

Safety First

by Caterina Baars and Carolin Grisat

It is Tuesday and the coffee machine is still not working. That is something that drives Mrs. Brown crazy. She stares angrily at the machine, like it would help but the machine still only makes weird noises. She loses her patience and decides to give it a light smack and all of sudden coffee comes out. She takes the little to-go-cup and walks back to her desk satisfied. Mrs. Brown turns her laptop on and looks through her recent cases. Out of the blue the silence is broken by someone knocking on the door. It is her assistant reminding her that the client is waiting. She nods and this gives her assistant the sign to bring in the client. A tall young blonde woman with a red coat, that makes her look wealthy, walks in. The woman sits down in front of Mrs. Brown and shakes her hand firmly. Brown notices that the woman is tapping her foot on the floor with her black high heel that makes her look really nervous but her face still shows extraordinary confidence. "Nice to meet you, I'm Mrs. Brown. I can see in your case file that your husband recently died. I'm sorry for your loss. What can I do for you today?" "Well...I'm here because of that loss." Brown leans back into her leather chair. "So he died last week in a car accident, at least the police said it was one but I don't think so. - He's a safe driver." "I'm sorry but safe drivers die in car accidents sometimes, too. Additionally it snowed really badly that week". The woman stops the foot tapping. "So what?" she says. "Mrs. Brown you're one of the best private detectives and you will sit here and believe that my man, a doctor who had a lot of patients each day, some of which might be furious because he couldn't save their loved ones, just died because of the snow?" Brown leans forward "Mrs. Anderson, right?" The woman nods "Why do you think it was a patient?" "He told me the night before that he lost someone that day during a routine operation and that they had to call security because her husband got aggressive towards him - isn't that the perfect motive? Aren't you gonna go out and check on it? It wasn't an accident, I'm positive." Brown stands up and reaches her hand out to Mrs. Anderson "I'm going to call you tomorrow"

It is 9 am when Brown reaches the Grand Police Station to look at Dr. Anderson's car. His wife is right, after convincing one of the officers to check the car a second time they notice a small cut in the brakes. Shortly after that the officer comes into the room. "How did you know?" "His wife – it's always the wife that keeps hanging on ya know they just don't want to believe that their loved ones are dead - but normally it's just a speculation that arises from paranoia." "Well this time she was right - so let's open up the case again please." Shortly after that Brown is on her way to the hospital where Mr. Anderson used to work before he died. While she is driving she calls Mrs. Anderson and after a few seconds the widow picks up her phone. "Hello, this is Mrs. Brown. I want to inform you that you were right. Your husband's car crash wasn't an accident! Someone made a small cut into the brakes." Mrs. Anderson replies really calmly. "So what are you going to do?" "Well I'm on my way to the hospital your husband used to work at. Maybe I'll find some information. I'll let you know." Mrs. Anderson replies with a dry voice: "okay, thanks" and hangs up the phone. Mrs. Brown is deep in thought when she arrives at the Saint Louis Hospital. She finds Mrs. Anderson's behavior really weird because she doesn't seem really sad about the fact that her husband just died. Maybe she only wanted the money of her husband's life insurance. Mrs. Brown enters through the great entrance of the hospital and walks to the reception where a small really nice looking lady sits, busy with typing something into a computer. "Hello, can I help you?" the woman asks. "Yes I'm here because of the accident of Doctor Anderson. May I look around and talk to some people?" "Of course you can! The department where he used to work is down the hall on the left side." "Thank you!" Brown replies and walks down the hall.

On her way she walks into a tall brunette woman who looks like a doctor. "Excuse me can I ask you a question?" The woman looks a bit surprised but answers "Of course, how can I help you?" "Well I'm here because of the death of Mr. Anderson. Do you know anything about him?" The woman's face changes and she turns pale. "No, I'm sorry", and she quickly walked away. Brown is confused

but continues to walk towards Mr. Anderson's office. After she closes the door she looks around the room. The room is very tidy: There is only a picture of a dog and a computer. Brown goes straight up to the computer and opens some folders. She searches for some time but cannot find anything. She becomes frustrated, although usually she is a really patient person when it comes to her job, but she cannot stand failures. Then, after 10 minutes Brown opens Mr. Anderson's e-mail account. Luckily he was still logged in so she opens his last sent e-mail. It was an e-mail addressed to Kelly White.

“Kelly, I know we're friends but the mistake you made yesterday is unforgivable! Ms. Johnson died because you gave her the wrong dose of Morphine and I have to go to the police. I'm sorry... Michael A.”

Brown immediately remembers the woman she walked into in the hallway; she had a little card on her chest with the name 'Kelly White' on it. Brown does not hesitate and grabs the phone to call for backup. She is already dialing when suddenly someone holds a gun to her back. “I'm sorry but I can't let you do this! I don't want to go to jail and I don't want to lose my job either.” Brown recognizes the voice. It is Kelly. Brown slowly turns around so she can look Kelly the eyes. “Kelly, you already killed Mr. Anderson; you don't want to kill anyone else! Look, I know that you're desperate. But you have other options!” Kelly bursts into tears. “No...No I have to!” Kelly's voice is loud and high. Just in the moment she wants to pull the trigger on Brown, the police come into the room and arrests Kelly. The police had been on the phone the whole time so they had heard everything. The police thank Brown for solving the case and she calls Mrs. Anderson to tell her the news. After that Brown is on her way home and a really good song is playing on the radio, so she turns the volumes up. She has a really satisfying smile on her face because it only took her two days to solve the case and she is already excited for the ones which will follow.