

## Trapped

### Characters

ANNA

VIC

"/" indicates where the next line of dialogue interrupts this line.

*(A dark room with a messy desk and a safe. ANNA enters. She opens the safe, rummages around. VIC enters and turns on the light.)*

Anna?

VIC

ANNA

*(Surprised)*  
Vic! I thought you left.

VIC

I forgot my cell phone. What are you doing here so late?

ANNA

Just tidying up.

VIC

What about Chloe?

ANNA

My mother is with her. Did you get your cell phone?

VIC

Yes. I can help you clean.

ANNA

No I'm fine. I know the system.

VIC

The throw-things-around-and-where-they-land-there-shall-they-be system?

ANNA

I've been busy Vic. Running a business, caring for a sick child.

VIC

Then let me help you.

ANNA

I don't need your help. I told you/

VIC

Anna, why is the safe open?

ANNA

What?

VIC

The safe. Why is it open?

ANNA

I was—it was like that when I came in.

VIC

Did you put the deposit in tonight?

ANNA

Yes. I must have forgotten to close it.

VIC

Are you serious? Anna that is a huge oversight.

ANNA

I know. That's why I'm cleaning - I figured if I had some order around here I wouldn't been so scatter brained.

VIC

Well then we should close it up/

ANNA

Yes I'm going to. I just - I want to make sure the deposit is correct. Make sure I didn't forget something on that too.

VIC

How about I double check it for you?

ANNA

I'd rather do it myself. Fix my own mistakes and all.

VIC

Anna if taking care of the restaurant is too much while  
Chloe's recovering...

ANNA

I'm fine Vic. Just a lot on my mind.

VIC

Is Chloe okay?

ANNA

She's good. Getting stronger every day. I'll just double  
check the deposit and once I've finished I'll go home.

VIC

I'll wait for you.

ANNA

You don't have to.

VIC

I want to. Don't like the idea of you here alone so late at  
night.

ANNA

Thank you but that's not necessary. I've been here late by  
myself many times.

VIC

Yes I know - you're always the last to leave. You're the  
only one who handles the end of day deposits.

ANNA

Your point?

VIC

If you're so stressed, why not have someone else lock up for  
you? Are you worried that none of your managers can do that?

ANNA

Of course not.

VIC

That's what managers do right? Handle the restaurant when  
you're not here.

ANNA

Nights are easier for me with my mother's schedule.

VIC

But every night Anna?

ANNA

I want to be there for Chloe during the day when she's awake. Take her to follow up appointments, see to her needs. What are you getting at here Vic?

VIC

You always found time to take her to doctor's appointments before her surgery. And now you're staying here late, leaving the safe open and making mistakes on deposits.

ANNA

I didn't say I made a mistake. I said I wanted to double check.

VIC

Let me do it for you.

*(VIC goes to the safe and ANNA blocks him.)*

ANNA

I told you I'd do it.

VIC

Why won't you let me see the safe? What are you hiding?

ANNA

Nothing. I think you should go.

VIC

I don't think so. What is going on Anna?

ANNA

I told you I was cleaning. That includes the safe.

VIC

You're what - cleaning us out?

ANNA

No! That's not what I meant.

VIC

It might not be what you meant but I think that's exactly what you're doing.

ANNA

I don't know what you mean.

VIC

You've been staying late at night and when everyone else goes home you get into the safe and steal the night's profits then change the deposit book.

ANNA

No! I-

VIC

I opened the latest bank statements.

ANNA

Those statements are in my name. It's illegal to open someone else's mail.

VIC

They also have the restaurant's name on them. I opened the statements on behalf of the restaurant.

ANNA

They just prove how much money is in the bank - nothing else.

*(VIC pulls out a statement.)*

VIC

This is a collections notice.

ANNA

The restaurant is having trouble making ends meet.

VIC

We're slammed all day, and every night our wait list is maxed out. How can we be having trouble making ends meet if you're not robbing from your own restaurant?

ANNA

I-I-/-

VIC

Admit is Anna - you're stealing. What I don't understand is why?

ANNA

I was going to pay it back.

VIC

You confess?!

ANNA

I only need the extra money for a short time.

VIC

It doesn't matter what you need it for. You broke the law. The police/

ANNA

Don't call the police. Please Vic - just hear me out.

VIC

Who knows how long you've been stealing, how much money you've robbed from here.

ANNA

Twenty five thousand, six hundred, and thirty-two dollars.

VIC

What?

ANNA

I know exactly how much money I stole because I know exactly how much I'm planning to pay back once I settle Chloe's hospital bills.

VIC

You stole...for Chloe?

ANNA

Her surgery cost so much money and the insurance didn't cover nearly enough.

VIC

So get a loan from the bank.

ANNA

I'm still paying back the loan for the restaurant - they won't approve another one.

VIC

Couldn't your mom help?

ANNA

She's on social security.

VIC

Why didn't you ask any of us? We would have pooled money together, held a fundraiser-

ANNA

I was too embarrassed - I can't provide for my own child, what would that mean for taking care of a business?

VIC

Explain your situation to the insurance company - I know they let people do payment plans.

ANNA

I can't make the minimum payments on those either.

VIC

But to steal...

ANNA

I didn't know what else to do.

VIC

Is anyone else involved?

ANNA

No...

VIC

Who else knows about this?

ANNA

You have to understand I had nowhere else to go.

VIC

Who else?

ANNA

A credit lender.

VIC

A credit lender? You borrowed money from a loan shark?

ANNA

He loaned me enough money to pay the hospital bills in full, but now he's demanding huge payments in interest and I can't keep up.

VIC

Do you know what these guys do if you don't pay them back?

ANNA

I only need the money until he's paid off then I can start paying back the restaurant.

VIC

If he's charging such high interest how are you ever going to pay him back?

ANNA

I have to try. Please Vic just let me do this.

VIC

You need to go to the police.

ANNA

And tell them I've been stealing to pay some random guy I borrowed money from?

VIC

They know you're situation, they'll be sympathetic/

ANNA

How do they know my situation?

VIC

What?

ANNA

How do the police know my situation?

VIC

Because when I suspected you were stealing I went to the police and they agreed to monitor you.

ANNA

Monitor? How?

VIC

Phone tapping. Email surveillance. They couldn't install a security camera without you noticing. And...me.

ANNA

You? What did you do?

VIC

I didn't leave my cell phone here. I came back on purpose to confront you. And the police are waiting outside.

ANNA

Tell them what I told you. It was for Chloe.

VIC

They already know. They've been listening this whole time.

*(VIC reaches into his shirt and pulls out a listening device.)*

ANNA

They'll take me away, put me in prison. Chloe—oh God.

VIC

Maybe they'll help. Your situation/

ANNA

I'm a criminal Vic, thief. There's never sympathy for criminals. How can I pay back the loan if I'm in prison? He'll come after my family.

VIC

The police can protect them.

ANNA

How could you do this? Why didn't you just come to me first? Why involve the police in all this?

VIC

I don't know. I'm sorry. I thought you were just stealing. I didn't think/

ANNA

Is there any way out?

VIC

They know you're in here Anna. They won't let you get away.

*(ANNA sinks down as the realization that she's trapped bears down on her.)*

ANNA

Oh Chloe. I'm so sorry.

*(End of play.)*