

The Real Truth

by Sue

CHAPTER ONE: THE ALIBI

Erica saw the look on Jack's face. She quickly looked away, desperately trying to hide her tears. Jack grabbed her arm roughly and turned her to face him. "Repeat what you just said. Look me in the eye and repeat what you just said."

"She said we were making love." David blurted out.

"Shut up Hayward! Erica, you tell me by looking me in the eyes and repeating what you just said!"

Derek tried to step in between Erica and Jack, but Jack quickly pulled her over to the side of the room. "Jack, please don't..." Erica started to whisper but was quickly interrupted by Jack.

"Please don't?" Jack yelled. He took a deep breath and lowered his voice. "You expect me to believe that the night of Cambius' disappearance you went to David for comfort. You went to David and you let him touch you? Why would you let him touch you Erica?"

"Because she needed comfort and you weren't there for her Jack. You left her at the altar and then you let her daughter's rapist go free. She felt alone the night you let Cambius off and needed to feel loved. I gave that to her."

"I told you to shut up Hayward!" Jack took a deep breath and tilted Erica's face up so that she was forced to look at him. "I want to hear the truth Erica. Look at me and tell me what happened the night that Michael Cambius disappeared."

Erica's heart was beating so loudly she swore that everyone in the room could hear it. She desperately wanted to tell Jack the truth. She wanted him to lift her into his arms and take her away from the questions that were being thrown at her. Her eyes met Jack's and she started to whisper, "Jack, I..."

"Yes Erica. Tell us all what happened the night that Michael Cambius disappeared." Derek interrupted.

It was then that Erica knew what she had to do. She took a deep breath and again looked at Jack. "It's true. I made love to David the night Michael Cambius disappeared. I needed someone and David was there for me. So you see that there is no way that David had anything to do with Cambius' murder. He was with me all night long."

Jack's face became blank. He let go of Erica's arm. Erica's heart broke as she heard Jack's words. "You did it to me again Erica." Jack walked out of the office, slamming the door behind him. Erica shuddered as the door hit. She turned and looked at Derek.

"Do you have anymore questions for David and I?" Erica needed to get out of there and fast. She knew she was about to break down.

"Not at the moment. But you both are still under suspicion so don't leave town." Derek turned to the officer. "Take off his handcuffs."

As soon as he was free, David moved to Erica's side and put his arm around her. "Are we free to go?"

"Get out of here."

As soon as they were outside Erica turned to David. "I have a meeting I need to get to. I'll call you later." She then turned and got into her car. She watched as David walked away. When he was out of sight the tears came. "Jack, I'm so sorry."