

26. THE LAST KISS

The more that Sienna wrote, the more that she was filling in details from the present. What had first been unclear was now making sense due to how Jack and Lynette had acted towards her. There seemed to be few mysteries left. She knew that a further confrontation with Jack loomed.

She thought the best plan was have him return to the same spot. He would be ready for her surprises, but it would be the only way.

She called him from a pay phone.

“You still haven’t found my car.”

“I quit looking. I thought it would be better if you led me to the place.”

“That’s a deal. I could meet you where we last met up there.”

“Where you tried to kill me.”

“At least we’re even.”

“No, I think that you have one over me. You tried to ambush me.”

“You’ve had a million chances since then.”

“And a million dollars to collect. I need you for that.”

She was going to need a car to meet him. She convinced Warren to help.

After getting a car, she called Jack back.

“I want to see your car this time before I get out.”

She agreed to meet him at 8:30 at night. He was already there when she pulled up. They both got out of their cars at the same time.

“Good to see you, my dear. Maybe I could give you a little hug.”

“This is as close as I get to you. If you move any closer, I’ll just drive away.”

“Did you bring me my money?”

“I didn’t think that was one of the requirements. I just thought that all that I had to bring was my body.”

“You certainly brought that.”

“Indeed, I did.”

“It almost seems like old times.”

“Which old time? The one where you tried to cut me up before Warren showed up.”

“I thought that you were unconscious.”

“I was. I read the police report. You weren’t trying to get me down from that tree like it said.”

“Your rope was entangled in a tree.”

“Good excuse.”

“So where is this going. I didn’t come up here to talk.”

“Really. That’s why I came here. To settle some old scores. What are you going to do now Jack? You can’t go back to being a cop.”

“That’s why I think that I deserve a bigger cut.”

“Who are you kidding? You’re used goods now.”

“Everything was going OK until you brought Dale in with you.”

“He showed up at the bar that night you were supposed to meet me. He was taking

pictures. I thought that he was working for my husband.”

“But you made him part of your plan.”

“It was the one sane thing that I did.”

“I could have taken care of everything for you.”

“You got out of control.”

“I did everything that you wanted. I killed your husband for you.”

“You did what.”

“You said that you couldn’t get along with him. I killed him and got rid of the body.”

“I told you that I was having problems with him. That didn’t mean that I wanted you to kill him.”

“I just did what you told me to do.”

“I never said anything of the kind. That would never stand up in court.”

“I’m a police officer.”

“Who killed a defenseless man. He wasn’t even armed.”

“That isn’t what the police report said.”

“He wasn’t even in your jurisdiction.”

“He shot at me. I returned fire.”

“You shot him in the head from close range.”

“All meaningless details. No one’s going to pin anything on me.”

“Warren knows about you. He’s been protecting you up to this point. But he can’t save your skin any more. You’re finally done for.”

“But I loved you.”

“And you lured me up here to kill me.”

“You’re crazy. You’ve been trying to kill me all this time.”

She had enough to go on. He had admitted to killing Lenny. She just had to get out of here without being killed herself. If she tried to attack him now, she had a better than equal chance of being overpowered.

She thought that he wouldn’t let her leave here alive. On the other hand, he was now demanding a million dollars. And he knew that she wasn’t carrying that much with her. Would he let her go now in the hope that he could get his money? He didn’t have much to go back to. Could he even escape as a fugitive? As long as he was on the run, he could decide when he would meet up with her. She had forced the meeting. Now she had to get away.

“So you need the money.”

“I need a million.”

“I’m not saying that I can get that much.”

“I can always kill you if you don’t get me that much.”

“I can kill you if you do.”

He was going to let her walk away. She hadn’t come here with much of a plan. But it surprised her how easy this had been.

She now had tape with him of admitting to killing her husband. But Warren didn’t know about her other life. It would be better if he didn’t. But that would mean disappearing from here completely. She could convince Warren that Dale had developed a romantic interest in her. She was ashamed to tell anyone because he was married. But Jack had become insanely jealous.

That way she could leave her life with Lenny out of this. She'd stay in Cartersville long enough to get on her feet again. Then she'd just hit the road.

How could she hang around Cartersville with millions in the bank? She wasn't about to share a cent with Jack. But she needed to get rid of him. Once and for all. He was playing for keeps.

How long could he avoid the law in that cheap ass pick up of his? He knew the backroads. But Warren had his place staked out. Jerry and Warren knew the country as well as Jack so it wasn't all for his benefit.

She wondered what would happen if she disappeared at this point. Warren would still have the book open on her. He would feel that her role was bigger in all of this than he now surmised. He probably had all kind of suspicions. That was his nature as a cop. He was a better judge of human nature than Jack. Although that may not have been saying a whole lot. Sienna couldn't afford him for an opponent. She had better take her chances with Jack as the only villain in the piece. But she needed to move things along.

She couldn't get her Lexis without leaving the rental somewhere. She didn't want to even look for the Lexis until Jack was thoroughly out of the way. She made her way back to her room in Cartersville.

She assumed that Jack was desperate. He had no idea where she was. He was on the run. He had nowhere to go. She was his last hope to salvage anything from this. On the other hand, she was in the catbird's seat. She no longer had Lenny to nag her. Dale was long gone with his petty demands and his amateur love-making. Finally, Jack was on the run. She could simply bide her time. Nothing linked her back to Canton.

She finally did her detective work the next day. All her money was in an off-shore account. Nothing had changed in all these months. She had put it there before the accident. Once she had obtained the insurance settlement, everything had gone her way, except Jack. He was still the wild card.

She had dozed on the bed. But she couldn't sleep. It was all too perfect. She needed to get out. She found a nearby bar in Cartersville.

"You did a great job, honey."

"Did I?"

"I wasn't sure if we could trust Jack to do the work for us. But he took care of them all."

"That he did."

"He even got rid of his cousin."

"That surprised me."

"It shouldn't have. He thought it was you. The thing that pissed me off was that you came on pretty hard for Dale. I really thought that you fancied him."

"I needed to distract him when he set up the insurance policy."

"That was a nice touch."

"Lenny, I wanted to know. Where did Jack get that body that was supposed to be yours?"

"Some crack head that he knew. He was expendable."

"That was a master stroke. I about jumped when I saw it wasn't you. Those cops didn't know the difference."

"Honey, look like it's just me and you."

“Sorry, I’m not going to share the money with anyone.”

“What are you saying?”

“Lenny, I’m saying that I can’t be tried for murder. You’re already dead.”

“That’s funny. Really funny.”

He was going to give her a ride back to her Lexis. She pulled a gun on him, and shot him in the parking lot. The gun went off, and she jumped.

Sienna woke up covered in sweat. What a fanciful idea. That she and Lenny had planned the whole thing. She might have considered it if he wasn’t such a son of a bitch. At least, she had his money. His business failure had given her the best excuse of all.

She hated the fact that she was still waiting here in Cartersville. She needed to accelerate things. She supposed that Jack still had his cell phone. But every call to him would eventually be tracked down. Even a call from a Cartersville phone booth would be a giveaway. He had no idea where she was so she couldn’t use herself as bait. What was her plan?

It was clear to her why she was facing a dead end. She was adept at getting men to do things for her. She had a knack of getting rid of them when they were no earthly good to her anymore. This was a different sort of problem.

She realized that she was going to need Warren’s help. But it would be tricky. Jack would want to bring up incriminating evidence against her. So she needed to make sure that he wouldn’t be able to say much. She was going to call Jack from the hotel room. This would make him come straight to her. Then Warren could set the trap with her as the bait. Warren would need to work with the Cartersville police to resolve the situation.

At this point, the main problem was that Jack would want to see the money before he made a threat on her life. If he realized that it was a trap, then he might not show up. He would have to see her to make his move.”

“I’ll do what ever you want. I’ve got what you need.”

Her response was cryptic. But she thought that he would get the point.

“Where do you want to meet?”

“At our same point.”

Again her answer was strategic. She knew that he would try to head her off at the hotel. She needed to give him enough time to make his move.

“I’ll see you in two hours.”

Warren already had the police strategically placed around the parking lot. None of the marked cars were visible from the street. Jack would naturally pull into the lot. She would come out of the door. Then the cars would swoop down to contain him. The plan seemed masterful.

The problem was that Jack was trying to outfox the foxes. So he assumed that the place might be crawling with police. As soon as she left the room for the car, he watched her from afar. It was only when she actually drove out of the parking lot that he cut her off. The police cruisers took this as a signal. But at that point, he had already jumped into her car and now held her by gunpoint.

“This time, we’re going to take you to get the money. Call Warren, and tell him to back off.”

She did that. But he had not counted on the last piece in the puzzle. She made sure to drive by a police sniper. She slowed down as she came to the intersection. He aimed. With one

shot the window shattered and Jack slumped in his seat.

Sienna almost had a heart attack. There he was dead next to her. She jumped out of the car and started to move around frantically. Warren drove up in his cruiser.

“It’s over.”

“Yes, it is.”

Her car sat in the middle of the street. The other police cars now surrounded it.