

**FIRST PLACE, FLASH FICTION**  
**ANDREW WALKER**

**Prompts:**

**Location – Casino**

**Prop – Pocket Mirror**

**Line Portion – “Did you hear that”**

Diamonds Are A Thief’s Best Friend

“Did you hear that?!” Jordan whispered, trying to keep the panic off her face. Vanessa, meanwhile, was reapplying her lipstick using her pocket mirror, “Hear what exactly?”

“That sound?” Jordan scrunched her eyebrows, “You must have heard it.” Vanessa smiled and closed her pocket mirror. She turned to Jordan, “Honey, we’re in a casino.” She motioned to the slot machines, the poker tables, and the speakers, “There’s sounds everywhere.”

“But this sound was different!” Jordan protested.

Vanessa looked at her and let out a small breath. Then she turned back to her pocket mirror and puckered her lips.

“Sorry. I guess I’m just nervous. I know you said you’d train me and all, but this is my first time...”, Jordan lowered her voice, “*robbing someone.*”

“Well, this will be a good first time. All you have to do is act dumb and make sure the diamonds are real. I’ll handle the rest.” Vanessa closed her mirror and put it in her clutch. Then, she pulled out a pair of elbow-length gloves.

“Wow, do you just have everything in that clutch?” Jordan marveled.

“Not everything. Just makeup. A mirror. Gloves. Some tape.”

“Tape?”

“It comes in handy more often than you think,” Vanessa said with a smirk as she put on her gloves. Then her eyes lit up as she spotted her target, “Now remember, we’re dumb girls with a rich daddy, just trying to get some cute diamonds. Ready?”

Jordan took a deep breath, “Ready as I’ll ever be.”

Vanessa smiled and turned on her charm. Anywhere she looked, men turned away from their games to return her smile. Finally, she focused her charm on her prey. This man was carrying a silver briefcase. He spotted Vanessa and started walking over. “Showtime,” Vanessa whispered to Jordan.

The man motioned with his head to a room just off to the side of the main casino floor. Vanessa and Jordan followed him.

This room was empty and eerily quiet, especially compared to the raucousness of the casino. It had a bar over to the side, but no bartender.

“Oooh! Can I make you a drink?” Vanessa asked, flirting with the man.

“No thanks. They don’t like us pouring any of that liquor,” The man replied. “You got the money?”

Vanessa giggled, “I wanna see the diamonds first! You’d be surprised how many men claim to have diamonds just to flirt with me”

“I don’t doubt it. But I *do* have diamonds” The man replied smoothly.

“Well, I wanna see them!” Vanessa flirtatiously demanded.

“Very well. But you must turn around. No one can know how to open the briefcase but me.”

“Okayyyyy.” Vanessa winked and pulled Jordan over to her. They obediently turned away to face the wall. Then, Vanessa started rummaging through her clutch.

“Is now really the time?” Jordan whispered.

“It’s always a good time to look beautiful,” Vanessa winked as she pulled out her pocket mirror and mascara. She looked in the mirror and started adjusting her makeup. After a moment, Jordan heard a soft *click*.

“You may turn around now”

Jordan and Vanessa turned around excitedly. Inside the briefcase were 21 large, sparkling diamonds. Jordan couldn’t stop herself from gasping at their beauty.

“Wait, Nessie, do you remember that trick we learned from Daddy?” Jordan asked.

“What trick?” Vanessa made a face.

“You breathe on the diamonds to see if they’re real!” Jordan explained, “Look.” She then let her breath wash over the diamonds and watched the fog disappear quickly, “That means they’re real! And there’s so many of them!”

“They’re so prettyyyy”, Vanessa purred.

The man closed the briefcase. “Now, the money?” The man asked.

Vanessa giggled, “Are you sure I can’t make you a drink?” Before he could answer, Vanessa was behind the bar. She found a new glass and poured in some whiskey, “Here. Maybe you’ll be a little more... *open* after that.” She handed him the glass with her gloved hand and batted her eyes.

The man set the drink back down, “I’d rather have the money.”

Vanessa sighed, “You men and your money”, then she laughed. “Let’s dance first!”

The man hesitated, “I shouldn’t.”

“Oh come on!” She helped him set down the briefcase, then pulled him out to dance.

“But there’s no music,” the man argued.

“Hmm, I guess you’re right. Bye-bye then”, Vanessa smirked.

The man’s eyebrows furrowed, “What?”

“There’s no music, so we can’t dance. So... bye!” Vanessa handed him a briefcase and turned him towards the door.

“What? ... You do realize that if I leave, I’m taking the diamonds with me.”

“Yep. Bye!”

The man sputtered, confused. Vanessa just smiled and waved. Eventually, he got the clue and left, mumbling to himself.

“What are we supposed to do now? He just left with the diamonds!” Jordan said as she rushed towards Vanessa.

“Did he?” Vanessa asked, holding up an identical briefcase.

“Wait, but he said he’s the only one who could get into it?”

“He was,” Vanessa stated, “until he let me watch him open it in my pocket mirror.”

Jordan’s eyes widened, “So you... Wow.”

Vanessa laughed gently before rummaging through her clutch.

“What are you doing? I don’t think now’s the time for makeup”

“Just watch and learn.” Vanessa took out a piece of tape, then went over to the bar. She put the tape up against the glass she had handed the man and pulled off a fingerprint. She then used this fingerprint against the logo on the center of the briefcase, revealing a combination lock. She entered the code with ease and opened the briefcase, revealing the beautiful diamonds once more.

“Woah... I missed... *all* of that,” Jordan said sheepishly.

“You’ll learn”, Vanessa said with a wink.

“But surely he’ll figure out that he doesn’t have the diamonds.”

“By then, we’ll be long gone.”

“So what do we do now?”

“Whatever we want. After all, diamonds are a thief’s best friend.”