was innocent.
Can you really live with yourself?
Before you know it
you will become a murderer.
You have a chance,
now make a decision.*

Robert D. Hurt: I believe you.

Andre L. Hollins(looking up): What?

Robert D. Hurt(yelling): I can't take it anymore!

(He pushes the syringe into his arm.)

Andre L. Hollins(struggling against his restraints): Oh my God!! What are you doing?!?

(He falls to the ground, losing strength.)

Robert D. Hurt(dying): I already killed one innocent...

(Robert D. Hurt is dying)

Andre L. Hollins(struggling against his restraints): Help!!

Chorus:

(As Robert's good conscience, speaking to Andre L. Hollins)

Just because the death penalty is used
doesn't make it morally correct.

He is dead because of guilt

He did this to himself,

he made his own choice.

You could do nothing,

for a moral struggle

is the hardest one to win.

Killing is wrong,

no matter what the situation.

The death penalty is a barbaric thing

therefor we should punish

criminals the just way, prison.