Sitting in her living room, drinking her cup of freshly made coffee, Tess looked out the window, watching the rain fall from the sky.

Having finally drifted off around five in the morning, she had been sleeping hard when the movers came and was awakened out of a deep slumber. She really wasn’t looking forward to her new neighbours. The man was absolutely obnoxious. Yesterday evening as he was getting ready to enter his apartment, she had said hello, but he had barely looked at her as he barked good evening and turned his back to enter into his apartment. Looking at her clock, it had said 8am when she woke up, and knowing that she would not be able to go back to sleep with the noise outside her door, she had decided to get up, brew herself a fresh pot of coffee, and continue to work on her book until she had to go to work.

Tess loved her new apartment. It was one of the perks she received for following her boss and his family to Italy. Set on top of a hill, the apartment had a master bedroom with a luxurious bath, four additional bedrooms, two and one-half bathrooms, a large living room with a beautiful view of the city landscape before her, and a huge kitchen. At first, she had hesitated at accepting such a large apartment, but Myra, Luigi’s wife, had assured her that the company had chosen this apartment just for her. “It was part of the package,” Luigi had teased her, for moving to Italy from Germany with them,” and she had laughed at what the big boss must have thought.

David, Luigi’s boss and the owner of Donatelli Architect, had thought it strange that Luigi had insisted on bringing his personal assistant with him. Assuming that the two of them were sleeping together, he was not pleased at all. David did not want to see Myra or the kids hurt. Luigi’s wife was a gem, and if it weren’t for her constantly trying to couple David with this woman friend of hers, he would have gotten to know Luigi much better. Feeling a little responsible for the whole situation, he decided to visit Myra to see if she were happy with her marriage. After what he had experienced, and now his daughter, Carla, also, he knew that marriage could end abruptly.

Whether David knew or cared that Tess did not work on Saturdays, today would be an exception to policy. The new boss had demanded to have a meeting for 2pm today, of all days. It was the only day she had to sleep in and be lazy and the more she thought about the upcoming meeting, the angrier she became. Although she had never met him, she was not looking forward to working for him.

Hearing a loud bang in the hallway outside her apartment, she quietly hoped the new people wouldn’t be as loud when they started living in the apartment. At that moment another loud bang was heard and, listening to the angry voice outside of her door, Tess knew that the movers were in trouble.

My oh my. They’re just people and anyone can make a mistake, Mister.

Tess was getting up to put on a change of clothes when her doorbell rang. Without considering how she looked, she walked slowly to the door wondering who it could be. She’d told Luigi that she would catch the bus, but knowing that Myra and the kids were away, it was not unusual for Luigi to come by for coffee or to spend the night.

Whoever it was must have decided that she wasn’t answering quickly enough. That couldn’t be Luigi ringing her doorbell like that. Whoever it is, is an idiot, she thought, as the person leaned on her doorbell, ringing repeatedly, raising her temper with every ring. It was annoying to be disturbed on such a beautiful rainy day by someone who was obviously ignorant and had no sense of decency for others.

Opening her door with a force matching her mood, she yelled, “Who do you think you are, ringing on my doorbell like an idiot?”

Standing before her was her next door neighbour. Much taller than she, he looked down at her with a frown on his face, and a look of disdain that demanded to know who she thought she was yelling at as he answered her question. “I needed help, and since you were not answering I didn’t think anyone was at home. I just wanted to make sure.”

“Well, someone is at home. What do you want, may I ask?”

“I would like to use your telephone, if you don’t mind,” David replied, with a hardness in his voice while checking out the woman that was standing before him again. His first thought was Beautiful! and the desire to get to know her stirred within him just as it had yesterday evening in the hallway. Afro-American with braids, he estimated that she was around forty years of age, not more than forty-three. After I get Carla settled, you’re mine, Lady. Her temperament is exactly what he needed in his life. It impressed him that she wasn’t afraid to challenge him and wasn’t bowled over by his good looks.

“Don’t you have a cellphone, or are you one of those cheapskates who decide to poach off others?” Tess asked, unimpressed and angry with the gentleman standing before her. Judging him to be somewhere between forty-fiveand fifty, and much too young for her, Tess thought he looked like a mixed puppy, obviously spoiled by his wife.

“Can I use your phone or not, Lady?  I don’t have time to stand in this hallway and give you reasons for my not having a cellphone.”

Tess stepped aside so he could enter. “Sure, the telephone is straight ahead,” as she muttered under her breathsarcastically, “Master.”

David heard her and chuckled. You are a sparky little thing. I hope you aren’t married, because if you aren’t, I have plans for you. Picking up the telephone, he called Ko, speaking to him in Italian to let him know that directly after their appointment they would meet Sam and Ted at Carla’s apartment.

Finishing up his phone call, he took out a €20 bill. “Here is something for the phone call and for my disturbing you.”

“Keep it, I don’t want it,” Tess said about to explode at his haughtiness.

“Lady, I insist. Buy a nice bottle of wine for you and your husband,” he said, fishing for information as to whether or not she was married.

“Mister, I said keep it. Did I say that I was married?  I don’t need your generosity,” she stated, as she opened the door, ordering him silently with her eyes to leave.

David eyed her intensely as he tried to hold back his laughter. This was really funny. Neither Kohana, Samuel, or Ted would believe that he had met a woman who was throwing him out of her apartment. Laying the bill on the table by the telephone, he said, “I don’t care what you do with it. It is yours.” He turned and left quickly before his basic instinct to take her in his arms and kiss her got the upper hand.

Tess stood there at the point of screaming. She was fed up with arrogant, know it all men who thought they owned the world and felt that it should be jumping to their tune. It was enough that she had to go to a meeting on her day off and hear one give his welcome greetings. Now she also had one living across the hall. Going to the phone, she looked at the €20, and shuttered as she thought of how timid his wife must be. She made a mental note to give it to his wife when she returned. I hope she is much nicer than he is.

When she left her apartment, the movers were busy moving furniture in and she was relieved to not see Mr. Arrogant Boor, although she could hear him barking out orders in Italian.  Another man had joined him because she heard two voices. Don’t tell me that there are two of those kind walking around. LORD, help those poor women who are married to them. They probably are afraid to even think!

Tess did not know that David was discussing their encounter with one of his best friends, Samuel Adams. Sam had his own CAD company based in Italy, and was married to an Italian-Afro-American psychiatrist who was lecturing at the University where Carla was getting her Master’s degree.

“What are you going to do about her?”  Sam was asking him.  He had never seen his friend so excited about a woman, not even when he was married.

“I don’t know, Man. I just know that our encounter in the hallway yesterday evening knocked me off  my feet! And this morning I would have claimed her in my life permanently if I had stayed in her apartment any longer. It is now a matter of how she deals with the €20 I left on her desk. If she brings it back, she belongs to me.”

“And if she doesn’t?” Sam asked, knowing that his friend had just experienced one of those, first time I saw you, love at first sight, I am in love experiences.

“Then, I will hurt, Man, but I will deal with that also.”

\* \* \* \* \*

Tess’s car was not repaired and she had to wait an hour. Speeding to get to her meeting, she ran into a traffic jam and knew that she would never make it in time. Reaching for her handbag, Tess realized that she had left her mobile at home. Thinking about the man who had rung her doorbell, she silently blamed him.

The meeting started promptly at two o’clock. David informed the staff of his expectations and introduced Kohana as the one who would be running the day-to-day operations. Kohana informed everyone he was there to support them, and the meeting was over.

Everyone was there except for Luigi’s personal assistant and David was highly pissed off about that, but saw it as a blessing. Now he could interfere in Luigi’s love affair by firing the woman who didn’t show up. Speaking with Luigi, who was trying to apologize for Tess Jordan, David commanded irritably, “I want to see this woman in my office first thing Monday, okay? She does work on Mondays, right?”

Luigi looked at him strangely and said, “Of course she works on Mondays. She is an excellent employee, David, and I can’t do without her.”

“Well, we’ll see if that’s true.” David replied in a threatening voice.

“What do you mean, David? Give Tess a chance. You don’t know her.”

“Oh it’s Tess, is it?”

“Tess is like a sister to me. She’s the same woman that Myra has been trying to get you to meet, but you’ve never taken the time,” Luigi said in defense of using her first name.

“Sure,” David replied, ignoring the implication of what Luigi had said. “Just tell her to be in my office at nine. I’ll talk with you after I have had my talk with your Ms. Jordan.”

 Because Sam and Ted were busy working at the apartment, David and Kohana wanted to hurry up and join them. The furniture had to be arranged by the time Carla got there.

Following David out of the office, Kohana discussed the situation about Luigi’s personal assistant not showing up.

“What are you going to do, Man?” Kohana asked.

“I’m going to fire her and save Luigi’s marriage.”

“What if you’re wrong and he isn’t having an affair? After all, Luigi seemed pretty upset with your insinuations, and he did mention that Myra has tried to bring you two together.”

“As far as meeting her is concerned, I’m not interested. There’s only one woman I want to meet, and she happens to be dark and lovely, and lives across the hall from my daughter. If I am wrong about this woman, she can remain his PA.”

Arriving at the office, Tess found Luigi highly upset. He immediately began screaming at her, something he had never done. For the first time, he was afraid of losing Tess. Coming out of an orphanage, Tess was the first person that had shown him love and kindness. Besides Myra and the kids, she was the other pearl in his life, and he loved her dearly.

Tess was shocked. Calming him down, he started crying in her arms as he told her what had happened. Besides that, he was also missing Myra and the kids. They still had two weeks to stay with her parents, and he had no idea how he would hold up if Tess had to leave him. Myra and Tess had an understanding that Tess would never leave Luigi alone when she was away.

As Tess returned home that evening, she was tired and worried. She had had to promise Luigi that she would do anything Mr. Donatelli asked her to do to keep her job except do something unethical and immoral. If he has plans on firing me, I’m not going to make it easy for him, she thought, dreading her Monday morning battle. She prayed,hoping that Mr. David G. Donatelli was at least fair.

\* \* \* \* \*

Arriving at Carla’s that afternoon, David and Kohana joined Sam and Ted in bringing Carla’s  apartment in order. Filling them in on Tess Jordan and her not showing up at the scheduled meeting, David told them that he was going to fire the woman. She was having an affair with Luigi and he was not going to tolerate it.

“Are you sure that the man is having an affair with the woman?” Ted asked.

“So good as sure. He did everything he could to protect her today.”

“Did he deny having an affair?” Sam inquired.

“Of course he did. What else do you expect?”

“It could be that you are wrong, David. Luigi has worked excellently for us and you’ve known his wife since school days,” Kohana said.

“That is why I am so disappointed. I don’t know how Myra will deal with her husband having an affair with one of his employees. I don’t want to see her or the kids hurt.”

Sam, considering the situation his friend was in, looked at him and said, “Man, you are missing some pieces in the puzzle. It could be you’re making a mistake.”

“For Luigi’s sake, I hope I am. If Myra gets hurt, he doesn’t have a job.”

“What do you know about Luigi’s background?” Ted asked David.

“I don’t know anything, to be honest. Myra has always tried to get us together, but she’s always wanted to invite this other woman whom I did not want to meet, so I‘ve flipped her off every time.”

“So, you don’t have any idea where he comes from?” Ted continued.

“No, Man, I don’t. So far as I know he could have come from the moon. I gave him a job because Myra sent me a telegram and asked me while I was in Tel Aviv. He is an excellent project manager. I just don’t like his character because he’s not faithful to his wife.“

Sam, listening intently, repeated his warning, “Man, I still have the feeling that you are way out in left field with Luigi,” as the doorbell rang.

It was Carla, and ending the conversation, they turned their attention to her.

\* \* \* \* \*

As she entered her apartment, the €20 lying by the phone reminded Tess that she wanted to return it. Thinking she wanted to return this money before the end of the day, she grabbed it and went to ring the doorbell to the apartment across the hall.

Opening the door, Carla greeted her with a smile.

“Hi, I’m Carla. Please come in.”

Stepping into the hallway, Tess returned her greeting with a smile. “I’m Tess Jordan, and I want to return the €20 that your husband left next to my telephone this morning.”

Carla burst into tears and ran into the living room, leaving Tess standing there surprised, wondering what she’d said to upset her. Thinking about Mr. Arrogant Boor, she knew he had probably given her a bad time, and in her condition.

Following her into the room to apologize, Tess stopped, lightly shocked. Standing before her were four of the best-looking men that she had seen in a long time. David, holding Carla in his arms, Kohana, Sam, and Ted were also shocked. Here, standing before them, was The Tess Jordan who worked for Donatelli Architect.

Kohana broke the silence, being curious to know more about the woman who was standing before them. “Let me introduce myself. I’m Kohana Roth. And you are, may I ask?”

“Tess Jordan,” she replied. “Is she okay? I hope I didn’t offend her. I just wanted to return the money from this morning.”

“Oh, she’s going to be alright, but it is nice meeting you, Ms. Jordan. The man to your right is Samuel Adams, to your left, Ted Davidson, and behind me…”

Before he could say David’s name, he interrupted him and said, “Ms. Jordan and I had our encounter this morning.”

David was speechless. He couldn’t believe it. The woman across the hall was Myra’s friend, and Luigi’s personal assistant, and he smiled as he anticipated with delight, his encounter with her on Monday.

Ignoring David, Tess said to the three gentlemen, “Nice meeting the three of you,”

And all three laughed at her totally ignoring David as if he were not there.

“Not meaning to be nosey, but I am curious, what do you do for a living, Ms. Jordan?”

“I am a PA for Donatelli Architect. My boss, his family and I, have just moved here a month ago. I live in the apartment across the hall.”

“Oh, you do, these are pretty big apartments.”

“Yes, I know. I was shocked when I saw the size, but Myra, the realtor and the wife of my boss as well as my best friend, assured me that the company had rented this one especially for me, but I really don’t need an apartment that size. However, Myra had already done all the negotiations.”

“Oh, that is really interesting.”

“Why? Do you know Myra?”

“Well, you could say that I have had some business with someone named Myra, but it may not be your Myra. Do you like your job?” Kohana asked, quickly changing the subject. David had sent him a warning with his eyes to steer away from that topic.

“I love working for Luigi.”

“Oh, really now?” Kohana asked curiously, as he let out a chuckle.

“Don’t misunderstand me, Mr. Roth. It’s not what you think. Luigi is my adopted brother, and I have known his wife, Myra, since they both were at the university. When she married Luigi, I came with the package.”

“Please call me Ko, or Kohana. I didn’t mean to insinuate that you were having an affair with your boss. I’m sorry.”

“Thanks. Apology accepted, and please call me Tess.”

Encouraging her to talk, Tess talked away about Luigi, Myra, and the kids and how fortunate she was to be a part of Luigi’s family, clearing herself from the suspicion of being Luigi’s mistress.

Kohana was utterly charmed by the fact that Tess had just conquered his best friend’s heart. It was clear to them all that David was absolutely fascinated with her. David, standing in the background with Carla in his arms, observed the woman he had fallen in love with, and regretted not having paid more attention to Myra’s invitations.

It was when David coughed lightly, that Tess remembered he was in the room and her purpose for coming. Suddenly her shyness appeared, and she wanted to get out of there and quickly. Walking towards Carla, who was in his arms, she said, “I see you are well along, your seventh month?”

“No, my sixth month.”

“Well, here is something for the baby. Your husband left it on my telephone table as payment for using my phone. I told him not to do it, but since he doesn’t seem to understand English very well, there was a miscommunication,” and everyone in the room laughed, including David.

Carla was about to tell her that David was not her husband, but her Dad, when David interrupted quickly and said, “Sweetheart, take the money and consider it as a present from Ms. Jordan.”

“Why don’t you stay awhile Ms. Jordan?” Sam asked, being very much aware of the sparks flying between Tess and David.

“Thank you, but it was a long night. I’ve had a bad day starting with my doorbell being rung after I had had only three hours of sleep,” she said looking directly at David, ” then having to wait on my car that was at the repair shop, and next missing a meeting with an arrogant boor who thinks he may be God’s gift to management. Right now I need some down time to relax alone.”

“A meeting with an arrogant boor you say?” Ko asked edging her on.

“Yes, that’s what I’ve named him. I haven’t met the man yet, but after today, I probably don’t have a job. According to Luigi, the man suspects Luigi and I of having an affair. That upset Luigi terribly. Myra is in the States with the kids, and she would never forgive me if something happens to Luigi. In order to calm him down, I had to promise that I would do everything the boor asked me to do as long as it wasn’t immoral or unethical.”

“Now, that’s really interesting, but why do you think you will lose your job?” Kohana replied, as he tried to keep from laughing.

“Well, I had a meeting with the obnoxious boor today that I missed. Now I have to give him an explanation why I wasn’t at his precious meeting, and from what Luigi has told me, I’m already branded as the whore of the company,” and with that statement the men could no longer hold back their laughter.

Carla, upset with the men, and thinking it unfair that they were not revealing who they were to Tess Jordan, was about to open her mouth when the doorbell rang, and Lynn, Johnetta, and Lisa entered the room. Ko introduced the three to her, pointing out who was married to whom.

Seeing this as her possible exit, Tess took it. The ladies begged her not to leave, but Tess, looking at David’s reaction,decided that she did not want to humiliate herself by arguing with Carla’s husband again, and said good night.

After Tess’s departure, David then informed them about his morning visit with Tess Jordan and their encounter Friday evening. By the time they had departed Carla’s apartment at two in the morning, everyone knew that David had fallen in love and wanted to marry the woman as soon as possible. Only Tess had no knowledge of it, and he was really looking forward to Ms. Jordan meeting her Mr. Arrogant Boor.

\* \* \* \* \*

Tess was in the office when Luigi arrived, and he knew, without her saying anything, that she was nervous. Looking at her, he said, “Tess, don’t forget your promise to me. You won’t explode and tell the man what you think. Think about me, Myra, and the kids; you would hurt us badly.”

Going up to the seventh floor, she looked out the window. It had started raining again, which was usually a good omen for her. Walking up to Mr. Donatelli’s PA whom she knew, she greeted her cheerfully.

“Hi, Marina, how are you? I believe the big boss wants to see me.”

Marina had been expecting her. David had asked her to get Tess’s personnel file when she got in this morning. Marina had been surprised that her boss was already there. Handing him the file, David had sat there reading it, while drinking a glass of milk, and received another shock. Tess was sixty years old. Well, well. Lady, you may be older,but your heart belongs to me. I need you in my life.He smiled with great delight at his upcoming confrontation with her.

“Yes, he does. Go right in, he’s expecting you,” Marina replied with a smile.

“What’s he like?”

“Can’t tell yet, but he’s absolutely great so far, and I believe I am going to enjoy working for him. Why weren’t you at the meeting?”

“That’s a long story.  I’ll tell you about it afterward.”

“Hey girlfriend, he’s really very nice.”

“If you say so. Well, I’d better go in before he comes looking for me.”

Tapping on the door, she thought the voice sounded familiar. Entering the room, the door behind her closed, as she turned and came face to face with David G. Donatelli, her neighbour. The only thing Tess could do was stare. Every word she had said on Saturday ran through her mind. Before David could say anything, she mumbled her apology for missing his meeting, stating that her resignation would be in his hands before twelve. Walking quickly to the door, she wanted to get out of his office to prevent him from seeing her tears, but David stood in her way, blocking her exit.

“Mr. Donatelli, would you please step aside?” she begged, forcing herself to look up at him with watery eyes that were trying their best not to overflow.

“No, you and I have to talk, and the name is David,” he said, as he reached forth and took her in his arms. When his mouth came down upon hers, he demanded a response from her to the feelings that had swollen up on the inside of him since Friday evening.

Tess, taken totally off guard by the passion that was enveloping her, moaned, and when David captured her tongue, she trembled at the desire that rose up from deep within her, and she struggled to get out of his embrace.

“What is there to talk about?” Tess asked, barely whispering, still struggling to remove herself from his arms that tightened at her every movement.

“About us. I’ve got something to ask you and you’re not leaving my arms until you hear what I have to say.”

“There is no us. I don’t date married men.”

“I am not married, and before you say something that you definitely will regret, that woman is my daughter and she is widowed. Her husband was killed four months ago. He was a policeman. That’s why she burst into tears. We were helping her get moved into her new apartment because she had Saturday classes.”

Hearing him say that, Tess stopped fidgeting.

“I’m sorry,” she said.

“Thanks. If I had known that you were Luigi’s PA and the woman that Myra has been trying to introduce me to for the past three years, our meeting Saturday morning would have ended differently, but you and I were too busy butting heads about the phone call.”

“So, what do you want from me … to look after your daughter?”

“No, Tess, that is not what I want either,” David said.

“Well, what do you want? I don’t have sex without a marriage license either.”

“I want much more than that. So, what about intimacy with a marriage license?”

Tess stood there, not quite believing what she had heard. Here was her big boss asking to marry her.

“I’m serious, Tess. I fell in love with you Friday evening in the hallway and I want to marry you. I’ll give you time to get to know me after we have gotten married.”

“I don’t believe in having sex during engagements either,” Tess said.

“What is this with you and sex?” replied David. “When we unite we’ll experience a special sexual intimacy with each other, and not just sex. I don’t believe in divorces either, so when you marry me, it is forever.”

The intercom rang and Marina informed him that Luigi was pacing the floor, insisting on talking to him now. Telling Marina to let him in, Luigi came storming in like a bull that had just been untied.

“Here is my resignation,” he said. “Stop harassing Tess. She doesn’t deserve it.”

David had to smile.

“Luigi, take back your resignation. I’m not chewing Tess out. I just asked her to marry me. Right Tess?”

Noticing that Tess was in David’s arms, Luigi asked, “Tess, is this true? You never told me you knew David Donatelli.”

“It is true that he’s asked me to marry him, but I didn’t know David Donatelli was Myra’s friend or our boss.”

“So, when did you meet him?”

“We met in the hallway and this morning in my apartment. He is the man that I was telling you about. He interrupted my daydreaming to use the telephone and we had an argument about him ringing my doorbell like crazy.”

With that Luigi started laughing. It could only happen to Tess. Imagining the argument between the two, he looked at David, smiling as he said, “I’ll be in the office, if you need any help convincing her, David.”

“We’re having a family dinner at seven, please join us. It will make it easier for Tess to get to know the people I call family, and I already know you are family for her.”

“I would love to come. I get lonely when I am here by myself. Coming from an orphanage, I have some scars.”

“Luigi, come join Kohana, Sam, Ted, and I. We would love to get to know you, and for you to get to know us.”

“Thanks. May I inform my wife that her plan finally worked?“

“Of course, let her know that she planned it very well, and to get back very soon if she wants to see Tess get married.”

Luigi smiled at Tess. “You are a lucky man, David. You have a jewel in your arms,” and he went back to his office, with Tess still standing in David’s embrace.

“May I sit down, please?” she whispered, overwhelmed at the events taking place.

“Of course you can,” and David led her to the sofa so that he could sit comfortably next to her.

\* \* \* \* \*

When Kohana walked into David’s office, Tess received the next shock. “So, we see one another again. It was nice meeting you Saturday evening, Tess. I see you have conquered your Mr. Arrogant Boor. Have you said yes yet?”

“She would if people stopped interrupting us,” David answered before Tess could say anything. Looking at her, he asked, “Tess, you do plan on saying yes, don’t you?”

Both he and Kohana were holding their breath. Ko knew a rejection from Tess would mean years of counselling for David, especially since Carla had lost her husband.

“Can we wait until Myra and the kids get back before we have the ceremony?”

“Of course. When will they arrive?”

“They have another two weeks, if I am not mistaken.”

“Ko, arrange with Luigi to get Myra and the kids back as soon as possible!”

“How soon is soon?” Kohana asked, interrupting a silent moment of intimacy between the two.

“Tuesday.”

Observing Tess‘s reaction, David stated, “There is no way I am going to wait two weeks, Cara.  I am not going to give you time to find an excuse not to marry me.”

“Congratulations, Tess,“ Kohana said, and he departed the office to talk with Luigi about bringing his family back on Tuesday and to inform Carla and the other couples. They had been sitting on pins and needles bombarding him with phone calls all morning.

Meanwhile, Marina tapped on the door and, sticking her head in to ask if she should bring coffee, received the shock of her life. Tess was sitting hand in hand with David, and Marina almost fainted.

“It’s okay, Marina. Tess has a right to be here. We’re getting married soon. Could you arrange for a champagne hour today at three for all the staff in the conference room?”

“Sure. Congratulations, Tess. I now know the why” and closing the door with a big grin on her face, she ran to her phone to spread the news.

“The why about what?” David asked curiously.

“Oh, nothing special,” Tess replied, standing.

Pulling her back down beside him quickly, David remarked, “I’m still waiting for your answer, Cara”

Tess was frightened. She was afraid of the intimacy ahead with him and he felt the fear.

“Are you sure?” Tess asked softly.

“There’s no other way for us, Tess.”

“Then yes,” she said. “Yes, I’m yours,” and David’s mouth came down upon hers once again, as he planted kisses wherever he could and his hands roamed her body. Bringing her close to him, he let her feel his need for her. Drowned in his passion, her lips swollen from his assault, Tess was too weak to move.

“Are you sure you want to have Myra at our wedding?” David asked, as he tenderly caressed her shoulders.

“No, I’m not so sure of anything right now,” Tess barely whispered.

“Good, then we’ll get married Wednesday at noon, no matter what, agreed?”

“Yes, agreed,” Tess, replied softly.

David stood up, and holding his hand out to her, he led her to his desk where he promptly called Carla to give her the good news personally. By the time David had accompanied Tess to her office, everyone in the company knew.  Kissing her goodbye, he asked, “Are you sure you want to wait until Wednesday?”

“We can make it on Thursday, if you want?” she replied shyly.

“How about today at seven?”

“David!” Tess shouted.

“Alright, just thought I would try,” he said kissing her once again before returning to his office, one happy man.