

My plan of action, my strategy, was twofold. First, I would show Lisa how much I *wanted* to trust her, notwithstanding my occasional bouts of suspicion – which invariably were a result of her continuing blurts and behaviors and only when my fear of another blowup was superceded by some bit of Lisa-business that was impossible to ignore. Further, I wanted to show Lisa how much I *wanted* to share the rest of my life with her, notwithstanding... everything.

Proof of this aspect of my strategy – proof to Lisa and, now, proof to you – was something I did immediately following the Holiday Inn Taping incident: I changed my will to leave my house at Pavones to Lisa. Further, I signed a power of attorney so Lisa had absolute control over my Costa Rica holdings and money (I had a considerable amount in a Costa Rican bank).

My thinking was that -- based upon my unconditional trust and commitment -- Lisa would self-reflect and change her view of self and of me. In other words, she'd cease and desist with the deceit. However, a distressing upshot occurred soon after the legal papers were signed and the will/POA was a done deal. Lisa and I were in our bedroom discussing the possibility of my hit man-induced demise and I said something to the effect that it was comforting to know that Lisa would carry on here, in the house I'd built in paradise. To which Lisa said without thinking: "I'm not going to share my land with Ellen."

The implications of this blurt were immediate and crystal clear, to me – for you they need some explaining. Ellen was Mom's best friend – she's been mentioned a couple times in that context. During the two years I took care of Mom (and, in her way, Mom took care of me) and especially during the last few months of Mom's life, Ellen and

I became very close. A sweetheart of a woman in her early seventies, Ellen was, and is, the sort of person who truly cares about others; not a mean or duplicitous bone. Since I had no close family left, I'd left her everything.

Now I'd changed that, but due to a paperwork technicality in how Lisa and I had bought the land adjacent to my house, upon my death a small parcel would be owned jointly by Ellen and Lisa. Lisa had \$17,000 in that parcel. My house and the lot upon which it stood, which would now go to Lisa rather than Ellen, were worth more than \$250,000. Since Lisa and Ellen would now share rights to the adjacent parcel, Lisa was technically "out" half of her investment in that parcel -- \$8,500.

It was this \$8,500 Lisa was referring to when she said, "I'm not going to share my land with Ellen." The implication was that my quarter million dollar house (along with all its contents and my two cars, plus the money in the bank), plus the lifestyle I'd created, were not enough. The implication was that Lisa would contest my will over rights to the small parcel.