David was trying to figure out who this lady in red that Maddie seemed to be so thrilled to see was. She kind of looked like a younger version of Maddie so David was thinking a relative maybe. She was pretty and blonde. She couldn't hold a candle to Maddie but she was still very attractive. Interesting. Finally, the two women stopped their euphoric greeting and broke apart. Maddie put her arm around the younger woman. "This is my cousin. Annie Chernok. She lives in Connecticut." She told David and Agnes. Agnes grinned like crazy at Annie!

David just stared at her. Mmmm her cousin, very interesting, David thought.

Maddie was surprised and pleased to see Annie. They hadn't seen each other in years. They caught up with each other's lives sporadically by phone but Maddie couldn't remember the last time they spoke. They had a lot of catching up to do!

David turned his knee buckling smile on Annie as he approached her slowly. "Welll.." He drawled. "How nice to meet you Miss Hayes' cousin." He extended his hand. "I'm her business partner. Dave. David Addison." David's eyes roved slowly over Annie's body from her hair to her feet then back to her face. "Maddie never mentioned she had a beautiful cousin living in Connecticut."

Annie giggled and blushed girlishly as she shook David's hand. Their eyes met and locked. "HI Dave! David." Annie smiled back into David's eyes. Their gaze was broken by the sound of Maddie clearing her throat.

Maddie saw the way David was giving her cousin the Addison once over and it burned a hole in her belly. She saw how Annie was blushing and felt her heart clench. Damn David. She had a strong urge to wipe that shit eating grin off of his face. Instead she fixed a smile to her face and steered Annie into her office. "Come on with me Annie. It's so great to see you here."

"Leaving so soon?" David sounded sad.

"We are just going into my office David. Annie and I have a lot of catching up to do!"

Annie kept smiling at David until the door to Maddie's office clicked shut behind her. Maddie was annoyed. She forced a laugh though in front of Annie. "Not sure if your husband Mark would appreciate your open flirting with David." Maddie sat down in her office chair. She was pissed but hid it from her cousin.

"Oh. Right. Well we haven't spoken in ages!" Annie told Maddie. "We're separated. Have been for months." She lied. Annie was here to have fun without the judgmental eye of her snobby cousin. She and Mark had a big fight; she was tired of him leaving her alone all the time. All he seemed to do was work. She told him she needed to get away. She told him she was taking a trip to Los Angeles to see her cousin. She wanted to get away and have some fun. Mark had become so boring and stuffy; she needed to get away from him. And now that she had her eye on Maddie's sexy partner. She sure would like to have some fun with him. Why did Maddie let this guy go?

"Oh Annie. I'm so sorry to hear about you and Mark. Maybe you can work it all out. You two seemed perfect for each other." Maddie did feel bad.

"Yes well I doubt it. But enough about me . Have you ever worked things out with your partner?" Annie smiled. "Let me tell you he is one sexy hunk! I hope you don't mind me saying it?"

"David?" Maddie forced another laugh. "Yes he sure is very handsome. Watch him. He is sneaky. Before you know it he'll have your dress up and your panties off." Why would Maddie say that to Annie? Well she hoped it would deter her cousin. She didn't like the look in her eyes.

"Hmmm..sounds good to me." Annie giggled. Maddie wanted to kick her. "I mean as long as you and he are over and done and you don't mind."

"Mind? Why should I mind?" Maddie squeaked out. What could she say? David wasn't her property. She felt suddenly very nauseous. Just at that moment Maddie realized she had been feeling tired and ill a lot lately. She thought it was aggravation but she just realized she was nearly a week late... Oh no, she thought nervously. I can't be! But a little voice screamed out why not?? Maddie pushed these thoughts aside. Maddie saw Annie staring at her.

Annie could see the hurt on her cousin's face. Well, too bad she thought spitefully. She let him slip through her fingers. And this girl just wanted to have fun. Maddie always had her pick of men. When they lived in NY and had gone out to clubs together Annie had always been stuck with Maddie's rejects. She resented that. "Well listen I don't want to hold you up I better get over to my hotel to check in. We can catch up later."

"Nonsenses Annie. You are staying with me. I have a big house with a comfortable guest room."

"Oh no I don't want to impose."

"Don't be silly! I insist!" Maddie pushed thoughts of David aside too. "Come on. Let's go to lunch! We have a lot to talk about!"

Maddie and Annie enjoyed a leisurely lunch at one if Maddie's favorite restaurants. The women spoke about many things and spent the time catching up on each other's lives. David and Mark were never mentioned. Maddie did tell Annie she felt bad she couldn't show her around that night because a friend from France had procured hard to get tickets to the American Ballet for that night. Annie was curious about the Frenchman too now but Maddie told her he was only a friend. They had a few drinks and were a little tipsy when they returned to Blue Moon. The sound of their raucous laughter drew David out of his office. Annie gave him a big smile. Agnes sat behind her desk watching the scene take place.

Annie turned toward Maddie. "It is too bad you have plans for tonight. I guess I will just stay at your house and catch up on my reading."

"Nonsense!" David piped in walking towards Annie with a crooked grin covering his face. "I have nothing to do tonight. I would love to show you a good time. "David smirked at Maddie. "As long as your cousin doesn't mind." David's smirk widened. "So do you mind?"

"No, of course not." Maddie lied.

"Fine." David grinned.

"Fine."

"Good."

"Good."

David turned back to Annie. "Soooo. What would you like to do?"

"Oh well I've never been to Los Angeles before. Surprise me."

"Oh I got a lot of surprises." He told her suggestively. Annie just laughed.

Maddie felt her nausea worsen.

"Dress casually and I'll pick you up say sixish." David said with a tilt of his head.

Annie giggled again. Maddie really had to restrain herself from kicking her cousin. "I can't wait." Annie told David. She turned to Maddie. "Are we leaving soon? I would love to relax with a nice hot bath." Annie rubbed her neck. "I am a bit tired."

"Maybe you would rather stay home and get to bed early tonight?" Maddie suggested.

"I think I can manage that." David quipped.

Annie hit his arm jokingly. "You didn't mention your partner was so funny."

Maddie threw David a dirty look. "Yes he is hilarious."

David raised a mocking eyebrow.

Maddie looked away. "Annie here take my house keys". Maddie handed her cousin her keys. "I have some work to finish here. Is it ok if I call you a cab?"

"How bout if I drive her to your house?" David began to walk Annie out of the agency. "I'll be back in a flash."

Before Maddie could say anything, David and her cousin were gone. Damn that man! Maddie was livid. How could he make moves on her cousin. And right in front of her? Maddie stomped into her office and slammed the door. Agnes looked after her shaking her head thinking how foolish her bosses were.

David wasn't sure what his plans were involving Annie but he knew he was spite-fully glad to see the greenish tint in Maddie's eyes when he left with her cousin. Good for her! Now, maybe she can see how I feel every time she goes out with that French man! Annie was talking and talking but David barely heard her. He just smiled and nodded in the right places and she seemed clueless to his disinterest. Not too bright, he concluded. They pulled up at Maddie's house. David was eager to get back to Maddie and see what she would say to him but Annie seemed to want to linger and talk.

"Wow Maddie has a great big house. Why does she need such a big house if she lives all alone?" Annie wondered.

David shrugged. "Ask her. Listen Annie I got some things I need to finish at the office so I'll see you at six."

"Oh sure David." Annie leaned over surprising David by kissing him and then with the feel of her darting tongue in his mouth. He kissed her back for a second then pulled away. Wow, she was a fast one. More and more he could see how different she was from Maddie. He felt nothing when he kissed her. He was wondering if this was really a good idea. But he wanted to parade his dating Annie in front of Maddie. He knew he was being spiteful by trying to make her jealous. He wanted to see if she still had any feelings left for him and using her cousin to bring out the green in Maddie was convenient. Let the show go on.

Maddie was pacing back and forth in her office but when she heard two quick knocks she flew to her desk chair and pretended to be engrossed in paperwork.

David strode into her office cockily perching on the edge of her desk. "Soo partner, mind if I take the car tonight?"

"The car? Why can't you take a cab?"

David frowned. " A cab? Why? Prince Charming is picking you up in his limo isn't he Cinderella?"

"Don't call me that."

"Why Cindy?" David asked innocently.

Maddie ignored him. "I'm not sure I am comfortable with you taking out Annie." David's eyes bore into hers. Maddie looked away. "David I'm concerned for her . She is separated from her husband and her emotions are fragile right now."

David burst out laughing.

"Why are you laughing David?" Maddie was annoyed.

"She don't seem fragile to me. She seems like a lot of fun and sexy as hell."

Maddie felt her heart fall. "I just don't want you to lead her on or anything. She and Mark were married for 10 years. That's a long time."

David shook his head. "Oh and why would I do that? We're both looking to have fun not to get married. Chill Maddie. You do remember what fun is right?"

Maddie threw him a dirty look. "Yes I remember what your idea of fun is David."

David smirked at her. "Yeah and as I remember it you enjoyed my kinda fun for a while Princess." With that David got up and headed toward the door. "Yep I'm gonna make sure Annie has a good time tonight. Hope Frenchie does the same for you."

Maddie just glared at him.

"Oh one question though. What *did* he say when he saw my name between your legs?" David couldn't resist cause he knew she wasn't sleeping with Pierre. Maddie wasn't like that.

The words fell from Maddie's mouth before she could stop them. "He hasn't seen it yet. It was dark."

David remained with his hand on the door knob. He was shocked . No way. She wouldn't have. He turned to look at her. 'Wow you really must be crazy about this guy. You made the space man wait like what 15 or so years and me almost three." David smirked at her. "Well, you have fun tonight. I know I will."

David left her office closing the door softly behind him. He stopped and leaned against the door for a moment hoping the hole where his heart was couldn't be seen by the office staff. He composed himself nodded to the office staff and strode into his office on silent feet.

Maddie hated the idea of David taking Annie out in the BMW. But how could she say no without giving her feelings away? She had to let David use the car no matter how much it hurt her. She sighed. That car had always been a big part of their relationship. They had spent so many hours in that car talking, arguing, laughing and making love. She couldn't stand the idea of him in that car with another woman; talking, laughing and she wouldn't even think of him making love to someone else in it. It was *their* car. But there was no way she could say that to David. It

wasn't important to him. She wasn't important to him. She had her suspicions that David was no choir boy but he had never thrown his 'dates' in her face. She couldn't put a picture to oh God knows how many sluts he had driven around in that car over the years. But this was different. Not only because she knew now how much she loved him but because it was Annie. She sighed again. Why did he have to take out her cousin of all people? Was he getting back at her because she was dating Pierre? She just didn't know. Maddie leaned back in her chair and closed her eyes. During that month they had been together they had made love in that car on numerous occasions. She thought of one particularly memorable time.

David was sitting in the passenger seat. He had just finished taking photos for a client and was putting the camera away. They were on a dark street. It was late at night. David looked over at Maddie whose head was turned away from him. He knew she must still be mad at him. So he she had caught him and the guys playing poker in his office when they thought she had a dentist's appointment? So big deal. She acted like he had killed someone. She carried on like it was a major catastrophe that they were playing a little card game. He shook his head. Maddie. Maddie. Maddie. He looked over at her cool and icy and he had an uncontrollable urge to melt her.

Maddie was still angry at David. She hadn't said more than a few words to him since their argument that morning. When would he grow up and take her and her business seriously? She took a quick peek at him. He was putting the camera away and not looking at her. She studied his profile and her breath caught. Why did she want him so much even when he annoyed and angered her? He truly has driven insane, she thought. So insane that I would love to pull him against me and rip all his clothes off. Maddie tried to suppress her desire. She was angry at him after all.

"Addison, I am going to drop you at your place. I want to go home ALONE tonight." She told him but hoped he would change her mind.

"Maddie. Maddie." David drawled molasses coating every word. *That* particular nuance of his voice should be illegal. He knew what his voice did to her and the devil that he was used it to his advantage over and over. Maddie shivered. "You cold baby? C'mere. I'll warm you up."

Maddie wanted to melt into his arms. "No, David. Take me home."

"No can do Maddie. I got a problem. I need some help with." David took Maddie's hand and rubbed it on his crotch.

She felt how hard he was. She pulled her hand away like she got burnt. "I want to go home. Now! David!"

David reached over and pulled Maddie into his lap. She went willingly. "Come on Blondie. You can't still be mad about this morning." David began to peel off her clothes as his voice caressed her body. "I'm sorry baby. I promise to try and act more professionally." He began to pet her most intimate place as he stripped off her last item of clothing. She moaned. He loved how she moaned for him. It drove him wild. "I promise that I will try and be more mature." His lips began to follow a path from her ears down her neck to that spot that drove her wild with desire.

Maddie wanted to feel his skin against hers. She was so hot she was surprised she didn't burst into flames. Her hands were busy unbuttoning his shirt as her mouth pressed against the pulse on his neck. When she had his shirt undone she pushed her breasts against his chest and rubbed sensuously against him until she felt his body jerk with his need.

Maddie finally found her voice. "Yes *ummm* David I need you to act more professional and *ohhh* more mature. *Ohhhh*. Just because we have, *oh David*, a thing between us doesn't give you the right to *ahhh* take advantage of me. *Ohhhhh Davidddd*." She panted.

David felt her breasts against his chest, her hands releasing his manhood and he thought he had never felt so hot. The temperature in the car must have risen at least 50 degrees in the past few minutes. David pushed off the seat as Maddie dragged his pants down. He kicked them off leaving him naked from the waist down. David reclined the car seat as far back as it could go. Maddie moved over David until her body covered his completely. His mouth nipped at her neck kissing its way to her ear. "I want to fuck you so bad." He whispered huskily as his hands played with her naked breasts.

Maddie guided David into her. He could tell how much she wanted him. The sounds she made and knowing how much she wanted him never failed to drive David to a fevered pitch.

David whispered in her ear in his caramel voice. "Yes baby that's it. Oh Maddie you drive me crazy. Maddie tell me how hot I make you. I make you crazy too baby. I can feel it. Come on baby tell me." David breathed into her ear.

All Maddie could get out was the words "Yes." and "David!" over and over.

They made love fast and furiously until they fell off the edge into a sea of pleasure that seemed to go on forever. David covered Maddie's face with kisses as he held her in his arms until their heart rates returned to normal. They spent the rest of the night at her house making love over and over again.

Maddie ached to feel David back in her arms. She admitted to herself regretfully she had let the best thing that ever happened to her slip through her fingers. Maddie was shaken out of her reverie by the buzzing of her phone. It was Agnes informing her that Mr. Addison had left for the day. She put her head in her hands as she thought of David rushing home to get ready for his big date with Annie. She came back to the present wishing she had done things differently when David was her man. She decided to leave early as well. She needed a cold shower.

David arrived at Maddie's house a little past six to pick up Annie for their date. He thought back to the times he tried to take Maddie out on a date. Neither of those dates had turned out the way he wanted. Now, he was picking up another woman at her house to take out on a date. How had things between them deteriorated to such a degree? David knocked these thoughts out of his head as he buzzed the doorbell. He was going to have fun if it killed him.

Annie opened the door with a big smile. David's eyes flew over her halter top and tight blue jeans which outlined her curvaceous body. He had to admit she had a smoking body; he may be in love with Maddie but he wasn't dead. "Whoa, you look great!" David told her.

Annie's eyes took in David's tight black jeans and dark green t-shirt that brought out the color of his green eyes. "You don't look bad yourself." She flirted.

David was wondering if Maddie had left with Frenchy yet. Maybe it was better if she was already gone although he yearned to see her. Well he wasn't going to ask Annie if she was still here.

"Oh, David I'll be right back down. I forgot my purse." Annie broke into his thoughts.

"Okay. Sure." He told her. David stood at the bottom of the stairs with his hands thrust down deep in his pockets waiting for Annie so they could leave. He looked up when he heard someone coming down the stairs and came eye to eye with Maddie. He forced a smile as he broke eye contact with her. She seemed to float down her stairs; a vision in a strapless silver gown which showed off her figure to perfection. David gulped. "Wow! You look amazing." He told her as she reached the bottom of the stairs.

Maddie raised her eyebrow slightly as she looked at him. "Thank you David." She smiled back at him.

David caught Maddie give him a quick once over. He was glad to know just because she was dating Pierre he still was able to get to her. He could see it in her eyes.

Why was David standing in her home waiting to take another woman out for a night on the town while she went out with someone else? Maddie saw the admiration in his eyes as she descended her stairs. She stepped off the last step and found herself next to him. He moved closer to her and Maddie felt uncomfortable with his nearness. They stood staring at one another with a burning intensity. David slowly reached out his hand and pushed a stray piece of hair off Maddie's face. Annie came to the top of the stairs and watched the exchange. She raced down the stairs breaking their eye contact. They both stepped away from each other like they were caught doing something wrong.

Annie did not like the way David was staring at Maddie with his mouth hanging practically to the floor. She raced over to him and grabbed his hand. "Ready to go Dave?"

David reluctantly pulled his eyes away from Maddie. "Oh. Yeah. Ok. I'm ready. Well, ahh have a nice time." He told Maddie as Annie practically dragged him out the door wishing Maddie a good time as she closed the door behind them.

Maddie was left standing in her front hall talking to herself and looking at a closed door. "Yeah you two have a great time too." She never imagined she'd have David come to her house to pick up anyone else for a date besides her. Her heart couldn't take much more. Just then she heard the doorbell ring. She plastered a smile on her face as she answered the door for Pierre.

David took Annie to the amusement park on the pier on Pacific Coast Highway. They had a good time going on all the rides and stuffing themselves with corndogs and ice cream. Despite his initial misgivings David was having a lot of fun. Annie was easy to be with. They were like two kids racing each other to the rides, playing games of chance, and guzzling soda.

Annie mentioned she wanted to see the Hollywood Walk of Fame so that was their next stop. Annie was dazzled by the stars of so many famous people. She held on to David's hand as she skipped beside him like a young girl pointing out all the celebrities she liked. For some reason at that moment he was reminded of the carefree Maddie from their first night in Paris. He wanted her back not some cardboard copy. He should have been doing these things with Maddie. Again, David tried to push thoughts of Maddie out of his mind.

Maddie was trying to enjoy the ballet but her thoughts kept straying to David. She was wondering what he was doing with her cousin. The thought of him having fun with another woman was making her feel sick. The thought of David kissing or making love with someone else would kill her dead. Pierre was the perfect date. He was attentive, charming, an excellent conversationalist, yet boring as hell. Ok he was very sweet and he had lots of stories to tell. But still she longed to roll her eyes at David and his corny jokes right now. She missed him. Maddie looked at Pierre through the corner of her eye. She looked at him objectively. Pierre was a very handsome, distinguished man that any woman would enjoy spending time with. Any woman that is not in love with another man that is. Maddie felt as if her heart was physically hurting as she thought of David having fun with another woman. Having fun with Annie. Her own cousin. This night couldn't pass quickly enough!

David and Annie's last stop was a comedy club on Sunset Blvd that David frequented. They had a wonderful time laughing at the up and coming comedians as they ate burgers and drank beer. David was having fun but he knew he would rather be at the boring ballet with Maddie than having fun here with Annie. David looked at Annie as she laughed at the comedian on stage. She was beautiful, sexy, and fun so why did his thoughts keep going back to her cousin? Maddie didn't want him. She had what she wanted a rich and successful man. David felt his as if his heart was being pierced with a dagger.

David drove up to Maddie's house. He had spent an enjoyable night out with a sexy woman instead of drinking himself into a stupor at his favorite dive but he still felt like shit. He missed Maddie. David looked up at Maddie's window. He didn't see Maddie's bedroom light on so he figured she still wasn't home. The thought of her in Pierre's hotel bed was driving him out of his mind with jealousy. Annie noticed David's pained expression.

"Why so glum Dave?" She hoped he wasn't thinking of Maddie.

David pulled himself together and forced a smile. "Oh sorry! Me glum? Never! So did you have fun?"

Annie smiled at him. "So much fun! How bout coming in for a drink? I don't want this night to end."

David who didn't want to go home alone to his empty apartment to pine over Maddie agreed. "Sure why not?" David followed Annie into Maddie's house.

Maddie heard the car pull up to her house a she was getting a drink from the kitchen. She held her breath as she heard them coming into her house laughing and talking about their date. 'Oh so much fun.' 'Oh I had a great time!' Oh, how she wanted to strangle them both! She wasn't going to hide in the kitchen like a thief in her own house. Maddie walked out of the kitchen and gasped at the scene she encountered.

One minute he was following Annie into Maddie's house laughing and talking about the night they had spent together; the next thing he knew he was flat on his back on Maddie's couch as Annie straddled him with her hand on his zipper. *Next* thing he knew, Maddie was standing outside the kitchen door with her eyes open wide in shock.

"Excuse me!" Maddie's voice was low, dangerous.

David knew that tone. She was livid. Good, he thought spitefully. He sat up with Annie in his arms a smirk spreading like wildfire over his face. "Hey ya partner. We didn't think you were home yet."

"Obviously." Maddie forced out through clenched teeth.

David batted his eyes at Maddie. "Shucks maim. You caught us good."

Annie climbed off David's lap. Maddie noticed her face was red with embarrassment. "Maddie it isn't like you think. We were just fooling around. I mean just having some fun. Umm." Annie didn't want Maddie to think she was easy. For some strange reason Maddie's respect was still important to her.

"Fooling around? Having some fun? Yeah, I could see that." Maddie told her snidely. She threw Annie and David her icy blue stare.

"No, not like that. What I mean is..."

Maddie waved her off dismissively. "Whatever Annie. It's fine."

David continued to smile at her. "Fine. Yeah and fun too." He joked.

Maddie ignored him. "Well, if you both will excuse me I am going up to bed. I would appreciate if you don't um fool around in the middle of my living room or on my couch if you don't mind." With a toss of her head, Maddie walked up her stairs like the model she once was.

David stood up. He felt bad but also glad to see Maddie's beautiful baby blues turn green with jealousy. He wanted to run up after her into her bedroom and tell her he was sorry. But why should he she wasn't going to dump that French guy for him. He heard Annie clear her throat. He looked at her. "Well I guess I should be going." He bent down and gave Annie a kiss on the cheek. "Maybe we can do something tomorrow night?" He figured why not have some more fun.

Annie smiled. "I'd like that. How bout if I give you a call at the agency?"

"Sounds good."

The next morning Annie tried to appease Maddie by making coffee and breakfast for her cousin. Even though she thought David was yummy she didn't want to make enemies with Maddie. She was her cousin after all. She wasn't really sure where Maddie and David stood. But for now she was going to have some fun. Maddie smelled the coffee as she came down the stairs dressed for the day. She usually didn't bother with breakfast at home but a cup of coffee was mandatory. She strolled into the kitchen and found Annie flipping pancakes at her stove. There seemed to be more batter on the counter than in the skillet. In a flash she was taken back to the times David had made dinner for her in this kitchen. She remembered how she would complain about how she now had to clean up the mess he had made. She usually ended up on the just cleaned kitchen counter with her legs wrapped around David's waist as he made love to her. She cast aside that thought.

Annie saw Maddie walk into the kitchen. She could see she was lost in her thoughts. "Morning dear cousin. I thought I would make you a delicious break-

fast." She brushed her hair back from her face. "Did I do something wrong last night?"

Maddie sat at the table and poured herself a cup of coffee. Annie slid two pancakes off of the skillet into the plate in front of Maddie. Maddie took a sip of her coffee before she answered. What could she say? She knew David didn't want her so what right did she have to be angry at her cousin? "Wrong? No, of course not Annie. It was just a shock to see you and David ummm..."

"We weren't doing anything. We were just..."

"Fooling around." Both women said together. They looked at each other and laughed.

Maddie shook her head. "I don't know it's just complicated with us." Maddie shook her head again. "I am not my partner's keeper." Maddie poured syrup on the pancakes and forked some into her mouth.

Annie looked at Maddie confused. "What do you mean?"

"I mean David is a free man. It's been over between us for a while. He can date who he wants." Maddie didn't want Annie to see how much she was hurting. She always knew Annie was jealous of her and at times took delight in Maddie's misery. She wondered if this was what her cousin was doing now. "And screw whoever he wants." Maddie added. Why did she have to say that too? She saw Annie eyes light up.

"Well that's good to know." Annie giggled. "And you do have that French man. I hear French men are really great kissers and fantastic in bed." Annie licked her rosy lips.

Maddie nodded. She continued to eat without looking at Annie. She wanted to end the conversation.

Annie sat down at the table opposite Maddie. "Hey! I have a great idea!"

Maddie didn't like the sound of this. "What?"

"A double date!" Annie exclaimed happily.

"A double what?"

"Date! You know me and Dave and you and Pierre. How about it?"

"Oh, I don't know."

"Come on Maddie it will be fun. Like the old days!" Annie stared into Maddie's face. "Unless of course you are uncomfortable seeing Dave with another woman."

"No of course I'm not." Maddie lied. She hated the way Annie called David, Dave. "Fine. A double date will be fine. Let's go on a double date." Inside Maddie was cringing.