

Episode 1: The Reason

Narrator:

Welcome to *Play it by Ear*, a podcast for extensive listening designed for English language learners. This is the first episode of our five-part story, *Who did it?*. This story is made for people who are learning English at an intermediate to advanced level. Extensive listening means listening to English that is very easy to understand. If you have trouble understanding this story, please ask us questions on alleande.com. We have a PDF version of this conversation on the website as well. Now, let's start listening to *Play it by Ear's* story, *Who did it?*. This first episode is called *The Reason*.

(The Sato's vacation house- Daytime)

(Takashi knocks on the door- door opens)

Takashi Yano: Hey, Mom. Is everyone here?

Hanako Yano: Almost everyone. Your brother and his - friend- just got here.

Takashi: Okay, great.

Hanako: How was work?

Takashi: (sigh) Another long day.

Hanako: Are you working overtime?

Takashi: It's so crazy because of the holiday season. I'm so tired.

Hanako: You should just quit.

Takashi: Well, I don't know what I would do, if I quit.

Hanako: You should just join the family business. I think Grandma always wanted you in the business.

Daisuke Yano: Yeah, you were always her favorite.

Takashi: Oh hey, Daisuke. How's my little brother doing?

Daisuke: Just fine, thank you.

Takashi: Enjoying your vacation?

Daisuke: Yeah, it's nice to spend time with Chris. Long distance has been tough.

Chris: But now we're here together. Even if it is for a sad occasion.

Hanako: Well, it wasn't supposed to be sad.

Risa Sato: Yeah, I didn't expect my graduation to be so sad. I miss her already.

Takashi: It's okay, cousin. It's not your fault.

Risa: Yeah, but I wish she was still alive.

Hanako: At least she was here for your graduation from university.

Risa: Yeah...

Daisuke: Your graduation day was special to her. You are her only granddaughter.

Risa: I'm glad I made her and my parents proud.

(knock on the door)

Takashi: Who is that?

Risa: Oh, it's probably my parents and my boyfriend. They went to go pick up the lawyer.

Takashi: Okay, I'll open the door.

(opens door)

Takashi: O-hai-yo- oh... Bruce?

Bruce: Takashi? Am I at the wrong house?

Risa: No, no. This is the right house. This is my cousin, Takashi.

Bruce: Yes. I know him.

Risa: What? How do you know each other?

Bruce: We work at the same bank. We're coworkers.

Takashi: I had no idea you were dating my cousin. Why didn't you say anything?

Bruce: You have a different last name. I didn't know.

Hanako: Well, come in, come in.

Nina Sato: My little Takashi, come here for a hug.

Takashi: Hi, Aunty Nina.

Nina: How are you feeling?

Takashi: I'm not too sure. Everything happened so quickly. Two days ago Grandma was at Risa's graduation. And now she's gone.

Nina: (breath out) I would be a mess if my grandmother died. I would have to fly all the way back to Spain and see all of my family. Mmm I'm glad I married into a Japanese family. It's much less dramatic here.

Kenji Sato: We've brought the lawyer, Sara Johnson. Let's all go into the living room.

(footsteps)

Sara: Before we start reading the will, I need to record what happened when Sachiko Sato died.

Hanako: Well, in the morning I went to wake her up since it was getting late and breakfast was ready.

Sara: What time was that?

Hanako: It must have been around at 10:30am.

Kenji: And I was on the phone with a client. As you know, kimono-making is our family business.

Even though this was our vacation, we still need to answer client calls. When I heard Hanako scream, it was exactly 10:33. I remember looking at the clock on my phone.

Sara: You screamed?

Hanako: Yes, who wouldn't scream when they see their dead mother?

Risa: Oh, this is all so sad. I couldn't even say my last goodbye.

Bruce: It's okay, Risa.

Nina: Yes, I'm sure she knew how much you cared about her.

Daisuke: You know Grandma loves her daughters...and Takashi.

Takashi: I loved grandma, too. I wish I could have spent more time with her in Japan instead of going to college here in Hawaii.

Daisuke: Everyone but you and Risa were all in Japan working in Grandma's kimono company.

Takashi: (sigh) At least we got to share a happy family reunion with her here in Hawaii.

Risa: What should we do now?

Sara: Well, we can start off by reading the will. I've brought it with me today. You all should find out what she really wanted.

Narrator:

That's the end of our first episode of *Who did it?*. What do you think the will document will say?

Let us know at alleande.com. Tune in next week for the next episode of Play it by Ears' story,

Who did it?.