

PHAZE FLARE

FREE FICTION



**WEEKEND
GETAWAY**

MISSY LYONS

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I watched my daughter walk out to the ski slope. Her skis lay over her shoulder, she was so in tune with her friend, chatting away, that I was completely forgotten. I remained on the deck, standing alone, wringing my hands in misery.

“Remember to meet me at 4 for dinner.” I called to her, but she knew that already. So she just waved before continuing on her journey to the chair lift. Why do kids have to grow up so fast? I can still remember the day I brought her home from the hospital, she was so tiny in my arms and now all I can think of is how fast she is growing up. Next year she will be in college and I—Well, then I will be all alone. My chest felt like it was being crushed. My little girl didn’t need me anymore.

I missed her already. As if she was gone from me now.

So this is what the empty nest syndrome feels like. It just plain hurts.

“Teenagers are a breed of their own. Is she yours?” The deep male voice caused me to turn around.

I looked up at the sound of a man’s gentle voice that broke me from my reverie of self pity. He was a tall good looking man in his forties and he dressed well. He had Calvin Klein jeans that defined his legs and a comfortable flannel shirt. Clothes that would keep him warm but were not water proof. He must not be planning to go on the slope today. His eyes caught mine when I looked at his face and he just smiled at me, which made me smile back.

I felt a nervous flutter in my stomach. It had been a long time since I felt any kind of attention from a man. It had been a year since I was divorced and my priority had quickly become taking care of my daughter and supporting our house. This didn’t leave much room for me.

“Yeah, I guess hanging with Mom isn’t cool anymore. She sure is growing up fast. I am trying to give her more space when she needs it, but it’s hard to let go.”

“Consider yourself lucky. My boys have not wanted much to do with me in public since they discovered girls. That was around the age of twelve.” I laughed at that, it was nice to be distracted by

someone else. Moments ago, I felt like crying a little and now with his soulful brown eyes on me, I really liked the way I felt.

“So do you have a free day too?” I said softly, half expecting him to say no. My heart raced with deep energy and drawn out anticipation. “Sure do. My name is Danny by the way.” He held out his hand I reached out to shake hands. I liked the way it felt in my hand, warm and gentle. I didn’t want to let it go, but I reluctantly did.

“It’s nice to meet you Danny. My name is Jessica. So you are not planning on skiing today?” I reached up to push my black shoulder length hair behind one ear.

“It’s no fun to go by your self and my boys have already hit the slopes. I have been on my own since my divorce ten years ago. You wouldn’t be interested in joining me for some hot chocolate would you?”

My only thoughts were on the fact he just said he was available and he would like to spend the day with me. At least I thought that was what he said. He didn’t have a new wedding ring on. My smile widened, and I knew he could probably see the smile clear into my blue eyes.

“Hot chocolate is my favorite drink. You sure know the way to warm this woman’s heart.” I was happy to have his company distracting me.

He bought me a hot chocolate and I let him guide me to a sofa in the corner by a roaring fireplace. The light from the fire played on his features. A comfortable heat washed over me emanating from the fireplace. We began to talk and laugh over our kids and our lives. It amazed me how fast the time went in his company. I felt my heart thaw while I was sitting next to him. I had guarded my heart too long. It had been so long since I had trusted anyone with my heart. The pain of the divorce took a long time for me to get over. I had thrown myself whole heartedly into being a better

mom and a better employee. I had not dated since the divorce, but until now I couldn't say I wanted to date either.

"I know I was probably being silly back there. I think it will be hard for me when I have to send her off to college next year. It's hard not to be overbearing or overprotective. Thanks for making me laugh about it." I was captivated by his fascinated stare. It was almost like he was as interested in me as I was in him.

"No problem."

"I hope we can do this again sometime. Are you staying here long?" My chest tightened and my heart plummeted at the thought of letting him go. I didn't mean it to sound gruff or to end this but I didn't want to intrude on his day. I had to give him the opportunity to leave if he wanted to.

"It's just a weekend getaway." He cocked his head to look at me as if seeing me for the first time. "But if you need to get going I understand. I was kind of hoping our time together didn't have to end. I don't usually say these kinds of things but I like you and I would like to spend the day getting to know you better."

"Really? I was afraid you may not have been interested. I think I would like that." His words made my heart race and my spirit soar with a hope of a new future.

About the Author

Missy Lyons

Missy Lyons was one of four girls born in Santa Maria, California. She grew up along the beach and back in the country, catching lizards and climbing trees. No one knew she would grow up to have such a romantic heart from the tomboy she was as a child. She is currently trying to be a city girl living with her family in Nashville Tennessee.

Missy loves to write romance almost as much as she loves to read it. Her heroines are always strong women that can stand up for them selves. She is a multi-genre author ranging from contemporary romance to fantasy. Her favorite genre to write is paranormal romance. From dragons to druids, her work is inspired by fairy tales and daydreams.

If you enjoyed this story you may enjoy “Closing the Deal”. An e-book that will be available from www.phaze.com in April 2007.

You can see more of her work at www.missylyons.com.



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