That evening, the thundering rain covered the night sky, Carl heads down the same lighted street with an umbrella covering him as he lights a cigarette. He enters the club and stops the waitress walking past, it isn’t the same waitress from the previous night before, but she also gives him a cheeky smile just like the waitress last night.

Just like in many clubs, there are waitresses/singers/bar staff that want to take that next step into success in entertainment world. The alternant goal for them is for them to go through the door of success and stroll down the Hollywood walk of fame.

Carl happens to be the lucky smock that knows all the right people who loves to mix business with pleasure.

He has a pint of Carlsberg in his hand; straight ahead of him are both Malena and Jennifer doing a duet on the stage. Malena and Jennifer’s friendship over the couple of months is a love/hate one as they came to be best friends, but with Malena’s envy and some cases of paranoia when it comes to fame and men, it somewhat makes her hate Jennifer from time to time. It doesn’t make sense as they are both are intelligent, beautiful and ambitious.

The only other explanation could be their upbringings, which could lead to their choices in life. They both had standard upbringings, but when Jennifer was about 13, her parents had split and they left her with her grandmother in Boston.

Malena didn’t really have a problem growing up, her problems came later on as she was trying to pursue her dream of fame and find her identity at her teenage years. She wasn’t really the popular one at university, she was the girl that always was writing and sketching in her diary but saw fame was more appealing and simpler. Her recent lifestyle choices and actions in fame go on parallel with Marilyn Monroe, meeting the wrong people and filed with insecurities in perusing fame.

The girls were singing in sweet harmony as they perform the duet in the main event of the evening, it was a rare treat for the paying customers, as they loved the both of them. Both girls are all smiles, moving hips to the jazzy beats from the band playing behind them with a piano they both were sitting on. They reach the end of the song, Jennifer performing to the crowd, Malena though can’t keep her eyes off Carl straight ahead of her, they finish, they are to a standing ovation.

As a waitress comes over to microphone to announce that Jennifer will be doing a special encore, the crowd are excited by that news. Carl leaves the bar, as Jennifer is preparing to preform in her dressing room, Malena is in hers. He heads to the two dressing rooms that next to each other, Malena’s on the left and Jennifer’s on the right. He isn’t sure which to choose, he wants to see Jennifer but instead goes into Malena’s for the business of Joey.

As he enters the room, Malena engulfs him, as she wants to keep Carl sweet for the plan of luring him to the meet, but she has strong feelings for him and is somewhat conflicted. But Carl has one thing in mind; he wants only the information in order to understand what Joey is up to. He resists her advances and wants to know the details for the meet.

“Why is Joey meeting someone?” as he takes Malena’s hands off her chest. She heads back down to her chair and looks through her mirror.

”He is looking at expansion.”

“Does he know I’m here?”

“No, just do what you need to do with him, whatever that is ok, I have given all I know.” oblivious to the chequered past Joey and Carl have.

He sits down next to her trying to reconcile with her.

“I know about you and Westwood ok, I know this is dangerous, Joey can lead you into a web with this guy that you wont be able to get out of.”

“I am a big girl, school of hard knocks. Listen this something that is out of your depth.” trying to save face not trying to tell Carl the predicament she is in.

“Nothing is out of my depth when it comes to Joey Marcelano.”

“Turks.” She blurted out.

“Jeez, what have they got to do with it?”

“I don’t know but as far as I know it isn’t to do with Westwood.”

“How do you know that?”

“I don’t really, sounds too far fetched.”

“Ok, so what is going on with you? What has Joey got on you for you to do this?“

“I don’t know your talking about.”

“The changes in attitude, the wild spending, you can’t be earning that much and I’m sure Westwood isn’t funding you.” “Having some new threads, jewellery and that new set of wheels I have seen you in.”

“A girl can’t treat herself once in a while.” as she starts to break down as she gets up and looks outside. “I can’t do this anymore, I don’t work for Joey, I do but as an informant so to speak.” As she turns back at him up.

“What does he have on you?”

“Nothing, but doing cards, roulettes can suck you in and in a blink, you are facing a debt to a greedy, sleazy, manipulation from a silver spoon dick.”

“Listen, you should leave this place, I can ransack Joey of some of his wealth from the casino with your help and you can be set up for a new life, even a chance to go Hollywood, whatever you want.“

“With you?” she replies with enthusiasm.

“Me and you don’t work.”

“Because of Jennifer isn’t it…”

“Oh come on.” as he gets up annoyed but knowing that is the case.

“No wait…you don’t fall in love, isn’t that what you said, you don’t want to show weakness do you, just cause she got a pretty face, a range of curves that any man would like to place a dollar bill to.”

“This jealousy is getting the best of you, you need to get these ideas out of your head, you need to get sorted with Joey and find someone right for you, you and me trying to ride of into the sunset isn’t going to end well.”

“I don’t believe in fairy tales, you don’t think I’m oblivious to you, waitresses talk, how many of these Hollywood wannabes have you promised eh?”

“Jeez just leave it.”

“I know why you do it, you coming in every night like the other drunks, you trying to fill the void, in your case the loss?”

He snaps and picks her up and plants her on the wall and kisses her hard. Malena not in fear or pain, she was more excited than anything to see the passion in his eyes. As they cool down and she out of character says “Don’t come to the meet, just leave this place.”

“Don’t ever mention Kiera.”

He leaves the room; Malena remains placed on the wall and continues to stare at the wall breathing heavily. As Carl enters into the main room, the clubs was closing for the evening as the remaining drunks by being escorted out by the remaining waitress.

As Jennifer is on the stage sorting her bag, the waitress says goodbye to her and leaves. Malena walks out of the dressing room, tries to kiss Carl but is shrugged off, she laughs to herself as she heads to bottom of the stairs to the club, she says goodbye to Jennifer and leaves.

As he turns to the stage only to see Jennifer looking at him, she says bye and is about to leave the club, as she is about to take the stairs, she is interrupted by…

“Fancy a lock in?” he asks her, she turns her head around and reply “What about Malena?”

“What about her?”

She walks to the back of the bar to get out a bottle of wine, she leans towards him.

“What would you like?”

“Half a lager.”

She opens the bottle and pours herself a wine, and gives him his lager “Every time you come here, I see you drink the one, compared to many people here who don’t seem to know when to stop.”

“I don’t want to turn into an alcoholic now do I, I know my limits” saying with a smile on his face taking a sip.

“Man, the amount of drunks I see drooling over me and Malena every night, you two having a lovers quall?”

“We want different things, she wants me and I want someone else.”

“Listen I don’t want to come in the middle of you to, she my friend and she doesn’t seem happy lately.”

“She’s a big girl, she will get over it.”

“You know, you don’t look the type.”

“Type?”

“Settling down type.”

“Looks can be deceiving, why did you get cold feet?”

“What do you mean?”

“Come on, my apartment, you had a foot inside…”

“No cold feet, I’m not a one night girl, especially from the fact that I know that you like to promise the waitresses that golden ticket to Hollywood.

“That was the past, I wasn’t in a good place, though the past few months I being turning a new leaf since I saw you that first time in the club. But hopefully with some good developments coming my way in the next few days, my future is starting to have a silver lining.”

“Malena has mentioned you to possibly leaving this place, shame she isn’t going with you, she needs a break, we all could do with a silver lining instead of singing for short change.”

“What is your dream?”

“Theatre maybe, Las Vegas, performing on Broadway in New York, London anywhere that would have the big plays like Guys and Dolls, Mac and Mabel something with big musical numbers you know, maybe acting on the big screen, but singing has always been my first love.”

Carl gets up from the bar and walks towards the stage; his mind is processing a solution to their escapism. He turns back to her and as he heads back to the bar, he gives Jennifer a proposition. “When I get the money I need to leave here, we will move to Las Vegas then tour if you can put up with me?”

“You serious?”

Carl having screwing over Joey in mind has a smile on his face as he sips the last drop. He gets from the bar looking at her all the way to the door and says “Absolutely.” She holds towards him and smiles and kisses him on the cheek.

Outside the club, the rain stopped as he stands outside the club. He opens his wallet and looks at a photo of his sister, in the photo with a smile on her face. He looks up and puts the photo back in his wallet and heads down the street. Jennifer comes running out and grabs Carl and places him on the wall, they both panting staring at each other, he goes to kiss her; she then hesitates and goes back.

“Did you mean what you say?” as she smiles at him.

“Kiss me and you will see.”

She goes up to him again “Not settling down type eh?”

He smiles back “Appearances can be deceiving.”

She moves back and walks away smiling at him as she goes. He smiles back not frustrating but knowing she is playing hard to get knowing he likes it.