

INT. LAW OFFICE - MORNING X

TOADIE, ROSE(G)

ROSE ADMITS WHAT SHE'S BEEN UP TO

Toadie has caught Rose red-handed with a confidential client file. He's baffled as to why she'd do something so inappropriate.

TOADIE

Rose? Why have you got that?

She covers, pretending to be surprised.

ROSE

Is this private? I thought the client files were okay to see...

Toadie's not going to be fobbed off.

TOADIE

No, you didn't.

ROSE

I was just... admiring your craft. You're so sharp the way you're across so many details.

But flattery gets her nowhere.

TOADIE

You're lying. Why?

His disappointment cuts her.

ROSE

I didn't want to.

TOADIE

Why do you have James Soloman's file?

ROSE

He's my husband... well, ex husband nearly. We're getting the D word.

He's thrown.

TOADIE

You never said you were married.

ROSE

Because I don't feel like I am. He's trying to hide all his assets so I don't even get a fair settlement.

TOADIE

You came to work for me so you could snoop on him?

It's sad for her to admit, but true.

ROSE

Fifteen years of marriage and I get left with nothing, that's his plan. I think he's funneling everything that's worth anything into this Anaconda shell company.

TOADIE

You *think*?

ROSE

You're the lawyer. You know where his money's going better than I do.
(then; desperate)
You couldn't help me figure it out, could you? Because I have little mouths to feed.

Toadie is torn between sympathy for her desperation and the hurt he feels she's deceived him all this time.

ROSE

I won't even be able to buy myself a coffee at this rate.

He makes a reluctant decision.

TOADIE

Give me that file. You can't see it. And I have to tell him you did this.

ROSE

What? No. Please.

TOADIE

Legal ethics.

ROSE

He'll use it against me. I'll probably end up owing him money.

TOADIE

I'm sorry for what you're going through but I can't help you with this. I can't let you keep working here either.

ROSE

How will I live?

TOADIE

There's other jobs.

She can see it's costing him, but he's set on it. No point arguing any further.

ROXY

Okay, I understand.

(then)

I'm sorry, Toadie.

On her dismay.