When David flew out of the hotel into the bright sunshine the first thing that caught his eye was the liquor store across the street. He figured he would buy a bottle and take a swig or two to calm his nerves and then head to the funeral. But as he walked up 5th Avenue in the cold his mind staged a vicious batter within himself. One part of him demanded he make an appearance at the funeral he had flown across the country to attend while a bigger part of him urged him to blow it off. Walking up the busy streets sipping from the bottle of rum wrapped in a brown paper bag David’s thoughts were running riot through his brain. When he had gotten on the airplane headed for NYC he had every intention of attending the funeral of his ex- brother-in-law but now in the light of day he didn’t think he could face his ex-wife, Tess. He knew she would want to talk about what had happened between them so many years ago and David had no intention of revisiting that humiliation. Tess had tried to contact him numerous times over the years but David had always ignored her letters and calls. He should have realized before he made the long trip here that he wouldn’t be able to muster up the strength to see her but once again he acted before he thought it through. He tipped the bottle to his mouth and took a long drag of the potent liquor. His thoughts turned to Maddie. Damn first he had blown her off and run to NYC without an explanation and now he had left her high and dry in the hotel after she had made the effort to fly across the country to be with him. He knew he was acting like a major ass but he couldn’t help it. No way did he want Maddie to know the true story of what came down that night so long ago. He couldn’t look her in the eye if she knew the depth of his shame. What kind of a man was he to have a wife who did what Tess had done? He still couldn’t come to grips with it so in his David Addison way he just ignored it and swept it to the deep recesses of his mind where he never had to think of it. Suddenly, David spied a movie theater playing a movie he had wanted to see so instead of heading to the funeral parlor David bought a ticket and lost himself in the dark of the movie theater with his bottle of rum and Paul Newman playing pool on the big screen.

Maddie was filled with hurt and her own humiliation. She had flown from LA to NYC to be with David, had practically seduced him and now he had left her alone in this strange hotel and gone to the funeral she had been desperate to attend. How could she have allowed herself to act so spontaneously which was so out of character for her? First by jumping on a plane to be with David and then spending the night having wild sex with the one man she had promised herself she would protect her heart from? But he had looked so vulnerable and she just couldn’t resist doing with him everything she had wanted to do with him for a very long time. She sighed deeply as she looked out the window to the city below. So many people walking hurriedly through the streets but she felt so alone. How could David have been so unfeeling as to not realize how he was hurting her? Or maybe he didn’t care. Maybe he wanted to rekindle the relationship with his ex-wife even though he told her that she wasn’t very important. With her woman’s intuition Maddie felt there was more to the story that David had so painstakingly vocalized to her last night. She was filled with a red hot jealousy when she thought of David with his ex. Maybe all the feelings he had once had for her would come back to him? Maybe Tess would convince him to give them one more try. Maddie tried to push these unwanted thoughts from her mind but as the day wore on and David didn’t return for dinner her jealousy intensified until once again she made a spontaneous decision. She could no longer sit in the room and wait for David to return so she took out the phone book, found the address she was looking for and called a taxi. She had to see with her own eyes what was going on before she went mad with jealousy and hurt.

David sat through the movie two times and by the time he stumbled out of the theater it was getting dark. He bought another bottle of rum from a nearby liquor store and continued to take sips as he strolled the cold city streets. He walked toward the hotel but didn’t think he had the stamina to face Maddie if she was there and couldn’t face it if she wasn’t. He hailed a cab and told the driver to take him to the mouth of the Manhattan Bridge in Brooklyn. David sat talking to the cabbie who couldn’t speak a word of English. By that time David was too drunk to even care that his words were going unheard. The driver was getting annoyed at his fare’s reluctance to leave the cab since he needed to go home to his wife who was hugely pregnant. Finally he started the cab, drove back to Manhattan then motioned for David to tell him where he wanted to be dropped off.

David walked around the neighborhood and let the icy air envelope until he sobered up. Suddenly he felt panic fill him. He was afraid that when he got back to the hotel Maddie would be gone. Maybe his cowardice had ruined the best thing that had ever happened to him. Why hadn’t he just stayed in the warm hotel room with Maddie making love instead of spending the day in a drunken stupor? Cause he was Dumb David that’s why – he swore at himself. He hoped he still had a chance with the one woman who made him feel whole again. He swallowed hard as he took the elevator up to the hotel room. He said a silent prayer to God that he would find the blonde still in NYC.

Maddie sat in the back of the cab and thought about what she had learned from David’s ex-wife Tess. David had never shown up to the funeral. Where was he all day? She knew she should be worried but then she thought about what Tess had said about David probably not being in the mood for a funeral today. But the man who faced his problems through a bottle of Tequila and ran away from situations that made him feel uncomfortable was not the man Maddie had come to understand last night when he revealed to her the story of his marriage. Maybe David had been a standup guy at 18 who faced his troubles or maybe he had been coerced by his father and her parents to do the right thing? That thought unfortunately had never crossed her mind last night. She was too wrapped up in the emotions that green eyed devil had aroused in her. Now, traveling back to the hotel Maddie was unsure of her next course of action. Should she wait for him and divulge that she knew the truth about what actually happened that day so many years ago? Or should she just allow him to go on with his lie? In her mind she could understand why David had not come clean with the full story of who Tess was in bed with – but in her heart she felt bereft that he had not fully opened up to her. As the cab pulled up in front of the hotel Maddie made her decision.

Maddie pretended to be asleep when David knocked on her hotel room door. She closed her eyes tightly as she heard David slowly open the door and enter the room.

“Maddie.” He called hoarsely. “You up babe?” David had sobered up quickly on his long walk through the cold streets of New York. He wanted to make things right with Maddie and he didn’t want to wait a moment longer to hold her in his arms. He only hoped that she would still want to be held by him. He cleared his voice and ran his hands though his hair. “Maddie.” He whispered as he sat down on the bed beside her. He saw her stir under the covers and suddenly his mouth was dry. Apologies and opening up were not two of his strengths and his confession to Maddie the previous night had been gut wrenching – but he knew that if he wanted to keep this woman he would have to share himself with not only his body but his heart and feelings as well.

Maddie turned on her back and opened her eyes to find dazzling green eyes staring at her. All the feelings David felt for her seemed to be in those mesmerizing eyes of his. She sat up and stared back at him.

David looked into Maddie’s cornflower blue eyes gazing back at him and saw the love she felt for him but those beautiful eyes were also filled with hurt and anger. He despised himself for filling those eyes with anything but her love for him. He slowly stroked her sleep tousled hair as he tried to find the words to explain why he had left her that day.

“How was the funeral?” Maddie asked her hands were gripping the blanket tightly. She had decided not to mention she had gone to see Tess or anything his ex-wife had revealed. She didn’t want to embarrass him but she also wanted to see what David would tell her about his day.

David had the glib lie on his lips but forced himself to admit the truth. If their relationship was built on lies it would never last. He shook his head slowly. “I never made it to the funeral.”

Maddie pretended to be shocked. “What do you mean David? Where were you all day if you didn’t go to the funeral?” She was curious to his whereabouts.

David stood up as he raked his fingers through his wind mussed hair. He began to pace around the small room as he tried to convey to Maddie his feelings. Trying to come to grips with what he felt was hard enough but voicing them aloud was nearly impossible – but he was going to try for the sake of their relationship. He cleared his throat. “I couldn’t face her.” He admitted in a voice so low Maddie could barely decipher his words.

She strained her ears to hear the words that slowly seeped from David’s mouth. Just like the night before she was terrified one sound or move would silence him. She knew Tess was right on target when she said that baring his soul wasn’t David’s strong suit. Maddie knew what it must have taken for David to tell her what he had last night and now he seemed to be on the verge of another breakthrough. She felt her own heart miss a beat when she realized that David must trust her with his heart to divulge so much of his inner secrets and feelings. She vowed that his heart would always be safe with her.

David threw off his coat and suit jacket and tore off his tie as he continued to pace around the room not meeting Maddie’s eyes. “I knew she would want to talk about,” he cleared his voice again, “things. I didn’t want to hear it.” David stopped and poured a glass of water from the pitcher on the table. He took a long pull of the icy water. “For 9 years she’s been trying to talk to me.” He shook his head and a gruff laugh emerged from him. “Why? What’s there to talk about? She cheated. Bottom line.” He turned to look at Maddie. “She broke her vows. Does it matter who she was in bed with?” Maddie just stared back at him her blue eyes wide. “Huh? Does it matter who she was with?” He repeated his green eyes were dark with anger and hurt.

Maddie shook her head. “No.” Her reply was short and to the point.

David nodded seemingly satisfied with her answer. He flopped down on the bed next to her and covered his face with his hands. “I did find Tess with someone else.” David admitted in a gruff voice. “But it wasn’t a man.”

Maddie was happy that David had told her the truth but now she was unsure if she should divulge that she had gone to see Tess. She was in a quandary but she knew she had to think fast and make the right decision for their relationship. Maddie decided that she had not to tell David that she had gone to see Tess. The idea that she hadn’t respected his wishes and had followed him to the funeral would just make him angry. Comforting David was the most important thing now. She put her arms around his shoulders and laid her head on his. “It’s ok.”

David looked at her with bottomless pools of shame. “How is it ok? I wasn’t man enough to satisfy her so she turned to a woman?” David spilled out his feelings through gritted teeth.

Maddie was shocked at his feelings. “David you are so wrong! That had nothing to do with you?’

He looked at her as if to say are you kidding?

Maddie held his hands in hers and stared deeply into his amazing eyes. “Tess was young. She probably was scared to admit she was attracted to women at the time. Then she probably couldn’t hide it from herself anymore. Remember she was only 18 years old when you got married! Her need to be with women had nothing to do with your manhood.” Maddie kissed his lips. “Believe me fella you are one hell of a man.” She smiled at him saucily.

David laughed softly as he squeezed her hands that were entwined with his. “I never thought of it like that.” He nodded slowly, “I always thought of it as a black mark on my masculinity.”

Maddie’s fingers crawled up his lap and stroked his manhood through his slacks. She smiled as she felt his manhood spring to attention under her hand. “You have nothing to worry about when it comes to your manhood.” She whispered into his ear as her fingers slowly pulled down his zipper. She felt herself dampen as she unleashed his beast. “You are big and hard and the best lover I’ve ever had.” She saw a smug smile cover David’s lips and that only aroused her more. Maddie had come to realize that much of David’s bravado and arrogance were just masks he donned to protect himself.

David’s hands began to pet Maddie in the places she ached for him. Her low moans made him jerk in her hands. “The best lover huh?” He purred as his experienced hands undressed her swiftly until she was naked and moaning under him. “Oh you ain’t seen nothing yet baby girl.” He purred as he kissed that spot on the side of her neck that drove her wild. “If you’re a good girl I’ll show exactly how great a lover I am.”

Maddie smiled up at him and watched him undress revealing hard muscles and his huge member which he was lovingly caressing as he gazed at her with green fire. “And if I’m a bad girl?” She whispered in a low sultry voice that made his blood boil.

“Oh then it will be even better.” He laughed huskily as he covered her body with his. He showed her just how great a lover he was over and over again until they fell into an exhausted slumber wrapped in each other’s arms.

Maddie was in the bathroom applying her makeup when the phone rang through in the hotel room. Thinking it was one of his buddies wondering where he was yesterday David hesitated in picking up the receiver but trying to be the new mature, handle your problem head on, David he reached for the phone.

David put down the receiver gently although he felt like banging it in the cradle. He felt like a fool; like a first class jerk. Had Maddie been laughing at him the whole time he was bearing his heart to her? Damn women! When would he learn that none of them were trust worthy? Fuck ‘em and frig ‘em was the way to go. Tess’ words played over in his mind as he heard Maddie entering the room. Tess had told Maddie the whole sordid story of what had happened *that night* as he had come to remember it – and not once through his entire confession did she tell him she had known! Damn it! David felt his heart splinter in his chest. All of his love and devotion for Maddie was suddenly tainted with distrust and hurt. He had opened himself up to her in a way he never had with any other woman and instead of her admitting what she had done and what she had known she had kept it to herself.

When Maddie came out of the bathroom she saw David put the phone back in its cradle. “Who was that?” She inquired as she sidled up to him and put her arms around his waist. Maddie was surprised when David shook her off and stepped away. “What’s the matter?” She asked her blue eyes wide.

David looked into her seemingly innocent blue eyes and felt irate and hurt. His jaw was tight with anger as he looked at her with green ice. “That was my ex-wife. You know the woman you visited last night.”

Maddie felt the blood leave her face. She swallowed hard and looked at David pleadingly. “I’m sorry I didn’t tell you. I thought you’d be mad at me.”

David nodded slowly and pursed his lips the way he did when he was very angry. “So if you think I will be mad at you then you just lie.” He waved his hands in the air as he spoke. “Is that it Miss Honesty?” He snapped.

“I didn’t lie!” She told him forcefully.

He just glared at her.

Maddie stamped her bare foot on the carpet and threw her hands up in the air, “You never asked if I went to see Tess?”

David shook his head as he headed to the chair where is half packed suitcase sat on. He began to toss his belongings into the suitcase as Maddie stood watching him. “What are you doing David?” She wanted to know although it was obvious he was packing his bag. David didn’t answer he just walked into the bathroom then came out with his toiletry bag which he threw into his suitcase.

“David please!” Maddie stood before him and looked up into his eyes. “Can’t we talk?”

David gave a short bitter laugh. “Do you want to hear some more of my secrets so you can laugh at me behind my back?” He really didn’t believe Maddie had been laughing at him but he was so angry he just threw out anything to hurt her.

Maddie tossed her head and stared at him in shock, “laugh at you?” She gasped, “Do you really believe that of me?” She was getting a bit annoyed with him now. Ok so maybe she should have mentioned she had been to see Tess but there had never been a good time to interject that information into the conversation. She would have probably told him – someday. She hadn’t wanted him to feel embarrassed or angry and now it had backfired on her.

“I don’t know what I believe anymore.” His voice was icy calm and the way he was looking at her with green glaciers froze Maddie’s blood. She had never seen this side of David – so cold and angry- and it scared her.

Maddie approached him slowly, “you believe that I love you?” Tears pricked her eyes and she wiped them away with the back of her hand.

David didn’t reply as he finished packing and closed his suitcase. Then he turned to her with his jaw still taut with anger. “Love?” He asked his voice coated with venom and sarcasm.

“What does that mean?” Maddie wanted to know.

“Love is shit.” He spat at her his eyes still cold as green ice.

Maddie now felt her own anger rise to the surface. Her eyes flashed at him angrily. “Fuck you David.”

“We just did that over and over.” He told her as a gloating smirk ran up the side of his face. “Fun times.” He laughed.

“You are vile and disgusting!” Maddie spat at him with anguish. “How could I ever imagine that you’re the type of man I should be with with?” Her blue eyes were dark with anger and hurt.

David shrugged nonchalantly which only added to Maddie’s ire. He knew he was being unreasonable and cruel but it was fueled by humiliation and disillusionment which made him feel mean. He just wanted to get far away from Maddie Hayes right now. Being around her was only making him burn with shame. He still couldn’t believe she had known all along the story he had so earnestly shared with her. She should have immediately told him she had known his shame. But noooo… David shook these unwanted thoughts out of his head. “Guess you were wrong.”

“Guess so.” Maddie’s voice was soft and coated with misery. She felt that David was overreacting to this situation but she knew that he was not in the right mind set to see it that way. He was hurt and angry and right now there was nothing she could do to change the way he felt. Maddie looked at him sadly which stirred something in David that he didn’t want to feel at that moment. He sighed deeply.

“What are you going to do David? Will we fly home together?” Maddie sounded so forlorn that David couldn’t hold on to his bitterness. Maybe he was making a mountain out of a molehill. Maybe what she did wasn’t so bad? But why did every time he think of how he had told her about that night with Tess and she had already known did he feel his belly clench with nausea?

David ran his hands through his hair, “I think I’m gonna head to Philly for a few days.” The idea had just popped into his head. A few days away from Maddie would help him through the embarrassment and hurt he currently felt. “After what happened to Jimmy I suddenly feel the urge to see some of my old buddies.” He really just needed to put some distance between them.

Maddie’s eyes grew wide with shock. “You’re not coming back to Blue Moon?”

David shook his head slowly, “I said I was only going to stay in Philly a few days. Then I’ll be back.”

Maddie’s anger returned full force, “nice that you can take an impromptu vacation when we have cases that need to be closed.” She looked at him with disgust, “and as your boss I don’t recall giving you permission to take days off.”

A short bitter laugh erupted from David, “sorry boss but I don’t think I need your permission. Dock my pay I don’t care.”

“Maybe you won’t have a job to come back to!” Maddie’s hurt and angst was making her say things she didn’t mean. She wanted to hurt him as much as he was hurting her. “Maybe I should find someone who takes their job a little bit more seriously than you seem to.” Her finger pointed at him like a loaded gun.

“Fine!” David growled.

“Fine!” Maddie fumed.

“Good!”

“Good!”

“Great!” David threw his hands into the air. “You can’t tell me what to do lady!”

“As you’re boss I can!” Maddie put her hand on her hips and glared at him with blue orbs of fury.

“Well maybe you shouldn’t be my boss then cause I don’t take orders!” David waved his hands in front of him in a frenzy of wrath.

“Fine then,” Maddie lifted her chin up in that haughty way that made David want to wipe it off her face by screwing her hard. “You’re fired!” Maddie raged.

“No, I quit!” David yelled loudly as he threw on his jacket and picked up his suitcase.

This was spiraling out of control and neither one was willing to give up. He glared at her one last time with green icebergs. He nodded his head in her direction, “well it was nice knowing you. Have a great life.” With those words David slammed out of the room leaving Maddie staring after him in shock and despair. She hoped with all her heart and soul that David would come back and apologize but after staring at the door praying for his return for what Maddie felt was an eternity she knew he had just left her there in NYC – alone. She threw herself on the bed they had shared the previous night and sobbed for all that they had thrown away.