



“**O**ne of you five is a thief and a traitor!”

Sabrina Sweet leaned forward, glaring at the people grouped around the conference table.

For a moment, no one in the room moved or spoke.

At the back of the room, Kim Manners shifted uneasily in her chair. She knew that Sabrina couldn't be talking to *her*. This was Kim's first day on the job at Sabrina's cosmetics company, Sweet Scents. But even at that, Sabrina's accusations made the new employee feel uncomfortable.

For Kim, working at Sweet Scents was temporary—a way to earn money for college. Her real interest lay in the

field of espionage—spying. Kim was studying to be a cryptologist. Someday she wanted to be a code-breaker for the United States government.

Kim glanced at the others grouped around the table. Sabrina Sweet was the president and founder of Sweet Scents. She was unusually attractive and well dressed. But she was no match for her vice president, Veronica Slade. Veronica was one of the most glamorous women Kim had ever met.

Steve Murray sat next to Veronica. As Sabrina's head chemist, he created the formulas for all the company's perfumes. Kim couldn't imagine Steve stealing anything. Besides, he was engaged to Kim's older sister, Karen. "And Steve just isn't the sneaky type," Kim thought to herself.

Karen sat on the other side of the table. She worked in the advertising department, creating ads to sell the perfumes. She was the one who'd helped Kim get this "go-fer" job. Two more employees also sat at the

table—Pat in accounting and Linda in sales. Kim hardly knew them at all.

Then a sudden explosion of angry voices broke the silence. People were reacting to what Sabrina had just said.

“—*never been called a thief before*—”

“—*can’t prove it was one of us*—”

“Oh, I do have proof!” Sabrina’s voice rose above the others. She held up an article torn from the local newspaper. “Eden Cosmetics is introducing a new perfume,” she went on, “called White Lace. We planned to introduce *our* new perfume—Frosted Satin—in less than a month! Now Eden has beaten us to it.”

“We can always change the name of our perfume,” Karen said. “It’s not too late to develop a new ad campaign.”

Sabrina glared at Karen as she plunked down a tiny perfume bottle on the table. Karen reached out for the new Eden scent and sniffed it. Then she gasped in alarm. “Oh, no! It’s *identical!*” she cried out in a shocked voice.

Sabrina nodded slowly. “This is the second time in less than a year that Eden Cosmetics has come out with a product *we* developed! We’re losing business!”

“But how can Eden—” Pat began.

“Very easily,” Sabrina cut in coldly. “One of *you* has to be passing our secrets to Eden Cosmetics!”

“Industrial spying!” Kim thought. The word “spy” made most people think of military secrets. But Kim knew that businesses often spied on their rivals. Industrial spying was big business. And the cosmetics industry was *huge*. After all, it included everything from perfumes to hair products, from makeup to aftershave! If Sabrina couldn’t stop the spy, Sweet Scents could very well be put out of business.

A few minutes later, the meeting broke up. Kim walked out of the boardroom with Steve and Karen.