

BETWEEN THE LINES

CHARACTERS

LIZZIE: Police Inspector; in her 30s; confident and brave.

ANDY: Sr. Police Inspector; in his 40s; short tempered, but professional.

JIMMY: Jr. Police Inspector; in his 20s; smart but lacks confidence.

MR. BRANDSTON: In his 50s; Tom's old acquaintance.

SHOPKEEPER: In his 40s; calm and supportive.

WOMAN: In her 50s; Allen's wife.

UNKNOWN PERSON: Stranger

VOICE: An unknown voice, of a man in his 30s.

INT. LIZZIE'S ROOM – MORNING

[SFX ALARM RINGS]

Lizzie: Oh my god, not again, stupid alarm!

[SFX: PHONE RING]

Lizzie: What do they all want from me? I'm sleeping! [SFX: ANSWERING MACHINE STARTS] (Nobody is at home, you can leave your message. [SFX: BEEP])

VOICE: Hello, Lizzie! It's me, Tom. Do you remember me? I really need your help, I haven't got much time. Do you remember Mr. Brandson who lives near the Smiths? Go there and tell him that you know everything... Can you hear me? Hello... [SFX: ANSWERING MACHINE ENDS]

Lizzie: What the hell is that?! Tom, hello? [SFX: PICK UP PHONE] But how is it possible! He was supposed to be dead for two years now! I need to get to the office ASAP.

INT. POLICE STATION – MORNING

[SFX: OFFICE CHATTER]

Andy: So, you say that Tom, the one who was killed while investigating the case of drug trafficking, left the message?

Lizzie: Yes.

Andy: But that's impossible! I personally saw his body when he was shot in his head.

Lizzie: I don't know what to think. But that was his voice.

Andy: Do you still have that message?

Lizzie: Yes, it was a voicemail, you can drop by and check it out yourself.

Andy: Hey wait, are you going to that place now? It can be dangerous. At least take Jimmie with you.

Lizzie: But what if the man hesitates when he sees Jimmy? It's better if I go alone. Jimmy can stay in the car.

Andy: Okay, deal. But call me if something goes wrong.

OUT. MR. BRANDSON'S HOUSE - AFTERNOON

[SFX: KNOCKING AT THE DOOR, BIRDS CHIRPING]

Lizzie: Mr. Brandson! Are you there?

Mr. Brandson: Who are you?

Lizzie: I'm Lizzie, Tom's friend, I know everything.

[SFX: DOOR OPENING, FOOTSTEPS]

Mr. Brandson: Come in. Follow me. Stay here — I will be back.

Lizzie: Mr. Brandson? What's this?

Mr. Brandson: This is for you. That man asked me to give it to you. We weren't friends but I owed him something. So, just take it and leave, please.

[SFX: DOOR CLOSING...CAR DOOR OPENING, CLOSING]

Jimmy: What's that?

Lizzie: It's just an envelope. Hmm, let me check. "Dear Lizzie. As I expected, you wouldn't come alone. Say hello to Jimmy."

Jimmy: Hello! What? I just said hello back...

Lizzie: "I really wish we could meet sooner, but everything doesn't depend just on me. As you remember, I was the one who investigated that case with drugs, so I wish I didn't have to die... or pretend to be dead. Yet, I need you to save me. I couldn't say everything over the phone, I hope you understand me. They are still looking for me. I can't say everything now, but I want you to trust me. Meet me at 9 p.m. on the other side of the river. Come alone. I don't want any trouble."

Jimmy: What? Where are you going?

Lizzie: He must be in that house! Let me find him and ask what this means.

[SFX: DOOR KNOCK]

Lizzie: Mr. Brandson, open the door, I know that Tom is there!

Jimmy: Do you think he's just ignoring you?

Lizzie: Look! He has escaped through the back door. But here's the note. It's the name of Tom's favourite music shop. We need to go there ASAP.

INT. MUSIC SHOP- AFTERNOON

[SFX: SHOP DOOR OPENS, DOORBELL RINGS]

Lizzie: Hello! Do you know Mr. Brandson or Tom? We are their friends.

Shopkeeper: Yes... khhh... But why do you ask?

Lizzie: Well, I wanted to make a surprise for Tom, but I don't know what kind of music he prefers lately...

Shopkeeper: Well, I have not seen Tom lately, but Mr. Brandson always buys something from the '80s. I would suggest buying that green one on the top shelf. That's his favourite band. But please, don't tell him that I told you anything.

Lizzie: Why?

Shopkeeper (*whispering*): Well, he doesn't like to talk much. I'm sure he wouldn't appreciate me talking about him.

Lizzie: Yes, sure. I will take this one. Thank you!

INT. POLICE STATION - EVENING

Andy: So, what have you got? You both look so exhausted. Where have you been?

Jimmy: (*exhausted*) Just don't ask...

Lizzie: We visited Mr. Brandson and the music shop.

Andy: What were you doing in a music shop??

Lizzie: We found the note Mr. Brandson dropped while trying to escape. And I bought this CD, the one he listens to. Here's the letter. I'm going to meet Tom at 9 p.m.

Andy: Meet Tom? Jimmy and I are going with you.

Lizzie: No, he asked me to come alone. Here's the letter. I will have my pistol and a walkie-talkie. You don't have to worry about me.

Andy: This is insane, but I know nothing will change your mind.

OUT. AT THE EMBANKMENT - NIGHT

[SFX: ROAD NOISE, WIND]

Andy: Lizzie?

Lizzie: Andy!? What are you doing here? I told you not to come.

Andy: Where's Tom? You said you were meeting him at 9.

Lizzie: I don't know. Maybe something has happened to him. You look pale. Are you alright?

Andy: I just wanted to make sure that you are safe. Let's go back. I don't think he will come. You have been waiting for 15 minutes already.

Lizzie: So, you were watching me! What if he comes when I leave? I should know the truth.

Andy: I'm sure it was just a weird prank someone played on you. Tom is dead! You know it perfectly!

Lizzie: I didn't see him when he died. You were the only one there. What if you've been mistaken?! We didn't manage to catch those guys, and this voicemail and the letter are the only threads we've got.

Andy: We will find them one day. Let's go back now.

INT. LIZZIE'S BEDROOM - MORNING

[SFX: PHONE RINGING]

VOICE: Hello, good morning, Lizzie! I'm so sorry I couldn't meet you yesterday. I hope you didn't wait for long. I really wanted to meet you, but... there were some unforeseen circumstances. I hope you'll forgive me. This time I will find you myself. Bye!

Lizzie: What? How is he going to find me?!

INT. POLICE STATION – MORNING

[SFX: OFFICE CHATTER]

Andy: This is very interesting. I don't know what to say. We will track him and know his location.

Lizzie: You are talking as if he is a criminal!

Andy: Not again, Liz. We both know miracles don't exist.

Lizzie: Anyway, don't hurt him. We don't know for sure whose voice that is.

Andy: Jimmy, please check this voicemail, we need to know where it's coming from.

Jimmy: Yes, anything else?

Andy: Make some coffee for Lizzie, she looks terrible.

Lizzie: Terrible!? I'm fine.

Andy: What are you planning to do now?

Lizzie: I'm going to figure out who actually wrote the letter and see if Mr. Brandson is back. Maybe I will be able to meet Tom today.

Andy: Why don't you just stay at home? It will be easier to set a trap for him. I will ask the guys to patrol your house.

Lizzie: He won't come to my place. If he could do that, he would have already visited me.

Andy: I don't trust this guy. Stay safe, Lizz.

Lizzie: I know, I know. Have a good day, guys. See you later.

Andy: Jimmy, keep an eye on her. And if you notice something suspicious, let me know immediately.

Jimmy: Do you think she is hiding something from us?

Andy: Just do it.

Jimmy: Okay... I will never be able to read news or eat my lunch quietly...

OUT. MR. BRANDSON'S HOUSE – AFTERNOON

(SFX: NOISE OF KEYS, DOOR OPENING, FOOTSTEPS)

Jimmy: Woah! That's interesting.

[SFX: CAR DOOR CLOSSES, ENGINE ROARS, TIRES SCREECH]

[SFX: TELEPHONE DIALING]

Andy: What have you got for me Jimmy?

Jimmy: Lizzie just entered Mr. Brandson's house.

Andy: What? Did she go through the window?

Jimmy: She seemed to have the keys to his front door.

Andy: And when did she leave?

Jimmy: I think she is still inside the house.

Andy: You think?

Jimmy: Well Sir! I saw what happened and drove to the nearest phone booth to inform you.

Andy (irritated): Are you a fool? Go back immediately and call me when she leaves.

Jimmy: Yes Boss! Sorry Boss! I am on it...

[SFX: CAR DOOR CLOSSES, ENGINE ROARS, TIRES SCREECH]

Jimmy: Woah! She was inside for 2 hours.

INT. POLICE STATION – MORNING

[SFX: DOOR OPENING, OFFICE CHATTER]

Andy: So Liz...Any updates? Did you meet our friend, Tom?

Lizzie: No, not yet. I will let you know when I will come across something.

Andy: So, you did not meet anyone after our meeting yesterday?

Lizzie: What do you mean by that?

Andy: I am just curious. I want you to be safe.

Lizzie: Don't worry about me. I will be perfectly fine. Anyway, I went to Mr. Brandson's house, but he was not there.

Andy: And you left immediately?

Lizzie: What else was I supposed to do?

Andy: No, nothing that you could have done. But don't you think it's a bit strange.

Lizzie: Strange?

Andy: No, nothing! Just thinking loudly.

[SFX: DOOR CLOSING]

Andy: Jimmy, what do you think about that?

Jimmy: About what?

Andy: Well, she is definitely hiding something, because either you are lying, or she is.

Jimmy: I swear to God Boss, I told you everything that I saw.

Andy: Yes of course! I know that. But why would she do something like this?

Jimmy: Maybe she has her reasons.

Andy: No reason can justify a blatant lie like that.

Jimmy: What should we do now Boss?

Andy: Start looking into this Mr. Brandson. We need to know more about this guy.

OUT. MUSIC SHOP – AFTERNOON

[SFX: ROAD NOISE, TELEPHONE DIALING]

Jimmy: Boss! Lizzie just entered the music shop.

Andy: I'll be there in a couple of minutes.

Jimmy: Sure Boss.

INT. MUSIC SHOP – AFTERNOON

[SFX: DOOR OPENING, BELL RINGING]

Shopkeeper: How's everything?

Lizzie: Good...atleast I think that everything is good.

Shopkeeper: Is everything going according to the plan.

Lizzie: Yes. Let's initiate Round 2.

Shopkeeper: Don't you think we are getting ahead of ourselves.

Lizzie: No. We can't wait any longer.

Shopkeeper: Okay. I trust your judgement. Let me know when you will need me.

Lizzie: Yes. Goodbye!

Shopkeeper: Goodbye.

OUT. MUSIC SHOP – AFTERNOON

[SFX: ROAD NOISE]

Jimmy: Boss, she just left.

Andy: Yeah, I can see that. I will go inside now.

Jimmy: Okay. I will wait for you in the car.

[SFX: CAR DOOR CLOSING]

INT. MUSIC SHOP – AFTERNOON

[SFX: DOOR OPENING, BELL RINGING]

Andy: Hello! Nice day today...isn't it.

Shopkeeper: Hello Good Sir!

Andy: You have a nice collection of records here. Could you recommend something?

Shopkeeper: Sure sir. What kind of music do you listen to generally?

Andy: Mostly Classical.

Shopkeeper: Aha! In that case, we have a fine collection of Mozart and Beethoven in the top shelf. You name it, we have it.

Andy: By the way, who was that tall lady with the red hair, who just left?

Shopkeeper: May I ask the reason behind this enquiry?

Andy: Ohh! She just reminded me of someone I knew a long time back.

Shopkeeper: Aha! Well, she is just a local Police inspector.

Andy: What would a police inspector need in this place?

Shopkeeper: She was enquiring about an old friend of mine.

Andy: Your old friend? What happened to him?

Shopkeeper: Nothing serious. He is just back in town.

Andy: Was he on vacation?

Shopkeeper: Yes! Kind of. Have you selected any record?

Andy: I changed my mind. Have a good day!

Shopkeeper: You too sir!

[SFX: DOOR CLOSING, BELL RINGING]

[SFX: PHONE DIALING]

Shopkeeper: Lizzie! Andy was just here.

Lizzie: What was he doing there?

Shopkeeper: He asked me about you.

Lizzie: Ohh! I am sure you must have handled the situation well.

Shopkeeper: Yeah, no issues.

Lizzie: Thanks!

INT. ANDY'S HOUSE - MIDNIGHT

[SFX: FOOTSTEPS, DOOR KNOCK]

Andy: (*Anxiously*) Who's there? Hello! Is anyone there?

[SFX: LETTER SLIPS UNDER THE DOOR, LETTER OPENING, PAGE RUSTLING]

Andy: A letter without an address? Let's see what it says: "Hello Andy! It's me, Tom. Long time. How's the business going? I am back in town, so I hope we can meet soon. Say hello to Lizzie"

INT. POLICE STATION – MORNING

[SFX: OFFICIE CHATTER]

Jimmy: Good morning Boss! What happened to you?

Andy: Why...what do you mean?

Jimmy: You look like you have been in a bar whole night.

Andy: Something like that.

Jimmy: Well Boss! I have news for you. Do you remember that you asked me to look into Mr, Brandson.

Andy: Yes...what of it?

Jimmy: The guy does not exist.

Andy: That's what I was afraid of.

Jimmy: You knew about this?

Andy: Listen! I want a detailed account of what Lizzie does throughout her day. You should become her shadow. Don't let her out of your sight from now on...do you understand me?

Jimmy: Is everything alright Boss? You look really exhausted. Maybe you should take a day off.

Andy: Do what you are told (*pause*)...Why are you still here? GO!

INT. POLICE STATION – MORNING

[SFX: DOOR OPENING, OFFICE CHATTER]

Lizzie: Why do you look so pale Andy?

Andy: Oh nothing! Just had a rough night. What about you? Did you find any other leads.

Lizzie: Not really. I have been looking into the last case Tom was working on. There isn't much stuff to go on.

Andy: What do you mean?

Lizzie: Well for a start, I couldn't even find photos of his dead body. The evidence is missing from the log.

Andy: That's strange, but I saw the body myself.

Lizzie: Yeah, but I did not see it.

Andy: Are you calling me a liar?

Lizzie: I didn't call you anything. I just want to believe in facts.

Andy: And the fact is that TOM IS DEAD!

Lizzie: But I don't know that. There is no evidence pointing in that direction, other than your testimony. And how would you explain the letter and the voice messages? The handwriting and the voice seem to correlate with that of Tom's.

Andy: I am telling you...it's a madman playing with us.

Lizzie: Whatever...I will look into it.

[SFX: DOOR SLAMMING]

OUT. POLICE STATION (UNDISCLOSED) - NIGHT

[SFX: CRICKETS]

Andy: Was the delivery on time?

Unknown person: Yes. Everything is going smoothly for now.

Andy: Things might get bumpy from hereon.

Unknown Person: Why? What happened?

Andy: This Lizzie has been looking into Tom's last case.

Unknown person: So?

Andy: So? She has apparently received Voice Messages and letters from Tom.

Unkonwn person: How is that possible? Isn't Tom supposed to be dead.

Andy: Yes.

Unknown Person : Why don't you arrest her?

Andy: On what grounds?

Unknown person : I don't know? There should be some way. What's the point of you being a Police Officer if you can't even arrest people?

Andy: It's not that easy.

Unknown Person : Whatever, it's your job. My job is just to deliver, and I am good at it.

Andy: Just keep your eyes open.

Jimmy: (*whispering*) Andy! What is he doing here? And who are those guys?

INT. MUSIC SHOP – MORNING

[SFX: DOOR OPENING, BELL RINGING]

Shopkeeper: Hey Lizzie! How are you? Any updates?

Lizzie: I think I should meet Tom soon.

Shopkeeper: Woah! I did not think it would happen so soon.

Lizzie: Well, there is still some time, but I want to get to the bottom of this as soon as I can.

Shopkeeper: Oh okay! Just give me a heads up when you finally plan to do that. I will be ready. By the way, how's Andy?

Lizzie: How do you think he is?

Shopkeeper: *(laughing slightly)* Oh okay! I can imagine.

Lizzie: I will not stop until I get the clear picture.

Shopkeeper: What are you holding?

Lizzie: Oh this? Guess what! I found Tom's diary.

Shopkeeper: Did you find something useful in this notebook?

Lizzie: Yes, I found the contact information of someone named Allen Miller, who I think might have been associated with this case.

Shopkeeper: Do you think it's safe?

Lizzie: I have this.

[SFX: GUN COCKING]

(SFX: POT BREAKING)

Shopkeeper and Lizzie together: What is that sound?

Lizzie: *(Whispering)*...You keep quiet. I will check.

(After a few seconds)

Lizzie: I couldn't see anyone...but I am sure that we are being watched.

INT. POLICE STATION - AFTERNOON

[SFX: OFFICE CHATTER]

Andy: (*hurriedly*) Did you find anything?

Jimmy: (*nervously*)...Oh, yes.

Andy: What is it? Tell me already!

Jimmy: I saw Lizzie in the shop again. It wasn't easy to catch what they were saying - I could only hear bits and pieces, but I am sure that she mentioned Tom's notebook, and finding a contact in it.

Andy: (*nervously*) Are you absolutely sure that she got a hold of his notebook?

Jimmy: Again, I couldn't hear everything, but I pieced the bits I heard together, and this is the most logical explanation.

Andy: (*muffled voice*) Shit! Did you happen to hear the name of the guy?

Jimmy: I think she mentioned Allen...something.

Andy: Not much to go on...but okay. Do you have any other news for me?

Jimmy: Well, here's the thing. She might have noticed my presence while she was at the Shop.

Andy: (*Shouting*) WHAT!

Jimmy: Yes, well...umm...I messed up a bit, but I took off as fast as I could.

Andy: Are you sure she didn't see your face?

Jimmy: She definitely didn't see my face., but I am not sure if she knows that it's me who's following her.

Andy: Gotta figure out who this Allen is now.

OUT. ALLEN'S HOUSE - MORNING

[SFX: DOOR KNOCK, DOOR OPENS]

Lizzie: Hello, is Allen at home?

Woman: Who are you? What do you want with my husband?

Lizzie: I am his old friend.

Woman: I don't remember him having a friend like you. Anyway, he got a call in the morning, and hasn't been home since.

Lizzie: Do you happen to know who called him?

Woman: (*Frustration*) Why should I care? Goodbye Miss!

[SFX: DOOR SLAM]

Lizzie: Weird!

INT. POLICE STATION – MORNING

[SFX: OFFICE CHATTER]

Jimmy: Hey Boss! Why do you have blood stains on you?

Andy: Oh...where? I can't see them.

Jimmy: On your left leg.

Andy: Nothing serious! I just cut my finger in the morning.

Jimmy: That must have been a deep cut. Are you sure it's nothing serious.

Andy: Yes yes. Now get back to work.

INT. POLICE STATION – AFTERNOON

[SFX: OFFICE CHATTER]

Lizzie: I have finally arranged a meeting with Tom.

Andy: “Presumably” Tom.

Lizzie: Whatever. He wants to meet me tomorrow at 9 p.m. on the Sixth Boulevard.

Andy: That’s a really shady place, are you sure you want to go there.

Lizzie: You don’t have to worry about me.

Jimmie: But you are not even sure if he is Tom.

Lizzie: We have already had this conversation. And I hope you don’t follow me like last time Andy.

Andy: As you wish.

Lizzie: I am so close to revealing everything that went down, I think this is my golden opportunity. Wish me Good Luck guys

[SFX: DOOR SLAMS]

Andy: Don’t follow her tonight.

Jimmie: Why boss?

Andy: I will do it myself. You stay put.

Jimmie: I can be helpful Boss.

Andy: It’s an order.

INT. POLICE STATION – MORNING

[SFX: OFFICE CHATTER]

Jimmie: Boss! I followed Lizzie to the Music shop, and I overheard them talking about the meeting. Apparently, the meeting will now take place at Mr. Brandson’s house, instead of the 6th Boulevard.

Andy: Are you sure?

Jimmie: 100%. I could hear them clear.

Andy: Good work Jimmie! But don't you dare go to Mr Brandson's house tonight.

Jimmie: Yes Boss!

OUT. MR. BRANDSON'S HOUSE – NIGHT

[SFX: CAR DOOR OPENS, CLOSES]

Andy: This seems to be Lizzie's car. I am sure she is inside.

(SFX: WALKING ON GRASS)

(SFX: DOOR OPENING)

Andy: (*shouting*) Who is that, Lizzie?

Lizzie: Andy, what are you doing here?

Andy: Tell me who that guy is.

Lizzie: Who else can he be. It's Tom!

Andy: That's not possible. Tom is dead. How many times do I have to repeat myself. Show me your face, you imposter.

Lizzie: Go away Andy!

Andy: So you are not going to tell who that man is? Okay, let's be done with both of you today.

[SFX: GUN COCKS]

Jimmie: (*shouting*) NOOO Andyy!

(SFX: THUD, GROANS, WRESTLING)

Jimmie: (*shouting*) Arrest this man.

[SFX: GUN SHOT]

Lizzie: Sam...are you okay?

Andy: Who is Sam?

Shopkeeper (Sam): (*in pain*) I have been shot in my leg.

Lizzie: Someone call the Ambulance now!

Jimmie: Take this man to the police station.

INT. POLICE STATION – NIGHT

Andy: Jimmie...What does this mean?

Jimmie: Sorry Boss! But I am Police Officer...and it is my duty to catch criminals.

Andy: I trusted you.

Lizzie: All this time, I knew you were somehow involved with Tom's death, but I could not prove anything. Tonight's events cleared all my doubts.

Andy: You have nothing against me. You can't prove anything.

Lizzie: Well, we can prove a lot of things. Thanks to Jimmie, we know that you are involved in drug trafficking. We also know that you are the one who killed Allen, as we found your clothes stained with his blood at your home and the fact that you just shot Sam proves that you are the one who shot Tom too.

Andy: You both played the fool to make me believe Tom was alive. So clever of you. The only thing is, I never killed Tom. We were working together to catch those guys, so I had to pretend to be one of them. I thought you were the one who organized that scheme. I knew you lied about Tom and Mr. Brandson, so I've been suspecting you all this time.

Lizzie and Jimmy (*together*): What?

Jimmy: What about the blood, then?

Andy: I rushed to meet Allen after I got the information that you were going to see him. I went there to make sure you wouldn't give me away. Unfortunately, he got into a car accident that day, and I had to help him out.

Jimmy: Why did you shoot Sam then?

Andy: I did not do it deliberately. It wouldn't have even happened, if you had not jumped on me. I was not going to shoot anyone.

Lizzie: So, if you didn't kill Tom, then who did?

Andy: What if Tom isn't dead?
