

Maddie gazed at the clock again. It was after 11; where was that man? When David hadn't called or picked her up this morning Maddie knew he was probably off on one of his toga party binges so she decided to call the client and reschedule the meeting for this afternoon. Hopefully, David would be in by then and capable of standing without help. In the past couple of weeks David seemed to have reverted to the wild party Addison that she had met almost five years ago. She thought he had grown out of that behavior.

Maddie sat back in her chair and sighed. What had happened? She refused to deny it. She knew what had happened. It probably was a culmination of many things. A knife pierced her heart when she thought about the loss of the baby. During the time they were preparing for the birth; going to Lamaze classes and doctor's appointments Maddie thought David had truly forgiven her for what she had put him through starting with the pacts and ending with Walter. They had gotten so close even sharing a bed again; she loved having him at the house overnight, that part of the relationship was as satisfying as ever but sometimes she felt a detachment from David. She thought at the time she was imagining things; making trouble where there was actually none but now with the new developments she knew her intuition had been correct.

After the loss of the baby and discovering that David was actually the father things had unraveled between them. Maddie thought that David blamed her for letting him think it wasn't his baby but that is what she had strongly believed! She hadn't lied to him but Maddie thought David assumed she had but when she asked him he denied it. She remembered how despite his promise to be there for her he hadn't been. Thank God her parents had come and spent a few days with her or she would have gone mad. David did his duty, kept up appearances and visited but Maddie could see he always seemed to have one foot out the door. She was hurt and confused by David's avoidance and vanishing act. David played it off so well though that her parents had no idea there was anything wrong between them; and she was too hurt and ashamed to tell them. So after staying with her for five days they left to go back to Chicago. At first Maddie tried to convince herself that David had been nervous around her parents but once they had gone it had gotten worse. David stopped coming by, he stopped calling her, and he avoided her at the office. Maddie felt she was truly alone.

Maddie had already gone back to work and tried to busy herself with case after case. She knew deep down she was trying to forget the loss of her baby and of David. He was nowhere to be found. It hurt her to her very core. Where was the man who professed to love her always? She nearly died inside when he told her he was

leaving for Virginia and didn't know when he'd be back. She had always thought that David was not the type of guy to stick around and now he was proving her right. This was one time in her life Maddie wished with all her heart she had been wrong. They had finally made up while stuck in the elevator in the office building overnight. They had talked a bit and cried over the loss of their baby but now Maddie realized there was a lot more work that had still needed to be done; and instead of talking about it and letting it out in the open they had done what they did best...swept it under the carpet.

But things had been fine for a few weeks. They seemed to be getting back together. They went out to dinner almost every night and even though she couldn't enjoy intercourse yet David had shared her bed on occasion. They would pleasure each other and then spend the night wrapped in each other's arms. Maddie was happy and thought David was too. Maddie thought she knew what the turning point in their fragile relationship was. Her stupid insecurities and fears had raised their ugly heads again. *What was wrong with her?*

She thought about that night about two weeks ago. They had gone out to dinner after work; David had driven her home. She had just been told the day before by her doctor that it was safe to resume sexual relations but she had felt unsure and nervous over this new development. She recalled what had happened reluctantly.

David pulled up to her driveway and shut off the ignition. He turned to Maddie with a half-smile his green eyes twinkling. He leaned closer to Maddie and pushed a stray lock of hair off her face. "I had a nice dinner." He looked into her eyes.

Maddie smiled. "I did too." She stared straight ahead through the windshield. She was afraid if she gazed into the depths of his green eyes long enough she would be lost again. How she wanted this man but she was terrified. She wouldn't. She couldn't go back to that rollercoaster ride they had been on during that month they were lovers. So much had happened since then but yet she felt things were still the same. David still hadn't declared his intentions toward her. Come to think of it he hadn't told her he loved her again since before she left for Chicago. The last time he told her it was in that stupid laundromat. Maddie felt David's breath on her face; his hand on the back of her neck as he leaned in until their lips were almost touching. "Maddie." He whispered as his mouth found hers.

Maddie felt his tongue dancing a symphony in her mouth and for the moment she was lost in the feelings he aroused in her. A burning warmth covered her body from head to toe as she felt her hands pulling David's face closer to her by his hair.

"David." She murmured into his mouth. His mouth began to slowly kiss that tender spot in the back of her neck that Maddie was sure had strings connected straight to her loins. She moaned his name as she pulled him almost on top of her in the car seat. She didn't know why she should be so nervous; they had been fooling around again for weeks. But this was different. She figured David must know she could resume sexual relations; after all he could count. He knew she had a follow up doctor's appointment yesterday. He had asked her about the appointment during dinner. She had only said it went fine.

David pulled back. He breathed into her mouth then whispered in her ear his voice filled with desire. "I want to make love to you babe." He traced her lips with his tongue. "God honey it's been so long. Let's go inside. Get reacquainted with each other in the best way."

Maddie shot up in her seat. This is what she was afraid of. It was too soon. She needed to go slowly with David this time. She had to pace herself for her mental wellbeing. She couldn't lose herself into the tornado that was David Addison. Not yet.

David looked at her. He could see that Maddie had tensed up. "What's the matter baby?" He leaned in close to her again trying to reach that spot on her neck again.

"No David." Maddie moved away until her back was against the door.

"No David?" He repeated not understanding.

"I can't. I'm not ready."

David pulled away and stared at her. "You can't? You're not ready?" He asked sharply.

"We're going too fast David." She needed him to be patient.

"What?"

"We need to slow down?"

"Slow down?"

"Stop repeating everything I say!" She snapped at him.

David just stared into her eyes.

"I need time David."

"*Time?* Are you kidding me?"

Maddie shook her head. "I just need you to be patient. I need you to wait."

"*Wait?*" David ran his hands through his hair. "Wait? How long Maddie? Tomorrow, the next day? Next week? Next month?" His voice was getting louder which each time frame. "Next year? Never?"

"I don't know! Please David. I just need you to wait for me. Please understand I'm not doing this to hurt you."

David laughed but it was not a happy sound. "Now where have I heard those words before? Really? Wait? I've waited so long for you. I'm still the best headwaiter. I seem to have made a career being the best head waiter!" He shook his head. "And I think I'm ready to quit that job."

"What are you saying David?" Maddie didn't want to turn David away but she needed to think and make sure she was doing the right thing before she gave herself to him again. She knew she loved him and she thought he loved her back but this was a big step. Sure they had fooled around in the past few months but to Maddie this step was huge. She would not only be giving her body but her heart as well to David. She didn't know if he was ready for such a huge commitment. She remembered what happened after the loss of the baby. He had let her down and that had hurt her deeply. She didn't know if she could trust that he wouldn't run out on her if things got tough. She had tried to discuss the reasons for his avoidance and actions during that time but he never wanted to talk about it. He always had an excuse for avoiding things he found unpleasant. That was David. What had Tess said so long ago to her that night in New York? Opening up wasn't David's strong suit. Ha that was an understatement. Anyway, she just needed more time before they became lovers again. Why couldn't he understand how she felt? Why couldn't he see how the loss of the baby nearly destroyed her? How everyday was still hard for her to deal with. Maybe she could get David to open up to her and tell her all those things she wanted; no needed to hear from him. "I asked you what you meant David."

David was just looking at her with his mouth open and his eyes wide. “I can’t believe you! What game are you playing now Maddie Hayes?”

Maddie was starting to get upset. “Game? This is no game! How can you accuse me of playing games with you after everything we’ve been through?”

“Yeah everything *YOU* put *Me* through.” He shook his head.

“I said I was sorry David! And how about what you did to me!”

“What did I do to you?” David asked with annoyance covering each word.

“When I lost the baby you weren’t there for me? Why?” She cried.

David didn’t answer. He ran his hands through his hair. “Listen maybe *this* wasn’t meant to be. *We* weren’t meant to be.”

Maddie looked at him with blue icy eyes. “Fine. If that’s how you want it!” She spat at him. “You can go to Hell David Addison!” She threw open the car door and slammed it in one fluid motion. She raced up the path to her house. Even though she was angry Maddie wished David would come after her but all she heard was the sound of burning rubber. When she turned around David was gone.

Maddie and David couldn’t believe it was over between them but each of them thought it was best to accept it and stop hurting each other. Maddie spent the weekend in bed alternately sipping wine and crying; while David spent it trying to get through as many bottles of tequila as he could. Both were feeling lonely, heart-broken and miserable.

When Monday rolled around neither was ready to face the other. David thought Maddie didn’t care. Maddie thought David didn’t care. So the misery merry-go-round was back in business.

David promised himself as he stepped into the elevator at Blue Moon’s office building that he would push all thoughts of Maddie as anything more than a business associate out of his mind. He had lived 29 years without her and he could start to live again, he vowed. David noticed a sexy redhead leaning against the back wall of the elevator looking at him with interest. David threw her a quarter smile and was rewarded with a wink. His smile widened as he saw her step forward and stand between him and an older woman who was giving the sexy redhead the once

over. She was probably disapproving of her tight dress and stiletto heels. David gave her his own Addison once over and liked what he saw. The girl stood next to him far too closely. “Hi. I’m Linda. I’ve been watching you for a while.”

David was flattered. He still had it. “Hi. I’m David...”

“Addison and you are a private eye with Blue Moon.”

“Hey who is the detective here?” He asked shocked.

Linda laughed. “I told you I’ve been watching you David.” She practically purred his name.

David laughed and ran his hand through his hair. “Well, um I don’t know what to say. I guess I’ve been distracted for a while.” He snickered. “Yeah for the last five years.”

“What?”

“Joke.” He told her. “Bad joke.”

The elevator stopped at David’s floor. “Well this is where I get off. Oh but you know that.” He grinned. “Linda from?”

“I work for Taylor & Associates on the 24th floor.” Linda told him.

David watched the elevator doors close. Whoa, some hot babe he thought but she was instantly forgotten when he noticed Maddie talking to Agnes at the reception desk. His heart flipped over when he laid his eyes upon her. You’re still hooked Addison old boy. He put on a blank fake smile as he entered the office. “Morning Agnes!” He smiled. “Miss Hayes.”

Agnes threw him a toothy smile. “Morning Mr. Addison! How was your weekend?”

Maddie looked at David and their eyes locked. “Fine. It was fine.” He lied looking away from the blue glare of Maddie’s eyes. He strode into his office and closed the door behind him. He stood against it for a few minutes wishing Maddie out of his heart.

Maddie watched David strut nonchalantly into his office and she felt her heart crack. She wished David out of her heart and soul! Damn that man.

The next couple of weeks went on as usual at Blue Moon. Maddie and David treated each other like a friend but both were slowly dying inside. Linda visited the office almost every day looking for an invitation to lunch from David but he didn't seem to get her hints. He would ask her in his office and they would just talk. Linda asked him point blank if there was anything between him and Maddie but he assured her they were just business associates.

Agnes noticed the attractive redhead spending time behind closed doors with Mr. Addison but she didn't mention it to Maddie until one day when Maddie caught Linda leaving David's office. Maddie wouldn't give David the satisfaction of asking David who she was so she asked Agnes. Maddie called her into her office. She didn't want anyone to know she was interested.

Maddie came right to the point when Agnes closed the door behind her. "Who is that woman who came out of David's office?"

Agnes shrugged. "I don't really know. I know she is a secretary at a law firm in the building and I know her name is Linda." Agnes shook her head. "She keeps telling me the mail man mixed up the mail and she has something for Mr. Addison."

Maddie was angry. "I'm sure she does."

Agnes didn't hear her. "But Frank has been our mailman for years and he never gets the mail mixed up. I think she just uses that as an excuse to visit Mr. Addison."

Maddie was pushing down the jealous emotions that were creeping over her body. "How often does she visit?"

Agnes thought. "Since last week like almost every day."

"Really."

Agnes nodded. "I don't like her." Agnes stared at Maddie. "I thought maybe there was something going on between you and Mr. Addison."

Maddie shook her head quickly. “There is *Nothing* going on between me and Mr. Addison. We are just friends.”

Agnes looked at her hard. “If you say so Miss Hayes.”

Maddie nodded. “Well, I say so.”

Agnes nodded and quickly left Maddie’s office.

Maddie was fuming all day but hid it well. She and David spent an hour at the end of the day going over the case notes for a meeting that was scheduled with a client for the following morning. When David left Maddie had a bad feeling about his ability to arrive at work on time the next morning. She knew that man and could tell he was out for a night of debauchery. For the past week or so David had seemed to be spending most nights out partying like the old Addison she had first met. She wondered if Linda was a part of it. She tried to push those thoughts aside as she called the client to move the meeting up to later the next day.

As Maddie predicted David arrived at Blue Moon after 11 reeking of liquor and looking like something the cat dragged in. She was instantly angry. And hurt. How could he forget her so quickly when he was still tattooed on her heart and brain?

David had spent the night drinking at some dive bar with a couple of old friends. He hadn’t meant to drink so much or fall into bed after dawn. He hated that he felt the need to drink himself into oblivion to try and get the blonde off of his mind.

When he breezed into Maddie’s office he could see that she was annoyed even though she was trying her best to hide it. She made some speech about accepting him as he is if they were to work together...etc. etc. This somehow led to a long winded conversation about how well he knew her which only seemed to make her angrier at him. When he asked her if after everything they had been through...to the moon and back...50 million miles what she had answered had floored him.

Maddie hated the way David perched on her desk was affecting her. She hated herself and him for wanting him. She refused to have him see how much she did want him. She needed to show him she was well over him. “You mean this is just a casual relationship...?” Was all she heard.

“No of course not David.” She smiled down at him and put her hand on his shoulder. Even through his shirt she could feel the heat and electricity emanating off of him. “We’re friends. Better than friends. We’re pals!”

David nearly fell off the desk. What shit was she spewing now. They were hardly friends. Was she nuts or was she truly over and done with him? He didn’t know. All he did know was how his heart ached at those words. “Pals?” David croaked out. “Well, I guess that’s better than buddy or chums?”

“Is something wrong with pals?” Say yes David! **Tell me we’re not pals! Tell me you still love me that you want me. Tell me! Please. Maddie’s mind pleaded with the confused man in front of her.**

David didn’t know what to say. “No pals is good.” **No, it’s not. It’s the worst thing you have ever said to me! Even worse than that I’m not the man you’re supposed to be with. This pals business sounds so cold so final. Why are you saying this?** “Pals can go on strolls together. Pals can go to lunch.” David forced a smile that looked more like a grimace. His voice grew higher. “I hear pals can even exchange amusing stories!” He swallowed hard.

Well I guess you don’t care about me anymore. Maddie thought sadly.

Well I guess you don’t care about me anymore. David thought sadly.

David patted her on the back. “Well this has been fun just shooting the breeze with my pal. I guess I better get to work. Important calls to make, papers to file. Don’t want the boss to come after me.” David’s smile didn’t reach his eyes.

“Sure. I guess I’ll see you when the client comes in at 1:00.” David nodded and turned and walked out of Maddie’s office and slammed the door behind him.

She jumped at the slamming of the door. Was he angry that she called them pals? And really why did she call them pals? She knew that pals was the last thing they could ever be; there was too many strong emotions between them. Well, at least on her side, Maddie thought wryly. She shook her head and once again buried her feelings under work.

Maddie kept herself busy the rest of the morning going over notes on another case they were working on.

Her phone buzzed. "Yes Agnes?"

"Umm Miss Hayes I just wanted you to know that girl from upstairs is in with Mr. Addison again."

Maddie was quiet for a moment "Well please let me know as soon as she leaves Agnes?"

"Yes Miss Hayes." Agnes hung up and shook her head.

Maddie sat back in her chair. Ok Addison what are you up to? What was going on with that red head and why did he have to parade her around the office for all to see making her feel like a fool and worse? Maddie was hurt, angry and jealous. She sat at her desk for the next 30 minute constantly looking at the clock. Finally she was about to get up and barge in David's office when her phone buzzed again .

"Yes Agnes?"

"She just left."

"Thank you very much Agnes."

Maddie got up out of her seat and left her office. She walked to David's door and knocked. The whole office watched her. They saw the little hot babe that had been visiting Mr. Addison. They weren't blind. Everyone figured he was doing it to rile up Miss Hayes. Their bosses had been too quiet lately .They were waiting for a big blow out to happen .

"Spit and slide and under." David called in his usual way.

Maddie walked in. David looked up and his green eyes met with icy blue ones. Maddie felt as if David's cat eyes were searing her soul. She turned away first. She hated the way his green eyes always seemed to bore into her. She always felt so naked in front of him. She didn't want him to see how hurt she was .

"Well if it isn't my buddy Maddie. What's up pal?" David said snidely leaning back in his chair.

Maddie realized she wasn't going to live down that word, "pal". She ignored him.

"David I think we need to talk."

"Talk? About what? What could there be to talk about? Oh a case I bet right? Stupid me! We're at work so of course it's about business. Never pleasure here at Blue Moon."

"Enough David. I wanted to discuss your redheaded lunch partner."

David's eyes grew very wide. "Keeping tabs on me pal? You must mean *Liiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiinda* from upstairs. " David let Linda's name roll off his tongue in a way that drove Maddie crazy with jealousy. But she wouldn't let David know this.

"I'm not keeping tabs on you. This is business. I am running a business not a dating service."

"A dating service?" David laughed hysterically. "Sorry to disappoint ya boss but it seems the mailman has been delivering the wrong mail to their office. Linda has been bringing it down to our office instead of bothering the mailman."

"Really David if you believe that I have a bridge I'd like to sell you."

"Gee why would you care pal? Do I detect a twinge of jealousy?' David smirked at her raising his eyebrow mockingly.

"Jealous? Are you serious David? I just want to make sure you maintain a professional decorum in my place of business."

"Oh yes of course boss." David snickered. "I mean you really can't tell me who I can have lunch with can you pal?"

"Stop with the pal!" Maddie screeched at him. "I don't care what you do or who you do it with outside of this office. Get it pal?" She wanted to slap the innocent look off his smirking face.

"Point taken chum!"

Maddie growled as she slammed out of his office causing the walls to rattle with the impact. Agnes shook her head as Maddie proceeded to slam her office door behind her.

Maddie sat at her desk and put her head in her hands. She wondered where things had gone wrong in her life. She was almost 39 years old. She was single and alone, no husband , no children. She thought of the baby she had lost and felt a suffocating sadness overwhelm her. She was also mourning her relationship with David. She pushed David away too many times. Was he finally moving on without her? Maddie couldn't concentrate on her work as she felt the tears fall down her face.

The rest of the day flew by. Maddie and David met with the client then they spent the remainder of the afternoon in her office planning how to tackle the case. Neither mentioned Linda or pals. David was very businesslike toward her; no teasing, no banter. Wasn't this the way she had always wanted him to be? As she watched David walk out of her office without even a backward glance she knew she only wanted him.

The following day Maddie got a phone call from an old modeling friend who was new in town. She was now running a top fashion magazine in LA. The woman, Jane Sherman, knew of Maddie's venture in to the detective business. Jane called to invite Maddie to dinner in a very expensive restaurant to catch up. Maddie was looking forward to the dinner in the hopes it would get her mind of David. Maddie closed her office door to leave for the day. She noticed everyone had left for the day except Agnes and Bert.

Bert was trying to get Agnes out the door. "Come on my angel it's after 5:00. It's time to relax. You've put in your time. Let me take us out for dinner."

"Yes I'm coming my big teddy bear." Agnes noticed Maddie leaving too. "Oh Miss Hayes you leaving already? "

"Yes Agnes I am. Please go out and have a nice dinner. You both deserve it."

"Would you like to accompany us?" Bert asked sincerely. "We would be honored."

Maddie smiled but shook her head. "No thanks. I have plans."

"With Mr. Addison?" Agnes was hopeful.

Maddie shook her head. "An old friend has just moved to LA. I can't wait to catch up with her. We haven't seen each other in years!"

Agnes nodded. "Oh."

Agnes saw Maddie's glance at David's closed door. She didn't miss a thing. "He's still in his office."

Maddie shrugged. "Well why would I possibly care?" Maddie told Agnes as she left Blue Moon quickly.

David was sitting back in his office thinking about Maddie and her ridiculous pals' speech. He didn't think she meant what she said. Hell, he didn't think she meant half the stuff that rolled off her tongue; but who knew with Maddie. He was deep in thought when he heard a loud knocking from outside his office. David quickly walked into the outer office. Linda was at the door. David almost did an about face and make believe there was no one in the office but then his eyes met hers and it was too late. Why couldn't Maddie show her interest in him as much as this woman did?

He opened the door. "Linda."

She smiled at him saucily. "David. I thought maybe if you weren't busy we can do something tonight?"

Do something? "Sure, um come in." David held open the door to allow her to pass. His eyes took in the mini skirt and tight blouse she was wearing and his male hormones reacted. What the hay, he thought as he followed her into his office.

One thing led to another and the next thing he knew David was holding Linda against his body with her back against his chest as he plunged into her with a cry. He closed his eyes and pretended the woman under him was some saucy blonde and not an easy redhead he hardly knew.

Linda moaned his name as David plunged into her over and over again. He was murmuring in her ear what he was doing to her; her cries were escalating with the speed of his thrusts.

Maddie couldn't believe she had left her car keys in the office. She was so in a hurry to leave she had left them on her desk. She was thankful that she kept her office keys on a different key ring. She walked purposely to her office, got the keys and was just about to walk toward the outer door when she noticed the light in David's office was on. Maddie thought he had probably left the light on, as he usually did, before he left for the day. She strode to his office when she was stopped dead in her tracks by the sound of a woman's moans and David's voice say unmentionable things. Her heart froze as she approached his office. The door was halfway open.

The ice in Maddie's heart cracked and pierced the core of her being. David was having sex with that trampy red head from upstairs. His eyes were closed with what looked like passion as he told the woman what he was doing to her and how he knew she loved it. The woman seemed to be in the throes of an orgasm and didn't notice anyone at the door. Maddie gasped in horror at the scene before her. David's eyes flew open. His first thought was what the hell was Maddie doing back at Blue Moon? She can't see me like this. His second thought was good let her see another woman wants me. He pulled away from Linda and stood up slowly. "Hello boss." A devilish smirk covered his face.

Maddie looked into David's green eyes and saw a mocking spite. She would be calm and not show him how he had hurt her with his dalliance. She wanted to strangle the tramp and her unkempt partner but she swallowed these emotions. She truly felt sick to her stomach. "David Addison! What the hell are you doing in my office?"

"Your office? Last time I looked this was *my* office lady." David stood there in all his proud glory before he began to fix his clothes.

Linda was busy picking up her clothes on the floor while an argument unfolded between David and Maddie.

"And last I looked this is **MY** business and therefore where we are standing is my property!"

Linda knew it would be smart to leave immediately. She felt dangerous vibes coming from the blonde woman. She didn't want any drama she was just looking for a little no strings attached fun. She figured David was the perfect type of guy for that; guess she was wrong. Guess he lied when he told her there was nothing between him and the blonde but business. She wanted to get out of his office as

quickly as possible. "Hey Dave, call me." She ran out holding her clothes in her hands.

David didn't even take notice of Linda's departure. "It is?" David inquired with a raised eyebrow as he finally buttoned his shirt.

"Yes it is. And further more I would appreciate if you screw your tramps somewhere else and not under the roof of Blue Moon. What's wrong with some alley way of a bar? She sure seems the type to hang out there."

"Jealous?" David prodded with a smirk covering his face. "You didn't seem to mind when we fooled around under the roof of Blue Moon." David tucked in his shirt and zipped up his pants.

"Jealous? HA! I am running a detective agency for your information. Not a dating service or a whore house! She spat at him; blue eyes spitting fire. "And this has nothing to do with us! I was stupid to let you sweet talk me into being with you especially in this office! What the hell was I thinking? This is a place for business only."

"You could have fooled me when I had you bent over my desk." He smirked. "Or pressed against the door. Or..."

"Enough!" She raged. "I warned you this afternoon about keeping it professional on company time! You told me you were. *You damn liar.*"

"For your information it is after hours pal. So I am not a liar." He sneered as he buckled his belt.

Maddie glared at him. She wanted to claw out David's mocking green eyes. "I don't care if it is 3 o'clock in the morning on Christmas Eve, I don't want you to bring your wishbones into my place of business to have your fun. I own this dump you only work here. Get it?"

"I think you *are* just jealous Miss Hayes. I can see it in your eyes. I can hear it in your voice."

"In your dreams Addison. I care nothing about you or who you screw outside of *my* office."

"Oh you don't?"

"No, I don't." She lied though gritted teeth.

"Whatever you say pal!"

"Stop calling me pal!"

David raised his eyebrows. "Chum? Buddy?"

"Shut up Addison. You are nothing to me! You are an unfeeling, heartless jerk! You don't care about anything but what's in your pants! You couldn't get it from me the other night so you had to run out and grab the first bimbo who batted her eyelashes at you. I wonder how many others you had sex with in this office that I don't know about."

"Yup whatever you say lady! I did it. With tons of them right here."

"You are loathsome and disgusting! I wish I would have never let you talk me into keeping this agency open! You have made my life miserable ever since the first time I saw you!" She tried to show him how disgusted and angry she was with him but inside she was dying a little more each minute.

"You ain't been no cake walk either lady! I should have known what a cold bitch you were when I first met you. You call me unfeeling? Ha! You are the iciest woman I've ever met. I wonder why my dick didn't freeze up when we screwed around?"

"So that's all it was to you? Screwing around?" Maddie thought all of this was a joke to him.

"What do you expect from an unfeeling, loathsome jerk like me?" He snarled.

"What do you think it was? *L-O-V-E*? Love?" He snickered.

"I hate you David Addison! I wish I never laid eyes on you...you snide, egotistical, over sexed jerk!" Maddie's face was beat red; her fury was escalating. "Love! Hah. You were nothing but a mistake! How did I ever allow myself to get involved with a..a.." She screamed into his face. "*SEX MANIAC?*"

David approached her until they were toe to toe; nose to nose. Maddie was breathing fire. "Really?" David's voice was mocking. "You never seemed to mind my um sex maniac behavior when it was you under me, on top of me, in front of me . Huh? *Pal?*"

Before she could stop it Maddie flung her hand up and slapped David across his face. She gasped when she saw the red handprint that appeared almost instantaneously.

David stepped back as if he had touched a live wire. "You really need to get help for that temper babe. I've had it! You've slapped me for the last time. I'm outta here!"

Maddie grabbed David's arm as he headed for the door. "David! Wait. We're not done here!"

David pulled his arm away from Maddie's grip. He threw her a nasty look his green eyes as frosty as snow. "Well you can stay here and argue with yourself. *I'm* done here." And with that he stormed out of Blue Moon leaving Maddie looking after him feeling sick and heartbroken.

David was feeling hurt and confused as he slammed into his apartment. Why was that blonde so damn complicated? Was she trying to play mean head games with him? He kept replaying the whole scene over and over in his head in the cab ride home. He was angry at her and at himself. He truly didn't want her to have to see him with another woman. But he was a single and why couldn't he be with other women since she didn't want him? Even though the only woman he wanted to be with was still Maddie but she'd hurt him one too many times. After tonight's fiasco David didn't believe there was a chance in hell that they could make it together. He felt an overwhelming despair over take him. He sighed deeply.

David heard the ringing of his telephone as he grabbed a beer out of his refrigerator. He ran into his bedroom and picked up the phone. His first thought was he hoped it wasn't Maddie; he couldn't stand the thought of having yet another nasty argument with her. He was tempted to hang up without saying anything but something told him to take this call.

David pulled the suitcase out of his closet before he even hung up the phone. The caller had been Richie. His dad had been working late when he was robbed and beaten up badly earlier that night. Richie said he was going to be ok but he had a

broken leg, broken arm and a bad concussion. He would need help at the fish store and Richie was committed to a job for the next couple of weeks and couldn't help out. Could David come to Philly? David told him he would be on the next plane out. He would have gone anyway to see how his dad was doing even if they hadn't needed him. David threw his clothes into the suitcase and then remembered to call the airline to book a ticket for the next flight to Philly.

David was dropped off at the airport a little past 3 am. The flight to Philly wasn't leaving for a couple of hours so he had time to think as he waited. He decided he would call Blue Moon in the morning to explain where he was and when he would be back. Maybe this was a good thing for him and Maddie. Maybe they needed to stay away from each other for a bit. They only seemed to be hurting one another more and more and he couldn't take it any longer. He was always feeling sad and angry when she was around and he hated it! He wondered if Maddie would even miss him.

Maddie was extremely upset as she drove home from the office. David had just left her there heartbroken and disgusted after finding him with that redhead Linda. He didn't seem to care about her anymore. She had sat in his office after he had left for a few minutes trying to get herself together before she got in her car to drive home. Of all nights to forget her keys. But maybe it was a good thing that she had caught David in the act with that girl. She had felt bad about pushing him away the other night. She truly wanted him as much as he wanted her but she just knew she couldn't jump into a sexual relationship with him yet. She needed more time. Why couldn't David understand her feelings instead of immediately pulling away from her? Tonight's discovery confirmed she had made the right choice. As hard as it was to see him with another woman right in front of her eyes she realized he was not ready to commit to her. Seeing David with that woman had hurt her deeply; she was glad she didn't hear any words of love come from his mouth while in the throes of passion with that tramp. Maddie still wanted to believe the loving words he always whispered in her ear were just for her and he didn't say them to every woman he bedded.

When Maddie got home she tried to relax with a glass of wine and a hot bubble bath but all she saw when she closed her eyes was David and that red head. She thought of the times she and David had made love in her office. At first she felt nervous and worried that someone would catch them but soon it became exciting to see how fast they could make each other come before the phone buzzed or someone knocked on the door. And then there were the times after the employees were gone for the day, they had made slow love on one of their couches. Maddie felt a

lump in her throat as recalled the love they shared. Maddie lost a lot of sleep the month they were together.

Tonight she was losing sleep for another reason. Maddie spent a restless night tossing and turning in her lonely bed. Every time she closed her eyes she saw David and that woman locked in a passionate embrace. Why had she told David she needed time? Why did she feel she needed time when she wanted him desperately? But she was frightened. The pain of losing the baby was still too fresh. She was afraid if they gave into their passion the same things would happen all over again. What if she got pregnant again and lost another baby? She couldn't bear it. She couldn't go through it again, especially alone. David hadn't been there for her as he had promised. He left her all alone. She found it hard to forgive him for that. Maybe it was better this way. Maybe they were better off as business partners. But when she thought of never holding David close again; never feeling his kisses or hearing him moan her name she felt an overwhelming sadness.

Maddie was exhausted as she rode the elevator up to Blue Moon. She had come to work extra early after a night spent crying into her pillow. Maddie didn't want to run into David in the main lobby or elevator. She knew the tension between her and David would be unbearable. She decided to stay in her office and avoid him as much as possible. She could not stand seeing those green eyes that once had gazed on her with such love and passion look at her now with disdain and disgust. Maddie shook her head as she walked down the corridor. She felt sick to her very soul.

Maddie went directly into her office and tried to get down to work but of course she couldn't concentrate. She was tempted to slam into David's office and finish the fight they had started last night but she wouldn't give him the satisfaction of showing him she cared that much. Instead Maddie sat at her desk and figured it was better if they stayed out of each other's way. They would have to deal with each other eventually but for now they would keep their distance.

Maddie heard a knock at her door. She wondered if it was David coming to apologize. "Come in." She called out as she pretended to be absorbed in the paperwork covering her desk.

Agnes came bouncing into her office with the mail.

"Oh Miss Hayes the mail just came." Agnes laid down the mail on Maddie's desk.

"Thanks Agnes." Maddie smiled up at her dear secretary. "Oh is Mr. Addison in yet?"

Agnes shook her head.

"Well it's only 10 am. Why am I not surprised?" Maddie seemed to be talking to herself but then she looked up at Agnes. "Please don't mention I asked for him. Ok?"

Agnes nodded. "Yes Miss Hayes."

"Thanks. Please buzz me when he gets in."

"Yes Miss Hayes." Agnes said again as she walked out of Maddie's office. She wondered if Mr. Addison was in trouble again with Miss Hayes. *Those two!*

Maddie sat back in her chair. So David wasn't in yet. He probably went to hook up with that redhead when he stormed out of here last night she thought. Well when he gets in I will tell him he better make sure he shows up on time or I'll start docking his pay. He can screw his tramps all he wants outside the office but he has to get here on time and ready to work. Maddie put her head in her hands. She hated thinking that David went after that girl. Maddie sighed as she started to open her mail.

Maddie looked at the clock. It was after noon and David still hadn't shown up. She was getting angrier by the second. She went out into the outer office once to pretend she was looking for a file and all eyes were on her. She figured the employees must know something was going on with that red head and David. She felt embarrassed but wouldn't show it.

"Miss Hayes would you like me to try to call Mr. Addison?" Agnes offered.

Maddie was about to go back onto her office. She turned around and smiled. "No Agnes don't bother Mr. Addison he'll be here when he gets here. I'm sure he has a very good explanation on why is he is late."

Maddie walked into her office. She was livid. She stomped over to the chair and sat down. Ok David what kind of game are you playing now? You haven't been this late in a long time. Despite herself she was starting to worry. A couple of months ago Maddie had believed that David had changed. At that time, they were

spending all their time together going to Lamaze classes and waiting for their baby. No Maddie wouldn't think about that now. She would just wait to deal with David when he got in.

David touched down in Philly and immediately headed to see his Dad in the hospital. He was banged up pretty good but acted like he was fine and didn't want to miss a day's work. David told him not to worry. He told his dad that he needed to rest and he would hold down the fish market.

David was going to stay with Ritchie at Richie's new apartment. His brother seemed to have finally become a success. Richie had found a great job as a salesman for a marketing company a few months ago. He was doing very well. That was a big reason why David was needed in Philadelphia to help out. Richie was in the middle of negotiations on a big contract and couldn't be pulled away in the middle. Richie offered the second bedroom to David which David had accepted. He would have felt too awkward around his stepmom which was a story in itself.

David finally made it to Richie's place late that day and crashed. He was exhausted physically and emotionally. He couldn't believe the words Maddie had flung at him. He admitted to himself he had reciprocated with some mean barbs at her too. Why did they continue to hurt each other so badly? David was angry at Maddie and angry at himself. Why did he invite Linda into his office? Why couldn't he have just kept it in his pants? Did he unconsciously screw Linda to get back at Maddie? All her talk about waiting and needing time had torn open wounds that had never truly healed.

Damn Maddie! She never forgets her keys. He wondered what she must be thinking about now. It was already after 1:00 pm in LA. Maddie must be furious at him for not coming in to work and not calling. Well fuck her, he thought viciously. I told her I was through with her last night. Serves her right. He truthfully had been too worried about getting to Philly to see his Dad to even think of calling her or the office. David took a deep breath. He would call and tell Agnes what had happened. He didn't want to talk to Maddie. He didn't want to argue with her now. David was too tired. Thoughts of what lay ahead of him crowded his brain. He had to get up at the crack of dawn to get to the fish market in time for the daily deliveries and to pick up the fresh fish from the fisherman.

The next few weeks were not going to be easy for him. David hated helping out at the fish market while he was growing up; always coming home late, going in early and reeking of fish. His dad wasn't home a lot. He would get in late for dinner but

once his mom died his Dad seemed to never come home. He was always hanging at one of the local bars. David figured it was a way for his dad to cope with the loss. He swore to himself though he wouldn't get stuck working in the fish market his whole life and that's why he was glad when he left with Tess for NY but that didn't end well either. After his divorce, he moved to LA and never ever planned on going back to Philly. But his Dad needed him and he would stay as long as it took to help out. He knew it was good for him and Maddie to get time away from each other. Part of him wished that he had someone to count on. He really wished Maddie was his woman and they could have come back together. Dumb David he thought as he shook his head. Honestly he couldn't picture Maddie Hayes fitting into his life back in Philly. She didn't grow up like he did. Maddie came from an affluent two parent household. Maddie was and in many ways still a spoiled princess. David tried to convince himself that was another reason why it would have never worked out between them. Plus she was a cold bitch; he was better off without her. Yeah keep trying to tell yourself that Dave.

David knew he couldn't put it off any longer. He dialed the familiar number to Blue Moon. He waited for Agnes to finish her long winded rhyme, knowing how she hated to be interrupted.

"Agnes! It's David. Don't let anyone know I'm on the phone with you especially Miss Hayes."

"Oh hi umm Ok" Agnes whispered into the phone. "Are you ok Mr. Addison. I think Miss Hayes is going to yell big time when she gets to talk to you. Are you on your way in now?"

"Listen Agnes I don't want to talk to Miss Hayes. I actually have to run but I need you to relay a message to her ok?"

"Yes. Sure what is it?" Agnes listened intently as David told her what had happened with his Dad. He told her he was in Philly to help out his father with the business.

"Oh Mr. Addison I'm so sorry to hear about your father. I hope he will get well real soon so you can get back to us. Are you sure you don't want to talk to Miss Hayes? I know she will be beside herself with worry about your Dad."

"Agnes please it's just better this way. Please tell her not to worry. I'll be in touch soon. You take care of yourself and Bert. Make sure him and McGuillicuddy don't

take over my office. And do me a big favor. Keep your eyes on the big blonde. Make sure she takes care of herself. Things haven't been easy for her since.....Well just take care. Ok? I gotta run."

"Oh Mr. Addison I'll try! You know I will do my best. Say hi to your dad from your Blue Moon family. We will miss you. "

Agnes hung up. She was worried. Oh no, she thought unhappily, this is just like when Miss Hayes ran off to Chicago. Agnes wasn't looking forward to telling Miss Hayes that David was in Philadelphia and didn't know when he would be back. She squared her shoulders and headed into the lioness' den.