

Lisa Vasquez is the Director of Development for the Humane Society of Pinellas County Florida, her first professional position. She has done well, all because of one donor - Alva Wright.

Ms. Wright, as everyone calls her, is a reclusive widow, whose husband died tragically soon after they were married. The money from the insurance left Ms. Wright a wealthy woman. She has lived alone since, childless, without friends or family. Her life revolves around her two cats - Wally and Chester.

Ms. Wright was a regular contributor to the Humane Society through the years, but when Lisa became responsible for fund-raising, her contributions increased substantially. Ms. Wright thinks Lisa is her niece.

Lisa has tried several times to tell Ms. Wright that she is not her niece, that they are not related in any way, but Ms. Wright persists. When Lisa told her director about Ms. Wright's confusion, she told her not to worry, that Ms. Wright was happy to contribute to a good cause and the money was being used to fund a new animal hospital. "No-one will ever know," she assured her.

A few months ago, Ms. Wright started giving Lisa pieces of jewelry: an antique garnet ring, a gold link bracelet, a pair of diamond earrings. Lisa still has them. Yesterday, Ms. Wright took a tin box from the shelf in her bedroom closet, opened it, and handed Lisa ten unused \$100 bills. The box was full of them. "This is for you, my dear. Have some fun before you get old like me."

Lisa's best friend Pam knows all about Ms. Wright. When Lisa told Pam that she was thinking of going to the police to hand over the jewelry and the money and tell them about Ms. Wright, Pam screamed at her: "Are you crazy? Why throw away a chance to get everything you've always wanted?... Who knows what they'll do to you. They might make you give back all that Humane Society money. Take her money and count your blessings. Now buy me a drink."

\*\*\*\*\*

Do you think that Lisa has a *moral obligation* to give back the gifts and money Ms. Wright gave her? Why or why not?

Do you think it would be *better* to give them back, even if she does not have an obligation to do so?

Does it make any difference that no one will ever know? What does her response to Lisa make you think about the moral character of Lisa's director?

What are the *possible* consequences of Lisa's continuing to take money and gifts from Ms. Wright? Can a consideration of potential consequences help Lisa decide what is the right thing to do?

Do you agree with Lisa's friend Pam that it would be foolish to go to the police or other authorities? Why do you think the issue is so easy for Pam and so difficult for Lisa?

What do you think Lisa should do?