

BAD JUDGEMENT

Written by

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INT. LAW OFFICE - DAY

The hissing of the copy machine bangs loudly.

JACK (O.S.)
I have the papers almost done,
Kristina.

KRISTINA, 35, shy, chunky and beautiful. She shifts in her seat and crosses her legs.

KRISTINA
No problem, Jack. I am in no hurry.

JACK, 37, cunning and smart, tall and handsome. He walks into the room, holding stacks of legal papers. He sits down at the desk.

JACK
Okay, here are all the forms I need
you to sign. Then your divorce will
be final.

Jack slides the papers across the desk to Kristina.

Kristina picks up a pen, and signs the papers. Her hand shakes, she glances at Jack.

JACK (CONT'D)
Are you nervous?

Kristina sighs and shakes her head.

KRISTINA
No, not nervous. Maybe a little
sad. I never thought I would be
getting a divorce at 35.

Jack nods and smiles.

JACK
I can understand that, but think of
it as a new start to your new life,
and maybe a new love.

Kristina's wide eyes, look up at Jack.

Jack smiles and winks.

Kristina blushes and smiles.

KRISTINA
Yes, a new start for sure.

Kristina slides the signed papers over to Jack.

Kristina stands and turns to the door.

Jack stands and walks around the desk.

Kristina reaches out to shake Jack's hand. Jack grabs her hand, and holds it in his.

JACK

I meant what I said Kristina, this is a whole new start. In fact, I think we should go out and celebrate. How about a drink tonight?

Kristina gasps.

KRISTINA

Oh! Wow, tonight? Umm, Yes, I can do that. Where?

Jack smiles, and walks Kristina to the door. He opens it.

JACK

How about your place? I mean we did just score that from your ex-husband.

Kristina chuckles and sighs.

KRISTINA

Yes, we did. Umm, yes sounds good. How about 7?

Kristina stops in the doorway, and looks up at Jack.

JACK

7 sounds perfect.

INT. KRISTINA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

The wind howls against the window.

Kristina paces the floor, breathing heavily.

KRISTINA

Oh, Rebecca, I am so nervous about tonight.

REBECCA, 36, naive, short and pretty, looks up from the couch.

REBECCA

Why are you so nervous? You have been seeing this man off and on for months, ever since you hired him as your lawyer.

Kristina stops pacing and frowns at Rebecca.

KRISTINA

I am nervous, because this time it is not a professional visit. He actually asked me out.

Rebecca shifts in her seat.

REBECCA

Okay, so he asked you out. Anyone is better than that ex-husband of yours. I bet this guy will even pick up his socks when you ask.

Kristina laughs and shakes her head.

KRISTINA

His socks were the least of our problems. If only I could have gotten him to stop sleeping with other women.

Kristina walks over to the couch and sits down. She sighs.

Rebecca's wide eyes look at Kristina. She gasp.

REBECCA

OH MY GOD! I cant believe I forgot to tell you. Remember that waitress your ex had an affair with?

Kristina eyes dart at Rebecca, she nods.

KRISTINA

Umm, yeah! I remember her. I found her in my bed, with him.

REBECCA

Well they just found her body tied to a tree in the woods. Murdered!

Kristina gasps and covers her mouth with her hand.

KRISTINA

That's terrible. Do they know who did it?

Rebecca shrugs, and shakes her head.

REBECCA

No, they think it's the Redwood
Serial Killer.

Kristina shakes her head, crosses her arms in front of her
chest.

KRISTINA

Wow, that makes five women now.
That is scary knowing there is a
killer in our town. I don't know
how I am supposed to feel safe.

Rebecca smiles and winks.

REBECCA

Well dating a sexy rich lawyer
should make you feel better.

Kristina sighs and smiles.

KRISTINA

Yes, you are right. He is sexy and
smart. I love how successful he is.
I mean the money doesn't mean
anything to me, but it is nice, if
you know what I mean?

Rebecca nods.

REBECCA

Does he have a lot of money?

Kristina looks at Rebecca puzzled.

KRISTINA

Yes, he does. Why?

Rebecca opens her mouth to speak. The door bell stops her.

Kristina stands up, walks to the door, opens it.

Jack smiles and walks in, holding a bottle of champagne.

JACK

I hope I am not late. Traffic was
horrible getting here. I brought
champagne for our celebration.

Kristina smiles, and gestures to the living room.

Jack walks in, and sees Rebecca. He smiles.

KRISTINA

Oh, thank you. This is my friend
Rebecca.

Kristina points to Rebecca.

Rebecca stands up, smiles, and saunters over to Jack.

REBECCA

Hi, I am Rebecca. It is very nice
to meet you.

Jack reaches out and shakes her hand.

JACK

It is nice to meet you too. Will
you be joining us tonight?

Rebecca questionably glances at Kristina.

Kristina glares and shakes her head.

REBECCA

No, tonight will be just you two,
but maybe we can get together
another time. Can I get your
number?

Rebecca smiles and flirts.

Kristina gasps.

Jack smiles, reaches into his jacket and pulls out a card.

JACK

Here is my business card. Call me
anytime, you need a lawyer.

Rebecca sticks the card in her cleavage and winks. She walks
to the door and waves.

Kristina glares as she walks out the door. She looks at Jack
and shakes her head.

KRISTINA

Sorry about that. She flirts with
every one.

Jack smiles, and leads Kristina to the couch.

JACK

The only woman I am thinking about
tonight is you. Would you like some
champaign?

INT. KRISTINA'S HOUSE - DAY

Kristina sips her coffee. The phone rings. Rebecca's name shows up on the screen. She answers.

KRISTINA
Hello, Slut!

REBECCA (V.O.)
Hey girl, so how did last night go?
Did you sleep with him?

KRISTINA
Hi, it went great. No, I didn't sleep with him. It was our first date. I am not a slut, like you are. What were you thinking?

REBECCA (V.O.)
What did I do? You sound mad. All I am saying is, I would have slept with him. He is hot. Do you mind if I ask him out? I feel like we had a connection.

Kristina, dumbfounded, shakes her head.

KRISTINA
Wow! You have a lot of nerve.

Kristina pauses, sighs.

KRISTINA (CONT'D)
If you feel that strongly about it, I guess. I only had one date with him, and he is great, but I don't feel this strong connection.

REBECCA (V.O.)
Awesome girl, thanks. I didn't want another man to come between us.

KRISTINA
Yes, I agree. Wait, another man?

REBECCA (V.O.)
Did you hear that they found another body this morning? Some woman that your ex was having an affair with. Good thing you left him.

Kristina gasps.

KRISTINA

Wait, when did this happen?

REBECCA (V.O.)

They found her this morning in the woods, but they say she was killed yesterday afternoon. Keep your doors locked girl, I gotta go.

Kristina hangs up the phone, and looks around nervously.

There is a knock at the door.

Kristina walks to the door, opens it.

Standing tall, a man in a police uniform. Gomez his badge read.

OFFICER GOMEZ, 38, single, athletic, handsome, and tall, looks at Kristina.

OFFICER GOMEZ

Are you Kristina Smith?

KRISTINA

Yes, officer. Can I help you?

Officer Gomez shifts from one foot to the other.

OFFICER GOMEZ

Can I come in, and ask you a few questions?

Kristina stands back, and gestures to the living room.

Officer Gomez walks past her.

OFFICER GOMEZ (CONT'D)

Mrs. Smith, are you aware there have been seven murders?

Kristina nods, than gasps.

KRISTINA

Wait, seven? I thought it was only six, and please call me, Kristina.

Officer Gomez clears his throat.

OFFICER GOMEZ

Yes, seven. We have kept one of the murders a secret. In hopes that the killer will slip up.

(MORE)

OFFICER GOMEZ (CONT'D)
 Kristina, are you also aware that
 these women are connected with your
 husband?

Kristina sighs.

KRISTINA
 Ex!

OFFICER GOMEZ
 Excuse me?

KRISTINA
 Ex, as in husband. I divorced him.
 I had heard that the women found
 were his old flames. What does that
 have to do with me?

Officer Gomez glances around the room.

OFFICER GOMEZ
 Well, Mrs... Kristina, when a bunch
 of women turn up dead, it is
 natural for us to look into the
 usual suspects.

Kristina frowns, and glares.

KRISTINA
 Am I a suspect?

OFFICER GOMEZ
 Not officially. I am just here to
 ask you some questions.

He pulls a pad of paper and pen out of his vest.

OFFICER GOMEZ (CONT'D)
 Where were you yesterday?

KRISTINA
 I was here, all day and night.

OFFICER GOMEZ
 Can anyone vouch for you?

KRISTINA
 Yes, I had a date here.

Officer Gomez shifts in his seat. Frowns.

OFFICER GOMEZ
 Who was your date?

Kristina chuckles.

KRISTINA

Wow, I really am a suspect. His name is Jack. He is my divorce lawyer.

Officer Gomez smirks. Clears his throat.

OFFICER GOMEZ

Can I get his number? Just in case.

Kristina sighs. Reaches for her purse on the coffee table. Pulls out Jack's card. Hands it to Officer Gomez.

KRISTINA

Here you go. Is there anything else?

OFFICER GOMEZ

Yes, one more thing. Do you think your ex-husband could be behind this?

Kristina sighs, wrinkles forehead.

KRISTINA

No, he was a lousy husband. He cheated on me, stole my money, and hit on every friend I ever had. This is why I left him, but he was never abusive, or dangerous. Hell, he couldn't even kill a spider. Do you really think he is behind this?

OFFICER GOMEZ

No, to be honest. I probably shouldn't share this with you, but we feel that the killer is doing this out of revenge.

Officer Gomez stands up, walks to the door. Turns, and looks at Kristina.

OFFICER GOMEZ (CONT'D)

Thank you for your time. I will be in touch.

Officer Gomez hands Kristina his card.

Kristina looks down at it. The front door closes.

INT. KRISTINA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Kristina scrolls through the channels on the TV. The doorbell rings. She gets up, walks to the door, looks through peep hole.

Rebecca is tapping her foot.

Kristina opens the door. Rebecca barges in, walks to the living room.

REBECCA
You will not believe what happened.

KRISTINA
What?

REBECCA
I went out with Jack tonight and at the end of the night, he didn't want to go back to my place.

Kristina sighs and shakes her head.

KRISTINA
Why is this a problem?

Rebecca stops and stares at Kristina.

REBECCA
I have never been rejected before.

KRISTINA
Wait, did he reject you, or just not go home with you? What did you two do tonight?

REBECCA
It started great. We went to a fancy french restaurant, and than dancing. He said he would call.

Kristina sits down on the couch, pats the seat next to her.

Rebecca sits next to Kristina, and hugs her.

KRISTINA
He might call, and if he doesn't, well, it's his loss.

Rebecca sighs and smiles.

REBECCA

You are a great friend, and better than I deserve. I shouldn't have tried to steal this guy away from you.

Kristina laughs.

KRISTINA

We only had one date, and I don't know if I am ready to date yet. I need to mourn my divorce, especially if my ex-husband is a serial killer.

Kristina and Rebecca chuckle, and look at each other.

REBECCA

Wait, you are not serious are you? You don't really think it is him?

Kristina shakes her head.

KRISTINA

No, I mean he was a lousy husband, but not a murderer. However, I can't stop thinking about it. Not since that cop questioned me earlier.

Rebecca nods, and gasps.

REBECCA

Wait, what cop?

KRISTINA

Oh, this cop showed up today. He questioned me about the murders.

REBECCA

Why did he question you?

KRISTINA

I am the typical suspect. It makes sense, of course, I would want to murder the women my husband had an affair with.

REBECCA

Oh, honey! No one thinks you killed those seven women. I am sure it was just random questioning.

Rebecca shakes her head. She stands up, walks to the door.

REBECCA (CONT'D)
Okay, I am going to go home, and
reevaluate how I live my life.

Kristina laughs, and waves goodbye. She starts scrolling
through the channels, the door bell rings. She sighs.

KRISTINA
Come in, Rebecca. Did you forget
something?

The door opens, and Jack pokes his head in.

JACK
Hey, Can I come in?

Kristina gasps and stands up.

KRISTINA
Umm, Jack. What are you doing here?

Jack walks up to Kristina and smiles.

JACK
I had to see you. I have been
thinking about you all day.

Kristina snorts.

KRISTINA
Were you thinking about me when you
were on your date with my friend?

Jack frowns.

JACK
I only went out with her, because
she told me that you wanted us to
go out.

Kristina sighs.

KRISTINA
Well that is not exactly what I
said.

Jack smiles and walks over to the couch, and sits down.

Kristina eyes him up and down.

KRISTINA (CONT'D)
I have never seen you in jeans
before, you look different.

JACK
Different in a bad way?

Kristina spots fresh mud on the bottom of his boots, and creases her forehead.

KRISTINA
No, not bad, just different. Hey, where did you guys go tonight?

JACK
We went to dinner and a walk in the park. Why?

Kristina shakes her head and frowns.

KRISTINA
I was just curious. Look Jack, I should probably warn you, that a police officer might contact you.

JACK
Why?

KRISTINA
Well, you know those murders that have been happening?

JACK
The ones from the Redwood Serial Killer? Yes, I know of those. What, do they think I did it?

Jack laughs.

KRISTINA
No, in fact they think that I killed those women.

JACK
What? Why you?

KRISTINA
Because they all were women that my ex-husband slept with.

JACK
Wouldn't that make him a suspect?

KRISTINA
Yes, I am sure they questioned him too. Anyway, I told them that you and I were together last night so they may call you to verify that.

JACK

Good to know. Now, what should we do?

KRISTINA

Actually, Jack, I am really tired.
It is probably best that you leave.

Jack frowns, and scowls. Takes a deep breath, and stands up.
He walks to the door, and waves.

JACK

Get a goodnight sleep, beautiful.

Kristina smiles, closes the door, locks it.

INT. KRISTINA'S HOUSE - DAY

Kristina scrolls through newspaper clippings on her laptop of the Redwood murders.

The doorbell rings. She cringes, walks to the door, opens it.

Rebecca smiles, holding two coffees in her hands.

KRISTINA

Come on in. I was just reading about the Redwood murders.

Rebecca frowns.

REBECCA

Why are you reading those? You don't still think it's your ex-husband do you?

Kristina walks to the couch, sits down. She glances at the laptop, pushes it away.

KRISTINA

No, I don't think it is him, but I have a funny feeling about these seven murders. I can't explain it.

Rebecca sits next to Kristina, takes a drink of coffee.

REBECCA

Eight murders.

KRISTINA

What?

REBECCA

Eight, they found another body in the woods this morning, and yes she was doing your ex.

Kristina gasps, shakes her head.

REBECCA (CONT'D)

So, not to change the subject but, Jack called me this morning. We are going out again tonight.

Kristina shifts in her seat. She takes a sip of coffee.

KRISTINA

Hmm, I think you should cancel your date. I have an off feeling about Jack. I dont know what it is.

Rebecca frowns.

REBECCA

Are you jealous or just suspicious of everyone.

Kristina squirms.

KRISTINA

No, I am not jealous, but last night, Jack came to see me. He told me you guys had dinner, and went for a walk in the park. He was wearing jeans, a t-shirt and muddy boots.

Rebecca stands up and paces.

REBECCA

He must have changed after our date. I am sure it is nothing. I have to go. I will call you later.

Kristina sighs.

Rebecca walks to the door, leaves.

The phone rings. Officer Gomez appears on the screen.

Kristina shrugs, answers.

KRISTINA

Hello.

OFFICER GOMEZ (V.O.)
 Kristina, this is Officer Gomez.
 Did you hear there was another
 murder?

KRISTINA
 Yes, my friend just told me about
 it. Let me guess, you need to know
 where I was last night?

OFFICER GOMEZ (V.O.)
 No, that is not why I am calling. I
 think you are in danger.

Kristina gasps.

KRISTINA
 What?

OFFICER GOMEZ (V.O.)
 There is something that we have
 never released to the media about
 the murders. With each body there
 is an orange poppy flower, laying
 inside their hand.

KRISTINA
 What does that mean?

OFFICER GOMEZ (V.O.)
 These flowers only grow wild in the
 park down town.

Kristina gasps.

OFFICER GOMEZ (V.O.)
 When I was at your place yesterday,
 I saw you had some in your flower
 bed.

KRISTINA
 Yes, I transplanted some of them
 from the park last year.

OFFICER GOMEZ (V.O.)
 Who ever is killing these women, is
 getting the flowers from your
 house.

KRISTINA
 How do you know they are from my
 house?

OFFICER GOMEZ (V.O.)
I had them tested against the ones
in the park. Your flowers are a
cross breed between poppies and
pansies. They are not the same as
the ones in the park.

Kristina gasps.

KRISTINA
This might be a stupid question to
ask, but why don't you suspect me?

Officer Gomez chuckles.

OFFICER GOMEZ (V.O.)
Because you have an alibi for every
murder. Which means who ever is
doing this, is close to you. I have
to go, but I will swing by your
place tonight, and check on you.

Kristina hangs up the phone.

INT. JACK'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Kristina rings Jack's doorbell. No movement inside. She tries
to doorknob, it's unlocked. She opens the door and walks
inside, closes the door.

KRISTINA
Hello, Jack are you home? I wanted
to talk to you about Rebecca.

Dead silence. Kristina walks through the house, into Jacks
bedroom, closes the door behind her.

She opens his drawers, and digs through his clothes. She
finds a picture of her, standing next to her poppies.

Kristina gasps.

Kristina shakes with fear. She grabs her cell phone, and
dials Rebecca's number. No answer.

She dials Jacks number. It rings. He answers.

JACK (V.O.)
Hello.

KRISTINA
Jack, are you with Rebecca?

JACK (V.O.)
I am just about to meet her at
Redwood Park. Why? Is everything
okay?

KRISTINA
No, I have to see you. Meet me at
the park. I will be there soon.

Kristina hangs up, runs outside to her car, and drives.

She dials Officer Gomez number. The phone rings twice, he
answers.

OFFICER GOMEZ (V.O.)
Hello.

KRISTINA
Yes, this is Kristina Smith. I need
you to meet me at the Redwood Park.
I think the killer is there.

OFFICER GOMEZ (V.O.)
What are you talking about.

KRISTINA
Jack, the lawyer I dated. I think
it's him.

OFFICER GOMEZ (V.O.)
Kristina, do not go there. I will
head over now. This is dangerous.

Kristina hangs up the phone and drives.

EXT. REDWOOD FOREST - NIGHT

Kristina arrives at the forest. She walks under the crime
tape, and into the woods. She hears muffles and cries.

She runs towards the sound. She comes to an opening of
cleared trees.

Rebecca is standing alone.

Jack lays on the ground. Bleeding from a knife wound.

Kristina gasps.

Rebecca turns around.

REBECCA
Kristina? What are you doing here?

KRISTINA

What is going on Rebecca? Did Jack try to hurt you?

Rebecca looks down at Jack and smiles.

REBECCA

No, but he has been very difficult, and he needs to die.

Kristina gasps.

KRISTINA

What is going on Rebecca?

REBECCA

You're so cute, Kristina, but not the brightest. Man, I was so sure you were on to me when I slipped, about the number of murders. No, you were so convinced that it was Jack. You didn't even question me. I love that about you.

KRISTINA

So, you killed them?

REBECCA

Yes, I killed everyone who hurt you. Your husband, those tramps.

Kristina gasps.

KRISTINA

Wait, did you kill my ex-husband?

Rebecca laughs loudly.

REBECCA

No! However, I made sure you got everything in the divorce leaving him homeless, and bankrupt. That is where Jack came in. I didn't know he was going to fall for you.

KRISTINA

Jack didn't hurt me!

Rebecca frowns, glances at Jack.

REBECCA

I am going to kill him, so you and I can be together. Don't you get it.

(MORE)

REBECCA (CONT'D)

I have been in love with you for years. I waited for you to leave your husband, and when you finally did, you met Jack. I tried to seduce him away from you, but nothing worked.

KRISTINA

What didn't work?

Rebecca sighs.

REBECCA

Kristina, don't be so naive. I made it all up. The french restaurant. That never happened.

Kristina looks down at Jack's lifeless body. She cries.

Blue and red police lights fill the forest.

Officer Gomez jumps out, pointing a gun at Rebecca.

OFFICER GOMEZ

Freeze, you're under arrest. Drop the knife.

Rebecca stands still, drops the knife to her feet.

Officer Gomez rushes to her, places cuffs on, leads her away.

Kristina runs to Jack, kneels down, Kisses his forehead.

KRISTINA

Jack, I am so sorry.

Jack groans.

Paramedics rush over, put him on a gurney, take him away.

Officer Gomez walks over to Kristina.

OFFICER GOMEZ

Hey, I just heard that Jack is going to be all right. How are you?

Kristina throws her arms around his neck, and hugs him.

KRISTINA

Thank you for saving our lives.

THE END