

David woke up the next morning with a sour feeling in his belly. He knew the first item on his agenda was to call Annie and ask her to meet him for lunch. He wanted to let her down easy before this whole mess spiraled out of hand; if it wasn't already. Why did he ever think it would be okay to play with someone's emotions just to make Maddie jealous? And seeing with his own eyes what he saw last night, Maddie could care less about him. David knew, or thought, he knew the kind of woman Maddie was and it killed him that she had already gotten intimate with Pierre. She must really be crazy about the guy if she bedded him so quickly. But why did he still think he saw something in her eyes reserved just for him. Probably cause you want to see what isn't there Dave, he admonished himself ruefully. Anyway, as soon as he got to the office he would call Annie.

David met Annie in a popular restaurant around the corner from Blue Moon. It was noisy and well lit and that is the atmosphere David was looking for. While they ate they engaged in small talk. David waited until the meal was over before he dropped his bomb on Annie. "Annie listen." He began in his serious voice. "You are a beautiful, fun, sexy, wonderful, woman but I think it's best if well we don't see each other anymore."

Annie was stunned. "Why David?" Annie knew he must still be hung up on Maddie. Why did all the guys fall for her boring cousin?

David averted his eyes. "Sorry if I led you on but I'm not looking to get into a relationship with anyone at this point in my life. And I know you are the kind of woman who needs to be in a steady relationship."

Annie laughed. "David I am not even divorced yet. I don't think you need to worry about me wanting a steady relationship."

David ran his hand through his hair. "Listen Annie, truth is I don't feel right dating Maddie's cousin. We have a history together."

"So, I bet you still are crazy about her. Aren't you?" Annie was furious but she hid her emotions from David.

"No not all Maddie and I are jut friends and business partners."

"Well maybe on her end. If you are still pining for her you are stupid." Annie told him spitefully. "You know Pierre spent the night in her bed. And boy were they loud." She lied.

David felt a physical pain in his chest. Even though he thought Maddie was sleeping with that man he didn't want to have his suspicions confirmed. He shook it off. "That's great for her." He lied. He hated Annie at that moment. He hated Maddie too. And Pierre. He even hated the waiter for some reason because his hair resembled Pierre's. Pull yourself together Dave, he told himself.

"Well, I hope you know what you are doing David." Annie stood up threw the napkin on the table and walked out of the restaurant with her head held high. David felt sick. He paid the bill and decided to take a long walk to compose himself. He knew if he ran into Pierre at the office in the state he was in now he would wind up in an orange jumpsuit before the day was over.

Maddie was pacing her office. She knew that David had gone out to lunch with Annie. That man had been gone over two hours. Didn't he ever get enough? She was going to have a little talk with David Addison about proper office behavior when he returned.

Agnes finally buzzed her a little while later that David was in. Maddie took a look at her watch. Almost two and a half hours at lunch!

Maddie strode across the office with all eyes on her. The staff was waiting for another drag out fight between their bosses. They could feel the tension in the air. She knocked once on David's door and entered before he could invite her in.

David was annoyed when Maddie slammed into his office. He gave her a dirty look and plopped into his chair. He would not allow her to see how his heart ached for her. "What brings you to this neck of the woods partner?" David asked as he reclined back in his chair and put his feet up on the desk which he knew Maddie hated.

Maddie knew he knew she hated when he put his feet up on his desk but she ignored it. "You know David, I don't care if you are dating my cousin or any other woman but you still need to set an example for the other employees."

David shook his head. "I'm not one of your employees anymore babe. Remember? I own half this joint."

Maddie threw him a death glare. "Be that as it may Mr. Addison, we still need to maintain a professional atmosphere around the office. And you as the boss must set an example for the staff. Understood?"

“Understood Miss Hayes.”

They stared each other down and their glares were interrupted by the phone ringing. David raised an eyebrow. “Excuse me, Miss Hayes business calls.” David gave her a half smile. ‘And after all it’s all about the business around here.’”

Before Maddie had a chance to respond David picked up the phone receiver. “Adison here.”

David was thrilled to hear what the top private detective firm’s owner was offering Blue Moon. Maurice D’Argent was looking to semi-retire. Seems he and Maddie had made a great impression on the elderly detective. He was a big fan of the Blue Moon Shampoo girl and the TV show Remington Steele and another detective show featuring a stunning couple. Maurice told him that he wanted Blue Moon to handle all his security business in California. This would be a windfall for Blue Moon. The only problem was that they had to go to Paris together and pretend to be a couple. David listened to Maurice’s plans for the agency with anticipation.

Maddie could only follow David’s side of the conversation. It seemed to be a businessman from France calling David. She wondered what the business man wanted from him.

“Yea sure. Of course.” David looked at Maddie who was still standing in front of his desk. “Yes Maddie is fine.” David spoke into the phone. “She’s right here in my office.’ David nodded. “I’m sure she will be thrilled with your proposition.” David smiled into the phone. “Oh yes! Good. Sure. Let your secretary call ours. And thanks again.” David laughed. “No I haven’t created anything new yet.”

Maddie didn’t hear any more of what David was saying. He should only know of his new creation that Maddie was sure was growing in her belly. If only things were different, she sighed inwardly. She heard David hang up the phone as she turned to leave his office. She suddenly felt ill. She was debating whether she should tell him of her suspicions. After all, he was the father. She had to leave before she blurted it out.

“Blondie, blonde, where you going?” David called after her. “We gotta have a little pow wow about the phone call I just got.”

Maddie stopped and turned toward David. “About what?”

David explained to Maddie what the French detective was offering them. He saw her face go through a gamut of emotions landing on anger. “No, David. I am NOT going back to Paris with you!” She could not go to Paris with David again; it would hurt too much. She stared into his eyes that suddenly clouded over with was that hurt? No, couldn’t be, she thought.

“Maddie. Maddie. Maddie. What are you saying?” Boy, she hated him that much that she would turn down this once in a lifetime opportunity. “What are you saying? This is business. Can you imagine how much money this will bring in? We’ll never have to worry about paying bills again.”

She just stared at him. What could she say? She knew she was being irrational. She had to think with her brain not with her heart. “I understand that David but well I don’t think it is such a good idea for us to go together.”

David laughed snidely. “Well, unfortunately the offer relies on the fact that Maurice D’Argent believes we are a couple. He has some romantic notions that he wants to fulfill. He mentioned Remington Steele and some show called Moonlighting.” David laughed again. “Yeah told you we fooled them all. No one knew we are just *pals*.”

Maddie felt her heart ache. “So say I’m sick. Go alone.”

David shook his head. “No can do. I told you. He wants both of us to come see him.” He was getting angry. “Listen, I’d much rather take Annie for a little romantic getaway but well this is business.” He smirked at Maddie. “and we are all business. Right partner?”

Maddie hated David at that moment. How could he be so callous? And here she was thinking about telling him her suspicions she might be pregnant. No, she would keep that to herself for now. “Fine David.”

David smiled at her but the smile didn’t reach his eyes. ‘Don’t worry babe I will keep my hands to myself.’ He raised an eyebrow. “If you can.”

Maddie itched to slap him. “Yes, I am sure that won’t be a problem Addison.”

David nodded. “Great then. Oh, D’Argent is flying us first class but he didn’t mention accommodations so I’ll tell Agnes to book us in a hotel.”

Maddie's eyes bore into him. "Yes, I will make sure to tell her to make certain we have two rooms."

"And I will suggest she book us in rooms on different floors." David added. "Will that be satisfactory to you Miss Hayes?"

Slap and kick him, Maddie was so tempted. Instead, she turned and walked quickly out of his office.

It felt like déjà vu when David and Maddie stepped off Air France on that cloudy March morning. The flight number was even the same. David looked over at Maddie as they waited for the chauffeur to retrieve their luggage. Who would have thought a little over a month later they would be back in Paris together. Well this return flight to The City of Love was not the same as last time. Maddie hadn't said more than a few words to him on the long flight over. She had told him she was feeling tired and slept most of the way. David wasn't sure if she was actually sleeping most of the time but he felt hurt and snubbed. He was just glad she didn't change seats on the plane. But what did he expect? Their relationship in America had become cool and strained *again*. Maddie had been spending most of her time with that Frenchman while he made a pretense at being happy. He didn't regret one minute breaking things off with Maddie's cousin Annie. He wanted the real thing not some fake copy of Maddie Hayes. He looked again at Maddie who was standing regally a few feet away from him wrapped in a warm mink coat staring at what he didn't know. Just avoiding looking at him, he supposed. Why couldn't he get this particular woman out of his heart and mind? He loved her. He had loved her from the first time he had laid eyes on her; now six years later even after everything they had been through together he was still hopelessly in love with her. David sighed as the chauffeur motioned for them to follow him into the limo which would take them to the hotel they had booked on the other side of the Avenue des Champs-Élysées. Blue Moon was taking care of the hotel accommodations this time so Maddie had made sure to tell Agnes to book them into a clean, moderately priced hotel.

David tipped the chauffeur after he had brought their luggage into the hotel. He looked up at the outside of the hotel which was much different than the luxurious hotel they had stayed in the last time. This place seemed so much more French to David. He just hoped the bed was comfortable because he was dead on his feet. Although, it was only past two pm in LA it had been a long tense trip. It was past 11pm in France and he was ready for bed.

Maddie snuggled into her fur coat. It was nippy out. She looked over at David who was helping the chauffeur put their luggage into the limo. He barely spoke to her the entire trip. She had pretended to sleep because the awkwardness between them was making her very uncomfortable. It sure was much different then their first plane ride to Paris. Who knew they'd be back in the City of Love so soon? Now as she looked at David she wondered why she had agreed to come on this trip. True, the money that the new referrals would bring into Blue Moon would be exorbitant but somehow that didn't even seem important to her anymore. She had spent the last week contemplating her life. She was seriously thinking of selling her half of the agency and going home to Chicago for good. Maddie felt with her women's intuition that she was going to have a baby; David's baby. She would need her parents to help her raise her child; she didn't want to do it alone in the cold, barren wasteland Los Angeles had become for her without David. She snuck another glance at him but this time their eyes met. She felt a bolt of electricity hit her body as she found herself looking into those green eyes that haunted her dreams and her waking hours. Why couldn't things be different between them? And she couldn't even bear to think of him with her cousin. That hurt her so much she needed to push it into the far reaches of her mind or she would surely go mad. *David and Annie*. She pushed that image aside before it could imprint on her mind. Her thoughts changed to the possible baby. Maddie knew that David would want to be part of his child's life and he would probably make a really good dad. She couldn't deprive him of getting to know his child but it would be up to him to make it his business to fly to Chicago. Staying in Los Angeles with David's child without David was incomprehensible to her. No, she would leave and start a new life with her baby. She felt hurt when he finally turned his eyes away from hers. Well let's get this weekend over with, she thought.

Maddie pulled her coat tighter around her as she followed David into the hotel. Although, it wasn't as expensive or luxurious as the hotel they had stayed in last time, Maddie liked it better. It reminded her of a French garden house. It felt cozy she thought. She sighed as she felt the heat of the hotel smack her in the face. She wished they were checking out instead of checking in. But she reminded herself it was only for two days. She would make sure to keep her distance from David Addison; and this time she meant it! Maybe Agnes booked them on separate floors she thought.

David and Maddie were shown to their room by the bellman. The bellman dropped the luggage off, David tipped him and he was gone leaving David and Maddie alone in a tastefully decorated, clean but relatively small room. Maddie looked at David. "Addison, what is this?"

"What is what?" But he knew exactly what she meant. He really was going to strangle Agnes when; well the way Maddie was looking at him now, *if* he got back to LA. "Why are you looking at me like that?"

Maddie didn't answer she just stomped out of the room. "Where are you going?" David called after her.

"I'm going to get another room!" Maddie called back.

David didn't even bother to follow her; he was too tired. Fine let her get another room, maybe even on another floor he thought. He flopped back on the bed fully clothed and for the first time hoped he would *not* be sharing a room with Maddie Hayes or he just might wind up in a French prison before this trip was over.

David was half asleep when he heard Maddie slam back into the room. He sat right up and looked at her. She was beyond livid. He always thought she was at her most beautiful when she was angry. He wanted nothing more than to take her in his arms and hold her close.

"Argh! No rooms here! No rooms anywhere in Paris! A stupid French convention!" She cast a death glare David's way. He just remained quiet. What could he say? This was not his fault but as usual she blamed him for everything.

David just got slowly off the bed. "Listen Maddie. Just calm down. I am bone tired. I am going to take a shower and then I am going to sleep on that couch." He looked at her with green marble. "I will not touch you, look your way, or even speak to you if that is your wish for the rest of this trip but please do not continue to blame me for what you KNOW is not my fucking fault. Okay?" With those words still hanging in the air, David grabbed his overnight bag from the floor and slammed into the bathroom. Maddie jumped from his slamming of the door. A minute later the door to the bathroom opened. "I just thought of something. Why don't you call your French boyfriend? Why don't you stay with him if it is too distasteful for you to stay anywhere near me?" David knew his anger was taking over his mouth but he couldn't seem to stop it. Why the hell would he suggest Maddie stay with *him*? His guts twisted and his heart shattered every time he thought of her with that man.

Maddie's felt like someone had punched her in the aorta. David didn't even care if she stayed with another man? How had things come this far? Maddie threw off her

coat and sat down on the bed. "For your information, Pierre is traveling through England and will not be back to France until next week." She threw David an icy look. "Or yes I would have called him." She lied. She would rather sleep in the bathtub here than spend the night in Pierre's bed. But she would never admit that to David.

David just grumbled something she couldn't understand as he slammed the door shut one more time.

Why did she make such a fuss about them sharing one room? She knew the answer to that. She didn't trust herself in such close proximity to David. But he didn't seem to want anything to do with her so she was safe. So why did a deep wave of sadness just take over her already bruised heart. She ran her hand through her hair in a gesture similar to David's. She forced the tears back. Only two days then she would have to make the most crucial decision of her life when she returned to California. She needed to confirm her suspicions about the baby with her Dr. but she had this strong feeling inside it was true. She placed her hand on her flat stomach. This baby was probably conceived in Paris. She heard the water running in the shower and felt it was safe to shed a few tears before David came out of the bathroom. She felt the tears run down her face as she waited her turn in the bathroom.

David came out of the bathroom and walked purposely to the couch without even looking at Maddie. He had grabbed a pillow and blanket from the bed and laid down turning his back to her. "Good night Maddie." He threw out as he tried to find some peace in sleep. That woman was not going to torture him anymore; he swore to himself as he heard her slam into the bathroom.

Maddie showered and changed quickly in to her satin pajamas. She opened the bathroom door quietly not to wake David. She climbed into the bed that was big enough for the both of them. She looked over at the couch and felt bad. But she couldn't change what had happened between them. She needed to sleep and she hoped she would be able to.

Maddie was surprised when she woke up and saw she had slept all night. She got up quietly and dressed. They had a meeting at 11 with the important client who had brought them here. Maddie looked at her watch it was past 9 she needed to wake David up if they were to have breakfast and make it to the meeting on time. She looked over at him sprawled on the couch. She felt a pang as she realized his legs were too long for the couch and hung off the end. The couch looked comfortable but way too short for David. He must have been uncomfortable sleeping like that.



Well they were leaving tomorrow and tonight she would tell him it was her turn to sleep on the couch. It would be fine for her for one night. Maddie went back to her perusal of David. His face looked so peaceful. He looked like the David she used to know. She hated to wake him to see the cold stranger he had become. Maddie knew she had no choice. "David." She called across the room. He didn't stir. She drew closer. "David." She called louder. He slept on. That man always slept so soundly. A party could go on around him. Maddie approached the couch. Before she had the chance to bend down to shake him awake she heard David crooning in his sleep. "Maddie. Maddie." She was confused. Why was he uttering her name? She figured he was just having a nightmare about having to stay in the same room with her. His voice was thick with sleep and it shook her inside. But the way he said her name seemed to be filled with longing. But Maddie had to shake off that thought. You are just hearing what you want to hear, she chastised herself as she bent down to shake David's arm. Finally his eyes opened. At first she could swear she saw such a deep love and want that it took her breath away but that look was immediately replaced with the cold green eyes that had accompanied her on this trip. Again, Maddie thought she was just imagining things. Again she pushed any hope of being with David out of her mind.

David didn't say anything to her he just stared. For a minute he thought he was still dreaming. He dreamt about Maddie a lot. David rubbed his eyes. He looked around then back at Maddie.

"What time is it?"

"It's 9:00am. You need to get ready so we can get across town in time for our eleven o'clock appointment." A sleepy looking David made her stomach feel as if it was filled with butterflies. She loved the way he looked when he just woke up with his tousled hair and scruffy face.

David stood up and started to stretch out his body. She knew the couch must have been uncomfortable

"David tonight you can sleep in the bed. It's really comfortable and another night on that couch wouldn't be good for your back."

David was surprised but didn't want to be accused of groping her in his sleep in the morning. "No that's ok Maddie the bed is all yours. I don't want you to accuse me of trying something while you are asleep."

"How can I do that when *I'm* going to sleep on the couch?"

David finally got it. Of course she didn't want to sleep in a bed with him.

"Yeah right fine, you'll sleep on the couch. I'm going to get ready." And with that he slammed into the bathroom.

Maddie wondered did David really think she meant for him to sleep in the bed with her. Of course he did. She looked over at the bed. Was it really a big deal if she let him sleep in the bed next to her? The bed was big enough for four people. She sat down on the couch to wait for him.

The cab ride home from the client was filled with happy chatter about the amount of money Blue Moon was set to make on this one client. And it wouldn't stop there. He promised if he was satisfied with their work he would refer them to his friends and colleagues. This would turn Blue Moon to a business that was scraping by to a successful agency flush with cash. This trip was definitely worth it!

"Hey Blondie How bout we celebrate? Let me take my partner out for a nice leisurely lunch? We got the rest of the day to kill." David was hopeful Maddie would say yes and to his surprise and delight she did.

They asked the cab to drop them off at a French bistro they had wanted to try on their last trip but never had to chance. It was chilly but David and Maddie decided to sit outside and breathe in the cold, crisp air as they enjoyed their lunch. During the meal, they kept the talk light and spoke mainly of business and clients. But they *were* talking, both of them were happy about that. Things felt pretty good for a change.

As they finished their lunch the sky opened and fat snowflakes began to fall. They made their way back to their hotel to wait to see what the weather was going to do. As the afternoon wore on the snow began to accumulate at an alarming rate. Maddie was looking at the window of their hotel room worriedly. One more night here was all she could take! Why wasn't the snow stopping? She looked at David lying on the couch playing some ridiculous hand held game and felt annoyed. When would he grow up?

"I guess you didn't bother to check the weather forecast before we left?"

"Huh?" David was engrossed in his game and didn't catch what Maddie said but he knew *that* tone.

"I said I suppose you didn't bother to check the weather forecast before we left."

David sat up. "What the hell are you going on about now?"

Maddie waved her hand toward the window. "It is a blizzard out there! The radio said it will be over two feet of snow!"

David pushed himself off the couch and strode toward the window. He pulled the curtain open. "Yep it's snowing all right." He smirked at Maddie who had moved away from him which didn't escape his notice. "Good observation detective."

"Not funny. Do you know what this means Addison?"

"Somebody is gonna have a hell of a lot of shoveling to do?"

She threw him a dirty look. "It means we will be stuck here! Airports are closed and not expected to open for a couple days!"

David nodded. "Okay. Well there is nothing we can do about it Maddie. And really am I a weatherman? Who the hell knew it would snow. And no I didn't check the forecast. It didn't snow last time we were here so no I didn't think about it. Did you?"

She turned away and ignored him.

"Let's just make the best of it."

Suddenly, he noticed Maddie's face turn almost white as she darted to the bathroom. He heard retching sounds coming through the closed door.

Wow, being here with me is actually making her physically ill. Suddenly, he felt sick with that thought. But he was concerned about her. He knocked on the door of the bathroom softly. "Maddie, hey you okay in there?"

"I'm fine David. Go away."

"Are you sure?"

"Yes!"

"Do you want a drink or something?"

"No David just leave me alone!"

David shook his head and flopped on the couch turning the TV on and watching some soccer game he wasn't at all interested in. A few minutes later Maddie came out of the bathroom. She still looked pale.

"Maybe you want to lie down." He looked at her closely. "You don't look so hot."

"Gee Thanks." Maddie told him snidely.

"I didn't mean... Oh forget it." David knew better to open his mouth. He picked up his game, put his headphones from his Walkman on his head and lay back on the couch blocking out Maddie and the world.

Maddie lay down on the bed and was trying to read an article in a magazine but found it hard to concentrate with David singing across the room. She glared at him but he didn't sense her annoyance. He was busy playing his stupid game as he sang Motown. She went back to her magazine. She saw David get off the couch from under her lashes. He began to dance along to some song as he belted out the tune at the top of his lungs. "David!" Maddie called to him. He didn't hear her. "David!" She screamed. No answer. "DAVID!" She disgustedly threw the magazine at him when she realized he couldn't hear her over the music playing from his Walkman. David felt something hit his head. He whipped off his headphones and looked over at Maddie who was looking at him with something close to disgust. "What did you do that for?" He asked her. He was annoyed. She was always trying to stop his fun.

"I am trying to read Addison!"

"So?"

"I can't read with you singing at the top of your lungs!"

"Why not? I thought you liked my singing?"

Maddie just ignored him. David strode to look at the window. She heard him whistle. "Whoa! It is a winter wonderland out there!" He looked over at Maddie. "Hey you feeling better? I'm getting hungry. You hungry?"

Maddie shrugged.

"I know there's a café across the street. Wanna go get something?"

Maddie nodded. She was kind of hungry and it would get them out of the room for a while.

They both freshened up a bit and left the hotel room.