

911

by Hilary Schwartz

Woman

Hello, police. I have been abducted. I am locked in the trunk of a car.

Operator

Oh, the police? We abolished that—and replaced it. Hold for a social worker.

Woman

Uh, okay.

Operator

Ma'am, still there?

Woman

Haven't gone anywhere.

Operator

Good news. The social worker is also abducted and trapped in the trunk of the car next to you.
I'll transfer.

Social Worker

Hello.

Woman

Help!

Social Worker

I will. But first you have to help yourself. How are you?

Woman

Not well. How are you?

Social Worker

This is not about me.

Woman

Aren't you also locked in a trunk?

Social Worker

I have my own social worker for that. She came to help and is now tied up next to me, which is convenient for airing my feelings. Now, tell me, what are you feeling?

Woman

Terror.

Social Worker

Good. Stay with that.

Woman

I may have been drugged. I passed out for a while.

Social Worker

Did you have any dreams?

Woman

Yes. I was in a zoo, trapped in a cage with hungry lions. What do you think it means?

Social Worker

What do *you* think it means?

Woman

That I'm trapped in a car about to be killed.

Social Worker

Does this remind you of anything from your childhood? Did your mother emotionally abandon you?

Woman

I can safely say, this is one thing that's not my mother's fault.

Social Worker

I have another call. Please hold.

[pause]

Social Worker

Sorry about that. I sent a social worker out to a domestic violence incident and now the husband is beating her. I had to send a second social worker to help. Anyhow, tell me what else has been going on in your life.

Woman

Well, I did have a really bad breakup.

Social Worker

Uh huh, uh huh.

Woman

It's been nearly a year, but I can't get over it.

Social Worker

I get the sense that this current trauma is resonating with past trauma, and that's why it hurts so much. This is a breakthrough.

Woman

I almost texted John the other day, but then I heard he was engaged ... oh my God, what am I talking about? I'm in a trunk. They're going to kill me.

Social Worker

I'm sorry. This is all the time we have for this session. Do you want to set something up for next week?

Woman

Will either of us will be alive next week?

Social Worker

I don't know, but I do have a 24-hour cancellation policy.

Woman

Dear lord, why did they abolish the police?! Couldn't we just do reforms?

Social Worker

No. We had to get rid of them and reallocate to mental health.

Woman

We couldn't have both?!!

Social Worker

What are you, some cop-loving Trump supporter? Okay, Karen.

Woman

Don't you call me Karen! AAAAAAHHHH!

Social Worker

Hello?

Woman

I just got so angry at everything being so stupid that I broke the trunk open.

Social Worker

You did? Dear God, now help us get out!!

The second social worker in the trunk with tape over her mouth tries to speak.

Second Social Worker in the Trunk

Mmm! Mmm!

Woman

I will. But first, let's talk about how you feel.

Social Worker

Oh shut up! Get a gun. Blast those motherfuckers!

A screech from a car is heard, then a bang. The social workers' trunk pops open. The social worker looks down and sees the woman on the ground. The second social worker whose mouth is taped slowly peaks out.

Woman

I think my legs are broken. I jumped in front of the car carrying you and it crashed.
The abductors are dead.

Social Worker

See? We don't need the police.