

Too much work.

Kate AKS



(Summer Key: 2)

idea 15.10.2018

remade April 2019

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Friday.

It was first day of workshop and Summer Key already knew who is her target, again she received opportunity to investigate. Book club promised whole support.

- I know why are you here. - Started Summer. - I was on your place, I felt what you feel now. It's endlessly scary, but you are brave and you decided to say it aloud. Among all possibilities and your busy life you came here to do what is important, what is interesting for you. Welcome to the knitting workshop. I am Summer Key. My support today is knitter with years of experience – Chloe Jacob, she is also owner of the shop “1001 yarns”, which we will visit in the afternoon.

Summer one more time looked at group of women, who decided that's amazing idea to spend whole weekend knitting. This women just declared that want to give a try to their ideas, wishes and dreams.

- Probably you have experience before, probably you are self-taught. I know feeling when you see picture in magazine or on-line and you are jealous, that this person could made such beauty and you are afraid to give it a try.

Summer knew that on such workshops more than technique is important support which needs aspiring knitter. Question that they do something not proper is still nagging in their head, no matter that for now they are focused on their teacher.

Book club also suggested moving from place to place workshops as next step. Work which needs presence in different places with simple explanation. And now one of her targets was in three steps in front of her. Summer needs only to prove one thing, that it was Valerie Niko, who helped in selling data base from hospital to insurance company. Men were rare visitors on such workshops, so to her was proposed collaboration exclusively with women. With men it's usually other possibilities of interrogations.

If Valerie agreed without second thought to be present here as part of program to managing stress during work in hospital, she could be guilty or not with same behaviour.

- At first you should feel the yarn, it's different to items from shop, it's not made yet, it needs your participation to become something more. So we start with touching yarn. It's soft. Is it pleasant for you to work with? - Summer's voice became more monotonous and it sounded more like mantras. - And now, it's time for magic. You should choose colour. Let's start with red.

Summer took from the basket blood red skein and slowly started to untangle it, playing with it.

- It's now just colour, nothing more. - Suggested Summer. - Feel it. What you see in it, let's yarn speaks to you. Red yarn.

- Like blood. - Said Valerie aloud.

- Blood? - Repeated Summer.

- Sorry, I just work in the hospital. I am so sorry. - Valerie put red yarn back in the basket. - I am so sorry.

Valerie stood up and run away from the room in the corridor. Summer didn't wait that.

- If you excuse me, I will check how is she. - Summer said to shocked group. - You are now in hands of Mrs Chloe Jacob, she will help you with choosing needles to the yarn. Yes, Chloe.

- Nothing to worry. - Agreed Chloe.

- I will be back in a moment. I am sure Valerie just needs breath of fresh air. - Summer smiled and walked from the room.

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- Are you all right? - Asked Key, when found Valerie near open French window to the garden.

- I needed some fresh air, without people around me. I'm so sorry. Usually I don't behave like that. I mean I am sorry because of behaviour like that. I'm so sorry. You don't need all that. - Valerie turned her back to Summer and looked at the garden. - Such a beautiful view.

- Maybe you need someone, who will listen to you. - Suggested Summer. - Probably tea, in the kitchen, just two of us.

- Thank you. Later. Now I will return to class. - Nodded Valerie.

- I still insist on tea. I'm really worry about you. And you need someone who will listen.

But my advice, try to use different colour instead of red, with project. - Added Summer.

- Yes. I will try. Thank you. Valerie smiled politely.

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Summer made remarks and jokes during class, but at the same time use every pause to think how change tactic, which she could use in conversation with Valerie. In hospital book club didn't receive whole truth with this case. Usually Summer didn't like when main suspect was suggested to her, but here was something else. Additional motives could spoil whole search for evidences.

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While participants of workshop had tea-pause in the garden with Chloe, Summer suggested to Valerie had tea in the kitchen.

- Thank you for such attention. - Valerie's look focused at her empty teacup.

- Probably I am not the best company. - Summer poured one more cup of tea. - Probably you have different taste or not proper mood.

- Probably mood. I am so sorry. - Valerie sipped from fresh poured teacup.

- It's nothing. Just you are not first person who works in the hospital and they are usually more calm about blood. - Summer looked how carefully Valerie put her teacup on the saucer. - Something is depressing you, probably at work. Usually it's problem with boss. As every boss he is too... bossy.

- No. Not as that. - Valerie almost smiled. - Mark... Doctor Blink is good boss, in general.

- As for the boss. - Agreed Key. She already found first motive, why Doctor Blink, or Mark, didn't call police. She now needs to find any proves of not guilty behaviour, because for guilt received more proves than planned.

- Yes. As for a boss. He was supportive of this idea of knitting retreat, when I received invitation. - Smiled Valerie.

- Week or month was too stressful at work? - Key already found out few answers, but she needed evidences.

- Yes. And no. We had some problems with blood bank in the hospital. It wasn't Halloween, some special moon. Teenagers for proving their coolness, they made a huge damage and made viral video, blood was everywhere... Police found them. It was dangerous for patients, if something happened. Huge accident or something like that. In few days everything was solved. But than Mark was so disappointed. I mean, it was such stress for Doctor Blink. - Valerie tried to warm her hands at almost cold teacup.

Summer knew that she could lost all tracks now, if Valerie decide to close a story.

- He, Mark, wasn't on his place when this violation happened? - Key added new information to what she read in Mark Blink's testimony.

- It was quiet night and... - Valerie again became nervous.

- And what was the cost of silence? - Summer skipped few steps of evidences and it made proper impression to Valerie.

- You are not a knitting teacher. - Valerie push from herself teacup.

- No, I teach knitting, but it's hobby. Private investigation, if it suits you, checking facts as main point. - Key didn't lie, this papers as others she received from book club many years ago, proper licence, which could be checked any time when you will be in NY. - It general it doesn't prove that I can't perfectly knit in my free time.

On Ms Niko's face was some kind of relief.

- Private eye. You are working for her husband. It's such predictable. - Valerie looked at Summer with curiosity and disrespect. - You think, he is victim, he is not such good guy.

- Who are you talking about? - Honestly asked Summer.

- Sure. Your client's interests are in priority. What else I could wait from you?

- What kind of information you could open to me? Probably we will find common interest. - Summer saw that Valerie is in doubt.

- It wasn't pleasant experience, but she didn't deserve this. I think I couldn't help her husband, no matter what situation I had with her. - Valerie looked straight into Summer's eyes.

Mrs Key knew that she had one shot or everything fell.

- So it wasn't blackmailing, it was your free will. - Summer looked at Valerie.

- It was... - Valerie tried to find a word.

- Blackmail. And you agree with free will to that. - Suggested Summer. Book club probably didn't wait for this kind of information, but that's problem with investigation. You search for truth, not for what you are ready to hear. If Summer had to say this to clients of private investigators, they probably will never believe in such situation.

- It wasn't big price after all. - Such confession from Valerie Summer didn't wait.

- Not big price? You think so. - Asked Key.

- Yes. Use my phone, because her husband is extremely jealous. He is oversuspicious, when it's about her. Your questions are another proof to that. - Valerie said truth, but Summer understood, that she had no idea what about Valerie told her now.

- And your phone couldn't be used in the court because... - Started Key.

- She deleted everything. I don't know and don't care with whom she talked and which fotos she send. - Valerie stopped, but already said too much.

- How did you found out about fotos? - Key decided not to give Valerie chance or time to find other explanation.

- I received message that said "thanks". I thought it was about fotos.

- Why? - Summer, didn't asked, understood that original message Valerie also deleted.

- There was written something about "hot news", you know what it could be. I thought about fotos, but I won't have evidences for you. Could I return to workshop or now it is prohibited for me? - Asked Valerie when stood up.

- Of course, you return, it doesn't connected. I mean only knitting and any unpleasant questions. Sometimes I also hate my work, knitting helps to forget about ugly side of life. - Said Summer.

- Hope it also helps me. - Grinned Valerie.

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Saturday.

Key didn't like that idea, but book club decided that story with blackmailing should be continued without her. Now one more time she checked e-mail to read how was everything in details.

“New arrival. Next book for you.”

- Finally. - Said Summer, she has an hour before breakfast with participants of knitting workshop. She opened file which was video of talk with Doctor Blink. It was from other man's perspective, probably level of glasses.

Summer didn't know man, who asked questions and didn't recognize his voice, she put video on moment, when started new for her information. She recognized Doctor Blink from fotos in files, which she read.

“Doctor Blink: Someone saw us?”

Man: I think so. And instead of blackmailing you, was chosen as object Ms Niko. Perfect choice. I mean for blackmailing target. Not that I suppose that Ms Niko is bad choice in other situations.”

- Who trained him? - Asked Summer aloud. - There are real problems with staff in book club, it's pathetic performance.

“Man: Woman usually chose woman as target of blackmailing.

Doctor Blink: Do you have an idea, who could it be?

Man: Not yet.

Doctor Blink: Why you came?”

- Reasonable question. - Commented Summer.

“Man: There are two ways. First, police will check all videos to prove time, place and your relationship with Ms Nilo. It’s long, but generally productive road.

Doctor Blink: And other, Mr Mister?

Man: Ms Niko will tell your name and with help of security cameras I will prove that Ms Niko wasn’t person who sold information. For police it will be difficult to believe that she knew nothing. Was used her phone and her personal access to your office, computer. With data base will be most difficult, Doctor Blink.

Doctor Blink: Why?

Man: Information could be advantageous to you before, but now it’s not necessary.”

Because of change of angle Summer understood that person from book club stood up.

“Doctor Blink: What?

Man: When you try to prove that someone else used your computer, try to make at least one mistake in password. It could look more believable, more human, only one attempt to enter. The same conclusion had hospital manager. He makes such mistakes himself daily.

Doctor Blink: How do you? It’s crazy story. I supported this investigation.

Man: Yes. You were such generous, that even proposed main suspect and all evidences.

Too much work. It doesn't look credible.

Doctor Blink: How dare you?

Man: And blackmailing, it was melodramatic. Insurance company closed eyes at your forgotten payment and you was too ready to propose own help. Idea with crazy teenagers also was yours? Or it's coincidence that one of them is your nephew.

Doctor Blink: Get out from my office.

Man: Your office? Not for long, Mr Blink."

Video finished on the moment when door opened and other member of book club entered.

- Can't say that I approve such style of work, but it worked. It's most important. -

Summer waited till computer deleted all tracks of this video. - Now it's time for knitting.

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Summer smiled when in the breakfast room saw also Valerie.

- Mark was arrested for selling hospital data base. - Whispered Valerie when came to

Summer. - Is it true? All questions was about it?

- I am afraid now it's police investigation. - Answered Summer.

- I know. And I want that you know, I will answer to all questions about him in police.

If they ask me. - Said Valerie.

- Good, but all attention today to the new pattern. - Smiled Summer.

The End.