

## 25. THE THIN DISGUISE

She had surveyed the sheer face. Now it was time to put her plan into effect. She needed some way to lure Jack out here.

“Jack, I’ve got your hundred grand.” He would just salivate on hearing the news. He’d speed out here in that pick up truck of his. After all, she owed him for helping get rid of Lenny. She had thought it was Dale’s doing. But Dale couldn’t hurt a fly.

She parked her car at the foot of the cliff. She covered it with underbrush. Then she started to plan her ascent. Her first scaling had told her all that she needed to know. This time she was well aware of the challenges. She didn’t want to attempt it this late in the day. It was already fairly hot. But she needed to go ahead with her plan. The rock was boiling hot. But she had gloves. She forgot about her prey for now. It was her marriage with the rock that preoccupied her. She remembered the sharp change of direction from west to east. She confidently made her ascent.

Her plan was to surprise Jack at the top. She’d hide. He’d expect her car. Then she’d jump him. As she worked her way further up the cliff, she wondered why she hadn’t thought of this earlier. This would have been a perfect place for Lenny to have had an accident. She probably could take Dale here for a little education. He certainly needed it.

Her accomplishment was not so formidable today as it was only a step in a much larger plan. She was put off when Jack seemed to be taking a long time to arrive. She assumed that he wasn’t going to show. She could see his pick up in the distance. She would hide. Then she would jump him after he got out and started to look around. She had a small axe that should use on him.

When he parked his car, she was already hiding behind some trees. She was nervous as she sat in his car for ten minutes. She was going to wait this out. It was her advantage to make him come to her. It was near dark. She also used the limited visibility. She was drawing him into her trap. His eyes still hadn’t completely adjusted. As he came near her, she tripped him. He came hurtling down. She pulled the axe, and held it high in the air above him. As she was about to bring it down, he kicked her feet from under her.

“You weren’t too smart using an axe on me. I would have advised a gun. It’s worked for me so far.”

He lunged for her, but she got away. He was now chasing her. She tried to run as fast as she could but she hadn’t planned for this. He lunged at her and pulled her legs from under her. She had prepared her fall. She rolled away from him, and was again on her feet. They were moving closer and closer to the edge of the cliff. He hadn’t thought about the drop. She would try and apply this fact. She ran close to the edge and then abruptly stopped. He was in back of her and tripped over her as he tried to slow his progress. Now they were wrestling in the dirt close to the precipice. He was much stronger than her. But she had built up her muscles climbing. She need to muster all the strength that she could. She tried to knee him in the groin. She failed, but she knocked him off her.

She ran in the opposite direction away from the drop. But he was still with her. He started to pull her towards the edge. She couldn’t contain herself. She tried to rely on her excellent balance, but he was an added factor that she had never dealt with before. He was

pulling her towards the edge. She couldn't stop herself. She was falling.

The ropes were not yet ready for her rappelling. She had thought he would be subdued before she would have to contemplate the next step. They did break the first part of the fall. But she bounced off the rocks. She could feel the impact. She winced in pain. But she tried to contain the shock. She would need her energy. On the way down she took a number of tumbles. She was on the verge of unconsciousness. She was coming down hard.

When she hit the bottom, she had maneuvered the best that she could. Parts of her rope had come loose from their mountings. Nevertheless, she had broken the fall. She was a tangle of rope passed out near a tree.

He only had so much time. He wished he knew where her car was. He wanted to check to see if she had the money. But he needed to cover his tracks. He was able to remove her gear from the side of the cliff. There were no other signs of what had transpired there.

Jack jumped in his truck and raced down the mountain. He took a side road to the spot where she had fallen. He took the rope and wrapped it around her to make it look like someone had hastily tied her to a tree. He was going to use his knife on her when Warren arrived at the scene. He had called it in. But he thought it would be easier to find the car.

"I'm just cutting her down."

Warren had thought that he was trying to kill her.

She didn't come to until he had already taken her to the hospital. He hurried over there to see if she would say anything. He was surprised when she regained consciousness that she remembered nothing about the accident. He wanted to keep it that way.

Jack went back to the site of the fight the next day. He also wanted to check for the car. He was surprised that he couldn't find it. She had done too good a job of hiding it.

From that point on, it was a waiting game. How long would it be before she went back for her things? When would she get her money? He was a little confused when she had memory loss. He needed to get close to her.

Lynette was the perfect excuse. She was a nurse at the hospital. He hadn't told her his plan. But he could share little details with her. Just enough to keep her on his side. Jack hadn't counted on her jealousy. He had forgotten how she had helped him out before.

Lynette claimed that she knew more about him than she was letting on. She had seen the condoms all over his truck. He knew how he used to hang around some cops near Bankhead. And they weren't about nice things.

She even suspected that Jack might have killed a prostitute or two to cover up his activities. But she didn't say anything. That was part of the loyalty that she showed him. If Jack bore ill will towards someone, Lynette let him have his reasons and didn't meddle.

Lynette realized that if Jack was going to succeed with Sienna that she would need to follow his instructions. She just felt betrayed when he slept with Sienna. So she needed to do something to help him out. If that meant taking up Jack's cause, so be it. He wasn't doing the best job for himself. It's just that she didn't know when to stop.