

Maddie Hayes was looking forward to her shopping expedition that afternoon. She took a cab to the shopping district that her photographer friend Victor recommended. Victor Lewis was an old friend Maddie knew from her modeling days. She was so surprised to bump into him in the lobby of her hotel when she had gone for coffee yesterday morning. Victor was overjoyed to see her. "Why didn't you tell me you were coming to town?" He asked Maddie. He had always been attracted to her. She was a beautiful woman.

They knew each other from her modeling days. Victor had always been Maddie's favorite photographer because he wasn't sleazy like most of them were. Victor was a true gentleman and never hit on the models or made the girls feel uncomfortable. They always got along well. Victor always liked Maddie and asked her to go out many times back then but it had never been the right time. Maddie had traveled a lot in those days and so did Victor so they were often on the other side of the country and sometimes the world so nothing ever came of their attraction.

Victor had taken her out to Bookbinders where they spent an enjoyable evening reminiscing about old times. Victor told her that she was still a beautiful woman and if she would be interested in posing for some pictures for him. He told her that there was a market for older models and he was sure he could resurrect her career. Maddie politely declined Victor's offer. She told him that her detective agency was finally making a tidy profit and she didn't want to give it up. Victor made her promise to think about his offer.

Maddie liked Victor as a dear friend but when he asked her out again she told him about David. She admitted that the reason she was in Philadelphia wasn't because she was vacationing as she had told him when she ran into him at the hotel but that she was there to take her partner back home with her. She bent Victor's ear about her relationship with David. Victor understood and tried to give her some manly advice on how to win back David. Victor suggested she dress to the nines in a sexy number from an exclusive boutique another model friend of his owned. Victor told Maddie he would leave word with his good friend that the Blue Moon Shampoo girl would be visiting the next day. Maddie thanked him for his advice and suggestions. She left Victor with a kiss and a promise to keep in touch. She was happy to enjoy a night out with a man without any arguments but she missed David.

Maddie came back to the present. She was enjoying the beautiful day as she walked around the streets window shopping and thinking of the perfect birthday present for David. She wanted to get him something special this year. But she had no idea what she could get him. Over the years they had always taken each other out for dinner to celebrate their special day. David was such a kid when it came to his birthday while she could care less about hers. She had learned to make a big fuss on his day while he learned to keep things low key for hers. Maddie walked along the downtown area of Philly and came across a funky looking store that looked interesting. Maddie's eyes were drawn to the fascinating pieces of jewelry of moon, stars and suns that were displayed in the window. Maddie decided to go in and look around. Her eyes fell on a small earring shaped like a blue moon. Immediately, she wanted to buy it for David. Maddie knew that David hardly wore an earring anymore but she couldn't resist. She figured he could wear it on the week-ends. It just seemed the perfect gift. Next thing she knew she had the earring wrapped in a small box in her bag.

Maddie headed toward the special boutique Victor had told her about when she spotted a revival movie house across the street. She couldn't believe her eyes; the movie theater was playing a Three Stooges Festival this weekend. Maddie knew how much David loved the Stooges so she made a beeline to the ticket counter to purchase two tickets for the following night. After she bought them she had second thoughts; maybe David had plans. Maybe he wouldn't want to go with her but then she thought she would just give him the tickets as part of his birthday gift. Maddie felt it was kismet that the movie was playing at this movie theater. It would be their first movie together. David had asked her to go to the movies with him a few times over the years but they never could agree on what to see so they never went. Well she wasn't fond of the Stooges but she would compromise for his birthday. She hoped he would be happy with his gifts. She wanted to make him happy. She knew they needed to talk about all those things they never wanted to talk about. Maddie knew she had thrown some nasty words his way when she found him in the office with that trashy redhead. He had thrown some nasty words at her as well but she knew deep inside that he didn't mean them. She had missed him this month more than she thought possible. She wanted him to come home with her.

Maddie was a little nervous about going to David's party. She didn't know if she would fit in with the crowd that David use to run with but she wanted to

get to know David's family better and maybe by seeing David with his friends and family she could get an idea of what made her '*rebel without a clue*' partner tick.

Maddie wanted to look her best for David and his friends and family. A new dress would be perfect. She was looking for the boutique Victor Lewis told her about last night.

Maddie was excited about paying a visit to the boutique. She loved shopping and hadn't had a chance to do much lately. Today she was taking Victor's advice about purchasing a special dress to wear to David's birthday party. Maddie wanted something drop dead sexy to knock his socks off. She walked into the boutique and right away was whisked away like she was still a famous model. Maddie couldn't believe all the beautiful dresses the store offered. Maddie found two perfect dresses to wear to take David's breath away. She also bought matching shoes too. She went a bit over board but it had been so long since she had done something like this for herself. It made her feel good. She would call Victor later and thank him for his guidance. She couldn't wait to see David's reaction when he laid his eyes on the dress she was wearing that night.

David was in a bad mood. He was standing at the bar pouring shots of tequila down his throat but the liquor was only making his mood worse. This party was supposed to be to celebrate his birthday but looking back over the year David didn't feel he had much to celebrate. Now he knew how Maddie had felt on her first birthday at Blue Moon. David couldn't understand how she wasn't happy on her birthday but now he had inkling. He had always loved his special day but this year he only wanted to bury his head under a pillow. When David found out Richie had planned this party for him he had told his brother to cancel it. Richie had convinced him it would be fun to see old friends. Yeah so much fun David thought taking a long pull on his beer.

Richie came over and threw his arm around David's shoulder. "Come on little bro. This is your birthday party not your funeral. Smile!" Richie nudged him. "Whoa! Now there's something to smile about." Richie pointed to the door. "Wow! Your birthday gift is here."

David looked toward the door and his jaw dropped nearly to the floor. *Maddie*. She was wearing a royal blue sleeveless tube dress that was molded to every curve of her body. The dress started from the tips of her breasts and

ended about 4 inches above her knees David sobered up fast as he noticed every man's head swivel around to get a better look. What was she thinking wearing that?? Not that Maddie didn't look amazing but David hated how all his friends were ogling her.

David headed toward her.

Maddie walked into the bar and felt uncomfortable as she saw almost every male eye turn her way. Maybe it had been a mistake to wear this dress. She was wearing a short matching jacket but she knew it barely covered anything. She looked around and was surprised to see David stomping toward her his face a thundercloud. Before she had the chance to even wonder why he looked so angry she felt him pull her to the side by her arm." David ? What's wrong?" His hand felt too tight on her arm.

"What the hell are you thinking???" He asked her with stormy green eyes.

Maddie wrenched her arm out of David's grip "What is your problem? I'm thinking you aren't being very friendly to me."

"Why did you come here? You hate bars!" He waved his hand over her body. "And what the hell are you dressed for? You want to get picked up? Feel your chastity belt pinching again? Oh wait meeting your old friend later? Would that old friend be the rocket man?"

Maddie looked at him like he had just sprouted three heads. "What are you saying?" She was seething. "How dare you Addison! I came here to celebrate your birthday. I know how important your birthday is to you! You don't like my dress? Well, I like this dress. And so what if it is a little tight. "

"A little?" He spoke over her. "Why are you trying to aggravate me? And so big deal it's MY birthday. What do you care? You hate birthdays. Lately you haven't seemed to care much about me. Why did you come here again? I've tried to make sense of what the hell is going on between us. I can't figure out what the hell is going through your head *pal*.

Overlapping dialogue

"And I came here to try and talk to you. Tried to make sense of what is going on between us. I can't figure out what the hell is going through your head *pal*."

Both of them stopped talking at once. They stared at each other open mouthed. "What did you say?" They asked in unison. "Nothing. Forget it."

They both said simultaneously.

"Fine." Maddie told him disgust written on her face.

"Fine" David answered back annoyed at her. David wasn't sure why he was treating her this way. Maybe he needed to start over with her. She was here wasn't she? Why did she have come all the way across country to see him? Maybe she did care.

Maddie stared at him staring at her. She looked away quickly. She hated the way his green eyes were looking at her with irritation instead of happiness at seeing her.

"Listen I'm going to go over to say hello to your family. I won't stay long."

Maddie tried to walk passed him but David blocked her way. "Hey. Wait. Listen Maddie. I'm sorry. You can stay. Let's try to have a good time. Ok? I'm just a little tired; been working hard and worrying about my dad and..." He trailed off looking deep into her blue eyes.

She turned to look back into his green eyes. She saw a flicker of the David she loved in them. Maddie saw a half- smile ride up on his face. She smiled back. She nodded at him. "Okay. Sure."

David nodded back. "Listen Maddie...I..." He was about to say something to her but was interrupted by Richie.

Richie put his hand over his heart and feigned a heart attack. "Whoa lady are you trying to kill every red blooded man here tonight." He looked her up and down. "That dress should be illegal."

David was getting aggravated with the way Richie was eyeing Maddie. He began to feel upset with Maddie for wearing such a sexy dress in public. "Can it Rich." David warned him his eyes dark with anger.

"What's the matter little bro? Don't like your girlfriend looking smoking hot?"

Before he knew what he was saying the words poured out of David's mouth. "She's not my girlfriend."

Maddie felt her insides clench. "No I'm not. We're just pals Ritchie." She couldn't stop the words from leaving her mouth either.

Richie looked at David then at Maddie like they were nuts. "Ok folks whatever you say." Richie raised his eyebrows at his brother. Richie knew how David felt and why would Maddie fly across country if she didn't love his dumb brother? Now if he could just get these two knuckleheads to admit they were crazy about each other. He turned to Maddie and held out his arm. "Would the most beautiful woman at this party care to join me at getting some chow at the buffet?"

Maddie threw David a dismissive look and put her arm through his brother's. She smiled up at Richie. "I'd be delighted." Maddie saw the green in David's eyes as she walked away with Richie. Let him sulk for all I care.

David watched them walk away laughing together. He hated the way Maddie always seemed to side with Ritchie anytime she saw him and visa versa. Maybe they should go out he thought and suddenly had an urge to break something. Instead he headed to the bar for a couple of shots of tequila. That would make him feel a hell of a lot better he thought.

David kept his eyes on Maddie who was sitting at a table talking and laughing with his dad, brother and Stephanie. They all looked like they were having a great time. David grabbed a beer and thought he'd find out what all the fun was about.

Maddie kept stealing glances at David and didn't like what she saw. He seemed to be pouring drinks down his throat; and she knew from experience that a drunken David was a loaded pistol. She saw him walking toward their table determinedly. She hoped he wouldn't make a scene. She was feeling a

bit warm and decided to take off her jacket and hang it on the back of her chair. Let David drool she thought spitefully.

David's heart almost stopped when he saw Maddie remove her jacket leaving her shoulders bare and the shape of her breasts clearly visible through the snug material. He couldn't take his eyes off of her. Neither could most of the men at the bar he thought darkly. He took in her creamy white shoulders and her rounded breasts. David could see her nipples through the dress. He could feel his pants tighten. David pulled up a chair and sat on it backwards sprawling his long legs in front of him. He smiled at everyone.

"David so nice that you finally came over to spend time with your family and lovely partner." David's father said pointedly .

"Yep. Seems like you guys are having a great time. Thought I'd share in on the happiness." He winked at Maddie. "Nice dress. I did mention that before didn't I?" David's green eyes blazed at her.

Richie could see that David was three sheets to the wind. "Yo Davy have you tasted any of the great food? How bout I get you a burger?"

David shook his head but didn't take his eyes off Maddie. Boy was she hot in that dress. He saw how the guys kept glancing her way hoping to catch her eye and he didn't like it one bit. She was his. So why did he just tell his brother she wasn't his girlfriend? What was wrong with him? Why was he always putting his foot in his mouth? He had no trouble at all sweet talking the ladies. He always had a golden tongue when he wanted to impress a babe. But with Maddie it was different from the start. He always wound up sounding like a jerk. And at the worst times he found himself being glib or snide or just plain dumb. Why was it so easy with other women? Probably because he didn't feel for them what he felt for the complicated blonde trying to avoid his eyes. Then again she didn't make it easy on him either. And then he'd overreact to her attitude toward him . It was a catch -22 between them.

Richie got up and brought his brother a burger anyway. He placed it down in front of David and sat back down. He noticed the table had grown quiet; his dad and Stephanie sensed the tension between David and Maddie. Stephanie tried to break the silence. "So Maddie where did you go to dinner last night?"

David's ears perked up. He was curious about her 'dinner'.

"Oh I had a nice time." She began. "My friend Victor took me to Bookbinders."

David's father didn't like the idea of Maddie having dinner with another man. "So how do you know this Victor?" He wanted to know.

"Dad." David warned. He didn't like his father's tone.

Maddie didn't hear the subtle anger in David Senior's voice but his wife and sons caught it immediately.

"I know him from my modeling days. He was one of the photographers I used to work with."

"Another old friend." David mumbled under his breath but Maddie heard it and tried to catch his eyes. He didn't look at her.

David's dad wanted to ask more but he saw the warning in his wife's eyes. He just nodded. Why didn't his stupid son speak up? Why didn't he just grab her and tell her they belonged together? He would have to have a talk with David later.

Stephanie decided to change the subject; she didn't like where the conversation was heading. But before she could start a different, safe topic she heard David speak.

"Guess nobody's interested in how I spent my night last night?" David took a pull of his beer. A huge smirk ran up the side of his face and his eyes glittered dangerously.

"Dave why don't you take a bite of that burger." Richie prodded.

David ignored him. "Nah, not for mixed company." He laughed as he stood up. "Excuse me please I have to visit with a few old friends myself right now."

Maddie watched David walk away and part of her heart went with him. Tonight wasn't going well. This was his party, why wasn't David his sparkling self. Was it because she was there? Maybe she should leave.

Richie and the others saw David walk outside; everyone stopped talking. All eyes were on Maddie. Finally, David Sr. broke the uncomfortable silence. "I apologize for David, Maddie. My son is a jerk." He nodded toward the door David went through. "Why don't you go talk to that knucklehead or I will be forced to talk to him and I don't think he'll like my brand of talking."

Maddie shook her head. "No really I should be going. I think he'd be happier if I left anyway. It's late and I'm tired from traveling and...."

"He's crazy about you do you know that?" David's father broke in.

Again, Maddie shook her head. "No, I don't think so Mr. Addison. Maybe at one time. But not anymore."

David Senior reached over the table and took Maddie's hand. "You don't know me very well and you probably can see that David and me get along sometimes like oil and water but I know my boy and he loves you. Yes, he can be stubborn, immature and act like a fool but he has a great big heart and I know its breaking over whatever is happening between you two. His eyes show it no matter how he tries to hide his feelings by being crude or glib I could always tell his real feelings by just looking into his eyes. And I've been looking into his eyes since he came here to help out and he is one miserable pup. The only time I've seen any spark in his eyes is when he is looking at you."

Maddie took everything that David's father was saying and was more confused than ever. Should she go talk to David or just catch the next flight home?

Richie broke in with his thoughts. "Dad's right. Go talk to him. What can it hurt? Bet he's out there counting the seconds till you follow him out. Go on Maddie."

Maddie looked into Ritchie's eyes and she nodded. Richie was right. What could it hurt? She came all the way out to Philly to work things out with him. She took a deep breath and headed toward the door. She needed to talk

to David but how much talking could they do if he was drunk? Maddie sighed. She just wanted him to come inside and enjoy his birthday party. She also wanted him to come home to LA with her.

When she got outside she saw David leaning against the wall of the bar; he had a beer in one hand and a cigarette in another. Maddie knew that the only time David smoked was when he was very upset. He shouldn't be upset at his party. Was it due to her or his Dad or something else? She slowly approached him.

David looked up and saw a vision in blue walking toward him. Maddie. She looked amazing but what did it matter? She wasn't his. She probably came out here to tell him off or scream at him for something he did or didn't do. He never knew if he was coming or going when he was around Maddie Hayes. So why did he love her so damn much? And what did she want from him? Why didn't she stay with her 'old friend'? Why didn't she just go away so his broken heart could start to heal. She pushed him away too many times his drunken brain reasoned. She should just get the hell out of Philly. She didn't belong here. This was his territory.

Maddie stopped in front of him. David took a long drag of his cigarette and exhaled it directly into her face. She moved back and looked up at him with confused blue eyes.

David could smell her perfume and shampoo; it made him want to bury his head in her hair and breathe her in. She intoxicated him more than the beer and tequila shots. Instead of giving in to those feelings and letting her see how she affected him he gave her a dirty look. "Why are you out here? Go back inside." David took a long pull of his beer.

"Why are *you* out here David? The party is for you."

He sneered. "Not much in the mood for celebrating tonight."

"Since when is David Addison not in the mood for celebrating? Especially his birthday! I know you Addison. "

"People change honey."

Maddie just stared at him silently.

“Go back inside Maddie. Riche is probably missing you.”

She was stunned. “What are you going on about now? Richie has no interest in me and I don’t have any interest in him. Why would you say such a thing?”

David shrugged and sipped his beer.

“I think you’ve had enough to drink,” Maddie pointed at the bottle of beer he held in his hand. “And you know smoking is bad for you.”

David threw her a nasty look. “Since when did you become my mother? I thought we’re pals?”

Maddie ignored that comment. “Come back inside David people are wondering where you are. They went to a lot of trouble for this party for you.”

He laughed insincerely. “As long as there is free booze and free food half of those people could care less where I am.”

“That’s not true. Your father cares. Stephanie cares. Richie cares.” She stared into his eyes. “I care.”

David laughed *that* laugh again. “Yeah. Ok. Sure. Now that’s a joke. Yeah all you care about is if you have to hire another detective.”

Maddie was confused. “Where is this coming from? What are you saying?”

“Nothing. I’m saying nothing.” David flicked his cigarette to the ground and stepped on it.

Maddie watched him. “I don’t understand why you are so angry. You have been angry with me ever since I arrived here. I came here because I thought we could talk. Agnes told me you were thinking of staying here so I thought I would come out here to see if you meant it. You’re right I shouldn’t have come here. I’m a fool. You don’t want me here, that’s fine. You know what Addison you stay out here alone and have your pity party but I’m leaving! I’m going back to LA. You can stay here forever for all I care.” Maddie turned to walk away. She was angry and hurt. This was a waste of time com-

ing outside to talk to him she thought. As she tried to walk away she felt David's arm on hers pulling her roughly back to him. It startled her.

David's arm snaked out and grabbed Maddie's elbow fast and he pulled her against him spinning them around and pushing her back against the wall. "Forget what I said I want you to stay baby." His hands were all over her. He pinned his body against hers. His hips pushed into her. Maddie could feel how excited David's was against her stomach. She was scared. He was too drunk and feeling too mean. She wanted him but not like this. She wanted to get away from him. He needed to sober up.

"Get off of me Addison!" Maddie tried to push him away but he just laughed as his hands pushed down the top her dress to her waist. His mouth slobbered over her breasts as he freed them from the dress. His hands crept up her dress pushing it up her legs and thighs to meet the top of the dress at her waist. Maddie was mortified. "I said stop David. What if someone comes out here?"

David's mouth ran up to her ear. "No one's going to come out here. What's wrong babe? You bought this hot dress for me for a reason right? Definitely easy access. I want you Maddie. I know you want me too baby. Come on. Why come across the country if you didn't want me? Why go to all this trouble to turn me on. And you turned me on big time. I want you right here. It's been too long. "

"David please not here. Not like this."

Maddie moved her head from side to side and tried to push him away. She began to whimper as she begged him to stop. He was trying to kiss her neck. He knew it usually drove her wild but not this time. He could feel her resisting. Maddie's cries and pleas finally got through David's alcoholic haze. He shook his head and immediately released her. He saw the tears on her face. He felt like the biggest loser in the world. "Oh God Maddie. I'm so sorry." He tried to touch her face but she slapped his hands away.

"What were you thinking David?" Her voice was shaky.

David shook his head. "I ummm I wasn't thinking. Oh God Maddie I would never hurt you. Please forgive me. I drank too much and I guess I just wanted to..."

"To fuck me?" Maddie sneered as she fixed her clothes and tried to fix her hair.

"No, no." David ran his hands through his hair. "God. I...I just wanted you near me. I just wanted to feel you...." He looked into her eyes. What else could he say to her? He loved her. He saw in her eyes how she was hurting. That look killed him. "Please forgive me. You know I wouldn't ever hurt you?"

Maddie just looked at him. She was hurt and angry but the look in his green eyes was sincere. She knew it was the alcohol. She could see he was hurting too. They were both hurting each other it seemed over and over.

"Maddie, you do know that don't you?"

Finally he saw Maddie nod. "Yes, David I do know." She averted her eyes. "I think I better get going."

She tried to move passed him. He took her hand. "Maddie. I said I was sorry. Really truly sorry. Don't go."

"David please just let it go. Let me go."

He was tired of begging her. He let go of her hand. "Fine. *Go*. I don't need you here." He got angry again.

She nodded and disappeared quickly into the bar.

Dumb David, he thought to himself lighting up another cigarette. He leaned back against the outside wall of bar. He just wished his birthday was over. He had nothing to rejoice over this year. David realized he had just watched his whole life walk away from him. He emptied the bottle of beer than threw it against the concrete where it shattered into pieces just like his heart.

Maddie scanned the crowd for Ritchie. She needed to get out of the bar. She needed to get away from David. Finally, she saw Richie approaching her. He shook his head when he saw her face. "What did *he* do now ?"

"Nothing. He did nothing ." Maddie didn't want to talk about it. She just wanted to forget this night ever happened. She wished she had never laid eyes on David Addison. "I hate to ask this Ritchie but can you please bring me back to my hotel? I don't want to wait for a cab. I just want to leave."

"Wait. Just let me go and talk to him."

"Ritchie please leave him alone."

Ritchie could see in Maddie's eyes that she was distraught. "Ok whatever you want. I'll take you back to the hotel. Do you want to say goodbye to everyone?"

"Umm just tell them I didn't feel good ok . I just can't." She was trying to control her emotions. She knew she would burst into tears if she had to face David's father.

"Ok come on." Richie put his arm around Maddie and walked her out to his car. The ride to the hotel was quiet. Ritchie was the first to break the silence. "Listen Maddie whatever just happened outside with you and my brother just sleep on it tonight and you two can work it out in the morning."

"No I'm calling the airlines and getting the first flight out of here. I need to get back to LA. Back to my life there. This is where David's life is now. He should stay here."

"No his life is not here. He loves you."

Maddie shook her head. "Maybe he did once but not anymore."

Richie turned at looked at her. "You are wrong. David has been a saint since he's been here. Let me tell you about all the women that have been coming on to him since he got back here. He hasn't gone with one of them. He only wants one woman and that's you."

"He told you that?"

"Maddie, Maddie. He didn't have to tell me he loves you. I know my little bro and he was never ever the type to walk away from a hot babe. This

month I could see his heart and body were back in LA. He's been miserable since he's been here. Take him home."

Maddie looked at Ritchie. He sounded like he was telling her the truth. But why was David being so mean to her? Didn't he realize that she came all the way across the country because she loved him? Wanted him back home? She mentally shook her head.

Ritchie pulled up to the hotel.

Maddie took something out of her purse and held them up for Richie to see. "I was going to surprise David with these. I was going to give them to him tonight but well.." She handed the tickets to Richie.

Ritchie smiled. "The Stooges festival. David's favorite. Why you giving them to me?"

"Well, I'm not going to be here tomorrow night. So why don't you go with him or he can take a date." Maddie told him sadly.

"Come on Maddie. You really want David to go with another woman?" He guffawed. "You have to go with him. I know Dave will only be happy if you are there with him. "

"I doubt it." Maddie sighed. "Good night Ritchie." She leaned over and kissed Ritchie on the cheek as she opened the car door and got out.

Ritchie shook his head. Wait till I get back little bro and give you hell. He drove off back to the bar.

David knew that Richie was right about what a fool he was. He sobered up fast when Richie lit into him about his disgusting behavior toward Maddie. He remembered what had happened outside the bar and he felt sick. How could she ever forgive him for almost raping her? Maddie must think he is an animal! Why did he drink so much? He would have never done what he did if he hadn't had so much to drink. Not that he was using it as an excuse. He needed to beg her forgiveness if he had to. She must still care for him if she came all the way out here to talk to him so why was he treating her so badly? David knew part of it was that he was trying to push her away so he wouldn't have to deal with his feelings for her. They had hurt each other so

much for so long that he was becoming a bitter angry man. And that scared him. He didn't want to be soured on love but most of the time he didn't see any light at the end of the tunnel when he came to their relationship. Instead of walking hand in hand into the sunset David pictured him and Maddie with their hands wrapped around each other's throats. Why couldn't it be easy between them? It was always 2 steps forward and 5 steps back. He knew he was no innocent bystander in the train wreck of their relationship or whatever the hell it was but neither was she. Maybe this was a chance for them to make up. Maddie seemed to want to try again so he would give it a try. He loved her.

David nervously picked up the phone and dialed her hotel room. He hoped she would talk to him.

Maddie was trying to book a flight back to LA for the following morning but all flights were booked up. She was told she would be put on standby. Maddie sighed as she replaced the receiver. Seems she would be stuck in Philadelphia another day. As she began to dress for bed the phone rang. Maddie hoped it was the airline calling back with a cancellation. She picked up the phone hopefully.

"Maddie." David's voice cracked on the other end.

"David?" Maddie knew she should hang up but she needed to hear why he was calling. "What is it?" She asked snippily.

"God Maddie." There was a catch in his voice. "I'm so sorry. I never meant any of it. I was such a jerk. Please forgive me."

Maddie heard how upset David sounded. He must have sobered up in the past couple hours since she left him at the bar. She knew in her heart he didn't intend to harm her in anyway. "It's ok David. I know you had to much to drink." Maddie told him honestly.

"That's no excuse. But well, I know I was kinda mean to you since you got here. Sorry about that too. I was an ass."

"Yes you were. And a big jerk." Maddie told him. "Why did you act like that? Don't you want me here?"

“Yea sure. I want you here.” David stammered.

“Didn’t you miss me this past month? Even a little?”

“Sure I missed you. Every day. Every minute of every day. But well we were so nasty to each other before I left.” David couldn’t find the words. “I didn’t want to start up with that again. Maddie I never meant you to see me with that woman.” David admitted. “I was wrong to have done what I did with her in the office. I’m really sorry.”

David didn’t apologize for being with another woman, Maddie realized, just that he had done it in the office. But what did she expect? They weren’t a couple. She had come here to change that but she didn’t know if it was too late. “Ok.” Maddie didn’t know what to say.

The line got quiet for a minute. David's voice broke the silence. "Hey Ritchie gave me your gift when he got back. You remembered the Stooges are my favorite."

"Of course I remembered. Well, um I hope enjoy the movie festival."

"Wait! What are you talking about? Aren't you coming with me?"

"I don't think that's a good idea David."

"Of course it's a good idea. It's a great idea."

"I think I should get back to Blue Moon."

"It's the weekend Maddie and I want to take *you* to the movie." His voice lowered. "Please. It is my birthday present from you. You should be going with me. It's what you planned isn't it?"

Maddie wavered. His voice could always persuade her to do most anything he wanted her to do. “Yes that was the plan but now I don’t know David.”

“Come on Maddie. I want you to be my date.”

“Your date?” Maddie asked. “A real date?”

“Sure. A real date. So will you go out with me tomorrow night Blondie?”

She laughed. “I don’t know David.”

“Just stop saying I don't know and say yes. Come on Maddie. I promise to behave. Honest engine!” He pleaded.

Maddie truly wanted to go to the movie with him. "I'm not worried David . Ok. Sure. I'll go. Why not?" She relented.

"Great! You won't regret it Blondie. Pick you up at 7?"

“Fine. Sounds like a plan.”

“Sure does.” David smiled into the phone. They talked for a few more minutes. David was happy and hopeful when he hung up the phone. Maybe there was hope for them after all.

Maddie smiled as she hung up the phone. David could always sweet talk her to get his way and she usually loved it. Maybe there was hope for them after all.

David borrowed his dad’s truck to pick Maddie up for the Three Stooges movie festival. He didn’t want to have to worry about them reeking of fish all night after a ride in the fish truck as he had named the market’s work truck. David didn’t mind driving it back and forth to work but he hated the idea of Maddie riding in it. Maybe he felt ashamed of his family and his dad’s fish market. Maddie’s family was so different. Alex and Virginia Hayes were refined; he thought of them as bottles of expensive champagne while his dad and brother were unrefined like cans of beer. David hated that he didn’t feel he was good enough for Maddie but at times like this a little voice in the back of his mind told him he was out of his league wanting to be with the Blue Moon Shampoo girl. David shook off these unwelcome thoughts as she waited for Maddie in the lobby of the hotel. His jaw dropped when he saw her walking toward him. Whoa his mind screamed. She was dressed in a short black shirt dress that stopped a few inches above her knees showing off her long legs for all to see. He gulped as his eyes travelled over the buttons that trailed down the form fitting dress. He noticed that a couple of buttons on the top of the dress were unbuttoned; his fingers itched to undo

the rest. He couldn't take his eyes off of her as she walked closer. "Hey." He greeted her. "You look great." David couldn't help but lick his lips.

Maddie smiled up at him. "Thanks." She saw how she was affecting him and she smiled to herself. "So shall we go?" She prodded.

David nodded as he took her hand and walked her to the car. "Your chariot awaits." He teased.

"Where's the truck?"

"I borrowed my dad's car. I didn't think you would be thrilled to sit in a movie smelling of fish." He told her seriously.

Maddie nodded and smiled as she sat down in the car.

"Listen Maddie about last night. I was a big jerk. I'm sorry."

Maddie looked at him. "I know David. I told you over the phone it was ok."

"I care about you. Sorry if I scared you." He looked at her his green eyes somber. "I would never hurt you."

Maddie placed her hand on his. "I know you would never hurt me . I know you've been under a lot of pressure with your dad. Let's just try and enjoy tonight."

A crooked smile appeared on David's face as his eyes took in Maddie's long legs peeking under the short dress. He winked at her. "I think I'm enjoying it already." He teased. "Thanks for the tickets to the Stooges. I know you aren't much of a fan."

Maddie smiled at him. "It's your birthday David. I wanted to give you something that would make you happy."

David looked her over. "You know what you can give me." He teased her with a wink. "I warn you. I don't like to be taken advantage of just because you are taking me to a dark movie. I'm not easy you know."

Maddie laughed. "You know I've never made out in a movie theater."

David was stunned. “What? You’re kidding me right?” He pulled into a parking space across the street from the movie theater. He shut off the car and turned to face her. “I mean making out in a movie theater is a rite of passage in high school.”

“Not for me. I was modeling by then. I didn’t have many dates in high school.”

David looked at her. “No kissy, no touchy, no anything?”

Maddie shook her head. “I did hold hands with a boy in a movie once.”

“You were a wild one weren’t you?” He teased her.

“I never had time for many of the everyday teenage activities due to my modeling career.” Her voice was wistful.

“Well let’s pretend we are 17 and we’re on a date.” David suggested. “It’ll be fun to imagine I am the big football jock taking out the head cheerleader.” He wiggled his eyebrows. “Maybe I’ll get lucky.”

David guided Maddie to a pair of seats at the back of the theater. The movie was sparsely filled with only a few moviegoers scattered around the auditorium. “Guess the Stooges aren’t as popular as they used to be.” David commented as he took a sip of the huge soda he had bought for them to share. He had insisted for paying for the popcorn and soda despite Maddie’s protests.

David led Maddie to the middle of the row of seats. He nodded for her to sit as he sat next to her. When they sat down in their seats Maddie reached into her purse. She pulled out a small box. “This is another birthday gift.” She told him handing him the box. “When I saw it I thought of you.”

David opened the box to find a small earring shaped like a blue moon. He smiled as he removed the earring from the box.

“I know you don’t wear an earring anymore but I saw it and had to buy it.” She looked uncertain. “I hope you like it.”

David turned to her with a huge smile. "I love it." He bent over and kissed her on the corner of her mouth. David put the earring on. "Thanks!" He told her honestly.

Neither of them mentioned the possibility that he wouldn't be returning to Blue Moon. The movie started. Maddie was happy to hear David laughing at the Stooges' antics. She didn't find the movie funny but this was for David. She was happy just to sit beside him and share the popcorn and soda. She felt a bolt of electricity go through her body every time their hands met when they reached for the popcorn at the same time. Maddie wondered if David felt it too. She laid her head on his shoulder and closed her eyes enjoying his closeness and the intoxicating smell that was pure David.

David watched Maddie from the corner of his eye. His eyes trailed over her body. He could see the tops of her breasts though the unbuttoned top of her dress; his eyes traveled lower to her long legs. He noticed that her dress was hitched up almost to the tops of her thighs. His pants tightened. The woman sitting next to him was suddenly much more interesting to him than Moe, Larry and Curly. He put his arm around her shoulders as he leaned over to whisper in her ear. "I know you said you never made out in a movie theater but have you ever played the base game?"

Maddie looked over at him. She felt her insides melting. What was David up to? "No, I don't think so."

"Gee I gotta teach you everything?" David murmured. The feel of his breath in her ear was causing her senses to reel. David bent his head down until his lips hovered over Maddie's mouth. "First base baby." He covered her mouth with his. He was thrilled to feel her tongue pulling his tongue into her mouth. They kissed deeply for a while, tongues dancing a cha cha in their mouths. David pulled away slowly to look in her flushed face. She looked so beautiful. He used his tongue to trace her lips as he heard her murmur his name softly. David's hot tongue burned a path down to her neck to that spot that made her wild.

"David. David." Maddie moaned into his mouth. She had missed his lips on hers but now she wanted more. She loved kissing him but her body was throbbing with need. She wanted his hands on her.

David felt the heat emanating from Maddie's body. He groaned into her ear. His pants were getting tighter by the minute. David eased his right hand inside Maddie's dress and under her bra as his left hand undid the front clasp until her breasts sprang free into his eager hands. "Second base." He whispered. "Oh God you know I love this bra." David told her as his hands unbuttoned her dress. David noticed Maddie looking around the theater. "Don't worry babe. Nobody is near us or watching us." He told her as he pulled open her dress for better access.

Maddie was squirming in her seat as David's hands found their way back to her breasts kneading and stroking them until she thought she would combust into a million pieces. Her hands were pulling at his hair as his tongue worked its magic on her naked breasts. "I love second base." David moaned as he put her hand on his erection. He felt her nipples harden as his hands stroked her breasts. He was near the bursting point.

Maddie ached to feel David's hands on her most private place. She felt she was about to reach an orgasm any minute just by what his hands and mouth were doing to her breasts. "And what is third base?" Maddie asked breathlessly.

David raised his head and winked at her. "My favorite base." He told her as his hand ran up and down her thighs until it reached between her legs. David could feel how excited she was. "You like this huh babe?" He moaned into her ear as he stroked her slowly.

Maddie was lost in David. She could only mutter his name as she felt his hands on her most intimate places. She couldn't take it anymore as she felt her body pulsate with a mind blasting orgasm that she could feel vibrating all over her body. David covered her mouth with his to muffle her cries of passion.

"David. Oh David. David." She cried into his mouth.

David was so happy he made Maddie feel so good. Now he wanted to make her feel even better. "Hey let's get out of here. Go back to your hotel. Finish what we started. I want to make love to you baby. It's been way too long. " David whispered in her ear.

Maddie wanted David to make love to her. She couldn't wait to feel his body on top of hers. She couldn't wait to pleasure him as he had just pleased her. She smiled at David and nodded. He saw the invitation he was waiting for in her blue eyes. God how he loved her.

They both straightened out their clothes and then stood up to go. The movie wasn't over yet but they didn't care. They only had one thing on their minds. David took Maddie's hand in his and they walked out into the lobby hand and hand. There were a few people in the lobby getting snacks.

David stopped . "Hey listen I need to visit the little boys room first. I'll be right back." He leaned down to kiss her. It nearly bowled her over. Maddie's senses were in turmoil. Her body was still vibrating from the pleasure he had given her a short while ago. "Hurry."

David winked at her and walked away. Maddie stared at him as he headed toward the bathroom. He could sure fill out a pair of jeans she thought hungrily.

Maddie knew she was finally ready to take that big step with David and have him make love to her. She had even taken precautions this time so they would be safe until the time was right. She wanted to be sure they were both on the same page before she would even think of having a child. When she found out through Agnes that David might never come home she had been heartbroken. She had come all the way here to get him back. And she was sure she had. She was so glad she came to Philadelphia to get him.

"Well well who do we have here? Dave's new toy?"

Maddie heard a shrill voice interrupt her thoughts. She turned around and was face to face with some redhead.

"Toy? Excuse me are you talking to me because I don't know you."

The woman laughed obnoxiously. Maddie hated her on sight; she reminded her of the floozy she caught David with in the office that night but this woman was older; around David's age.

"Name's Betty. No you don't know me honey but I grew up with your date; good ole Dave Addison. Yep the women of South Philly were very glad

when Davey blew back into town. There's been a line of women waiting to spend the night with your boy since he got back."

"Excuse me what are you trying to say?" Maddie took in Betty's cheap looking appearance. Was this the kind of woman David went for back in Philly?

"What I'm trying to say honey is Dave sure picked up where he left off playing the field in his old stomping grounds. He's been a very busy boy plowing his way through women he's had like me and obviously some new ones like you. I've never seen you in town before. Everyone knows everybody and everybody knows what and who everybody's is doing. So where did he find you anyway?"

Maddie looked Betty over like she was a repulsive insect. "Find me?" Betty was getting angrier by the minute. How dare this spoiled bitch look at her like she was crap under her shoes? Betty looked Maddie up and down; she took in her fancy looking clothes and her jewelry, her Gucci purse and her perfect hair. This one has money and class she thought darkly. She hated her more. Betty had her eye on David since they were kids. He played around with her once or twice then dumped her for that lesbian bitch Tess. Betty thought when she heard David was back in town that they could pick up where they left off but he would have none of her. He told her he had a girl back home. Well, this blonde must be that girl. But maybe not for long.

"Well it really doesn't matter where he found you, Dirty Dave is a player and well he'll play with anyone it seems. Guess he wanted someone like you tonight. I just hope you don't believe what he tells you. You look too trusting to me honey. I think you may be wasting your time with him if you're looking for the long haul. I heard after that catastrophe with Tess Dave wasn't into the marriage gig anymore. I mean do you blame him?"

Maddie started to feel sick. She wanted to run away from this woman and out of the theater before David got back but she wouldn't show this woman how she was really feeling. She started thinking about how Ritchie had put David on a pedestal; convincing her that David had been celibate the whole time he was here because he was still hung up on her. Yeah right. Did David put Ritchie up to telling her those things? Was she a fool to believe Ritchie? Should she believe this woman? But why would this woman lie?

"Yo Betty you coming? The movies about to start." Some big burly looking guy yelled across the lobby.

"Oh well guess I better go. Don't want to keep my date waiting. You enjoy the rest of your night with Davey boy. He is great in bed I will give him credit for that." Betty winked as she walked away swinging her hips.

Maddie felt like a vise was squeezing her chest. She needed air. She was just about to run outside when she looked up and saw David walking towards her. He threw her his panty melting smile. Maddie had a strong urge to slap that smile off of his face but she restrained herself. She wondered if he used that smile on the other women he chased. Or did they chase him?

"So you ready to go Blondie?" David tried to take Maddie's hand but she pulled away from him and walked quickly out of the theater ahead of him. David shook his head. He hoped she was just anxious to get back to the hotel with him. He watched her walk away admiring the way her dress molded her backside. He groaned inwardly as he followed her. He couldn't wait to have her moaning under him. David opened the car door for Maddie. She got in but avoided eye contact with him. He shrugged inwardly as he walked around the car. What is with her he thought as he got into the car? They drove in silence but David kept sneaking looks at her. Maddie had her head turned away from him. Maybe she was just nervous David tried to convince himself as he pulled into a parking lot in front of the hotel.

"Hey Goldilocks!" Maddie faced him. "Thanks again for getting the tickets to the Stooges' Festival. Even though we didn't get to see it all." David wagged his eyebrows at her. She didn't smile. He leaned over towards her and whispered in her ear. "I had a really great time tonight baby. Now it's going to get even better." David told her as his tongue disappeared in her ear.

Maddie pulled away from him quickly and turned and gave him 'if looks could kill you would be dead look'.

"Yo Blondie what's wrong? Hey are you nervous? You don't have to be with me sweetheart." He crooned. "I now just the right way to relax you."

"I think it's time I call it a night David." Maddie told him blankly. She refused to let him see how frazzled she felt.

David was floored. "Wait? What? Call it a night? Maddie what is wrong with you all of a sudden? I thought we were both ready to take this upstairs to finish what we started in the theater. You do know what base comes next don't you?" He said leaning closer to her a big smirk covering his face.

"Well you are going to have to round home without me. Why don't you call up one of your women? I'm sure one of them will gladly help you. There is a line of them waiting for their turn I hear." She snapped back at him.

David was taken back. What the hell was she talking about? "Ok time out here. What the hell happened from the time I went into the bathroom until I came out a few minutes later?" He looked into her eyes.

"What happened? You want to know what happened? Well I had my eyes opened wide by a friend of yours."

"A friend?" David wasn't sure where this was heading but he was certain he wouldn't like it.

"Betty. Ring a bell?"

"Betty?" David didn't know who Maddie was talking about.

"Yes Betty, some redhead. Gee you don't remember her? She seemed to know all about what you have been up to since you have been back in Philly. She says you've been very busy with a different woman every night. Funny I was told differently how you were such a good boy moping around the whole time you've been here. Guess you put Ritchie up to that."

David realized who Maddie was talking about. The town pump who had been after him since high school. He played around with her a couple of times like the other guys in town but he never laid a finger on her after he was with Tess. Betty had tried to get with him a few times since he had been back home but he made it clear he wasn't interested. He told her he had a girl back home so she would leave him alone. David figured she had told Maddie lies just to be spiteful.

"Oh yeah Betty. She's nobody to me. I can't believe that she would stoop so low!"

"What? You can't believe she told me your dirty secrets and now you got caught just like I caught you with that other redheaded tramp Linda?"

"You believe her? How could you believe a stranger over me? Seriously what the hell is up with that Maddie?"

"Well why would she lie to me David?"

"Maybe because I kept telling her no anytime she came on to me!"

"Yeah sure you turn a girl down?"

"Yeah sure. You caught me I screwed dozens of women since I've been here! Wait hundreds! Two or three a day!"

Maddie glared at him. "You think this is all a joke don't you?"

"No I found it ridiculous!" He glared back. "And even if I did screw a woman every night what the hell is it your business? You certainly made it plain and clear you didn't want me!"

Maddie was furious. "That's not true Addison and you know it! I told you I needed time!" She could strangle him.

"Time? Time? You don't know what the hell you want lady!" He raged at her his green eyes afire. "I told you once you were nuts and I was right. Why am I wasting time on you?"

Maddie looked at him her blue eyes full of hate. "Wasting time with me? I was stupid to come out here! I hate you!" She opened the door to get out but felt David grab her arm.

"That's the last time you say that to me." He let go of her arm and she practically fell out of the car. The sound of David burning rubber to get away from her was the only sound in the parking lot beside her sobs of anger and humiliation.