David pulled up to Maddie's house in the car he rented to pick up his belongings. He killed the engine and sat there for a few minutes quietly; he couldn’t believe it had come to this. He thought of the cold way Maddie told him to pick up his stuff. *A note on his desk*. David shook his head. He pulled out the note that he had stuffed into his pocket in anger earlier that day. He read it through tired eyes.

David,

I have a dentist appointment tonight at 7 so I think this is a good time for you to pick up your personal items from my house. I would like your stuff and you gone by the time I get home.

Thank you,

Maddie.

David still couldn’t believe his eyes. How could she be so cold? David knew he had screwed up by lying about the doctor’s appointment with Dee Dee but to him it looked like Maddie was looking for an excuse to break things off. Maybe she didn’t love him. David finally pushed himself out of the car. If he wanted to be done by the time she got home he would have to move fast. But as he opened the door with his key David knew he would not be gone when Maddie arrived home. He needed to say a few things to her; and he would do it face to face not through a cold, impersonal note.

David walked into the empty house and felt his guts clench. He put the suitcases he brought with him down on the floor next to him and took a deep breath as he looked around. This place had been his home for the past month. He hardly ever went to his place except to get his mail and pick up something he needed. David felt tears prick his eyes but forced them back. No, he would not cry over *her*. If she cared so little for him that she refused to work things out because of one small lie then forget *her*. David’s sadness was replaced by an icy cold anger as he thought about her refusal to work things out.

David picked up his bags; he walked slowly up the stairs to the bedroom he had shared with Maddie for the past few weeks. With each step he took his heart grew heavier. By the time he reached the bedroom his chest felt like there was a huge boulder crushing it. David gazed around the empty room; the bed was made and everything was neat as a pin. Where were his sneakers? His discarded clothes? The hamper she had bought so he could drop his clothes into that and not on the floor? A black bag in the corner of the room drew David’s attention. David strode over to the bag; when he opened it he found his shoes, dirty clothes and other personal items he had left in her bedroom and bathroom including his shaving kit and other toiletries. “Boy, you’ve been busy Maddie.” David mumbled under his breath. The closet still held most of his clothes. David took his time packing the suitcases; he was in no hurry.

The clock on the nightstand read 8:30; surely her dentist appointment was over by now. David expected Maddie to pull into the driveway any minute. Finally, his suitcases were packed but Maddie still wasn’t home. David carried his bags downstairs and placed them in the foyer while he went into the kitchen and pulled a beer out of the almost empty refrigerator. David’s blood turned cold when he realized she had thrown out most of his favorite drinks and snacks. Only one beer, which she must have missed, was left in the back of her refrigerator. David sat down on the couch to wait. He didn’t wait long.

When Maddie pulled into her driveway he was upset to see an unfamiliar car parked in her driveway. David? Did he have a friend drive him here? Did he borrow a car? Maddie pondered who the car belonged to but she realized with a sinking heart what David drove or who drove David was no longer any of her business. Somewhere deep in her heart Maddie realized that she had been hoping that that David was still in her house when she reached home. After all, it wasn’t easy to forget everything they meant to one another. She missed him already. Maybe she had been too quick to end things? But then Maddie remembered the lies that had flown so easily out of David’s mouth. Maddie bit her lip, hardened her heart and headed for her house. She was fine. Yes, *fine*.

Maddie almost tripped over the suitcases in the foyer. She kicked them away in anger. Damn that man? Why was he still here? Where the hell was he?

David heard Maddie open the front door and jumped up to meet her. He heard her curse as she kicked away his suitcases with a growl. He was ready to face her head on; there were things he needed to get off his chest and this was the time to do it.

Maddie stiffened when she saw David walk out of the living room. He was dressed in tight black jeans and a white t-shirt; he looked so sexy she thought as her eyes met his. David’s green eyes smoldered in her direction; she could see that those eyes were filled anger but also they were filled with so many questions. But did she have the answers?

David just stood there silently staring at her with those green eyes that she adored. She beseeched him with her eyes to say something but he remained mute. “What do you want? What are you doing here?” Maddie didn’t mean for her voice to sound so harsh and cold. She wished she could bite back her icy words.

David felt as if he had been slapped by the tone of her voice. Wow she was one cold bitch. “I thought maybe we could talk.” David’s voice dripped fury. “But I guess not.” David turned to go; he was through but then he felt Maddie grab his elbow.

Maddie couldn’t let him leave. “So talk.”

David turned to face her. His hands pulled out the note she left and he waved it in her face with scorn. “Really Maddie is this how little you think of me? You couldn’t tell me in person? You had to leave this note!” David threw the note at her feet. They both looked down as the paper floated to the floor besides her feet.

David looked up first. He stared at Maddie who remained silent. She was still staring at the note at her feet.

“Guess you don’t have an answer for me huh? Didn’t take you for a coward.”

Blue angry eyes looked into furious green ones. “What did you call me?”

David’s jaw was clenched tight in anger. His voice was low and dangerous. Maddie had never heard that tone in David’s voice before. “You heard me. You’re a coward. First for not fighting for what we have; *had*. And second for not having the decency to tell me to my face what you wrote in that little note.” David’s pointed his finger at Maddie then at the piece of paper at her feet. “You really are something.”

“Maybe I was wrong to leave the note but I didn’t want to face you today. I wanted to avoid this.” She waved her hands at them.

“Avoid this?” David shook his head in disgust. “Avoid talking about what is going on between us?”

Maddie shook her head. “No fighting.” She sighed deeply. “I told you everything I have to say David. What more do you want?”

David just stared at her in silence his green eyes blazing into hers. He could see the confusion in Maddie’s eyes but that didn’t soften his anger toward her. He wanted to shake some sense into her. Why couldn’t she see there was hope for them?

“Say something David.” Her voice was almost pleading.

“What do you want me to say? Seems nothing I say will change your mind. So why bother?” David shrugged his shoulders.

Maddie turned away from the blinding green orbs. She couldn’t bear to see all that she was losing. “David your priority now is that baby, your baby and the woman carrying your child.” Maddie couldn’t help the tears that spilled onto her cheeks. “I can’t be in the middle.”

“Damn it Maddie. I told you that I won’t put you in the middle! Why can’t you ever fucking listen to me! You just don’t want to try. *COWARD*.”

“Don’t call me that!” Maddie screamed. “Just go. Leave! Why are you torturing me?”

“Torturing you?” David sneered. “Is that what you think I am doing? I’m trying to make sense of why if two people love each other one of them is so quick to give up without a fight. I don’t understand why you won’t *try*?” His voice was almost a growl.

Maddie wouldn’t meet his eyes. “I want to David. Believe me. I love you but I just can’t. It is better this way.” She tried to explain but it didn’t even make sense to her ears; she just knew she would be turned inside out if she was with David and he chose to be with that other woman. She thought of what she was doing was like pulling a band aid quickly off a cut. It hurt badly but the pain was worse and lasted longer if you pulled it off the wound slowly.

David’s couldn’t believe her. “Better?” He snickered. “Better for who?”

“I’m sorry.” David heard Maddie say as he picked up his suitcases and turned to leave.

David nodded as he slammed out of her house. Sorry? David peeled out of her driveway leaving tire tracks behind him. Maddie felt her heart break as David sped away. She crumpled onto the floor and wept for what might have been but could no longer be.

The following few days were very tense around the Blue Moon Detective Agency. The staff was walking on eggshells; they were uncomfortable with the tense silence between their two bosses. The last month had been happy and tension free at the agency but that had turned around in a heartbeat. Everyone knew about the sexy blonde that was supposedly having Mr. Addison’s baby. But by the miserable way David was acting everyone knew it was not a joyous occasion. Miss Hayes didn’t look any happier than Mr. Addison but no one knew what to do. Even wise Agnes was at a complete loss on how to get her two stubborn bosses back together. She realized it was out of her hands and prayed they would find their way back to each other before it was too late.

David took it upon himself to call Frank Marx and set up a meeting with him to discuss the case. The disappearance of his partner was no closer to being solved and Blue Moon didn’t need to take money for a case that they couldn’t solve. The woman seemed to have vanished into thin air. David buzzed Agnes; he didn’t want to speak with Maddie directly; the wound was still too raw. “Can you let Miss Hayes know that I scheduled an appointment for 2 today with Frank Marx at his office?”

When Agnes relayed the information, Maddie felt her heart drop. Was it too much for David to come into her office and tell her of the appointment? He couldn’t even pick up the phone and call her himself? Maddie felt tears pool in her eyes and blinked them away. Well, if that’s the way he wanted it then it was just fine with her. Maddie realized she couldn’t go on like this; if David belonged to someone else she would sell Blue Moon and move back to Chicago. She couldn’t bear to be near him when he was no longer hers.

David waited for Maddie at Agnes’ desk. A few short days ago he would have barged in her office but that was no longer something he felt comfortable doing. He sighed inwardly as he waited. After a few minutes, Maddie walked out of her office; a picture in lavender and cream. David felt the urge to wrap her in his arms and inhale the lemony perfume she favored. Instead he motioned for her to go first as he followed her closely behind.

The car ride to the client’s office was quiet and tense. Maddie stared at the side window never looking at David who was in turn staring at the rode ahead as he drove. The meeting with the client went well. Frank Marx had just been about to call them to inform them that Renee was back. She had been lying low in her cabin in the mountain for the last few weeks contemplating her feelings about their relationship. No one knew about the cabin she had inherited many years ago from her elderly aunt so she knew it was safe to hide there. Renee told Frank she was sorry but her feelings for him were too strong to deny. Happily they realized they were meant to be together. So that was that. Case over.

“Finally a happy ending.” David looked over at Maddie who was peering out the side window ignoring him. “Earth to Maddie?” David attempted to engage Maddie in conversation on the drive back to Blue Moon but he was met by stony silence so he closed his mouth and drove on without another word.

When the detectives returned to Blue Moon David slammed into his office while Maddie slammed into hers. David paced around his office; it was Friday afternoon and David couldn’t stand to be trapped at Blue Moon anymore he needed to find a bottle of Tequila and try to forget his miserable existence for at least a few hours. When Maddie realized David had already left for the day she was angry and hurt. He hadn’t even said goodbye; but she remembered how cold she had been to him earlier in the day. Maddie drove home in a sea of tears. She spent the night crying and drinking glass after glass of wine until she felt into an oblivious sleep.

David sat on a barstool at his favorite watering hole and downed shot after shot of tequila. Women hit on him but he was in no mood to be sociable; he just wanted to get blind drunk. Hours later he flopped into his bed fully clothed and fell into a drunken stupor.

The sharp ringing of the telephone pulled David out of a dreamless sleep. He knocked over his alarm clock as he reached angrily for the phone. “What?” He barked into the receiver.

A soft voice came through the wires. “David, did I wake you?”

Dee Dee. David sat up quickly. “Dee Dee is anything wrong?”

“No, no I just wanted to know if you can take me to register for Lamaze classes today? I mean since we don’t have to work…” Her voice trailed off.

Lamaze classes? Oh suddenly David came wide awake. This baby was real. “Oh yeah, yeah sure.” He ran his hand through his sleep tousled hair. “Um what time?” David picked up his clock from the floor. It was almost 10’oclock. He didn’t even remember crawling into bed but from the pounding of his head David knew he had been over served.

David told Dee Dee he would pick her up at noon so he jumped out of bed and ran into the shower. David tried to concentrate on what Dee Dee was saying but his mind kept running back to Maddie. He was wondering what she was doing as he registered for Lamaze classes with another woman. He was thinking how he wished it was Maddie who was carrying his baby. He felt bad but he had absolutely no interest in Dee Dee. He had the real thing with Maddie and he missed it.

After they registered for the classes the two strolled along Melrose Avenue. It was a beautiful day in Los Angeles; the sky was blue and smog free. Dee Dee smiled over at David. He had to admit she was a beautiful woman. “What a gorgeous day.”

David nodded as he returned her smile. He noticed a restaurant he and Maddie had shared lunch at a few times. The food was good and he was hungry. David motioned to an empty table in the outdoor garden. “You hungry?”

Dee Dee nodded happily. “I can eat.” She laughed. “What am I saying? All I do is eat.” She patted her stomach.

David looked her over. “You look great.” He told her truthfully.

“In a few months I’ll be a fat cow.” Dee Dee stated as she sat down at the table for two.

David laughed as he joined her at the table. “I doubt that. You will still be gorgeous.”

Dee Dee looked into David’s eyes. “Do you think I’m gorgeous?”

David realized he was playing with fire. He didn’t want to lead Dee Dee on; his heart and soul belonged to that crazy blonde he was still very much in love with. “Yes, of course.” David changed the subject. “So how’s the job?” Dee Dee was a graphic artist for a small advertising agency. She loved her work and began to regale David with stories of the colorful people she worked for. They spent an enjoyable lunch together talking and laughing. David wished it was Maddie sitting across from him but it had been her choice to break things off. He hoped she would change her mind but he couldn’t allow thoughts of her to ruin his day. He wouldn’t.

Maddie couldn’t stand to stay in her house alone after living there with David for the last month. They had made love in almost every room in her mansion so everywhere she looked she saw David. She could swear she still smelled his musky scent and cologne on her furniture; she knew his smell was all over her bed so she spent the last few nights sleeping in the guest room. Maddie knew she had to get out of the house or she would go mad. She decided to go shopping on Melrose Avenue. There were many boutiques she could buy pretty clothes and shoes that she couldn’t really afford. And today she was in the mood to splurge on herself.

Maddie was enjoying the beautiful day as she window shopped along Melrose Avenue. She was carrying several bags filled with clothes she couldn’t resist. Maddie was just heading back to her car when her eyes fell upon a couple laughing and talking at an outdoor table at a bustling restaurant across the street. It was a restaurant where she and David regularly ate lunch when they were in the area. The food was good and the prices were affordable. Maddie blinked to clear her vision but when she opened her eyes she still saw David and Dee Dee together; eating and enjoying each other’s company. Maddie’s heart turned to stone as her face reddened in anger. Her first instinct was to go over to their table and start a scene but Maddie realized that would only make her the fool. She had no right over David Addison. She was the one to call things off between them. So how could she blame him for having lunch with the mother of his child? She couldn’t but she still felt anger stir her guts. David was full of shit! All that talk about their love and how she should give him a chance blah blah blah and here he was laughing and smiling at that woman without a care in the world. She hated him! Maddie almost ran to her car getting in just as her tears started to fall. She had to sell Blue Moon. She had to get away from David. She had to!

After a leisurely lunch Dee Dee asked David to take her shopping for groceries. She claimed she was too tried to shop by herself so David reluctantly took her to the store. He felt funny doing such domestic type things with another woman but he couldn’t think of a reason to say no.

David carried the last of her groceries into Dee Dee’s condo. “Well that’s it.” David told her as he turned to leave.

“Wait!” Dee Dee pulled on his jacket sleeve. “Let me make you some coffee.”

David shook his head. “Thanks but no thanks.”

“A beer?” Dee Dee almost sounded like she was pleading with him. “I don’t want to be alone right now.”

David nodded. “Ok one beer.” She was the mother of his child and he needed to forge a friendly relationship with her.

Dee Dee smiled at him. “Great! Let me put these groceries away while you drink your beer.” Dee Dee pulled a beer out of the fridge and handed it to David. He popped the top and took a long pull as he helped Dee Dee put her groceries away. They kept up small talk as they worked together.

David couldn’t help but notice how sexy Dee Dee was especially now that she was rounder and fuller due to her pregnancy. David dragged his eyes away from her as he put the beer on the table. “Well, if that’s it. I’m gonna go.” David waved to the door.

“Are you sure you can’t stay for a little bit?” Dee Dee sidled over to David. She wanted him. She whispered into his ear. “We have the entire night. Remember how good it was between us?”

The next thing David knew Dee Dee had her tongue down his throat and her hands in his pants. He knew this was going to be trouble.

As she drove home from her shopping expedition with tears pooling in her eyes Maddie made a huge decision; she would sell Blue Moon to Lou LaSalle if he still wanted the agency and leave LA. Being around David and not having him was too much to bear. And if he was starting up a relationship with *that* woman there was no way in hell she could sit idly by with her hand between her legs and her heart in her mouth aching for someone else’s man. Leaving now would be the best thing for her; the best thing for David. He could devote himself to his new family without any guilt or regrets. Maddie blinked back her tears as she pulled into the driveway. Maybe she would go visit her parents in Chicago until she decided what she wanted to do with the rest of her life. Maybe she would take a trip to Europe. And maybe she could open a modeling agency; with her name and background it shouldn’t take her long to secure a clientele. All these thoughts were running through Maddie’s head as she walked into her house. But as soon as she opened the door the loud sound of silence reminded her how much she had lost in such a short period of time. She felt the tears returning when she felt the loneliness overtake her and this time she let them run down her cheeks in a cascade of hurt and despair. It was going to be a long night she sighed as she tossed her keys on the side table.

As the hours passed, Maddie felt like a cat on a hot tin roof. She couldn’t sit still. Thoughts of David and that woman kept running through her mind. She hated him!! She never wanted to see him ever again! She ran the idea of selling Blue Moon through her tired mind again and again. Maddie tried to watch TV, she tried to read; but she couldn’t concentrate. She took a long hot bath and drank three glasses of wine but she still felt her nerves vibrating through her body. But by the third glass of wine Maddie’s thinking began to change regarding the situation with David. When she thought about David and Dee Dee she was filled with a red hot jealousy. Seeing David with that woman opened her eyes. She was making it too easy for Dee Dee to have David. Maddie hoped that David still loved her; she wouldn’t let Dee Dee have him. *He was hers*! Maddie began to pace the floor of her living room. Confusion was causing her head to hurt. She admitted to herself that she was madly in love with David but how could she be with him when he was with another woman? Ok, maybe he wasn’t with that other woman but she was having his baby and he had an obligation to her. Maddie couldn’t help but think about Tess and what David had given up to marry her. 18 years old but mature enough to marry his pregnant girlfriend and vow to take care of her and the baby. Maddie knew that David would take his obligation to his child very seriously and she also knew that David would love that child with all his heart. And Dee Dee was the mother of that child. And despite his own wishes and desires David would always put the them first. So where would she fit in? What if he decided that he wanted Dee Dee and not her? What if she agreed to start over with David and then someday he left her for Dee Dee? After all *that* woman was holding all the cards; she was carrying David’s child. But then the thought that Dee Dee wasn’t holding any of the important cards flitted through Maddie’s mind. David loved *her*; her Maddie Hayes. She had a hold on him and she was not going to let go. She just hoped it wasn’t too late. Maddie flopped on her sofa but suddenly the image of David’s green eyes filled with passion looking down at Dee Dee crashed into her mind’s eye. Maddie felt it difficult to breathe as an overwhelming panic encompassed her. No, she couldn’t stand the thought of David with anyone but *her*.

Maddie jumped up and threw on a beige raincoat over her satin nightshirt. She pulled on a pair of sneakers and grabbed her purse and car keys from the table in the foyer. Maddie knew where she was headed but only hoped it wasn’t too late to tell David how much she loved him and that she was willing to work things out.

Maddie knocked on David’s front door but he didn’t answer. Sometimes David slept like the dead, so she used the key he had given her to open the door. She walked into his apartment and shook her head. How could he live like this? Maddie hated the way David had no furniture or any personal items in any room but his bedroom but she pushed these thoughts away as she walked through the barren living room. “David!” She called out. She was met with silence. Maddie walked into David’s bedroom. The bed was unmade and she noticed that his suitcases were open on the floor next to his closet. Most of his suits were hung up but the rest of his clothes were still in the suitcase. Maddie thought David might be in the bathroom. She called out to him again. The silence was loud in that empty bedroom. It was after 12 and David wasn’t home. Maddie felt a sharp pain in her heart; she thought about the last time she saw David and who he was with. Was he still with her? Maddie sat on his bed. Would he go with another woman so quickly? But Maddie realized Dee Dee wasn’t just another woman; she was the mother of David’s child and a woman he had been involved with in the past. Tears began to fall from Maddie’s eyes. A myriad of emotions ran through her mind and heart; fury, hurt, disappointment and fright. Had she lost David already? Maybe she never really had him? Maybe he was full of shit? Was what they had just a fling to him; another notch on his bedpost? How could she have believed the lies he told her? How could she have trusted him? He was just a player and she got played. Maddie dried her tears as other emotions took over. Anger, disillusionment, disappointment and a cold hot fury tore through her. Maddie was livid; her nails itched to rip through David’s skin. Her hands ached to slap the lying smirk off of his face. Maddie couldn’t go back to her house without confronting David. She would wait for him. He had to come home sometime. Didn’t he?

Maddie looked at the clock on David’s nightstand. 1 AM. The rage was boiling just under the surface; Maddie felt like she was going to explode into a million pieces of wrath. How could he do this to her? If he loved her he wouldn’t have gone with another woman. He didn’t love her at all. Maybe he wasn’t coming home tonight. Maybe he was spending the night with *her*. Maddie began to pace around David’s apartment. She was just going to leave when she heard the front door open. She held her breath; maybe he wouldn’t be alone.

David was bone tired. It had been a long day; actually a long week. He just wanted to get into bed and try to get some sleep. Maybe when he woke up tomorrow things would be clearer. He doubted it. David kicked off his shoes as he thought about the close call with Dee Dee. Shit, she was all over him before he knew what she was doing. David had untangled himself from her clutches and booked it out of her place in a hurry. He had spent the rest of the night at the bowling alley with his friends. He drank enough beer to feel a pleasurable buzz but the two blondes in his life were still there in the back of his head.

David began to undress as he walked into his bedroom and almost ran into the woman who was coming through the door. “Maddie?”

 Maddie stopped dead in her tracks. Suddenly, she felt stupid for being at David’s apartment and especially in his bedroom. “I was just leaving,” she told him curtly.

 David grabbed her arm as she tried to pass him on her way out of the bedroom. “Maddie?” He spun her around until she was facing him. “What are you doing here? I thought you were done with me?” his voice was filled with all the hurt he couldn’t hide.

 Maddie pulled her arm out of David’s grasp with determination. “Where were you, David?” she snapped. As usual, offense was the best defense, but she knew it was none of her business anymore. Still, she *had* to know.

 “What?” David was confused. “You show up at my place and then want to know where I was?” He grimaced. “I was out.”

 “Obviously.” Maddie sneered. “Anyway let’s forget I was here. Where you were or who you were with is none of my business.” she turned her back on him. “And I don’t care anyway.”

 “***Liar***!”

 Maddie rooted to the spot and turned around angrily. “What did you call me?”

 “You heard me.” David approached her. “If you didn’t care you wouldn’t be here; in the middle of the night waiting for me.”

 Maddie’s eyes blazed at him, her lips pressed together. She didn’t respond.

 “I was at the bowling alley.”

 “Now who the hell is lying?” Maddie spat.

 “Lying?” David echoed and looked totally puzzled. “What the hell are you saying?”

 “I am saying,” Maddie’s words were clipped and slow as if she was talking to someone mentally challenged, “that I saw you with *her*this afternoon.”

 David felt his heart fill with hope. *She was jealous!* If Maddie was jealous there still was a chance she wanted him back. “Okayyy.”

 Her right index finger shot at him like a bullet. “So you admit it?”

 “Admit *what*?”

 “That you were with her!”

 David ran his hand through his hair. “Yes, I was with her. She asked me to go with her to register for Lamaze classes and then we had lunch.”

 “And...?” Maddie probed.

“*And nothing*. I took her grocery shopping then went bowling.” David knew it was better to leave out the part of Dee Dee trying to seduce him – although he had done nothing wrong. That was a no brainer.

 Maddie stared into his eyes but she saw only blinding green. “You two looked pretty cozy together laughing and talking.”

 “Maddie, we had *lunch*.” David’s voice was still low, but showing his growing anger now. “It is usually good manners to talk to someone you are sharing a meal with.”

 The sarcasm in his voice and the fact that he was right of course only fuelled Maddie's fury. “But you were *laughing*.”

 Unimpressed, David raised an ironic eyebrow. “She said something funny?”

 “Whom do you think you're kidding?” she snapped, her voice a little shrill now. “You enjoyed her company!”

 David didn't reply; he was just scrutinizing her, and she felt exposed under his stare. “Well aren’t you going to deny it?” Maddie was furious. He didn’t even seem to care she had seen him with *her*.

 “No, why should I?” David was getting mad. “It was just *lunch*.” He threw his hands in the air. “She said she was hungry, so I took her to *lunch*.”

 “Oh great. So if she says she is horny will you take her to bed?” Maddie regretted the words the same moment they were out. She realized she was acting like the jilted lover, when she wasn't the jilted *anything*, and that because of her own choice.

 “And what if I did?” David barked and gestured fiercly with his hands. “Why would you care? May I remind you that *you* are the one who threw me out of your life?!“ His eyes shot green lava, and he took an almost menacing step nearer. “You have no right to grill me now. It's none of your goddamn business.”

 Maddie was furious. He was right but he wasn’t right. He was hers! The deep confusion she felt was causing her almost physical pain. “So I guess you’re happy to be free so you can do what you want with whoever you want,” she stated, desperately trying not to sound desperate.

 This didn't go unnoticed by David. He shook his head, and his voice grew a bit softer. “I never said that.”

 They both stood inches apart glaring at one another. “It was implied.”

 “Uh – no, it wasn’t. You always hear just what you want to hear.”

 “No I don’t!”

 “Yes YOU DO!”

 “NO I DON’T!” Maddie screamed, her hand bunched into fist at her side.

 He shot her an icy green stare. “So leave.” David was gambling she wouldn’t.

 “I HATE YOU!” Maddie closed the distance between them as she pummeled at David with her fists. David grabbed her arms and held them over her head. Maddie was trying to break free of his grip but couldn’t snatch her arms out of David’s steel grip so she kicked him hard.

 “Owww.” David let go of Maddie abruptly, almost pushing her away. Cold fury was raging through him now. “What do you want from me, Maddie?”

 She couldn't reply, only stare in shock at him – shock about the intensity of her own feelings and the amount of fury and despair she had shown him... although she'd rather have died than let him know how much the sight of him with that other woman had ripped her apart.

 “What is it, cat got your tongue?! Usually you're never at a loss for at least an insult!” He was breathing heavily now, and all his fury sparkled from his incredibly green eyes. Maddie couldn't look away from them.

 “You always accused me of being irresponsible and immature. Now I'm being responsible and mature, and you take it as a reason to break off with me?” his words were shot at her like bullets, and they hurt about as much, because what he said was the truth. “You stomp your foot like a spoiled brat because things are not running smoothly?” he raged on, and Maddie wanted to shrink. “Well, I've got news for you, missy: things are not always running smoothly! That's called real life! No, it won't be easy and yes, it will be hard work – are you telling me you don't even want to *try* to make it work because it's *too hard work*? Now how mature, pray tell, is that?”

He was piercing her with his stare, and she could feel all his hurt and rage. Maddie swallowed. Despite them having been together only for a short time before everything seemed to fall to pieces, she already knew – apart from the fact that she was madly in love with him – that David Addison was the hottest thing on two legs on the face of the planet. But when he showed that rare, *really* angry attitude, there was something about him that made her want him to rip off her clothes and fuck her senseless right on the spot.

 Maddie slightly shook her head, as if to get rid of some cobwebs. These thoughts weren't helpful at all right now; she was at a crucial point of her life, at a point of no return probably. She couldn't let this be influenced by her own hormones; but she couldn't let it be ruined by pride and stubbornness either.

 “I know!” she blurted out and added: “It's not about the baby!”

 “Then *what*?” David demanded – obviously, still upset, but his earlier fury gone. He had noticed that she was opening up, ready to talk, to *really* talk. “Maddie, *talk* to me,” he urged. “If you still want me – and there's something about you that makes me think you do – you need to talk to me.”

 Maddie swallowed again and hesitated; this was so difficult. Not difficult for her to realize, but to admit it to him. She would have to lay her soul bare. She felt vulnerable.

 “It's about her,” she whispered.

 “About her?” David echoed and frowned. “What about her? I don't want her!”

 “But what if one day she decides she wants you all to herself?” Maddie searched his gaze. He had to understand her! “I...” she hesitated again, then drew a deep breath and quietly said: “I couldn't bear to lose you again.”

David was amazed by her honesty and courage. He knew what effort it must have taken her to admit this. “But she can't have me, because I love you, when will you understand that?!” he assumed an almost pleading voice now. She had to realize that!

 “Yes, but what if she tells you you can't see your child if she can't have you?” she shrugged in a hopeless way, her voice small now, her eyes brimming with unshed tears. “How can I be sure you won't leave me?”

 David ruffled his hair. “And what if tomorrow a knight in shining armor with perfect table manners appears who offers you a life I could never offer you? How can I be sure you won't dump me for some Mr. Perfect? Or leave me again when I accompany DeeDee anywhere?” he demanded, and she blinked. He went on: “I can't, can I? There is no such thing as a guarantee, Maddie. You'll just have to decide if what you want is worth taking the risk.”

 He scrutinized her with his piercing stare, his eyes not giving away anything. He had done all he could do, he wasn't gonna try and convince or even persuade her, although he probably could have managed – she had to make that decision all by herself. He waited patiently.

 Maddie tried to find the answer she needed to give in David's face, but that was stony. What had he said? Worth taking the risk? The risk was getting her heart broken if someday, somehow she lost David – to Dee Dee or any other woman.*If.*Probably that would never happen*–* he had told her that he loved and wanted only her. But the risk was there. What was the alternative? Cutting him out of her life now and for ever. She could just as well cut out her own heart. What had she been thinking? That was not an alternative.

 Slowly, she nodded. David leaned a little forward, his expression changing. He was questioning her now, encouraging. She nodded again. “Yes.” Her voice was barely audible.

 “Yes what?” David asked softly. “I need to hear it, Maddie. And I think you need to hear it yourself too.”

 “The risk,” she whispered hoarsely, her voice thick with emotions. “I'm taking it. It's worth it.”

 David was thrilled. *Almost there. Almost.* “What is worth the risk?” he inquired.

 “What I want,” she answered without hesitation. “You. I want *you*. I want to be with you.” She drew a deep breath and added: “I love you.”

 He was so relieved, he closed his eyes for a moment. “And I love you,” he replied. Her whole body language showed him that she was ready to come to him now, longing for him to take her in his arms, but he had to make sure.

 “But I told you it won't be easy,” he reminded her seriously. “I can't leave Dee Dee alone. I don't have to accompany her to every doc appointment, but I'll have to take her to Lamaze classes and the important appointments.” He added a little uneasily: “It might hurt you.”

 She nodded. “I'm sure it will hurt,” she confirmed, the shrugged. “But to let you go now would hurt me much more.”

 That was good enough for him. David took her hands in his and looked her directly in the eyes. “I promise I won't hide anything anymore from you. But you have to trust me.”

 Maddie nodded fiercely and held on to him like to dear life. “And I promise I won't get mad and jump to conclusions. I will try.” She looked at him with a wonderful, honest, reassuring smile that shone through her tears. David saw love and determination there, and much more. She wanted him as much as he wanted her. He felt raw desire welling up in him, still multiplied by the pent-up anger and frustration and the rush of adrenaline their fight had sent through his veins.

 “Missed me?” he asked hoarsely and grasped the lapels of her raincoat.

 “So much,” she answered, her voice equally husky and thick with desire.

 “Me too.” Almost roughly, he pulled her towards him, and she threw her arms around his neck. Their lips crushed together in a kiss so wild, passionate and hungry for each other as if they had been separated not only for a few days, but for years. They seemed to be devouring each other, making up for lost time and erasing the pain.

 David's hands went right into Maddie's hair, running through it, messing it up, almost pulling it. The room started to spin around them, and while they were swaying in a breathless dance, he tore at her raincoat until it finally fell to the floor with a dry rustle. David pushed Maddie against the next wall, held her hands beside her shoulders and kissed his way from her mouth along her jawline and down her neck.

 She gasped his name when he reached that special spot on her neck and tried to huddle her body closer against his. David responded eagerly and ground his hips into her. She moaned when she felt his massive erection pressing into her while his tongue played over that spot on her neck that drove her wild. Involuntarily, Maddie’s legs opened as she mimicked David’s grinding movements, trying to rub herself against his hardness.

 She couldn't stand it any longer to be held so passively and wriggled in his grip. David understood and released her wrists from his grasp. Immediately, her hands went south and pulled down his zipper unleashing the prize inside. She heard David gasp as she caressed his dick with long, lazy strokes. Maddie pulled down his pants, and he gladly kicked them off along with his boxers while he was busy dragging the nightshirt over Maddie’s head. Within a few seconds, both of them were naked and writhing against the wall.

 David grasped her hips and lifted her effortlessly, steadying her against the wall. She wrapped her legs around his ankles, panting heavily.

 For a moment, time stood still while they were looking at each other, almost without moving.

 “I want you so much,” Maddie gasped. Her center was ready and aching for him.

 “I want you too, baby.” He ravished her mouth again and then said, almost angrily: “Have you any idea how much it hurt you kicked me out just like that?” Finally, David pushed into her forcefully, and she answered with a sharp intake of breath and a cry expressing her remorse and all her own pain and pent-up desire. “Don’t you leave me ever again, do you hear me?”

 “Never,” Maddie gasped and moaned as David began to pound into her forcefully. She savored the feel of David inside of her, and his fierce movements were turning her on to the max; she began to move her hips in pace with his. Due to their separation, the hormones rushing to their bodies and the adrenaline firing their reunion, this was going to be raw and quick, but by no means soulless or less intense, and they were totally in sync. Maddie held closely on to him and joined David on this wild ride without hesitation, her passion and greed equally matching his. Spurred on by his deep hard thrusts, she pulled his hair and bit his earlobe.

Soon, David could feel his orgasm was near. “Come on baby. I’m almost there,” he gasped into her ear. “I love you. Come for me.”

 As if on cue, Maddie reached a mind shattering climax, clawing into his back and screaming David’s name at the top of her lungs. When David felt Maddie fall over the edge he began to come in pulsating waves which he thought would never end.

The following week Dee Dee asked David to accompany her on her doctor’s appointment. David told Maddie about the appointment and although she was far from happy Maddie kept quiet. She saw the unease and worry in the green eyes she loved so much and for some weird reason David’s discomfort reassured her. It wasn’t easy knowing that the man she loved was with another woman who was having his child but she had to get used to it. She knew David loved her and she had to trust him.

Dee Dee was happy and bubbly when David picked her up. He hadn’t seen her since he turned down her advances so he was happy to see she wasn’t upset. They made small talk and then Dee Dee spilled out some very important news. “David. I’m getting married.”

David was flabbergasted; all he could do was stare at her.

“Aren’t you going to congratulate me?” She beamed.

“Sure. Of course, sure.” David scratched his head. “Congratulations.” What about the baby? “What about the baby?”

Dee Dee giggled. “Jonathan wants to raise it as his own. It could be his since after we broke up I went back with him.” She turned toward David. “But of course you can visit anytime you want.”

“Yeah one big happy family.” David joked. He knew Maddie would be ecstatic but he wasn’t so sure about another man raising his baby. David was ambivalent about this turn of events. What a mess. Wait what did she mean it could be her boyfriend’s baby. David asked Dee Dee. “What do you mean it could be his baby? I thought you said it was mine?”

Dee Dee tossed her blonde curls before she answered. “Well of course when the doctor told me how far along I was I naturally assumed you were the father. Jonathan and I got back together a couple of weeks after we were through so the timing is right for you to be the dad.”

David kept his mouth closed. He was going to have the doctor pinpoint the exact date of conception before they left the office. He wouldn’t be held responsible for another man’s child.

The doctor’s office was crowded; David looked around at the pregnant women some who were with friends or mothers; others with lovers or husbands and here he was with Dee Dee. David inwardly sighed. Yep, he was here with a woman who was having his baby or probably was having his baby *but* who was not his wife or his lover or even his friend ***and*** she was now engaged to another man. As he looked at the glowing women in the office a thought of Maddie pregnant with his baby came to his mind. He inwardly smiled as he thought about Maddie carrying his child. His thoughts were interrupted when Dee Dee nudged him that it was her turn.

David nervously stood by as the doctor gave Dee Dee a routine examination and then readied her for the sonogram. He watched as the doctor rubbed Dee Dee’s belly with a clear gel and then took a wand-like instrument and ran it over her lubricated stomach. The doctor motioned to the monitor. David saw a tiny speck.

“That sound you are hearing is the baby’s heartbeat.” The doctor informed them with a smile.

“Oh David look at that dot! That’s the baby!” Dee Dee exclaimed happily.

David nodded. He was getting geared up to ask the doctor some very important questions. “Um doc. I was just wondering about the due date. Can you tell us exactly when this little dot was created?”

The doctor looked carefully at David as he wiped the gel off of Dee Dee’s belly. “Well I can give you a window of when the baby was conceived but an exact date is impossible.”

“A window?” David asked.

The doctor nodded. “I can give you an exact time frame. This little one was conceived some time around the beginning of April.”

The wheels were turning in David’s head. “April? So it wouldn’t be possible for the baby to have been made in say mid-March.”

The doctor shook his head. “No.”

David realized that the baby was not his. A wild joy ran through his body but he tried to contain his happiness. David looked at Dee Dee and realized that Dee Dee knew that the baby was not his; she was smiling.

David and Dee Dee walked slowly to the car. She was the one to break the silence. “Sorry David.”

David shook his head. “Sorry?”

“That the baby isn’t yours.” Dee Dee looked at David solemnly. “But I know Jonathan will be very happy.”

A slight half smile broke out on David’s face. “I’m happy to. Happy for you and Jonathan and me and Maddie.” David winked at Dee Dee. “Nice to have been the almost father of your child.”

Dee Dee smiled back. She ran her finger down David’s cheek with affection. “It’s been fun. I can’t think of another man that I would almost like to have a child with.” They both laughed as they got into the car and headed back to their respective lives.

The taxi deposited David at Maddie’s front door; a jubilant David raced up her steps and opened the door with his key. “Maddie!” David cupped his hand over his mouth and called her name a second time. Where was she? David checked his watch and realized that she must have just left Blue Moon. He couldn’t wait for her to get home to tell her the news. He knew she was going to be thrilled. Finally, after what seemed an eternity, but was in reality no more than 15 minutes. David sprinted to the front door and ran out to greet Maddie as she left the car.

“Come down cowboy.” Maddie laughed as David lifted her off her feet and spun her around. Maddie began to laugh as David spun them faster. “Stop. Stop.” She couldn’t catch her breath.

David set Maddie down a huge smile covered his face and his eyes sparkled emerald green. “Blondie Blonde I got the best news.”

Maddie couldn’t for the life of her guess why David was so happy. Maybe it had something to do with the baby. Oh no, Dee Dee wasn’t having twins was she? And why would that make him so happy? Maddie stared into his happy face. “What?” Did she snap the word out. “What David?” She softened her voice as she watched his mouth curl into a smirk.

“It’s not mine.”

Maddie felt her heart sing with joy. “The baby?”

David nodded.

“How do you know?”

“The baby was conceived in the beginning of April. And I wasn’t um in her town anymore.”

A smile appeared on Maddie’s face. “Are you happy?”

David pulled her into his arms and shouted with glee before he covered her mouth with his. A few minutes later they came up for air when they realized they were putting on a display for the neighbors.

David took her hand and pulled her toward the house. “Come on Goldilocks; let’s go eat some porridge.”

Maddie stopped David; she turned him around by his arm to face her. “Are you happy that you aren’t going to be a father or that you aren’t going to be the father of her baby?”

She had to know; she had been keeping a little secret. Suddenly, Maddie was very nervous. Could it be that David didn’t want to be a father? For the last week Maddie had been hiding something from David. She had been feeling nauseous and tired but chucked it up to nerves over what was going on with David and Dee Dee. But when she missed a second period she couldn’t hide behind her reasoning any longer and went to see her doctor who confirmed she was going to have a baby. David’s baby! The thought of carrying a part of David inside of her filled Maddie with joy but the joy was overshadowed by the thought of that other woman having his baby at the same time. Maddie was relieved that Dee Dee was not pregnant with David’s baby but was his jubilance because Dee Dee wasn’t having his baby or that he wasn’t going to be a father. Maybe David didn’t want to be a dad; they had never discussed their feelings on having children so now she was worried thinking that David wouldn’t be happy. She felt her body tense as she waited for his answer.

David ran his hands though his hair. “If it was our baby I would be over the moon.”

“Well let me know what you see on the other side once you get there. Ok?” A womanly smile covered Maddie’s lips as she turned and walked into the house leaving a puzzled David staring after her.

“What are you saying?” David found his legs and followed her into the house.

Maddie crossed her arms and stared at him with dancing blue eyes.

"I'm saying... you might be on the other side of the moon sooner than you know."

David stared at her as he ruffled his hair. Wait, could she mean what he suspected sh e meant? "Wait a minute... how soon?"

Maddie’s face was beaming. "Maybe in about... seven months?"

"Are you saying... we're having a bambino?!"

"Well, actually I'm having it, but as you're not totally uninvolved in that... I guess you could say that." She closed the gap between them. “And it might be a bambina. Would that bother you?”

David shook his head adamantly. “Are you kidding me? A little girl with blonde hair and blue eyes.”

Maddie put her arms around his neck. “Or a little boy with green eyes and a devilish smirk.”

David laughed deep in his throat as he pulled Maddie against him. “Do you know how happy you’ve made me Miss Hayes?”

Maddie huddled closer to David’s body. “Not as happy as you made me Mr. Addison.”

David tilted Maddie’s face up so she could look into his eyes. “Ah and that’s another thing guess lots of things are going to be changing in the next few months.”

Maddie nodded her head in agreement. “Looks like it.”

“Including your name.” David was nervous she would say no. He wanted to make her his wife.

Maddie saw the nervousness and uncertainty in David’s eyes and that touched something deep within her. “Sounds like a plan.”

David whooped with joy as he picked her up and kissed her with all the love, passion and happiness he felt for this amazing woman.