

The sun was getting too hot so David decided to head back to the room. He wanted to give Maddie a call and see how her Saturday was going. Before he left the gang made a plan to meet at 7 at the Steak House restaurant located in the casino. David figured he'd grab a sandwich from the Food Court before he went to his room.

"Yo little Bro. Wait up!"

"What do you want Rich? I'm just gonna grab something to eat and head back to my room."

"Well shoot me that I wanted to spend some time with my favorite Bro."

David laughed. "Your only Bro,Bro."

On the way to the Food Court the brothers passed the Casino's gift shops conveniently located to lure people in to buy their overpriced merchandise. David's eyes caught a pair of red high heeled shoes that he thought would look wild on Maddie. Before he knew it he entered the shop.

Richie was practically drooling over the sexy lingerie, sex toys and other sex paraphernalia on display. "Whoa! Look at this." Richie held up a sexy nightgown that left little to the imagination. David instantly pictured Maddie wearing it and his shorts tightened.

"Wow can you imagine Maddie wearing this Davey? Hot damn." Richie leered at him.

"Hey, that's my girl Rich. Lay off." David told him.

"Lay is right. Whoa!"

"Enough!" David warned.

David wished Richie would leave so he could look around in peace. He had his eyes on a slinky garter belt, crotchless panties, and the red fuck me pumps he had seen in the window. "I'm gonna be awhile Rich, why don't you go on without me."

Richie laughed lasciviously. "Nah, I like it here." He picked up the high heels David liked. "Wow Dave. You should definitely buy these for Maddie."

David glared at his brother but that didn't deter him. He continued on. "God Bro imagine these on her with her..."

David practically growled. "Rich."

"long legs, wrapped around your back. The heels digging into your...."

Richie never even saw the punch coming. He was knocked on his ass. "What the....Ok Dave. " Richie stood up brushing himself off. "Geez you got it bad baby Bro." Richie felt his eye which was quickly turning colors. "Oww. I'm outta here! Have fun buying your girlfriend stuff. "

David was glad Ritchie left. He bought the items he had his eye on and hurried out of there before Richie changed his mind and came back.

David tried a couple of times to call Maddie once he got back to his hotel room but she wasn't home. He wondered where she could be. He didn't bother to leave a message. He didn't want her to think he was whipped; which he probably was, he admitted to himself ruefully. He really missed her. He figured he would relax till they had to go out. He knew it would be a long night ahead of him.

The night was going fine until Richie and Chris showed up at the club with a bevy of exotic dancers. David was feeling no pain as he and the other guys looked over the sexy dancers. Hey, he thought to himself, just because I'm on a diet doesn't mean I can't read the menu. Chris led them all into a private room he had rented for the night. David looked around. The room was dark with flashing lights that were hurting his eyes; the music pounded through the speakers making his body vibrate in time with the beat. There was a bar in the corner of the room, a small dance floor, a couple of small tables to sit and a long pole disappearing into the ceiling. David grabbed a beer from the bar and sat back to watch and observe. Last thing he remembered was one of the babes pulling him onto the dance floor.

Maddie looked her bedside clock. It was after 2 am and she couldn't believe that David hadn't called to say good night like he said he would. She couldn't help feeling hurt and angry. God knows what he was up to that he didn't even have the time to call her. She had tried to call his room a few minutes before but there had been no answer. Maddie hadn't left a message. Truthfully, she was sorry she had called; she didn't want David to think he had her in the palm of his hand; which she admitted ruefully, he did. She really missed him. She finally lay down hoping to fall asleep.

When David still had not called by the next morning she was furious and yes worried too. Maybe something happened to them she fretted. Maddie decided to call the hotel. When she asked for David's room the receptionist told her the Addison party never checked out and she rang the room. Maddie listened to the ringing of the phone, with each ring her temper increased. Finally, she was connected back to the desk clerk. "Would you like to leave a message?"

"No thank you. But I'd like to ask if you have seen any of those men lately. I just want to make sure they are ok."

The desk clerk laughed. "Oh I'm sure they are fine . I was on duty late last night when they blew in here with a bunch of stripper types. Laughing, all wrapped around those um..ladies..um yeah they looked fine to me." She continued. "I know some of the guests were complaining about the loud music and laughter coming from the room so yes Miss I am sure they are okay." The desk clerk laughed.

As she hung up the phone, Maddie's blood was boiling in anger. That cheating louse! How could she ever have been so stupid and naive to believe that Mr. One Night Stand would commit to one woman. She was through with David Addison! She hated him!

David woke up face down on the floor of his hotel room with a pounding headache and a rolling gut. He tried to battle the dizziness to sit up but it was too hard so he forced himself to roll over. He looked around the room through the corner of his eyes. He saw the room was in disarray and that Pete lay sprawled out in the floor a few feet away from where he was. With a gargantuan effort David pulled himself into a sitting position. He saw Josh and Mike passed out on the twin loveseats. He tried to remember what had happened last night but it was a blur. Bits and pieces he recalled: him dancing with a buxom redhead; a lap dance...and nothing else. Shit, David wondered what time it was. The curtains were drawn so he couldn't be sure if it was night or day. He forced himself to stand battling his dizziness and nausea and headed to the phone. David didn't understand why he was feeling so sick. He had hangovers in the past; quite a few he admitted, but he had never felt like this.

Fighting the urge to lie down David picked up the phone and dialed the front desk. David put down the receiver with shock and dismay. It was late Sunday night! He had been out cold for almost 24 hours! What the hell was Maddie going to say...he never got home when he said he would and he never called her. Fuck, I'm screwed he thought as he once again reached for the phone.

Maddie was pacing the floors of her house. She wanted to strangle him. How could he do this to her? How could he treat her so shabbily? Just when she thought she was going to wear out her rugs the phone rang. It was almost midnight on Sunday night, Maddie thought she knew exactly who it was. She took a deep breath before she answered the phone.

"Maddie, honey. Please let me explain.."

She cut him off. "Explain what Addison? That you spent a wild weekend screwing around in Vegas ; conveniently forgetting about me."

"Maddie, it's not like that. Please don't be mad. I'll be home as soon as I can. Then we can talk about it. Okay baby. I love you." David was talking fast. He suddenly noticed the absence of his brother and Chris; and his empty wallet on the table. "Shit. Umm listen Maddie I..... gotta go. Just trust me babe. Ok? Talk soon."

Maddie was stunned to hear the dial tone in her ear. "David Addison!" She yelled into the phone but he was gone. "That man is dead!" She screamed.

David woke up his friends. They couldn't remember anything from the night before either. All three felt as sick as David did. All their money was also gone.

"Shit. Where the hell are Richie and Chris? Maybe they can shed some light on what the hell happened last night."

All three men were rushing to the phones to call distraught wives and fiancées. They were all in the dog pound.

"How stupid were we to think we could ever have a good time with Richie and Chris without disaster striking." Pete was almost in tears. His fiancée was threatening to call off the wedding if he didn't hightail it home. The other guys also had to leave or face divorce court. Since it was his brother David had no choice to try and find out if Richie was dead or alive. And if he was alive it wasn't going to be for long, David swore to himself.

Putting all his detective skills to work, David finally found Richie and Chris and two of the strippers holed up at their apartment. Neither Richie or Chris had blacked out. They told David when they left the hotel room the night before everyone seemed to be having a great time. He told David they had gone out for some-

thing to eat then wound up at the strippers' apartment and forgot all about the time. David interrogated the women and one of them finally confessed that at times the other dancers were known to drug and rob their "dates". David was furious. David practically pulled Richie out by his collar. Richie tried to pull away. "Hey Dave you're hurting me." Richie complained.

David pushed him against the wall. "Hurting you? Hurting you?" David yelled in Richie's face. "I'm gonna fuckin kill you Rich! That is if Maddie doesn't kill me first! How could you do this to me? Come on let's get out of here. I have to get back home to Maddie ."

"OK Bro, don't you worry, Maddie loves you. And the way you are with the ladies I'm sure you have her wrapped around your little finger." Richie laughed.

David wasn't so sure about that but he thought morosely that her hands might be soon wrapped around his throat if he didn't get home and explain what happened; if he could remember what happened ... Shit what a mess!

Back in LA Richie and Chris headed back to Chris's condo while David raced home to his apartment to shower, throw on some clean clothes and throw up his guts in the bathroom. He was still feeling dizzy and sick to his stomach. Damn those bitches. He didn't even bother to shave he was feeling too shaky and he was afraid he'd accidentally cut his throat. Why deprive Maddie of that pleasure he thought unhappily? He took one last look in the mirror, man I look like hell he muttered to himself darkly. Well nothing else I can do about that; he realized shakily as he tried to calm his rolling gut. David raced out the door heading to the office hoping he could smooth things over with Maddie.

David approached Blue Moon with dread. He knew from last night's phone call that Maddie was far from happy with him. He didn't bother to call her when he reached LA this morning cause what was there to say over the phone? He had to explain in person but explain exactly what he didn't know; the 24 hours from Saturday night to Sunday night were a complete blur to him. He wanted to ring Richie's neck for bringing those whores around.

David was still feeling fuzzy and sick. He only hoped Maddie wasn't too angry; but David knew her and knew she was probably livid. But this time it wasn't his fault; well not *all* his fault anyway. Why did he go to Vegas anyway? He should have stayed in LA and moved his stuff into Maddie's place.

He staggered into Blue Moon carrying the boutique bag in one hand and a cup holder with two cups of coffee in the other. He made sure that Maddie's coffee was just the way she liked it; maybe that would soften her mood but he doubted it. David sighed deeply. He smoothed his hair with one hand, took a deep breath and walked in. He was quiet. The staff was quiet. All eyes were on him. He nodded at everyone. He looked at Agnes and threw a small unperceivable nod at Maddie's door. Agnes shook her head unhappily.

"I'm in big trouble aren't I?"

Agnes nodded sadly.

David rapped twice then without waiting for an invitation he threw open the door to Maddie's office and entered the lion's den. When he walked in she looked up and their eyes met. His green eyes stared into icy blue eyes. 'Hey!' He greeted her. She looked down at her desk and continued writing not acknowledging him.

He walked over to her desk and laid the bag down along with the coffees. She continued writing ignoring him. "Maddie, you have to listen to me. Can we discuss this like two grownups? Maddie please look at me. Maddie I am truly sorry sweetheart. I got home as fast as I could. God I missed you so much." She finally looked up at him. If looks could kill he would have been vaporized on the spot.

"Oh really you missed me? And David I'm *so* glad you got here as fast as you could. Oh you're only a day late." Maddie leaned back in her chair her eyes looking him over like he was dirt. "Look at you. You look like something the cat dragged in or maybe another name for a cat if you get my drift..." She told him venom dripping from each word. "And you reek of alcohol." Maddie threw him a dirty look. "Sure you missed me? When? Between lap dances?" He could hear the fury and hurt in her voice.

"Maddie please let me explain."

Maddie stood up angrily. "Explain you want to explain what? How you are a liar and cheater."

"What? No I'm not. I told you on the phone that things got crazy and I had to take care of things before I came home. "

"What *things* David? You practically hung up on me!" She spat at him.

“Maddie I couldn't talk. Things were a big mess. I'm here now I want to explain to you what happened.”

“When *did* you get home David?”

“Umm a couple hours ago.”

"A couple hours ago? You didn't think to call me?"

“Maddie I just wanted to go back to my apartment and take a quick shower and change.”

“David but you could have called me when you got to LA! Whatever! Fine! Maybe this relationship thing with us has put a crimp in your partying. Missed those lost weekends in Vegas? ”

"Maddie no it's not like that. I 'm sorry I didn't call you when I got back I figured we would just fight over the phone. I didn't even shave. I got here as fast as I could. I needed to see you in person to talk to you.” David combed his hair with his hands. “Things got really crazy this weekend.”

"Yes David I know how crazy things got.”

“You did? Did Ritchie call you?”

“No why would Richie call me?” Maddie looked into his eyes. “Maybe he wanted to tell me some things you would rather hide?”

“No I got nothing to hide sweetheart. Really I feel awful that this happened I know you were worried and probably upset. I feel terrible about that.” David ran his hands again through his already messed up hair.

“Ha! Upset? That's an understatement. I'm not upset David! I'm livid; I'm disgusted! I can't bear to look at you.”

“Maddie honey I said I am really truly sorry! I didn't mean to worry you! Can you please just listen!”

She was furious. "Listen? Listen to what? Your lies about why you didn't bother to call or come home? I KNOW why!" David stared at her like what are you talking about. "Yes David I know all about it. I called the hotel when I didn't hear from you. The nice desk clerk told me all about the wild and crazy guys staying in your hotel room with all those strippers. How you all came back to the hotel with women draped all over you. Seems you guys threw some wild party; loud enough for your neighbors to complain! "

"Whoa, Maddie! Hear me out babe. I didn't do anything. I don't really remember any of that. I mean yes we went back to the hotel and yes the strippers did come back with us but Chris and Richie were the ones who invited them. Me and the other guys had no interest in any of them. I swear. I didn't do anything. I mean I don't think I did. No, I know I wouldn't!" He scratched his head. "Actually, I'm really not sure what happened to tell you the truth."

"Oh you don't remember how convenient. I guess than everything is fine between us? "She leaned back in her chair and sneered at him.

David couldn't remember the last time she had looked at him like that; like he was a bug under her shoe. "Maddie please listen to me. Ok just hear me out!" He needed her to believe in him even if he didn't believe in himself fully right now; although he was almost positive he would never have cheated. God he still felt so fuzzy. He took a deep breath. "Ok so yes we were at Pete's bachelor party. There was a small group of us guys. I remember drinking, food, cigars, loud music, more drinking, and yes a bunch of strippers. We all came back to the hotel where things got kind of fuzzy at that point. Then the next thing I remember I woke up on Sunday night face down on the floor not remembering much of anything from the night before. I figured I drank too much. I found out later that we were drugged and robbed."

She didn't believe his crap about being drugged. She figured it was the usual David Addison style of *keep me out of trouble lies*; she had heard many over the years. How did she believe she could ever trust him? Maddie felt sick. This was the type of thing that David did before they were a couple. Maybe he wanted that old life back or maybe he wanted his cake and eat it too as the expression goes? All these thoughts were rushing through Maddie's head as she tried not to strangle the man in front of her.

David continued on when she didn't interrupt him but he saw in her eyes she was mad and upset. "Well like I said I woke up noticed the strippers were gone; so was

my wallet and so was Ritchie and Chris. That's when I called you. I had to find my brother. I figured he had landed up in jail or maybe the morgue; who knows with that guy? Ritchie is my brother. I had to stay and find him. It was tough cause I wasn't feeling so hot either. I've spent most of the last 24 hours looking for Ritchie and puking my guts up. I have barely eaten anything in two days and my head is still spinning. "

"Oh you want me to feel sorry for you? You are unbelievable Addison!" She shook her head at him. She was furious with him but she was also deeply hurt. Maddie got up and walked around her desk leaning her back on it.

"No that's not what I'm asking." David was getting a little annoyed that she wouldn't even listen to him.

She decided to play along with his story for the time being. "So tell me where did Ritchie go?"

"I found him and Chris holed up in one of the girl's apartments. Believe me I was going to strangle him. Anyway, we got on the next flight to LA. I just couldn't wait to get home to you."

"Ok so tell me why don't you remember Ritchie leaving with these strippers? Where you too busy with someone? Doing something you shouldn't have been doing?"

David dreaded telling her more but he wanted to be honest. He really didn't remember Ritchie leaving. He's sure he would have stopped Ritchie or told Ritchie he was going home without him.

"David I'm waiting. Why don't you remember Ritchie leaving? "

"Umm I was drugged remember? I don't remember. Last thing I remember is one of the babes pulling me on to the dance floor. That's it. No, I lie I do remember the same one trying to give me a private lap dance. I told her I was happily taken. Then all is black after that." David stared into her eyes trying to convince her to believe him. Boy, she was one tough cookie.

Maddie heard enough. "Stop now Addison! Oh my god David! How could you? Dancing? Lap dances? That's bad enough! Did you screw one for old times' sake?"

"What? No!. No way. I wouldn't cheat on you. I love you. I.....I mean I don't remember cheating on you." He ran his hand through his hair. God He was not sure what happened. "I honestly don't remember what happened." He looked into her eyes. "I do know that I would never deliberately hurt you or be with someone else. I am telling you the truth when I say I don't remember what happened after I was drugged. I don't even know what kind of drug it was or what its effects on me were. Do you get *it*?" David was pacing back and forth across her office.

"So what you are saying is you are claiming loss of memory because if you don't remember doing anything wrong then you really didn't do anything wrong since you don't remember. Am I wrong?" "

"What?" David was confused. He stopped pacing and stared at her.

"What I meant to say is you're full of shit!" Maddie stepped away from her desk.

David approached her, Maddie backed away. He didn't like this at all. "No Maddie I didn't go to Vegas looking for another woman or a lap dance. I love you, ok, you have to believe me. I'm so happy being with you, only you. I couldn't wait to get back home to you. I missed you so much, I missed making love with you baby. "

"Maybe David was that the phone sex we had wasn't enough for you so you had to go and get crazy and sleep with one of the strippers. I hate you David Addison. "

David was getting angry at her now. "Maddie come on really that's not true and you know it."

"Well isn't it true you don't remember what happened? David can you honestly look me in the eye and tell me you didn't sleep with one of those sleazy girls?"

David was silent. He stared into her blue eyes so filled with hate right now. He honestly thought to himself, did he cheat and not remember? He was almost positive he was faithful but he couldn't swear on it with his life. He didn't remember. What could he say to her but the truth? Maddie watched him as he tried to remember. She was devastated.

"Honestly, Maddie I don't remember. I'm sorry." He told her truthfully. "But I doubt it! I probably couldn't anyway since I was passed out." David tried to remember that night but it was a blank.

Maddie could feel the tears start to fall. She noticed the bag on her desk. She peeked inside of it. He watched her. She let out a rueful laugh "You're still the same old David aren't you? Lead by the area south of your belt buckle. That's all I am is something you can play with." David went toward her, she slapped his hands away. "No don't get out of here. I don't want to look at you. It's over between us."

"Whoa what did you say? No honey. We can work this out at home. "

"Home what home? You and I are over. You don't have a home with me."

"Maddie it's going to be a little hard for it to be over. I thought we were living together. Wait what are you saying?" He tried to grab her hand she pulled away.

Maddie laughed nastily. "Really Addison? Get out of my office and get off of my sight."

"Maddie come on I already told my landlord I was moving out. He let me break my lease since he had a waiting list. I have to leave right away. '

"Well that's your problem now. Not mine. I should have known not to give my heart to you" She shook her head at him.

"Maddie. Come on baby let's go home to talk about this."

"No I said GET OUT." Maddie yelled.

David figured he better leave before the whole office heard more of their business. He hoped when she had a chance to calm down she would be willing to listen to him. He turned and shut her door quietly and headed to his office. The office was so quiet you could hear a pin drop. No one said a word. Agnes was very worried.

Maddie walked over to her desk and sat down. She was shaking. She looked in the bag again. She shook her head and started to cry.

David was sick at heart. On Friday he was on top of the world planning his life with Maddie; now he was homeless and alone. He was surprised she hadn't fired him. David had told his landlord he would be out by the weekend so now he had nowhere to go. He put his head in his hands in misery.

By the following day David and his belongings were ensconced in Chris' spare bedroom. Despite his wild ways, Chris always was the first to extend a helping hand to a friend in need. David whistled when he walked into the condo development; wall to wall babes, a huge swimming pool and even an outdoor bar. It resembled a resort. If he had to suffer without Maddie David figured this was the place to do it.