

**THE
WRONG**

Mr. Wright

**PEGGY
HUNTER**

THE WRONG MR. WRIGHT

by

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Dedication

For my husband.

Thank you for your love, support and most of all,
your belief in me.

Chapter 1

Lily Saunders pushed the keycard into the hotel room lock and opened the door. The room was dark with only the faint light from the street below to guide her. With her heart hammering in her chest, she slowly made her way to the bed and stood over the man in it.

Come on, Lily, you can do this.

She took a deep breath and untied the belt of her raincoat. She let it slide to the floor as she kicked her shoes off. The room chilled her naked body as she leaned over the bed. She reached beneath the covers and ran her hand over sinewy thighs before she wrapped her fingers around his sleeping cock. It quickly woke and sprang to life.

Good! This was all good. At least he didn't recoil.

She pulled the covers back and crawled in beside him.

He woke slowly and groaned. "What the fuck—"

"Ssh," she chided softly. "It's just me." She moved over him, splaying her legs on either side of his hips. She felt his hands slide over her backside and squeeze softly.

She grinned. There was no reason they couldn't enjoy each other's bodies as they worked toward their goal. She hadn't expected to feel so turned on, even though it had been over a year since she'd last had sex. Something about the darkness of the room, the firm body beneath her and their wicked plan made Lily's body quake in anticipation.

Her hands slid over his chest, her fingers curling into the hair as she leaned down to touch her lips to his. She felt his penis grow with need against her core.

She chuckled softly. "Do you want to fuck me, big boy?"

"Uhm, yeah," he said softly.

Lily frowned. His voice was deeper than she remembered, somehow richer and so much sexier with a gravelly tone. She shrugged it off. She'd woken him from a deep sleep. "Then do it," she said. "I'm all yours. Fuck me."

His fingers pressed into the flesh of her hips as he pulled her down over his iron strength. She gasped as his shaft opened her and then slowly slid inside.

"Oh yeah," he said as he pulled her down against him. "You're so hot and so damn tight."

Lily struggled to find her voice. His cock was so much bigger, so much harder and a hell of a lot more demanding than she expected. She clenched her teeth against the moan she felt curling in her throat. "Do you like how my pussy feels?"

"Yeah, I like it," he said as his hands left her hips and gripped her breasts. He pinched her nipples gently, rolling them between his fingers until they became firm buds. "Hmm," he whispered. "I like your breasts, too. So full and firm."

She sighed when his hands cupped her shoulders and pulled her down to him. His mouth closed over one nipple. His tongue circled it before his teeth gently grazed and nibbled the sensitive peak. When he turned his attention to her other breast, his hands slid to her buttocks and pushed her down with force. Her body slammed over his cock as he lunged into her.

Her voice vibrated as she cried out in sheer ecstasy, "Oh God!"

"You like that, do you?" he whispered harshly as his fingers dug into her flesh. She couldn't find the words to reply. "Let me have what you came here to give me. Give it to me!"

Lily moaned and pushed herself upright. She rode him as he bucked beneath her. "That's it," he said through clenched teeth.

He grabbed her hand and pressed it between them. Her body rocked when her fingers felt their connection. And then he pressed his thumb against her clitoris and she knew she was completely lost. She cried out as her body gave way to release. He moaned as an orgasm overtook him and he slammed into her one more time before she felt his liquid seed fill her.

Lily shuddered and fell over him. His arms wrapped around her waist and held her against him. "Jesus," he gasped. "That was amazing."

"It was," she said as she pulled herself off him. She wished she could stay to bask in the afterglow. But they'd agreed not to get attached.

She reached for the raincoat she'd left on the floor.

"Where are you going?" he asked. "Spend the night with me. I want to fuck you again and again."

Lily smiled as she shoved her feet into her shoes. "That wasn't part of the deal," she told him. "Besides, we have to leave first thing in the morning. We need our sleep." As she walked to the door, she turned and gazed across the dark room. "If it didn't work tonight, we'll do it again in a month."

"What?"

Lily smiled. "I'll keep you posted," she said. "That's part of the deal, after all." She pulled the door closed behind her and quickly walked back to her room.

That wasn't nearly as bad as she expected it to be. In fact, it was better than any sex she'd ever had in her life. Part of her hoped she wasn't pregnant so she could look forward to their next encounter.

* * * *

Lily slowly opened her eyes and gazed at the alarm clock beside the bed. She blinked. *Holy Shit!* It was almost nine a.m.! She'd overslept. The plane bound for Toronto was leaving in less than an hour!

She sprang from the bed and rushed around the hotel room, jamming her clothes into a suitcase. The phone rang just as she was about to run to the bathroom to retrieve her toiletries. She

leapt at it. "Hello?"

"Ms. Saunders, where the hell are you?"

Dang! Her boss. "I'm sorry, Mr. Wright. I overslept. I'll be down in a few minutes."

"The car is leaving for the airport in ten minutes. Hurry the hell up!"

"I will, Mr. Wright. I'm sorry."

She hung up the phone and decided she didn't have time to get her things out of the bathroom. She quickly dressed, closed her suitcase and dashed out the door.

* * * *

Lily smiled as Davis took the seat beside her on the plane. God, he'd been amazing last night. She hadn't expected to enjoy having sex with him. In fact, she was dreading it from the moment he agreed to help her get pregnant.

She looked at him as he buckled the seat belt around his waist. For an openly gay man, he certainly pulled out all the stops last night. She wished she felt something more for him than friendship...hell, she wished he wasn't gay! She suspected his dirty talk during sex helped him get in the mood as well. God knows, it certainly worked for her.

"How are you this morning?" she asked after he was finally settled in the seat beside her.

He gazed at her and brushed a hand through his tidy blond hair. "Fine. But I'm a little confused."

Lily smiled and patted his hand. "I can imagine you are," she said softly. "After all, you were with a woman for the first time last night. I can see you'd have a whole range of emotions to deal with."

Davis blinked. "And what woman was that?" he asked. "I waited for hours. Where the hell were you?"

Lily chuckled and slapped his hand softly. "Don't tease me," she said as she rested her head against the back of her seat.

"I'm not teasing," Davis replied. "Where were you?"

Lily lifted her head and peered at him. She swallowed hard when she saw the serious expression on his face. He really wasn't teasing.

"Davis," she said, "I did exactly as you instructed. I went to the front desk and asked for the keycard to your room. The clerk said you'd approved it so he gave it to me without hesitation. Then I went to room 344."

Davis' face blanched. His eyes rounded. "Sweet Jesus," he said softly. "The front desk fucked up. I was in room 342."

Lily felt her stomach fall to her toes. Her body shook with fear. "Oh my God!" she cried.

Davis' hand gripped hers. "Shh, not so loud."

Lily struggled to keep her voice low as her mind grappled with the facts. "Davis," she whispered urgently. "I had sex with the man in room 344 last night." She clamped her hand over her mouth. "I had sex with a complete stranger."

"Oh, I wouldn't say that," Davis said. "He isn't a complete stranger."

Lily's voice squeaked as she asked. "He isn't?"

Davis shook his head slowly. His next words coursed over her like an icy cold rain. "You had sex with Daniel."

Chapter 2

It had been three weeks since they'd returned from their overnight stay in New York City but Daniel Wright couldn't get her out of his head. Just how she managed to get the keycard to his room was anyone's guess and something that didn't matter to him. Even though he'd never seen her face, her body spoke to him, pulled him into a realm of sweet, incredible sex. And then she dashed away like a thief in the night.

He'd inquired at the front desk the next morning but the night duty clerk had left and there was no record of who had been given a keycard to his room.

She'd been a complete stranger and yet there was something familiar about her. Something about her voice, her body and oh, the sweet scent he couldn't get out of his head.

Daniel wouldn't rest until he knew who she was. He hungered for her. He wanted to taste her, to feel her writhing beneath him as he filled her with his cock. She'd fed him a bit, made him an addict, then disappeared.

And then there was what she'd said before she left. She'd keep him updated and something about seeing him in a month.

Everything about that night left him confused and, damn it all, in a very, very bad mood.

Add to that, Lily Saunders, his secretary, had called in sick every day since she'd arrived home from New York City. The temp taking her place didn't have a fucking clue as far as he was concerned. And Davis Wright, his cousin and right-hand man, seemed to be walking on eggshells around him lately.

As founder and CEO of *Wright Plastics*, the largest manufacturer in, not just Toronto, but the entire country, he needed his key people around him at all times.

The plastics conference in New York City had landed his company several new and very large contracts. So, where the fuck were his key people?

Daniel hit the intercom on his phone. "Mrs. Harper, find Davis and get him into my office right now."

"Hello? This is Mrs. Harper speaking. How can I help you?"

Daniel groaned and hit the button again. "You can help me by finding Davis."

"Hello? Is this thing on?"

She still hadn't figured out how to use the damn intercom. Daniel flew out of the leather chair. *Fuck it!* He'd find Davis himself.

As he approached his office door, it opened and Davis walked in.

"Close the fucking door," Daniel said tightly as he turned back to his desk.

"Language!" Mrs. Harper called. Daniel rolled his eyes. God, he needed Lily back.

“Still in a bad mood, I see,” Davis said as he pushed the door closed behind him and walked to the chair across from the desk.

“Yeah, I’m in a bad mood,” Daniel grumbled as he went back to his chair. “Who’d blame me? My secretary’s been sick for three weeks, the temp hasn’t got a clue and I don’t know what the fuck is up with you lately!”

“Hey, back off, cuz,” Davis said. “I’m on top of the new contracts and everything is coming together. We’ll start production on the first contract in less than a month and that’s a hell of a lot better than you expected.”

True. Davis hadn’t let him down. “Fine, you’re right.” That was as close as Davis, or anyone else for that matter, would get to an apology from Daniel. “But I want Lily back. What’s going on with her?”

Davis averted his gaze. “She’s not well. Has a cold or something.”

He was lying. There was no question about it. Davis had been covering for Lily for three weeks. Daniel knew his cousin and secretary became friends soon after she started working at *Wright Plastics*. In spite of her friendship with Davis, Lily kept a professional distance from her boss. And Daniel respected that.

He had to admit Lily was an incredibly lovely woman. Long, strawberry blond hair always neatly tucked into a bun or ponytail, emerald eyes framed by long lashes...and then her body, damn! She had a lovely rounded ass and high, firm breasts. Both were accentuated by her slender waist and all-around tiny stature.

Daniel would have loved to drag Lily into his bed and make her his own. But he had a firm policy of not fucking employees and well, Lily had always been completely professional in his presence.

Still, she seemed quite friendly with his cousin. He suspected she didn’t feel threatened by Davis since he was gay.

He had a great deal of respect for his cousin. He had tremendous insight when it came to *Wright Plastics*. Daniel wasn’t sure the company would have found the success it had without him.

However, that Davis knew more than he was letting on about Lily drove Daniel nuts. There was only one way to find out. He’d have to go to see Lily himself...

* * * *

“Did you take the test yet?” Davis asked.

Lily paced around her studio apartment as she held the portable phone to her ear. She peered anxiously at the bathroom door. “I took it just before you called. Takes five minutes for the results. The timer on the stove is ticking away.”

“Good,” Davis said. “I’ll wait with you.”

"I appreciate that," Lily replied. "God, you have no idea how worried I've been."

"Well, the moment of truth is almost upon us," Davis replied. "It's a good thing, too. Daniel wants you back in the office."

"I couldn't face him these past three weeks," Lily said. "Not after what happened in New York. God, how could I have been so stupid?"

"You weren't stupid, Lily," Davis replied. "It was a mistake."

"But I should have known it wasn't you," she cried. "We've been friends since I started working at *Wright Plastics* six months ago. Why didn't I know it wasn't you just by touch?"

"Well, it's too bad we agreed to do it in the dark. But don't blame yourself for not knowing. Daniel's older and taller than I am, but other than that, there isn't a great deal of difference between us. It was an honest mistake."

True enough, it was an honest mistake...but one that might hound her for the rest of her life!

The timer dinged. *Oh God!* The moment of truth had come. Lily swallowed hard.

"Go look," Davis urged. "I'm right here with you."

Lily slowly walked to the bathroom. She approached it with caution, as though it just might leap up and attack her. She squeezed her eyes closed as her heart pounded in her chest.

"What does it say, Lily?"

"I'm afraid to look."

Davis groaned. "Open your fucking eyes and look!"

He knew her so well. Lily eased her eyes open slowly and peered down at the wand. One blue stripe. *Oh my God!* "I'm not pregnant!" she squealed in sheer delight.

"Well, thank God!" Davis replied as he let out a long breath. "No harm done then. We'll just move forward."

Relief coursed through Lily's body. "Are you sure you want to move forward? After what happened..."

"Of course I am," Davis said quickly. "I want to help you."

"Right," Lily said, though in her heart, she wasn't sure about anything anymore.

"I'll see you at work Monday morning," Davis said before he hung up.

Lily listened to the dial tone for a moment before she pressed the end button on the phone. She clutched it to her chest as she peered down at the pregnancy test again.

She should be thankful she wasn't pregnant. God, imagine carrying Daniel Wright's child? Being bound to him for eternity. The very idea made her shiver in fear.

And yet...

For the past three weeks, she grappled with the fact that she had made love to her boss. Daniel Wright, forty-two years old, multi-millionaire and the most eligible bachelor in Toronto. The sexy, albeit difficult to work for, CEO was well-known for his prowess with women. Many women sought him; none had ever won his heart.

She felt her face flush with heat at the memory of their lovemaking. Her body warmed at the thought of the sheer power he'd thrust between her thighs, taking all she had and demanding more.

At twenty-nine, Lily had been with men before but none had ever left her feeling the way Daniel did. His touch left her breathless. His erotic demands left her wanting more.

If only she could meet a man who could make her feel that way and loved at the same time. She imagined she never would. And that was why she and Davis devised a plan to produce a child.

Lily wasn't getting any younger. In fact, she would be thirty in four months. Her biological clock was, as far as she was concerned, a ticking time bomb. She may never meet the right man, but that didn't mean she couldn't have a child.

Davis found himself in a different situation. He'd always wanted children but, since he was gay, it seemed quite unlikely that he'd ever know fatherhood. That was, until he and Lily shared their woes over coffee one night after work.

For the next month, they ironed out the details. Davis suggested a contract drawn up with a lawyer. They covered everything from Davis' monetary support to alternating holidays with the child should they chose not to spend them together. Lily would have chief custody but Davis would have the child every other weekend.

All that was left was the actual production of the child and that, Lily figured, was best to begin during their business trip to New York City. The coupling wouldn't be easy for either of them, so meeting in neutral territory seemed like a good idea at the time.

Too bad the damn front desk clerk screwed up the room keycards! The fact she'd had sex with her boss was something she would have a great deal of trouble forgetting. Now that she knew the tyrant intimately, facing him at work Monday morning wasn't going to be easy.

The kettle on the stove began to whistle, drawing Lily back to the present. She walked across the room to the kitchenette along one wall and switched the element off. She poured water into a mug on the counter and plunked a tea bag into it.

As she watched the water change from clear to a rich brown, she supposed she knew one thing, she had to move forward. She had to put the mistake behind her. Perhaps she'd find the strength to block it out, completely forget she'd had sex with her boss. And, forget the intense feelings he'd drawn from her.

Lily grabbed the mug and padded toward the bathroom. A long hot bath would soothe her. When she saw the pregnancy test wand on the edge of the sink, she quickly swiped it into the garbage can. She sat on the edge of the tub, pushed the plug into place and twisted the taps.

A firm knock sounded on the door just as she uncapped the bottle of fragrant bubble bath.

She frowned and looked at her watch. Nine a.m. on a Saturday morning. Who on earth would be at her door?

Lily set the open bottle on the edge of the tub and twisted the taps to stop the water flow. She padded to the door and peered through the peephole.

Daniel Wright!

She gasped as she backed away from the door, clutching the lapels of her bathrobe against her chest. What the hell was he doing at her door?

The knock sounded again, this time more insistent, more impatient, more...Daniel Wright. Her mind whirled with the memory of his impatient nature when they'd made love in the dark hotel room. Funny how it suited her then, when she thought she was making a baby with Davis.

Now, the impatient pounding sounded like a man who'd discovered all her secrets and fully intended to make her pay the price.

"I know you're in there," Daniel said angrily as his fist pounded again. "Open the damn door."

She wished she could hide away, not open the door. But what choice did she have? The infernal pounding would soon draw the attention of her neighbors, assuming it hadn't already.

Lily took a deep breath and yanked at the locks on the door. She pulled it open just a crack and peered at Daniel. "I have a cold," she said and then attempted to cough.

Lily jumped back from the door as Daniel pushed it open and walked inside her tiny apartment. "Like hell," he said through clenched teeth. His hand pushed the door closed as he gazed down at her. "I want to know what the fuck is going on with you," he demanded. "And don't try to tell me you've been sick for the past three weeks."

Lily's heart raced a million miles an hour. Daniel Wright was standing over her, his rich chocolate eyes stared down at her as his handsome chiseled face set in a firm frown. And, oh lord, that voice, deep, gravely, so damn sexy. Exactly as it had been when she'd crawled on top of him in the dark and allowed her body to sink down over his massive, iron-hard penis.

She'd felt as if her body would split in two as she accepted his girth...

Oh Lord! She felt her face flush. *Best not to think about that now!* Those thoughts were best kept for when she was alone in bed at night.

She peered at Daniel with trepidation. "I'm a lot better now," she said sheepishly. "I'll be back at my desk first thing Monday morning."

Daniel's gaze washed over her from her head to her bare toes. She pulled the terrycloth bathrobe tighter against her skin as she nervously peered back at him. His head tilted back, his nose took in a long breath. He frowned. "What's that scent?"

"I burned my toast," Lily offered.

"No." He quickly dismissed it. "Something sweeter than that."

“I just made a cup of chamomile tea.”

Daniel shook his head as he took another sniff of the air. “My mother drinks that shit,” he said. “That’s not it.”

Lily struggled not to argue with her boss. *Chamomile tea is hardly shit!* “Well, I don’t know what you smell,” she said impatiently. “Since I’ve assured you I’ll be back to work on Monday, I’m sure you don’t mind excusing me so I can take my bath.”

“Bath, that’s it.” Daniel’s eyes brightened with recognition. “I smell lavender.” He passed her and walked to the bathroom.

“Mr. Wright,” Lily said nervously as she followed him. “I really don’t see the need...”

Daniel’s massive body took up almost all the space in the bathroom as he looked down at the soapy water in the tub. He turned and looked at her through narrow eyes. “Do you always bathe in lavender scented water?”

Lily nodded slowly, not entirely sure why he needed to know. “I like the scent.”

He took a step toward her. “Did you bathe in it when we were in New York City?”

Oh my God! Lily took a step back as he approached her. “I don’t know,” she said uneasily. “I can’t remember.”

“You just said you always use lavender in your bath. Surely you can remember if you used it when we were in New York City,” he pressed.

“I don’t think I did,” she said quickly. “In fact, I’m sure I forgot to pack it when we left for the conference.”

“It was you, wasn’t it?”

Lily turned on her heel and quickly walked to the door. “I don’t know what you’re talking about,” she said.

“You came into my room that night. You begged me to fuck you.”

Lily ran a nervous hand threw her hair. “Really, Mr. Wright, this is quite inappropriate. I’m sure you’ll understand when I ask you to leave.”

As she reached for the doorknob, Daniel’s hands closed on her shoulders and swung her around. His dark eyes pinned her in place as he pressed for answers. “Don’t lie to me,” he said through clenched teeth. “I know it was you. I knew it the moment I smelled the lavender. It was on your skin that night; the scent filled my nostrils when I sank my cock into you. I tasted it on your nipples when I took them into my mouth.”

Desire raged through Lily as she stood looking up at him. God, how mighty he felt buried deep inside her, so hard and unforgiving. Her body warmed at the thought of making love to him again.

She had to stand strong; she couldn’t let him see just how much she wanted him again.

Wanting him, having him, could only mean disaster. “Mr. Wright, I’m sure I don’t need to remind you that you have a policy about employee relationships. I like my job. I need my job. Why on earth would I risk it by having sex with you?”

Daniel frowned. “Why indeed?” His eyes strayed from her eyes to her lips. His hands fell from her shoulders to her waist. His fingers slid softly over the terrycloth fabric of her robe. “I have my suspicions,” he told her softly. “I suspect you came in the dark of the night hoping I wouldn’t know who you were. I suspect you wanted to know what it was like to have sex with your boss, thinking you could escape unscathed.”

“You couldn’t be more wrong,” Lily said breathlessly. God, there was nothing about their encounter that left her unscathed. If anything, she’d remember that night until her dying day.

“Are you still denying it was you that night?” he asked.

Lily nodded numbly.

His hands skittered to the tie that held her robe together. “All right then, let me touch you. I may not have seen your body but I know I’ll remember just how you felt.”

Lily’s hands flew to the tie as his fingers worked to untie it. “Mr. Wright!” she cried, desperately trying to come up with something, anything, that would make him back off. And then, it dawned on her. “You have zero tolerance for sexual harassment within your company,” she said quickly. “And yet, here you are, harassing me.”

Daniel’s fingers stilled. He took a step back. “This isn’t harassment,” he said through clenched teeth.

“Any unwanted attention is considered harassment,” Lily supplied.

Daniel smiled. “You win this round, Lily.” He walked to the door and opened it before he turned back to look at her. “Prepare for round two on Monday.”

The moment he left, Lily pushed the door closed and locked it. She pressed her back against it and breathed a sigh of relief.

Holy shit! What had she gotten herself into? And just how was she going to get out of it?

Lily rushed to the phone and dialed Davis’ number.

“Hello?”

“He knows! Davis, what the hell am I going to do? He knows!”

Chapter 3

Hell's bells! Who the fuck knew Ms. Lily Saunders, the mild-mannered, ever-efficient secretary, is really a wild and lusty woman beneath the stoic business suits she wears in the office?

Daniel rested his elbows on the massive oak desk and templed his fingers over his mouth. He glanced at the digital clock on his desk. Seven fifty a.m. Lily should be at her desk any minute now. Oh, but he sincerely hoped she'd be late. He'd come up with several punishments should Lily be tardy. All of which ended with her legs wrapped around his waist and his cock buried in her slick, hot pussy.

The one thing he didn't get was why she got into his bed that night. In the months after Lily started working for him, there'd been no sign of her interest in him. Daniel knew when a woman was interested just by the way she looked at him, the way she held her body and smiled, the look of jealousy should he be with another woman.

Lily had never shown any of the classic signs. If anything, she seemed indifferent. So why did she sneak into his room and seduce him?

Deep in thought, Daniel leaned back in his chair. There had to be something in it for her... something to gain.

But what?

He intended to find out and—he grinned—he intended to have a whole lot of fun in the process.

He came to full attention when he heard the elevator door slide open. He knew instinctively it was Lily even before he heard the voices.

“Good morning, Ms. Saunders. Good to see you back.”

“Good morning, Pete,” Lily replied to the company mail clerk. “Thanks. It's good to be back.”

Ah, that sweet, soft voice. Amazing how it sounded a lot different now since they'd been intimate. But then—he chuckled softly—he'd never heard Lily ask him how her pussy felt before either. Up until that night, she'd been strictly business in his presence.

“Folks said you had a cold. You sure must have had a bad one,” Pete said.

“Yes...”

Yeah right! It was more like she'd had a bad dose of not wanting to face him after they'd had sex.

Daniel cut into the small talk. “Lily, I need to see you in my office,” he barked.

When Lily peeked through the door, he nodded briskly. “Close the door behind you.”

He could feel the tension in the air as she slowly closed the door and took a couple steps toward his desk. “I have a lot of catching up to do after being away so long,” she told him timidly. “I hope this won't take too long.”

Daniel shook his head. *Nice try.* “As a matter of fact, you’ll have lots of time to catch up. You’ll have to work late tonight.”

“Oh, Mr. Wright,” she said quickly. “I’m sorry but I can’t. I’ve got plans.”

Daniel grinned. “Change them. We picked up several new contracts when we were in New York City. Due to your, uhm, cold, as you called it, we’re way behind. I need you to work on getting those contracts ready so we can send them out ASAP.”

“But, Mr. Wright—”

“That’ll be all for now, Lily.”

Poor girl. She looked crestfallen, not to mention, downright pissed off. “Yes, sir,” she said softly as she turned to the door.

“And one more thing,” Daniel said.

With her hand on the doorknob, Lily turned to look at him. “Yes, Mr. Wright?”

“From now on, I want you to call me Daniel. After all, we *have* been intimate.”

Lily’s lovely face flushed but she didn’t reply as she walked out of the office.

* * * *

Daniel was coming back from lunch when he heard voices coming from the company lunchroom. As a rule, he wasn’t the kind of person who listened to other people’s conversations, but he couldn’t help himself when he heard Lily’s distinctive voice.

“What the hell am I going to do?”

“Will you calm down?” Definitely Davis’ voice. “Just because he wants you to work late tonight doesn’t mean he knows what we’re up to.”

“No,” Lily replied. “But he’s fishing for answers.”

“You said you didn’t admit it was you that night, right?”

Lily must have nodded. Davis went on. “So, stick to your story. He can’t prove anything.”

“What if he finds out about our plan?” Lily asked desperately.

“He’s not going to find out, at least not right away. Once you’re pregnant, it won’t matter anyway.”

Pregnant? Lily is trying to get pregnant? Holy sweet Jesus! So that’s her game.

“I don’t know, Davis,” she said.

“Trust me,” Davis replied. “Everything will be fine.”

Daniel’s blood boiled. He was tempted to burst into the room and fire both of them.

It was damn hard to walk away. But if Daniel had learned anything in business, it was to take a

step back from a bad situation and cool his heels before he made decisions. Best to bide his time. Maybe he'd be able to find out a bit more about their scheme.

He slammed his office door shut and went to his desk. He rifled through the drawers and located a stash of condoms. He tossed them on top of his desk. He fully intended to have Lily again but there was no fucking way he'd get her pregnant!

* * * *

Lily smiled as several employees left the building that evening.

"Are you joining us at the *Caffeinated Cup*?" Marsha asked.

"I wish I could," she said to the accounts receivable clerk. Lily loved the daily ritual of having coffee with her coworkers in the small, trendy shop on the ground floor after work. "Mr. Wright asked me to work late tonight."

Marsha rolled her eyes. "Oh, I envy you...not! See ya tomorrow."

No one within *Wright Plastics* envied Lily for her position as Daniel Wright's secretary. She didn't have to work for him long to know why. The man was a tyrant! He demanded a lot from his employees and even more from his personal secretary.

Still, in spite of his demands, turnover at his company was very low. When he hired someone, it was for keeps and he made darn sure their needs were met.

When Marsha requested time off to tend to her ailing grandmother, Daniel gave her as much time as she needed, with pay. And, when her grandmother passed away, Daniel insisted Marsha take two additional weeks off work to deal with the emotional fallout. He'd even hired a counselor for her to talk to.

But when Marsha returned to work, it was business as usual. Daniel neither expressed his condolences, nor so much as asked how she was coping.

Lily expected it was the 'nature of the beast'. Daniel had good sense for business and was smart enough to keep his employees happy. Happy employees meant productivity and productivity meant money in his pocket. Typical of a man like Daniel Wright.

What wasn't typical was the position she was in. One stupid mistake and she found herself in a precarious situation. She didn't care how many times Davis told her to calm down, he didn't have to deal with the fallout. And Lily knew deep in her soul, there was going to be some major fallout!

"Lily!" Daniel bellowed from his office.

Lily swallowed hard. *Okay, you can do this.* She reached for her pen and notepad. All she had to do was stick to her story. *It wasn't me, it wasn't me.* She repeated the words in her mind over and over as she walked into the office.

His eyes glittered with what Lily could only term as menace when she walked into the office. He leaned back in his chair. "Close the door and lock it," he said softly.

Lily closed the door. She looked at him in dismay. "I don't see why I should lock it," she said

meekly. “Everyone’s gone for the day.”

“I don’t want to be disturbed while we work on the new contracts.”

“But only the cleaning staff is left in the building.”

“Lock it!”

Lily jumped at his loud demand. “All right, all right,” she said as she locked the door. “But I’d like to go on record that this is quite unusual. Since I worked on the *Wright Plastics* policy, I happen to know that no employee should find themselves locked with a person of the opposite sex—”

“I’m well aware of our policies, Lily,” Daniel cut in. “But I’m sure you’ll agree that this is a unique situation.”

Lily leveled her gaze on her boss. “I don’t know what you’re talking about, Mr. Wright—”

He cut her off again. “Daniel,” he said. “I told you to call me Daniel.”

Lily’s heart pounded. Calling him by his first name was as good as admitting they’d been intimate. He was trying to trick her. “I think, under the circumstances, it’s best to call you Mr. Wright.”

“And just what circumstances are we talking about here?” he asked.

Lily’s blood boiled with anger. She wasn’t going to play games with him. She took a deep breath and let it out slowly. “Mr. Wright,” she began, “I have to tell you that I’m not at all comfortable with this conversation. I think it best that I leave.”

She turned and unlocked the door. “Company policy states that an employee should walk away the moment something doesn’t seem right. It also states that the situation should be reported to human resources immediately.”

Just as Lily pulled the door open, Daniel added his own two cents. “When you make out the report, be sure to include that you fucked the boss in New York City.”

She hesitated.

“After all,” he continued, “Not supplying all the information would be fraud. Don’t you agree?”

Damn! Trapped like a rat!

Lily slowly closed the door.

Daniel grinned victoriously. “Lock it.”

Chapter 4

“Make sure the development department gets the specs on the fourteen and twenty ounce bottles for *Cleanskin Industries* first thing in the morning,” Daniel said. “They want to know what to expect for their new baby lotion line as soon as possible.”

Lily nodded as she scribbled notes on her pad. “What about the new line for *Perfect Baby Products*?”

“One thing at a time, Lily,” Daniel said. “They want to use up their inventory of old talcum powder bottles before they move to the newly designed ones. Davis said the development department already has some innovative designs to show them. We have at least a month before we need to worry about them and all we’ll have to do is prepare the moulds.”

“But I still have to get the contract written up,” Lily replied.

“Yeah, you’ll have time for that tomorrow.”

“Right,” Lily said.

After the way the after-hours meeting with Daniel started, Lily was surprised, not to mention relieved, when they actually got down to work. In the past three hours, they’d covered a lot of ground and made some major headway into the new contracts *Wright Plastics* had taken on.

Lily’s stomach growled. She glanced at her watch. It was almost seven at night. No wonder she was hungry. “If we have everything covered, I think I’ll head home.”

A knock sounded on the door and Daniel quickly rose. “I took the liberty of ordering dinner,” he said. “I hope you like Chinese.”

“I love Chinese food,” Lily replied. “But since we’re finished, I’d much rather go home.”

As Daniel unlocked and opened the office door, he glanced over his shoulder. “Who said we were finished?” he asked.

Lily sank in her seat, her throat tightened. What was left to cover? *Unless...*

Daniel paid the delivery man and closed the door. The sound of the door locking echoed in Lily’s head. She had a sinking feeling about what would come next.

Daniel placed the bags of food on the desk and smiled at her. “Hungry?”

“No,” she replied. But her stomach quickly let her down when it growled again. She grinned sheepishly. “Maybe a little.”

“Good,” Daniel said. “I’m starved, so let’s eat.”

He opened a bag with paper plates and plastic utensils and placed them on the desk. He proceeded to open various bags and cartons and dumped a healthy measure of rice, sprouts, and meat dishes on both plates. The last bag he opened contained egg rolls. He placed one on each plate

and tossed the small packets of sauce to the side of his desk.

He lifted his fork and dug in. “Bon appetite,” he said as he shoved a forkful of chicken fried rice into his mouth.

Lily carefully nibbled on her meal. She reached for a plastic knife and cut her egg roll into three pieces. Her gaze skittered over the desk and spied the packets of sauce. She leaned over and grabbed a packet. “I don’t know about you,” she said absently, “but I need sauce on my egg rolls.”

Daniel eyes glittered with amusement as she attempted to open the packet. When it wouldn’t give in to her fingers, she ripped at it with her teeth. She smiled as she held the open packet for Daniel to see. “Where there’s a will, there’s a way,” she said triumphantly.

“I guess that’s true,” Daniel replied, his face lit with amusement.

Lily wondered what he found so amusing as she turned the open packet over her plate and squeezed. She glanced down just as a condom slipped from the packet onto her egg roll.

She gasped. “Oh my God!” Her hand flipped the plate across the room as she jumped out of her chair. “Did you see that?” she cried. “It was a...oh...a...”

“Condom,” Daniel supplied calmly.

Aghast, Lily peered at Daniel. “How can you be so calm? The Chinese restaurant put condoms in your order! You should be angry, repulsed...and God,” she hesitated, struggling to find the words, “downright pissed off!”

“Angry and pissed off is the same thing.”

“I know that!” Lily cried. “But you should be both and then some.”

Daniel grinned. “If that’s what really happened, I would be.”

“Excuse me?”

Daniel explained. “I left a variety of condoms on my desk. I inadvertently tossed the packets of sauce from the restaurant on top of them.”

Lily blinked.

Daniel’s grin widened. “Yes, you grabbed one of the condoms instead of sauce for your egg roll. Sorry about that.”

Lily stared at him in disbelief. She opened her mouth but no words would come out.

Daniel glanced at the plate on the floor. “I’m afraid I don’t have another plate but you’re welcome to eat out of the cartons and bags.”

Is he kidding? He has to be fucking kidding. Lily finally found her voice. “I think I’ve lost my appetite,” she said. She turned toward the door. “If you don’t mind, I believe I’ll go home now.”

“As a matter of fact, I do mind,” Daniel’s voice sliced through her like a white-hot knife.

Lily sighed and squeezed her eyes closed. She pressed her head against the locked door. “Just

let me go,” she pleaded. “What do you want from me?”

She gasped when his hands closed over her shoulders and whisked her around to face him. His eyes bore into her. “You know what I want, Lily.”

His mouth swooped down before she could reply. His tongue pressed against her lips and pried her mouth open. She moaned when his fingers gripped her hips, pulling her against his rock-hard need.

He pulled his mouth from hers and gazed down at her. “You know damn well what I want,” he said again. “I want what you gave so freely in New York City. I want to fuck you until you scream for mercy.”

“No,” Lily whimpered as her body sang under his touch. “This isn’t right. We can’t do this.”

“Yes we can,” he said firmly. “And we will. This time, you won’t run away the moment it’s over. This time, I get to look at you when my cock is deep inside you and see your face when you come.”

Lily’s mind whirled as Daniel lifted her into his arms and carried her to his desk. He planted her butt on the edge as his hands flew to her blouse. “No, Dan—Mr. Wright...”

“Daniel!” he said through clenched teeth as his fingers fumbled with the buttons on her blouse. “How many times do I have to tell you to call me Daniel?” He pushed her blouse open and gazed at her breasts. His fingers slipped beneath the elastic band of her bra and pushed it up. When her breasts popped out, he quickly smoothed his hands over them. “They feel exactly as they did that night, full and heavy in my hands.”

Lily could find neither the words nor the will to protest. His hands cupped her breasts and gently squeezed until her nipples formed firm peaks. God, his touch felt so damn good. When Daniel’s head leaned down to touch his mouth to one of her breasts, Lily splayed her arms back, resting her hands on the desk, jutting her chest up for his erotic inspection.

His hand massaged one breast as his tongue laved the other before he sucked the erect nipple into his mouth. His teeth gently grazed and rolled the tight bud as his lips formed a vacuum-like grip.

Lily reached up and dug her fingers into his hair as his head moved to the other breast. God, it felt so good. She felt her core soak with the need to be filled.

Daniel’s fingers gripped the edge of her skirt and pulled it up to her waist. She moaned when his fingers ripped through her pantyhose and brushed the crotch of her panties aside.

He raised his head and gazed at her as his fingers stroked her thighs. “From now on, you’ll only wear nylons with a garter belt,” he said. “And you won’t wear panties. I want you available to me at all times. No barriers.”

His fingers brushed over her pubic hair, slowly inching closer to her core. She couldn’t bare the intensity of his gaze or the demand he was making of her. She turned her head to the side to break eye contact.

“Tell me you agree,” Daniel ground out.

Lily struggled to find her voice. She squeezed her eyes closed. “I can’t,” she whispered.

Daniel’s fingers suddenly pressed against her slick clit. She cried out in absolute ecstasy. “Yes, you can,” he said through clenched teeth.

Lily’s head turned from side to side. “No.”

Daniel’s fingers slid over her moist opening. He pressed a finger against it, opening her slightly. “Look at me, Lily,” he said. “Look at me when I sink my fingers into your pussy and tell me you can’t meet my demands.”

Lily fought to open her eyes and gaze at him. His eyes were dark with passion. “That’s it, my sweet Lily,” he said. “I want to see your eyes when I do this.”

Lily winced when he drove two fingers inside her, shoving them as far as his hand would allow. She struggled to keep her eyes open as the sheer pleasure of his touch coursed through her. He set an erotic rhythm, pushing his fingers inside, twisting them and then pulling them out. Her hips lifted to every thrust, sucking him in with the wanton need to be filled.

His free hand cupped her shoulder and pulled her to him. His lips crushed hers in a deep kiss, his tongue doing to her mouth what his fingers did to her core.

He ripped his mouth from hers and kissed her neck. Lily threw her head back, her long hair flying around wildly as he scorched a trail of hot kisses over her throat. “Touch my cock,” he demanded.

Her hands flew to his belt and quickly unbuckled it. She fumbled with the zipper until it finally slid down. She heard his swift intake of breath when her fingers worked their way inside his underwear and curled around his engorged penis. It pulsed angrily in her hand, demanding her touch, insisting her fingers wrap tightly around its girth.

“Ah,” Daniel said, “that’s it, babe. That’s so damn good.”

His fingers stilled inside her as his hips gyrated against her hand. His eyes squeezed shut, his brows cast low as his entire body gave itself up to her touch.

“Harder,” he demanded through clenched teeth and moaned when she obeyed his command. “Yeah, that’s it. That’s it.”

Lily felt distinct disappointment when Daniel pulled his fingers out of her and splayed his hands on either side of her legs. Her fingers began to ache and she quickly switched hands, never missing a beat.

Daniel’s breathing became ragged, his thrusts harder. And then he moaned his release, his white-hot cum spewing onto her abdomen.

Lily blinked when Daniel backed away from her. Her body cried for his touch, screamed her need for release. *No! What about me?*

She got her answer when Daniel looked at her with cool, green eyes. “Thanks,” he said as he

buckled his belt and pulled the zipper of his pants up. "I needed that."

Lily struggled against the tears forming in her eyes as she pushed her skirt over her knees and pulled her bra down over her breasts. She fumbled with the buttons of her blouse as she gasped at the reality of what had just happened.

When her hand brushed over the damp stain on her skirt, now cold and unforgiving, anger settled deep inside her. "You bastard," she whispered.

Daniel's eyes blazed. "I'm a bastard?" he asked. "What does that make you?"

Lily's eyes narrowed as she looked up at him. "I wouldn't have pulled something like this on you."

Daniel threw his head back and laughed. "Who the fuck are you trying to kid?" he said. "Not only would you pull something like that on me, you actually did. Or have you already forgotten our passionate night in New York City?"

Oh shit! The prick had her over a barrel. She could deny it again because he didn't buy it before and most certainly wouldn't now. And pointing out that he'd at least had an orgasm meant she was admitting it really was her in his bed. There was only one thing she could do.

"You'll have my resignation on your desk first thing in the morning," she said.

Daniel laughed again. "Oh, I don't think so. Not unless you want your scheme with Davis to become common knowledge."

Lily gasped. Her body went weak as she struggled to breath. "You know about that?"

Daniel nodded slowly, his eyes blazing with anger. "Yeah, I know about it. I make it my job to know every fucking thing that goes on around me. So if you don't show up for work first thing tomorrow morning, you and my cousin will find your asses fired and your names mud in this town. After I get through with you, you'll be lucky to find a job in Siberia."

Chapter 5

“Oh shit on him,” Davis said as he sat on Lily’s couch. “He’s full of hot air.”

Lily paced the floor in her tiny studio apartment, circling the couch several times. “I don’t think so.” She stopped and looked at him. “What I can’t figure out is how Daniel found out about our plan.”

Davis frowned. “Hey,” he said in a low voice, “I already told you that he didn’t hear it from me.”

Lily shook her head and began pacing again. “I know, I know,” she said anxiously. “But you and I are the only ones who know about it. I just don’t get how he figured it out.”

Davis leaned back on the couch and pinched his brow. “All right, he knows. It’s not like we’ve committed a crime.”

“Daniel seems to think it is,” she cried. “Davis, what are we going to do? People respect him; his word carries a lot of weight in the business community. If I quit, I really will have to go to Siberia to find another job.”

“Okay, first of all, stop that damn pacing,” Davis said impatiently. “You’re making me dizzy.”

Lily sighed heavily and sat on the couch beside him.

“Secondly,” Davis continued, “Stop talking about quitting your job. Just because he knows what we’re up to doesn’t mean you have to leave. What we do on our off hours is our own business.”

“I wish he saw it that way,” Lily sullenly replied.

“Well, maybe you should consider the fact he might have reason for being angry.”

Lily looked at Davis. “Consider what fact?”

“Like maybe he’s jealous. Maybe he wants to be the father of your child,” Davis offered.

Lily laughed. “Are you kidding? Up until the screw up in New York, he saw me as a nonperson.”

Davis grinned. “Well, you must have got his attention then. Maybe he just needed to realize there was a lot more to you than taking dictation.”

Lily shook her head and pushed off the couch. “No,” she said as she began to pace again. “There’s more to it than that. I can feel it in my bones.”

“Well, if you feel it in your bones, there’s only one thing you can do,” Davis said.

Lily looked at him, hoping he had the answer. “What?”

Davis grinned devilishly. “Stop feeling *his* bone.”

She threw her hands up in frustration. “Oh, thank you very much!” she cried. “Make jokes when my life is falling apart!”

Davis got up and grabbed her arm as she paced by. She stopped and allowed him to draw her into his arms. "You're making too much of this," he said confidently. "If Daniel felt threatened by either of us, I'd have heard about it by now. He hasn't said a word to me and I sincerely doubt he will."

He moved her to arm's length and looked into her eyes. "Tomorrow, we'll both be at work and we'll act as though nothing happened. You'll see," he said. He kissed her on the forehead. "Everything will be just fine."

"Easy for you to say," Lily replied. "You haven't been told not to wear panties to work."

Davis laughed as he walked to the door. "Trust me," he said. "I've known Daniel all my life. He's just trying to rattle your cage."

"He's doing a darn good job of it," Lily replied.

"Well, don't let him."

* * * *

"Lily!"

She jumped when Daniel's voice barked through his closed office door. She moaned inwardly. Davis had advised she shouldn't let him rattle her cage. *Yeah right!*

She saved the work she was doing on her computer and rose from her desk just as Daniel bellowed her name again.

"Yes, yes, I'm coming, you fucking tyrant," she said under her breath as she opened the door and walked into his office.

"Where the hell have you been?" Daniel said sourly as he peered at her.

"Keeping vigil at the pearly gates," she replied sarcastically. "Where else would I be?"

Seated behind his massive oak desk, Daniel looked as handsome, not to mention dangerous, as ever. He tilted his head to one side as he regarded her through narrowed eyes. "Spare me your sarcasm," he said. "I need the quotes for the new contracts."

Lily frowned. Davis always handled the monetary end of new contracts. "I sent them to Davis' office this morning."

"Get them back," he said tightly.

"Why?" The word was out of her mouth before she'd had the chance to consider the fact that Daniel didn't appear to be in the mood to be questioned.

He smiled. "Since when have I answered to you?" he asked sarcastically.

"I'm sorry, Mr. Wright," she said quickly. "I'll get them right away."

Daniel's voice cut in just as she was about to leave. "Just a moment, Lily."

She turned. "Yes?"

"You might as well know I sent Davis to Europe this morning. He's chasing down some new contracts."

There was no secret Daniel aimed to find a European market. But Davis' departure came as a surprise. He hadn't mentioned it last night when he was in her apartment.

"It was a last minute decision," Daniel supplied.

More like last second! "I understand, sir." God, she wasn't at all sure what to make of it. Without Davis, she wasn't sure how she'd cope with Daniel. "I'll get those quotes right away."

* * * *

Daniel watched Lily's sweet ass as she left the office. He was willing to bet she'd been suddenly thrown off kilter. Without Davis to lean on for advice, she was on her own. It was exactly what Daniel wanted.

Divide and conquer. With Davis hunting up contracts in Europe for the next two to three weeks, Lily would have to play out the scheme on her own.

He placed his arms on the desk and stared at the closed door. Davis had been his right-hand man for many years. As cousins, there were no two men closer than they were. He couldn't get his mind around the fact Davis would willingly stab him in the back in order to make a play for the company he'd built from the ground up.

No. Davis had to be a pawn in Lily's game. Who knew what she had on him, but it had to be big if he'd agree to help her get pregnant by the boss.

Unfortunately, Lily wouldn't be the first woman to attempt to sue him for millions based on claims he fathered a child. When *Wright Plastics* became a *Fortune 500* company, women seemed to come out of the woodwork. All of whom found themselves on their own when tests proved he hadn't fathered any of their children.

Lily had taken the game a step further by seducing him and brazenly telling him she'd be back in a month for another kick at the proverbial cat.

Daniel needed to get Davis out of the way. He called his cousin at home in the wee hours of the morning and announced arrangements had been made for a trip to France, Germany and other European countries.

Sure Davis protested but when Daniel made it clear he didn't have a choice, his cousin packed his bags and left on the first available flight.

He wasn't sure he would get past Davis' betrayal, no matter what his reason, but he'd deal with his traitorous cousin upon his return.

By then, Lily Saunders would be long gone. In the meantime, he had a couple weeks to play with her. And he had to admit, he was looking forward to the game now that they were on a level playing field.

Lily came off as soft and meek as his secretary but there was a fire burning within her that he needed to explore. Sure, she looked disappointed when he didn't satisfy her needs last night, but that only proved there was a tigress beneath the guise of a sheep.

Daniel felt his cock tighten. He shifted uncomfortably in his leather chair. When he heard the soft tap on the door, he knew it was her.

"Come," he said as he quickly picked up a pen and pretended to examine papers on his desk.

"Here you go," Lily said as she placed the quotes on his desk.

"Thank you," he said. *Now to throw her off again.* "We're having dinner with a prospective client tonight," he told her. "I took the liberty of ordering a dress for you. You can leave work shortly to pick it up at *The Lusty Fish Wife Boutique*. I'll pick you up at six."

Daniel bit back a chuckle when he saw the look of shocked surprise on Lily's face. He smiled when surprise quickly changed to anger, her eyes blazed, her cheeks flushed. "I'd thank you for the invitation if you'd actually given me one," she said tightly. "But I'm afraid I must decline. My plans don't include wearing anything from a place like *The Lusty Fish Wife*."

Daniel smiled. *Good, put up a fight. Makes it that much sweeter when I win.* "I'm afraid they do now. It's a very important client."

"All our clients are important," Lily said as she jutted her chin forward in defiance. "But that doesn't mean I have to parade around in some flimsy dress from *that* store."

"As a matter of fact, it does. Julia Coulier, the owner of *The Lusty Fish Wife* chain, is looking for someone to come up with a provocative bottle for her latest lubricant, and I've got exactly what she's looking for. As my date for the evening, she'll expect you to wear one of her designs."

Before Lily could voice another protest, he waved his hand in dismissal. "I'll pick you up at six. Be ready."

When the door slammed shut behind her, Daniel dropped his pen and let out a long breath. He had to admit he'd expected her to put up much more of a fight.

He chuckled. Just wait until she saw the dress he ordered! Oh, the sparks would fly then!

Daniel's cock pulsed in his pants. Oh yeah, he was looking very forward to the evening.

Chapter 6

Oh God!

Lily looked at herself in the full-length mirror on the bathroom door. Her entire body quaked in fear. How could she let herself be seen in this?

She twisted to see what it looked like from the back. Her ass stood out like a bloated pig with a toothache. She groaned.

No! She couldn't do it!

As her hands flew to undo the various clips, they stilled. What about her job? What about the fact Daniel swore he'd ruin not just her reputation, but Davis' as well?

A firm knock sounded on the door before she could take action. She dashed out of the bathroom and reached for her raincoat. She pulled it on and cinched the belt at her waist before she opened the door.

Dressed casually in a pale yellow t-shirt and navy cotton pants, Daniel looked as handsome as ever. His eyes blazed when he looked at her. "It's almost ninety degrees out there," he said. "I think you can do without the raincoat."

"Oh, I don't think so," Lily said as she grabbed the clutch purse that came with the outfit. "I'm not about to expose myself to the world."

"Understood," Daniel said as he bowed lightly.

As they whisked down the streets in Daniel's gleaming black Porsche, Lily didn't think he really did understand. After all, it seemed perfectly acceptable for him to wear casual clothes while she was stuck in this...she searched for the right word...monstrosity.

As they veered into an upper class residential area, Lily relaxed just a bit. At least she wouldn't have to expose herself in a restaurant. It seemed they were headed to Julia Coulier's mansion.

Lily knew only what the Toronto tabloids printed about the erotic store owner. Born in Toronto, she apparently rose from the ranks of poverty by selling her body and, eventually, her wares. Now the woman's erotic shops were in every major city in the country. More than that, her opinion was sought on any sexual study made and her answer always came down to one thing...*See to your lover's needs and yours will be met.*

Easy enough for her to say. Julia Coulier had more men than the average woman could even name. And while she touted having many famous lovers, none of them stuck around for any length of time. It was quite another thing when a woman wanted a long-term relationship with a man.

Lily had to admit she had little respect for the woman. It was hard to take advice on relationships from a woman who'd made her money on her back. Lily made a point of not shopping in stores where blacked-out windows were the norm.

And still, she'd found herself walking into one just this past afternoon. And worse than that, the clerk offered advice on pleasing her man. *Ugh!*

Daniel swung the car into a driveway and waited for the massive iron gates to open. He looked at her and smiled. "Here we go."

Lily swallowed hard as the car made its way up the winding driveway. Various statues, all depicting men and women in the midst of sexual acts, were lit with bright spotlights.

"That's my favorite," Daniel said as he pointed to the last one. A woman on her knees in front of a man, her hands splayed on his buttocks, her cheeks swelled with his girth.

"I imagine it is," Lily said with distaste.

When Daniel stopped the car, a valet dressed in a bright red suit and wearing white gloves quickly opened the passenger door.

When Lily got out of the car, he closed the door and rounded the vehicle. He then opened the driver's side door.

"Mr. Wright," he said with a pleasant English accent. "Always good to see you."

"Good to see you too, Jeeves," Daniel said as he placed the car keys into his gloved hand. "There's a small package in the trunk. Please bring it in."

As the valet spun away with the car, Lily looked at Daniel. "Come on, his name isn't really Jeeves."

Daniel chuckled. "I know what you're thinking. But his name really is Clive Jeeves. He's been with Julia for years." He leaned over her shoulder to whisper in her ear. "I heard he was a tourist from England when he became one of her customers. Left his wife after fourteen years of marriage to serve her."

"Oh come on," Lily said as she peered up at him. "I can't believe you're the kind of guy who would believe that kind of gossip."

Daniel winked as he escorted her to the massive oak doors of the mansion. "I'm just sharing what little I know," he said softly.

What little he knew. Yeah, right! As the doorbell chimed, Lily wondered just how much Daniel knew about Julia Coulier.

The door opened slowly and an elderly man stood back to allow them entrance. "Mr. Wright," he said, his voice broken with old age. "Delightful to see you again."

"I'm delighted to see you too, Alfred."

Alfred? First *Jeeves* with his English accent, regal red suit and white gloves and now *Alfred*?

When the pious old man turned to her, he asked. "May I take your coat?"

Lily's hands went to the lapels of her raincoat defensively. "No," she said, then she giggled, "But

can you direct me to the *Bat Cave*?”

If Alfred was amused, it certainly didn't show on his face. He bowed lightly and looked at Daniel. "I'm sure your guest will alert me when she's ready to remove her coat."

Lily snickered as she gazed up at Daniel. His eyes were dark with anger. "Oh come on," she said. "Don't tell me you didn't get the joke."

"I got the joke," Daniel replied. "I just didn't think it was funny."

Lily sighed and stepped further into the parlor when she heard the ticking of heels on the elaborate granite floor.

"Daniel!"

The woman dashed to him and closed her arms around his shoulders. "God, it's so good to see you," she said before she placed several kisses on his cheek.

Daniel's arms closed around her. "I know, Jules," he said. "It's been too long."

Julia Coulier was a tall woman, probably in her late fifties, and very striking with her well-coifed blond tresses and long, slender body. She wore several layers of makeup on her face, rich blue shadow over her clear grey eyes, with ruby red lipstick that glimmered under the light of the crystal chandelier overhead.

When she pulled away from Daniel, her long lashes hooded over her eyes as she regarded Lily. "Who's the flavor of the day?"

Annoyance bubbled within Lily at the woman's question.

Daniel chuckled. "This is Lily Saunders, my secretary," he supplied.

"Really," Julia replied as her eyes washed over Lily. "Have you fucked her?"

"Hey! That's a very intimate question!" Lily cried, her blood boiling.

"Of course," Daniel said, ignoring Lily's outburst.

Julia ignored her as well. "So, she'll make a good demonstrator model."

"It might take a bit of coercion, but yes, I think so."

Demonstrator? Coercion? What the hell had she walked into?

"Good," Julia said idly as her gaze flitted over Lily. "I can't wait to hear your proposal." Then she turned to Lily. "You seem very tense, darling," she said as she placed an arm around her shoulder and led her into the drawing room. "How about a glass of wine before dinner to help those nerves settle a bit?"

"I think I'm going to need it," Lily said.

Julia laughed softly and looked over her shoulder at Daniel. "Frances is in the billiard room," she said. "Why not join him while Lily and I get to know each other? Tell him dinner will be served

in an hour.”

Lily looked over her shoulder and gave Daniel a pleading glance. *No! Don't leave me alone with her!*

Daniel winked and left. “Men are so stupid,” Lily grumbled under her breath.

She winced when Julia replied. “Yes, they certainly have their moments,” she said as she guided Lily into the drawing room. She hadn’t meant for the older woman to hear the comment.

Julia pointed to a leather sofa and waited for Lily to take a seat before she sat down beside her. She reached for the bottle of wine chilling on the coffee table in front of them and filled two crystal glasses. She handed one to Lily and took the other in her hand. She raised her glass in a toast. “To stupid men,” she said before she tipped the glass to her lips.

Lily chuckled. “Hear, hear,” she said before she tipped the glass to her lips.

Julia’s eyes washed over her. “Why are you so nervous about taking that raincoat off?” she asked.

Lily reached forward and placed her glass on the coffee table. “Because I’ve never worn anything quite so revealing before. I’m uncomfortable with it.”

Julia shook her head lightly and smiled. “But the second Daniel sees you in it, he’s going to drag you off to the nearest bedroom.”

Lily’s eyes widened. “That’s what I’m afraid of,” she said. She frowned. “How do you know what I’m wearing?”

Julia took another sip of her wine and grinned. “Because, I picked it out based solely on Daniel’s description of you. And I think I did very well.”

“But I’m his secretary, not his...”

“Whore?” Julia asked. “You’ve had sex with him though. So I think you’re more than just his secretary.”

Lily squeezed her eyes closed. “It was a mistake. It shouldn’t have happened.”

Julia leaned back on the sofa and laughed softly. “If I had a quarter for every damn mistake I’ve ever made...” Her voice trailed off as she looked at Lily. “Look, doll, take it from someone who’s been around the block, if fucking Daniel is the biggest mistake you make in your life, you’ll be one lucky woman. God, if I were twenty years younger, I’d give you a run for your money.”

Lily sighed. Julia wouldn’t understand even if she took the time to explain it. She raised her glass to her lips and took a healthy swallow. She felt her body relax as the wine settled. “May I ask what you meant by my being a demonstrator model?”

Julia patted her hand. “Don’t worry, I won’t ask you to do anything twisted. What I need is feedback on Daniel’s proposal.”

“And that somehow involves me.”

“It certainly does,” Julia replied. “But don’t worry about it. No one is going to force you to do anything you don’t want to do.”

Lily breathed a sigh of relief. She chose not to consider what Daniel meant when he said it would take some coercion.

“Now,” Julia said as she got off the sofa and rounded the coffee table. “Come here and let’s have a look at the outfit I picked out for you. I’m dying to see it.”

Chapter 7

It was hard not to like Francis Carrington. He'd been Julia's partner for many years and was her exact opposite. He was easy-going, soft-spoken and generally known as a guy willing to let his lady call the shots. But there was something that ran deeper in Francis, something that made Julia stop and take notice.

Daniel instantly liked the guy when they'd met a couple years ago. He suspected Francis wasn't the pushover he seemed to be. Certainly, he was the first man Julia kept around longer than a few weeks. Daniel suspected it had more to do with his ability to put her in her place than anything else. He had to respect that about the man.

Tall and lanky, with a tuft of silver grey hair on the top of his head, Francis was nothing much to look at. But when he and Julia were together, they seemed to click, to right each other's wrongs. Julia had finally found the man who could meet her needs...after many long years of searching.

"I think dinner will be ready soon," Francis said softly as he led the way to the dining room.

Thank God! The hour had passed slowly with Daniel checking his watch every thirty seconds. He didn't feel right about leaving Lily with Julia and, having seen the desperate look in her eyes, he knew Lily wasn't crazy about it either. His protective nature wanted to stay, in spite of the fact he knew Lily could take care of herself.

As he and Francis walked down the hall to the dining room, Daniel imagined several scenarios, all of which found Lily long gone and the threat of a lawsuit.

So when he walked into the dining room and found both Julia and Lily standing near the table, he stopped dead in his tracks.

"I'll get us another drink," Francis said as he went on into the room and stopped at the massive oak bar along one wall.

Julia walked to the bar and quickly picked up the glass of whiskey on ice. She walked to Daniel and offered the glass.

Daniel numbly reached out. He had to remind himself to close his fingers around the glass. He couldn't take his eyes off Lily.

"What do you think?" Julia's words barely registered as he continued to gape at her.

What do I think? Shit, what he was thinking was definitely not considered dinner conversation!

Lily looked completely uncomfortable in the blood red leather strapless bra. In spite of the lack of support, her breasts were firm and high; he could see her nipples through the supple material. Her neck was adorned with a fine silver chain. The pendant dangled just above her cleavage. He wasn't sure, but it looked like a penis.

Her midriff was bare except for another fine silver chain around her waist that accentuated her

flat abdomen. A matching miniskirt hugged her low on her hips—just a slip of leather covering his favorite part of her body. He felt his groin tighten. Lily couldn't have worn panties under that skirt. The lines would show through the butter-soft fabric.

Long legs, covered in dark red fishnet stockings seemed to go on forever until they finally stopped at matching stiletto heels.

This wasn't his secretary. This was the woman he'd made love to in New York City. And he was damned happy to see her again.

"I feel like a whore," Lily lamented. The nervous look on her face didn't match the rest of her body.

"There's nothing wrong with looking like a whore from time to time," Julia said. "I'm sure you agree with me, don't you, Daniel?"

Daniel struggled to tear his gaze from Lily. *Jesus, who knew that body was hiding beneath the professional suits she wore to work every day?* "Uhm, yeah," he said.

Lily shifted nervously on her high heels. Julia placed a hand on Daniel's arm. "Stop staring at her like that," she whispered. "You don't want to scare her off, do you?"

"Dinner is served." Alfred seemed to come out of nowhere and quickly disappeared.

As they moved toward the elaborately set table, Francis dutifully held Julia's chair and waited for Daniel to do the same for Lily before he sat down at the head of the table.

Lily struggled with her skirt, trying to pull it lower on her thighs as she sat down. Daniel chuckled to himself. No matter how much she struggled, the skirt rode up her thighs, exposing the soft skin he so desperately wanted to touch.

When she was seated, he pulled the chair beside her out and sat down. His hard groin protested against his pants as he slid his chair closer to the table.

God! After seeing Lily in the leather outfit, the last thing he wanted to do was eat! Unless of course, Lily was on the menu.

* * * *

God! Whatever kind of wine Julia served, it tasted better with each glass Lily consumed. She'd finished her second glass before dinner was served and enjoyed her third much more than the soup and salad served as the first and second course of dinner.

When the prime rib roast arrived, Julia had filled Lily's glass again. As she continued to sip, the leather suit she wore didn't bother her nearly as much as it did when she'd pulled it on hours before.

Lily refused the New York cheesecake for dessert and opted for another glass of wine. She relaxed, sitting back in her chair as they carried on an animated conversation. She suddenly didn't care that her nipples made a graphic impression on the soft leather fabric, or that she hadn't been able to wear underwear under the skintight miniskirt.

What she did care about was Daniel's reaction when she reached beneath the table and ran her fingers over his inner thigh. He seemed to be ultra-sensitive to her touch, maybe on the verge of detonating. She kept her fingers well away from his penis for fear of what might happen.

Lily had to admit she'd never felt this kind of power over a man. Sex in the past was...for lack of a better word...mundane. As a rule, she'd date a man for a while and then feel it was time to give in. It wasn't that she felt ready, or even that the guy held any special interest for her. She supposed it was that she felt a certain obligation; he'd stuck around long enough. Surely he was entitled.

After years of meeting, having sex with and not falling in love with any man, Lily had come to the realization that she might never meet the right guy. And that was how she and Davis came up with their plan to have a child together.

Lily moaned inwardly. *Davis!* She hadn't heard from him since he'd left for Europe. By all accounts, it seemed he wouldn't be back by the time Lily was fertile again. And, as much as she was loath to admit it, she was relieved she'd be granted another month's reprieve. She and Davis would make wonderful parents. It was just too bad they had to have a sexual encounter to achieve it.

Francis drew her attention when he ticked a spoon against his crystal wineglass. "I'd like to make a toast."

Lily instantly came out of her deep thoughts as Julia filled her wineglass again. She smiled her thanks and raised her glass.

"To Julia and Daniel's new business venture," Francis said. "May you have great success."

"To your success," Lily said as she tipped her glass and took another swallow of wine.

"Thank you," Julia said as she placed her glass on the table. She smiled at Daniel. "I think that's the perfect segue. I'd like to see what you have for my new lubricant."

Jeeves showed up on cue, as if he'd been waiting outside the dining room door for the right moment. He placed a small box on the table in front of Daniel and quickly made his exit.

Julia clapped her hands in excitement. "Open the box," she cried. "I can't wait to see it."

Daniel smiled as he lifted the lid on the box and turned to Lily. "Would you do the honors?"

Lily reached into the box and pulled it out. She frowned as she held a long smooth shaft up for everyone to see. *This is what Julia is so excited about?* The base of the plastic casing fit well in her hand, its long shaft reminded Lily of a cock but the end was oval, smooth, and shit, almost boring.

Lily peered at Daniel. "I'm sorry, Daniel. There's nothing special about this at all," she said.

Daniel grinned. "Don't you think so?" he said as he placed a hand over the base and twisted it. He pulled the top off and revealed what was hidden inside.

"Wonderful!" Julia said as both she and Francis applauded.

Lily gasped as they gazed at the clear plastic form shaped like a penis.

“It’s everything you asked for,” Daniel said.

He raised his hand and swatted it on the edge of the table. It thudded heavily but didn’t break. “It’s durable,” Daniel said. He pressed a finger on the tip, bending it lightly. “It’s pliable.”

“It certainly is everything I asked for,” Julia said delightfully. “But I know you, Daniel, there’s got to be more.”

“And there is,” he said as he handed it to Lily. “Squeeze the base,” he instructed.

When she did, the tip of the plastic penis oozed lubricant.

“Perfect!” Julia cried as she watched the thick nectar slide down the side of the wand.

“Have you tested it yet?”

“No,” Daniel said. “I wanted your initial reaction first.”

Julia smiled. “You know I like it,” she said. “So when can I expect some feedback?”

“Very soon,” Daniel said as he took the wand, capped it and put it back into the box.

“Good,” Julia said as she rose from the table. “I’ll have Jeeves bring your car around.”

Daniel and Lily walked behind her as she led the way to the front door. She turned and smiled at Lily. “It was an absolute pleasure meeting you,” she said as her hands touched Lily’s shoulders. “Daniel must bring you by again.” She turned to Daniel. “I look forward to hearing from you.”

Daniel chuckled. “I look forward to the research.”

The older woman laughed. “Yes, I imagine you do.”

Chapter 8

“Where are we going?” Lily asked as they took a different route than the one taken from her apartment.

Daniel kept his eyes on the road. “My place.”

“Why?” Lily asked.

This time, Daniel looked at her. *God, she’s so damn beautiful.* She had no idea just how much she affected him. His brows rose as he smiled at her. “Do you really need to ask?”

Her cheeks flushed with embarrassment. Sweet, innocent Lily.

Hold up, boy!

Daniel’s heart went cold as he turned his gaze back to the road. Shit, what the hell was he thinking? There was nothing innocent about Lily Saunders. How could he forget she and his cousin were scheming to get her pregnant with his child?

Lily was a damn fine actress. She played the innocent secretary bowled over by her domineering boss to the hilt. He couldn’t let his attraction to her, or the fact she looked so fucking sexy in that outfit, keep him from exacting the revenge he so wanted.

Once he was finished with Lily, he’d deal with Davis. Both would find their sorry asses fired the moment he tired of playing the game with his lovely secretary. Right now, he was looking forward to having Lily in his bed.

* * * *

“You live here?” Lily said as she gazed around the room they’d just walked into.

Daniel tossed his keys and the box with the sample bottle on a table by the door. “Yeah,” he said. “I suppose you expected I lived in an elaborate mansion, or an elegant penthouse suite perched on top of a thirty-story building.”

“Well, yes...” Lily winced. “No.” She shook her head. “I guess I never thought about it before.”

Sure you didn’t. Clearly Davis didn’t tell her everything about his private life.

“I admit this house isn’t as pretentious as Julia’s mansion, but it holds a certain charm for me,” he said. “My great-grandfather built this house in 1893. In fact, he owned three hundred acres right here.”

“He was a farmer?”

Daniel nodded. “He lost everything during the depression. This house and all the land went to the bank. My grandfather always wanted to buy it back but never had the money to do it. By the time my father was old enough, the farm was long gone, urban sprawl had taken up all the land. When this house came on the market several years ago, I bought it. The land is long gone but at

least I have a small piece of it back in the family.”

“That’s wonderful,” Lily said softly. She touched his arm. “I’m sure your great-grandfather would be very proud of you.”

“I’m sure he would,” Daniel said. He supposed the old man might be proud of the fact he’d reclaimed part of what was originally his but he wouldn’t be proud of the reason Daniel brought Lily to his homestead tonight.

Damn! He hadn’t intended to share that bit of information with Lily. It wasn’t so much a secret as it was that, by sharing it with Lily, she knew even more about him, came that much closer to understanding what made him tick.

Daniel made a point of not sharing intimate details with any woman. All of them were after something. They either wanted his money or to be seen with him. Being escorted into the hottest nightclubs could make a good photo opportunity for the paparazzi.

Case in point, Emily Goodwin, a childhood friend who’d suddenly appeared in his life after several years. Damn, she was so fucking sweet, so giving. He’d fallen deeply in love with her. And then he discovered what she was really after. The little nobody wanted to be a somebody. Being seen on his arm in nightclubs and having pictures taken of the two of them making out in the alley behind the clubs quickly took her from the ranks of ‘who’s she?’ to ‘who’s she screwing now?’

Daniel wasn’t sure who dumped who first but he liked to tell people he’d made the first move. Truth was, Emily moved on long before he wised up and gave her the shove. Last he heard, she had a lucrative career as a porn star.

Fool me once, shame on you. Fool me twice, shame on me. The words his mother often said when he was a kid never meant more to him than they did after he and Emily broke up. Daniel was never going to fall in love again and he sure as hell wasn’t going to let any woman run roughshod over him.

And that included the delicious Lily Saunders!

He gazed down at Lily as she walked into the cozy living room. She ran her fingers over the back of the butter-soft leather sofa and then walked toward the massive fireplace. “You’re very fortunate to have claimed back a part of your heritage,” she said softly.

Daniel felt his heart melt. Davis had mentioned not long after she started working at *Wright Plastics* that her parents died when she was very young and she’d grown up in various foster homes. Life had not been easy for Lily.

He swallowed the compassion he felt and cleared his throat. He didn’t want to know any more about her than what he already did. She was a conniving witch and didn’t deserve his respect!

While she admired the mantel, Daniel turned to the box he’d left on the table by the door. He opened it, grabbed the bottle and stuffed it into his back pocket.

“Yeah, I guess I am,” he said as he approached her. He turned her to him and untied the belt of her coat. His gaze washed over her before he pushed it over her shoulders. “I’d love to give you a

history lesson on my family but that's not why I brought you here." He pulled her against him. "This is why I brought you here." He lowered his mouth to hers.

* * * *

Lily's mind reeled as Daniel's mouth closed over hers. The combination of too much wine, his heady, spicy scent and her desire for him, swirled and churned inside her. An erotic ache began in the pit of her stomach and quickly traveled to her core as she wrapped her arms around his shoulders and opened her mouth to receive his lusty kiss.

This was wrong. She knew it was wrong. Daniel was her boss and she had no business making love to him. And yet, she couldn't stop the wave of desire that coursed through her as his hands slowly slid down her back and cupped her scantily clad buttocks.

He tore his mouth from hers and gazed down at her. "You have no idea how horny that outfit makes me," he said, his voice hoarse with desire.

Lily chuckled as she boldly pushed her hand between them and cupped his throbbing penis. She kneaded it softly through the fabric of his pants. "Oh, I think I do."

Daniel groaned as his fingers dug beneath the leather skirt. His fingers grazed the fishnet stockings and settled between her thighs. "No panties," he said. There was no mistaking the certain measure of satisfaction in his voice.

"I tried to wear a pair," she said. "They left lines."

"And there's the fact I told you never to wear them," he said, his voice low and menacing.

Lily pulled away from him slightly and looked up into his eyes. They burned into her soul, terrified her with their intensity. But he had to know the truth. "Daniel, you need to know that you will never own me. I am my own woman and that will never change."

The smile on his lips didn't reach his eyes. "Well then, you're in luck," he said. She cried out when he scooped her into his arms and turned to the stairs. "I'm not in the market to own a woman," he said through clenched teeth as he effortlessly climbed the steps. "All I want is to fuck you."

Fight him! What's wrong with you, girl?

Lily knew she shouldn't allow this to happen. And yet, she reveled at the sinewy muscles that flexed in his arms as he carried her down a long hall and shouldered a door open.

A startled cry escaped her when he tossed her down on a large bed. She landed spread eagle and grappled to right herself. She raised her knees and attempted to close her legs when the stiletto heels ripped into the bedspread and caught.

"Now there's a lovely picture," Daniel said, his voice raw with passion. "Your legs wide apart, ready to wrap around my hips."

The room was dark except for the light cast from the hall. Daniel's form shadowed over her. She couldn't see his face but could hear his labored breathing.

Lily could hear her heart pounding as the blood coursed through her body. A mix of fear and longing overtook her as Daniel moved toward her. He took something from his back pocket and tossed it on the bed. It thudded softly over her head. Lily barely noticed, her gaze firmly on Daniel as he unbuttoned his shirt and tossed it on the floor. She swallowed hard when his fingers went to his pants. She heard the metallic clink of his belt buckle opening and the soft zip of the fly of his pants. He pushed them down and let them fall to the floor before he kicked them aside.

He moved forward, placing a knee on the bed between her legs and bent over her. He planted a hand on either side of her head and leaned forward to touch his lips to hers. His naked body exuded heat, filling her senses, drawing air from her lungs so much so, she found herself panting with need.

When his mouth dipped to her throat, her hands flew up to his sinewy shoulders. She tried to pull him down to her. She so desperately wanted to feel his weight against her heated body. But Daniel held out. It took little effort on his part to keep her at bay, to stay just inches above her.

Lily moaned in frustration.

Daniel chuckled softly. "Ah, sweet, impatient Lily," he said as his lips traveled down to the leather bits that barely bound her breasts. "We have all night."

Lily didn't want to wait all night. She wanted him now. She needed him now!

If Mohammad wouldn't come to the mountain...

Lily planted her hands flat against his chest and pushed. Daniel lifted slightly and gazed down at her. "What?"

"I want to taste you," she said softly. "Let me take you into my mouth."

Daniel's eyes blazed as he shoved off the bed and stood at the edge. Lily quickly got onto her knees in front of him. She placed her hands on his chest and then slowly let them slide down. Daniel winced when her fingers touched his rock-hard penis.

She pressed her lips to his chest as her tongue followed the same route her hands had just taken. She slid down his body until her mouth finally met her hands. She held him gently as her tongue slid over the sensitive skin.

Daniel's body jerked when her tongue touched the tip of his penis as her hands slid to his balls and gently kneaded.

As her lips opened over the tip, she gazed up at him. His eyes blazed as he gazed down at her. He nodded, giving her free rein. Lily opened her mouth wider and moved forward, taking as much of his girth as she could.

His hands slipped into her hair, gently gripping her head. "Oh yeah," he said almost breathlessly. "That feels so damn good."

Encouraged, Lily tightened her lips over him and pulled back. Her lips smacked when his cock slipped out of her mouth. She opened them again and slowly slid over him again. Daniel's hips

flexed against her, setting a timeless pace. His hands released her hair and slid to the tie of the leather bra under her shoulder blades. The bit of leather fell from her aching breasts under his nimble fingers. He reached beneath her and cupped her breasts as she continued to suck his cock.

She knew Daniel was on the verge of explosion when his body stiffened. His hands gripped her shoulders and pulled her off him. She gazed up at him in disappointment.

“You’re too damn good,” he said through clenched teeth. “I don’t want to come too soon. I have other things in mind.”

Before she could ask just what they were, his hands cupped her shoulders and pushed her back onto the bed. He leaned over her. His mouth closed over hers; prying her lips open with his tongue as his hands roved her body.

“Do you want me to fuck you?” he asked.

Lily moaned. “You know what I want.”

Daniel chuckled softly. “Answer the question,” he said. “Do you want me to fuck you?”

“Yes!”

He reached over her head and picked up the item he’d tossed there earlier.

He pulled away from her slightly and held it up for her to see. Lily blinked when she saw the lubricant bottle Daniel had taken to Julia’s. “Let’s have some fun with this first,” he said.

Lily swallowed nervously. “I’ve never been into using sex toys,” she told him.

“Maybe that’s because no one ever used them properly,” he replied. Daniel held the wand to her throat. It felt cold and lifeless. She shivered. He pressed the tip against her and slid it down to the valley between her breasts. She lay still, staring up at him as the soft tip gently circled each nipple before he trailed it down further.

She gasped and jerked when it pressed against the lips of her vagina. “It’s so cold,” she said as she squeezed her eyes closed.

“Yes,” he said softly as he pushed it into her folds and poised it over her damp opening. “But it’s filled with a lubricant that warms on contact. All I have to do push the base like this.”

Lily’s eyes flew open as she felt the lubricant squeeze from the tip and instantly heat. “Oh!”

Daniel laughed before he shoved the wand inside her. She shrieked in sheer ecstasy when he pushed it as far as it would go. With his fingers around the base, he maneuvered it up and down, making her body shudder against it. He pulled the wand out and shoved it inside her again, this time with more force.

Her hands fell to her sides and gripped the bedspread as she gave herself up to the incredible sensations coursing through her body.

Daniel knelt between her legs as his hand set an erotic pace. The wand quickly thrust deep inside her, retreated and thrust again. She felt his free hand touch her nipples and then slowly glide

down her body. When he splayed his fingers over her mound and pressed his thumb against her clitoris, Lily felt her body tense as it closed in on an earth-shattering orgasm.

She cried out in disappointment when Daniel suddenly pulled the wand out of her body and lifted his thumb from her clit. She blinked when she saw the look of raw passion on his face. He tossed the wand aside and reached into the drawer of the bedside table.

His breathing was labored as he retrieved a foil packet and settled on his knees between her legs. His fingers shook as he attempted to rip it open.

“Fuck!” he howled as the foil slipped from his fingers.

Lily rose on her elbows. “Let me help.”

Daniel’s fingers fumbled in the dark as he tried to locate the packet. She gasped when his hands brushed against her thighs.

“Screw it!” he roared. His hands pushed her back onto the mattress. “I don’t have the patience to find that damn thing,” he said through gritted teeth.

Daniel’s hand gripped her legs and pulled them around his waist as he drove into her. She cried out when his long, thick shaft filled her, stretching her inner folds, forcing her body to accept him.

“Oh yeah,” he said as his cock settled inside her. “You’re so damn tight.”

He rocked against her as he gripped her hips and pulled her against him. Lily’s body responded to him, her mind swirled with the love she felt for this man. Tears streamed from her eyes as she felt him pulse inside her, filling her with everything he had to give.

Daniel drew away from her and gazed into her eyes. “Do you trust me, Lily?”

Her mind whirled. “I... what?”

“I need to know if you trust me.”

She laughed hysterically. How could he think she didn’t when she’d allowed him to touch her this way? “Yes.”

Daniel rolled, pulling her with him. She blinked when she landed on top of him. His hands settled over her hips and pulled her down over him. She gasped when he filled her again.

He reached to his side and grabbed the wand and held it behind her. “Sit up,” he said.

When she did, she felt the tip of the cold wand press against her anus. His eyes blazed as he gazed up at her. “Do you still trust me?”

“Yes,” she said without hesitation.

“Good,” he said as he pushed the tip of the wand inside her anus. “Lean back against it and let me fuck you two ways.”

Lily’s head fell back as the wand pressed inside her. Daniel’s hips rose, shoving his penis deeper into her pussy. “That’s good,” he said. “Ride me.”

Lily did. When his hips bucked as though he were trying to throw her off, she planted her knees firmly on either side of him and raised her hands over her head. “Yes!” she wailed. “Yes, yes, yes!”

The wand shoving into her ass hurt and yet felt so damn glorious as his cock filled her. When he twisted the wand and circled his hips in an upward thrust, Lily felt her body contract. She couldn’t take much more; she knew she was on the verge of an orgasm of magnitude proportions.

She couldn’t give into it, not until she knew Daniel was close himself. She leaned forward and pushed her fingers between them to feel their connection. He moaned loudly as her fingers pressed against the base of his shaft.

“Give it to me,” she cried. “Give me all you’ve got!”

The floodgates opened and Daniel filled her pussy with his white-hot cum. She cried out in sweet agony as she felt it scorch her inner folds. Her body gave way to the torrent of sweet bliss.

Lily’s scream was ear-splitting, even to her own ears. She collapsed over him. When she fell onto his chest, his arms wrapped around her and held her tight as the last waves of orgasm wracked his body.

“I love you, Daniel.” The words were out of her mouth before her brain had a chance to consider them.

“Shut up and go to sleep,” he said.

God! She was completely exhausted. She rolled off Daniel and lay on her side facing him. Sleep quickly overtook her.

* * * *

Daniel’s eyes opened abruptly. He gazed up at the ceiling for a moment and then looked at the digital clock beside his bed. It was almost seven in the morning.

The night before had seemed like a dream. And then he turned his head and saw the sleeping form beside him.

Oh fuck! It hadn’t been a dream. He had screwed the living shit out of Lily last night and, worse than that, he’d been so damn horny, he’d cast the damn condom aside and went *alfresco*.

Fuck! Fuck! Fuck! Daniel squeezed his eyes closed and counted to ten. Surely that would make her disappear. He opened his eyes. Nope, she was still there. *Damn!*

There was a very real possibility that he’d impregnated her...the last fucking thing he’d intended to do. Still, he consoled himself, what man could have resisted her?

Daniel pushed off the bed and sat on the edge. He placed his hands over his eyes. Hell, *he* should have resisted her. He knew her game, swore she wouldn’t vex him and now...

Daniel turned to look at her. His eyes landed on the lubricant bottle he’d designed for Julia. At least the old girl would get some feedback on how well the damn thing worked. He could safely say it was a resounding success.

So now what?

Since Davis was due to arrive back in Toronto today, there was no point in keeping the game going. Daniel had to fire Lily's sweet ass and then deal with Davis. He'd have to deal with the fallout if, by chance, Lily found herself pregnant.

Daniel was about to push off the bed when he heard a soft sigh come from beneath the covers. His groin tightened with need.

So what if he went one more round with her? It wasn't like the damage hadn't already been done.

Daniel ripped the covers off Lily and crawled up behind her. She moaned softly as he pushed his knees between her legs and gripped her hips. His fingers dug into her flesh as he thrust his cock into her from behind.

Daniel winced as he filled her. Just how was he going to manage without her in his life?

Chapter 9

“Slow down!” Davis said. “You’re babbling! I can’t make out a word you’re saying. Calm down and tell me what’s going on.”

Lily took a deep breath. “The bastard fired me,” she said, barely able to contain her anger.

“Did he say why?”

“No,” Lily replied. “I woke up this morning and found a note on his pillow.”

“A note on his pillow?” Davis’ voice rose slightly. “Exactly what the hell have you two been up to while I was gone?”

“It’s a long story,” she said. “He knew all along it was me that night. One thing led to another and before I knew it, I woke up to a note. He didn’t even have the balls to tell me to my face!”

“Daniel’s got more balls than anyone I know,” Davis replied. “He’s dumped several women over the years and I know this isn’t the way he does it. He’s never been afraid to tell a woman point blank before.”

“All I know is that he dumped and fired me in one fell swoop.”

“What matters more?” Davis asked.

Lily didn’t hesitate. “It matters a lot more that he dumped me,” she said. “I know it sounds crazy, but I love him.”

Davis snorted audibly. “I have to get off my cell, hon,” he said. “The plane is about to land. I’ll give you a call later.”

When the line went dead, Lily tossed the phone onto the table. She was still teetering between anger and anguish after she found the note on Daniel’s pillow this morning. How could he be so cold after what they’d shared? Hadn’t he felt the connection they’d made?

Lily was still asleep when she felt Daniel’s hands on her hips. She didn’t really wake completely until she felt his penis slice into her. She moaned and rose on her elbows, pushing her hips back to accept his demanding thrusts.

He leaned over her, his hands touching her nipples and then sliding to the connection they shared. Lily groaned when his fingers pressed against her swollen bud. She knew he was close as his hips slammed against her. She held out for as long as she could. The instant he moaned and stiffened against her, she let herself go. They rocked together in mutual orgasms.

As Lily gasped for breath, his hand fanned through her hair. He touched her gently, lovingly, as he urged her to rest. She did. She collapsed on the bed and fell back to sleep.

She’d been disappointed when she woke alone. At first, she thought Daniel was in the shower or perhaps getting breakfast. She waited. And then she turned on her side and gazed at his pillow. That was when she saw the note.

You're fired.

At first, Lily thought it was a joke. That he'd fallen in love with her too and, since *Wright Plastics* had a strict policy about employees not dating, she thought it was his way of saying he wanted a future with her.

And, God help her, she so wanted a future with him!

It wasn't until she got out of bed and walked to the ensuite bathroom that she discovered the truth. She opened the door and was shocked to find an older woman on her hands and knees, scrubbing the bathtub.

The woman looked at her with disinterest. "I expect you need to pee," she said. She nodded to the toilet. "Be my guest. I won't watch."

Lily placed her hands over her breasts, wishing the tiny miniskirt she still wore covered more of her. "Where's Daniel?"

The woman didn't look up from her task. "Left for the office long ago," she said. "He generally does that, doesn't like those awkward moments when they know he'll never call."

Lily blinked. *What the hell?*

The woman gazed up at her. Her stare roved from the top of her head to her toes before she said, "Look, I'm going to be awhile. If you want to shower, you can go to the bathroom down the hall."

Lily backed out of the bathroom and closed the door. She felt so dirty. She felt like a slut! She ran down the steps and grabbed her coat.

How could she have been so stupid? So damn blind? Daniel had used her and then quickly discarded her.

Lily fell onto the sofa. *How could things have gone so wrong?*

* * * *

Daniel paced back and forth behind his desk. He hadn't been able to sit still for a single moment since he left Lily this morning. He called the temp agency on his way into work to make sure someone would be there to answer the phones today. He knew Lily would not be back. He'd made damn sure of it.

Where the fuck was Davis? His plane landed at the airport almost two hours ago. He was anxious to finish with this, to face Davis with what he knew.

He jammed his finger on the intercom on the phone. "Has Davis arrived in the building yet?"

"Hello. This is Mrs. Harper. Can I help you?"

Fuck! Why the hell would they send that old bird back here? He made a mental note to change temp agencies. "No, Mrs. Harper," he said, bristling as much patience as he could muster. "There's nothing you can do."

Daniel sighed and plunked down in his chair.

The intercom beeped. "Davis Wright is here to see you, sir. Shall I send him through?"

The door opened and Davis walked into the office before Daniel replied to Mrs. Harper's message.

"I'm sure you'll be very happy with my report on how well *Wright Plastics* was received in Europe," he said as he sat down on a chair on the other side of Daniel's desk.

Daniel eyed his cousin. "So tell me," he said.

Davis crossed his arms over his chest. "I will," he replied. "Just as soon as you tell me why you fired Lily."

Daniel snorted. "She didn't waste any time telling you. I expect you knew about it soon after your plane landed."

"Sooner," Davis said. "But that's neither here nor there. You didn't answer my question. Why did you fire her?"

Daniel slowly rose from his chair. He placed his hands on the desk as he peered at Davis. "For the same reason I'm canning your ass," he said menacingly. "I will not tolerate dissent in the ranks. Both you and Lily have plotted to take over *Wright Plastics*."

Davis' eyes rounded. "Excuse me?"

"Don't be coy with me," Daniel's voice boomed. "You and Lily had a very clever plan. I'd get her pregnant and then you'd both milk me for everything I've got!"

Davis threw his head back and laughed loudly. His eyes glistened. "You're kidding me, right?"

"I'm not kidding," Daniel ground out. "I happened to walk by the lunchroom when I overheard you and Lily plot things out. She wants to get pregnant."

Davis continued to smile. Daniel fought the urge to jump over his desk and throttle the living shit out of him. "You're right about one thing," he said. "Lily wants to have a kid. But not your kid. In fact, your name never came up once when we made the original plans."

Daniel frowned. "I'm not sure what you're trying to pull. Lily came to me in New York City ____"

"By accident," Davis said quickly, cutting him off. "Lily and I planned to have a child and figured the best time to get started on it was when we were out of town. She was supposed to get the keycard to my hotel room but the front desk clerk screwed up. She got the keycard to your room instead."

Daniel's legs went weak. He landed in his seat as he gazed across the desk at his cousin. "What the fuck have I done?"

This time it was Davis' turn to frown. "Well, I know you slept with her before you fired her. Do you have anything to add to that?"

Daniel ran a hand over his brow and brushed his fingers through his hair as he processed the information. He looked across the desk at his cousin. "I don't get it," he said. "Why would you and Lily plan to have a kid?"

"She figured she'd never meet the right guy and feared she'd never have a child," Davis supplied. "As for me, I love kids and being gay, I thought it would never happen. It was the perfect solution for both of us."

Davis leaned over and placed his elbows on his knees. "You didn't answer my question. What can you add to what I already know? What did you do to Lily?"

Daniel leaned back in his chair and took a long breath. He let it out slowly. "I need some time to think," he said.

"You used her, didn't you? Got your pound of flesh because you thought she'd been disloyal."

Daniel's eyes shot across his desk. "What the hell do you know about it?" he said angrily.

Davis shook his head as he got up from the chair. "I know what you're like," he said. "Ever since Emily shit all over you, you've treated women like dirt under your feet. I can well imagine how you'd treat a woman if you thought she'd betrayed you."

Damn it! Daniel refused to admit just how close his cousin was to the truth. He had used Lily, he had pushed her to the limit to exact revenge. He thought the soft, willing woman, so gentle, so giving, was an act. He hadn't given a second thought to dumping her. He'd even told Belinda, his cleaning lady, there'd be a bonus on her next paycheck if she treated Lily like the slut she was...or what he thought she was at the time.

Dear Belinda. She didn't cotton to it. It wasn't in her nature to be condescending to anyone. She agreed, not because she wanted the extra money, but because she was loyal to him.

"Okay, you're right. I screwed up," Daniel said. "But I'll make things right with Lily."

Davis grinned. "You love her, don't you?"

Daniel shook his head. "I don't know what the fuck I feel right now," he said honestly. "All I know is that I've got to talk to her."

"Good luck with that," Davis said. "When I talked to Lily, she was pretty pissed off with you. I don't think she's going to be so willing to listen to anything you have to say."

"Understood," Daniel said.

He didn't intend to give Lily a choice. She *would* listen to him. If she decided she didn't want anything to do with him after that, then he'd accept it.

Davis turned to leave. "Let me know when you want the update on my trip."

"Tomorrow," Daniel said. As Davis pulled the door open, Daniel spoke again. "Hey," he said, "Give up the plan to get Lily knocked up, okay?"

Davis looked over his shoulder and smiled. "Understood," he said.

Understood. Daniel peered at the closed door. At least one of them understood. Now, if only he could figure it out. He knew he had to make things right with Lily.

He had a lot of thinking to do before he saw her. How to make things right between them was the big question. But an even bigger one was what he wanted after things were made right. Did he hope to keep her around for the sheer enjoyment of sex, or did he want more with her? If he did want more, would he be able to give her what she needed?

Daniel knew so little about her. He'd given her little opportunity to tell him about her life.

Daniel's knowledge of Lily stemmed from what he knew about her sexually. And Lord, the woman had been very giving. His body warmed and his cock hardened at the thought of just how giving she was.

Well, he had to figure something out. He couldn't let Lily slip away without seeing her again.

Chapter 10

“So, Ms. Saunders, why do you think you’re *Calico Temporary Services* material?” The man, who had the longest nose she’d ever seen in her life, peered down at her resume through wire-framed glasses that circled his saucerlike eyes.

I need a fucking job, needle-nose! Why else would I be here?

Lily sat ramrod straight on the uncomfortable wooden chair in front of the pious man’s desk. “Well, Mr. Pullman,” she began, “I’ve heard such great things about *Calico Temps*. When I found myself out of a job recently, your agency was the first one I thought of.”

God, the man’s face looked like cracking cement when he attempted to grin just a bit. “I must admit,” he said, “you have a very impressive resume. *Calico* wants only the best, you know.” He peered at her over the glasses perched on the end of his nose. “Your resume states references are available upon request.”

“Yes sir,” Lily replied studiously, though she had a bad feeling about his next question.

“Good,” Pullman said as he placed her resume on the desk and twined his fingers over it. “Then *Wright Plastics* won’t mind giving a reference.”

“Uhm...” Shit, she didn’t know what to say. She’d assumed any temporary agency would look at her resume and hire her without references. She winced. “I’m sure they will...if you feel it’s necessary to contact them.”

“It’s quite necessary,” needle-nose said. “We never hire anyone without references.”

Alrighty then. Lily knew she was screwed. Only this time, without the afterglow. She rose from the wooden chair, squelching the need to stretch after having sat in the ergonomically incorrect chair for almost twenty minutes. She leaned forward and offered her hand. When needle-nose took it, she smiled. “It’s been a real pleasure meeting you, Mr. Pullman. I look forward to hearing from you.”

Lily walked out of the office, nodded to the secretary at the desk and left the building. As far as she was concerned, she was back to square one. When Pullman checked for references at *Wright Plastics*, she assumed he’d get a bad report he’d quickly share with other temp agencies in the city.

She walked to the nearest bus stop and waited. As she sifted through her purse to find the correct change, she heard a vehicle pull up to the stop.

She looked up to see a gleaming black limousine. Jeeves quickly popped out of the driver’s seat and rounded the vehicle. He opened the back door. “Miss Julia has requested your company for lunch today,” he said.

Lily frowned. *Just what the hell is going on?*

“You can tell Miss Julia I have plans for the day,” she said.

Jeeves stepped toward her. His hand closed over her arm. He smiled as he propelled her to the open door of the limo. "I'm not a messenger boy," he said as he tucked her inside the vehicle. "I'm a delivery boy."

"Holy shit, Jeeves!" Lily said as she rubbed her arm. "Who knew you were that strong?"

He grinned. "Miss Julia knows," he said before he closed the door.

As the limo merged into the busy downtown Toronto traffic, Lily leaned back in the plush seat. There were all kinds of wrong goings-on taking place here. She knew she should have fought Jeeves. Still, she reasoned, the limo beat the bus any day. And hell, she had to admit she kind of liked Julia. Having lunch with her today just might bolster her injured ego.

When Jeeves pulled the car up to the mansion, he quickly got out and opened the door for her. He nodded when she offered her thanks. "Go right in," he said.

The door opened as Lily walked up the steps. Alfred held it open as she walked through. "A pleasure to see you again," he said.

"Where will I find Julia?" Lily asked as Alfred took her coat.

"I believe you will find your party up the stairs," Alfred said. "Second door on the right."

Lily frowned as she climbed the stairs. *This is odd.* Why on earth would Julia want to meet her in a room upstairs?

Lily stopped at the second door on her right. As her hand closed over the knob, she was suddenly hit with what she could only term as an intuitive moment. Her skin prickled with a sense of foreboding as she pushed the door open. Instinct told her not to walk inside. She stood at the door, peering into the dark room.

"Don't be afraid." She heard the words almost as though they echoed in her mind. The voice was all too familiar.

Daniel!

It had been just over twenty-four hours since she woke to find the note he'd left for her. Her nerves were still far too raw to deal with him. And yet, his silky voice floated over her, mesmerizing her.

"Close the door and come to me," he said softly.

Lily's head told her to run. Julia had set her up. What good could possibly come from this?

Lily's body...and damn it all, her heart...cried for something else. She'd been left with an incredible ache that only Daniel could fill. Her body wanted him, her heart needed him.

The argument between her head, heart and body was short-lived. She closed the door behind her and blindly stood in the darkened room.

"Follow my voice, Lily," he said softly.

Lily took a few steps forward before she felt the edge of the bed on her shins. She stood still, waiting to hear his voice again.

She felt his hands pull her down onto the bed. She fell forward into his arms. God, how she longed for him—how she needed him!

“Sweet Lily,” he said softly. “I’ve been so wrong. So damn wrong.” And then his lips closed over hers.

His mouth was hot and wet and so insistent. When Lily opened her lips, his tongue quickly dove into her mouth as his hands roved over her body. He pushed her legs open and slid between them as his hands roamed up under her skirt.

His fingers stilled when they met her cotton panties. “You’re wearing underwear,” he growled.

“Of course,” she replied. “I was looking for a job today.”

Daniel didn’t reply as his fingers curled around the band and pulled them away. Lily gasped when his fingers pressed against her.

Her hands flew to his pants. “I need you so much,” she gasped.

Daniel pulled her hands away from him. “I know, my love,” he whispered. “But there’s something I think you need more.” Daniel slid down her body and pressed his face between her thighs. She gasped when she felt his tongue open her and slowly lap along her moist slit.

She moaned and pressed her hands into his hair as he lapped at her. “You taste so sweet,” he said softly. “So damn good.”

Lily couldn’t find the words as Daniel continued his sensual assault. When he focused on her clit, licking and sucking, she felt her body spiral. His hands pushed under her, his fingers digging into her ass, as he pulled her against him.

One hand left her ass and slid up her thigh. Lily cried out at the torrent of sensations that racked her body when she felt his fingers open her and sink deep inside.

“That’s it, Lily,” he said. “Come for me.”

Lily’s body jolted as if she’d been struck by lightning. The shock coursed from her core and ebbed to her limbs as her hips bucked against Daniel’s face.

“Stop!” she cried in sweet agony, uncertain of how much more she could take.

“Not a chance,” Daniel said as he continued to feed her orgasm.

Lily writhed on the bed, her body racked in sweet convulsions. She felt the moisture in her core build and then suddenly spew from her.

Daniel’s mouth closed over her core and quickly sucked all the juices away. “Hmm, so good,” he said. “Give me all you’ve got.” His fingers slipped out of her, his thumb gently rubbed against her slit. His tongue quickly lapped up any juice that flowed from her.

Lily felt her body lay back onto the bed as her muscles slowly relaxed. She couldn’t remember

a time when she'd felt quite so spent, so completely satisfied. Her arms and legs felt like rubber.

Daniel rose from between her legs and lay on his side beside her. He sighed.

"What about you?" she said. She'd completely forgotten his needs while he met hers. "Don't you need to relieve yourself?"

Daniel's body stiffened. "Relieve myself?" he asked.

Before she could reply, Daniel moved from her side. She could barely make out his shadow as he sat on the edge of the bed.

"Jesus," he said. "What have I done to you, Lily?"

Lily reached out and touched his back. "I don't understand," she said.

"Of course you do," Daniel replied. "You know I used you this past week. You know damn well I had no intention of seeking a future with you. It was all a misunderstanding that started when some idiot clerk gave you the wrong room keycard in New York City."

"Yes," she said softly. "It did start as a mistake. But even that first night, I knew."

The room was suddenly basked in dim light. Daniel had reached for the lamp on his side of the bed. He turned and looked at her, his eyes piercing her. "What did you know?" he said. "From what I hear, you thought you were fucking my gay cousin."

Lily rose onto her elbows. "I thought I was," she replied. "But I felt something more, something substantial between us. In my heart, I knew it was you, not Davis."

Daniel shook his head and stood up. His body was tense with anger. "Wake up and smell the coffee!" he said. "You'd have been a lot better off if you had fucked Davis."

"I thought so too," Lily said. "But then I was led here. Daniel, no man has ever made me feel the way you did just now."

"You experienced ejaculation," Daniel said. "They say it's rare for women but I happen to know firsthand it's not. You aren't the first woman to ejaculate for me and you won't be the last."

Lily's heart ached. "So why did you have me come here?"

Daniel looked away. "I owed you," he said. "I thought you were betraying me so I took advantage of you. Davis explained everything."

Lily felt her body go weak. Was he saying what she feared the most? "So, after using me..." She couldn't go on.

"I thought the least I could do was give back to you," he said, finishing her sentence for her and confirming her worst fear.

"You bastard!" Lily cried. "Why couldn't you have just left me alone? I was doing fine without you!"

"I guess it's a guy thing," Daniel said. "I don't expect you to understand."

“You’re right about that,” she said tightly. “I don’t understand.”

She quickly walked to the door. “Do me a favor and tell Julia I won’t need Jeeves to take me home. I’ll find my own way.”

As she opened the door, her heart jolted when Daniel called her name. Her fingers froze on the knob. *God, please let him tell me he loves me!* Lily turned to look at him. “What?”

“Your skirt is still up around your waist.”

Lily’s heart shattered as she pushed her skirt down and walked out of the room.

* * * *

Daniel winced when the door slammed shut. Lily was walking out of his life and he was letting her go.

He fell back onto the bed. He did the right thing. He knew he did!

He’d set out to make things right and he did. By feeding her need to be satisfied while letting his own body ache with desire, he had not only given her what she needed, he deprived himself. Lily may not understand it but it was definitely a huge punishment for him. He ached to possess her, to never let another man come near her.

That was as close to love as he could come. And he knew the right thing to do was to let her go, to allow her to find someone who could love her in the way she deserved.

She would understand one day. Perhaps she would even thank him.

Chapter 11

Damn it! He missed Lily more than he thought he would. Two weeks had passed since she walked out of his life, yet she continued to occupy his mind every second of every day. He longed to see her, touch her, smell her sweet fragrant hair, hear her soft voice. And God, that beautiful smile!

Davis cut into his thoughts. "Daniel, what do you think?"

"Huh?" Daniel shook his head.

Davis' eyes rounded as he juttied his head forward slightly, clearly shocked that Daniel hadn't been paying attention. "Mr. Lafleur asked if we'd have a prototype for his new hand lotion within three months."

Daniel suddenly remembered he was in a meeting with a contact Davis had made while in Europe. Lafleur had flown to Toronto from France to meet him personally. "Yes, of course," Daniel said.

When both Lafleur and Davis frowned Daniel knew he'd fucked up.

"I told Mr. Lafleur we'd try to have it ready within two months," Davis said.

"Then it will be," Daniel said. "I'm sure when you tour the plant, you'll find we're very capable of handling the job."

Lafleur shook his head and turned to Davis. "*Mon Dieu!*" he said in a thick French accent. "You said your boss was distracted, but I did not realize how bad it was. He was not paying attention when you told him we have already toured the plant."

Davis nodded. "I warned you. He's been like that ever since his lady love walked out on him."

Daniel frowned. "I don't think it's necessary to bring my personal life into a business meeting."

"I had to," Davis replied. "You've been a zombie for two weeks and this is a very important contract."

"The French are well versed in the ways of love," Lafleur added.

Daniel sighed. "I'm not in love."

Lafleur got out of his chair. "Well, whatever your problem is, you better get it resolved. I would like to do business with you but, under the present circumstances, I'm sure you understand it would not be a wise move for me."

When the man left the office, Davis glared at Daniel. "Wake up, man! You're the one who sent me to Europe to find new clients. Either you get things sorted out with Lily or I quit!"

"There's nothing to sort out," Daniel said grumpily.

Davis got up and leaned over his desk. "You know what? I don't give a sweet shit what you do

about Lily. Personally, I think she's better off without you. But you've had your head stuck up your ass for two weeks now and it's got to stop."

Daniel peered up at him. He knew the man was right. Something had to give and soon. He couldn't keep going the way he was.

"You are in love with that girl," Davis said. He pointed to the door. "Go there right now and tell her so!"

He was right. Daniel had never felt this way about anyone before. Not even Emily. It must be love. *What else could it be?*

Daniel shoved himself up from the desk and ran to the door. *Oh shit!* "What about Lafleur?"

Davis waved his arm in dismissal. "Trust me; I'll manage a lot better without you here. Come back when you know what you're doing."

Daniel rushed out the door and didn't look back.

* * * *

"That's great news, Mr. Pullman!" Lily said into the phone. "I'll be there at eight sharp tomorrow morning. Thanks so much for calling."

When she hung up the phone, Lily did a little dance around the room. The past two weeks had been sheer hell but finally, things were starting to look up.

Pullman found a temporary job for her as a receptionist in a busy dentist's office. It wasn't exactly up Lily's alley but the job would only be for a couple weeks while the regular receptionist was on vacation. After two weeks of sitting around her tiny studio apartment crying, eating ice cream, watching soap operas and crying some more, the temporary job was a godsend. Finally, an opportunity to focus on something other than her love for Daniel Wright!

This was good. This was positive. She was moving on. Thank God! No doubt, Daniel had quickly moved on. She was most certainly a distant memory...if even that!

The first few days after walking away were spent in a puddle of tears. But, as time went on over the past two weeks, her sorrow was replaced with anger.

What a jerk! The guy was so full of himself that he figured making her come would set things right between them. Just who the hell did he think he was anyway? Clearly, he thought he was God's gift to women. What a lark! She sincerely hoped a woman would come along to teach him a lesson one of these days. Someone who would break his heart...hurt him as much as he'd hurt her.

At least Davis had been there for her. She really didn't know how she would have gotten through the past two weeks without him. He consoled her when she cried and calmed her down when she became angry.

When she told him there was no way she could follow through with their plan to have a child, he agreed wholeheartedly. He said he couldn't father a child with a woman so in love with his cousin. There was a certain measure of relief for both of them.

So now she was moving on, or at least, starting to. There was only one direction to go from here and that was up.

Clothes! She had to decide what she would wear to work tomorrow.

Just as she walked to her closet, she heard a soft knock on the door. She smiled when she noted the time. Noon. No doubt Davis had come on his lunch break to check up on her.

“The door’s open,” she called.

She heard the door open. “Hey, Davey,” she said as began digging through the clothes in her closet. “I’ve got some great news!”

Lily had just spied a pair of shoes she hadn’t worn in months and bent to retrieve them when she heard the voice. “I can’t wait to hear it.”

Oh my God! That wasn’t Davis’ voice. There was no mistaking the rich, deep baritone. *Daniel!* Lily slowly rose and turned. Her heart stopped when she saw him, as handsome and sexy as ever, standing just a few inches from her.

He smiled. “How are you, Lily?”

She clutched the shoes to her chest. “I’m f—” She was just about to say she was fine. But she wasn’t fine! She was nowhere near fine! And now the reason she wasn’t fine was standing there, in front of her, acting like nothing had ever happened. “...fucking pissed off at you, you asshole! What the hell are you doing here?”

“I needed to see you,” he said simply.

Lily shook her head. “Why? Did you want to make sure you’d ruined my life? Maybe wanted to make sure I was still pining for you?”

Daniel frowned. “No. I’ve been thinking about you and—” He stopped. His brows rose. “Have you been pining for me?”

Lily raised her shoes. “Get out of here before I fill your face with these!”

Daniel splayed his hands but didn’t move. “Okay, maybe you haven’t been pining for me. I came to tell you something.”

“So tell me and get out!”

“I love you.”

Lily stood and stared at him in complete disbelief. Had she heard the words? “Excuse me?”

“I said I love you.” He repeated the words easily, almost without emotion. It was pretty damn hard for her to believe he was being sincere. When he took a step toward her, she quickly took a step away.

“I don’t understand,” she said. “Two weeks ago, you said you’d given me all that you had. Why are you telling me this now?”

Daniel closed the space between them but didn't touch her. His hands remained at his sides. "Because Davis told me to."

Lily frowned. "Davis told you to tell me you're in love with me?" She swallowed hard. Daniel acted like he had lost his mind; his eyes looked spellbound as he stared down at her. What she didn't feel was loved.

She ducked away from Daniel and managed to get around him. She walked to the door. "Look, Daniel," she said, "I don't know what Davis told you but I'm managing just fine without you. In fact, I'm starting a new job tomorrow."

Daniel shook his head. His eyes seemed to brighten, his stance tightened...almost as if he'd come out of a daze. When Lily opened the door, he marched up and closed it.

"Look," he said, "my life has been hell since the last time we saw each other. At first, I thought you got under my skin because the sex was better with you than with any other woman I'd ever known."

Lily rolled her eyes. "I find that hard to believe."

"Just hear me out," Daniel said. "The sex was awesome. You can't deny that, so don't even try."

Lily stood silent. She couldn't deny it.

"No doubt Davis told you why I did the things I did," he said. "But what Davis didn't know is that I found something with you. I couldn't admit it when I thought you were trying to ruin me. And when I found out you weren't, I figured you were better off without me."

Lily felt hot tears stream down her face. "It all made sense after Davis told me why you played with me."

"Damn it, Lily," Daniel said. "I felt the connection between us that first night and I didn't even know who you were. I know how stupid I've been. I'll understand if you never want to see me again. But you must know that I love you."

Lily struggled to find the words as Daniel swept her into his arms. "I love you, Daniel," she said as she wept. "I love you so very much!"

Daniel lowered his face to hers and then suddenly held back. His eyes brightened as he chuckled softly.

Lily frowned. "What's so funny?"

"This whole story started with your finding the wrong Mr. Wright and ends with you being stuck with him."

Lily laughed. "Oh, I think I had the right Mr. Wright all along."

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Peggy is thrilled to have another Torrid release. She lives in Mid Western Ontario with her husband, son and several pets. When she's not writing, you can bet she chasing after at least one of the living beings in her house.

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