

Lies of Another

Part 3

Hi there, I hope you have been following our story, this is the part 3 of the story. To refresh your mind a little, Jean and Judith are sisters. Their lives become entangled when they meet Alex a successful architect who has given them the contract to do interior for his new house. One thing leads to another and when tragedy strikes one twin is left dead. But was Alex really in love with Judith? Does he know that the twin that survived is not Judith? Will Jean really open up and reveal herself in this part? Well, enjoy the story.

He looked her over, she was pretty, his type of woman. An oval face, a nice figure, a good height. Obviously well exposed and beautiful but right now his mind was on other things. Jean was incensed at the way the guy just stared at her, assessing her. It was like he was undressing her with his eyes. "She barely controlled herself, "have you finished your assessment?" She hissed angrily. He smiled mockingly. "Yes, I have, and I like what I see," he replied in a mocking tone. "You men are all pigs." "Hey not so fast with your tongue, remember you hit my car." "I said am sorry," she cried indignantly. "Anyway you can go." She was visibly surprised at the sudden change. She noticed he was suddenly staring at his watch. She smiled gratefully. "Thank you very much Mr...." he ignored her. She turned and made for her car. His driver got into the car, a sarcastic expression on his face, probably wondering why his boss let her go so easily.

Slowly she joined the traffic. Judith must be incensed at her lateness; she thought as she stole a glance at her watch, it was 12pm already. It was also rude to keep the clients waiting. She hoped she had the necessary pictures, catalogue and samples of curtains they intended to show the client. Silently she prayed that her sister would have the necessary things. Unconsciously, she took a wrong turn and was brought out of her reverie by horns blaring from every corner. Feeling embarrassed and impatient with herself, she cursed her foolishness. She took a left and then a right turn and entered a street cursing herself repeatedly. At this time of the day, Lagos Island was always caught up in serious traffic jams. She parked her

car and took deep breaths trying to steady her nerves. In her confusions she was nearly lost. She turned on the ignition and started to reverse, to go back the way she had come. She wasn't very familiar with the restaurant for the proposed meeting; in fact this would be her second time of coming here. She took the Falomo bridge and drove straight. After some time she knew she was on the right track. When she finally got to the venue, she searched for a space to park her car. It was a new joint, rapidly becoming a favourite of workers on the Island. Given the number of the exotic cars parked there, it had high clientele. She got out and shut the door. That was when she noticed the jeep she had bashed earlier. The driver was no where around. She walked fast into the restaurant and stopped to look around, trying to find her sister. Then she sighted her seated at a far corner to her right across the restaurant. The client was already there with his back to her, but she could have sworn there was something familiar about that back. As she walked closer she realized it was the owner of the jeep she'd encountered earlier. "Sorry I am late." She spoke and they both stopped their discussion and looked up at her. It was him alright. He smiled, comprehension dawning on him. "I said it, I saw someone with a very sticking resemblance to you Miss Judith," he exclaimed. Judith laughed. "And I told you it could be my twin sister." Hmm.... how nice, twins almost look alike; he said getting up and pulling up a chair for her. She smiled and gratefully took the chair. He extended his hand. "Mr. Alex," "Jean Desmond" she replied as they shook hands. "He's our new client, Mr. Alex...." "Call me Alex," he cut in smiling. "Okay...okay" Judith exclaimed, laughing. "Well, we are interior decorators as you already know and we give the best service Mr. Alex." Jean said, bringing out her catalogue and

ignoring the request to address him on first name basis. "Like I was saying before my sister came, we have to take measurement of the windows and doors in your home and then determine what would be done with the place. Meanwhile Alex here are the catalogues I told you about, you can have a look at them. These are mostly jobs we have done for people." Alex leafed through the catalogues and pictures. "These are impressive works he complimented, you ladies did these jobs?"

"Of course," replied Jean in a voice that said, 'we can't be lying.' He raised his head and stared speculatively at her, a smile on his face. She caught his stare and looked away. Judith noticing the tension broke the silence. "We'll measure your home and bring you a quotation, but we've got to know the site", Judith considered. "Yes, I'll give you the address, I will be out of town tomorrow but I'll be back and meet you there on Saturday". He turned to us talking to Jean, expecting her to say something. "Jean has an appointment on Saturday, so I'll come with the boys to take the measurement, will that be okay?" Jean looked up surprised at Judith's presumption. She realized her sister didn't want her around.

He nodded. He wrote the address on a piece of paper and handed it to Judith. "Well ladies I have another appointment so I have to run, even though it would have been nice to stay and have lunch with you." He stood up, with a smile and a nod, he was off. Immediately he was out of hear shot, Judith turned to her. "What is wrong with you Jean?, You almost blew the meeting, because of your lousy attitude and rudeness we could be losing a potential client," Judith lashed out angrily.

"Am sorry Judith, it's just that I wasn't expecting to see someone I had bashed his car earlier, I didn't expect him to turn out to be my client, he acted in such a high-handed manner" Judith glared at her and Jean looked away frowning. "Well he happens to be our client so you'd best learn to forget what happened earlier and control your anger towards him. I suggest you be at your most charming when next you see him." "Oh not to worry, Jean replied giving her an icy smile. I suggest we order lunch and head straight for the office. Jean stared hard at her sister and smiled. "I can tell you are in a high mood, remember the office policy, I hope you have not fallen for that guy, he is a client and the rule says no combining of business with pleasure," she warned. "Really Jean not to worry, I'll

keep the rule." But it was clear that she had no plans of keeping to that rule she wanted Alex and would do everything in the book to make him notice her.

He was so handsome and so rich. Well in no time she'll have him eating out of her palm in just a few months. "Come on Jean lets order, I am famished" she beckoned to a waiter who came forward to their table. They gave him their orders and he left.

On Saturday, they both got to the office on time. Judith left with the boys to Alex's place to take measurements, while Jean stayed behind to attend to some office jobs. She decided not to go and she knew her sister didn't want her there. It was obvious she wanted to go alone. Since their meeting with Alex she hasn't stopped talking about him. Hell, if she wanted to throw herself at the man, she was welcome to. A few hours later there was a knock on her office door. Jean wondered who it was. She stood up to open the door and stood face to face with Jeff, a friend of hers. She wondered how Jeff knew she was in.

If he had called she would have told him she was busy. "Hello my angel" he opened his arms wide expecting a hug but she expertly side stepped him. "Hi Jeff, I wasn't expecting you, she said by way of greeting as she stepped back for him to enter. She deliberately left the office door wide open. He drew up a seat and sat down, stretching himself lazily. "I came to take you out my princess, it's been long. You hardly have time for me these days," he whined, undressing her with his eyes. She pressed her lips tightly together to avoid a retort and smiled sweetly at him, "Come on Jeff, that's not true, we were out on a date last Wednesday night, have you forgotten?" "Come on, Jean one date a week is too poor," he exclaimed. "But you know I am a very busy person, Jeff. I thought you'd understand. I told you right from the beginning that I am married to my job and it comes first." Starring up at him, she dropped her pen and spread her arms wide on the table. "Anyway I'd like to take you out on a date. Let's go clubbing today after all its Saturday, your sister Judith can come with us." The phone rang and she picked it up. "Yes?" she queried. "Jeans raise an eye brow, "quite fast, I must say, what about the measurements?" The boys are on their way, haven't they reached the office yet? We finished hours earlier. Listen Jean, you need to see this house, it's a beauty, some people sure have money and taste to go with it."

She gushed on the phone.

Jean couldn't help smiling, she could tell Judith was excited. "But you are breaking the rules----" "Oh Jean you have started again, I need a good time please, I want to enjoy myself please give me a break." "Okay, okay hands off, Jeff sends his greetings. He is here, do you want to speak with him? She paused briefly, "hmm not really, extend my greetings. I have to go, Alex is waiting." The line went dead. Sighing, she shook her head, and replaced the phone. She closed the file she was working on and picked up her leather black handbag. "Well Jeff you win, lets go and paint the town red,. I think I need a breath of fresh air."

Jeff smiled and stood up, rubbing his hands together in obvious delight. Their relationship was platonic, although he would have wanted something more but she refused, insisting she wasn't ready for a serious commitment. She didn't know why she kept dragging her feet. He was a fine young man with a good job, a good catch for any girl. He was an engineer but the chemistry wasn't just there and no matter how she tried, she couldn't force it. Within a month, Judith was neck deep in a relationship with Alex. She claimed Alex was crazy about her but she doubted very much, especially since whenever she met him he seemed distant.

On the other hand Judith appeared to be all over him. Jean couldn't help feeling Alex wasn't as in as Judith was claiming. If she had any feeling about Alex, she hid it well behind a mask. The tension between them was always high whenever they were alone in a room.

On occasions she'd caught him starring at her with something akin to desire. She couldn't blame her sister for diving him, she prayed it would work out between them, that is if they were genuinely in love. Three days ago he had come to the office looking for Judith but met her instead. When he walked into her office, he was wearing a frown. "Good afternoon Alex, but I am sure you were told Judith had to go see a client so, perhaps, you can either call her or come back." He stared at her for a few minutes, a smile playing on his lips. "Actually I came to see you." "Really, she replied, an eye brow raised in surprise, so what can I do for you?" Still smiling, "may I, he asked, gesturing to a seat, then seating down before she could invite him to. "I want to know why you dislike me so much?"

...to be continued in our next edition