

THE EYES TELL



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CHAPTER 1

The alarm clock rang constantly at the crack of dawn Tiara rose from her bed and switched it off, it was time for her to take a bath and get ready to go to school. She was a twenty year old girl who was fortunate to have both her parents, her mother was a lawyer and her father a businessman.

Her father Jack Daniels was away on a business trip, it had now been five days since his departure and she was missing him. Home didn't feel like home without him. Tiara dashed to school, she had two friends there Karin and Maya between these two her favorite was Karin. Maya was aware of that and it sometimes bothered her, "but it's only natural to have a favorite", those were the words Tiara often used to justify her favoritism. As soon as her classes' ended Tiara drove to Carlito's where she worked as a waitress, she was not a girl you could call poor or rich. She came from an averaged family in terms of wealth; she was not a spoiled brat and she believed in working hard to get the cream. At Carlito's she worked with a young man named Dylan Smith, she knew he had an eye for her but he was just too shy to make a move. Dylan had a muscular body which could be recognized from afar, he was tall and handsome, a hard worker and a friendly person, he seemed to be everything a lady like Tiara would want in a man. Tiara herself was a beautiful young woman and every man's desire; she lit up the room whenever she walked in, turning heads. Her beautiful brown eyes, her long blonde hair and her curvaceous body was enough to make any man drool.

One day after work Dylan asked her for a lift. "Tia I was wondering if you could drop me off at Sizzle shop? I know it's a walk able distance but I'm in a hurry", he requested. "Well are you going to keep wondering or you will ask? I'm just kidding jump in I will be glad to help", she replied. They were both quiet till they reached Sizzle shop, "well here you are", she uttered as she stopped her car in front of the shop. He got out of the car and went to stand by the driver's window.

"Thanks a lot Tiara", "It's my pleasure I'm glad I was able to help". When she was about to start her car and drive away, Dylan spoke, "listen! I've always wanted to ask if you... eer...well would you..." Tiara was quiet enjoying watching Dylan sweat on his own. "Okay let me just ask it this way, do you want to go watch a movie with me tomorrow?" Dylan scratched his head. Tiara smiled, finally the day she had been waiting for had come, she got lost in her mind as she thought of what she was going to wear and imagining him in a seat next to hers for hours. She completely forgot that he was waiting for her to give him a reply, hearing him clear his throat made her snap back to reality.

"Well I guess that's a no!" assumed Dylan as he wondered why she had gone quiet. "I'm sorry my mind was somewhere else, yes I would love to go watch a movie with you", she beamed. What in the world took you so long to ask? She wanted to say. "Okay then I will come pick you up at twelve bells and don't worry I will arrive dead on time, I believe a real man never keeps a lady waiting, especially a beautiful one", emphasized Dylan his voice failing to hide his excitement as he walked away. Tiara couldn't wait to get home and call Karin to tell her the good news and as she wished she got home in a blink of an eye. "Hi mom how was your day?" "Not bad at all and what's up with you? You look like you've won a million dollars", asked Mrs. Daniels, "maybe I have, it's nothing you wouldn't understand", she responded as she made her way to her room. She threw herself on her bed, took out her phone and called Karin. "Guess what? Dylan finally asked me out today!" exclaimed Tiara. "What? Oh that's great, good for you I know you like the guy; you deserve each other", "You can say that again, I will talk to you later and keep you posted". Tiara could hardly wait for the next day; she went to Shania's room to tell her the latest news.

Shania was her sweet sixteen adorable young sister who thought of Tiara as her role model. They loved each other and were very close. Shania forced a smile on her face, she didn't want her sister to notice that she was upset about something but Tiara had already noticed, "What's wrong Shania you don't look happy at all, what's the problem?" Tiara asked with concern for her little sister. "It's no big deal and I don't want to talk about it, tell me about this Dylan, you like him a lot huh?" Shania tried changing the subject.

"Shania I'm your sister tell me what's going on with you", demanded Tiara, "okay, okay I will tell you, it's Lily we had a fight today and we are no longer friends". Lily was Shania's best friend who lived next door, they had been friends for a very long time. "But why, Lily is your best friend, what happened?"

"You won't believe how gullible she is, she accused me of flirting with her boyfriend Danny, imagine that, Danny and I have been friends long before they started seeing each other. I would never betray my best friend in that way, I hate Lily for not trusting me. Some girl from my class told her that she saw me kissing Danny and she fell for it, Tiara you know that I would never do anything that slimy right?" "Of course I know you wouldn't, shame on Lily for accusing you of such a wretched thing, but don't worry I'm sure she will get back to her right senses in no time". Tiara tried by all means to console her young sister. Later she left to the kitchen and on her way there she caught a glimpse of her mother holding her father's photograph and she went to talk to her, "mom you really miss dad huh?" Mrs. Daniels didn't say a word she just looked at her daughter and smiled, "I miss him too mom but he will be back home tomorrow". Suddenly the door bell rang,

Tiara wondered who it was, could Dad be home early or it's Dylan? Her face glowed at the mention of Dylan's name.

She opened the door and saw Lily, "hey is Shania at home? I really need to talk to her", "yes she is, please come in she is in her room". "Afternoon Mrs. Daniels", greeted Lily as she made her way upstairs to Shania's room, "afternoon Lily how pleasant it is to see you again", replied Mrs. Daniels with a welcoming smile on her face. Mrs. Daniels loved visitors especially her children's friends, she loved to know the kind of people her children hanged around with.

She was very fond of her family; she thought having a wonderful family like hers was indeed a blessing. Lily apologized to Shania and they made up. Tiara was happy to see her young sister smiling again; she sometimes missed her brother whom she only saw on school holidays. Elton Daniels was her big brother, three years older than her. He was abroad studying medicine in Australia. He referred to himself as the future Dr Daniels, not having him around was something she couldn't get used too.

She loved her big brother he had always been her hero always ready to break the jaws of any man messing around with his sister. If only he was here to meet Dylan tomorrow I wonder if they would have liked each other. The Daniels ate dinner at seven pm and watched a movie afterwards before going to bed, that was their daily routine. Saturday came the day Tiara had impatiently waited for, she had not yet told her mother about Dylan she wanted her to meet him in person first. She didn't know what to wear, "jeans or a dress or a skirt", she was confused but all she knew was that she wanted to look her best; she decided to ask for Shania's opinion, "well since you are just going to the movies and not dining at a hotel I suggest that you wear jeans and a t-shirt".

Tiara took Shania's advice and wore just that, after dressing up she put on her makeup not that she needed any she looked beautiful without it, make up was just like icing on a cake. Twelve o'clock on the dot the door bell rang and Mrs. Daniels opened the door for Dylan, "afternoon Ma'am I'm Dylan Smith, I'm here for Tiara", smiled Dylan who was looking more handsome than ever in his blue jeans and a t-shirt which clung onto his body, all the girls were bound to envy the girl to be seen in his arms, he was dashing. "How come Tiara never told me anything about seeing . . ." "Mom that's because I wanted you to meet him in person first," she interrupted. "This is Dylan I work with him at Carlito's and he's taking me out for a movie today." Tiara then looked at Dylan and smiled for she was amused by what she saw, she held his hand like he belonged to her and then continued, "Dylan this is my lovely mother, you can call her Mrs. Daniels", and like Tiara expected Shania made her way to the living room, she was eager to meet this Dylan her sister could not shut up about, "and this is my young sister Shania, she is the last born," Added Tiara.

“What a nice family, it is really an honor to meet you all, I would have loved to stay and chat but unfortunately we have to get going because the taxi is waiting for us”, informed Dylan. Taxi! Tiara silently exclaimed she didn’t like the idea of traveling in a taxi and having some stranger listening to their conversation not when she had her own car but she knew Dylan would not be comfortable with that. Sensing her protest Dylan worried, “I hope you don’t mind”. “Of course not at all”, she reassured.

The movie was the most boring and longest she had ever watched, she pretended to be enjoying herself but Dylan wasn’t fooled. She was not the kind of girl who enjoyed sitting down for a movie she preferred switching on the radio and dancing like no man’s business. When the movie finally ended she felt tired and sleepy. Dylan immediately took her home and escorted her to the door.

“I had a nice time with you today and the movie was...hmm...It was just the one”, she mumbled. Dylan smiled at her, she thought he had the most attractive smile, “maybe one day we can go out for something much better than that, maybe dinner”, suggested Dylan. The idea amused her, she could just imagine a candle light dinner, red roses on the table, rose petals all over the floor, champagne, a delicious meal and Dylan wearing his attractive smile and whispering, “you are beautiful” to her ears. Seeing her say nothing but just smile, Dylan chuckled, “well I can see by the look on your face that you would really love that and the look in your eyes tell me the same thing”. Embarrassed to admit she was fantasizing about dinner with him, Tiara lied, “I’m sorry I was just thinking about something that my friend told me earlier, I got lost in wonderland but I am looking forward the next dinner date Dylan let’s hope it will be sometime soon”. He kissed her on the cheek and bid goodbye. Tiara closed her eyes and sighed deeply as she felt the softness and smoothness of his lips on her skin.

She got inside the house and realized that her mother and Shania were spying on her while she was outside with Dylan because they both laughed hilariously when she entered the house. “You really don’t have to spy on me, I hate that, I don’t spy on you mom when you are with dad or you Shania when you are with your boyfriends”, scoffed Tiara who was annoyed, “what boyfriends?” asked Shania, “I think you all know that I only dated one boy in all my sixteen years on this earth”.

That one boy was Jeffrey from her class whom she dated for nearly two years until he ditched her for another girl saying it was not his fault that he had fell out of love with her and he never asked to fall in love with someone else, since then Shania told herself that all boys are pigs and she never wanted to date again.

“Oh! Please Shania, don’t turn this around and make it all about you, the fact here is that you and your precious mother were spying on me and I don’t like that, it has to stop because two can play the same game”, threatened Tiara.

"Girls calm down there is no need to get all worked up over nothing, Tiara I'm sorry we spied on you honey but you must understand it was curiosity that compelled us to do so but I promise you it will never happen again sweetie, I'm sorry my princess", apologized Mrs. Daniels, "apology accepted", muttered Tiara as she left to her room, just as she was about to throw herself on her bed she heard a car pull over in front of her house. She quickly left her room and dashed to the door screaming, "Dad is home" but to her surprise when she opened the door she saw a face she had never seen before.

A tall, slim boy with a funky hairstyle, the boy was carrying a big box of expensive Italian chocolates. "May I help you?" she asked with a little bit of disappointment in her voice. "I'm sure you can, my name is Tyler and I'm looking for Shania Daniels". Tiara didn't like the idea of boys chasing after her young sister not after what Jeff did to her. "You can't look for someone who's not missing", she mocked the poor boy. "I apologize maybe I said it the wrong way, allow me to rephrase that, may I please see Shania?" asked the young boy who was now intimidated by Shania's over protective sister who was folding her hands and watching him like a hawk. "You want to see her in connection with what? Are you her boyfriend?" she interrogated him, "no miss I don't know who you think I am but I'm just her classmate and I would really appreciate it if you would just let me see her", Tyler was now irritated and running out of patience.

Finally she let him in and went to call Shania. "There is a boy waiting for you in our living room and he's determined to see you", Tiara notified her with a smug smile on her face, "really! I wonder who that is." Shania looked at her sister and noticed the suspicious look on her face. "Please don't tell me you think he's my boyfriend, you know how I feel about boys", "Shania I did not say a word", "your mouth didn't but the look on your face sure did, let me go see who my visitor is". "Tyler!" exclaimed Shania in great surprise as she entered the living room.

Tyler was a boy from her class, she had now been learning with for two weeks and they had never exchanged words before and so she was surprised to see him, he was the last person she expected to see in her home. "Hi, how are you? What do I owe this visit? I'm surprised to see you here". He stood up and handed her the box of chocolates, "here I bought these for you I hope you like them", "thank you and do you know of any girl who doesn't like chocolates?" Shania still had a puzzled look on her face she was still wondering what Tyler wanted from her.

Tyler noticed the puzzled look on her face and decided to cut to the chase. "I know we have never talked to each other before and you are probably wondering why I'm here, well I came to ask you if we can be friends. I know friendship is not usually requested but I'm new in this town and I will need all the friends I can get and I think you are a nice person I would love to have you as my friend that's if you are

interested, do you think we can give it a try?" he proposed. "I'm honored to have you here asking me to be your friend; yeah I think we can give it a try but if I may ask how did you know I live here?" she couldn't help blushing. "Uh hmm I'm sorry to say I followed you here after school, I had no other option, I bet you know it's kind of hard to talk to you at school especially when your friends are all over you that's why I found it better to come talk to you alone".

"Oh! Okay but that's kind of scary, I mean the idea of being followed and not knowing it, you could have seen me doing something you weren't supposed to see, like kissing a married man, I'm just kidding well since it was a harmless track down your apology is accepted but one more thing, I want to make it clear to you that we can never be anything more than friends". "That's fine with me after all I only asked for friendship nothing more and nothing less I must go now, I will see you at school," he paused to look at her and then continued, "my friend", he addressed as he walked away.

Tiara and Shania went to check on their mother, it was getting late and their father was nowhere to be seen and their mother was now frantic with worry. "Mom don't worry yourself I'm sure dad is on his way", stated Tiara, "yes and maybe he's just a minute away", added Shania. Mrs. Daniels smiled at her two daughters.

"I'm going to wait for him in the living room and when he gets home I will be the first person

he sees", responded Mrs. Daniels. The girls left their mother and went to chat in Shania's bedroom. Shania grinned as she opened the box of chocolates Tyler gave to her. "Do you mind sharing those with me?" asked Tiara, "yes of course, why don't you tell Dylan to buy you some? Just kidding, you can have some", "I can see that mom is really worried about dad but I'm sure he will be here soon", hoped Tiara as she melted a piece of chocolate in her mouth.

"I hope you are right because he was supposed to be here in the afternoon, I miss him and Elton too, it's been long since he last called," "enough about dad and Elton, hmm, yummy, these chocolates are really, really delicious and expensive too they must have cost him a fortune I guess you mean a lot to him, so tell me what was he here for?" she curiously asked, "he came to ask me to be his friend and that makes total sense because he's new in this town he moved here about two weeks ago and he has no friends", "and he asked you of all people because....?" "You are asking the wrong person how the hell am I supposed to know? Maybe it's because I'm one of the most friendly people at school", she guessed. "And let's not forget beautiful, sweet, funny, attractive and intelligent, what I'm trying to say is he will want to be more than just friends as time goes by and you can trust me on this one", warned Tiara. "No he won't, I made it clear to him that we can never be more than friends

besides I don't think I will want to be in a relationship right now not after what Jeffrey did to me", "oh come on, not all boys are stupid like Jeffrey not to know a good thing when they see one, my opinion is Tyler looks like a sweet boy, he looks like that kind of a guy who is devoted, faithful, honest, loving and respectful, once you are with him Jeff will be jealous and regret ever ditching you".

"And what good will that do? It certainly won't undo the hurt that Jeff caused me and frankly I don't care what you think of Tyler do I need to remind you that Jeff was all those things before he changed into a cruel, heartless person. He found me steady on the ground and made me reach the sky with his pretence love and then left me hanging in the sky and I fell to the ground and shattered into a million pieces and I'm still in pieces, I'm still hurting so it really doesn't matter how a man is when you first meet because he changes". "Okay you got a point there but still you can't deny that you like Tyler, it's written all over your face".

"Of course I do like the guy, who wouldn't? His got the looks, money, style, great personality he just has it all but that doesn't change how I feel about boys, sometimes I think good men only exist in movies and novels", murmured Shania.

"I know what you mean, I so long for the kind of man who will be interested to know every tiny detail there is to know about me, what I like and what I don't the kind of music and movies I like, someone who will never forget my birthday who will make me his number one priority, call me to say good morning the minute he wakes up, ask me how my night was and wish me a wonderful day, a man who will check up on me during the day to find out how I'm doing and how my day is going or just to say I missed your voice or I love you, who will take me out and spoil me rotten. A man I can share anything with and have fun with. A man who is not always too busy for me", wished Tiara with dreamy eyes. "I also want a man who knows how to cheer me up when I'm sad, who is always there to listen to my worries and insecurities and make them go away, who will buy me little gifts to remember him by. A man who is interested to know what my dreams are all about one who knows just how to make me feel loved, special and important all the time. A man who will not only tell me he loves me but actually proves it by the way he treats me. A man who is understanding and patient, who will give me all the attention I need so I don't feel lonely or neglected, someone humble and down to earth not some proud self-conceited ego maniac man. Tia is that too much to ask for seriously?" asked Shania.

"Hell yes only an angel can be that kind of a man and honey let's stop dreaming cause only devils walk this earth the same kind of devils who will chase after you then break your heart into a million pieces and not give a damn that you are hurting because of them, the same devils who will treat you like a queen for one minute and then treat you like you yesterday's garbage the next day", she roared. "Oh my

gosh Tia that's awful you have demoralized my every hope of finding a good man", cried Shania.

"I was just joking Nia there are good men out there men like dad and Elton. The thing is only a few men know how to show and express love to a woman all they know is saying the words, I think they don't even have a clue what we expect from them. I'm just glad I'm not a man because too much is expected of them", Tiara snickered.

"Okay enough about men I doubt the kind we just described exist anyway that's why I'm giving dating a break I'm tired of getting my heart broken all over again", "What are you talking about Nia you only got your heart broken once by Jeff unless there are ten other guys you didn't tell me about? She asked raising her eyebrows. "Of course not I guess Jeff broke my heart so bad it felt like ten guys tramping on it can we not dwell on this touchy subject please. I think we should go prepare dinner now, I'm sure mom is starved by now", Shania hollered as she left to the kitchen. After supper Tiara washed the dishes and cleared up the mess in the kitchen and time flew by, their dad was still nowhere to be seen and their mother was now more worried about her husband. "What could have gone wrong? Where is he?" worried Mrs. Daniels, "I'm sure it's no big deal mom, maybe he was delayed by something and he will get home a bit late", Tiara tried to get her worried mother to stay calm.

"I have an idea, let's watch another movie and by the time it ends dad will be back", suggested Shania, "No! No! You girls go sleep, you worked really hard today, I will wait for your father here in the living room and when he gets home he will take me to bed with him". Mrs. Daniels slept in the living room with the hope that she would wake up next to her husband but unfortunately he never came home that night.

CHAPTER 2

It wasn't long before morning came, Tiara was the first to jump out of bed, and she went to her mother's room to check if her father came home, she was surprised to learn nobody slept there. She quickly climbed down stairs to the living room and found her mother sleeping on the couch and she woke her up, "mom why did you sleep here, dad didn't come did he?" "No he didn't, I thought he would come and take me to bed with him. I thought I would wake up next to him". "Well I'm sure there is an explanation for all this. I can see you hardly slept so please go upstairs and take a nap", she implored.

Mrs. Daniels didn't hesitate she went to sleep she needed it. Shania climbed down to the living room where her sister sat looking worried, "did dad come?" she asked, "I'm afraid he didn't but don't worry I'm sure he will definitely come today", "do you think he was involved in an accident or something like that? He hasn't even called", worried Shania. "No! Nia please don't think like that, just know that he will be home today", hoped Tiara as she tried to stay positive not allowing any negative thoughts to creep in.

Suddenly the phone rang, "well that must be dad", thought Tiara. Shania quickly answered the phone, she looked at her sister with disappointment but later smiled, "it's Elton". "Elton what's wrong with you, why did you go quiet on us for so long? We have been missing you a great deal", complained Shania. "I'm sorry Nia it's just that I've been busy lately but how is everyone at home?" "We are all fine but we don't know about dad he was supposed to arrive home yesterday but he didn't we just hope he will show up today". "I'm sure he will, how is Tia is she married now or she is still mommy's little girl?" Teased Elton "put her on the phone", he demanded.

"Tia, Elton wants to talk to you", screamed Shania as she placed down the receiver, Tiara quickly picked it up. "Elton my dear brother I miss you so much how are you?" Tiara was happy to hear her brother's voice again. "I'm fine Tia, I miss you all and how is mom?" "She is fine but she is worried sick about dad, do you want me to call her so you can talk to her?" "I would love to talk to her but I'm afraid I'm out of time. I have to go but please send my greetings to her and dad", said Elton before hanging up.

It was on a Sunday the day the whole family went out for lunch at Macdonald's but would they have to go without their dad since he was nowhere to be seen? A few hours later the door bell rang and no one was interested in finding out who was at the door. Shania thought it was Tyler, she blissfully went to open the door and she was happy to see who was standing in front of her, "who is it?" asked Tiara curiously. "Daddy!" screamed Shania as she threw herself in his arms as if she were a little girl. "You've got no idea how happy I am to see you. I thought something bad had happened to you I'm glad you are alright".

Hearing the word daddy Tiara rose from her seat and ran to the door and yes indeed it was her father Mr. Jack Daniels who was looking classy in his expensive suit, "dad", she screamed as she threw herself in his wide open arms. "I missed you dad it's good to have you back home and mom was worried sick about you".

"Oh! My poor Roselyn where is she?" he asked, "She is sleeping upstairs, why didn't you tell us that you were coming today? You had us all worried because we were expecting you yesterday", croaked Shania who was not happy their dad had

them all worried sick. "I'm sorry for worrying you Nia my princess, I missed the plane yesterday and I completely forgot to call", he explained making his way to his room to see his wife Roselyn Daniels. He gently opened the door and sneaked into bed where she slept; he gave her a peck on the cheek and whispered "My beautiful wife". Mrs. Daniels thought she was dreaming and smiled with her eyes still closed, he then kissed her on the lips and she knew right then that she was not dreaming her husband was really there.

She immediately woke up and threw her arms around her husband and kissed him. "I missed you", she whispered. "I'm sorry I had you worried, I missed the plane and I missed you too", "I know you did", she smiled back and got out of bed. They embraced and kissed passionately. It felt good to have her husband back in her arms, missing him made her love and appreciate him even more.

He switched on the radio in their room and held out his hand to his wife as he asked, "would you care to dance Mrs. Daniels?" She looked at him with a big smile and then she placed her hand on top of his and replied, "I would love to Mr. Daniels". He held her close to him as she wrapped her arms around his neck as they danced staring into each other's eyes.

These two got married twenty years ago but they were still crazy in love like newlyweds. Jack Daniels was fifty years old, four years older than his wife but he still looked young and strong, he was romantic, charming, sweet, caring and loving. He sincerely loved his wife and he was faithful and devoted to her. He always showered her with presents and never for a day forgot her birthday or their anniversary. Mrs. Daniels was beautiful in every way that's one of the reasons which kept her husband glued to her. The girls where in the living room watching television, they knew what was taking place in their parent's room and didn't want to disturb their re-bonding moment.

The door bell rang Tiara opened the door and in came Lily with a proposal for Shania. "Let's go to the musical concert I promise you it will be fun", requested Lily with a bright smile on her face hoping Shania would say yes. "I'm sorry I can't, not today, have you forgotten its Sunday? We are going out for lunch today but you can join us if you want I'm sure no one will mind". Lily was the only child at home, she had no siblings and she felt lonely most of the times, she only lived with her mother who was not very good in entertaining her. Lily never knew her father because her mother Miss Peterson hid the truth from her; she wanted to spare her the pain that came along with the truth. Miss Peterson was raped when she was just a teenager by a well known criminal, the rapist impregnated her and that's how Lily was brought about. The rapist was sentenced to life in prison and he later committed suicide.

Having encountered such a terrible thing Miss Peterson vowed to have no man in her life and so as to keep that vow she became a nun at a catholic church. She dearly loved Lily even though looking at her sometimes reminded her of the horrible thing that happened to her since Lily had a few of her father's features. "Oh! I completely forgot its Sunday but don't worry I will call Danny and see what to do enjoy your lunch", Lily walked away. "You know I don't really know if I should envy Lily or pity her, being the only child at home can be fun, you will get spoiled and get your parents undivided attention but on the other hand you will be so lonely with no sister or brother to share things with, a sister or a brother who will always have your back", mused Shania.

"Well I guess you are lucky to have me and Elton so count your blessings", winked Tiara. "I know and I'm not only grateful to have a brother and a sister I'm also grateful to have both my parents". Eventually their parents came to the living room with smiles on their faces, "mom and dad it's about time, Elton called a few hours ago he said he's doing fine and we should pass his greetings to you, are we still going out for lunch today or you want to rest?" asked Shania, "of course we are going I will rest later, you better get ready and oh! Before I forget wait here I'm going upstairs to get the gifts I bought you, surely you didn't think I would come all the way from overseas without any gifts for my three favorite girls", he grinned and dashed upstairs.

He came back holding three neatly wrapped boxes, one box was bigger than the rest and it was obvious to the girls that it was for their mother, after handing them the gifts they gleefully opened them with smiles on their faces, inside were necklaces along with matching earrings. "Oh thank you dad you are the best", chorused the girls with grateful hearts as they embraced their beloved father. Mrs. Daniels kissed her husband, "you know I can never thank you enough", "oh! Yes you can", he kissed her back, "please! Get a room you guys", cried the girls and they all laughed. It felt good to have their father back home.

They arrived at McDonald's their favorite place. It was sunny outside and a pleasant day to spend outdoors, "and what will you eat girls?" asked Keith the waiter who now knew them very well since they came to McDonald's every weekend. Keith was a good looking, kind and humble man. He was a good waiter who loved his job and did his work with a friendly smile on his face and he was kind to all his customers. He was pursuing a degree in accounting while working part time as waiter. Tiara's parents adored him and wished he would be the man their daughter married. Tiara used to have a crush on him but she got over it since he never seemed to notice her.

He had an attractive smile and was well built. "We will have the usual, chips, burgers and orange juice", replied Tiara blushing as she remembered that she once

had a crush on Keith. He served them exactly what they wanted and then went away. "Keith is a very nice man, he would make a good son in law and a perfect husband for Tiara", blurted Mr. Daniels.

"Oh My God Dad please that's ridiculous", laughed Tiara as she sipped her juice. "Why? Don't you like him? You would be crazy if you said so". "I didn't say I don't like him, of course I do he's good looking and all but you just can't play match maker. I'm perfectly capable of finding a man on my own and I think I've already found one, well not really but I'm getting there. His name is Dylan Smith I work with him at Carlito's, you will like him dad, I know you will", she informed.

Mr. Daniels looked at his wife with a puzzled expression on his face and then he looked back at his daughter and smiled. "Well it seems like I missed out on a lot of things huh? What about you Shania, any news for me?" "No dad I don't", she replied focusing on her meal.

"What about that box of chocolates you got yesterday isn't that something?" mumbled Tiara with her eyes popped out staring at Shania. "Hmm box of chocolates huh?" repeated Mr. Daniels. "Really dad there is nothing to tell, you know I would tell you if there was, now can I please finish eating my food". "Dad I really want you to meet Dylan, I just know that you will like him. Elton would too and I know mom likes him although she won't admit it". Mr. Daniels looked at his wife, "yes Roselyn tell me, do you like this Dylan and why have you been quiet all this long?" "I can't really say but he looks like a fine young man and he's good looking too. I must say my daughters are just like me they have taste when it comes to men", she simpered.

"Oh I know you've got good taste, you proved it when you chose to marry me", he bragged. "That's not true Jack I married you because I had pity on you, if I hadn't no one was going to, oh! This kind heart of mine", teased Mrs. Daniels. "Now that's not funny at all", grumbled Mr. Daniels. "Oh come on you know I was just joking Jack, I married you because you are handsome, romantic, sweet, loving, charming, caring, kind, oh the list is endless", she kissed her husband on his forehead and Mr. Daniels couldn't stop smiling, he stared at his wife with eyes full of desire. "Okay, my three beautiful girls it's time to head back home now and you two young ladies don't forget there is school tomorrow", stated Mr. Daniels.

Both the girl's faces glowed at the mention of the name school. Oh school where I will see Tyler again but he's just my friend I shouldn't fuss about him, thought Shania. Oh yeah school, thought Tiara, she could not wait to tell her friends about her date with Dylan and after school she would rush to see Dylan at Carlito's. As soon as they got home Shania made a suggestion, "mom and dad since we are home early and it will be hours before we prepare dinner how about we visit Lily

and Miss Peterson? I'm sure they will really appreciate some company". "That's really sweet and thoughtful of you Nia but not today, perhaps some other time your father needs to rest now, you know he had a long tiring trip back home", objected Mrs. Daniels.

"No its okay we can go I will rest later, I'm sure it won't take much of our time to visit Miss Peterson and you know we haven't visited her for a very long time", agreed the man of the house. "Oh! Great Lily will be so happy to see us and Miss Peterson of course", exclaimed Shania. The whole family left to their neighbor's house. Shania gleefully rang the door bell and Lily quickly opened the door to let them in, she was happy to see the whole of Daniels family on her doorstep. "What a surprise the whole family is here. Mr. Daniels I hope you had a wonderful trip back home", Lily led them into the living room. "I had a wonderful trip thanks for asking Lily, is your mother home?" asked Mr. Daniels.

Lily dashed upstairs to fetch her mother. "I wish we had brought something for Miss Peterson, it doesn't feel right to come empty handed", whispered Mrs. Daniels, "you worry a lot my dear, we will do that next time", replied Mr. Daniels as he gently fondled his wife. Miss Peterson came in and was happy to see the entire Daniels family in her house. "Mr. and Mrs. Daniels, Tiara and Shania, how are you all? I'm so happy to see you", she crowed. "We are all good, I hope you are well too", responded Mrs. Daniels. "I can't complain. Lily can you please make tea for our visitors and bring the cookies", ordered Miss Peterson. "Oh please don't worry yourself there is no more room for food in our stomachs we just had lunch", declined Mrs. Daniels

While the adults talked, Tiara just sat and listened and Shania followed Lily to her room. "Lily I have news to tell you. Tyler came to my house yesterday and brought me chocolates. He asked me to be his friend", informed Shania.

"Oh really that's so not like Tyler, who would have guessed, he's just so quiet in class and I hear quiet guys are the most deadly so where is my share of the chocolates?" "He bought them for me and me alone and not all quiet guys are deadly", Shania sounded defensive to Lily's surprise, "oh my! You, Shania Daniels defending a boy, I thought I would never see the day", "oh please Lily I'm not defending anyone, I only defend the accused and I don't recall Tyler being accused of anything".

"Okay then what did you say to him?" "I told him we can only be friends; just because I don't want to date again doesn't mean I can't have friends who are boys". "Oh my word you said that to him? I'm sure he forgot to tell you to get over yourself and obviously friendship with him will lead to another thing he will ask for more than friendship sooner or later and when he does what will you do then Shania?" "I will

end the friendship, you know how I feel about boys and dating, have you forgotten so soon what Jeffrey did to me? He broke my heart into a billion pieces when he dumped me like garbage for another girl?”

“No! I haven’t forgotten but Tyler isn’t Jeffrey and not all guys are stupid like Jeff who left you the car and chased after bicycles anyway you are just fooling yourself, I know you won’t say no to Tyler, no girl in her right mind would, that guy has it all, if he had come to me I would have left Danny for him”.

“You don’t mean that, you are crazy about Danny, I know you would never leave him or trade him for a billion dollars”. “Yeah you are right I guess I was over exaggerating but back to Tyler, he’s going to ask you to be his girlfriend trust me and I hope when that day comes you will think really hard before you give him an answer, who knows he might be your Mr. right and if you say no to him you will spend the rest of your life wondering what would have happened if you had said yes. I know you like him you are just trying to be funny, you do like him don’t you?”

“Yes! I like him but the way you are just going on and on about him, gosh I wish I hadn’t told you about him in the first place but since you are my best friend I guess I had no choice, now can we please, please drop the subject about him, how is Danny?” asked Shania trying to change the subject.

“Oh and one more thing, don’t be too quick to judge you must give Tyler a chance and Danny, he’s okay. I was with him today, he was really mad at me for accusing you of flirting with him. I blame myself for that; I can’t believe I was that stupid to believe that stupid girl over my own best friend. I should have known better, I’m so sorry Shania I almost ruined our friendship. I don’t even know why I actually believed you would do something like that, I hate myself for that maybe it’s because you and Danny have always been very close but still that’s no excuse I know you and him have been friends long before I came along. I should have never ever doubted you; best friends should trust each other. I know you trust me completely; I don’t know why I ever doubted you, what kind of a friend am I? I’m very so....” She yakked nonstop until Shania stopped her.

“Lily I thought we had put that behind us, you are not a bad friend, you are my best friend and I love you, everyone makes mistakes so don’t be too hard on yourself now please let’s forget that ever happened”. Before Lily could say a word Tiara entered, “Shania we are going back home, are you coming with us or you are staying behind?” “I’m right behind you”, replied Shania, she turned around to face Lily and waved goodbye.

CHAPTER 3

The Daniels got home late; they had stayed at Miss Peterson's house longer than they had planned. "I think it's about time we prepared dinner, mom what must we cook?" asked Tiara, "don't worry about dinner my princess, I will take care of it", replied Mrs. Daniels. "But mom you have to rest, you hardly slept yesterday", "I will rest later you will cook tomorrow, today I want to cook for my husband. I haven't done that for a week and I'm sure he misses my cooking. I will cook his favorite meal", "and what would that be, macaroni and cheese?" guessed Shania, "yes, you guessed right", replied Mrs. Daniels.

"Oh! Come on you guys, who doesn't know that macaroni and cheese is dad's favorite even the ants and cockroaches around here know it too", teased Tiara causing everyone to burst into laughter. After supper Shania cleared the table and started washing the dishes. "Why don't you help Shania with the dishes?" asked Mrs. Daniels, "what! She doesn't need my help after all these past days I've been cleaning the house and washing dishes on my own. I think I deserve a break or maybe it's high time we got a maid to help out", murmured Tiara folding her hands and not willing to budge.

"We are doing no such thing there will be no maid in my house not as long as I'm alive", shrugged Mrs. Daniels. She had a thing against maids, Tiara always thought it was because she was afraid a maid would snatch her husband from her since Mrs. Daniels mother lost her husband to her maid and she died a lonely woman. If only she knew how crazy Mr. Daniels was about her then she wasn't going to feel threatened by any other woman living under the same roof with them especially a maid because her husband only had an eye for women with class and a well respected profession.

"Okay Miss Roselyn but in my house I'm definitely getting a maid", Tiara uttered as she gave her mother a goodnight kiss. "Sleeping so early?" asked Mr. Daniels as he received his goodnight kiss from Tiara, "dad it's not that early it's after eight, besides you are the one who said we should not forget there is school tomorrow so I'm off to bed now". When Shania was done with the dishes she went to bed as well leaving her parents alone in the living room.

"Whew! Alone at last", sighed Mr. Daniels as he gently put his hands around his wife's shoulders, "so what do you have in mind Jack? I hope nothing crazy". "Well what would you want to do Roselyn? I'm all yours", "hmm I've got one thing in mind and that's sleeping because I'm now exhausted", "What! Sleeping! You must be kidding me how can you even think of sleeping and dreaming when you have a husband who has been missing you for a week now? Please tell me you are not that inconsiderate, hmm! Remind me why I married you", he grinned as he leaned over to kiss his wife and when he started caressing her she pushed him away. "Jack are you crazy, we can't, not here", "And why not?" "Do I have to spell it out for

you? The kids might walk in on us and that would be embarrassing and unbearable for both us and the kids”.

“No they won’t, trust me they are probably in dreamland as we speak, come on sweetheart I don’t have the time or the energy to go all the way upstairs let’s just put the floor into use, hmm”, he winked at her with a naughty smile before he continued kissing her arousing her with desire. She did not have the strength or power to resist her charming husband she gave in to his wish and they made passionate love in the living room.

Morning came, Tiara woke up at the crack of dawn as usual and after eating her breakfast she drove to school, she was lucky she had a car to drive to school unlike her young sister who had to catch a bus to school but she didn’t mind at all she enjoyed riding the bus it gave her time to chat with Lily and her school mates before classes began but sometimes Tiara drove her to school.

The lessons were taking too long to end for Tiara, she was bursting to talk to her friends and tell them all about her date with Dylan and she couldn’t wait to see him again. At last the school bell rang meaning it was time to dismiss. Maya approached Tiara with a question for her, “how come you never told me about Dylan? I guess I’m always the last to hear something’s and I have to make peace with that”, “It’s not like that Maya, I just forgot to tell you it’s no big deal I was going to tell you today. Dylan took me out for a movie on Saturday, that’s all, I’ve told you. I hope you are happy now”.

Karin approached them before Maya could reply Tiara. “And what are you guys mumbling about?” asked Karin, “oh! Nothing at all”, replied Maya, “so tell us how your date with Dylan Smith went?” Karin eagerly requested. “I thought you would never ask, well the movie was boring but it was nice sitting next to him for two hours, his cologne smelled so nice and the girls who saw me with him were so jealous I know I would have been too if it were another girl with him”. “So did you guys kiss?” questioned Maya.

“Of course not what do you take me for? I’m not easy access, he just gave me a peck on the cheek and I tell you he has the smoothest, softest lips and I like a man who takes things slow, step by step, you know a real man would never rush a woman into anything and Dylan is that kind of man”, Tiara praised him. “Wow! It seems like Dylan found himself a big fan anyway I’ve to get going that science teacher Mr. Bennet gave me lots of home work to do, he can be a pain in the neck sometimes”, cried Karin. “I think you two like each other that’s why he’s giving you loads of home work so that you can spend more time together in his office”, Maya insinuated, “you are right Maya I’ve seen the way Mr. Bennet looks at Karin, with eyes burning with desire”, concurred Tiara. “You guys are nuts you are seeing

things that aren't even there and even if he does like me I wouldn't go out with him I'm not that kind of a girl who dates her teachers".

"Whatever but you guys would look perfect together, Mr. Bennet is good looking he only needs a new wardrobe", teased Maya, "okay since you won't drop the subject I might as well leave while I'm still in a good mood, see you later guys", Karin waved goodbye to her friends. After a while Maya went home as well and Tiara couldn't go home even if she wanted to, she had to go to work besides that she was dying to see Dylan again for the first time after their date or was it a date? She would wonder. She drove to Carlito's restaurant which was a very small place but very busy, it was where most rich people and foreigners dined. It was the beauty of the place, the food and their good customer service which attracted the customers.

The restaurant was always packed and there was always a lot to do which meant a good salary for Tiara, she used her earnings to spoil herself by buying the most expensive designer clothes and because she worked and saved money she was able to buy herself a car which she used to drive to school.

When she got inside the restaurant her eyes searched for Dylan but they did not find him and the smile she had on her face when she entered slowly disappeared, "maybe something important came up that's why he didn't come to work", she thought. Suddenly she felt a hand rest upon her shoulder and when she turned around she clashed eyes with Dylan and she just couldn't help smiling, "I thought you didn't make it to work today", she stated happy to see him.

"I guess that means you looked for me and didn't find me", assumed Dylan smiling back at her, "not at all I didn't look for you it's just that I expected to see you serving customers like I always do when I come in so when I didn't see you I assumed you didn't come", she lied embarrassed to admit that she did look for him. "You know when we went out for that movie we never really got the time to chat and get to know each other, we hardly know each other and that's not right for people who have been working together for a very long time", he muttered. "Well that's because you didn't want to talk to me until the day you asked me for a lift", complained Tiara.

"It's not like that, I'm a very shy man and I was still trying to figure out how to approach you, tell me are you by any chance single?" She thought he would never ask. "Yes I am, is that a good or a bad thing?" she asked staring into his eyes. "Well for you to be single, that's a bad thing but right now it's a very good thing because I'm single too but who would have thought such a beautiful lady like you would be single? I guess this is God's way of saving the best for me", he riposted.

"Please don't make me laugh Dylan, beauty doesn't buy you love or give you the kind of man you want, a man who suits your standards, a man with not only a pretty

face but with a pretty personality and character that is kind of hard to find that's why there are single ladies out there. Even if he's handsome and rich as long as his personality, character and the way he treats a lady isn't right then he mustn't be surprised when he finds himself single. That's the problem with men they think they know what we want when they really don't have a clue', grunted Tiara.

"And what is it that you women want?" questioned Dylan. "Well I guess it depends, if it's a woman who still wants to play games she would date a rich famous handsome guy even though his got a sick character she would hold on for the money but a woman who wants to settle down would want a man with a life, a career, class, dreams a man who is responsible. A man who is dedicated and faithful who shows her love, appreciation and treats her with respect and shows her he really values her. I personally don't want to date rich or disturbingly handsome men most of them think their beauty and wealth is everything and end up ill treating women and taking them for granted and they are usually controlling and self centered", she uttered.

"Wow! You've got your way with words I like how you can easily find the right words to express yourself so since we are both single how about we go out for that dinner we once visualised, this Saturday?" "Sure, why not, it will give us time to get to know each other, dinner will be perfect". When she got home from work she was exhausted she went straight to bed, everyone in the house was busy and they had no time to cook. Mrs. Daniels ordered some takeaways for dinner. Days flew by like never before and before Tiara knew it Saturday was around the corner.

On Saturday everyone was relaxing at home with no plans at all and they were all bored until in the evening when Shania made a suggestion, "let's all go out for dinner, I'm not in the mood for cooking today besides it's been long since we went out for dinner its always lunch that we go out for", "no problem princess, we will go and I will pick the restaurant as the queen of the house", boasted Mrs. Daniels. "Okay then hurry and go freshen up and we go", ordered the man of the house. "I'm afraid I can't join you, I completely forgot to tell you that I've got a date with Dylan he's picking me up in thirty minutes time that would be six pm, dad you will finally meet him", beamed Tiara.

She ran to the bathroom took a shower and dressed up, she wore a beautiful dress which fit her like a glove, she styled her hair and put on her expensive jewellery by the way she looked you would think she was out to seduce a man and any man to be seen holding her hand was bound to be envied, she was more than the word beauty could describe.

The door bell rang just in time she grabbed her coat and purse. Her father opened the door for Dylan, "oh hello! How may I help you young man?" "Good evening sir,

I'm Dylan Smith and I'm here for Tiara", he stated with confidence. Dylan was looking handsome in his expensive suit which blended well with his tie. Seeing that the man who was waiting for his daughter was indeed a good looking man Mr. Daniels introduced himself after scrutinizing him.

"I'm Mr. Daniels the proud father of Tiara; I'm pleased to meet you my daughter couldn't wait for me to meet you now I can see why. I must say you are much better than my dream son in law Keith". Tiara approached the two men and they were both stunned by her beauty, "my dear daughter you've grown so big you look just like your mother you must thank her for passing on her beauty to you", "ooh thank you dad I will be going now", she replied holding Dylan's hand. "Not so fast Dylan! I want my daughter back home at exactly nine pm", demanded Mr. Daniels, "no problem Mr. Daniels", concurred Dylan as he closed the door behind him.

A silver fancy car parked in front of Tiara's house, "is that our ride?" she asked in great surprise, "yes it's my friend's car I borrowed it. I wanted tonight to be special, I know you don't like traveling in taxi's", "well yes but you didn't have to go through all that trouble," "it was no trouble at all not when it's for you, have I told you how beautiful you are today? Not just today you are beautiful always", "well thanks and you are not looking bad yourself", blushed Tiara. "Who is Keith?" asked Dylan, "Oh my Gosh! Please don't tell me my dad said something to you about Keith", "well he did, he said I'm better looking than his dream son in law, Keith. I assume he's your ex boyfriend", "no! Not at all he's just some guy my dad likes and wished I would date him that's all he is not my ex".

After a few minutes of driving they reached the restaurant, as soon as they got in Dylan pulled out a chair for her to sit being a perfect gentleman. The waiter came and took their orders and returned to serve them their meal. "This is a nice place better than Carlito's", complimented Tiara, "yes it is but let's talk about us sorry I mean you and me tell me what's there to know about Miss Tia?" he asked as he dipped a fork into his steak. "Hmm okay let's see, well Tia is just a simple girl she dreams of being a lawyer some day, she likes dancing, music and singing", "wow! Nice let me tell you about Dylan, he is just a quiet man who lives alone in Sizzle apartment. He is studying medicine because he wants to be a doctor one day", he stated.

"My brother is studying medicine too he also wants to be a doctor", she informed. "Do you think Tia knows that Dylan likes her?" he asked, "I think she does she would be blind if she didn't realize it", she chortled. They talked for about an hour and when they got fed up of talking Dylan asked Tia to dance with him and she blissfully agreed. He curved his hands around her waist and she wrapped her hands around his neck and later leaned her head against his chest. They danced beautifully together like a match made in heaven as they stared into each other's

eyes, Tiara was glowing with happiness she felt like she was having a sweet dream she didn't want to wake up from.

They shared a passionate kiss and Tia wished she could spend the whole night in his arms but unfortunately there was no more time for that Dylan had to take her back home before nine pm like her dad demanded. He took her home and kissed her goodnight and indeed she had one, a goodnight full of sweet dreams. The next three months were like heaven for Tiara, she fell deep in love with Dylan and they became inseparable. They became the most adored couple they looked so perfect together.

Tiara adored Dylan, he meant the world to her and everything was perfect between them until one day when Dylan didn't show up for work. Tiara got worried about him because he had not called her to tell her he wasn't coming to work, she tried calling him but she could not get through his phone, she decided to go to his place to look for him. She had never been to Dylan's house before, he had told her that his landlord was unreasonable and didn't allow him to have visitors. Tiara rang the door bell twice and no one came to open the door, when she was about to walk away a young woman of her age opened the door, "who are you and what do you want?" the girl rudely asked. "I'm Tiara is this where Dylan lives?" "Yes, what do you want from Dylan, who are you?" "Well in that case I should be asking you the same question, what are you doing in my boyfriend's apartment."

"Excuse me, your boyfriend? Listen here young lady I don't have time for playing games I live here and I'm the mother of Dylan's son. Do you see that baby sleeping on the couch? That's Dylan junior our son", she pointed at the sleeping baby. Tiara hadn't noticed the baby until the young lady pointed in his direction, she was flustered for a while she thought the girl was just trying to mess with her head. "You almost fooled me that was a silly joke and it's not funny at all Dylan is not a father", argued Tia. "Do you think I have time to joke with you? Come inside I will call Dylan for you maybe he can tell you the difference between a joke and the truth. He isn't feeling well today but I will have to wake him up for you, just a minute I will be right back", she said as she went into the bedroom to call Dylan.

Tiara was now puzzled and in fear of the truth being ugly she kept on staring at the baby to see if it looked like Dylan but it was hard to decide. After a short while the girl came back, "he thinks I'm joking he doesn't believe you are here. My name is Amanda and I guess he never told you about me what a shame".

Tiara now smelled trouble, she started calling out for Dylan and she was afraid of Dylan confirming Amanda's story, she didn't know what to think anymore but she had to hear Dylan's side of the story, she knew if what Amanda had said was confirmed to be true it would kill her. "Dylan! Will you please come out we need to

talk”, called out Tia. A minute later he came out with eyes full of guilt and it became clear to Tiara that everything Amanda said was true and not a joke.

Dylan knew that the truth was now out in the open and didn’t even try to deny it. “Tia, I’m sorry”, that’s the first thing he said.

Tiara felt weak in the knees and sat down, she couldn’t believe what was happening or understand why the man that had brought so much joy in her life was the same man to cause her such unbearable pain. She ran out of words to say, she didn’t know where to begin or what to say to him all she wanted to do was sink a knife into his cold heart. The three months they had spent together were full of lies and there was no need for an explanation. The truth was out in the open it was obvious to her that Dylan had been playing her and lying to her. “Tia it’s not what it looks like I.....I... can explain everything”, he stammered.

Amanda was quiet, carrying her baby in her arms and she felt pity for Tiara whom she thought looked like a sweet innocent girl and didn’t deserve what was happening to her. “Explain what? Dylan how could you, how could you do this to me, why, and what did I ever do to you to deserve this? How can you be so cold and heartless” she mewled. “Tia please just give me a chance to explain, just five minutes”, he beseeched. “To explain what? You want to feed me with more lies, don’t you think you have told me enough lies already. Is this what you call living alone huh? All the times you said you weren’t allowed to bring visitors you were lying to me and how stupid of me to have not noticed something was up but how could I have known when you pretended to be honest and faithful to me. I trusted you now I don’t even know if you ever did love me, maybe you lied about that too since you are a genius when it comes to lying”.

“Please don’t say that I honestly love you Tia just let me explain. There is nothing going on between me and Amanda it ended a long time ago before I even met you. You see when I broke up with her she found out she was carrying my baby, her parents threw her out and she had nowhere to go and I had to take her in for the sake of my baby that’s why she is living here with me”, “if that’s the truth Dylan then why didn’t you tell me about her and the baby?”

“You have to understand, if I had told you the truth you weren’t going to date me and I couldn’t take that risk. I didn’t even know how to tell you but I was going to tell you when I was ready please try to understand Tia I never planned for any of this to happen. I don’t love her you are the only one I’ve ever loved and I would be lost if you ever left me, you mean the world to me Tiara, I’m sure you know that”.

Tiara was distraught and she battled with her thoughts for a while. Dylan’s story made sense to her, he never planned to impregnate Amanda and he was man enough to take her in for the sake of his baby and he didn’t tell her the truth

because he was afraid of ruining their relationship. Amanda is not a threat because he doesn't love her, he loves me and me alone", thought Tiara.

Just when Tia was about to tell Dylan that she understands, Amanda who had been quiet all along stood up, clapped her hands and then shouted, "Bravo! A round of applause for you Dylan Smith because you are such a good liar, the gold medal for the best liar definitely goes to you. Now will you please tell the poor girl the truth or I will. Okay Tiara I will tell you myself because I don't think Dylan has the guts to do so", Amanda giped. Tiara looked at Dylan and then back at Amanda, something was definitely wrong and the look on Dylan's face showed he was in fear of what Amanda was about to say.

"The same night Dylan took you out for Dinner if I recall correctly that was three months back Dylan came back home and made love to me in a passionate way he had never before and Dylan let's not forget that a week ago we slept together and oh! I was meaning to tell you that I'm pregnant again! And you have the guts to stand here and say there is nothing going on between us, who are you kidding?" grunted Amanda, she looked at Tiara and then continued, "do you really believe a man and a woman who have a history can live together without anything going on between them? You would be a fool if you did".

"And why don't you just shut up Amanda! Just stay out of this okay because it has absolutely nothing to do with you", retorted Dylan who was angry the whole truth was out. "You must be insane can't you see that this has everything to do with me. Dylan you are the father of both junior and this unborn baby, didn't you hear what I just said? I'm pregnant you idiot and don't look so surprised this is what happens when two people make love without using protection".

"How do I know you haven't been sleeping with other men? That baby you are carrying is not mine", Dylan protested "Oh my God Dylan what do you take me for? I am not a slut I don't sleep around and you know that very well. If you don't believe me then I guess we just have to wait and see, after the baby is born don't be surprised when you see it's a complete duplicate of you", sneered Amanda in disgust. "Oh no! Why is this happening to me? I don't believe this, this is...uh...it just can't be happening somebody please wake me up from this nightmare", Tiara bleated in disbelief.

"Dylan you just can't help lying, can you? To think I almost believed you, you have been sleeping with her for all this time and she is even pregnant and you have the nerve to come to me, kiss me, tell me you love me and pretend all is well when you know you've been screwing around behind my back. I'm surprised you manage to sleep at night, how do you live with yourself? I'm just glad I never slept with you because I would be regretting it right now", sobbed Tiara as she slapped him and

threw fists at him where ever she could, she couldn't stop the tears from rolling down her cheeks. "Tia please listen to me, I was drunk when it happened. I love you just tell me what to do to fix this, I can't be without you I will do anything just name it", he pleaded kneeling down in front of her begging for her forgiveness.

"Get your hands off me, can't you see, we are over and there is nothing, absolutely nothing you can do to fix this mess you have created. Didn't you hear what Amanda just said? she is pregnant with your second child so just go ahead marry her and play happy family because I'm done with you, you disgust me I don't ever want to see your face ever again", Tiara wept as she stormed out of Dylan's house.

She got in her car and drove home in tears; she knew very well that she was going to see Dylan's face again since they worked together and just the thought of that killed her. How was she to work side by side with a man she now despised? When she got home she wiped her tears away, forced a smile on her face and acted like all was well....

CHAPTER 4

After greeting everyone at home Tiara went straight to her room and locked the door and started crying all over again, the pain Dylan had caused her was unbearable. An hour surpassed and she had still not come out of her room, her mother assumed something was wrong and she went to knock on Tiara's bedroom door, "princess what's wrong, are you okay? Please open the door you've locked yourself in there for an hour now", begged her mother.

"I'm okay mom", replied Tiara trying hard to make her voice sound calm, "you sound like you are crying, what's wrong? Open the door and let me in", demanded Mrs. Daniels. "I'm sorry but I can't do that mom, I just need to be alone for a while please just go away", muttered Tiara. Mrs. Daniels gave up and left.

Tiara came out on her own after a couple of minutes when she had pulled herself together; she went to her mother and apologized for being rude. "Mom I'm sorry I was rude to you I didn't mean to disrespect you like that", "don't worry about it Tia it's all forgotten just tell me what's wrong. I'm your mother and I won't stop worrying about you until you tell me what's going on".

Tiara's father was also there listening and wondering what had got his daughter in tears for he hadn't seen her in such tears before. He was waiting impatiently for her to say what was going on. After Tiara told them everything her parents sympathised

with her and felt sorry for their beloved daughter. “I swear on my mother’s grave, I’m going to deal with that bloody idiot he should have known better than to mess with my daughter”, ranted Mr. Daniels as he stood up and grabbed his car keys, ready to go find Dylan and kill him with his bare hands.

“Dad no! You can’t do that please let me handle this, I don’t want you to yell at him or hurt him in anyway just let it go”, implored Tiara who didn’t want her father to embarrass her by confronting Dylan. “What! Are you insane? Look at you, you are crying a river like you’ve never before all because of him and you don’t want me to teach that boy a lesson, oh! No! he deserves what’s coming his way”, “but dad you will only be making things worse than they already are”, “princess listen to me I will only be making sure justice is served that boy deserves to feel the pain in his bones when I punch him. I’m going to teach him a lesson he will never forget and when I’m done with him he will never be able to set his eyes on any girl again, now wont that be a good thing?” he insisted.

Tiara gave up; she couldn’t get through her dad or change his mind about beating the hell out of Dylan, luckily her mother intervened. “Jack! Will you listen to yourself, is that what you want to teach our children to resort to violence? You know that won’t change anything but make matters worse like Tiara said, if you beat that boy and he presses charges against you who will bail you out? Just listen to your daughter this must be her decision and not yours, if she said no! Then she meant just that”, thundered Mrs. Daniels who was now furious with her husband for not respecting their daughter’s wish and just like a any good husband would, Mr. Daniels listened to his wife.

It wasn’t long before Shania got home from school and got wind of what happened between Tiara and Dylan, she felt pity for her sister. “You know what, you were damn right when you said all boys are pigs, I don’t understand why Dylan played me like this. I thought he loved me, foolish of me to have thought he was the man I was going to spend the rest of my life with. I’m done with men they are all the same they are not human beings but vultures I don’t even know why they had to be created. They make you love them with all your heart, give them the best you can and in return they break your heart, they make you fall for them and then they don’t stick around to catch you and then they cheat on you and play around with your emotions. I mean do they even consider that girls have feelings or even know how fragile a girl’s heart is, do they know how emotional pain hurts? You can’t take pain killers or see a doctor to ease it maybe they do know all this but just don’t give a damn since they are animals”, Tiara whimpered she couldn’t stop the tears escaping from her eyes.

“Oh my dear sister I can see that you are really hurt but don’t worry you will get over it time heals all wounds just try not to think about him”. “Huh! Don’t forget I

work with the culprit, I will be seeing him every single day and that will kill me”, “then quit your job you will find a better one”, “hell no! Don’t be silly, I’ve been working at Carlito’s for a very long time now, I love it there and I don’t want any other job. I love my job and I would never quit my job because of Dylan Smith”.

The following day after school Tiara dreaded going to work she wished Dylan would not be there but he was. “Tia I’m so glad you came, I thought you weren’t going to come not after what happened between us”, “don’t call me Tia, don’t call me by any name in fact don’t talk to me at all, so silly of you to think I wouldn’t come to work because of what happened between us, who do you think you are? You are not my boss and I don’t work for you and that is why I came. Did you honestly think I was going to skip work all because of you? I mean who are you? Nothing but a liar, a cheat, dishonest and a heartless man who is definitely not worth my time or job”, she cursed.

She wished she could grab an empty bottle and throw it at him and make him feel the pain she was feeling because of him but she took a deep breath and tried to calm down, she didn’t want to make a scene and lose her job over Dylan or end up being bailed out of jail for hurting him, no she was better than that she was going to settle this with words alone and no violence.

“You can call me whatever you want I guess I deserve it. I actually came here to tell you that I’ve quit my job I’m not going to be working here anymore. I figured being around would only make things harder for you since you made it clear that you don’t want to see my face again”, “are you done talking? I need to start working”, she groused trying by all means to annoy Dylan.

“I just want you to know that I’m really sorry I hurt you that’s the last thing I ever wanted to do, you didn’t deserve that but I’m only human. I’m not an angel or a god I’m not perfect and everyone makes mistakes. I want you to know that I will treasure the times we spent together and I know you won’t believe a word that I say because I’ve lied to you about a lot of things but please believe me when I say I’ve never lied to you about loving you, I honestly do love you Tia, why wouldn’t I, who wouldn’t when you are just so easy to love? You are an adorable woman and everything a man would want in a woman”.

“Oh! Gee, so you love me but you just couldn’t screwing another girl what kind of love is that? Listen Dylan please don’t waste my time with your nonsense just do me a favor and get the hell out of my sight”, bellowed Tiara. “Tiara don’t you know that it is possible for a man to truly love a woman but be weak enough to cheat on her because of his selfish desires? Sometimes you just can’t fight temptations and it’s hard to control your sexual desires and we end up cheating on the people we love but that doesn’t mean we don’t love them it just means we are too weak to

control ourselves”, he explained. “Ah-huh?” doubted Tiara as she raised her eyebrows and crossed her hands against her chest.

“My relationship with Amanda was just about sex and nothing more. Tia if I had asked you to sleep with me, were you going to agree to that? I don’t think so because I know how much chastity means to you and I respect that and I’m not trying to justify myself. I know I screwed up big time but please just don’t say I didn’t love you because that’s a lie you know that I love you. I know deep down you do and it won’t be fair to ask you back but will you please accept my apology and forgive me”, Dylan sincerely begged.

His words brought her pain and her eyes got teary as she wondered what they would have become if he had not cheated on her but she now believed without a doubt that he did love her but that didn’t change anything it couldn’t stop the pain she was going through and she couldn’t forgive him.

“Dylan I love you I still do I can’t just hate you that quickly no matter how hard I try but you played me for a fool and you’ve hurt me so much in a way nobody has. You were supposed to be the one to cheer me up and put a smile on my face, you were supposed to be the man I turned to for comfort and be the one to wipe my tears away but you chose to be the man to hurt me and make me cry instead and you have no idea how much it hurts to be hurt by the one person you love so much. You have to understand how hard this is for me, I wish I could forgive you so as to stop my heart from bleeding but I can’t, I just can’t at least not now because what happened is still fresh in my mind. I need time to heal, a very long time”, she cried.

Dylan held her in his arms and wiped away her tears and whispered to her, “I’m sorry I caused you so much pain Tia, I hate myself for that but I can’t turn back the hands of time. I just hope one day you will forgive me and when you remember me you will think of the good times we spent together and not the pain I caused you, goodbye Tiara”, he set her free from his arms and kissed her with her cheeks cupped in his hands and then he walked away, that was the last time Tiara saw Dylan.

Tears were still dripping from her eyes when her parents walked in the restaurant; she quickly put a smile on her face and wiped off her tears. “Mom and dad what are you doing here, is everything okay?” she asked, “I got a call this morning I have to deal with some business issues in South America today and your mother insisted that I bring her along with me. We couldn’t leave without saying goodbye to you princess, we will be gone for five days”, he informed.

“Are you going to be okay princess? I can stay if you need me,” her mother offered with concern. “Of course I will be fine mom you should go ahead and go with dad I don’t want you to miss out on the fun waiting for you in South America you haven’t

travelled for ages and I know you miss that so don't you worry I'm a big girl now I will be fine with Shania", she assured. They embraced their daughter and left for their journey.

Tiara got home after work it was just her and Shania for five days, they had the house all to themselves, if it were other children they were going to throw a party but they didn't because they were responsible and respected their parents house and did not want to turn it into a club. They went shopping, watched a pile of movies, played games, ordered takeaways and never cooked for a day they both hated cooking since it always created a big mess in the kitchen. Having lots of fun with her young sister helped Tiara to get her mind off Dylan for a while.

"How is Tyler?" asked Tia, "he's okay, Tyler is really sweet and caring he's nothing like Jeffrey and I've grown to like him a lot. I love spending time with him he always makes me laugh". "Well what did I tell you? I'm happy if you are happy Nia", smiled Tiara.

The door bell rang and the two sisters raced to the door, Tia got to the door first and opened it, it was Tyler and he was carrying a box of chocolates again. "I'm starting to think chocolates are the only thing you can think of buying me but I'm not complaining I love them", grinned Shania as she accepted the chocolates from Tyler. "Are you guys alone?" he asked surprised, "yes we have the house all to ourselves," replied Tiara, "our parents are out of the country it's been four days now but they are coming back tomorrow", added Shania. "You are having fun then", he assumed.

A few minutes later Lily and Danny also visited Shania's house. "Let's all go out for lunch", suggested Danny, "yeah that's a great idea we will go out as couples that would be fun, Tiara you can call your boyfriend to come join us", suggested Tyler. Tiara closed her eyes and rested her hand on her forehead as she thought of Dylan who was her boyfriend a week ago and the pain he caused her. "She doesn't have a boyfriend Tyler not every girl does", grouched Shania who didn't want anything to remind her sister of Dylan.

"Oh I'm sorry I didn't know it's not every day you find beautiful single girls but it doesn't matter if she has a date or not she can still join us", apologized Tyler. "You can go without me I really don't feel like going out tonight", declined Tiara, "are you sure?" Shania asked, "Yes I am, I will call Karin to come over just go and have fun with your friends", she insisted. After Shania and her friends left Tiara didn't call Karin to come over like she had said she would, she just wanted to be alone. The following day their parents arrived as expected. "It's so good to be back home", rejoiced Mrs. Daniels, "well I'm just glad the house is in order I guess my girls are really responsible", Mr. Daniels smiled.

Tiara caught up with her friends after school and they had a chat, “you won’t believe what I have to tell you, the science teacher asked me out for lunch, you guys were right after all”, blurted Karin, “didn’t I tell you that Mr. Bennet has an eye for you?” asked Maya. Paying no attention to Maya’s question Karin continued, “Well what should I do?” “I don’t know I guess it depends, do you like him?” Tiara questioned, “honestly I don’t, if I’ve to date him it will only be for his money I hear he’s loaded besides I’m not ready to fall in love with anyone we all know that love is pain”, she replied.

“And when did you become a gold digger? I thought you said you don’t go out with your teachers so what’s there to think about?” cackled Maya, she paused and then continued, “but then again you are right love is pain look at what happened to Tia when she gave her heart to Dylan he tore it into a billion pieces”. This is what Tia didn’t want, to be reminded of Dylan and how he hurt her, she sadly looked at Karin and just kept quiet.

“Look what you have done now, you have upset Tia did you really have to drag Dylan into this conversation?” scolded Karin, “oh me and my big mouth, I’m sorry Tia I don’t know what got into me”, apologized Maya. “It’s okay, I will get over it”, mumbled Tia. As soon as Tiara got home from work she got a call from Karin, “there is a party at Hillary’s place tonight please come along Maya will be there”. “Who is Hillary?” “she is my cousin who lives in Hillside, she asked me to bring my friends along she is dying to meet you”, “ooh I’m sorry Karin but I can’t come not today I just got home from work, I’m really tired I need to rest”, she declined.

“Uh please Tia! You have to come and you know it’s been a long time since we hanged out as friends and I really want you to be there I need my best friend please just do it for me”, “oh Gosh Karin what am I going to do with you? Alright then okay I will come. What time does the party start?” “Six pm till late but you can always leave whenever you want”, “okay then let me go freshen up six o’clock is nearby I will come pick you up as soon as I’m done”, she said.

Tiara rushed to the bathroom and took a quick shower, she put on her black mini-skirt which exposed her thighs, a purple belt on the skirt she then wore a tight fitting black top which shaped her every bone and exposed her cleavage and her flat belly, black was her favorite color. She wore her purple high heels and put on her dangling earrings and carried her Gucci handbag. She was definitely dressed to party and she was looking sexier than ever.

“Mom, Karin begged me to come to her cousin’s party so I’m leaving now I will be back later”, Tia informed her mother. “Wow! You look tempting, very sexy you will have all the boys turning their heads when you walk in”, complimented Shania, “yes you do look sexy but you know that I don’t like you dressing this way it’s a bit

indecent but since you are going to a party I guess I have to accept it but do come back home I don't want you sleeping out", ordered her mother. "Thank you mom you are the best of the best I knew you would understand". "Tiara!" called out Mr. Daniels with a husky loud voice, "yes dad", she answered, "please do all of us a favor by going to change into something decent I will not have you leave my house dressed like a stripper", he sneered.

"But dad that's not fair at all, It's not like I'm going to church I mean hello! I'm going to a party besides I'm grown up now I can wear what I like", protested Tia. "Oh I see well if you think you are now old enough to disrespect and disobey me your own father in my own house then I suggest you move out", he yelled raising his voice scaring the hell out of Tiara. "Okay! Fine! If living in your house means you have to boss me around like I'm a five year old child then I will be more than happy to move out, today! Don't forget I have a job I can afford my own place", she retorted as she stormed out of the house. She couldn't understand what had got into her father but she took the thought out of her mind and went to pick up her friends she wasn't going to let anything stop her from having a good time.

The party was rocking there was plenty to eat and drink, the music was loud and clear and everyone was dressed in their best, she was glad Karin convinced her to come she was having the time of her life. They danced and sang, played games and laughed as they had serious gossip time, she couldn't remember the last time she had so much fun. Tiara left her friends for a while and went to the kitchen to get a glass of water; the glass slipped from her hands fell on the floor and broke into pieces. A young man who was nearby heard the noise caused by the shattering glass and he went to the kitchen to see what was going on.

"Are you okay, did you cut yourself?" he asked concerned, "no I didn't I'm fine but thanks for asking", she replied. He helped her pick up the glass pieces and when they were done they both went quiet for a while just staring at each other. "Eric Roberts", he introduced himself reaching out his hand to Tiara in attempt to break the silence. "Tiara Daniels", she replied. "It's a pleasure meeting you Miss Daniels and I must say you are breath taking, I mean you look gorgeous you are beautiful", he flattered her.

Tiara smiled before she replied him, "thank you my dad says I should thank my mom for my beauty I guess he meant to say I shouldn't take the credit but you look great too, uh hmm excuse me I have to go back to my friends they must be wondering where I am", she left Eric alone in the kitchen.

"And what took you so long? Hillary wants to meet you", Karin dragged her to Hillary's seat. "Oh! Hi! You must be Tiara, Tia my cousin told me a lot about you it's a pleasure to finally meet you, her best friend and thanks for coming to my party it

means a lot to me”, screamed Hillary making sure her voice wasn't drowned by the loud music. After a couple of hours Tiara left the party and headed back home. “Princess you are back, how was the party? I hope you had a good time”, asked her mother, “the party was great I had a lot of fun mom, I’m glad I went it was awesome”. Her father was quietly sitting next to his wife and he did not say a word to his daughter, Tiara feared he was still mad at her because of the quarrel they had earlier and she could not stand not talking to her father.

“Dad I’m sorry about earlier I really didn’t mean a word I said it’s just that I....”, before she could finish what she wanted to say her father stopped her as he stood up and held her in his arms, “Shush! It’s okay princess I know you didn’t mean it, I was in a bad mood and I took it out on you and I guess I over reacted a bit but I can’t help it I’m your father I will only be looking out for you and your dressing was kind of hard to ignore but your mother put some sense in my head I know you dress decently all the time and that was just a onetime party thing, are you still moving out?” he asked. “No! Of course not dad I love being here with you guys and since we are now okay there will be no need for that”, Tiara was relieved.

A month later schools closed, the Daniels went to the airport to pick up Elton who was coming home for the holiday. Tiara was the first to spot him, she ran towards him with a bright smile on her face and she threw herself in his arms, “Elton my brother I missed you so much I can’t believe you are finally here”. The rest of the family came and embraced him as they welcomed him. They went home and cooked a delicious meal for him, he was an epicure. Elton was more close to Tiara than he was with Shania, she accepted the fact because she understood that there was once a time when only Elton and Tiara existed before she the last child was born but that didn’t make her love him any less.

Shania filled him in on what took place when he was away. During his holiday Elton fell in love with a twenty three year old girl named Christina, she was beautiful and kindhearted. Elton’s family adored her. Elton first met her at a library, they fell in love and spent most of their time together, what bothered Elton was the fact that he would only see Christina on school holidays but they promised to stay faithful to each other and not allow distance to come between them. She was the first girl Elton really loved for he had no time to chase after girls since he was always busy with his studies but for some reasons known only by his heart he couldn’t let Christina pass him by he chased after her till he got her.

Tiara saw Eric having lunch at Carlito’s, she decided to ignore him and act like she didn’t see him but he had already seen her and he left his seat and approached her, “Hi! Tiara do you still remember me? Eric Roberts we met at Hillary’s party a few months back”, “of course I remember you how are you?” “I’m doing fine thank

you, I didn't know you work here, this is a cozy little place", "I've been working here for a long time now and I love it here", she smiled.

"I'm glad I bumped into you, I'm hosting a party at my house this weekend, I want you and your friends to come you seem to know how to party, you can bring along as many people as you like", he invited.

"I'm going to have to think about it", she replied, "well here is my business card it has all my contact details in case you decide to come", he handed her his card. "Thanks but I hope you know I'm not promising you anything I said I will think about it", "well saying you will think about it is much better than saying no! This means there is a chance you might come". Tiara passed by Karin's house after work and told her about the invitation and being the party animal she was Karin got excited.

"Wow that's great news; I had no plans for this weekend we will go right?" "I don't know Karin, I haven't decided", "but what's there to decide you know parties are fun, you had fun last time so what's the problem? Don't tell me it's because you think Eric will hit on you, you are not that irresistible my dear", teased Karin. "Huh! What are you talking about Karin, who said anything about Eric hitting on me? You know very well that I'm not a party animal like you are and don't forget I work and you don't so weekends are my resting days but don't let me stop you, if you want you can go without me I will give you his card".

"What? I can't do that because he invited you and not me I will have to go as your guest", "Fine I will think about it Karin just give me sometime don't push!" When Tiara got home she never told anyone about the invitation, she really didn't like going to parties often she just enjoyed relaxing at home with her dear, sweet and beloved family.

CHAPTER 5

Weekend came and everyone was relaxing at home with nothing fun to do and there was nothing exciting to watch on television. "If only there was a party to crush", wished Elton, "yeah I don't remember the last time we were at a party", said Shania.

Tiara knew if she told them about the party at Eric's place there was no way they were going to say no to the invitation, she just wanted to be with her family and if they wanted to be at a party then she was going to make that happen. Tiara told them about the invitation and they didn't believe her, it sounded too good to be true

but they believed her after she called Eric and told him she was coming. They got excited and dressed up in their best and left for the party with the intention to have fun. Elton took Christina with her, Shania took Tyler along and Tiara took Karin and Maya with her, it was the seven of them who went to the Party. Mr. and Mrs. Daniels didn't want to stay home on their own so they decided to go out.

The party was ten times better than Hillary's, Eric sure did know how to host a party and what made it more fun was that Tiara was with her family and friends. Everyone seemed to have dancing partners except for Tiara and her friends.

Eric came to Tiara's rescue when he asked to dance with her and she agreed without hesitating. Karin had no choice but to join the dance floor with Maya. When Tiara and Eric got tired of dancing they went to sit down to talk. "How old are you?" she asked, "twenty three and you?" "I'm turning twenty one this year", she replied. "Okay, so where is the lucky man, I mean your boyfriend?"

"And what makes you think I have one, if I had one don't you think I would have brought him along with me?" "Ah! I thought maybe he was tied up or something, I really thought only a fool would think such a beautiful girl like you is single", "well you thought wrong, I believe beauty is not what gets you the kind of man you want and right now I'm not looking for any man because my last boyfriend left a deep hole in my heart, he played me. What about you, do you have a girlfriend?"

"No! And I'm not looking for one the thing is the woman I loved left me for my best friend, I don't know what it is that he had that I didn't and ever since then it's been hard for me to think about dating. I don't want to get my heart broken again the pain is unbearable, I know most girls think men don't get hurt but we do because we have hearts too", "I guess we are on the same page then", Tiara stated.

Ever since then Tiara and Eric became friends, they understood each other and shared their experiences and problems together, she would run to him when she was upset and he knew just how to cheer her up and he would go to her when he needed some company or advice. He was the only man in her life and she was the only woman in his life. They started spending most of their time together and had fun whenever they were together. Unfortunately for Elton the school holiday ended, he had to leave behind Christina and his family and go back to school in Australia. Christina was left desolate but Tiara told her she was free to come visit them even if Elton wasn't around.

A month later Tiara was alone with Eric in his house he told her he was in love with her. She kept quiet because she didn't know what to say to him, she had fallen in love with him too but she was fighting her feelings for him she was not ready to be in a relationship, she was afraid to trust him with her heart, she couldn't bear the thought of being hurt again. Tiara had promised herself never to be involved with

men again how did she let herself fall for Eric? I guess that's what happens when two people spend most of their time together and you just can't ignore love when it comes your way.

Seeing her not making an effort to say anything, he held her in his arms and gently kissed her, her mind told her to push him away but her heart told her to give in and kiss him back she gave in to her heart's desire and kissed him back when he tried to draw her much closer to him she pulled away from his arms. "I'm sorry Eric but I can't do this, I have to go", she rushed to the door and left. Tiara was very confused she knew she loved Eric and wanted to be with him but she couldn't bring herself to forget what Dylan did to her and that's what made it hard for her to learn to trust a man again. She had completely loved and trusted Dylan and he played her for a fool and broke her heart and made her cry, how could she trust again how was she to trust Eric what if he hurt her the way Dylan did? She would never survive that and she just couldn't take the risk of being hurt again. A thousand of thoughts ran through her mind and when she got home she told her mother what happened and asked for advice.

"Mom what should I do?" "My daughter you can't let one bad experience keep you from finding your Mr. right because not all men are idiots like Dylan or Jeffrey, just look at your dad isn't he a perfectly good man? And I'm sure there are other men like him out there, I did meet up with a few jerks who tore me down before I met your father but like they say you have to meet up with wrong men so that when you finally find a good one you will value him and be grateful . You can't avoid relationships forever and if you love Eric and you know he loves you then don't let anything stand between you two give him a chance to prove his a better man", advised Mrs. Daniels.

"Oh mom I don't think you understand the pain I went through because of Dylan it still hurts when I think about it, how he betrayed me when I gave him all of me don't get me wrong I love Eric but I'm just so scared of getting hurt again", "Tia just listen to mother I used to think all boys are pigs but when I met Tyler all that changed he's different from Jeff and I wouldn't have known all this if I hadn't given him a chance and it's really not fair to turn your back on Eric just because of another man's mistakes and why punish yourself by not following your heart. You won't know unless you try and heartbreaks will always be there one way or another all you need to do is learn how to handle and deal with them because you can't always prevent them there are a part of life. Tia if you don't give him a chance you will spend the rest of your life wondering what would have happened if you had given him a chance, everything in life is a risk and I'm sure he is a risk worth taking", advised Shania.

“Wow! My little sister, you are not so little anymore such wise words from you I better put them into use. Thank you I’m going to find Eric and I’m going to tell him that I love him”, Tiara hollered as she made her way out the door. “Yay! You go girl”, screamed Shania in unison with her mother. Eric was happy to see Tiara. “I’m glad you are here I’m so sorry about what happened earlier I shouldn’t have kissed you, I don’t want to ruin our friendship”, he apologized. Tiara got confused for a while as she didn’t know how to proceed, she didn’t know if to continue with being his friend or tell him she loves him.

“Tia please say something, you are not still mad at me are you?” he asked. She didn’t say a word she just put actions into use by grabbing him and kissing him, she released him and smiled at him but he wasn’t sure what that meant. “What does this mean?” he asked, “well I came back here to tell you that I...I love you too yes I love you Eric”, she declared her love for him. “Really! You love me! You have no idea how happy I am to hear that”, he beamed and took her in his arms and spun her around. “Yes Eric I love you and it feels so good to finally say it I feel like shouting it out I love you, I love you Eric Roberts, well now I think we can focus on level two”, she smirked. “Level two! What’s Level two? Wait! You mean be more than friends?” he assumed. “Well you are intelligent after all; yep that’s what I meant”.

“Tia this sounds like one sweet dream I don’t ever want to wake up from and I must say I was getting tired of being your friend”, he admitted. Now that everything was out in the open their feelings were finally let out and expressed; Tiara and her new man Eric looked forward having a life time of love and happiness together. They became inseparable and grew deeper in love each day and Eric did all he could to keep a smile on his lady’s face. He was devoted to her and she was the only good thing in his life and he treasured her. Tiara’s parents loved Eric and started treating him like their son in-law; he sometimes joined them for dinner and their outings. Tyler and Shania also became a couple they weren’t just friends anymore. Tiara and Shania went out on double dates with their boyfriends and wished their brother Elton was around to join them.

Mr. and Mrs. Daniels were happy that all their children had found love this gave them a chance to be alone in the house more often as their children were usually out on dates.

One evening Tiara waited for Eric at a restaurant where they had agreed to meet for dinner. She waited for him for almost half an hour and he never showed up or called her. Tiara tried calling him but he didn’t answer his phone. She then remembered the day Dylan hadn’t showed up for work and she had gone to his house only to leave in tears. She reminded herself that Eric was nothing like Dylan. She left the restaurant and went to Eric’s house, she knocked on the door but no

one answered she pushed the door open and she was surprised it wasn't locked she let herself in and made her way into the living room and she was astonished by what she saw, it was something she wasn't expecting to see she knew then why Eric had kept her waiting at the restaurant.

"Oh my God!" she marveled in great surprise as she saw the living room turned into something else. The lights were switched off only candles lit the place, there were red and pink rose petals all over the place chocolates everywhere and two glasses of champagne on the table next to two plates of good looking meals. Eric was sitting on the couch dressed in white from head to toe, she had never seen him that handsome before. He was carrying a red rose in his hands and as soon as Tiara walked in he stood up and switched on the radio to play a beautiful soft song by James Blunt. Tiara stood quietly in amazement for no man had ever done anything that romantic for her.

He took her hand and led her to a seat next to his and handed her the red rose which had a sweet smelling scent she took it in her hands and smelled it. "Eric! I don't know what to say no one has ever done anything this sweet for me honestly I'm touched thank you", she blubbered.

"I hope I'm forgiven for making you wait in the restaurant I wanted to come but then I thought why dine at a restaurant where there are many people when I can have you here all to myself". "Don't worry this was definitely worth the wait but how did you know I was going to show up here what if I got pissed off and went straight home?" "Well since you love me so much I knew you would come here to find out why I didn't show up and if you had gone home I was going to come get you", he answered before kissing her. They had a wonderful time together and for once in her life she had found the right man, a man she loved and who loved her back she was glad she gave him a chance to love her. She couldn't think of anything coming in between them.

They danced all night staring into each other's eyes. They got so excited to the extent that they drank a lot of alcohol and got drunk. When Tiara woke up in the morning she found herself in Eric's bed and he was sleeping next to her. She panicked and jumped out of bed and woke up Eric. "How did I end up in your bed? I don't remember what happened last night after drinking did we....?" "no relax we didn't have sex we fell asleep and by the time I woke up it was too late for you to go home so I brought you here", "whew! thank God my parents must be worried about me I better go home now I'm so busted I can't tell my parents I slept here they might take it the wrong way".

"You can tell them you slept at your friends place", "are you kidding me, they probably called them all last night when I didn't show up at home my dad is going to

kill me. Well I have to run see you later”, she gave him a brush kiss and hurried back home. Her father was waiting for her in the living room. “Where the hell were you and since when do you sleep out, what’s got into you why are you so disrespectful why do you want to be a problem, do you have any idea how worried we were about you?” he yelled at the poor girl as soon as she stepped her foot inside the house. “I’m sorry dad I didn’t mean to I can explain it was a mistake”, “we called all your friends and they all said they don’t know where you are your mother called you on your cell phone and it was switched off. Tiara how could you be so irresponsible and inconsiderate, do you have any idea at all what you put us through?” he panted as a result of the anger that consumed him.

Tiara hadn’t seen that reaction coming she was terrified of her dad for she had never seen him that angry before, she didn’t know what to say. “Your mother couldn’t even sleep she feared something bad had happened to you yet you were busy having a night of pleasure with your stupid boyfriend, you slept with Eric didn’t you?” he accused, “dad! No! Of course not, gosh what do you take me for, how could you even think that? I thought you trusted me and I thought you knew me better than that my phone was off my battery died. Do you really think I slept with Eric? You are unbelievable”, retorted Tiara.

Father and daughter both went quiet for a while and left the talking for their eyes as they glared at each other. “I’m sorry princess I do trust you but you had us worried and you know that you are not allowed to ever sleep out of the house without our permission you know that very well I just want you to be responsible”, he apologized. “Dad I said I’m sorry, didn’t I? I fell asleep at Eric’s place I never planned for any of it to happen but it will never happen again I promise you”.

Later that day Eric came to apologize to Tiara’s parents for not bringing their daughter back home and he was assured all was forgiven. Tyler asked Shania to come to his house to meet his parents. “I don’t think that will be a good idea, it’s not like we are engaged or getting married I don’t see the need for that”, she refused, “you are not being fair at all your parents know me and I think mine deserve to meet you, please it will mean so much to me if you met my parents”, he begged, “but what if your parents don’t like me?” worried Nia.

“That won’t mean anything to me”, “well to me it would, it would hurt me to know that your parents don’t like me”, “don’t worry I’m sure they will like you, why wouldn’t they? You are adorable any person is their right mind would be forced to like you”. “Okay fine I will come meet your parents but the only question is what am I going to wear?” “Anything you like just not one of your mini-skirts we wouldn’t want my parents to think that you are a hooker”, he teased. “Tyler! That’s not funny at all, what time will you come pick me up?” “One o’clock you will have lunch at my house”, “and who will cook?” “Me of course”, he replied with confidence.

“Oh! Well in that case I will have to think twice about coming at all”, “don’t underestimate me sweetheart I’m probably a better cook than you; tell me what you would like to eat” “Rice with mince and salads will do”, “really! I thought you were going to say macaroni and cheese”, “that’s my dad’s favorite meal not mine I’m going home now I will see you later then”. When she got home she told her mother and sister that she was going to meet Tyler’s parents. “Wow! I guess he must really be serious about you, I’ve never met Eric’s parents and he doesn’t even talk about them maybe I should ask him about his parents or maybe they are dead”, wondered Tiara.

“Believe me there is nothing fun about meeting your boyfriend’s parents, I’m already nervous about it”, “then why are you going?” asked her mother, “because he insisted, he says it won’t be fair for me not to meet his parents when he has met mine he really wants me to meet them I’m doing this for him”, she stated. “Don’t worry princess I’m sure they will love you and if they don’t it’s their mistake”, chuckled Mrs. Daniels. Shania dressed in her best outfit and put on her expensive jewellery; she didn’t want Tyler’s parents to think she was just a poor girl after their son’s wealth.

Tyler arrived duly to pick her up, his parents were very rich and he drove a very expensive car but he was dressed simple unlike Shania. They arrived at Tyler’s house and she was captivated by the beauty of the place she had never seen such a beautiful house before. It was a mansion and the furniture inside was expensive and unlikely to be seen in other people’s homes. It was now clear to her that by dating Tyler she had hit the jackpot. There was no doubt that the Standish family was rich she wondered if he had brought her to his house to meet his parents or to show her their wealth. I wouldn’t mind getting married to Tyler, she thought. “Hello! Young lady you must be Shania the girl who is driving my boy crazy”, greeted Mrs. Standish as she shook Shania’s hand. Tyler’s father also greeted her with warmth and kindness.

Tyler’s parents told her all about Tyler’s childhood and asked Shania to tell them a bit about herself while Tyler was cooking in the kitchen. When they all went out of words Tyler came to their rescue and called them out for lunch. After a few hours Shania bid goodbye to Tyler’s parents.

“I hope you will come visit soon Shania we could really use your help with the cleaning and laundry as you can see we don’t have a maid for the meantime”, Mrs. Standish quipped. “Mother Please!” Tyler complained. “Don’t worry she knows I was just kidding have a safe journey back home my dear”.

CHAPTER 6

When Shania got home she found Lily in the living room, “Lily! What time did you get here?” “Just now I saw you leave with Tyler a few hours ago and I thought it’s about time I told you the truth about him”, “huh Truth about what? What are you talking about Lily?” asked Shania who was now puzzled and had no idea what Lily was talking about. “Believe it or not Tyler asked me out last week at first I thought he was just joking until he tried to kiss me he begged me not to tell you but you are my best friend I had to tell you and I know you love him but let’s just face it he’s just like Jeffrey, a dog!”, “No! No! I’m sorry but I can’t believe that I don’t believe you, no! Not Tyler he would never do anything like that he loves me. I know he does”.

“When have I ever lied to you Shania? You are my best friend and I didn’t want you to get hurt that’s why I didn’t want to tell you, do you really think I would lie to you about something like this?” “No! Of course not I do trust you, oh! God! Why is this happening to me I thought he was really in love with me how could he try to cheat on me with you of all people? He knows that you are my best friend. Is there any good man out there? I don’t know what to think anymore but why would he even bother to let me meet his parents when....”, “Woh! Calm down you are taking this a bit too far ha! Ha! Oh my gosh!” laughed Lily, “what’s so funny Lily? This is nothing to laugh about”, roared Shania. “Calm down and relax! It was all just a joke more of a test to see how much you trust Tyler; I don’t believe you actually fell for it I guess I’m not the only one who is easily fooled after all”.

“Damn you Lily! That wasn’t funny at all you must never! Ever! Joke like that again gees! You almost gave me a heart attack and it’s not that I’m gullible or I don’t trust Tyler I do but I trust you more that’s why I believed you, what’s wrong with you”, she snapped, “hey! No need to yell at me like that I said I’m sorry, chill I won’t do anything like that again I promise”, “well for your own good, I hope you mean that so what’s the real reason you are here?”

“Ah! Come on do I need a particular reason to come to your house? Your parents told me that I’m welcome to come here anytime any day because I’m not only their daughter’s friend but I’m also their neighbor”. “You come on Lily you know I didn’t mean it like that it’s just that I know you don’t just pass by without any good reason, so let’s hear it”, “okay fine I want you to help me with my math home work”, “ha! Ha! I knew it, you must be joking because you know I’m no good in math I can’t help you out on that one”, “any help at all will be okay. How was lunch with Tyler’s parents? Did they like you and what’s up with the royalty dressing? I assume it was just lunch there was no need for you to dress like you were going to the celebrity awards”, she teased.

"Gees Lily you are such a teaser, I didn't want his parents to think I'm a poor girl after their son's money I had to show them what I'm made of ooh you should have seen their house it's a mansion. If I marry Tyler then I will be in good hands but I don't really know if his parents liked me but they were really kind to me. Give me a minute to go change Lily and then we go to your house and take a look at that math home work". After Shania left to Lily's house, Tiara went to entertain herself by watching television her mother was in bed and her father had still not arrived from work. The telephone rang it was Elton calling, "Hi! How is Christina?" he asked as soon as Tiara answered the phone, "Where the hell are your manners? You have to greet first and who is this Christina you are bubbling about?" She scolded.

"Calm down Little sister, I was just kidding and you know Christina she is your future sister in law by the way how is your man Eric and how is everyone at home?" "Everyone is fine and as for Eric he just can't get enough of me. I saw Christina in town last week she is doing fine and I'm always keeping an eye on her", "why, what for?" he asked confused, "so that she doesn't even think about cheating on you". "Ha! Ha! You are very funny but that won't be necessary because I trust her. Well I'm glad if you are all okay, pass my greetings to everyone", he requested. Mr. Daniels arrived exhausted he could hardly walk he had to drag himself into the house his tie was loosened his shirt was not tucked in and he was looking messy and dirty. "Oh! Dad it looks like you had a bad day", assumed Tiara, "you can say that again my car broke down I'm sure you can imagine the trouble I went through fixing it under this scorching sun".

"Yeah I can imagine good thing my car has never broke down on me", "are you alone, where is everyone?" "Mom is in bed and Shania is at Lily's", "I see, I'm starving please get me something to eat before I pass out", "okay dad". Mr. Daniels went to join his wife in bed as soon as he finished his meal leaving Tiara alone filled with boredom, she decided to call Eric to come over to her house and he got there in a flash. "At your command your majesty", he simpered when Tiara opened the door to let him in. "Oh you surely are a civil servant Mr. Roberts", Tiara giggled. "So Tia what are we going to do here?" he asked. "I don't know, what do you have in mind?" "Well it depends, where are your parents and Shania?"

"My parents are sleeping and Shania is at Lily's", "well in that case let's go to your bedroom", "my room! Why, what are you planning to do to me?" "Nothing, we will just play games cards or spin the bottle don't be such a baby let's go", he carried her upstairs. "Which one is your room?" he asked whispering, "second door on your left". He opened the door got in, closed it and threw Tiara on the bed he got on top of her and started kissing her, she couldn't resist the touch of his hands and she forgot to ask him about the games he had said they would play. Tiara's mother heard some voices in Tiara's bedroom and she went there and knocked. They were

lost in their romantic moment and ignored the knock assuming the door was locked. Mrs. Daniels pushed open the door and was startled when she saw Eric on top of her daughter. Tiara and Eric cringed with embarrassment when they saw Mrs. Daniels standing in front of them, Tiara quickly pushed Eric off her and she got off the bed. Eric didn't say a word he was embarrassed and tongue tied. "Mom you must believe me, it's....it's... not what it looks like", she stammered. "I'm sorry I never meant to interrupt anything, excuse me", she uttered as she left Tiara's room.

"I'm sorry Tia! It's all my fault now your mother is going to think we were going to sleep together but I swear to you that wasn't my intention at all you know that I respect and value your chastity, I just wanted us to have a little fun that's all, damn! How did I forget to lock the door", he grunted. "Hey it's okay, just relax, I will talk to my mom and get her to understand, I just hope she hasn't told dad anything or we will be dead meat", "alright then I will wait for you outside in my car, I don't want your dad to find me here, he might kill me".

Tiara went to apologize to her mother and explained everything and she didn't give her a hard time but just lectured her. "I want you to promise me that you will not indulge in sex you are still too young for that and you shouldn't rush into things. I don't want you getting pregnant while you are still at school that would just ruin your future", lectured Mrs. Daniels. "Ah-huh yes mom I hear you, totally", agreed Tiara trying to cut the lecture short but it was no success, her mother continued.

"Tia I want you know that sex is for married people and if you aren't then it's not for you just like a car isn't supposed to be driven by people without driving license's and I don't want you to be one of those rebellious people who drive cars without license's, if he loves you then he will wait till the right time which is when you've obtained a driving license and by that I mean a marriage certificate", Mrs. Daniels carried on. Tia wished she would just cut the lecture short so she could join Eric who was waiting outside. Tiara just sat and listened while her mother carried on.

"Tia my baby you lose nothing at all by abstaining instead you will be protecting yourself from many risks like disease's and unwanted pregnancies and being rejected after sex. I know some stupid people will say sex is no big deal and act like virginity is some kind of a disease just stay true to your values there are what make you not people's twisted morals. You should know that sex has always been there and it will always be there you don't have to rush do I make myself clear?" she asked with a serious face. "Yes mom I get it and relax we weren't going to do anything Eric will never ask me to sleep with him he loves me and respects my wishes and thanks for not telling dad, you know how fathers are like".

As soon as the lecture ended Tiara went to join Eric and told him everything was sorted out. "So what now?" she asked, "I'm taking you to my house just to relax and

chat” he replied. When they got to his house Tiara finally asked him what she had always wanted to, “why do you live alone don’t you have family or relatives that you can live with?” “Because I love my privacy don’t you think I’m old enough to live on my own? In case you had forgotten I’m twenty three if I wanted I would be married by now and with a child of my own”, “gee! Do you know that you talk too much Mr. Roberts?”

“Fine, let’s not talk at all I happen to know something that’s better than talking”, “oh really and what would that be?” she asked. He stood up and grabbed her hands forcing her to stand up; he pulled her close to him and wrapped his hands around her waist. He took her hands and wrapped them around his neck, he played with her hair for a while staring into her eyes making her blush and then he whispered into her ears, “this”, as he passionately kissed her. She felt weak in the knees like she was about to drop down, did he know what he did to her? She wondered.

When he stopped kissing her she moved away from him and went to sit on the couch. “You never talk about your family, why?” she asked, “Because there is nothing to talk about them”, “oh! Please Eric there is nothing like that be serious I want to know about your family”, “I’m sorry Tia but I would rather not, I don’t talk about my family to anyone”, “I would like to believe I’m not just anyone to you or perhaps I’m mistaken”, she grunted as she folded her hands and frowned at him.

Eric left to the kitchen and brought back two glasses of pine apple juice and gave her one, “pine apple is your favorite that’s why I buy it”, he stated, “yes! It is my favorite how did you know?” she asked amused. “Well let’s just say I know you better than you think”, “Oooh! That’s kind of scary you don’t happen to know my every dark secret, do you?” He didn’t pay attention to her joke; he started telling her the truth about his family. “My mother used to be a hotel chef and my dad was a bank teller, they both live out of town very far from here”.

“Wait! You don’t have to tell me about your parents if you don’t feel like it, I will understand”, she paused and then continued; “I really don’t want to force you into telling me things you are not comfortable with”.

“No! Its fine, I want to tell you I will have to tell you anyway so here is the story. My parents met at a night club when they were still young, my mother was eighteen and my dad twenty that’s what she says. He drugged her and raped her. mother didn’t report him for raping her and I don’t even know why, she got pregnant and they were forced to marry because no one knew that dad had raped her”, he paused, cleared his throat and then continued.

“There was no love between them all they did was fight and argue all the time, they took drugs, drank alcohol and did all sorts of immoral things you can think of”, there was bitterness in Eric’s voice as he spoke. “I couldn’t stand them I went to live with

my grandparents but unfortunately they both died and I had no choice but to go back to my parents house”, “how did they die?” she asked, “my grandma died of cancer and my granddad was shot to death, I was at school when it happened when I came back home from school I found him lying dead on the floor with blood all over. I was young at that age and that was very traumatizing. After six months of investigations the killer was arrested and it was no one else but my father, no one understood why he had to take the life of his own father, it was like he had been possessed by evil demons, he never told anyone why he did it and I couldn’t forgive him. My grandfather was a good man he didn’t deserve to die in the hands of his own son”, he disclosed.

Tiara placed her hands on his back as she gently fondled him. “My dad was sentenced to life in prison, mom lost her job and she became a prostitute, she later married another man who was no different from dad and they are still together”. “I get it now, that’s why you don’t stay with your parents or even talk about them”, “yeah I didn’t want anything to do with them but I’ve learnt to forgive them and sometimes I visit them I really don’t hate them no matter how much they’ve hurt me I just can’t bring myself to hate them. They are still my parents and that will never change but the fact still stands they ruined my childhood”, he uttered with bitterness.

“I’m so sorry you had to go through all that, it must have been hard for you to tell me all this but it’s a good thing that you have forgiven them”, she said.

“Yes I have but I don’t want you to ever meet them, not now and not ever”, “I understand”, she glanced at her watch, “it’s getting late I have to go home now”. “No! Please stay just a bit longer and then I will drive you back home, please”, he begged. “Okay! If you insist but I’m only going to stay just for a couple of minutes”. “Tiara Daniels you are the only good thing in my life and I’m so glad I met you Tia I want to make you my wife. I want to marry you; I want you to marry me”. Tiara was at a loss for words she wasn’t expecting words of marriage from Eric that soon. “Oh uh listen Eric I love you and you know that but I don’t know anything about marriage, I’m way too young and just not ready to be anyone’s wife so let’s not even go there and you know what, I think I should head home”, she tried evading his proposal.

“What are you talking about, don’t you want to marry me or is it that you don’t want lunatic immoral in laws huh? You don’t want a crazy mother in law and a murderer for a father in law is that what it’s all about Tia?” he lashed out. “Just shut up okay! What the hell is wrong with you and how dare you say that to me? Listen I won’t stick around for this crap if you are stressed out about your parents then I suggest you go hit the wall and leave me the hell alone, don’t you dare take it out on me”, she retorted. “What stress, what problems, why can’t you see that you are the one

being the problem here? This has got nothing to do with my parents. What's really going on with you, Is there someone else is that why you don't want to marry me?" he rumbled.

They both went quiet for a minute just staring at each other with eyes blazing with anger. "Oh my God, how dare you talk to me like that?" she snarled before she slapped him with all the strength she could gather. "If you really think I'm capable of two timing then you don't know me and you don't trust me so you might as well go to hell, I didn't know you could be like this but I'm not going to stay for this, I'm out of here", she hollered and trailed off and just that moment Eric realized what a jerk he had been. He ran after her and grabbed her hands to stop her from leaving.

"I'm so sorry Tia please forgive me I guess I lost my senses for a while it's just that you had me thinking that you don't love me enough to marry me or it was because of my parents I'm sorry", he apologized holding her tight in his arms.

"But you know that's not it at all, I love you Eric and I don't care about who your parents are because they are not who I love it's you and I never said I don't want to marry you I just said I'm not ready that's all, I just want to focus on finishing my education before I settle down", she explained. "I'm sorry Tia I guess I took it the wrong way maybe I am stressed out about my parents and I was taking it out on you well let me take you home before it gets dark", he offered. Tiara regretted asking Eric about his parents since it seemed to have opened up a can of worms, she couldn't help imagining what he went through and feeling sorry for him.

CHAPTER 7

A month later while Tiara was at work she saw a man who captured her attention. He sat alone looking depressed with teary eyes. The gentleman was very handsome he had dark hair and he was masculine and tall. She had never seen his face before and that was because he had just arrived from out of town. His beautiful blue eyes were all teary. Tiara had a soft heart and she couldn't help feeling concerned about the man, she wanted to know what was going on with him and how she could be of help, she knew something was definitely wrong because she knew it was very unlikely to see a man that teary unless something was really wrong.

She approached him to ask what the problem was, "is everything okay sir?" she asked with sincere concern as she took a seat next to him, "no! Nothing is okay Miss nothing at all", he sadly replied.

"I thought as much so what is the problem, is there anything I can do to help?" "No! There is nothing anyone can do to help I just arrived today from out of town, Nashville where I've been living with my mother she passed away a few days ago and I was just thinking about her it's so hard to accept the fact that she is gone forever and that I will never see her again. I know a man should be brave and not let his tears show but my mother was everything to me now that she is gone...I'm so lost without her", he grieved. "I'm so sorry about your loss, you must have loved her dearly but why did you feel the need to relocate, do you have a place to stay here?"

"I left because the place reminds me of so many memories of my mother. Losing a mother you love dearly is unbearable I need a different environment to heal. I have a brother who lives here I will be staying with him until I find my own place but the problem is he and I don't see eye to eye but I've got no choice because I don't know anyone else around here", he stated.

"I hope your brother will welcome your stay. I have to get back to work now". When Tiara was about to walk away the man introduced himself. "I'm Daryl Westwick", he uttered. Tiara walked back to his table. "Tiara Daniels", she responded.

Daryl looked at her and couldn't help smiling she had managed to stop him from sobbing, she was really an incredible woman in his eyes not just incredible but beautiful as well. "Well I should let you get back to work and I've to go find my brother but aren't you going to give me your number just in case I need your help?" "Sure you can call me whenever you need anything", she let him know after giving him her contact details. Tiara passed by Eric's house after work, she rang the doorbell and to her surprise she heard a familiar voice which wasn't Eric's, she heard the voice shout, "Just a minute", she couldn't believe her eyes when she saw the man who was standing in front of her.

"What are you doing here?" she asked puzzled when she saw Daryl in Eric's house, "I think I should be asking you the same question, what are you doing in my brother's house?" "Your brother's house? That's not possible this is my boyfriend's house he has been living here since forever", "I don't know about that maybe he has been renting the house my brother must have let him...wait a minute is your boyfriend Eric?" "Yes where do you know him from, is he your brother's friend or something like that?"

"No! What a small world Eric is my young brother", he smiled. "Huh? Your brother! No! That can't be because Eric doesn't have a brother". "Oh yes he does he probably didn't tell you about me because he hates me and he just loves to believe I don't exist", "well that doesn't sound like Eric at all, where is he?" "I think his dressing in his room, he just took a shower".

She didn't say anything more she hurried to Eric's room and stormed in, "uh...we...uh...we need to talk", she stuttered dazzled by the sight of Eric without his shirt on, "about what that can't wait until I'm decently dressed?" he replied pulling on his trousers. "Don't you think you have to explain something to me?" she asked with both her hands resting on her waist. "Hmm let me think...ah Nope! What's this about?" "Please don't act like you don't know what I'm talking about, why did you lie to me about not having a brother? Who knows maybe you even have sister's I don't know about", she murmured. "Tia I never lied to you about anything I just forgot to mention that I have a brother". She stared at him in disbelief and shook her head. "You are such a buffoon, do you know that?" "It doesn't matter as long as I'm your buffoon", he smirked.

"Eric he says you hate him why would he think something like that or maybe you do that's why you never told me about him", "it's not important Tia", he replied moving close to her, "damn! I've never seen you this sexy before, you shouldn't go to school or work dressed like this I don't want other men staring hard at what is mine", muttered Eric and before she could say a word his lips met hers as he kissed her but she pushed him away. "Its not funny Eric, tell me what's going on between you and Daryl why does he think you hate him?" Tia demanded an answer.

"Oh damn! Girl you sure do know how to ruin a man's moment of fun, I don't hate Daryl and you know that I've got no room for hate in my heart but just love babe actually he is the one who hates me he says I rejected mother I walked out on our family that kind of crap like I was to blame". "Go on I'm listening", "what! There is nothing else to say come on Tia I know that's not the reason you chose to come here instead of going home now shut up! And come here", he demanded pulling her closer to him, he held her tightly in his arms with the help of his strong hands she was so close to him she could feel his heartbeat and the warmth of his hands on her body she forgot ever talking about Daryl and smiled as she ran her fingers on his bare chest as they shared a kiss. Eric threw her on his bed and blissfully got on top of her as they continued kissing.

Suddenly Daryl barged in without knocking causing the couple to cease their intimate moment and Eric wasn't happy about the disturbance. "Damn it Daryl don't you know how to knock, what do you think we closed the door for?" yelled Eric, "hey! I'm sorry for interrupting but you don't have to bite my head off", "well what do you want?" He hissed. "I just wanted to tell Tiara that I've prepared a snack for her I assumed she is hungry", "as a matter of fact I am thank you Daryl that's so sweet and thoughtful of you", Tiara smiled. "Who the hell asked you to? I'm her boyfriend I should be the one preparing a snack for her", snorted Eric out of unnecessary jealousy. "What is wrong with you Eric, why do you have to be so rude? You can be

so annoying sometimes uh!!!” roared Tiara who was annoyed by Eric’s behavior, she left the two brothers and went to the dining room to eat the snack Daryl prepared for her. Eric apologized to Tiara and kissed her in front of Daryl trying to make him jealous when Tiara noticed his intentions she quickly pulled away from him.

“Uh hmm so are you guys step brothers, half brothers or what?” she curiously asked. “Honey believe it or not we are flesh and blood, same mother and father”, responded Daryl, “correction, you don’t get to call my girlfriend honey okay! Only I can call her that”, grumbled Eric, “Oh gosh what’s gotten into you Eric? That’s my decision to make and frankly he can call me whatever he likes and it really shouldn’t bother you because it doesn’t bother me seriously what’s the big deal? You are just trying to be unreasonable so cut it out. Why are your surnames different then?”

“I’m using my mother’s surname maybe because I was conceived as a result of rape and Eric is using our father’s surname”, answered Daryl. “But Daryl I thought you said your mother passed away a few days ago if she was also Eric’s mother then how come Eric didn’t say a word about it?” “That’s because this idiot I call my brother kept it from me I only found out today I couldn’t even see my mother for the last time or attend her funeral”, cursed Eric.

“Oh! Please cut the act its not like you cared about mother I mean come on who are you trying to fool? You just found out that your mother passed away and you didn’t even shed a tear instead you get busy making out with your girlfriend wow! Isn’t it funny how you express your affliction?” Daryl sneered. “Maybe that’s because I still couldn’t believe my mother is really dead and people grieve in different ways I needed my girlfriend close to me for comfort and what’s it to you, are you jealous of my girlfriend?”

“What? This is no time for jealousy you must be insane and even if I had told you sooner that mother is dead what difference would it have made? You walked out on her because of the mistakes she did as if you are perfect you forgot that she was still your mother and I’m pretty sure if I had told you, you were going to come up with a stupid excuse not to come”.

“So you made your decision not to inform me about mother based on those stupid assumptions and I can’t believe you just said that, what do you think of me? I’m not heartless like you seem to think and you still had no right to keep this from me. I don’t care what you think but I loved my mother in spite of all the bad things that she did because she was still my mother and of course I cared I’m human and even an animal would care and don’t say that I rejected her you know that’s a lie, I always visited her whenever I could”, Eric defended himself.

“Oh yes! Once in a blue moon you call that visiting and it’s not my fault that you didn’t know that mother was sick it’s not like you hired me to keep you updated about her. It was your duty as her son to constantly check up on her I couldn’t even call you because nobody had your phone number you distanced yourself from us besides you knew where we lived, you were supposed to come see for yourself if she was okay but oh no! you had no time for her you forgot she existed because of you my mother died with a broken heart wishing you would come back home but you never did. What do you think would have happened if I had walked out on her like you did, what did she ever do to you? Yes I know she did unpleasant things in her life but she never did anything wrong to you, she loved you more than she loved me her first born maybe because I was the one conceived out of rape like that was my fault, you should have been the one who took care of her but you chose to forsake her. I’ve got one question for you how do you live with yourself?” He yakked.

Judging from the words uttered by Daryl it became clear to Tiara that he had a bigger heart and he had truly loved his mother. “Leave me alone Daryl and stop throwing accusations at me don’t you dare point fingers at me this is not judgement day I will not let you judge me okay! You had your own reasons for staying and I had my own for leaving, people are different if you could stand mother and all the crap she did it doesn’t mean I could too and please don’t try to act like you stayed because you loved her we both know that you stayed to inherit the house since I was out of the picture”, blurted Eric.

“Oh I see so that’s what you really think hmm? Then you are even more stupid than I thought. Do you honestly think that the house was more important to me than my mother? You are a fool if you believe that. Ask yourself did the house give birth to me, did it nature and look after me, did the house feed me bath me cloth me, did it love and care for me like mom did? And for your own information mother left the house to me but I talked to the lawyers and told them to put it under your name I gave it up for you because the house doesn’t mean anything to me without mother in it and don’t worry mom’s husband divorced her when she tested HIV positive the house is all yours, you are one rich fellow the house is surely worth a fortune”, he informed. Anger filled the two men they glowered at each other as if they were ready to attack each other.

Tiara had been quiet all along listening to the two brothers argue and they had both forgot she was even there, when the heated argument came to a halt and silence struck the house Tiara stood up and uttered just two words which were, “I’m leaving”. A few minutes after she got home the doorbell rang and she opened the door and Eric stood in front of her, she stood by the door and refused to let him in. “You know what Eric I don’t know who you are anymore or what goes on in that big

head of yours, why do you like starting quarrels? That's not the Eric that I know", she sneered as she crossed her hands against her chest.

"I'm sorry Tia but please understand it's just that....this whole thing with my brother and my mother having passed away it just hit me hard but you have to cut me some slack I'm not the only one who is to blame here it takes two to tangle Daryl is also to blame, I'm not going anywhere until you say you forgive me", "okay fine but only on one condition, promise me you will forgive Daryl for whatever it is that you think he did wrong to you and make peace with him for heaven's sake he's your only brother and that will never change. If you can't do that for me then do it for your mother I'm sure her dying wish was for her two sons to get along just put the past behind you and start afresh it can't be that hard", she advised.

"Aww! You are so sweet, what would I do without you? I know you just want the best for everyone that's why you want me to make peace with my brother but honestly it's not going to be that easy but I'm willing to give it a try after all you are right he is the only brother I have and since he will be living with me I have to work things out with him and I know that's exactly what my mother would have wanted so am I forgiven?" "Hmm! Let me see", she whispered and then kissed him. "Well I guess that means I'm forgiven", he assumed as he kissed her back. A few weeks later Tiara visited the two brothers and she was pleased to see how well they were getting along she was impressed and happy for them.

"Tia come with me to my room I want to talk to you", Eric requested. She followed him to his room, "what is it, you sound serious?" she asked, "well it is important uh I'm going to my mother's house in Nashville for three months I have to take care of something's there", "what! Three months! Do you really have to go for that long and what kind of things do you have to take care of?" "A lot of things actually. I have to sell the house, visit my dad in prison and a whole lot more that I can't tell you", "and why can't Daryl go do all that?" "Don't you think he has done more than enough Tia? I have to do this myself I owe it to mother", "okay I guess you are right but I'm coming with you, I can't be without you for ninety days", "I wish you could but I'm not going to let you skip school and you know that your parents won't allow that", he reasoned with her.

"Uh! Damn! You are right so when are you leaving, next week or next month or what?" "No! Eer... I'm leaving today honey", "Today! You are kidding right?" "I'm afraid not", he uttered as he bit his lips.

"Oh! I see so when were you planning to tell me and why didn't you tell me a week ago or....I don't know but just earlier?" "What difference would it have made? I decided to go just yesterday I'm sorry but the sooner the better and I promise you

when I come back I will make it up to you it will all be worth it you will see”, he promised.

Tiara couldn't believe her ears, she walked around the room with her hands on her waist she sat on the bed and buried her face in her hands the thought of Eric leaving her even for just a week was too much for her to handle. “Eric that means you won't be back in time for my twenty first birthday party I need you to be there”, she implored, “It's just a party Tia no big deal and there will be many more that I will attend, you can just send me the video if it's that big of a deal to you”, he stated.

“I don't believe you are even saying that it's my 21st birthday party that I'm talking about here and you only turn 21 once your whole life so I think it is a pretty big deal”, she screamed at him, “okay sorry but you know that I don't like birthday parties the whole idea of blowing out the candles and singing happy birthday it's just not my thing but I promise I will bring you the best birthday gift ever, you will have your friends and family there you won't even notice my absence”, he said. “You must be crazy for sure, you are my boyfriend of course I will notice your absence and I'm going to die of missing you Eric you just might find me dead and buried”, “don't say that you are a strong girl you will survive I will miss you too I will be calling you whenever I can I promise”, he smiled at her and she forced a smile on her face, she wasn't happy at all. “Please keep an eye on Daryl while I'm gone he is new in this town”, he requested, “that won't be necessary, he is old enough to fend for himself I don't like baby-sitting”,

“Ouch! That's mean but please Tia you know that he doesn't know anyone around here I don't want him to die of boredom just show him around whenever you can that won't kill you and I'm sure he would do the same for you”, “alright I will try”, she agreed. When they were done talking Eric dropped her off by her work place and kissed her goodbye, “take care of yourself Eric and don't ever forget that I love you”.

Tiara was deflated by the thought of not seeing Eric for three good months, imagining it was killing her she had never been apart from him for even a week and three months was just too much for her she comforted herself by thinking he was only joking and he would be back after a couple of weeks.

A week after Eric's departure Daryl paid her a visit and she introduced him to her parents. He asked her to show him around town, she really didn't feel like it but she couldn't refuse because she knew he was bored and feeling lonely and besides she had promised Eric she would keep his brother company. She agreed to show him around, they went for a ride in his car and they spent the day together. Tiara took him to the movie theatre after that they went shopping groceries and she helped

him with his cooking something she never got to do Eric she wished he was the one next to her.

Daryl was twenty five and two years older than Eric. He was a lawyer by profession. As time went by they got to know each other better she realized how different Daryl was from Eric. Daryl was a free spirited man he was always up for anything he was like an open book so easy to read and get along with, he was fun to be around humble sweet and friendly in all he was genial and gregarious. She thought he was a better man than Eric but he sometimes reminded her of him, she missed him a lot and begged him to come back home but he would tell her it's not yet time. Tiara and Daryl became close friends and they started spending a lot of time together.

Her parents adored Daryl he had a great personality, he was vibrant and he wasn't boring in conversations, he always found something funny to say to make everyone laugh. Her parents often invited him to their house for lunch and dinner. Daryl usually talked about his parents and according to him there was a good side he saw in them, he was very open to her unlike Eric who bottled up things and Tiara liked that about him, he opened up to her as if he had known her his whole life.

Two months later Tiara and Daryl were relaxing at Eric's house watching movies and playing games on play station. Daryl later taught Tia how to play games like basketball, soccer, cricket, pool and tennis he was frisky and multi talented and she enjoyed every minute she spent with him, he was great company, she found it impossible to frown around him, she was always giggling he had a great sense of humor. He was outgoing and so much fun to hang out with they had in common their love for games, music and a whole lot more.

The next weekend he took her to the amusement park and they hopped on the rollercoaster, the big wheel, the smashing shells and the helicopter; she had never experienced so much fun before not with a man, she never knew a man could be into all those things she thought were all girlish and the truth is he wasn't, he just took her to all those places just because he knew she would love it and she loved every minute of it, each day with him was like a new adventure.

Soon after they left the amusement park he took her dress shopping all on his credit card he would pick a dress for her and she would go try it on and show it to him and if he liked it he would nod his head but if he didn't he would shake his head and she would go try on something else, he had a great fashion sense and he loved seeing her in different outfits, he thought she had a great body that would make even the most horrible outfit look elegant, nothing couldn't look nice on her body.

The next weekend they were together at Eric's house again and he taught her how to dance the tango and ballroom dancing as if a little bird had whispered in his ear

that she loved dancing. He was unpredictable and full of surprises, wasn't there anything he couldn't teach her? He was exciting she could never get bored around him. Later he ordered pizza over the phone and when the delivery man rang the door bell they raced to the door like little kids. Tiara was in front and when she was almost near the door Daryl couldn't let her win the race he grabbed her hand in attempt to slow her down but she lost her balance and fell on the floor, he took her hands and she wrapped her arms around him for balance as he pulled her up. There was a silent moment as he stared at her and smiled while he played around with her hair.

Lost in the moment they stared into each other's eyes but before anything could happen between them the door bell rang again, Tiara pulled away from his arms and went to open the door for the delivery man.

When they had eaten their pizza Tiara suggested they play a game, truth or dare and he agreed. "Interesting I will start okay hmm which one would you like first truth or dare?" he asked excited about the game, "well since I don't like dares I will start with truth", she replied. "Good, I hoped you would say that okay here is the question. What would you do If Ieer...if I..." he stammered, "if you what?" she asked running out of patience. "Okay...uh...what would you do if I... if I kissed you?" "What! Really I don't think you should be asking your brother's girlfriend that kind of a question", she blushed.

"Why not? Come on It's just a game and let's not forget that you are the one who said we should play it in the first place so let's hear it and the truth please". She kept quiet for a while imagining being kissed by Daryl and in her imagination she kissed him back and that scared the hell out of her, she was still lost in her imagination until Daryl waved his hands in front of her eyes, "well I think you have the answer now", he assumed. "No! Daryl, please just let it go do you really have to ask? Besides I'm no fortune teller so I wouldn't know unless you tried and that I will not allow so let's just forget about the game", she hesitated.

"Oh! No! I'm dying to know the answer even if it's just a game and don't worry I'm not going to kiss you although I do know that you wouldn't mind if I did. It's very simple its either you would kiss me back or push me away, so which one is it?" "You are not going to let this go, are you? I'm not going to give you an answer what good would that do and don't flatter yourself I don't dream of being kissed by any other man besides...Eric...ah!" she suddenly groaned in pain.

"What's wrong Tia, are you okay?" "I'm not sure, I just had this sudden piercing pain in my head I think I have a headache probably because of being exposed to the sun too much, I need to lie down for a while", she uttered twisting her face in pain. "Yeah sure go to my room and lie down and I will bring you a glass of water", he

suggested, “thanks but I will go to Eric’s bedroom instead”, she went to lie down on Eric’s bed and she immediately fell asleep. Daryl sat on the edge of the bed next to her, he couldn’t help staring at her she was beautiful even when she was asleep, he tucked her beautiful blonde hair under her ears and kissed her forehead.

After an hour of good rest she woke up feeling much better and she headed home. A few minutes later she got a call from Eric but she assumed it was Daryl. “Hey! I forgot to tell you that the pizza you ordered was terrible it’s probably what gave me a headache”, she giggled, “what are you talking about, this is Eric who did you think it was?” he asked now curious. “Oh! I’m sorry I...I thought it was...er I thought it was Karin”, she lied to the man she loved for the first time, she didn’t tell him the truth because for some reason she thought he would be suspicious of her and Daryl or maybe he would have every reason to be if he knew how close they now were.

Tiara invited Daryl to her birthday party and he gladly accepted the invitation. The big day arrived, the day Tiara had been impatiently waiting for but she had never pictured it without Eric she had now spent two and a half months without him but she was still alive or maybe it was all thanks to Daryl, he had kept her company and filled that gap that Eric created when he left. The weather was perfect for a party it was neither cold nor hot it was just warm and cool. Everything was beautiful from the decorations to the meals. The party was held at Tiara’s house; outside on their well gardened lawn their yard was big enough to accommodate a lot of guests. The whole neighborhood was invited. Her parents had saved a lot of money for their daughter’s big day and were able to make it memorable. She was happy to see all the people she invited present.

Tiara looked gorgeous on her big day she wore a close-fitting dress a nice shoe to go with the dress and a beautiful diamond necklace. Her long hair was curled for the first time giving her a sexy different look she felt good about herself she only wished Eric was there to see how stunning she looked. When all the guests had arrived, Tiara came out of her dressing room and made a grand entrance to the party outside, everyone was stunned by her beauty they all ceased what they were doing as they turned their heads to watch her, all eyes were on her.

She felt like a bride walking down the aisle she had everyone’s attention. The first person she approached was Daryl but if Eric was there then she would have gone to him but he was not there and somehow Daryl had taken his place. Daryl was looking more handsome than ever, he was in his best expensive suit and when he saw Tiara walking towards him he felt honored.

“I’m glad you came”, she said as she smiled at him captivated by his good looks, “I wasn’t going to forgive myself if I missed your big day I know how much this party

means to you”, he uttered. She wished Eric felt the same way but no! He didn’t seem to care at all about her party that’s why he never made an effort to be there. “You look...wow! Beautiful, beauty defined at its best more like a diamond among stones, I’m show when God created you his aim was to show off the best he could make, damn! How I wish I could just eat you up”, he grinned at her making her laugh. He always knew how to get her to laugh even though she didn’t want to. “Thanks, you are looking great yourself I’m sure if you had a girl she would be all over you today”.

Tiara introduced Daryl to her friends and they all liked him he was a charmer and Maya even admitted she was attracted to him. “Too bad I’m not you Tia because if I were you I would forget about Eric you see this man here is fifteen times better than Eric in every way besides what kind of a man leaves his girl for three months and misses her big day, who knows what he is up to wherever he is? He might even be cheating on you”, blurted Maya, “are you crazy, how can you say that? Eric would never cheat on her, he loves her and he’s a good man but I don’t blame you it’s clear that you don’t recognize a good man when you see one”, argued Karin, “yes Karin is right, Eric would never do anything like that”, concurred Tiara. “So what about Daryl?” Maya asked with her eyes popped out, “what about him? He’s just my friend and nothing more, he is Eric’s brother for crying out loud I can’t have him not even if I wanted, I’m with Eric and that’s that”, she murmured.

“I’m glad to hear that because I have my eye set on him no girl in her right mind wouldn’t so I guess it shouldn’t be a problem for you Tiara if I have him right?” Maya ranted. Tiara couldn’t believe how forward her friend was, although she couldn’t have Daryl she didn’t want her friend having him in fact she didn’t want any woman to have him. “You are out of your mind what if he doesn’t have an eye for you, what if he’s not even a bit interested in you, have you thought of that?” asked Karin, “I guess I will have to make a plan for him, let’s just wait and see shall we?” she simpered as she cast a glance at Daryl.

The guests sang happy birthday to Tiara as she made her wish and blew off the candles on her cake. They danced to loud fast music; everyone was shaking and moving in rhythm with the songs. The deejay then decided to switch to slow music the kind that people dance to with their lovers in their arms.

Tiara’s father asked her to dance with him and as they danced Maya coaxed Daryl into dancing with her. Tiara watched them dance and their every step, she felt angry and jealous and couldn’t understand why she felt that way. Why am I feeling this way, it’s not like Daryl is my boyfriend, why do I feel like I should be the one dancing with him, like he belongs to me and I belong to him? Oh! My God just what have I got myself into I’m in love with him yet I know I can never be with him, what am I going to do? This is all Eric’s fault he shouldn’t have left me, he should have

been here, she cried inside. Her father noticed that she was unhappy about something and he asked her what was wrong, "I'm okay dad I just wish Eric was here then I wouldn't be feeling this way".

"Ah! Is that all? Don't worry you will send him the video", "no! You don't get it I don't want him to see the video I want him here with me like a good boyfriend should he should have been here, he should have never left me it's all his fault that this is happening", she wailed, leaving her father confused. "What are you talking about what do you mean, what's happening?" He asked now concerned, "I'm sorry dad I guess I just over reacted I didn't mean to worry you I just wish he was here that's all, please excuse me father I need to be alone for a minute and don't worry about me I promise I will be fine".

She left her father dancing with her mother and went inside the house and threw herself on the couch she took the cushion and squeezed it as if she wanted to squeeze the life out of it. It was now clear to her that she had fallen in love with Daryl but was she to blame? No! Eric was to blame for leaving her and so was Daryl for being so easy to love and for being everything she wanted that Eric wasn't. Daryl had seen her leave and he immediately left Maya who was enjoying herself in his arms, he left her and went into the house to find Tiara. She was surprised to see him, "why are you following me?" she asked trying to hide that she was happy to see him because that meant he had left Maya to find her.

I'm sorry I didn't mean to invade your privacy but I can't help worrying about you, you seemed upset about something, why did you leave is everything okay?" he asked. "I'm fine Daryl I just wanted to be alone for a minute", "are you kidding it's your party and you don't even deserve to spend a second alone come on, come dance with me", he got her up on her feet and carried her outside in his arms, making a scene and causing people to get suspicious of their relationship.

They danced well together and as they danced she was very close to him, she couldn't help smiling she had got what she wanted to dance with Daryl and keep Maya away from him. As they danced staring at each other they both wondered how it would be like if they were lovers he held her tight like he never ever wanted to let her go she had her hands around his neck and her head on his chest. When the party ended Eric called her to wish her a happy birthday. "He should have called you first thing in the morning, what good will his wish do now that the party is already over?" mumbled Maya.

Her friends remained behind to help clear up the mess, when they were in bed her friends asked her again about her relationship with Daryl because they now had their doubts but Tiara never said a word she just pretended to be asleep. It became clear to Maya that Tia had feelings for Daryl and how hard she was trying to hide

them she decided to keep her distance from Daryl like that was going to change anything, Maya should have known that Daryl only had an eye for Tiara and Tiara alone.

CHAPTER 8

The next morning Tiara drove her friends back to their homes, when she got back home she went back to bed she was still tired. On Sunday the day the Daniels family went out for lunch Mr. Daniels asked Tia to invite Daryl to join them. Mr. Daniels liked Daryl a lot, they seemed to have a lot in common. Tiara was in Daryl's car when he asked her to go watch a movie with him at his place after the family lunch.

"I don't think that will be a good idea you know I'm not really into movies", she declined, "that's a flimsy excuse and you know it one movie won't kill you, what's wrong, I thought you loved spending time with me why the sudden change?" "Don't get it wrong it's not about that at all I guess I'm not in the mood for a movie today but I promise I will come tomorrow after work".

Tiara didn't want to spend more time alone with Daryl she feared falling deeper in love with him but the next day after work she kept her promise and went to his place to watch the movie with him. As soon as the movie ended Tiara took her belongings and dashed to the door after bidding goodbye to Daryl but he ran after her and grabbed her wrist and pulled her away from the door, he drew her close to him and her heart stopped beating for a while as he looked straight into her eyes and knowing very well that the eyes tell Tiara knew that by staring into her eyes he would discover the truth that she had fallen in love with him, she quickly looked aside to avoid her eyes clashing with his. Tiara knew she was in trouble and very wrong for falling in love with Daryl.

Falling in love with someone should be exciting and it should not be a crime or cause others pain but who you fall in love with can say if that love is wrong or right and in her case it was more than wrong because Daryl was her boyfriend's brother but no! She never wanted to fall in love with him but somehow it did happen and she wasn't strong enough to get rid of her feelings for Daryl. What do you do when you meet someone who makes you happier who has every quality, character and personality that you love which your man doesn't possess, who understands you more than your man does who likes whatever you like who is there when your man isn't and you think he is more than worthy of your love more than your man is? What do you do when you can't stop your heart from loving and desiring him and

you know that you can't ignore your love for him or even forget about him, do you give in to your heart's desire and face the consequences or you just walk away and live with the regrets of walking away and always wonder what could have been? But don't they say that dating is a dirty game all about finding the right partner who makes your heart beat faster and when you are in a relationship but you find another man a better partner for you then you are free to leave to be with them because you are not married to anyone, isn't it so? Tiara had asked herself but she never got an answer.

"Why are you running away from me, why have you been acting so strange lately?" He did not give her a chance to reply him, he already knew what was going on because he felt the same way too, he held her in his arms and kissed her the way she had never been kissed before, she felt helpless and powerless as if she was under his spell she desired more of his touch something she had never felt for any man before. It felt like his lips were made for hers like they were the perfect match. Tears rolled down her cheeks as she let him continue kissing her for she knew very well that what they were doing was very wrong yet it felt so right. She later found the strength to resist him and pulled away from his arms, "why are you doing this?" she cried.

"I'm sorry Tia, it was never my intention to hurt anyone but what can I do? Tia I'm in love with you and I can't fight that and do you want to know why I say I love you? It's because my heart beats faster whenever I lay my eyes on you I can't help smiling whenever I think of you and when I'm with you I feel complete I feel so at peace. When you are not with me I feel like a piece of me is missing like nothing will go right unless I set my eyes on you, I don't ever want to be apart from you not even for a day. Tia finding the words that best describe you is impossible because no words can say perfectly how beautiful you are in and out you are an amazing woman", he declared and tried kissing her again but she stopped him. "No! I can't do this we can't do this to Eric", she shook her head and then moved away from him. "Stop telling me about Eric where is he? He is not even here but I am and it's not all about him Tia what about you, what do you want? Are you going to ignore your heart's desire? I know you love me Tia I can see it in your pretty eyes, if eyes could speak then your one look would tell me everything. The way you kissed me back and the way your body responds when I touch you it says a lot don't even try to fight it because that will be a battle you will never win. I know you love me I can see it".

"No! I don't love you how can I possibly be in love with you?" she tried to lie. "Listen I'm not trying to complicate your life, you can lie all you want but you can't hide from the truth forever you love me Tiara you love me more than you have ever loved anyone before the look in your eyes is telling me all I need to know".

Tiara didn't argue with him she knew he was dead right and without wasting time he moved closer to her and kissed her she lost control of herself and he carried her in his arms took her to his bedroom and made love to her. Nothing else mattered in that moment she was in another planet where only she and Daryl existed. She was in a fairy land where she wore the crown of a princess and he was her prince charming making love to her like there was nothing else to do besides that, it felt right and her common sense was out the door she couldn't even remember her own name. His every touch made her moan softly she had never known such pleasure before. Waking up in his embrace reality finally dawned upon her, realizing the impulsive obscene thing she had done she couldn't help crying, she quickly jumped out of bed and dressed up, "What have I done, what have I done! I'm such a bitch I will never forgive myself for this", she cursed herself.

Daryl got up and dressed up as well. "How could I have let this happen I just gave away my virginity to my boyfriend's brother, Eric will never forgive me for this", "I'm sorry things had to turn out this way but we are destined to be together, I'm going to marry you Tia". Tiara got furious and slapped him, "how can you even think about that right now, don't you get it? Eric is going to hate us or even kill us that's if my dad doesn't kill us first he will be so angry if he found out about this he never raised me to be such a bitch". "Tia please don't talk like that you are not a bitch, you are one incredible beautiful woman who has the power to make a man like me go weak, I've never loved anyone the way that I love you", he uttered.

"Oh please! Daryl Do you really expect me to believe that? I wonder how many girls you have told that before." "Tiara I really don't care what you think but I know the truth and I can never lie to myself. When I was living with my mother I had no time for serious relationships but you are different from all the women I've been with you are just naturally amazing and I love you for who you are. Did you think I had planned to sleep with you before putting a ring on your finger? No! I didn't but sometimes your desires get too strong for your mind to control and your heart's desire overpowers your mind's or maybe destiny took its course", "what are you trying to say?" she asked.

"I'm saying that you stole my heart that's why I'm a heartless man right now and I'm never going to ask you to give it back and if anyone is to blame for any of this then it's you for being so damn irresistible and beautiful. Tia you are one in a million, you are my source of joy, laughter and peace, you are the reason I look forward each day and just the thought of seeing your beautiful face and staring into these seductive brown eyes of yours and the thought of holding you is all it takes to brighten my day. You are the eyes that look deep into my soul and the face that I see when I close my eyes", he proclaimed.

Tiara was touched by the words he used to describe her and tell her what she meant to him. "Aww Daryl, do you really feel that way about me? No one has ever said anything that beautiful to me and I must admit I lost my senses for a while I'm embarrassed to say you make me lose my mind and that's not a good thing but oh please Daryl say no more I'm just perplexed right now I think it will be best if I just go home".

Tiara felt guilty and disgusted about what she had done, a part of her felt bad for betraying Eric while another part of her enjoyed every minute she spent in Daryl's arms, she wondered how she had let him sleep with her when she wouldn't allow Eric to even think about it she then realized that Daryl had the power to strip her of her morals. The following week she tried by all means to avoid Daryl but she couldn't get him out of her mind. One afternoon when she was home alone with her mother she asked her if she had fallen in love with Daryl. "Of course not mother how could you even think that? He is my boyfriend's brother for heaven's sake". "Tia I'm your mother and I am no fool you are my daughter and I can read you just like an open book you are in love with that man and don't even try to lie to me", "oh! Mother its true I've created a big mess and I don't know what I'm going to do I shouldn't have fallen in love with Daryl", "princess you can't blame yourself because you can never stop your heart from loving someone and you can't tell your heart who to love or not it all happens naturally".

Tiara knew her mother was only saying that because she liked Daryl more than Eric. "Mom what do I do? I love them both and I don't want to hurt Eric he has had his heart broken before when his previous girlfriend left him for his best friend I can't do the same to him but I love Daryl too and I can't ignore that". "Listen he is a man he has broken hearts before and you've had yours broken such is life but I'm sure between the two of them there is one who makes your heart beat faster there is always a best between two", "mother you are not helping at all I don't want to think about choosing between the two of them at least not now".

"Well then I guess you have to come up with a solution for all this before Eric comes back but only a fool would leave the woman he loves alone for three months for no good reason, when is he coming back?" "He said he is coming back next weekend but mom the fact that he left me for all this long is no excuse for me to cheat on him he left because he trusts me", "wait a minute, what do you mean cheat on him, did anything happen between you and Daryl?" she asked curiously.

"No! I didn't mean it like that I guess...It...came out...wrong", she stuttered. "You are stuttering that means something is up what have you done, did you kiss him?" If only her mother knew she had done much more than just kissing him. "Hmm okay I'm not going to lie to you I will tell you the truth but you are going to be so disappointed in me after hearing what I have to say but just promise me that you

won't tell dad about it", she said. "You have my word I won't tell him anything", agreed her mother. "Uh...eer...I....last week...Daryl....we...I...was..." she stuttered again. "You what?" asked her mother who was now more curious and impatient. "I...mom...I...I slept with Daryl, there I've said it", she covered her face with her hands scared to see the look on her mother's face. "You did what? No! You must be joking just tell me you kissed him and that's all, you are testing me aren't you?" she asked not wanting to believe her daughter would do such a thing. "No! You have no idea how I wish it was a joke but it's not, I did sleep with him and I feel bad but I don't entirely regret it".

"Tia! Tiara! I know there is no way you could sleep with a man who has not put a ring on your finger, you wouldn't sleep with anyone not after I lectured you about sex you wouldn't lose your virginity just like that to your boyfriend's brother of all people. The daughter that I raised would never disappoint me like that so quit playing games and tell me the truth". "Mother please! Just stop! I feel bad already but don't make it sound like I killed someone. You do know that I've always wanted to wait and I never planned for any of this to happen it just happened I guess I was overwhelmed by my feelings for him because I've never felt that way before but I know it was so wrong and I'm so sorry I've disappointed you and I hope you forgive me for that, I'm only human".

"Don't give me that, you promised me you would wait, you promised Tiara", her mother hollered disappointed. "I know that mom and I've said I'm sorry and please don't tell dad about this you know he would kill me or Daryl if he ever found out and I don't want to lose my dad's trust. He can never find out about this", "I won't lie to you Tiara I'm really disappointed in you but I will try to understand as a mother. I wasn't a virgin myself when I married your father but I wanted you and Shania to save yourselves for your husband's but please make sure history doesn't repeat its self because I don't want you getting married after having slept with ten men and don't worry I gave you my word I won't tell your father". She reassured.

"Won't tell me what?" asked Mr. Daniels with creased lines on his forehead. Tiara's heart stopped beating for a while when she saw her father standing behind them. "Dad we never heard you come in, how long have you been standing there?" "Long enough I think so what is it that you won't tell me Roselyn? You are my wife and you are not supposed to keep anything from me", "don't be silly Jack its nothing. Tia didn't want you to know about it but since you insist I will tell you. Uh Tiara lost the gold necklace you bought her for her birthday, are you happy now?" "Is that it?" he doubted. "Yes dad, I thought you would be mad considering that the chain cost you a fortune since it was pure gold I thought you would say I'm careless and you won't buy me gifts ever again", lied Tiara. "Well if that's the case then don't worry princess I'm sure it wasn't your fault that you lost it. You know that I will never stop

spoiling you with gifts that's what fathers are for", he grinned as he embraced his daughter. If only he knew the truth then he wouldn't be embracing her but beating the life out of her.

He was a loving father but he did not tolerate nonsense this meant he could be harsh when necessary. He left the two women alone in the living room and went upstairs to lie down. "Whew! That was close", sighed Tiara, "what was close?" asked Shania who was standing behind them with her friend Lily. "Nothing of your concern", replied Mrs. Daniels, "damn it! Nia, why do you have to sneak up on us like that?" Accused Tiara, "I did no such thing you just never heard me come in gees! If I didn't know better I would have said the two of you have a big dark secret that you are hiding", murmured Shania. Since they did have a secret they kept quiet and never said a word.

An hour later Tia decided to go visit Karin, on her way to her car she saw Daryl pull over his car in front of her house she was certainly not ready to see him or even to talk to him. "What are you doing here what do you want, didn't I tell you that I'm not ready to see you? I need air to breathe", she grouched. "Oh! So that's why you haven't been answering my calls, well I'm sorry I disturbed your breathing moment but I had no choice but to come. I've got bad news for you Eric is back and he asked me to come pick you up". "I don't have time for your silly games I'm not in the mood for that and don't joke about Eric okay! He is coming next weekend, why the lies?"

Daryl moved closer to her and stared into her eyes, he knew what that did to her, "and when have I ever lied to you Tia huh? I would never lie to a woman I love. Eric thought he should come a week earlier to surprise you but I see that wasn't such a good idea, if you don't believe me I will call him right now to come pick you up himself ". Just that instant she realized that Daryl wasn't fooling around he was dead serious, she panicked. "You didn't tell him anything, did you?" she panted, "...eer... not yet, if I had told him do you think he would have asked me to come pick you up? Of course not he would have stuck a knife into my heart though I believe I don't have one remember I told you that you took it so I'm kind of heartless", he riposted. "Daryl what's wrong with you, why do you have to act like everything is just a joke? Uh!!" roared Tiara annoyed, "oh! I'm sorry but I thought you loved that about me okay fine, the truth is I'm just joking around to hide that I'm scared as hell, if Eric finds out he will kill me and I still want to live I don't want to die young before marrying you and holding our kids and our grand children".

"Daryl, stop it please! Can't you be serious for just one minute? How am I ever going to be able to face Eric again after what I've done? Daryl we can't tell him about us it would crush him", "even if we don't tell him he will find out one day the truth always has its way of coming out, Tia you have to tell him the sooner the

better because I don't think I can stand watching the only woman I've ever loved being kissed by another man in front of me. He has to know the truth so that we can be together", he uttered.

"You're unbelievable, do you hear yourself? You sound as if I'm your girlfriend, you seem to be forgetting that he is my boyfriend not you, we are nothing but a one night mistake so shut up okay! I can't think properly when you are rumbling", she blasted. "Gee! You've got a bad temper woman, well get in the car and let's go we don't want to keep your prince charming waiting", he opened the door for Tia to get in. Eric was back sooner than she expected this was supposed to be the most exciting day for Tiara but because of her unfaithfulness it was her worst nightmare. They arrived at Eric's house, he was very happy to see her he couldn't wait to hold her in his arms and guilt was slowly tormenting Tiara as Eric kissed her. Daryl was watching them from afar as she kissed him back, Tiara couldn't help the tears escaping from her eyes. "Why the tears?" asked Eric. "I missed you that's all", she lied, "well I'm here now and I'm never ever leaving you again", reassured Eric as he got down on one bended knee and took out a beautiful diamond ring which he had bought in Nashville. "Tiara Daniels will you make me the happiest man alive by saying you will marry me?" He proposed.

Eric had stayed in Nashville for three months and while he was there he visited his father and renovated his mother's house and then sold it at a much higher price since it had been renovated it wasn't hard finding a buyer for it. He used the money to buy Tiara the most expensive wedding ring and put the rest of the money aside to use for their wedding. He had planned to make her his wife as soon as he got back home. If only he had known what his leaving would create he wouldn't have left. "Please say you will be my wife", he continued. Tiara glanced at the beautiful ring; she then looked at Daryl and then looked back at Eric how was she to say yes to his proposal when she cheated on him with his only brother?

If only Daryl wasn't in the picture then she would marry Eric. Daryl was standing in the corridor watching the woman he loved break down in tears. "I'm sorry Eric but I can't marry you, I wish I could but I can't I'm not the right person for you, you deserve so much better than me", she turned down his proposal. "What are you talking about? You are the only girl for me don't you love me anymore?" "Of course I do but you don't understand I did something really bad while you were away".

"It doesn't matter whatever it is that you did as long as you still love me. We all make mistakes I don't expect you to be perfect you don't have to tell me what it is that you did just say you will marry me", he persisted. "You are only saying that because you don't know what I did...Eric...I...I...slept with Daryl", she professed.

Eric couldn't believe what he just heard. He was flustered and appalled, "No! No! No!" He screamed throwing down the glasses that were on the table, he glared at Daryl and then he looked back at Tiara. "How did that happen, were you drunk, did he rape you or drug you, did he force himself on you?" "No! He didn't do any of that I fell in love with him", she blabbed as she buried her face in her hands she was ashamed to face Eric. "You devil!" He cursed pointing at Daryl, he ran to where he was standing and attacked him, he gave him a hefty punch on the face and Daryl fell to the ground. They viciously attacked each other like wild dogs and it wasn't long before they started bleeding.

"No! Please! Stop fighting, this is my entire fault and if anyone deserves to be beaten up then it's me", she shuddered, she couldn't bear the sight of the two men she loved attacking each other all because of her. They ceased fighting, Daryl got up first and held Tiara in his arms trying to comfort her, seeing this Eric became jealous and furious he quickly got up and roughly pulled Tiara away from Daryl. "How could you betray me like this I loved you wasn't that enough? I thought you loved me", he keened. "I do...I do love you Eric", she replied in tears. "Love my foot! So this is how you show your love by sleeping with my brother. You are no different from a slut you just became my version of toilet trash", he cursed. "Don't talk to her like that", shouted Daryl. Eric didn't pay attention to him, he held Tiara's wrist tightly intentionally hurting her and feeling the pain she groaned. "Eric you are hurting me please let go of my wrist", she cried, "well that's okay if I'm hurting you, the pain you are feeling right now is nothing compared to the pain I'm feeling", "let go of her right now", demanded Daryl who couldn't stand the sight of Eric hurting Tiara.

"And why don't you just shut up! You have no right to tell me what to do in my own house", retorted Eric, he reluctantly let go of her wrist. "So where did you two screw each other, in my house, on my bed?" He bellowed. Tiara kept quiet and just glanced at him, she was surprised to see the other side of Eric which she never knew even existed but maybe she had brought out the worst in him. Seeing her quiet and not making an effort to talk Eric slapped her and she held her bruised cheek and sobbed. Eric's reaction to the truth was more than she had imagined. "Answer me damn it! But then again please don't. I don't want to hear it anymore just get the hell out of my sight I don't ever want to see your pathetic face here again", he shouted. "Eric! That's enough! I know you're angry right now but just stop with this violence. I never asked you to leave me for three months nor did I ask to fall in love with your brother, I never asked him to be everything that you are...", before she could finish her sentence she got another clap from Eric, "shut up! How dare you! Get out of my house now", he screamed at her while he dragged her outside of his house.

“Daryl I want you out of my house I’m giving you five minutes to pack your belongings and go, you disgust me what kind of a brother are you?” Daryl got in his car and ran after Tiara who was already half a mile away from Eric’s house. “Get in I will drive you home you can’t possibly walk all the way to your house”. She got in without demur, they never exchanged words until they reached Tiara’s house. “Tia I don’t know what to say”, he murmured, “then don’t say anything just do both of us a favor and leave me alone Daryl it’s for the best”, she muttered, she got inside her house and never turned back to face Daryl.

Tiara locked herself up in her bedroom and she never even came out for dinner it seemed to be the end of the road for her and her world had crumbled down. A few months ago she was the happiest girl on earth but now she was the most miserable and she only had herself to blame.

“What is wrong with Tia today this is so not like her? She didn’t even come out for dinner”, wondered Mr. Daniels. “Who knows? Maybe she just had a bad day and needs sometime alone”, assumed Mrs. Daniels who had an idea of what was going on with her daughter. “I think I should go check on her”, offered Mr. Daniels, “dad I don’t think that will be a good idea, if there is anything wrong with Tia then she would want sometime alone. I know my sister very well so just leave her alone for now”, advised Shania.

When everyone had gone to bed Mrs. Daniels begged Tiara to let her in and she did, she told her mother everything that happened. “Maybe going away for sometime will help, being in a different environment surrounded by different people and faraway from everything will help you clear your head and forget about everything”, suggested Mrs. Daniels. “Where will I go?” “You can go to Castle city to visit my sister, your Aunt Juliet, it’s only five hours away from here”, “okay I will go next week as soon as schools close”. “It will be good for you to forget everything”, she said. “But mom even if I forget about it all I will never be able to forget what I did to Eric, what Dylan did to me is nothing compared to what I’ve done to Eric. I got in between two brothers who have no one but each other and they were just starting to get along and I messed up everything how will I ever be able to get past that or forgive myself, Oh! Mother is there anyone who has ever done such a terrible thing like I have?” “Yes of course, Tia don’t be too hard on yourself we all make mistakes that’s why we are humans and not gods you will get over it time heals all wounds and I’m sure as time goes on Eric will learn to forgive Daryl besides everything happens for a reason. Have you ever considered that maybe you weren’t destined to be with Eric?” “Even if that were the case mom Eric still didn’t deserve to be hurt like that nobody does and I still love him I care deeply about him if only Daryl hadn’t come to this town ooh”, she sighed.

“Are you sure you really wish you hadn’t met Daryl? If you find the answer to that question then you will know who you belong with”, said her mother. When schools closed Elton came back home but unfortunately Tiara couldn’t stick around to be with her brother. She told Shania everything about her relationship with Eric and Daryl and begged her not to tell either one of them where she was going and Shania promised not to tell. Before she could start her car Tiara got an unexpected call from Eric.

“Eric!” She answered her phone surprised, “I just called to apologize for laying my hands on you I shouldn’t have beat you up I’m sorry”, he apologized. “It’s okay I understand that you were angry and I’m glad you called, Eric I really...” he didn’t give her a chance to finish what she wanted to say. “No! Don’t get it wrong Tiara this doesn’t change anything I’m never going to forgive you for what you did”, “Eric wait! Please don’t hang up just yet, did hmm did Daryl move out?” “Of course he did”, he grouched.

“But where did he go? I’m worried about him you know that he doesn’t know anyone around here”; “You really are under his spell aren’t you? Do you really think I give a damn where he is? He is a grown man you shouldn’t be worried and it’s not my fault that he spent all his time screwing you instead of taking some time to get to know other people”, he hung up on her before she could say anything else.

Tiara reached her aunt’s place after spending five hours on the road. The house was huge and bigger than theirs the yard was smart and neat and the lawn was fresh and green. Her aunt was in her early fifties she had no children and she lived alone ever since her husband died in war. Tiara hadn’t visited her aunt for a very long time and she was looking forward seeing her again. She removed her suitcase from her car and rang the door bell. Her aunt opened the door for her and let her in and she was thrilled to see her niece. “What a pleasant surprise Tia it’s so good to see you again I missed you so much and you’ve grown so much you have your mother’s beauty”, complimented her aunt as she embraced Tiara with love. “I missed you too Aunt Juliet”, she replied. Without wasting time her aunt showed her to the guest room and she started unpacking and felt at home.

A week later Tiara was getting bored in her aunt’s house she was used to a house full of people and visitors everyday but here it was just her and her aunt. Her aunt never wanted to go out and Tiara was always at home bored and ended up thinking too much and that was not helping her to forget about Daryl and Eric. One afternoon the door bell rang and they both wondered who was by the door. “It’s probably Elton and Shania”, assumed Tiara as she left to go open the door and indeed it was Shania but the young man with her was not Elton.

“Nia! What were you thinking, why did you bring him here? You promised me you wouldn’t?” She grumbled. “I’m sorry Tia but he just wouldn’t leave me alone he kept on bugging me till I gave in to his demands”. Tiara wasn’t ready to talk to him she forced Shania inside the house and when she was about to shut the door in his face he knelt down in front of her. “I’m not leaving until you listen to what I have to say”.

“Tia please just listen to what he has to say it won’t kill you”, begged Shania. “Okay fine you’ve got five minutes say what you have to say and go”, she muttered.

“Thank you Tia, I won’t lie to you and say I don’t eat or sleep because I do but the thing is ever since we’ve been apart it’s been so hard for me to eat or sleep. It’s killing me and I’m sure you understand what I’m saying because you probably feel the same way too. Tiara you are always on my mind and I can’t stop thinking about you”, he stated. When he realized that he now had her full attention he took out a ring and held it up high as he proposed to her, “Tiara I say once you’ve found the best then the search is over and to me you are the best of the best there will ever be so please forget about all the mistakes you have done and those that I did and just think about you, your future, your dreams what you want and what makes you happy. Tiara Daniel’s will you make my day and say you will marry me and be my wife? Please say you want to be the mother of my children and the woman I will see when I wake up every morning, say you want to be the woman I will utter I love you to every single day and that you want to grow old with me. Tiara your father’s princess will you be my princess as well, will you marry me?”

Tiara looked at Shania who smiled at her and nodded her head in approval she then stared at the man who was proposing to her, indeed the eyes did tell for by looking in his eyes she could see how crazy he was about her his eyes burned with flames of love and what more could a woman ask for besides having the heart of a man she loves even if that meant he would be left heartless? “Yes! Yes! Yes! I will marry you”, she squeaked as she threw herself in his wide open arms. He placed the ring on her finger and it looked perfect there. Aunt Juliet heard screams of excitement and she stepped outside to find out what was going on. Shania gleefully greeted her aunt and Tiara blissfully introduced her fiancée to her aunt but unfortunately she had to cut her visit short.

She left her aunt’s house and went back home to plan for her wedding to the man she loved. Mr. Daniels and Elton were happy for Tiara and they never bothered to ask what had been going on in her love life. Elton proposed to Christina and she agreed to marry him. Christina and Tiara decided to have a double wedding.

The two couples had a small intimate but beautiful wedding surrounded by close family and friends. Shania was Christina’s maid of honor and Karin was Tiara’s. Elton bought a house in Australia and moved there with his wife. Tiara moved in

with her husband and he took her to Paris known as the city of love for their honeymoon. “Darling what’s my new name?” She asked her husband as she glanced at her wedding ring with a smile, “I’m not sure hmm isn’t it Mrs. Tiara Daniels”, he riposted, “of course not you silly, it’s Mrs. Tiara Daryl Westwick”, “oh! I love the sound of that, come here”, he smirked as he kissed his beautiful bride with love in his heart.....

THE END

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