

"Shades of Grey" Extension

by Allison

ELLIOT

Listen I thought I told you that I didn't ... of course I'll see her, send her in.

(Catherine walks through the door)

Catherine, what's the matter? What happened to you?

CATHERINE

I need a favor ...

ELLIOT

You look shaky, come on ... sit down, I'll get you a brandy.

CATHERINE (agitated)

I don't need a brandy! What I need is your help.

ELLIOT

Tell me what you want.

Catherine reaches into her pocket, pulls out a piece of paper and hands it to Elliot.

ELLIOT

(Laughing)

A tungsten carbide drill bit?

You've given up the law for hard rock mining?

CATHERINE

This is no joke; my need is real and immediate.

and I don't have time to spar with you.

ELLIOT

I don't get an explanation.

CATHERINE

No, I'm sorry.

(pleading)

I'm asking you to trust me.

ELLIOT

That's all I've ever asked of you.

I must have called you over fifty times since our disagreement.

(he walks to the phone and dials)

You always so certain you're right?

(on the phone)

Hi, it's Elliot Burch, give me Jack, quick.

Jack, I've got a friend coming down, give her what she needs ... Yeah, thanks.

(he hangs up the phone, writes something on the list and hands it back to Catherine)

He'll be expecting you, Catherine.

CATHERINE

(turns before she heads out the door)

Next time you call I'll be in.

ELLIOT

Why?

CATHERINE

Because you didn't put a price tag on this.

(holds up list)

Elliot's phone rang about thirty minutes after Catherine left him to see Jack at his latest construction project.

"Hello?"

"Elliot, it's Jack. Did you get a good look at that list your friend brought me?"

"Not really. I saw the tungsten carbide drill bit at the top of the list and immediately laughed and asked her if she was giving up the law for hard rock mining. Why?"

"One of the things on the list was plastic explosives."

"Plastic explosives?"

"Yeah. I asked her why she needed it. She wouldn't tell me. I asked her if the person she needed it for knew what he was doing with it. She stated he knew how to use it, so I didn't push the issue since you authorized it."

"I wondered what she needed plastic explosives for as well as the hard rock mining stuff. What else did she take besides the explosives and the drill bit?"

Jack gave him a rundown of what the list asked for. Elliot thanked Jack and hung up the phone, shaking his head.

The next day Elliot went to Catherine's apartment. When the doorman called Catherine to let her know Elliot was there to see her, she hesitated for a moment then told him to let him come up. A few minutes later she heard a knock on her door.

"Come in, Elliot."

"Cathy, Jack called me after you left. He told me the list asked for plastic explosives."

"Yes, Elliot. Thank you. They helped to save someone's life."

"Why didn't you call the authorities instead of risking your life using something you know nothing about."

"My friend knew what he was doing. It's difficult to explain."

"That's not good enough. Plastic explosives, in the hands of someone who doesn't know how to use it, is a bad combination."

"I'm sorry, Elliot. I can't explain it further without compromising a promise I made."

"And I'm just supposed to accept this?"

"Yes, but it did help save lives."

"Well, there was nothing on the news about an explosion in the city, so I guess I'll need the plastic explosives back since you didn't use them."

"Uh.... We did use them, Elliot. As I said, they saved someone's life."

"Where? How?"

"As I told you, I can't explain it. You just have to know how grateful I am for you doing this."

"One of these days, Chandler, you are going to explain '*EVERYTHING*' to me."

"Yes, Elliot. One day."

END