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Simplicity, A Love Story

By Jackie Adams

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Jackie Adams

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Chapter 1:

Darcy

I'm super excited about the move Thursday. Once again, I'm suffering from heart ache. Maybe I'm just a stepping stone that leads men to somebody else. I can't seem to find my one true love. The last man I dated was Jared. I thought we were in love, but come to find out... it was one sided. I was putting all the effort in, and he was barely putting any in. I didn't realize how little effort, until he started putting in a whole lot of effort towards someone else. This is Jared town. He knows everybody here, so I waited for the last two weeks of my lease to be up. If Jared decides to stay here that's on him! We shared a two-bedroom house for two years. Now I'm moving to a new city. It's much bigger and has a lot more to offer for a newly single gal like myself.

I also have friends there. Which I didn't have any in Jared Town, so this makes it even better for me! I can meet my best friends for coffee or just hang out at the book store with them. I can feel the excitement rush through me like lightning striking through the sound of thunder.

The new to me apartment is a two-story brick and mortar and I'm upstairs. I don't mind. I don't have any young children or pets, so the noise won't be too bad on the downstairs tenant(s). What I like most about it is it has this beautiful window in the bedroom that has a view of nothing but the sky, unless of course you walk up to it and look down. I can imagine at night leaving the curtains open and staring up into the mystical voyage of the moon. I'm ready for this.

I pack up as many boxes as I can before I get too tired to move. My phone rings and it's my best friend, Ben. "Darcy is that you?"

I laugh, "Of course it is silly... you called me remember?"

He asks, "What are you doing right now?"

"I'm packing, and I tell you I can barely move I'm so sore. Why, what are you doing?"

He answers, "I need out of this house before I go apeshit crazy. I was thinking ice cream at the Stonery?"

I sigh, "I don't know. I'm pretty tired, but ice cream does sound good. Are you sure you're feeling like driving all the way here?" He doesn't say anything so I add, "Did you invite, Rose?"

"She's at her son's house. Something about getting ready for a garage sale. And yes, of course, I feel like driving all the way there. I told you I'm going apeshit crazy."

I say, "Ah, well okay. I'll go. What time?"

"In about an hour."

"See you then," I click end on my cell phone. Garage sale? I wonder why she didn't mention anything to me. With this move taking place most of the things were Jared's stuff. I could use some furniture. I'll call her later and get the scoop. I smile at myself for the pun.

Before I know it I'm on the road. The Stonery isn't that far from me, so I decide a bike ride is better. It has sidewalks the whole way there, and the side streets aren't too bad when it comes to traffic. I meander my way through the crowds that decided an evening stroll would be romantic or fun. Maybe both.

When I arrive, I put my bike on the rack and search for Ben. I don't see him, until I hear "Darcy!" I turn my head and there he is. He waves his hand for me to come to him. "I found us a table. I'll get our ice creams and you sit guard." He laughs. "What kind do you want?"

I'm not too picky. "Just give me whatever kind you're having. I'm fine with that."

He says, "Rocky Road it is!"

I'm glad to sit for a minute. The table is overlooking a river. You can see the shops outside lights reflect against the water's current. I take in the moment and do my breathing techniques. In... out...

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Before I know it Ben is walking back with two ice cream cones. He hands me one, “Madam.”

I smile at him, “Thank you.”

“Rose didn’t mention a garage sale to me. When did she tell you?”

“When I asked her to go for an ice cream.”

I playfully hit his shoulder, “Oh, I see how you are. I’m second choice.”

“I was hoping all three of us could meet. It’s been a while, since we all hung out together.”

“No... yeah I guess you’re right. It has been a few months. It’s odd. When I was with Jared the time just passed by so fast. Now it’s forever in a day.” I feel my eyes tear up.

Ben pats me on the back, “It’s okay, Darcy. It takes time.”

“Well, I’ll be glad when my time is done. I’m tired of crying.”

Ben looks to the ground then back up at me, “I went through the same thing with Becky. I know how you feel.”

“Why haven’t you started dating again, Ben? You’re too young to be single this long.”

He explains, “I’m picky. I have a certain woman in mind, and I haven’t found her yet. Maybe in time.”

I lick a drip of ice cream off my cone, “I’m never dating again. The older I get the more it hurts.” Ben is twenty years younger than me. I’m old, but my taste in friends ranges in all ages. Rose is twenty years older than me. Yet the three of us fantastically get along. “I think just having friends is the life. If I get lonely, I know where the one-night stands exist.”

Ben rolls his eyes, “I can’t believe you’re giving up that easy. Was Jared really that bad?”

“No Jared was really that good in the beginning. It just hurts too much when the relationship dwindles to an end. It’s obvious when it’s time. Couldn’t have been any clearer to me. When I saw him happier I knew it was time to let go.”

He says, “I could give a shit less if Becky is happy. She used me for the last time.”

I ask him, “You talk about her a lot. Are you sure you’re not missing her?”

He wipes his mouth with the napkin then says, “She was a lesson learned.”

I nod my head in agreement, “Yeah she didn’t deserve you, Ben. You can do much better.”

We both get quiet. I think about all the times I shared with Jared and start feeling sad again. We’d share ice cream out of the same container. I shrug it off with the echoes of his laughter going through my mind.

“What are you thinking about, Ben?”

“That woman sitting behind you with the kids. She’s beautiful. I hope I meet a woman I can have kids with one day.”

“You’re young, Ben, you will.”

“Now that I’ve had this ice cream I’m feeling kind of hyper. Do you want to walk along the river edge with me before I go home?”

I stand up, “Sure.”

“Do you think you can help me move some boxes Thursday? My brother said I can use his truck.”

“Yes, I can.”

What a relief knowing I have Ben to help me. I think Rose will too. She can’t lift anything heavy, but she can help me carry in the smaller boxes. Maybe I can have her unpack the kitchen things, while Ben and I bring in the rest of the stuff.

My ride home was pretty fast. I had my head in the clouds the whole time. I wanted to get home as soon as I could, because I knew Rose would be back by now. I want her to let me see the stuff before she puts it up for sale, and I want to know if she’ll help me move.

When I get in, I go straight for the couch. I pull out my cell phone and dial her up. “Rose?”

“This is she.”

“You’re having a garage sale and didn’t tell me???? I feel so left out.”

“I just found out today. It’s not like it’s a big secret.” She laughs. “I would have told you later.”

“Are you selling any furniture?”

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She answers, “Just the couch and love seat. I’m debating on whether I’ll keep the recliner or not. It was my mom’s.”

“I’ll take it. Jared basically owned everything in this place. Hey, I was wondering if you could help me move Thursday too?”

I can hear voice raise an octave, “Feels good to be needed. I sure can. I can’t lift too much, but I’ll do what I can. Let’s see what day of the week is this??” She’s asking herself more than me. “Oh my! Thursday is the day after tomorrow.”

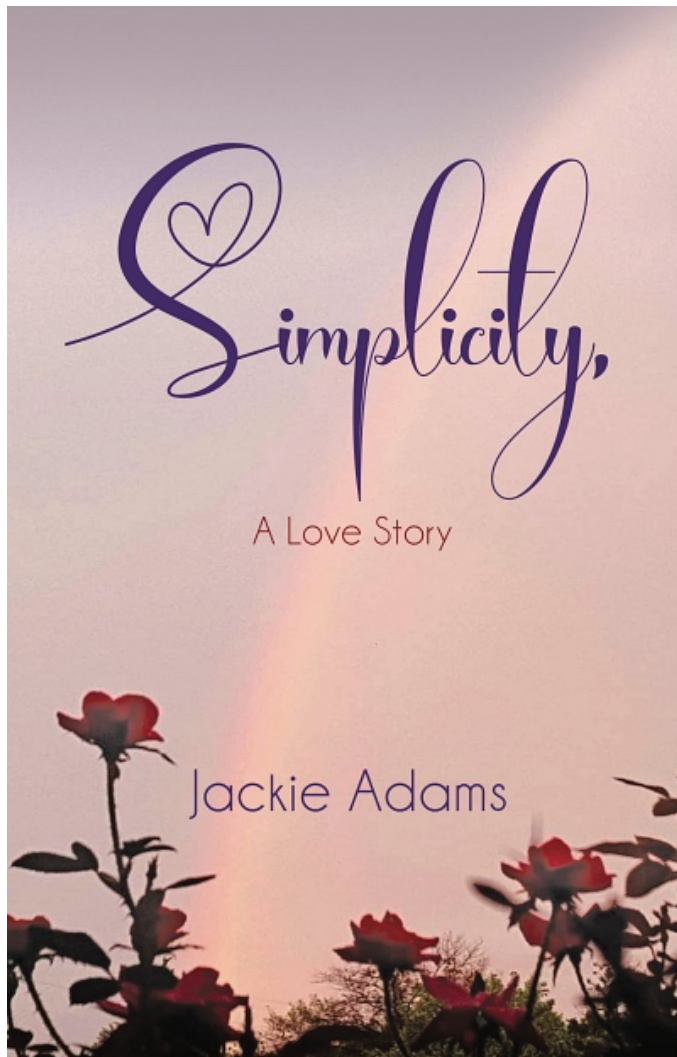
I ask her, “Is that a problem?”

“No, not at all. Are you going to pick me up or do you want me to meet you there?”

I put the phone to my other ear, “There’s really not much room for parking at the new apartment. I’ll call Ben and have him pick you up.”

She gasps, “Not Ben! Just kidding. I’ll see you Thursday.”

“See ya!”



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