

Shattered Lies

by Daina Petrauskaitė

Detective Ema Jankauskaitė stood over the shattered glass and bloodstained carpet. The room smelled of spilled whiskey and fear.

“It doesn’t fit,” she muttered.

Her partner, Arnas, raised an eyebrow. “What doesn’t?”

“The robbery.” She gestured at the overturned drawers and scattered papers. “This wasn’t random.”

Arnas shrugged. “Could’ve gone wrong. The guy fights back, and—”

“No.” Ema shook her head. “Look at the watch.”

A gold watch gleamed on the dead man’s wrist, untouched.

“This wasn’t a robbery,” she said. “It was personal.”

Back at the station, Ema laid out the evidence.

Viktoras Stanevičius, CEO of one of the largest construction firms in Lithuania, had been found dead in his home—stabbed in the chest. His wife

claimed she had been out shopping. The maid had heard nothing. And the security cameras? Conveniently disabled.

“Too clean,” Arnas said, flipping through the file. “Whoever did this planned it.”

Ema agreed. But the deeper they looked, the more tangled the story became.

A missing business partner.

A secret offshore account.

And an anonymous email warning them to drop the case—or face the consequences.

Ema leaned back in her chair, staring at the photograph of Viktoras.

Everyone had secrets.

But some were worth killing for.

The call came just past midnight.

Another body.

Same method.

Ema’s blood ran cold.

The killer wasn't done.

And she was running out of time.