David walked into Blue Moon, threw a quick greeting to Miss Dipesto and slammed into his office. Agnes could understand why Mr. Addison was so angry. Miss Hayes was wrong for what she had done by leaving him in a foreign country without a way home but Agnes kept her mouth shut. She didn’t want to interfere in her boss’ business.

Maddie heard David’s door slam and came out of her office. She wanted to talk to David about what had happened; she knew she was wrong and her intention was to apologize; which was never easy for her. Maddie squared her shoulders and knocked on David’s office door.

“Spit and slide under.”

David had just taken his jacket off and rolled up his sleeves when Maddie walked into his office. He waited for her to speak as he sat back in his chair and pierced her with green eyes full of hurt and anger.

“I’m sorry, David.” Maddie told him taken aback by the look in his eyes.

“You are huh?” he asked her; his voice was barely above a whisper.

Maddie nodded.

“What are you sorry for?” he wanted to know.

“What do you mean what am I sorry for?”

“I want you to tell me exactly what you are saying sorry for.” He told her with a serious tone in his voice that Maddie was not use to.

She was confused. “For leaving you in Buenos Aires with no way to get home.” she told him. “Sorry.”

David knew she wouldn’t understand the true reason he was so hurt and angry. Sure, being left in a foreign country with no way to get home was bad but it was the reasons she left him there that rankled him. She had no faith in him, didn’t trust him and that killed him. After they had been together as lovers he figured she would know how much he loved and cared about her and that he would do just about anything to make her happy. Why did she always think the worst of him? He thought that hurt him the most.

Maddie could see that David was still angry and that was making her angry.

“Okay.” He told her.

‘What do you want me to do David beg for your forgiveness? I was wrong and I should never have treated you like that.”

David just stared at her with those eyes that she always felt could see right through her. What was he looking for? What did he want her to say?

“Aren’t you going to say something David?”

David could hear the annoyance in her voice. She was annoyed? Really? “Nothing. I have nothing to say.”

What was this? Maddie was confused. Maybe this had nothing to do with leaving him in Buenos Aires. Maybe this had to do with a way for him to keep her at a distance after what had happened in Buenos Aires. Maybe this was his way of making sure that their relationship went no further. She was suddenly filled with a desolation she had never felt over a man. She looked over at him sitting thing with that smug look on his face and she wanted to slap him. Instead she turned angry blue eyes to him. “Well then neither do I!” she told him slamming the door on her way out so hard the paintings on his wall rattled.

She really is a piece of work he thought unhappily. How the hell could she have forgotten how they had made love? She seemed to have feelings for him when they were making love. Was it an act? What was with her? David didn’t know. He only knew he felt his heart splintering once again. Damn, he cursed.

Agnes watched Maddie slam out of David’s office. She didn’t know why it was so hard for her stubborn bosses to admit their feelings for each other. It was so apparent to everyone else. Agnes jumped as Maddie slammed the door to her office.

The two detectives didn’t leave their offices for the rest of the day. David skipped out a little after 4. He was feeling very agitated and he figured he would calm his nerves with a shot or two of tequila. She didn’t want him and he needed to get used to that. After all, what else could he do? He didn’t think an ocean of tequila could erase from his mind how she felt in his arms.

Maddie came out of her office a little before 5 as the workers were getting ready to leave for the day. Agnes noticed she was peeking at David’s office door.

 “He left.”

Maddie pretended she didn’t understand what Agnes meant. “Who left?”

“Mr. Addison. About an hour ago.” Agnes was angry at Maddie for making David angry. Maddie felt her stomach lurch. He didn’t care a thing about her! She was just another notch on his belt. Maddie suddenly felt physically sick. Agnes noticed Maddie’s pale face and was instantly concerned. “Are you ok Miss Hayes?”

Maddie pulled herself together. She had lived 35 years without that man and she could live 35 years more. But that was before you knew how it felt to be held in his arms a voice inside her head told her.

The next few days were not very pleasant around the office of Blue Moon Investigations. There was a tension in the air so think you could cut it with a knife. The tension wasn’t of the sexual variety that had permeated the office for over a year but something dark and unhappy. And that’s what both David and Maddie were; very unhappy. They were miserable; each wrapped up in their own distortions of the truth about what was going on with the other.

Working together had become, well, work. They were driving back from a meeting in an unusually silent car; each wrapped up in their own thoughts and feelings. Maddie peeked at David as he drove. His jaw looked so tight she thought it might crack any minute. She wasn’t use to his silences.

David had nothing to say; he was still hurt and angry and couldn’t seem to get over it which was unusual for him. He usually let things roll off his back but his feelings for Maddie ran too deep to be able to do that.

“I don’t think we should take this case.” Maddie told him in her business like tone that set his teeth on edge.

“Oh you don’t huh?” he asked her in that mocking tone that set her teeth on edge.

“I just don’t feel comfortable trying to help break up an engagement.”

“You don’t huh?”

“No I don’t if Donald Drake wants to get married then his children shouldn’t interfere.”

“Well, according to his daughter she believes that the woman is just marrying Mr. Drake for his big bucks.”

Maddie shook her head. “A prenup may be in order but how could we possibly prove if someone loves someone.”

“I don’t know you tell me cause seems I don’t have a damn clue when it comes to love.” David told her sarcastically. “And I sure don’t have the answers when it comes down to figuring out somebody’s feelings.”

Maddie threw him a puzzled glance. ‘What’s that supposed to mean?”

David looked straight ahead at the traffic “It means what it means.”

Maddie shook her head “Well, be that as it may I think maybe we shouldn’t take the case.”

David threw her a nasty glance “It’s always about what you want isn’t it?”

Maddie stared at him with icy blue eyes. “I have a feeling that we are no longer talking about this case.”

“You do huh?”

“David Addison what is on your simple little mind?”

‘Simple little mind?” David pulled the car into their spot and turned off the engine. “I am sick of you insulting me.” He told her getting out of the BMW and slamming the door behind him. Maddie was left sitting there anger running through her body.

She began to follow after him trying to keep up with his long strides but he just ignored her. She finally caught up with him by the elevator. The elevator was full and David made sure he moved far away from Maddie. Maddie kept trying to catch his eye but he ignored her. She had never seen David act this way and she damn sure didn’t like it. Finally, the elevator reached their floor and David bolted down the hall without even a backward glance. Maddie began to seethe. How dare he? She was his boss after all and he needed to show her some respect. David let the door swing shut practically hitting Maddie as he strode into the agency. Maddie had enough!

“David Addison!” she called, her voice shaking with anger “I want to talk to you!”

‘Well I don’t want to talk to you!” he told her in a voice coated with irritation and scorn.

Miss Dipesto and the staff stopped what they were doing to witness the latest chapter in the war between David and Maddie. But something about this time and this fight was making Miss Dipesto feel uncomfortable.

“I am your boss Addison. You should show me some respect and answer me when I speak to you!” she was so angry she was shaking. How dare he treat her like this after everything that had happened between them? She felt such hatred toward David at that minute she could kill him with her bare hands. David couldn’t help it. He always used laughter and jokes when he was in a tense situation and unfortunately he burst out laughing.

Maddie was beyond livid as she walked up to him and slapped him across his face. “Get out! You’re fired!” she told him with her voice full of disgust and hate.

The entire office was stunned. You could hear a pin drop as David put his hand up to his face and rubbed the red handprint Maddie had left with her slap.

He glared at her with green eyes full of hurt and fury. “No. I quit.” He told her in a dangerously low voice. David slammed into his office.

The staff spent the rest of the afternoon saying their farewells to David as he packed his personal belongings. Agnes knew she had to do something before it was too late. She had an idea! After the staff left for the day; Agnes went into David’s office.

“Don’t look so sad Agnes.” David told her with a smile that didn’t reach his eyes.

“Mr. Addison. How can you leave Blue Moon? What are we going to do without you?”

David shook his head. “Don’t worry Agnes; I’m sure the big blonde will find her ideal partner ASAP. She’s always telling me we shouldn’t be partners.” David’s heart felt a physical pain as he stood to leave. “Good bye Agnes. Keep in touch!”

“She didn’t mean it.” Agnes told him. David just shrugged. “It doesn’t matter. I have to leave before things get out of hand. It’s better this way.”

“Mr. Addison Let’s go out for a drink!” Agnes told him. “Just let me get my things!”

David nodded and sat on the couch to wait. He needed a drink; and probably more than one.

Agnes ran across the office and knocked on Maddie’s door. Maddie’s heart pounded thinking it may be David. She was instantly disappointed to see Agnes. Agnes saw Maddie’s red eyes and knew she had been crying. These two. She inwardly tossed her head. “Miss Hayes.” She told her. “Mr. Addison wants to see you in his office.”

Maddie’s heart quickened “He does?” Maybe he wanted to apologize she hoped.

Agnes led Maddie to David’s office. When Agnes walked in with Maddie David couldn’t keep the hope out of his eyes. Maybe she wanted to apologize.

Agnes pushed Maddie on the couch next to David and before they knew it Agnes had slipped something round their wrists. “Both of you need to talk. Desperate times call for desperate measures!” Agnes spoke to them as if she were teacher speaking to slow students.

Maddie picked up her wrist which was handcuffed to David’s. “Miss Dipesto! If you don’t unlock these handcuffs now I will be forced to fire you!”

 “A lot of that going round here.” David quipped.

Agnes shook her head. “No can do Miss Hayes.” And she walked out locking David’s office door and taking that key too.

“Agnes Dipesto!” Maddie screamed after her. “You get back here instantly!”

David just laughed. Maddie looked at him crossly. “You think this is funny?”

“Calm down Maddie.” He told her. “All we have to do is call a locksmith!” David went over to the phone pulling Maddie off the couch and on to the floor. David tried to help her up but she pushed his hands away. He turned away and picked up the phone. “Dead!” David stated.

“Dead?” Maddie repeated. “What’s that mean?”

“What do you think it means? It means there’s no dial tone. That little minx must have this all planned.” David shook his head partially in anger and partly in amusement.

Maddie tried to pull away from David. “Hey watch that!” he told her rubbing his wrists. “We’ll just wait for housekeeping to come.”

“That could be hours!” Maddie cried impatiently. She got up and began to bang on the door. “Help!” she cried.

“Nobody will hear you. Calm down and relax.” Maddie looked at David and sat down. She looked around the office and noticed several boxes filled with David’s stuff. “So you’re really leaving?” she asked quietly.

“You fired me.” He told her. “Guess so.”

“You quit!”

“You fired me first!” They looked at each other; smoldering green into cornflower blue. “Well you did!” David told her.

“Well you were being mean to me!” she told him sounding like a 5 year old.

“I was being mean to you?” He chuckled mockingly. “Isn’t that the pot calling the kettle black?”

“And what is that supposed to mean?” Maddie tried to sit on the couch but was pulled back up when David walked in the other direction. “Can you sit?” David sat on the couch pulling her so hard she fell across him. The jolt of electricity went through them but both pretended they were unaffected.

“It means what it means!”

“Stop that!” she insisted icily. “Why can’t you ever give a straight answer!” she tried to move to the other end of the couch but could only move a few inches due to the handcuffs. “I’m sick of this!”

“So am I!” David flung back bitterly. “You always making fun of me. Insulting me. Making me feel like I’m not good enough.”

“I don’t do that!”

“You do too!” Now, David was the one who sounded like a child. He ran his hand through his hair so that it was sticking up in messy spikes all over his head. Maddie looked at him and despite herself felt such a deep sense of longing for David it scared her. She didn’t know what to do.

“I’m sorry if you think I do that.” She told him. “I never meant to hurt you.” He looked at her sideways but she could see his lop sided grin making an appearance. She missed it.

“Why did you leave me in Buenos Aires?” David asked. “I didn’t lose on purpose. How could you think that of me?” He stared straight ahead “Especially after...” his words trailed off but Maddie knew what he meant.

David got up and started pacing dragging Maddie with him. “This isn’t going to work” she laughed. He missed her laugh. David sat down at his office chair and Maddie fell on his lap. Neither made an effort to move.

“I told you I was sorry about that.”

“You don’t understand why I was so angry. It wasn’t about being left down there with no money.” He shook his head. “Well, yeah I was angry about that too but it’s why you left me there!” He pierced her with his green eyes. “How could you think I would do anything to hurt you? You always think the worst of me. And that’s why I am, was, so damn mad!”

Maddie moved on him trying to get comfortable. David caught his breathe. “I am so sorry David. I was so very wrong first for not trusting you and second for leaving you there. And you? You were so quick to forget everything that happened down there between us?”

David made believe he was thinking “Something happened down there?” He shrugged unconcerned. “I don’t recall anything happening. Wasn’t there a pact or something you wanted?” He saw the hurt in Maddie’s eyes. “Sorry bad joke.” He pulled her close but she tried to pull away. “How could I ever forget the way you felt in my arms?” He whispered in her ear causing Maddie’s blood to turn hot as she shivered at the same time. She remained silent as David kissed that spot in the back of her neck causing her blood to boil as she felt herself becoming aroused. “Oh David.” She moaned turning around so she could cover his mouth with hers.

“What are we going to do?” she asked him her mouth still on his.

“I think we’re doing ok with what we’re doing now?” he told her huskily.

Maddie pulled slightly away. ‘No, David I meant with us?”

“*Us*? Do you want there to be *an us*?” he asked nuzzling her neck and causing Maddie’s pulsed to quicken.

“Do you?” she asked as she found her fingers unbuttoning his shirt.

“Mmmm. What do you think?”

Maddie sat up abruptly suddenly annoyed. “Can’t you ever give me a straight answer?” She pulled away and once again found herself in a heap on the floor.

David looked down at her with a smirk. “Now that you’re down there.”

Maddie pulled herself to her feet smacking David’s hands away. “I hate you David Addison!”

David laughed and pulled her back into his lap. “Well, I love you Maddie Hayes.” He told her; his voice was like a caress over her heart.

“You do?” She asked hopefully.

David nodded as he began to unbutton her dress and pull it off her shoulders. “Oh yeah.” He crooned to her; unhooking her bra and covering her breasts with his hands. “I love you so much.” He whispered as he pulled her over to the couch. David pulled Maddie on top of him and covered her face with kisses. “I don’t hear you telling me how you feel.” He drawled. “But I can tell you, you feel great” He added teasingly as he kicked off his pants.

“Oh God David! I love you too.”

“Good to know.” David told her as he began to make love to her over and over again.

Miss Dipesto tip toed into Blue Moon later that evening. She wanted to see if her plan worked. She knocked on David’s door but when no one answered she unlocked it and slowly pushed it open. She was ecstatic to see her two bosses lying on the sofa together sleeping with a blanket casually thrown over them. From what little she could see, it looked like her plan had worked.

Maddie heard someone enter the office and she pulled the blanket over herself and David. She looked up and saw Agnes with a huge smile covering her face standing in the doorway. Agnes placed the handcuff key on the table. She gave Maddie a huge grin, winked and closed the door behind her.

“La Dolce Dipesto.” Maddie smiled as she snuggled into David’s arms.