

IN FLAGRANTE

AMARIS RICCI

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Bounty hunter Tyne Fawcett spends her days and nights looking for people. There's a slight difference with her bounty – she gets paid upfront and her criminals are married men and women who are thought to be cheating.

One day a wealthy Moirah Larcone comes into her office at 9am on the dot, and offers to pay double her usual fee if she not only takes photos of Martin Larcone – but she has to send those photos to every media house in the country.

Chapter ONE

Tyne accepts but when she poises her camera and starts to snap Martin in the act, she never thought that the person he was cheating with..... would be her husband. She takes as many photos as possible and from outside the house she called Martin.

“If you don't want your cheating ass all over the 10 o'clock news, have hundred large ones ready to be picked up in half an hour. I'll call you back to give directions.’

She hung up and puked all over the grass. Composing herself she went home and waited.

In comes Terrynce flustered.

“Honey I have something to talk to you about.”

“Okay.” She thought he was going to spill his guts and beg forgiveness.

“I need one hundred grand to fund a business deal.”

She almost choked. Then she smiled sweetly, “How soon do you need it?”

“Tonight, we can close the deal in a few hours.”

“Sure, let me go to the bank. Be back in a few.”

This worked better than she thought she drove a few miles and called Martin.

“I want half million instead, you have two hours then the photos go live.”

She calls Moirah. “Your husband is willing to pay half million for these photos.”

“He has a Swiss account. I will give you the access code. Wait ... that’s way more than I’m paying you, what’s the deal?”

“It's my husband he is with, he came home and asked for the same amount I asked your husband for originally.”

“I like you, you got a pen?”

She wrote the info down. She calls a realtor, the bank, the insurance company. She has always known one day she would have to run, her travel documents were always ready. Within two hours she was on her way to Barbados. When she got there she logged into the bank, transferred all her husband's money, hers and their joint account to the Swiss account and then all twenty-five million to a new account and closed it. Then she uploaded the video and photos to sixty-five stations worldwide. The only problem now is she needs to decide if to keep her baby or not.

Chapter TWO

Tyne is sitting in the doctor's office, scared of the results. Her husband was having unprotected anal sex with a man and she needed to know if she was infected with anything.

“Mrs. Fawcett?” Tyne heard the doctor's voice through her day dreaming.

“Yes doctor?”

“You are negative and the baby is progressing nicely. You look a bit thin, are you eating and sleeping well?”

“Doc, I have come all the way from the US, I'm running from my husband, no I'm not eating and sleeping well but I will try harder for the sake of the baby.”

“You don't want the child?”

“Frankly, I'm having mixed feelings.”

“My next patient isn't for another two hours, would you like to have lunch with me? It will do you some good to talk and I won't take no for an answer.”

“Are you asking me out on a date?”

“No, I'm married but lunch with a patient isn't against the law anywhere in the world. Let's go, you can pay for lunch.”

Dr. Weithers lied about being married so Tyne wouldn't feel uncomfortable. She had come into his clinic in tears one morning. He had just unlocked the door and changed the sign. When he saw her, he set it back to closed and took her to the examination room.

They were sitting at a cozy little café near to the clinic.

“Two small salads with toasted sunflower seeds and two passion fruit juices.” Mark ordered for them both.

“You sure are bossy for a doctor.”

“Not with everyone, you need a little bossing over right now. You are pregnant and you lost five pounds since you last saw me. You have two choices, either start working on bringing your health up to par or be prepared to lose the baby.”

Tyne sat back in her chair.

“A woman hired me to catch her husband cheating, I didn't know it would be my husband he was cheating with. I walked up to the window of the man's bedroom and there he was sucking on my husband's dick. I took photos of them for 15 minutes and they never saw me. I stayed long enough to see my husband fuck another man up the ass, without condoms. Do you have any idea what that does to a woman who has been faithful for 10 years? Everything he has ever done or said is now in question. Who else has he been with? I can't get the images out of my head. There now you know you can go screaming from the table.”

“Would you like to have dinner with me tonight?”

“What?”

“Dinner. I'll pick you up, we go to somewhere that sells food, we sit and eat and drink and I take you back home.”

“I can't, you're married.”

“To my clinic yes. To a woman, no.”

“You lied to me?”

“Yes I did and it worked too, you're here aren't you?”

Tyne smiled. She knew the doctor was trying to make her feel better and it really did work.

“That is the first time I have ever seen you smile. You really are a beautiful woman Tyne.”

“I’m tainted Doc, I can’t be intimate with anyone knowing what my husband has been doing.”

“Tainted? All your tests have been negative and the only thing tainted is your mind. You feel that no man can want you after you tell him about your husband. Well I want you and nothing you can say will change that. Now here comes lunch, you will eat all of it and when I take you to dinner you will eat all of that as well.”

“Why are you doing this? Am I some sort of charity case for you to experiment on?”

Mark gave Tyne an angry look, then he smiled.

“I’m a grown ass man Mrs. Fawcett, I make my own decisions and when I do something it means I gave it some thought. Now either you will be ready when I come to pick you up tonight at 7 or you won’t either way I’m going to dinner. My lunch hour is up. Your lunch is already paid for, don’t waste it, there are hungry children in Somalia.”

Chapter THREE

Mark got up, taking the rest of his lunch and juice with him and he left Tyne sitting there with a blank look on her face. When the waitress came she gave Tyne a strange look.

“He likes you ya’ know.”

“How do you know that?”

“He’s never brought a woman here to eat with him, he always eats alone.”

“How well do you know him?”

“He owns the place, when he took over he changed everything, the staff work hard and they see the rewards for their efforts. We get paid vacations and at the end of every month we get to invite a friend over for a free lunch. We trust him to look after our well-being and he does it to perfection. In the four years since he took over, no one has quit, stolen, or got into any trouble with the customers. That speaks volumes. Oh and all the staff get free medicals every three months and a Christmas bonus. Enjoy your salad.” She gave Tyne a wink and left.

Tyne ate her salad with a smile on her face. Dr. Weithers was hot and sexy, she realised it from day one but she never allowed it to affect her judgment. She was pregnant and at the risk of being HIV positive. There was no way she would willingly infect someone else, no matter how much she needed a good romp in the hay. The baby was sending her hormones haywire and she spent many nights craving release.

She finished her salad and made her way home to prepare for her dinner date. Her belly was beginning to show and she picked a simple cold shoulder black velvet dress with a high waist and a pair of gladiator sandals. She had turned off her cellular phone and taken out the battery and sim card. She had no one to call or call her. She didn't drive and she didn't do much shopping except for food. When Mark knocked on the door, he was dressed in a pair of navy blue jeans and a cream striped pattern long sleeve shirt.

“Good evening Doc, you look nice.” She was about to step outside when Mark took two steps toward her, grabbed her by the waist and dipped his head for a kiss. Tyne leaned into him. His lips were soft and his tongue swirled around hers, making her want more than a kiss.

When he let her go she was breathing heavily.

“Shall we?”

“I guess I don't affect you.”

He grabbed her hand and rested it on his erection.

“Oh god.”

“Shall we go? You can move your hand now.”

Tyne pulled back her hand quickly and walked past him to his car.

“Do you know that you are the only patient I have ever had that wanted to make love to?”

“Is that why you are so bossy with me?”

“Yep, the things I could do to you Tyne. I am not good at hiding my feelings in public so be careful, I may show affection every once in a while. When we are alone is a different story and I up the ante.”

“Is that why you kissed me and put my hand on your pants?”

“Got that right. I make no apologies for it either.”

When they pulled up to the restaurant, the valet opened her door and stepped back to let her out. Mark got out and handed him the keys. He held out his hand and she took it.

“Hello Doctor, your table is ready. This way please.”

They followed the Host to the table and Mark pulled out the chair for Tyne to sit.

“Would you like a drink before you order?”

“Take the full order now. Bring me a bottle of Henry Dawson and a Greek Lamb and veg tray bake. The lady will have a carrot and orange soup and a veg and basil stir fry. For dessert we will have two Mascarpone custard and fruit trifles. Oh and a cup of ginger tea first please for the lady as well.”

“Sir.”

Tyne smiled at the way Mark took over.

“Since when does a Host take orders instead of a waiter?”

“Since the host knows if the boss doesn’t get what he wants to eat he can get fired.”

“You own this place?”

“Yep this, the café, a bar a few blocks over and a small guest house on the beach. I will take you sometime.”

“You seem to think I will be around long enough.”

“I can be very persuasive.”

Mark and Tyne spent the evening talking about everything. The night was coming to a close when a hot blonde came up to the table.

“Hello Mark.”

Mark spoke without even taking away his eyes from Tyne.

“Hello Larissa.”

“I’ve missed you in my bed.”

“I assure you that feeling is one sided. As you can see I’m on a date and I would appreciate it if you not bother me.”

“Excuse me.” Tyne got up and made a beeline to the bathroom but not before Larissa caught sight of her small bump.

“You left me because you got some bitch knocked up?”

“No, I left because you cannot understand the ramifications of a woman carrying a mouth on her that won’t stop blabbering. I do not need the details of my bedroom plastered all over the internet by you and she-who-is-not-a-bitch is none of your god-damned business.”

“At least she’s pretty, can’t say why she let you knock her up, she must have been drunk.”

“Not everyone loves abortion like you do. Maybe you should get a job as a graveyard. Now please, leave before I disrespect myself any further.”

“We will see how she likes it when I tell her all about you.”

“Actually, nothing you say can change my mind about him. All I see is that you are a vindictive woman who has nothing better than to go around interfering in other people’s business. If I remember correctly, I have a photograph of you in New York, on your knees taking dictation from a well-known politician. Would you like me to post that on the internet?”

Larissa stood with her mouth open. Mark was smiling.

“I take your silence to mean no you would not like it one bit so I suggest you leave us alone, Larissa Jacobs.”

“You will pay for this you bitch.”

Larissa stormed off and left the restaurant.

“I think I’m in-love.”

“I didn’t mean to embarrass you but she got on my nerves right quick, I had to rack my brain as to where I remembered her face from.”

“I broke up with her after that fiasco. Wait, you took those photographs? I was with her at dinner when they were delivered.”

“I didn’t have them delivered to her, she had them delivered to herself. I always deliver my photos personally, she lied to you. She paid me to take them so she could blackmail the man she was with. I found that out later. Apparently she got pregnant and when she told him he said he already had children from his wife and he wasn’t ready to change diapers again. He paid her \$450,000 to keep quiet, she obviously took the money and came here.”

“I am glad I never slept with her.”

“She said she missed you in her bed.”

“That was for your ears. I am very picky about who I take to bed and she was never on my list.”

“I see. So dinner is over, what do we do now, I’m not very sleepy and I don’t have anyone to go home to.”

“I have the perfect idea. Let’s go.”

Mark nodded to the host and left. They drove for about 10 minutes and Mark pulled up to a sweet country styled house. Tyne could hear the roar of the sea. She got out and waited for Mark.

Mark walked up to the house and unlocked the door, ushered her in and locked it behind her. He walked right through the house all the way out to the back. When

he pushed the glass sliding doors a gust of wind rushed into the house. Tyne was awestruck. The waves crashed right underneath the house into a pool.

Chapter FOUR

“Oh Mark this is wonderful.”

“Yes it is, I think you should stay here instead of that apartment, this is healthier and you don’t have to pay any rent, providing the owner can come visit in the middle of the night and crawl into bed with you.” Mark brushed his finger across her cheek. She flinched and turned away.

“Don’t run from me Tyne, I promise you I won’t hurt you.”

“Yes you will, something is going to happen and you are going to break my heart and I will have to pick up the pieces on my own, again.”

“I wish I could make you believe me but that will come in time, if you learn to trust me. Now, sit and enjoy the sea breeze, I will be right back.”

Mark left and came back with some massage oil and a cup of tea. He realised she shifting in the chair trying to get comfortable. When he looked at Tyne she was fast asleep. He lifted her up, took her inside to his bedroom and lay her on the bed. As her body brushed against his, he got aroused so quickly it surprised him. Working as an Ob/Gyn he learned to control his actions and reactions to women if not he would be hard all day. This woman was just turning him inside out.

“Mark? Lay down with me please!” Tyne said half asleep.

Mark took off her shoes, then his and lay down facing her. He picked up the sheet and covered her over. He wrapped his arm around her and she moaned.

“I think I’m falling in-love with you but I’m so scared.”

Mark’s heart skipped a few beats. He longed to hear those words but he knew Tyne was feeling vulnerable, especially around him. He knew her history and

what she was going through but he was willing to take the chance. He pulled her close and his forehead was now touching hers. He kissed her lips softly and before he knew it they were naked in each other's arms.

“Tyne, stop, we can't.”

“Oh god, I'm so sorry.” She flew off the bed and started putting on her clothes.

“Can you take me home please?”

“Sure.” Mark got up and made his way out to the car with no shoes on.

When he pulled up to her building, he switched off the engine and got out to open her door. She was in so much of a hurry, she tripped and fell. Mark rushed over to her.

“Damn fool woman.” He took the keys from her hand, lifted her up and took her inside. He lay her on the couch and started examining her.

“Does it hurt anywhere?”

“Just my hand. I will be fine can you leave now?”

“Tyne, look what happened earlier.....”

“It's okay Mark, I knew you would come to your senses soon enough, I'm just glad you rejected me now and not later.”

“Reject you? Is that what you are thinking? Tyne, honey, you are still married and pregnant with your husband's baby. We can't just jump into a relationship although, if I had my way I would make you file for divorce and marry you myself and we could raise the baby together but you are nowhere near ready for that. You came here to hide and you can't make a commitment to me or anyone until you are free. Do you understand what I'm saying to you honey?”

“Yes Mark I do and I still think you pity me because of everything that has happened.”

“Tyne, look me in the eyes and tell me you don't see how much I love you? From the day you came into the clinic in tears I was done for. It doesn't matter that the child you are carrying isn't mine. It's not like you cheated on me and when we are married we have one of our own.”

“You love me?”

“Yes honey I do, it took me a while to figure it out but when I did, I couldn’t fight it. Now, I will leave you alone, so you can get some rest. If you feel even the slightest discomfort, call my cell.”

“I..... please don’t leave, I really don’t feel like being alone but you scare me. Please stay.”

“Okay but I will take you up to bed and I will sleep on the couch, I won’t be able to keep my hands off you this time.”

“Okay.”

Mark took her up to bed and she was asleep in no time. He sat in the chair next to her bed for hours. Then he decided he could make it another few hours wrapped around her.

“To hell with it.” He got into the bed and cuddled up with her.

Chapter FIVE

The next morning he woke up alone but the smell of coffee urged him to get out of bed.

“Morning honey.”

“Hi.” Tyne blushed.

“How is it possible for a woman your age to blush like that? Especially after I’ve seen that gorgeous body of yours naked quite often.”

“Seeing me naked in the clinic is not the same as seeing me now. Even with clothes on you make me feel naked.”

“Good then you know I’m serious about you.”

“I want another blood test.”

“Why, you have had one every month since you came into the clinic.”

“I need to be sure before I say yes.” She smiled.

“Come down for lunch, I will have it done before we go out.”

“Okay.”

“Tyne.”

“Yes Mark.”

“Divorce your husband as soon as you can. I don’t want you getting cold feet on me and disappearing.”

“If I send him the papers he will know where I am and come to find me.”

“That’s why we have email. Do you have a lawyer in the US?”

“I can find one and make my location confidential.”

“Get it done, do you need money to pay the lawyer?”

“You would do that for me?”

“Honey, I would sell a kidney to see you smiling up at me on our wedding night as I plunge myself into you.”

Tyne felt her body heat right up. She looked down at her plate.

“This is not some lusty teen fantasy Tyne. I am real and I won’t lose you.”

“Okay. Eat your breakfast, I would like to go shopping.”

“You didn’t answer me about the money.”

“Can I tell you a secret?”

“Sure.”

“I’m a millionaire.”

“Good, then I know you won’t be after my money.”

“You’re not curious as to where I got it from?”

“I know it’s part of why you are hiding from your husband and when you are ready you will tell me and we will get it sorted out.”

“It should have been you.”

“Meaning?”

“This baby should be yours, I would have been so much happier.”

“In time honey, in time.” Mark finished eating, kissed her on the lips and left to go home and change to get to the clinic.

Tyne turned on her laptop and logged into her email. She pulled up Google and searched for a law firm in the US. She was assured her location would be confidential in regards to her safety. The lawyer she spoke to was Mason Holder, renown for winning all his court cases and he never lied to his clients or beat around the bush. In return he expected full honesty even if you were wrong, he needed to be fully prepared and he detested surprises.

“Now young lady, I will have the papers within the week. If you tell me where you are I will come to see you and decide what we are going to do about your situation.”

“How do you know I have a situation?”

“You are in Barbados filing for divorce against your husband here in the USA. You aren’t requesting any money from him, even though you are pregnant. I read between the lines quite nicely.”

“Can I risk you coming here?”

“Been in this job a long time my dear, I will come see you tonight, there is no current file with your information so no one can trace my trip to you. In any event, the file will say formerly of your previous address.”

“Thank you Mr. Holder.”

“Give me a number to contact you and I will call when I get to the airport, you can decide where you want to meet me.”

She gave him Mark’s number at the clinic and hung up.

She looked up at the time and realised it was time to meet Mark for lunch. When she got to the clinic it was packed with young women, some with babies, some pregnant some looking like they stepped of a catwalk.

“Hi Tyne, Mark is with a patient then you are next. How’s that bump doing?”

“Quiet thanks, at least I don’t have morning sickness.”

“Are you serious? What’s your secret? I’ve been sick for 3 months.” A pregnant woman chimed in.

“I haven’t done anything special, so I wouldn’t know what to tell you.” Tyne sat in a nearby wheelchair, since there were no others chairs left.

“My first son gave me hips, boobs and morning sickness for 6 months and a perfect labour. My daughter was a smooth sailing pregnancy and I was in labour for 14 hours and eventually a c-section.”

“Every woman is different, every baby is different.” Another woman added.

“Stop trying to scare Tyne, this is her first.” Annie the nurse giggled.

“Well if Dr. Weithers was my baby’s father, I wouldn’t have morning sickness either.”

Tyne glanced towards the door to see who made the comment. Her stomach lurched. It was Larissa again.

“Well hello Larissa.” She managed a light smile. The other ladies made no such effort.

“Hello Mrs. Fawcett. I figured out who you were after that little spat in the restaurant. I did some digging and now I know why you are here. You found out your husband was sleeping with a man and you stole his money and came here to hide. Well I called him and told him where to find you and he should be here soon.”

“You what?” Tyne stood up, put her hand on her tummy and sweat broke out on her forehead. One of the women rushed over to her along with Annie. The other women were glaring at Larissa for her outburst.

“Yep he should be here later and he is coming for you. Oh I told him about the baby and he says he will sue you for full custody, when he drags you back to the US.”

Tyne fainted and landed in the wheelchair.

“What the hell? Larissa what are you doing in my clinic? Annie, you and Sophia take Tyne into my room and stay with her.”

“Dr. Holder, get rid of her, she upset your miss.”

“Glad you think of her that way, Sophia.”

“You are blind Mark, her husband is gay and he is on his way here to take her back. How could you even want to be with someone like her? She’s tainted!”

Larissa was venomous.

Mark laughed.

“Larissa, I don’t care if Tyne has warts on her face, one leg and she was blind, deaf and dumb, I STILL would chose her over you. You are ungrateful, obnoxious, and vindictive and you have no sense of decency whatsoever. Now, stay away from Tyne, me and everyone else or I will have you arrested.”

“Yes Larissa go away.” One lady shouted.

“We don’t want you here upsetting people.” Another lady added.

“To hell with all of you.” She stormed out and slammed the door.

“Ladies I’m so sorry about this. Are all of you okay?”

They all said yes.

“Doc, go check on Tyne, we could see she was upset. Tell her we won’t say anything to anyone, God knows we woman have to stick together.” Angela said,

she was the eldest in the bunch, she usually brought healthy goodies for the mums to be on mornings.

“You are a peach, Angie, be back as soon as I can.”

Chapter SIX

Mark turned and ran into his exam room. Annie was wiping Tyne’s head with a washcloth and talking to her.

“She’s not conscious Mark. I’ve never seen her like this and that, that..... oh I wish.....”

“I know Annie, go talk with the ladies outside they may say they are okay but that little episode was enough to upset even the strongest ones.”

“You love her don’t you?”

“Yes Annie, I wasn’t very good at hiding it was I?”

“She had you from the get go, she loves you too but she is so confused and hurting. She will come around when this is all over, I’m sure she will.” She rested an assuring hand on his cheek and smiled.

“Thanks Annie.” Mark kissed Annie on her cheek and turned to take a look at Tyne.

She was breathing steadily and tears were at the corners of her eyes.

“Tyne honey, I need you to wake up. I just want you to know I am here for you. I won’t let anyone take you away from me, you got that?” He gently rubbed her cheek and held her hand.

She sniffed and her eyes fluttered.

“Mark?”

“Oh honey, I’m here. Let me get you some water.” He reached over to the pitcher on the table nearby and poured her a glass. He held it to her lips and she drank slowly.

“He’s coming for me. I need to get away from here. He wants to take the baby.”

“I’ve already called in a few favours, he can’t find you where I’m taking you.”

“I’m sorry for all the trouble Larissa caused, if I hadn’t said anything to her in the restaurant she never would have figured out who I was. Now you are in danger because of me. I have to leave Mark.”

“Honey, you aren’t listening to me. I’m not letting you go and no one is taking you away. Now, I need to get you out of the clinic and I’m taking you home. Let’s go.”

Mark helped her off the bed and when they got to the waiting area, the women rushed over to her.

“Don’t mind Larissa honey she is all hot air. If you need anything let us know.”

“We haven’t seen you and there is no need to feel ashamed, we all have our demons to face” Sophia smiled.

“Doc will take good care of you, we will see you when you come back okay and take care of that bump, so we can have play dates soon.” Annie hugged her.

“Oh thank you, all of you, I didn’t think I had any friends here, now I do.”

Mark winked at the ladies and hustled Tyne out to his car.

“I smell a wedding coming.”

“Oh she would be good for him. He never even looked at another woman since Marcie died and with the baby he feels so protective of her.”

“He fell in love with her before he found out she was pregnant and it doesn’t make a difference to him.”

“He is such a wonderful man.”

“That he is. Okay whose next, Dr. Davis is on his way in, you know the drill.”

Tyne fell asleep in the car and when she awoke, Mark was sitting at the bottom of the bed in a chair, watching her.

“I fell asleep again.”

“You had a long day. Are you hungry?”

“A bit, where are we?”

“St. Lucy at my other beach house.”

“Oh, I don’t know the island very well, just the area where I was staying and around the clinic. How long was I asleep?”

“Four hours. Come, I made you dinner, we can eat on the back porch.”

Mark helped her up off the bed and slowly went through the house. Tyne didn't pay much attention as she was still tired. He took her through the kitchen and onto a deck which was enclosed by two cliffs and a private beach.

"This is even more beautiful than the other one."

"And way more private too. I asked the ladies to pack all your stuff up at the apartment and take them to my house. You won't be going back there for anything. I called the local police and told them about Terrynce. They will be watching his movements and if he does anything funny they will deport him back to the US."

"It's not him I'm afraid of, it's who he was involved with."

"The politician?"

"He's not just any politician. Martin Larcone."

"Jesus Tyne! The President's brother?"

"The one and only. I sent the photos to all the news stations worldwide, I'm positive he won't be pleased. I have to call his wife, she was the one who hired me."

"Honey, Moirah Larcone is dead, she was found mugged, raped and strangled in an alleyway."

"He paid someone to kill her!"

"It would seem so."

"He will find me Mark."

"Did I ever tell you what I did before I opened the clinic here? Obviously not. I used to be a Navy Seal."

"Oh."

"So if there is anyone better suited to protect you, it's me. Dr. Davis will run the clinic in my absence and you and I will get to know each other better. When is the lawyer supposed to come?"

"Tomorrow. He said he will call from the airport."

"When he calls, the clinic will let me know and I will go pick him up and bring him here. Now let me go get your dinner."

Mark went to the kitchen and put some food on a plate and some ginger tea. When he got back to the deck, she had fallen asleep again.

He picked up some of the food on a fork and waved it under her nose.

"Mmm smells good." She opened her mouth and took it in.

Half hour later, Mark was laying on a deck chair and Tyne was nestled between his legs fast asleep. Mark heard his phone ringing and reached in his pocket to answer. It was the clinic.

“Yes? Really? Okay, I will go, thanks Annie, why are you still at work? Oh okay, don’t stay much later.”

“Honey, I have to go pick up Mr. Holder from the airport.”

“Okay, I will try to be awake when he comes, is he staying overnight?”

“I have no idea, I just got the message to go pick him up. I promise I will be back soon.” He took her inside and into the bedroom. He covered her, locked up and left.

Chapter SEVEN

When he got to the airport he look for a man with the description Annie gave him. He waited for about 10 minutes then he saw him. A tall debonair looking man with grey beard. He was dressed just as Annie said he would. Grey slacks, white shirt, a grey laptop HP bag and a navy blue D&G carry on.

Mark walked over to him.

“If I knew it was you who was picking me up, I never would have come. How are you tied up in this Mark?”

“I’m in love with Tyne.”

“I see. Well let’s get this over with so I can head back. I have something very important to tell her.”

“Let’s go. Now a word to her about our relationship, I don’t need anything else upsetting her.”

“I loved Marcie too ya’ know.”

“It doesn’t matter now Mason, let it go.”

“If that’s what you want.”

“It is.”

When they reached the house, it was still in darkness. Mark unlocked the door and showed Mason in.

“She’s probably asleep, do you have somewhere to stay?”

“No, I needed to get to her quickly.”

“You can stay here but if you even think about touching her, I swear Mason, I will kill you this time.”

“This time? What’s going on Mark?” Tyne had heard the car pull up and was making her way to greet them when she heard them talking.

“Shit. I thought you were asleep.”

“Apparently. So before I get upset, one of you need to tell me what’s going on.” She flicked on the living room light.

“I assume you are Mason Holder. Welcome to Barbados, my name is Tyne Fawcett.” She stuck out her hand. He took it and spoke.

“Mason Holder at your service ma’am. Mark would you like me to tell her or will you cause from the looks of it, she needs to be told.”

“Everyone sit, let’s get this out of the way and deal with the situation at hand.”

Tyne sat down and Mark sat next to her. Mason sat across from them.

“I was married a few years back, her name was Marcie. We were trying to have a child and she got a job to work in the US at a law firm. Marcie had an affair with Mason, got pregnant and died in child birth and of all the law firms you had to pick, his was the one you chose.”

“Oh dear, I had no idea. If I had known I wouldn’t have chosen him. I’m sorry for making you come all this way Mr. Holder but in view of previous events, I won’t be needing your services. I will pay for whatever expenses you have already incurred.”

“Wow Mark, she is special and I can tell she loves you but right now I am not interested in being refunded. I came here to give you some upsetting news. Tyrrence is dead. He was found at home in his tub, with drugs and a suicide note.”

“What did the note say?”

“Tell Tyne I’m sorry.”

“I see, well I guess that’s that then. Now I just have to deal with Larcone. This is what we do, get in contact with him and tell him I have the money I took from him and he can have it back on the condition that if anything happens to me the other photographs I have of him will be released. He doesn’t know what else I have on him, so he will be forced to stay away.”

“Done, I will get a copy of your husband’s death certificate since I figure you won’t be coming back to claim the body.”

“No I won’t. He didn’t have any family and although I’m still his wife, I feel no loss. Contact a realtor and sell the house and everything in it. Can I trust you not to steal from me Mr. Holder?”

“I am not your friend, I work for you and if it’s any help, the gentleman next to you has already threatened me with death.”

“There is a safe in the house, the combination is 12, 18, 10, 5, 6. Whatever you find, I need you to bring it back here to me. After I have sent Larcone his money I’m broke but if you get whatever is in the safe to me I can pay you.”

“I will cover your fees honey, I told you that before.” Mark said softly.

“I know and thank you but I need to do this one on my own. So Mr. Holder, can I trust you?”

“Yes you can, I need you to sign this document stating that I am acting as your legal representation and I am carrying out your wishes.”

Tyne read, signed and handed it back to Mason.

“I think this covers our business for now. I will be leaving in the morning. Can I impose on you to give me a ride to the airport Mark?”

“Sure. I will take Tyne back to bed, she’s had a long day. Feel free to utilise the kitchen and the guest bedroom is the door immediately behind you.”

“Thank you. Have a good night Tyne and I hope you can get everything resolved soon.”

“Thank you Mr. Holder.”

Mark took Tyne up to the bedroom and tucked her in.

“You’re leaving?”

“I need to have a word with Mason.”

“Mark.....”

“I promise I won’t kill him tonight.”

“Okay, hurry back.”

Mark kissed her on the lips and left.

Mason was in the kitchen preparing a sandwich.

Chapter EIGHT

“There’s something I never told you about my relationship with Marcie.”

“What’s that?”

“She never told me she was married. When I asked her why she said she knew what she was doing was wrong and telling me would have made both of us guilty. I don’t think she loved me, I just think she was lonely.”

“I never really blamed you Mason, Marcie was a grown woman and she definitely knew what she was doing. I was angry at you because you achieved what I wasn’t given the chance to do.”

“I understand. Well now you can have that with Tyne, she seems wonderful. I will make sure she gets whatever is in the safe and consider this pro bono. It won’t make up for Marcie but at least I can do some good this time around.”

“Thank you. I just hope I can be the man Tyne needs, her husband really hurt her.”

“Telling me. I saw the news when the photos came out and when she contacted me, I was tempted to tell her no way but I guess everything worked out fine. She has you to look out for her now.”

“Yeah. Well, I’m off to bed. What time is your flight?”

“8am.”

“I will be ready by 7. See you in the morning and thanks again.”

“Night Mark.”

The next morning Tyne woke up alone. Mark left a note that breakfast was on the table and he would be back by 9.

She took a shower and went to the kitchen. She glanced at the clock and it said 8:55. Mark would be home soon. She was about to open the door to the back patio when she saw a figure pass by the window. She stepped back, grabbed her cell and went into the guest bedroom and locked the door. She dialed Mark’s number.

“Tyne, honey, I’m almost there.”

“Someone is here.” She heard the phone click.

The next few minutes were long and drawn out. Then she heard glass breaking and a gun shot. She waited a little longer, then she heard him.

“Honey where are you?”

“In here!”

Mark burst through the door and rushed over to her.

“Are you hurt?”

“Just scared. I’m so glad you came back so soon. Who was out there?”

“Larcone. I need you to stay in here, until I tell you to come out, got me, I have to call the police.”

She shook her head. Mark dialed the police and told them to come right over a man was shot. Within 15 minutes police were crawling all over the house. Mark handed over his weapon and produced the documents for it along with his credentials. Mark gave his statement, the body was removed from the property and a few policemen stayed behind to question Tyne.

Tyne fell asleep waiting for Mark to come get her. She felt a warm hand on her hip and the bed shifted.

“Honey, you can come out now.”

“Is he dead?”

“Unfortunately, I wanted to beat him to a pulp.”

“I can only imagine. Let’s go, I’m hungry.”

The police asked her a few questions and then left.

Mark was preparing dinner for the two of them and Tyne when his cell phone rang.

“Mark here..... Really..... okay I will tell her, thanks.” He hung up with a huge smile on his face.

“What?” Tyne asked.

“Mason has everything from the safe, he will be back in the morning.”

“Well that is great news. Would you like to know what he’s bringing?”

“Honey, if you want to tell me go ahead but it doesn’t make a difference.”

“About 5 years before I married Tyrrence, a client called and asked me to do a job. He said he would pay whatever I asked when he told me what he wanted. When he told me, I almost passed out. I told him I needed to think seriously about it.” I called him back a week later and said yes I would take the job and gave him a figure. He said he would double it if I completed the job within six months. When the six months was up he transferred triple the amount I asked for. When I asked why he was doing it, he said it was his only chance for a grandchild. It was Tyrrence’s father. He paid me 6 million to marry his son. What he didn’t tell me

is that he knew he was gay. Tyrrence never knew what had happened, he just knew I had money. He decided not to work and he was basically a playboy. I couldn't see his flaws. He never hit me or embarrassed me, or flaunted his actions in front of me. The documents in the safe state that on Terrynce's death, as long as I can prove I didn't kill him, his father's estate would fall to me. I never spent any of the money I got originally. I worked and started my business and made good money. His father called me when he saw the photographs and told me he was leaving everything to me and that his son was an embarrassment to his name. He was worth at least \$450 million and when I told him about the baby and he said he was grateful that he had someone to leave his legacy for and not to feel guilty. I do feel guilty, I tried to make my husband into something he wasn't. Not knowing he was gay is no excuse. I wanted to terminate the pregnancy because he knew he couldn't be a good father and I was so happy at first, then I saw him with Larcone. If you don't want to be with me anymore I understand."

"I'm glad you told me and I'm not perfect. The reason why Marcie left to work in NY was because I wasn't willing to give up the clinic here. I told her she had to choose between me and work, she said I was wrong to make her choose between having a family and pursuing her career. We had done all the tests, ate right and created a healthy environment to have a baby. She was ready when she left and got pregnant a few months after. I found out about the baby when Mason called and said she had died in child birth and I knew it couldn't have been mine. I felt bad that she had died but like you that's about as far as my feelings go. If I had really loved her I would have given up the clinic or at least left someone to run it."

"I guess we both made mistakes and both our spouses are gone now and we can't make up for them. What we can do is make the best of what we have now and move on. We never talked about the baby. People will talk."

"Tyne, I don't give a hell what people and the people who matter are behind us 100%. Did you know Annie called the police and told them what Larissa did? Sophia verified it and no one goes against Sophia. The other ladies stood by their testimonies. I love you Tyne, nothing or no one can change that. I'm giving you one month to get everything sorted on your end. I suggest when Mason gets here you tell him everything you need done and he will advise you. Even if you were broke, I would still feel the same way and for your information, I am worth way more than you. After Marcie died, I gradually opened clinics in 15 different

locations along with several businesses, including, guest houses, hotels and a whole host of other things I don't even remember. The next woman I marry, I cannot use the excuse that I can't leave my practice or business behind."

"I love you Mark and yes when I get everything sorted. I want to create a foundation in Marcie's and Tyrrence's names. I don't know what will be the cause but I'm sure Sophia and Annie and the other ladies will think of something."

"Wait something I never thought of. How did Larcone know to find you?"

"I think he had my cell phone tapped, I usually call from my cell and discard it but I never got rid of it and I called Mason and talked to him for an hour. I didn't turn it off and if I am correct it's still on."

"Well I'm selling this house and we can go pick out one wherever you want. Marry me Tyne, say yes and make us happy."

"Yes Mark." Mark kissed her and sealed the deal.

Mason showed up the next day with the documents, he handed them to her in a sealed pouch and she verified everything. Mason was hired to take care of all their transactions. They were married about two months later. Annie had a full baby shower at the clinic for all the ladies who were having babies around the same time as Tyne and then it occurred to her what she wanted to do. She was already 8 months and she was glad she could share that time with others.

Chapter NINE

"Ladies, I just had a brilliant idea. Mark and I wanted to create a foundation in our deceased spouses' names and Annie's baby shower is the perfect thing. The Foundation will have baby showers for women all over the island who can't afford the things you need to buy for a baby in the early stages. I think I will buy the building next door so we can keep track of all the mums-to-be and they won't have to go far to apply. How does that sound?"

“I love it, it would help what I think you can offer as well is a 24 hour sitter service for mothers who work shift, it’s hard to trust someone with a newborn baby and I know I’m ‘gonna worry my head off when I go back to work.”

“You can also offer training for the ones who don’t work and want to further their education, they could work off the hours by baby-sitting each other’s children, that way we know who we leave our children with.”

“Okay I need to get all your ideas, so we will have a meeting another time, right now I have something for all of you.” She picked up her cell phone and called her husband.

“Honey you can bring them in now.”

Tyne waited patiently as the women were abuzz with excitement.

When Mark pushed the door, he was followed by 20 other men, each one carrying huge baskets. Each mom was presented with a basket. The women squealed and giggled and laughed and hugged Tyne. Then Annie looked around and decided it was time for their surprise.

“Okay okay, my turn. Tyne, you came into our lives when you were troubled and I know when Mark set his eyes on you, he was a goner. I know you felt alone but never failed to give a kind word or help out when needed. So in appreciation of everything you are doing for the ladies here, we present to you this gift. We had asked Mark what you needed and he said to give gifts from the heart. So each lady gave something she made with her own hands.”

Annie went behind the counter and brought out the biggest basket of all. It contained handmade booties, towels, wash cloths, onesies, cookies, jams, jellies you name it.

Tyne started to cry and Mark went to her and enveloped her in his arms.

“Oh gosh yall are such tear jerkers, out gentlemen out, let the ladies enjoy the rest of their night.” Annie shooed the men through the door. The ladies enjoyed themselves and their boyfriends and husbands came to pick them up. When Annie dropped off Tyne, Mark was waiting on the sofa.

“Hi honey, all went well?”

“Yes, thank you for everything, do you know how much I love you?”

“Yes I do because I feel the same way about you.” He lifted his mouth for a kiss. Tyne obliged.

“Can I ask you a question?”

“Sure, what’s up?”

“Why haven’t you made love to me? We’ve been married two months now. If you are having second thoughts I need to know.”

“Tyne.”

“Mark.”

“I have wanted you before I knew you were pregnant. I wanted you after I found out you were pregnant, I wanted you every day since then, I want you now badly but I was waiting until you were ready, and I didn’t want to push.”

“I’m ready Mark, I was ready on our wedding night. I was afraid you didn’t want me and didn’t know how to tell me.”

“Far from it. Come enough talk, let’s show each other how much our love means.”

Mark stood up and held out his hand. Tyne took it and went up to their bedroom.

Two weeks later Marcia Tyreesa was born on time and she was delivered by her father. Mark was bowled over at the tiny person he was now responsible for. It was way different feeling than when he delivered other babies. This one he would take home, wake up and feed, watch her grow. It didn’t matter that he didn’t create her, she was his. The first day they took her home, Tyne was in the kitchen getting something to eat and Mark was standing over the play pen set up in the living room

“Mark?”

“Yes Honey.”

“Is everything okay?”

“Yes my love, thank you for giving me such a beautiful gift, she is perfect.”

“Good ‘cause she needs changing.” Tyne laughed and left Mark and his daughter.

Two years later

“Honey, I’m taking Marcia to the park, you wanna come with us?”

“Only if you can give me something keep my breakfast inside my stomach.” Tyne appeared at the kitchen door looking awful.

“It’s about time!”

“You knew?”

“Knew? I planned it.” Mark grinned from ear to ear.

“Is that conceit I hear?”

“Dam skippy. I will give you something for the morning sickness in a minute and you can rest ‘til we get back, I hope it’s a boy this time, Marcia is horrible at football.”

Eight months later Mark got his wish and he delivered not one but two healthy baby boys, Brandon and Brendon.

“I am so happy, thank you Tyne.”

“Join the club, Annie is already planning the baby shower for the next one.”

“Let’s see, we can start making love again in 8 weeks and if I time it correctly I can

Mark ducked as the pillow whizzed past his head.
Life was great.

The End.

Preview

Love in The Tropics

Tandy and Khendal are fast becoming the most sought after Marine Biologists in the world. They have gained a reputation for being thorough and honest in their findings. So far they have gone out on dates but nothing serious just good old fun.

The Weithers boys Brendon and Brandon are fitness gurus. They go around the world setting up tournaments to test strength, agility and willpower. They not only give prizes for the winner but they try to encourage people to push themselves and they give other prizes for most improved, most helpful and most motivational. Their tournaments are the rage and being from Barbados they decided it was time to go back home and show everyone what Barbadians have to offer.

What they did not bargain for is the two beautiful Marine biologists who are not only from the same island but they treat the boys as if they couldn't care less who they were.

“You hired us to do a job not date you. We don't mix the two, sorry. We leave in a week, I expect a 50% deposit before we leave and the balance on completion.”

“I will double your fee if you two go out with us while we are back home.”

Tandy elbowed Kendhal in her ribs.

“Sis, more money just for date, oh please just this once.” She whispered into her sister's ear.

Khendal knew they worked hard and she never stopped her sister from having fun but something told her the Weithers boys were trouble and she didn't want either of them to get hurt. She gave in anyway.

“Fine, one date and you two are paying.”

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