

ABBAS:

I do! We went to that café where they played the loud Bollywood music. Faryal was with us, too, no?

Start

ALLISYN:

~~She~~ You trusted me so fast, Abbas? Do you remember why?

ABBAS:

Any friend of Mehreen's is a friend of mine, Allisyn. And Faryal liked you.

ALLISYN:

I liked her, too. She's smart.

ABBAS:

Faryal has very good instincts about people.

ALLISYN:

I passed out in the bathroom.

ABBAS:

It was very hot that night.

ALLISYN:

That's very generous, Abbas.... You know that's not why.

ABBAS:

Faryal says you have the shell of a porcupine and the heart of a jellyfish.

ALLISYN:

Jellyfish sting!

ABBAS:

(Dismissively)

Maybe- but they are squishy and soft. You get the idea. Fear does strange things to the body. Anyone who's paying attention knows this.

ALLISYN:

(beat)

I needed you to understand that the Washington Post could only do so much to protect us once those articles got published. I put you and Mehreen in danger.

ABBAS:

We knew you wouldn't use our names.

ALLISYN:

But if anyone had found out you were involved – you-

ABBAS:

(Interrupting)

I've been an activist most of my life, Allisyn. These are my people. I love my country, but I don't love everything that happens here. Certain things are not acceptable. Selling girls for sex is not acceptable.

ALLISYN:

Thank you for trusting me.

ABBAS:

Like I said, Faryal has good instincts.

ALLISYN:

Have you spoken to Mehreen?

ABBAS:

We had a chat earlier today, yes.

ALLISYN:

She's not too thrilled with me.

ABBAS:

Sometimes Mehreen gets stuck on the little stuff and misses the big picture.

ALLISYN:

Maybe its not so little- what she's stuck on.

ABBAS:

Perhaps. Try her back again. I think you'll find her more receptive.

ALLISYN:

Oh, yea?

ABBAS:

The truth, Allisyn? Why I trusted you so fast? Yes, I could see that you cared very much about what was happening to our women here in Pakistan. But I could also see your fear- and it moved me. It made you humble- and yet you were doing something very brave. I have great respect for this.

ALLISYN:

Thank you, Abbas.

End