



Love no knows no bounds, but does it always find away into your heart? For one young couple they found each other when they needed each other most of all.

Heartbreak Falls
By Jennifer Westecott

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The background of the entire cover is a photograph of a man and a woman in a romantic embrace. The man is shirtless, muscular, and has a beard. The woman has long, wavy brown hair and is wearing a black top. They are standing in front of a large, cascading waterfall. The water is white and frothy, contrasting with the blue-green background. The overall mood is romantic and sensual.

HEARTBREAK

Falls

JENNIFER WESTECOTT

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First Edition

Chapter Three

The young couple made their way out to the terrace where the rest of the family was sitting, having their dinner and cocktails. They sat down with Camille's family and chatted about their day and what they had done for the afternoon, but leaving out the fact that they had made love in the carriage on their way into town. As they sat there chatting with the family, Camille also said that she had found the perfect gown to wear to the wedding and that Gustav had found a tuxedo, the colours of which matched perfectly with her gown. Emily was excited to see Camille's gown, but could not help feeling that her sister's stunning beauty would upstage her at her wedding. Camille could sense Emily's feelings and reassured her that she was going to be the most beautiful bride that everyone in Fort Langley had ever seen. Emily blushed slightly, knowing that when Camille finally got married, she was going to make the most beautiful bride Fort Langley had ever seen. With her gorgeous, long auburn hair and sparkling hazel eyes, Camille was the picture of perfection in Emily's eyes, no matter what Camille said to make her feel better.

After Camille and Gustav had been seated out on the terrace for a few moments, Alfredo returned with their cocktails and asked if anyone else needed a refresher on their cocktail. Everyone continued with the conversation surrounding the upcoming nuptials of Emily and Vincent. Alfredo soon returned to announce that dinner was being

served in the main dining room. Everyone rose from the table on the terrace with their drinks in their hands and proceeded to move into the house to the dining room for dinner. Everyone sat down at the large dining room table, and the meal was served. And then Robert began with the meal's prayer before they started eating. As everyone began to eat after the prayer was finished, they started discussing what each had done that day and what their plans were for Sunday morning and afternoon. Camille then told her parents that she was going to have lunch with Gustav and his parents after the church services, but that she would be back for dinner that evening. Elizabeth told her daughter that it was superb and that it was a good idea for her to meet Gustav's parents if they planned to be serious any time soon. At first, Camille was a little trepid about telling her family about what she planned on doing after church, but her mother set her mind at ease when she told her daughter that she thought it was a splendid idea to go.

After that was all said and done, they continued to discuss the upcoming nuptials of her sister, Emily, and Vincent. That evening, when Camille sat at the table with her family, she looked at Vincent and sensed that there was something not quite right about him. He had a look of guilt on his face, but she could not quite put her finger on what he might be guilty about. Camille knew that in time she would figure out what he was so guilty about, and that when she did find out, he would pay dearly for hurting her sister. Camille sat there quietly, thinking to herself that she would let it go for now and not mention it to anyone until she knew

for sure if he was guilty of something. Everyone sat there enjoying their meal of veal cutlets, mashed potatoes, and corn, accompanied by a side of green salad. Camille sat next to Gustav at the table and could feel his foot brush against hers, sending a warm sensation through her body that she had never felt before with him. She enjoyed how it felt as well.

After the meal was over, Alfredo came in to collect the dishes and announced that a peach cobbler was to be served on the terrace for dessert that evening. The family then made their way back out to the terrace, where they sat and waited for their dessert to be served, enjoying the warm summer evening while sitting outside. Soon after they were seated, Alfredo returned with the dessert and asked if anyone would like a refill on their drinks. The men at the table were the only ones who replied. Alfredo left and returned with fresh glasses of brandy for the men at the table, then went to help in the kitchen with the dishes and storing the leftover food from dinner.

When dessert was complete, the family sat there enjoying each other's company, when Camille happened to notice that Gustav was getting a little restless.

"What's wrong, Gustav, are you not feeling well?" she asked him.

"I am feeling well, Camille. I was just wondering if you would like to go for a walk with me through the garden on this beautiful evening?" he replied.

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“I would love to go for a walk with you,” she said to him.

The two young lovers rose from the table and excused themselves, and proceeded on their walk through the grounds, as Camille entwined her arm through Gustav’s arm. They walked together in silence for a long time, until they reached the gazebo, where they sat down and gazed at the evening sky. Both made a wish on a shooting star. After they made the wish on the star, they looked into each other’s eyes with such love and admiration, and Camille began to cry softly.

“What’s wrong, my love? Why do you cry on such a beautiful evening while we sit here together under the stars?” asked Gustav.

“I am just afraid that we’re not going to last, that someone out there is going to try and find a way to tear us apart,” she replied.

“You do not ever have to be afraid of that, because I would never let it happen, I love you too much to let anyone come between us and devastate the love that we have for each other,” Gustav replied.

“Do you mean that, my love?” Camille asked, with a slight hesitation in her voice.

“I do mean it, you mean more to me than life itself. And anyone who cannot see how much we love each other can go straight to hell,” he said to her as he held her close to him.

After Gustav got Camille to calm down and believe him that he would never let anyone come between them, they sat there and held hands as they looked at the lustrous sky. Camille sat there wondering how much this man truly loved her, and if he loved her as much as she loved him. Since David broke her heart, she never really trusted what another man said to her, because she was afraid that he would do the same thing to her that David had done. Gustav was sitting there, watching her face, when he noticed that she seemed a little concerned about something, and it worried him, because he never wanted to hurt the beautiful woman he wanted to share the rest of his life with.

They sat there for a little while longer until Gustav turned to Camille and said that he should get home, and that he would see her tomorrow when they all went to church together. He was also looking forward to her meeting his parents that afternoon; he secretly hoped that his parents would fall in love with her just as he had. His parents, Joshua and Sarah Romeo, worried about the women in his life because they only wanted their son to be as blissful as they had been for so long. Gustav rose to his feet first and then helped Camille up. They walked back towards the house together, hand in hand, and Camille leaned her head on his strong shoulder as they made their way to the house. When they reached the front of the house, Gustav turned to her and bent his head down to kiss her goodnight, saying he would see her in the morning before they left for church. With that, Gustav climbed aboard the carriage and rode off into the evening, and Camille turned around and walked into the

house and went straight up to her boudoir to go to bed. As she disrobed for bed that evening, she could not help but wonder what Gustav's parents were going to think of her. To some people, when she first met them, she came across as a shy and meek person, while to others, they seemed to think that she was nothing but a spoiled brat who got everything she wanted.

Camille finished dressing for bed and climbed into bed, thinking about Gustav and what he had said to her about not letting anyone come between them and their love. As she lay in her bed, she felt nervous about meeting Gustav's parents tomorrow for the first time, and so soon in their relationship. After a while, she finally fell fast asleep and dreamed of Gustav, recalling how he felt when she held him and kissed his soft, loving lips. While she slept, she could feel Gustav's caring, strong arms wrap around her, and him nuzzle his face into her hair and neck. It had felt so real to her that she had to roll over and feel the bed to make sure that he was not there, and she felt great disappointment when she found that he was not there with her. She had secretly hoped that he would come back to the house, scale the side of the house, and enter her boudoir to hold her tightly through the evening. That evening, Camille had the most erotic dream of Gustav and her that she had ever had before. It was so erotic that she could feel his hands on her body, and likewise, she felt as though she was touching him under the waterfall.

The next morning, Camille woke up refreshed and got ready to attend church with the family and Gustav. She had

worn her most delicate blue cotton dress for the day as it was a hot, summery day, and she did not want to wear anything too heavy in the heat. She had chosen this dress because it was simple yet elegant enough to wear to meet Gustav's parents after church. She had placed her rich auburn tresses in a simple French twist to keep her hair off her neck. As the day wore on, the family left for church, where they met Gustav outside. And he sat with the family in the pew they had normally occupied every Sunday for church. They all sat together listening to the day's sermon and singing the hymns as the day progressed. After the preacher finished the final part of his sermon, he announced Emily and Vincent's wedding, which would take place in two weeks. Everyone offered their congratulations as the family and Gustav left the church to begin the rest of their day at home, relaxing in the backyard and sipping lemonade by the pool.

Camille and Gustav climbed aboard his carriage to begin their journey to his parents' place in Abbotsford. He was looking forward to his parents meeting the love of his life, and he was also looking forward to spending more time with Camille on their travels. As they rode down the cobblestone road to Abbotsford, they sat closely and held hands, and sat in silence for a distance until Gustav could no longer contain himself.

"What are you thinking about, my love?" he asked her.

"I am just a little nervous about meeting your parents for the first time. What if they do not like me when they meet me today?" she had replied as a tear slid down her cheek.

“Do not worry, my love, they are going to love you just as much as I do. I have been to visit them since we met, and I have described you to them, and they cannot wait to meet the woman that makes me so happy and in love for the first time in my life,” he said as he held her close to his chest to calm her down.

“I hope so, I just do not want to disappoint them, and cause them not to like me, because after all, I am the happiest when I am with you and holding you,” she said to Gustav as she squeezed his hand.

Camille lay on the seat of the carriage, placing her head in Gustav’s lap and closing her eyes as they travelled down the road. As she lay there, Gustav stroked her hair to calm her and make her feel safe with him. After a while, Gustav himself fell asleep and dreamed of the day when he would finally marry Camille, no matter what his family thought of her; he knew they would love her as much as he did. For the rest of the ride into Abbotsford, they both slept peacefully, holding each other. The carriage travelled a bit longer before Daniel announced that they were close to Abbotsford and would be arriving at the Romeo estate within the next ten minutes. This gave the young couple time to wake up from their loving nap together and rub the sleep from their eyes before they arrived at the Romeo estate.

“We are nearly at our destination, my love. How do you feel now that we are almost there? Are you still nervous about meeting my parents?” he asked with deep concern in his voice.

“I am okay, my darling, I feel much better now that I have had a rest and time to absorb what you said to me when we left the church,” she said as she squeezed his hand.

“That’s wonderful, I just know that my parents are going to love you as much as I do. All they want is for me to be happy and have a long and meaningful marriage like theirs,” Gustav stated with so much love and understanding in his deep voice.

“I hope they do approve of me, because I do not think that I would be able to take your parents not approving of me, and I would never dream of asking you to stay with me if it did so happen that your parents did not approve of me,” she stated rather dryly.

“My parents realize that I love you with my whole heart and soul to the very depth of my being, and nothing they say could ever make me stop loving you as much as I do. I know you would not ask me to go against my parents, but if that is what I have to do to keep you in my life, then I am prepared to do so,” Gustav replied as he squeezed her hand in his.

“You cannot do that, my love. They are your parents, and they love you very much, and they do not want to see you making any mistakes that you might later regret down the line,” she said with so much understanding in her voice that she began to cry.

“I know that they love me my dear, but they also realize that I am a grown man quite capable of making my own decisions, when it comes to my love life and the woman that

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I want to spend the rest of my life with eventually,” he said to her as he wrapped his arm around her shoulders.

“Okay then, darling, enough about the possibilities of them not approving of me, let us focus on today and get through this together as a couple. And after we are finished lunch with your family, how about we stop at Heartbreak Falls on our way back into town and take a quick dip before you take me home for the evening?” she asked coyly, with a slight smile on her luscious lips.

“That sounds like a plan, my love, we can do that. After all, we are going to need a wind-down period before we return to your family’s estate,” he said as he leaned in to kiss her lips ever so gently.

For the next few minutes of the trip into Abbotsford, they sat there quietly holding hands until they finally arrived at the Romeo estate. As the carriage pulled up to the home of Gustav’s parents, she could not believe her eyes. It was so beautiful and well-manicured, a home that belonged in an architecture portfolio. Camille looked in awe at the mansion and its surrounding area, loving how the gardens seemed to wrap around the house and how each garden magically meshed together, almost as if the house was built in the middle of a field of flowers and trees, rather than the other way around. Slowly, the carriage moved towards the estate and came to a stop in front of two very well-dressed people, whom Camille assumed were Gustav’s parents, Joshua and Sarah. As the carriage came to a halt, Daniel came around to the door to help the young couple out and assist the young

lady from the carriage as well. Camille and Gustav emerged from the carriage, and the first thing Gustav's parents did before even introducing themselves was to walk up to Camille and hug her, telling her, "Welcome to the family." This lightened the situation for Camille immensely, allowing her to relax and be herself for the first time.

"Mother and Father, this is Camille Bradley. Her father is Robert Bradley, the owner of Bradley Toy Factory in Fort Langley," Gustav announced.

"Hello, my dear, I am Gustav's mother, Sarah Romeo. I am so happy that you were able to join us this afternoon for lunch," Sarah said as she held out her hand to Camille.

"Hello, I am very pleased to be joining you and your family this afternoon for lunch," Camille said, extending her hand towards Sarah.

"Hello, my dear, I am Gustav's father, Joshua Romeo. You look very lovely this afternoon, and I am glad you were able to join us. Let me tell you, my dear, Gustav's description of you did no justice to your actual beauty, and Sarah has been waiting anxiously for you to arrive so that she could take you for a tour through the gardens," Joshua stated as he warmly shook Camille's delicate hand.

"Thank you for having me this afternoon for lunch. I must say, though, I was a bit nervous about meeting you this afternoon," Camille said rather dryly.

"Well, let us move inside out of this heat and go have a quick cocktail before our meal is served out on the terrace,"

Sarah said as she took Camille's hand and led her into the house.

As the women moved towards the house, Gustav and Joshua stayed behind to discuss masculine topics, while the women conversed about gardening and clothing.

"Son, I must say Camille is a wonderfully polite young woman, and I can see that she genuinely loves you from the bottom of her heart," Joshua said to his son as he draped his arm around Gustav's shoulder.

"Thank you, Father, I know that she loves me as much as I love her. I am planning on talking to Robert as soon as his other daughter's wedding is over and asking him once again for Camille's hand in marriage," Gustav said to his father.

"Are you sure that you want to rush into marriage right now, son? I mean, I know you love her and she loves you, but what is the rush for you two to get married so soon after meeting?" Joshua asked.

"There is no real rush on getting married, Father. I feel that if I do not ask her now, I may lose my nerve and never ask her to marry me, and I want to be able to say that we did things the right way," Gustav said.

"That is the smart thing to do, son, after all, you do not want to become a father before you marry the young lady and destroy both of your reputations," Joshua replied.

“That is exactly what I am saying. Camille happens to mean the world to me, and I do not want to do anything that will jeopardize her upstanding name in Fort Langley or her family’s name either,” Gustav said to his father.

“Then you know what you must do, son. As soon as you can, you must ask this young woman, whom you say you love so dearly, to be your wife and lifelong partner,” Joshua said to his son, and then hugged Gustav.

“I just hope that you and Mother approve of Camille, because I do not want to do anything that you may not approve of,” Gustav said to Joshua.

“Son, I just want to let you know that I think Camille is a wonderful young woman, and I can see that she loves you as much as you love her,” Joshua said to Gustav.

Joshua and Gustav continued their conversation as they walked towards the house, where they met the women in the backyard. There, they found Sarah showing Camille her prize-winning roses and delphiniums. The two men slowly made their way across the yard to the women they loved so deeply, wrapping their arms around their waists to hold them close to their bodies and corral them back to the terrace for lunch. As they reached the terrace, lunch was being served, and the chef had prepared a beautiful chicken cordon bleu with a white wine sauce, accompanied by sweet snow peas, mashed potatoes, and for dessert, a light chocolate mousse. As the meal was served to Camille and Gustav’s parents, she could not help but wonder what was weighing so heavily on Gustav’s mind; he looked puzzled yet totally at ease with his

family around him. As they each finished their meals, the dessert was then brought out to them, and Camille thought that she was in absolute heaven when she tasted the mousse. It had felt so velvety smooth on her palette, and she thought to herself that she had never tasted a mousse that was so light and delicious; her senses cried out for more. The chef had served a chilled rosé Zinfandel with the mousse, which excited every inch of one's palate, and they went together so well that one would almost think the wine was specially selected for their lunch that day.

"I must say hats off to the chef for such a wonderful meal and dessert. I have never tasted a mousse quite like that before, it seemed to wake up all of my senses," Camille had said to the Romeo family.

"Well, thank you, Camille, Gustav had previously told us what your favourite meal and dessert were, and we specially ordered the rose Zinfandel in for your visit today," Sarah had replied to Camille.

"It was wonderful of you to go to such lengths for me, but you need not do that. I am quite sure that anything your chef would have prepared would have been equally as lovely as this," Camille said to Sarah.

"We know that we did not have to have our chef prepare your favourites today, but we thought what better way to show you how much our son cares about you," Joshua had told Camille, without letting his and Gustav's conversation slip out.

“Thank you again from the bottom of my heart, and I hope that we can all do this again sometime shortly,” Camille stated with tears in her eyes.

“You are quite welcome, my dear, and most definitely we will do this again shortly, I hope. You are such a wonderful young woman, and we would be very proud to get to know you more,” Joshua and Sarah replied as they each rose, walked over and gave Camille a gentle hug.

Soon after they finished their dessert and wine, the Romeo’s and Camille rose from the table and walked through the garden in the summer breeze that carried the scent of the flowers through the air. The smell was so intoxicating to Camille that she had told Sarah that she would one day love to have a garden as exhilarating as hers. Sarah was so enthralled at the thought that she expressed to Camille that when she was ready, she would come to her home and help her plan and plant the necessary flowers. With that in mind, Camille had a million ideas to share with Sarah about possible plants and landscaping ideas. As they finished their walk through the garden, Gustav looked at his parents and said it was time for them to leave, as they had a long journey ahead of them back to Fort Langley. You could tell by the expression on Joshua and Sarah’s faces that they did not want to see their son leave so soon.

“Do you two have to leave so soon, son? It seems like you just got here and now you must leave again,” Sarah said as a lonely tear ran down her porcelain face.

“I am sorry, mother, but we must we have a long trip back to Fort Langley. I promised her parents that I would have her home in time for the rehearsal dinner of her sister’s upcoming nuptials,” Gustav said as he hugged both his parents and kissed his mother gently on the cheek.

“Very well, son, I do hope that you two come back soon and can stay a little longer next time,” Joshua said to his son.

With that said, Camille and Gustav left the garden area and entered the front yard, where the carriage was waiting for them so that they could head back to Fort Langley. Gustav helped Camille into the carriage and then climbed in next to her, wrapping his arm around her shoulder and holding her close as they moved down the drive. For the longest time, Camille and Gustav sat in silence as they moved down the road towards Fort Langley. As they reached the end of the drive, they could still hear Gustav’s mother sobbing, her voice echoing that her son was leaving again. Even though Gustav had told Sarah that he would be back soon to visit, that did not seem suitable enough for her; she wanted to be able to see him anytime she wanted, just like she used to before he moved to Fort Langley for work reasons. Though she was upset that he lived so far away, she was also glad that he had met such a wonderful young woman in Camille.

Joshua and Sarah stood in the drive holding each other and watched as Gustav’s carriage faded into the horizon. After they could no longer see the carriage, they went into their home, sat, and talked for the longest time about their

visit with their son and his new love. They were both rather impressed that he had found such an amazing young woman and hoped that their relationship would last forever. Camille and Gustav sat cuddled in the back of the carriage, holding each other and trying to hold back the passion that they felt for each other at that very moment. It was at that moment that Gustav turned to Camille and said,

“Sweetheart, if you are not busy on Saturday morning, would you care to join me at Heartbreak Falls for a picnic?”

“I would love to, but why on Saturday, darling?” she asked him with a puzzled look on her face.

“I would just like to spend some more time alone with you, and I have a bit of a surprise for you as well,” he stated calmly while he looked into her emerald-coloured eyes.

“That sounds lovely, Gustav, but have you forgotten what is happening Saturday afternoon?” she asked him.

“No, why is there something happening that I should know about my love?” he asked.

“Why, yes, dear. Saturday afternoon happens to be the day that Emily and Vincent are getting married,” Camille replied.

“Is that this Saturday? I thought it was next Saturday, my love?” he said.

“No dear, it is this Saturday because I go for a fitting on Tuesday for my gown and the final one on Thursday, and then the wedding is Saturday,” she replied.

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“I am so sorry, my dear Camille, how could I forget something like that. I feel like such a fool,” Gustav had said as he hung his head in shame.

“It is okay, my love, you do not have to be ashamed that you forgot. You honestly thought that the wedding was happening next weekend. It was a simple mistake, and everyone mixes up a date or two throughout their life; it is not anything to be ashamed of,” Camille said as she took his hand in hers and squeezed it with love and devotion.

“It is just that I had something special planned for you, sweetheart, now I have to change a few things around for next Saturday so that I can take you to Heartbreak Falls for the day,” he said with such emotion in his deep, beautiful voice.

“I am quite sure that everything will be fine dear, and if not then we can go on another day and the angst that I will be feeling until it happens will be all the sweeter for your surprise,” Camille said to him and that seemed to bring the smile back to Gustav’s face and blue eyes.

“I am quite sure that next Saturday will be clear for me to spend the day with you, my love,” he replied.

Camille and Gustav were coming near the end of their trip home from The Romeo’s estate, when she noticed that Gustav had a tear in his eye. She leaned over and gently touched his knee and softly kissed his cheek where the single teardrop fell from his eye. Inside, Gustav was ecstatic about having Camille in his life, but at the same time, he could not

help but fear that she might not feel the same way for him as he did for her. She laid her head upon his shoulder and gently squeezed his knee and whispered, 'I love you,' just before she nodded off to sleep. At that moment, Gustav knew for sure that she did feel the same way about him, and he was relieved. He knew right then and there that he must ask this beautiful woman to marry him before it was too late and he lost her to another man. He could feel something stirring within him, but he could not quite put his finger on what the feeling was until he had heard Camille say those three little words that meant the world to him. That feeling Gustav was experiencing at that moment was genuine love and the excitement of having finally found his soul mate for life. The carriage ride home seemed to take a lot longer than the trip to Abbotsford. With every bump of the carriage, Gustav tried to cushion Camille's head on his shoulder so that she would not wake up until they had arrived back at the Bradley estate.

It seemed that the more he tried to cushion her beautiful head, the more she stirred. Therefore, he ever so gently took her head in his hands and slowly moved it until it rested across his lap. He then reached behind him and pulled out a blanket, covering her over so that she would not catch a chill. He sat there for the longest moment with his arm draped across her shoulder just listening to her sleep so peacefully. As he listened to her sleep on the way home, he could not help but wonder what she was going to be like as a wife and a mother. After a little while he drifted off to sleep himself and dreamed of the day that he was finally going to make

her his wife and lifelong companion. Before long, Daniel had called back from the front seat of the carriage announcing that they would soon be arriving at the Bradley estate, so that they had time to wake up and rub the sleep from their tired eyes. Camille was the first to wake and sit up and as she did so, she reached up and touched Gustav's face ever so gently with her petite hand and kissed him softly on the lips to wake him. As he woke, he looked at her smiling face and realized that she was his soul mate, and nothing would ever change that for him.

"Hello my love, did you sleep well?" she asked him.

"I did sleep rather well my dear. And how did you sleep?" he asked her.

"I had the most peaceful sleep ever, because I knew that I was in the safety of your arms," she replied with a slight smile across her lips.

"I am glad that you are so comfortable with me, my dear, and that you feel safe whenever you are with me," Gustav said as he leaned over and kissed her ever so gently.

"I have never felt this way before with anyone, and I just want to tell you again how much I do love you from the bottom of my heart and soul," she said to him.

"And I love you just as much, my love, you make me feel the whole man that I deserve to be when I am with you," Gustav said to her.

“You make me feel like the whole woman that I have not been for a very long time. You are so gentle and understanding with me, and you have taken the time to get involved with my family, as well as introduce me to your family today, my love,” she said to Gustav as they held each other so close that air could not have passed between them.

After a short while, the carriage finally arrived at the Bradley estate just as the evening began to fall upon them. As they pulled up in front of the Bradley estate, Camille’s parents were outside, waiting for them to arrive and ensuring they had a safe and enjoyable journey to Abbotsford. As the carriage rolled to a stop in front of the mansion, Daniel climbed down from the front of carriage and began helping them from the carriage. Camille climbed out first, with Gustav following behind her. Daniel could not help but steal a glance towards Emily, who was standing there with Vincent, waiting for her sister to arrive home. After they exited the carriage, they moved into the house with Camille’s family, where they could tell them about their adventure to Abbotsford for the day with Gustav’s parents. Camille could not wait to tell the family about what wonderful people Gustav’s family was and how much they had accepted her from the moment they met. She could not wait for the day when she would get to go back there with Gustav to spend more time with his family and get to know them better. Camille had enjoyed discussing flowers and shrubs with Gustav’s mother while they walked through the garden in their backyard. Camille never really told anyone how much she enjoyed gardening, but Sarah seemed to pick

up on that secret part of Camille without her revealing how much she loved flowers.

Gustav walked over to Robert and told him that he needed to discuss something rather serious with him once they got inside. Robert had obliged him and showed him the way to the study, where they could discuss what they needed to without any interruptions. As they walked through the foyer into the main living area, Gustav kissed Camille on the cheek and said that he would be right with her and that what he needed to discuss with her father would not take too long.

“Follow me, Gustav, into the study, and I will have Alfredo bring us a cognac while we have our discussion,” Robert had said to him.

“Lead the way, sir. I only hope that what I must discuss with you will not upset you, because as you have probably guessed, I love your daughter with every fibre of my being,” Gustav said to Robert.

“I have noticed, and it pleases me to see her so happy with you,” Robert said.

“Before you begin son, let me have Alfredo bring those drinks and then you can begin telling me what you need to, because quite frankly Alfredo does not need to know what we are discussing as he tends to repeat things that need not be repeated to anyone, though he means no harm by it” Robert said quite sternly.

“Very well, Robert, I understand more than you know. Like you said, nobody needs to know our business, and I

would rather it is kept that way until the time is right for others to know,” Gustav said.

“Alfredo, would you please bring two cognacs into the study for Gustav and I, and that will be all that we need until I ask again, and please be sure that we are not disturbed or it could mean the end of your services here with us,” Robert had stated so matter-of-factly to the older man.

“Yes, Sir, I will bring those drinks right away. And I will make sure that nobody interrupts you while you are in here with Mr. Romeo,” Alfredo said to Robert.

“Very good, Alfredo, I shall leave the door open a crack so that you may enter with the drinks, but please, as you leave, close the door behind you,” Robert stated.

“I shall be right back with those drinks, sir, and I will be sure to close the door behind me so that you will not be disturbed by anyone,” Alfredo said as he left the room to retrieve the drinks for the two waiting men in the study.

As Alfredo left the room, Robert noticed that what Gustav had to say was rather important to him. The two men sat in the study, waiting for Alfredo to return with the drinks before they began discussing anything of great importance. As the two men took their seats across from each other in the study, Alfredo returned with the two drinks for them and a tray full of snacks, so he would not have to return to see if they would like anything to eat later on.

“Thank you for the platter of snacks, Alfredo, that was very kind of you to think of that for us,” Robert replied.

“You are very welcome, sir. I figured that you two might be in here for a while, so I thought you could use some snacks while you chatted,” Alfredo said to Robert.

“Thank you for the consideration, my good man. It is much appreciated, but I do not think we will be too long, so let Jonathan know that he can begin preparing dinner for us as well,” Robert said.

“I shall do that, sir. Is there anything else that I might retrieve for you before I leave the study, sir?” Alfredo asked Robert.

“No, I do not think there is Alfredo. You can now leave the study, and be sure to let the rest of the staff and family know not to bother us, please,” Robert said to the older gentleman as he left the study.

“I shall do that, and I will also tell the rest of the staff what you told me about disturbing you as well,” Alfredo mentioned to Robert as he turned to close the doors.

“Very well, it would be much appreciated,” Robert said to Alfredo.

With that, Alfredo left the study and closed the doors behind him, leaving the two men to discuss their business in private. He continued to walk through the house and into the kitchen, where he informed Jonathan that he was to start preparing dinner for the family. He also gathered the staff and advised them not to bother Mr. Bradley and Mr. Romeo in the study, as it could mean the end of their employment with the Bradley family. The staff understood what Alfredo

was explaining to them, and they had all agreed not to disturb them in the study. Alfredo then made his way out to the terrace where the Bradley family was sitting and chatting amongst themselves. He was sure to let them all know that Mr. Bradley was not to be disturbed, or he would be very angry with him, and that dinner would be served shortly.

“Now, Gustav, what was so important that you had to talk to me in private this evening?” Robert asked Gustav.

“Well, you see, Robert, as you well know, I am extremely in love with your daughter Camille. She makes me feel alive when we are together. I know we have only known each other a short time, but I feel that she is my soul mate,” Gustav said to Robert with a slight quiver in his voice.

“I have noticed how well you two get along. And you are right, Gustav, you have only known each other for a short while, but if you truly love her and she loves you, then I do not see what the problem is?” Robert asked, quite puzzled.

“You see, sir, I have come to ask you for Camille’s hand in marriage. I believe that it is the proper thing to do by asking you first before I talk to her more seriously about this,” Gustav said.

“What do you mean, more seriously?” asked Robert.

“Do you remember the conversation we had a few days ago?” Gustav asked Robert.

“Why yes, I do remember that conversation quite well, and I thought you were asking her then,” Robert said.

“No, I had backed out thinking that it was too soon then, but I casually brought up the subject and she did not react the way that I had initially thought she would either,” Gustav said.

“Well, tell me then, how did she react to you asking her?” Robert asked.

“She was quite ecstatic about it, but said that it was too soon,” Gustav replied.

“What makes you think that she may say ‘Yes’ this time?” Robert asked.

“Well, you see, sir, on the way home from my parents she told me that she loved me, and I could tell that she meant what she said,” he replied to Robert’s question.

“So what are you asking me then, Gustav?” he asked.

“I am asking you for your blessing to ask Camille to be my wife,” he said.

“I would have to say that I am quite pleased that you came to me first to get my blessing before you talked to her about it, which means a lot to me and Elizabeth. So I am pleased to give you my blessings on asking my daughter to marry you,” Robert said as he extended his hand towards Gustav.

“Thank you, sir, I promise I won’t let you down, nor will I let her down either, sir,” he said.

“Then I must say, son, welcome to the family. And we are pleased to have you join us,” Robert said as they shook hands.

“Thank you, sir, that means a lot to me,” Gustav said.

“So when do you plan on asking her to marry you?” Robert asked.

“I plan on taking her to Heartbreak Falls next Saturday for a picnic, and then asking her while we are there,” Gustav said.

“Why Heartbreak Falls? Did she not tell you the story as to why it is called Heartbreak Falls?” Robert asked, looking quite puzzled.

“She did tell me the story behind the name, but I would like to ask her there because I think that if true love manifests there, then it will break the curse,” Gustav replied.

“Sounds quite logical, and I hope that works for you. But now we must join the rest of the family for dinner,” Robert said.

“That we should, we should not keep the family waiting or the love of my life,” Gustav said.

The two stood shaking hands again and left the study, talking and chuckling as they made their way to the terrace. As they returned to the family, Camille jumped up right away. She ran over to Gustav and threw her arms around his neck and gave him a quick kiss before they sat down to eat dinner. Gustav sat at the table next to Camille and held her

hand while he looked at Robert with a slight smile stretching across his handsome face. At that moment, Gustav decided to take Elizabeth aside and ask for her blessing as well, before he requested Camille to be his beautiful bride the following Saturday.

“Elizabeth might have a few words with you in private? I have a rather important question that I would like to ask you, that I have already asked Robert,” he said to her.

“Yes, you may have a few words with me, but may we have that discussion after we have dinner, Gustav?” she asked him.

“That will be fine, ma’am, after dinner will be the perfect time to have our discussion,” he said.

“Very well then, we shall have our chat after dinner, Gustav,” Elizabeth said.

They sat there chatting amongst themselves when Jonathan walked out of the house with everyone’s dinner plates and served them. The meal was simple yet very delicious, thanks to the heat of the evening. As the evening progressed and the meal came to an end, Mrs. Wolfe came out and removed the dinner plates, and Alfredo brought out glasses of Iced Tea for everyone. Shortly after everyone was served their cold drinks, Elizabeth and Gustav rose from the table to go for a walk through the grounds to have their chat.

“So what might be so important that you needed to talk to me this evening?” asked Elizabeth.

“Well, you see, ma’am, I do not know if you have noticed, but I love your daughter Camille with my entire heart and soul,” Gustav said.

“I have noticed that, and I have also noticed that she seems to love you just as much, Gustav,” she said.

“Why I have asked to talk to you this evening, ma’am, is because I would like to get your blessings to ask Camille to be my wife. And I feel that asking for yours and Robert’s permission is the right thing to do, I do not wish to ask her until I have your blessing,” Gustav said to Elizabeth.

“Well, since you have been clever enough to ask us for permission, I can honestly say that I can give you my blessings and hope that you two will be very happy together,” she said, giving Gustav a hug and a kiss on the cheek.

“Thank you, ma’am, I hope that I can make her as happy as you and Robert are,” he said.

“Just from what I have seen of you with my daughter, you make her extremely happy. Something that I have not seen in a very long time,” Elizabeth replied.

“I just hope that I can make all her dreams of a happy life come true, and her dreams of being a mother like you, Elizabeth,” Gustav said.

“I am quite sure that you will make her happier than she has ever been, and not to mention, I am quite sure that she will make a wonderful mother and you a wonderful father,”

she said as she leaned in and gave Gustav a hug and a kiss on the cheek.

“Thank you, I only hope that I can be half the father that my father and Robert are to their children,” Gustav had said.

“You will make a wonderful father and husband. You have so much love to give within yourself. Do not underestimate yourself,” Elizabeth said as she squeezed his hand.

“Thank you, Elizabeth, your words of wisdom mean so much to me, and I know that they mean a lot to Camille as well,” he said.

“You are very welcome, and welcome to our humble family,” Elizabeth said to Gustav.

They finished their discussion and began walking back to the rest of the family just in time to see Camille and Emily playing a game of Bocce Ball on the back lawn. They seemed to be having an entertaining time playing the game. Gustav walked over and wrapped his arms around Camille’s slender waist and kissed her neck so gently that it sent shivers up her spine. The tender kiss had ignited a fire within her that she knew she had to extinguish for the benefit of her family. She had turned around and returned the kiss that was so passionate and tender at the same time that Gustav had a hard time holding back from taking her right there on the back lawn and making passionate love to her. Gustav was withholding his feelings about what he truly wanted to do with Camille that evening. The passion that was burning so

intensely within them, and they knew it was going to take all their willpower to hold back until they were alone again. Secretly, Camille wanted Gustav to take her to Heartbreak Falls again this evening and make love to her under the waterfall, with the gentle water running over their bodies.

“Are you enjoying yourself, my love?” he asked Camille.

“I am quite enjoying myself, my dear. Why do you not join in the game as Vincent’s partner, and then we can play a game of doubles?” Camille suggested.

“Sounds like fun. I am definitely up for a game of Bocce Ball, but only if I can be your partner,” he said with a smile across his handsome face.

“We will play couple versus couple after we play a game of male versus female, my love,” she said to him as she kissed his lips gently and teasingly.

“Okay, we will play the one game of battle of the sexes, and then couples will be nice as well,” he said to Camille.

“Are you going to be a sore loser like Vincent if Emily and I win the game?” she said teasingly.

“No, I won’t be a sore loser, honey, after all, it is just a game,” Gustav had said with a chuckle in his voice.

They began playing Bocce Ball and were having an enjoyable time, until Gustav happened to look up at the sky and noticed a thunderhead rolling in.

“Looks like we better call the game on account of a thunderstorm rolling in over the west,” he said to everyone.

“Yes, we better move inside before we all get drenched with rain and catch our deaths,” Elizabeth had agreed.

“Alright, we will go inside until it passes and then continue later. If the storm lasts for a while, then we will continue our game on another day,” Camille stated.

The family moved inside as the rain began to fall against the ground. It was an unusually warm rain for the evening. The thunder cracked with a bolt of lightning that followed closely behind, and it was loud enough to rattle the windows of the Bradley home. Camille had gotten a little scared when the thunder sounded and rattled the windows of the house. Gustav chuckled a little inside when he saw how severely it had scared her, and then went over and sat next to her to console her and let her know that she was safe within the house's walls. As the evening progressed and the storm worsened, Robert had suggested to Gustav and Vincent that they stay with them for the evening or until the storm passed. Gustav obliged Robert and accepted his offer to stay there for the evening, but Vincent was reluctant to the offer and said that he would rather sleep in his bed, given its proximity to the wedding.

“Vincent, do not be ridiculous. It is storming out there, and your carriage driver will be soaked through. They can stay with the rest of the staff in the staff quarters, while you and Gustav each take one of the spare boudoirs downstairs,” Robert stated.

“I am not being ridiculous, Robert. I would rather sleep in my own house during the storm, where I am more comfortable and won’t be tempted to go into Emily’s room during the evening,” Vincent said.

“I can understand that, Vincent, but you do have to realize that Emily will be worried about you the entire evening if you do not stay here during the storm,” Elizabeth said.

“Is that true, my love. Will you be worried about me all evening if I do not accept your parents' offer to stay here this evening?” Vincent asked her, secretly hoping that she would say no.

“It is true to some degree, dear, but if you would rather go home to your bed, then please feel free to leave, and I will see you tomorrow,” Emily said as she kissed his cheek.

Vincent said that he must leave, as he would feel less pressure and be less likely to sneak up the stairs during the evening to Emily’s room. Emily walked Vincent to the door, but could not help feeling that there was another reason why he was leaving. When they reached the door, Emily leaned in and gave Vincent a goodnight kiss, saying she would see him the next day when they went on their picnic and horseback ride. Vincent walked outside and climbed into his awaiting carriage, riding off into the storm, leaving Emily behind, as he thought about the real reason he had left. After a few moments of watching Vincent’s carriage ride off, Emily turned around and went back into the house to sit with the family in the living room. As she sat there listening to

everyone talk, thoughts kept running through her mind that Vincent was going to see another woman.

“What are you thinking about, Emily?” asked Camille.

“Nothing important, my dear sister,” Emily replied.

“You cannot fool me, my dear. I can tell that you are thinking about something that is troubling you a great deal, and I do not like seeing you like this,” Camille said to her with such concern and love in her voice.

“Something is bothering me, but I do not want to discuss it here. We will discuss it later on in my boudoir,” Emily said to Camille.

“Okay, we will go up in a little while after our cocktails are finished and have a girls’ evening while we figure out why you are so upset,” Camille said.

Emily and Camille sat there in the living room with the family and Gustav for a few more minutes before they went up to Emily’s boudoir for their discussion.

“Goodnight, everyone, I am turning in for the evening. I shall see you in the morning before you leave for the factory, Father,” Emily said to Robert and the rest of the family.

“Yes, my dear child, I will see you in the morning before I leave for the office,” Robert said to his youngest daughter.

“Goodnight, Emily dear, have a wonderful rest. Do not let anything bother you too much, it all has a way of working its way out, my child,” Elizabeth said to Emily.

Jennifer Westecott

“Goodnight, mother, and you have a good rest as well this evening,” Emily said to her mother.

Chapter Four

Emily then made her way up the stairs to her boudoir and went into her adjoining lavatory, where she ran herself a gentle bubble bath to help relax and alleviate some of her worries. She carefully disrobed in front of the mirror and could not help but notice that her stomach was a little bloated. When she saw that a new worry had crossed her mind, she quickly let it diminish when she stepped into the claw-foot bathtub. Emily sank deep into the water until the bubbles reached her chin, and she lay there, closed her eyes, and waited for what seemed like a few minutes, when she heard a knock at her door. She opened her eyes, climbed out of the bathtub, placed her bathrobe on, and went to answer the door.

Before she opened the door, she asked, “Who’s there?”

“It is Camille, I am here for our chat, Emily,” she said.

“Oh right, sorry I must have fallen asleep in the bathtub and forgotten,” Emily replied as she opened the door.

“No problem, Emily, I just wanted to give you a little time to yourself before I came up to see you,” Camille said as she hugged her sister.

“Okay, come in and I will put my evening gown on, and then we shall begin having our discussion, because I need your help figuring out if I am just being inane or if there is something to what I am feeling,” Emily said.

Camille then walked into the boudoir and sat on Emily's bed while she waited for her to get dressed. A short time later, Emily entered her boudoir and went and sat next to her sister on the bed. They had begun with idle chatter about how Camille's trip was and what Gustav's parents were like to meet for the first time. They had continued on that subject until Camille had decided that they needed to solve the problem of what was going on with Emily, as she was to be married at the end of the week to her long-time love, Vincent LaRouge.

"Okay, Emily, what is going on that has got you so upset and frustrated?" Camille asked her.

"Well, Camille, I just cannot help but feel that Vincent went off to be with another woman this evening, instead of staying here with me and the family," she stated as a tear ran down her soft cheek.

"I am sure that he is not seeing anyone else, Emily. This is probably just a slight case of wedding jitters. I mean your wedding is Saturday afternoon, and problems can seem so much greater due to the stress of soon being married," Camille stated.

"I am sure that you are right, Camille, but I cannot help but feel that there is someone else. Vincent's behaviour lately has changed so drastically. He does not even hold my hand or kiss me the way he used to, and I am so confused by his behaviour as well," Emily said with a shake in her voice.

“I will tell you what, Emily, this evening I will stay with you in your room, and tomorrow morning we will get up with Father and see him off to the office for the day. We will then dress and go downtown, and have you fitted for your gown and make a day of spending time with each other,” Camille said to her.

“That sounds like so much fun and excitement, but I do not want to take you away from your time with Gustav tomorrow,” Emily said.

“Do not worry, he is a very understanding man, and besides, he has to go into the office tomorrow with father, so that will give us the day to spend together as sisters,” Camille said as she hugged Emily.

“I hope you are right about Vincent, because I do not know what I would do if I lost him now, so close to the wedding,” Emily said.

“I assure you, Emily, what you are experiencing is what they like to call the Wedding Jitters, or cold feet. Everything will be fine once the wedding is finally over,” Camille said.

“I hope you are right that there is no other woman in his life. I could not bear the thought of not being enough for him, that he had to go out and find someone else,” Emily said.

“Tell you what, Emily, after the wedding is over with, things will go back to normal, the way they were before the wedding. Now let us go to bed, we have a busy day ahead of

us tomorrow,” Camille said as she patted the pillow next to her.

The two sisters were soon fast asleep, lying next to each other for an evening of peaceful sleep before their big day in town tomorrow. While the girls were upstairs getting ready for bed, everyone was in the living room discussing how excited they were that Camille and Gustav were getting married. Gustav had also decided to retire for the evening; he made his way to the spare boudoir just past the kitchen. He entered the small boudoir and sat on the bed, where he began to remove his boots and trousers. Just then, a knock came to the door.

“Yes, how can I help you?” Gustav asked.

“Sir, it is I, Alfredo. I have towels for you in the morning to clean up before you go into the office with Master Bradley. Shall I wait for your clothes so that I can have them cleaned and pressed for you in the morning?” asked Alfredo.

“Thank you for the towels, Alfredo. That was so kind of you. As for my clothes, that would be wonderful if you would wait outside the door or maybe come back in about ten minutes to collect them just outside the door,” Gustav replied.

“Very well, sir, I shall return in ten minutes to collect your things. By the way, sir, where would you like me to put them once I have them cleaned and pressed for you?” Alfredo asked.

“Ah, yes, please place them just inside the door on the chair that I will have placed next to the door for them,” Gustav said.

“Very well, sir, I shall do that for you. Is there anything else I might get for you when I return?” asked Alfredo.

“A tall glass of ice water, please, and then that will be all. Thank you so much for your kindness, Alfredo,” Gustav said to the aging man.

“You are most welcome, sir. Have a good sleep, and I shall return with that glass of ice water for you in just a moment,” he said to Gustav.

With that, Alfredo turned on his heel and left the small room that Gustav had now occupied for the evening. The aging man walked down the hallway past the kitchen, where Jonathan was putting leftovers away for the staff’s lunch the next day. As he continued walking, he noticed the most beautiful woman standing in the doorway to the kitchen. She was so elegantly dressed; every feature on her face was lightly defined, with a hint of powdered makeup, not too much, just enough to enhance her already beautiful face. When she looked up at him for a brief moment, he noticed that her eyes shone like two diamonds in the sunlight, and they were the most brilliant blue that he had ever seen before. He kept walking past the kitchen and headed to the laundry room, as he did not want to stop and chat with her, fearing he would make a fool of himself. As he made his way down to the laundry room, he could hear faint footsteps behind him. The sound sent an eerie feeling up his spine, as

he did not know who was following him. Though the sound was eerie, Alfredo continued on his way to the laundry room to do the laundry for Gustav and the rest of the family. As he entered the laundry room, the footsteps stopped at the door behind him. Alfredo quickly turned around to see who was behind him and saw Mrs. Downy standing there looking as lovely as ever.

“Why are you following me, Mrs. Downy? Is there something that I can do for you?” he asked her.

“No, there is nothing that I need you to do for me, Alfredo. I just wanted to chat with you and get to know you a little more than what I do,” she replied.

“I see. What would you like to know then?” he asked Mrs. Downy.

“I was wondering if you would like to go for a coffee in town and chat?” She asked Alfredo.

“I would like that very much, but as the head butler, I am rather busy every day,” Alfredo replied.

Mrs. Downy hung her head in disappointment and turned to walk away when Alfredo had suggested that she come to the house tomorrow afternoon for tea instead of going into town.

“I would like that very much, and I am sure that Mr. Bradley would give me the time off to come over to visit with you,” she said to him.

“Very well then, Mrs. Downy, I shall see you tomorrow afternoon,” Alfredo replied.

“Sounds very nice, I will see you tomorrow afternoon, and you can call me Carmen,” she said to him.

As she turned to walk away from Alfredo in the laundry room, he could not help but wonder what made her decide to get to know him more than she already did. It was interesting to him and intrigued him as well. He noticed that she smelled of wild lilacs in the summer rain, one of the most intoxicating scents that a woman could wear. Alfredo stood in the laundry room for a moment before he remembered that he was there to do Gustav’s and the Bradley family laundry while everyone slept. As Alfredo worked endlessly on the laundry, thoughts of Carmen invaded his every thought process. Before long, he found himself wondering what it would be like to hold her close to his body, matching her every movement and caress. As he stood there wondering what she felt like, he could sense that he was being watched from the doorway, but he wasn’t sure who was watching him. He slowly turned around to see who was standing there and saw that Gustav was observing him from the doorway.

“Alfredo, what are you thinking about that has you smiling like that and whistling that tune?” Gustav asked.

“I was just chatting with Mrs. Downy, we are going to meet here tomorrow afternoon for coffee and conversation,” Alfredo replied.

“That sounds wonderful, my good man. And how did this meeting come into play for you two this evening?” Gustav asked cautiously.

“Well, you see, sir, I had just left your room with your laundry and headed down here when I heard footsteps behind me. It was a little spine-chilling at first until I got down here and slowly turned to see this breathtakingly beautiful woman standing in the doorway,” Alfredo said.

“Wow, that sounds exciting, Alfredo. She is a charming woman, but I thought she was married?” Gustav questioned him.

“She was married many years ago, but her husband was taken from her in a senseless mugging in downtown Fort George when they had gone there for a vacation,” Alfredo responded.

“Oh my goodness, that is terrible. So, why may I ask, have you never asked her to coffee before now, Alfredo?” Gustav asked.

“Well, I guess it all stems from being hurt by certain women one too many times, and I just never thought of myself as remarrying and leaving the Bradley family,” Alfredo replied.

“Alfredo, just because you go out on a few dates with a woman does not mean that you must marry her right afterwards,” Gustav had said as he walked across the laundry room and sat down next to Alfredo.

“I realize that it has been a long time since my wife passed away, but I still feel like I would be betraying our love by seeing another woman,” Alfredo said in a sullen voice.

“Alfredo, I am quite sure that your wife would want you to move on with your life and not act as though your heart and love that you have died with her,” Gustav said in a comforting tone.

“You make a very valid point, sir. Perhaps I should do this and see where it leads me, I mean, what is the worst that could happen?” Alfredo asked him.

“Precisely, my good man, you need to live a little and experience new things and new people. Perhaps one day we will be celebrating your wedding,” Gustav remarked.

“Well, since you put it that way, I shall have her over for coffee and some friendly discussions. What could it possibly hurt, after all, I could be making a very good friend if it does not work out between us,” Alfredo replied.

“That’s smart thinking, Alfredo, because in the end, we all need friends and family in our lives,” Gustav said.

“Well, I guess I should get your trousers washed and pressed and then get the rest of the family’s laundry done as well. Would you still like me to bring you a glass of water, sir?” Alfredo asked Gustav.

“No, that’s alright. I went into the kitchen and got a glass of water myself when you did not return right away,” Gustav said.

“I am so sorry, sir. I did not forget about you, I guess I just lost track of time while I was chatting with Carmen,” the older fellow replied.

“Do not worry about it, Alfredo, I understand all too well. After all, look at me; I am getting married soon, and I had not planned on meeting or falling in love with anyone while I was here working. It just happened that I met my soul mate here on the first day I was in town to work for Mr. Bradley,” Gustav replied.

“I am thrilled that you and Miss Camille have found each other. I know it took a lot for her to trust another man after what her ex-fiancée did to her just days before the wedding,” Alfredo said.

“I know it was a risk on her part, but I had to show her that I was not that man and that if she gave me a chance, I would show her what love was truly supposed to be like,” Gustav said to Alfredo.

“Well, once again, I should get this laundry finished for everyone before I lose my job with the family,” Alfredo replied.

“Very well, I shall go back to my room and get some rest. If you need to talk to someone about what you are feeling for Carmen, my shoulder and ears are always

available for you, Alfredo,” Gustav said as he turned to walk away back to his room.

“Thank you very much, sir, I appreciate that a lot,” Alfredo replied.

Gustav turned and started walking back to his boudoir to go back to bed when he noticed that his door was slightly ajar. He slowly walked into the room and saw that there was someone in his bed, and a smile slowly stretched across his face when he realized that it was Camille in his bed. He walked across the floor and slowly climbed into the bed so as not to wake Camille from the deep sleep that she was in. Gustav pulled the covers over his naked body and wrapped his arm over her body and pulled himself closer to her so that he was able to smell the soft scent of her hair. Camille stirred slightly when he cuddled next to her warm body, especially when she realized that he was lying there naked next to her. She slowly rolled over and kissed his soft lips and ran her hands over his chest, and could feel his manhood growing against her thighs. As she felt his rising excitement, Camille moaned ever so softly into his ear and asked him to make love to her.

“Are you sure that you want me to make love to you this evening, sweetheart? I would not want you to do anything like that in your parents’ home if it makes you feel uncomfortable,” Gustav said to her in a whisper.

“I would not have asked you to if I were not sure of it, my love. We have not made love in a while, and I want to make you happy,” she said.

“We do not need to make love for you to make me happy, my darling. Just you showing me that you love me the way you do made me extraordinarily happy,” Gustav replied.

“I want you to make love to me, honey. That is why I have come down the stairs to your boudoir, so that we could spend a little quality time together before we make the plunge into marriage next month,” Camille said to him as she reached down to stroke his ever-growing excitement.

“Oh, sweetheart, what are you doing to me? I feel strange about you wanting to do this under your family’s roof. We can wait until tomorrow when I get off work and go on a picnic,” Gustav replied as he moaned softly while she caressed his hard body with her soft hands and lips.

“I want this, sweetheart, more than you could ever know. I cannot possibly wait until tomorrow evening, it seems like an eternity since the last time we made love, darling,” she responded as she nibbled Gustav’s earlobe.

“Very well, my dear, I will do this to please you, but I do think that we should hold off on any more love making until we have said ‘I do’, just in case something should result from it,” Gustav replied.

“I can deal with that, my love, but even if something should result from our love making, it would not matter because I love you with my whole heart and soul,” she replied.

Gustav pulled her in closer to him and ran his hand down to the small of her back and held her close to his body as he rose a little more. She moaned ever so softly as she felt his hand cup her buttocks and lightly squeeze, and then his hand slowly ran up the front of her body until it reached her breast and cupped it while he suckled the soft pink peak. Gustav pushed her beautiful auburn hair back over her shoulder so that he could nuzzle in and kiss her neck, and as he kissed her neck, he gently rolled her over on her back and traced the lines of her body with his fingertips and tongue, which set her body on fire within. Gustav slowly worked his way down kissing her body until he reached her gentle pink flower between her thighs and lovingly kissed it before he sat up on his knees and slowly entered her softness within.

Camille let out a soft moan as they began to make love, and within a few seconds, she was matching his every movement as they continued to make love. As he held her in his arms, making passionate love to her, he whispered into her ear that he would always love her from now through eternity. She began to cry from his loving words and then wrapped her arms even tighter around his neck and pulled him in closer to her. They lay there and made love until they both had fallen asleep in each other's arms. Suddenly, Camille woke up and realized where she was. She then leaned over and gently kissed Gustav goodbye before returning to her boudoir, ensuring no one would notice that she had visited Gustav's boudoir in the middle of the night.

After Camille reached the top of the stairs, she tiptoed to her boudoir and quietly opened and closed her door so as

not to wake anyone up on the upper floor. Camille slowly walked across the floor to her bed and climbed in, thinking about Gustav sleeping downstairs. She lay there for the longest time thinking before she finally drifted off to sleep. As she slept, Camille dreamt of the days that would soon follow when she and Gustav would finally be married and able to make love every evening in their matrimonial bed. Meanwhile, Gustav lay in bed thinking about Camille and the passionate lovemaking that they had just shared when he had found her in his bed. He listened to the sound of the rain beating against the roof and could not wait to see his beautiful fiancée again in the morning.

The sun rose in the morning, shining beautiful golden streaks across the floors of every room in the mansion. As the sun shone through the windows, it cast small rainbows on the floor as it came through. Everyone rose and met in the dining room for breakfast. Camille was the last to join the family downstairs and walked across the floor and sat next to Gustav at the table. Just as she sat down, Alfredo walked into the dining room to serve the family their breakfasts.

“Good morning, Camille. How did you sleep last night, my dear?” asked Robert.

“Quite well, thank you for asking, father,” she replied.

“That’s wonderful, I thought for sure that the thunder would keep you awake all night,” he said.

Heartbreak Falls

“I never heard the thunder at all, Father. I had a peaceful sleep all night,” she said.

“That is terrific, I was so worried about you last night. As I know how you do not like the sound of thunder when it is raining,” Robert replied.

“I am okay, Father. I am getting used to the sound of thunder as long as I am inside the house when it strikes,” she said.

“Did anybody hear someone walking around the house last night?” Elizabeth asked.

“No, I did not, mother, maybe it was Alfredo walking around doing his evening chores while we were in bed for the night,” Emily replied.

Alfredo walked back into the dining room with more coffee for everyone, and Elizabeth asked him if he was walking about the house during the evening.

“Why, yes, I was, ma’am. I was doing laundry and ironing for the family during the night, and I placed it all in everyone’s rooms for them,” Alfredo replied.

“Very well then, I was not sure if it was you or someone else who could not sleep during the storm,” she said.

“Is there anything else that I can assist you with, ma’am?” Alfredo asked before he departed the dining room.

“No, that will be all, Alfredo. Thank you for being honest with me about the situation,” Elizabeth replied.

Everyone continued to eat their breakfast before heading off into town to complete the errands and finish the final plans for Emily's wedding. Robert rose from the table and walked over, and gave Elizabeth a good-bye kiss before leaving for the office. Gustav took that as his cue to go to the office as well and leaned over and kissed Camille on the cheek before leaving with Robert. Shortly after Robert and Gustav left for the office, Elizabeth and her daughters left to go in for the final fitting of Emily's gown and to pick up Camille's gown as well. While in town, Elizabeth had decided that there were a few other things that she needed to pick up for the wedding as well. She made herself a list of things to do while in town and then walked up the stairs to get dressed for going to town with her daughters. Before long, Elizabeth and her daughters were loaded into the carriage and on their way into town for the day to get the last-minute things ready for the wedding on Saturday.

"What are you thinking about, mother?" Emily asked her.

"Oh dear, I am just thinking about all the things we need to do in town today to get you ready for your wedding this weekend," Elizabeth replied.

"No need to worry yourself so endlessly about it, mother, just enjoy your day out of the house while you can," Camille said.

"I am not worried about anything, dear; we just have a lot to do today while we are in town," Elizabeth replied.

“Well, that is good, because I think that we should go to the beauty parlour and have our hair and nails done for the wedding,” Camille said.

“That sounds like it could be fun, and then we could all go to lunch at the little bistro that you like so much, mother,” Emily said.

“Okay, my girls, we will do all that after we get the list done that I have, and while we go to lunch and the beauty parlour, I will have Stewart bring everything back to the house and then come back for us. How does that sound to you girls?” Elizabeth asked.

“That sounds perfect, mother, and we will have a wonderful time today while we get your list completed,” Emily and Camille replied.

The three women continued on their way into town, sitting in the carriage in silence, wondering what they would do and hoping that everything would run smoothly so as not to upset anyone. Elizabeth sat in her seat, reviewing her list of things to buy and do, ensuring that everything was written down so that nothing would be forgotten by accident. When they reached the town limits, they gathered their handbags and got ready to be dropped off at Ms. Marple’s dress boutique to get Emily and Camille’s fittings done and over with so that they could continue on their way. Moments later, they pulled up in front of the little dress boutique and got out, heading into the boutique.

“Good morning, ladies, and how can I help you today?” asked Ms. Marple.

“I am here for my final fitting of my wedding gown and to show my mother the design and fabric that you used for it,” Emily said.

“Perfect, I have it already for you in the back room. I will get you to follow me back, Emily, and then when we get it on you, we will have your mother come back and have a look,” she said.

“Wonderful, that would please me most of all, to be wearing it when mother comes in to see it,” Emily replied.

“How is Camille’s gown coming along?” asked Elizabeth.

“I think we have a couple of adjustments to make today, and then it will be finished.

“Camille, if you follow Kathy to the back room, she will get that fitting done so that your mother can see it on you as well,” Ms. Marple replied.

“Oh, wonderful, I cannot wait to see what you have done with it since last week. Did you do what I asked you to?” Camille asked.

“Yes, we have, we just need you to try it on and make sure that we have the sizing correct before we send you home with it today,” replied Ms. Marple.

“Well, sounds like my girls have everything under control when it comes to their gowns,” Elizabeth said.

“That they do. They knew what they wanted, and Emily had sketches of the design that she wanted, and we went by that after she chose the fabric she wanted,” she answered.

“Well, I suppose while I am here, I should pick up my gown and by the looks of it, you have one on the rack in just the colour and size that I am looking for,” Elizabeth said.

“That’s wonderful. Would you like to go into the fitting room and try it on to be sure that it will work for you, Mrs. Bradley?” Ms. Marple asked her.

“Yes, that would be wonderful. I will go over and pick it off the rack, and I will be right in there,” Elizabeth said.

Elizabeth walked over to the rack where the gown was hanging and then took it into the fitting room, waiting for Kathy to come in to ensure that it fit correctly over her robust figure. She stepped into the fitting room and began to undress, and then stepped into the gown she had chosen. It had seemed to fit perfectly until Kathy came in to see what needed to be done and noticed a small tear in the back of the gown.

“Oh my goodness, ma’am, could I please get you to take the gown off, and I will repair the small tear in the back for you,” Kathy asked.

“Oh my, yes, I will change back into my other dress while you fix this one. Other than the small tear, how did everything fit in the back over my robust backside?” Elizabeth asked.

“Yes, other than the small tear, everything fits beautifully on you, ma’am,” Kathy replied.

“Wonderful, I am glad to hear that it fit alright. Usually, I have to have everything altered just to fit my backside, and then it does not fit anywhere else,” Elizabeth replied.

“Unfortunately, ma’am, you are not the only one with a robust backside, so we have been stocking gowns to fit all shapes and sizes lately,” Kathy said as she helped Elizabeth out of the gown and showed her the small tear in the back.

“Oh goodness, I hope that I did not do that when I was trying the gown on?” Elizabeth asked the young woman named Kathy.

“No ma’am, this looks like a manufacturer’s defect. It had nothing to do with you trying it on,” Kathy replied.

Kathy then took the gown into another room where she was able to mend the tear in the dress without it affecting how the gown would fit Elizabeth after she was done fixing it. When she was done repairing the tear, she walked back to the fitting room, where Elizabeth sat waiting for her, and then put the gown back on. It fit just as well as it had before the repair. Elizabeth commended Kathy on her repair job, noting that it did not look like she had mended the small tear at all, but rather that she had taken a new gown off the rack.

“You do amazing work, Kathy; it does not even look like it had been torn at all. It looks like a whole new gown,” Elizabeth had remarked to the young woman.

“Thank you very much, Mrs. Bradley. I take great pride in my work, and I love to see the look and smiles on women’s faces when I do repair work for them,” Kathy had said with a slight hint of shyness in her tiny voice.

“You are very welcome; it is not very often that you come across someone who takes such pride in their work as you do. You have impressed me with your abilities, and I will be returning here if I ever need anything repaired again,” Elizabeth remarked and then handed the young woman an extra fifty cents for the time she put into the repair.

“Mrs. Bradley, Emily is ready to show you the gown that we have made for her. She is very excited for you to see it on her. Can you please follow me into the back room where we have another seamstress waiting to see if there are any other alterations that you would like done to it,” Ms. Marple said to Elizabeth as she led her to where her daughter was waiting for her.

They walked into the room, and Elizabeth was amazed by the gown her daughter had designed. She had chosen the perfect combinations of satin and lace accented by sequins. Elizabeth wiped a tear from her eye when she saw how beautiful Emily looked in her wedding gown.

“My dear daughter, you look just beautiful. You have done amazing with the design of this gown, you are going to be so stunning on your special day this Saturday,” Elizabeth said with tears caught in her throat.

“Thank you, mother, that means so much to me. My inspiration comes from your loving support and all the lovely gowns you have worn over the years. I love you, mother,” Emily said to Elizabeth as she walked over to hug her mother.

“I love the hint of blue that you have in the fabric. What made you go with that choice, Emily?” Elizabeth asked her.

“I went with this choice because you need something blue for good luck on your special day, and I felt that doing this, I would not need anything else in blue,” she replied.

“Well, I think you made the perfect choice for your fabrics, they mesh together quite well, and the colour is just stunning on you, my dear,” Elizabeth said.

“Ma’am, Camille is ready for you to come in and see her gown and fabric choice now,” Ms. Marple stated.

“Very well, I will be right there after I help Emily out of her gown and get it ready to be packaged to take home today,” Elizabeth said.

“I will take your gown into the back, ma’am, and I will have it boxed and wrapped for you. Is there anything else that I can help you with?” Kathy asked Elizabeth.

“Thank you very much, Kathy, but I do not think there will be anything else that I will need today,” Elizabeth said as she made her way into the small room where Camille was waiting to show her the gown she had chosen.

Elizabeth was very pleased with the gown that her daughter Emily had designed and the fabrics she had chosen for it. To Elizabeth, it seemed that her children had grown up overnight, and all she wanted was to know that all her children were happy with their lives and potential significant others. She made her way to the fitting room where Camille was waiting for her, and when she walked into the room, she could not believe her eyes. Camille's gown was made from the most delicate dusty rose satin with a bit of lace trim, and the design that she had chosen accentuated her beautiful figure, and the colour set her hair aflame.

"Oh my goodness, my dear, you look stunning in that colour and style. You did very well choosing your gown, the colour and fabric type," Elizabeth said as a tear rolled down her porcelain face.

"Thank you, mother, I was hoping that you would like it, but I think Emily's gown is brilliant," Camille stated.

"You are right, her gown is gorgeous. You both have done very well, and you both will look stunning this Saturday on her wedding day," Elizabeth replied.

Elizabeth helped Camille out of her gown, had Kathy box it, and tied a ribbon around the box. Then, she had Stewart place them in the carriage and take them back to the Bradley estate while they went to lunch at a quaint little bistro down the street.

"Stewart, would you please take these packages back to the estate and then come back for us in about two hours, and

we should be finished everything that we need to do by then,” Elizabeth said to her carriage driver.

“Yes, ma’am. Would you like me to place them in their respective boudoirs, or would you rather have Mrs. Wolfe do that for you?” he asked.

“Please have Mrs. Wolfe place the packages in our boudoirs. I do not think that it would be appropriate to have you walking into our boudoirs with the packages,” she stated.

“Very well, Mrs. Bradley. I shall take the packages back to the estate and have Mrs. Wolfe take them to their appropriate boudoirs, then for you,” he said.

With that said, Stewart loaded the carriage with the packages and told the women that he would return in two hours to return them to the estate. Elizabeth told him that when he returned for them, he would find them at the Eagle’s Nest Bistro about two blocks down the street. After Stewart had the carriage loaded, he climbed aboard the carriage, pulled away from the curb, and headed back towards the Bradleys’ estate. When he pulled up to the mansion, he was greeted by Mrs. Wolfe, who had asked if she might be able to help him with anything.

“Well, yes, you may. Mrs. Bradley has asked me that you please take these packages upstairs to her and her daughter's boudoirs for them,” he said.

“Very good, I shall do that, but which box goes where?” she asked.

“The one with the blue ribbon is Mrs. Bradley’s, the pink is her daughter Camille’s, and the other is Emily’s,” he said to the aging woman.

“Thank you, Stewart, for clarifying that for me. That makes it easier when they have colour-coded ribbons on the boxes,” Mrs. Wolfe said to Stewart.

Stewart unloaded the packages and handed them to Mrs. Wolfe, who turned on her heels and proceeded to go into the mansion to place them in their respective boudoirs upstairs. While the women were in town, dining for lunch and shopping, Mr. Bradley and Gustav were hard at work at the toy factory, going over the past year's financial reports and statements. They worked tirelessly to get everything in order before the auditors were due to arrive the following week, ensuring that there was no tax evasion and that all necessary claims were being made.

As Gustav entered everything into the ledgers, Robert searched the filing cabinets for all receipts and statements to ensure they would not forget any entries.

“Robert, may I ask who was doing your books before I came along?” Gustav asked him.

“George Brown, the man I fired when it was found out that he was pilfering from the company accounts,” Robert said.

“How did you find out that he was doing that, because from the looks of the books, everything had been entered and accounted for,” Gustav said.

“To tell you the truth, I am not sure how he was doing it. He was quite crafty and very thorough about it, and covered all his tracks. Until the day that he slipped up and went into the bank, and then I got a telegram a couple of days later explaining what he was doing there on that particular day,” Robert said.

“May I ask what he was doing that nobody contacted you before that day?” Gustav asked.

“As it turned out, he had gone into the bank and set up a fraudulent company account and was transferring small amounts of money from one to the other. No one had thought it was strange until the day when he had gone in to do a final transfer and let it slip that he was trying to make the toy factory close its doors for good, so that he could open his own business,” Robert stated dryly.

“My god, some people, I tell you they will try anything to make themselves superior to someone else, even if that means they have to destroy their company or reputation,” Gustav said.

“Exactly, well enough about that unpleasant bastard, let us get back to work and get this finished so that we might be on time for dinner with our lovely ladies this evening,” Robert said.

“That sounds like a plan, Robert. From the looks of things, we are almost ready for the auditor next week. Now that the hard part is over with, it will be much easier for me

to keep the ledgers straight to keep the auditors off your back for a while,” Gustav said.

“See, I knew I hired you for a good reason. That did not take you very long to straighten out and get into order. I wonder what the ladies are doing right now, never mind, they are probably out for lunch at Elizabeth’s favourite bistro downtown and spending all my money,” Robert said with a chuckle.

“Well, if we finish up here in the next few minutes, we could meet them at the bistro as a surprise,” Gustav said to Robert.

“That sounds like a great idea, they will be surprised to see us, and I know that you are having withdrawals about seeing my daughter,” Robert said.

“Am I really that obvious about my love for Camille?” Gustav asked Robert.

“You are, and I am pleased to tell you that I am delighted that you make her as happy as you do. I have not seen her happy in a very long time, and it looks good on her, and you two are terrific for each other,” Robert said as he put his hand on Gustav’s shoulder.

Robert and Gustav finished up the ledgers and put everything back into the safe so that no one could break into the office and steal his financial records to try and destroy him or the company. Once they had everything locked in the safe, they left the office, closed the door behind them and headed down to the awaiting carriage.

“Stewart, will you please take us to the Eagles’ Nest Bistro downtown, and make it quick as we do not want to miss seeing my wife and daughters for lunch,” Robert said.

“Yes, sir, I will get you gentlemen there as fast as I can,” Stewart said.

“Thank you, Stewart, and once you drop us at the bistro, you may take the rest of the day off to spend with your family,” Robert said to the driver.

“Thank you, sir, you are a very kind man,” Stewart replied, a smile spreading across his small face.

Stewart took Robert and Gustav downtown to the Eagles’ Nest Bistro so that they could sit and have lunch with the Bradley women. As they pulled up to the bistro, Elizabeth noticed Robert getting out of the carriage first and was stunned to see her husband walking into the bistro, wondering why he was there. Just as Robert rounded the front of the carriage, Gustav walked up behind and then detoured to the little flower boutique next door to the bistro.

“Robert, I will meet you there. I want to go next door and pick up some roses for Camille as a surprise,” Gustav said to him and walked away.

“Okay then, I will see you back at the bistro when you are done, and I will be sure not to tell Camille what you are up to,” Robert said with a chuckle.

“Sounds good, I will see you back at the bistro then,” Gustav said to him.

Robert walked into the bistro and asked to be seated with his wife, and that there would be one more joining them for lunch. Gustav continued on his way over to the flower boutique and picked out two dozen of the most delicate red roses for his beloved fiancée.

“Where did Gustav run off to, Father?” Camille asked Robert.

“Oh, he just had an errand to run, and he will be right here, dear,” Robert replied.

“I hope he does not take too long, I cannot wait to see him today,” she said.

“That’s wonderful, because he cannot wait to see you either, my dear daughter,” Robert said to Camille as he reached over and squeezed her hand.

Before too long, Gustav was walking in the front door of the bistro with the roses in his hand and a smile that stretched across his handsome face. Camille spotted Gustav walking across the floor towards her with a beautiful bouquet of roses in his hand. As Gustav reached Camille, she stood up to greet him with a hug and a kiss. He reached her, grabbed her by the waist, wrapped his arms around her, kissed her passionately, and then stood back and held out the roses to her.

“These are for you, my love. I wanted to surprise you with these roses that represent how much I love you, and how much I will continue to love you,” he said as he kissed her again.

“Oh thank you my love, I love them just as much as I love you and continue to fall deeper and deeper in love with you every day,” she said as she took the roses from him and placed them on the table so she could hold him closer to her without crushing the roses.

Gustav sat down next to her, placed his hand on her knee, and ordered his lunch from the hostess when she came around to the table. Emily sat there quietly thinking to herself that it had been a very long time since Vincent had bought her any flowers for absolutely no reason at all, other than just because he loved her. It brought a tear to her eye when she thought about it, and she secretly hoped that it would never change for Camille, and that one day soon, Vincent would surprise her again like that.

“Emily, what is wrong, my dear?” Robert asked his eldest daughter.

“Oh, I was just thinking about how long it had been since Vincent had surprised me like that with a beautiful bouquet,” she said to her father.

Before long, the hostess had returned to the table with Robert and Gustav’s drinks and refills of coffee for the three women at the table. They all sat there and chatted amongst themselves about the upcoming wedding that was taking place this Saturday, and how much more they had to do to get ready for it. As they chatted, the hostess returned with their orders and placed them in front of them, asking if they would like refills on their drinks and coffee. While Emily sat

there eating her lunch, she realized that she had not spoken to or seen Vincent at all that day and wondered why.

“What are you thinking about, Emily?” Camille asked her.

“I was just thinking that I had not seen or spoken to Vincent at all today, and he was supposed to stop by the mansion this morning before he left for work,” she said.

“I imagine he wanted to get to work this morning and let you get your rest as he knew that you were coming to town today for your final fitting. He will probably stop by this evening after work, my dear,” Elizabeth said with a hint of concern in her voice.

“You are right, mother, he just may do that instead,” Emily replied.

Just as she said that, Camille looked up and noticed that Vincent was walking down the street with Emily’s best friend, Melody, and they looked rather cozy with each other. She did not want to say anything to her sister, who was to get married to this man in just a few short days, so she just pretended not to see him and continued to finish her meal.

Chapter Five

Gustav leaned in next to Camille and asked her what the look of concern on her face was about, and Camille said she would explain it to him later, on their way home after lunch. As the afternoon progressed and everyone finished their meals, they began to leave the bistro and head off in their own directions to continue what they had to do for the day. Elizabeth and Emily left together and went next door to the floral boutique to check on the floral arrangements for the wedding and to be sure that they were going to be ready for Saturday morning. Robert went back to the office to complete paperwork that needed to be finished and to make out the payroll for all the employees of the factory. Camille and Gustav climbed into his carriage that was waiting outside the bistro and had Daniel take them to Heartbreak Falls for the afternoon, to spend a romantic day together alone by the water's edge.

Emily and Elizabeth walked into the floral boutique and noticed that the girls in there had sullen faces and could not figure out why they looked so upset when they came in. Elizabeth walked up to the counter, and the girl who was there excused herself and went into the back of the boutique.

“Ms. Emma, Mrs. Bradley and her daughter are here to see you. How can I tell them that there is a problem with the arrangements? These were ordered months ago, so there would be no problems like this,” Stacey said.

“That is okay, Stacey, I would rather tell Mrs. Bradley myself as to what is wrong with the flowers that they have ordered for the wedding,” Ms. Emily explained.

“Very well, I will let them know that you will be right out to assist them then,” Stacey replied as she turned to go back to where Elizabeth and Emily were waiting. While they were waiting for Stacey to return from the back of the boutique, Elizabeth and Emily took the opportunity to browse through the other flowers that were in the boutique and pick some out for the dining table that evening.

“Mrs. Bradley, Ms. Emma will be right out as she has a predicament that she would like to discuss with you,” Stacey said to Elizabeth.

“Thank you, Stacey, we will just wander around until Ms. Emma comes out,” Elizabeth replied.

“May I get you a beverage while you wait?” Stacey asked.

“No, thank you, Stacey, we just finished lunch next door at the bistro,” Elizabeth replied.

Elizabeth and Emily walked through the flower boutique while they waited for Ms. Emma to return from the back of the boutique. Before too long, Ms. Emma joined them out front and asked them to follow her into the back as she had some difficult news to discuss with them about Emily’s flowers that they had ordered.

“Good afternoon, ladies, could I get you to come with me? I have some rather disturbing news to discuss with you in private,” Ms. Emma stated.

“What is wrong, Ms. Emma? Is there something wrong with the flowers that we have chosen for the bouquets?” Emily asked.

“Let us go into my office in the back where we can discuss it in private,” Ms. Emma said with a hint of dissatisfaction in her voice.

Emily and Elizabeth obliged the woman and followed her into her office, where they had a seat across from her at her desk and waited to hear the news about the flowers. Ms. Emma sat down at her desk, folded her hands in front of her and pulled out the order book from her desk drawer.

“You see, Emily, I put the order in for your flowers, but when they came in, they looked just terrible. I did not like the way they looked, so I took the initiative and ordered a new batch, but they are not the ones you ordered,” Ms. Emma said.

“Well, I am quite sure that they will be all right,” Emily stated rather dryly.

“I ordered white roses, ivy, baby’s breath, yellow lilies and red roses. Do these flowers suit your needs for your bouquets?” Ms. Emma asked her.

“They are not exactly what I ordered, but I imagine that they will look all right when put into an arrangement,” Emily said.

“Well, I took it upon myself to put together a small bouquet as a display for you so that you might see what they look like together,” she said and rose from her desk to go into the cooler to get the small bouquet that she had made.

Emily was a little nervous to see the new flowers because she had it in her mind what she wanted right from the beginning.

Dear, I am sure that the new flowers will look beautiful. Ms. Emma would not do anything if she thought that you would not be keen on them,” Elizabeth said as she squeezed her daughter’s frail hand.

“I am sure you are correct, mother. I guess I have to give her a chance and see what she has done with them,” Emily said.

With that said, Ms. Emma returned to the office with the small, delicate bouquet in hand and handed it to Emily for examination. Emily turned the bouquet back and forth to see all sides of it and decided that she loved what Ms. Emma had done with the flowers she had chosen for the bouquet.

“I love what you have done here, each colour accents the other and they are all still the same colours that I had chosen for the other flowers, so this works perfectly for me,” Emily said with a smile that stretched across her tiny face.

“I am glad that you are pleased with the arrangement. Would you like to continue making them this way, or would you like the flowers arranged in a different order?” Ms. Emma asked Emily.

“I am very pleased with the way that you have done this one. I need one more this size and then one that is about double the size of this, and then they will be perfect,” Emily stated.

“I will get to work on them right away, and they will be ready for you to pick up Saturday morning before the wedding,” she said to Elizabeth and Emily.

“Thank you for telling me what was wrong with the other flowers before redoing the whole thing, and then me not being satisfied with them on my wedding day,” Emily said.

“You are very welcome, Miss Bradley. I would never dream of doing something for your wedding without your consent first,” Ms. Emma said to her as she took the small arrangement and placed it back in the cooler to keep fresh until Saturday.

Emily and Elizabeth rose from the chairs they had been seated in and proceeded to leave the small flower boutique, quite satisfied with the decision Ms. Emma had made regarding the bouquets. Inside, Emily was terrified that something else would go wrong with the wedding plans, causing her to postpone the wedding. She kept her fears and thoughts to herself as she did not want to upset her mother

and father with her insecurities about the wedding or her pending nuptials to Vincent. They left the small flower boutique and headed out to the waiting carriage, where Stewart was waiting patiently for them to exit the building.

Emily and Elizabeth climbed into the carriage and had Stewart return them to the estate, where they had more work to do to prepare the garden area for the wedding. Elizabeth had a professional landscape architect arriving to lay out new pathways and build new trellises for the couple to stand under as they exchanged their vows. When they returned to the estate, Elizabeth noticed a strange carriage sitting in the laneway and wondered who might be there. When they pulled up to the mansion, Elizabeth had a puzzled look on her face that troubled Emily greatly.

“What is wrong, mother?” she asked.

“I am not sure, dear, but I do not recognize that carriage sitting here in the laneway,” Elizabeth replied.

“I am quite sure everything is all right, mother. Do not worry about it, it is probably the landscapist waiting for you to return so that he can get right to work on the garden,” Emily insisted.

“You are right, I forgot what time he was arriving. Maybe he is here to look around before I get home so that he can get the designs ready for me to look over before he starts the work,” Elizabeth replied to her daughter.

Stewart stopped the carriage and walked around to the side, where he helped the two women from the carriage.

Emily and Elizabeth proceeded to walk into the mansion. Once they reached the door, they were greeted by Alfredo.

“Ma’am, you have a guest waiting in the garden area for you. He says that you are expecting him and that his name is Blake Wilder,” Alfredo said and motioned her to the back terrace.

“Thank you, Alfredo. How long has he been waiting for me?” Elizabeth asked him.

“He has only been here for a few minutes; I was sure to bring him a glass of Iced Tea while he waited. He says that he is a landscapist?” Alfredo questioned.

“He is Alfredo, and he is here to help get the garden ready for Saturday afternoon for the wedding,” Elizabeth said to the kind older man.

“But ma’am, you do your gardening, why would you need someone else to come in and assist you with that?” Alfredo asks.

“Usually I do Alfredo, but this is Emily’s special day, and I just do not have the time to complete the task myself,” Elizabeth stated.

“Understandable, ma’am, would you like me to bring you a cold drink out to the terrace while you two work on the garden?” he asked.

“Please, would you, Alfredo, make sure that Emily goes to lie down as I do not think she is feeling well this afternoon,” Elizabeth said to him.

“I will do that, ma’am. Is there anything else that I can assist you with?” asked Alfredo.

“No, I think that will be all, Alfredo. Just continue with your regular duties after you are done with Emily,” Elizabeth said with such concern in her voice.

Elizabeth continued to walk out to the terrace and suggested that Emily lie down until dinner, as she looked a little pale. Alfredo took Emily up to her boudoir and told her that he would return in a little while to check on her and to see if there was anything that he could bring to her.

“When you come back, Alfredo, could you bring me a glass of ice water, and I think that will be all I need until dinner,” Emily said.

“Yes, ma’am, I will bring that right up to you. You lie down and rest, and I will check on you periodically to see how you are feeling,” Alfredo said.

“Thank you, Alfredo,” she said as she turned and closed the door, then climbed into bed to lie down for a while.

Alfredo went back downstairs to get a glass of ice water for Emily and then took a glass of Iced Tea out to Elizabeth on the terrace to see if they would like something to snack on while they worked. Elizabeth thanked him and said that they would enjoy some cheese and crackers as a snack, just something light would please her. Alfredo went back into the mansion and returned with a plate of cheese and crackers, then checked on Emily, who had fallen fast asleep.

Meanwhile, Camille and Gustav had gone to Heartbreak Falls for a romantic afternoon by the water, where they planned the layout of their upcoming wedding, which was scheduled to take place there in the next couple of months. Camille sat at the water's edge, trying to decide where they would stand to exchange their vows, where the guests would sit and so on. Gustav, on the other hand, was doing everything in his power to stop himself from seizing Camille by the waist and making love to her under the waterfall. He could not believe he had fallen in love with this beautiful woman so quickly after meeting her. There had been a time when he would take his time getting to know a young woman before bedding her and falling in love with her, but somehow he knew that Camille was his soulmate. Likewise, Camille knew that she was destined to be with Gustav for the rest of her life, bear his children, and grow old together, watching their children grow and move on. Camille sat there, dipping her petite feet into the water, as she watched Gustav swim over to the waterfall. She had an epiphany about where they would exchange their vows.

“Gustav, my love, what do you think about us exchanging our vows under the waterfall or just in front of it?” she asked him.

“That sounds wonderful, my dear, how would Emily feel about that, as she is afraid of the water?” he asked with such concern about her sister's feelings towards it.

“Let me ask her, dear, but I am sure that I can get her to agree as long as she has standing beside me, knowing that it

is what I would like to do and knowing that we are trying to break the dreaded curse of the falls,” she explained.

“Okay, you do what you have to do, my love, but what do you say to coming into the water with me where I can embrace you next to me?” he asked with a sheepish smile on his handsome face.

“You have the devil in you, my love,” she giggled.

“I know I do, but you do strange things to my heart and head that I cannot seem to keep my hands off of you,” he stated.

“I think you should come up here where we as a couple can make decisions about our upcoming wedding because before you know it, it will be time for us to take that walk down the aisle,” she suggested.

“You are very persuasive, my dear. I will be right there. Then, after we are done, will you join me for a quick dip in the warm water?” he asked her as he came out of the water with his chest shining under the hot sun.

“Yes, I will consider joining you once we have come to an agreement on seating and such, honey,” she said as she patted the blanket next to her.

“Wonderful, then let us get this show on the road so we can go for a swim before I take you home for dinner,” he replied.

Before too long, they had agreed in every detail of the wedding, no matter how small or insignificant it seemed to

them. Camille and Gustav never seemed to disagree on anything, they always managed to agree or even compromise on everything they discussed. Camille grew up watching too many relationships fall apart around her because the couple did not know how to communicate with each other, or one of the partners cheated on the other. She did not want that to happen to her relationship with Gustav, so she asked him right from the beginning to be honest with her and to communicate his feelings about any dilemma that he might have. Gustav had agreed to do that for her, as long as she showed him the same consideration, and then told her that as long as they adhered to that, there would be no setbacks in their relationship. They finished finalizing their decisions for the wedding and then enjoyed a leisurely swim in the water.

As they swam, Gustav seized Camille by the waist and pulled her close to him, kissing her more passionately than he ever had before. She melted in his arms and told him to carry her to the waterfall. Once they reached the edge of the waterfall, Gustav put her down and slowly ran his strong hands over her shoulders and down to the small of her back.

“Gustav, my love, what are you doing to me?” she asked.

“I am just enjoying every inch of your beautiful and delicate body that I cannot seem to get enough of whenever I am around you,” he said as he kissed the nape of her neck just below her ear.

Heartbreak Falls

“But we must refrain from making love, my dear, no matter how difficult it is, we will have the rest of our lives to enjoy making love once we are married,” she whispered in his ear.

“I am afraid that I cannot do that as my body desires to be enveloped by yours,” he remarked.

“You are so convincing that I cannot say no to you for too long as I yearn for your touch just as much as you yearn for me,” she replied as she ran her diminutive hands over his chiselled chest.

As she ran her hands over his chest, he slowly began to remove her summer dress from her shoulders and kissed everywhere his hands had been prior. She slowly moved her hands down his rippled abdomen and began removing his trousers while he removed her dress and let it fall around her feet. He took her breast in his hand and caressed the nipple that had hardened in the chilled air under the water.

When he ran his thumb over her nipple, she let out a gasp and whispered, “Please make love to me, my dear.”

“Are you sure? I would not want you to do anything you did not want to,” he replied.

“I am sure my love,” she said.

With that said, his trousers dropped into the water, which exposed his vast extremities that stood at attention under her gaze. Gustav placed her nipple in his lips and made circular motions around the soft pink flesh of it, and

then slowly ran his tongue over her abdomen to the soft flesh between her thighs. Once he reached her hidden softness between her thighs, she let out a small cry that startled him, and he stopped to see if she was okay.

“Are you okay, my love?” he asked with such conviction.

“I am wonderful, I did not mean to startle you, my love. It is just that when you go there, I get a little excited and find it hard to contain my emotions,” she replied as she reached down and massaged his throbbing shaft with her diminutive hand.

He released a small groan from deep in his throat that told her that he was ready for her. She began kissing his neck and then slowly moved down to his lower extremities. She could feel him growing within the grasp of her diminutive hand, and it heated her inside as well as thrilled her. She slowly stood up in front of him, and he seized her by the waist and lifted her. As he lifted her, Camille wrapped her dancer-like legs around Gustav’s waist as he entered her. He entered her slowly and gently and thrust himself within the soft folds of her thighs, and he rocked to and fro, and she matched his every movement as their breathing increased. They had continued making love under the falls until they reached the culmination of their love-making experience that day. Gustav continued to hold Camille in his arms even after they had finished and then carried her to the shores of the falls and laid her on the blanket where he began to kiss her neck and then down her breasts to her abdomen.

“I cannot wait for the day that you are pregnant with our child, my love. I think you’ll make the most beautiful pregnant woman even more so than now,” he replied.

“I just hope that I make a good mother and wife to you and our children, my love,” she said as she kissed the top of Gustav’s head.

“You are the most compassionate woman that I know, my dear, I have no fears that you will make a wonderful mother and wife,” he said as he placed his body on top of hers and entered her again.

“Again already, you are a wild man when I get you down to the waterfalls, aren’t you?” she asked him teasingly.

“Do you not know, honey, that just looking at you lying there in all your glorious wonder excites me,” he said with a slight smile.

For the longest moment, they just lay there in each other’s arms, experiencing every breath they took before they began moving to the rhythm of their hearts. They had made love with such veracity that it seemed like it was over too soon, when in fact it had taken them thirty minutes to make love at that moment.

“I think we should get back to the estate, my love, for dinner, before your family jumps to any conclusions about what we are doing down here,” Gustav teased.

“It does not matter what they think, my love, as long as they know that I am with you, they are the happiest parents in the world,” Camille replied.

“Well, I guess I had better not do anything that would displease them then. We had better get dressed, my dear, and head back for dinner with your family,” Gustav suggested as he got up and dressed.

As he stood up to dress, he passed Camille her dress and helped her with the buttons and zipper in the back. While he helped her dress, he could not help but think that he was the luckiest man in the world to have met this exquisite woman. Gustav and Camille finished dressing and began walking back to the carriage, where Daniel awaited their return. Many people could claim to be in love, but nobody showed their love for each other the way Camille and Gustav did, which delighted the Bradleys to see that their lovely daughter was finally happy. The two lovers climbed aboard the carriage and started back to the Bradley estate, where everyone waited for them to return from the falls with their wedding plans in place.

When they arrived back at the mansion, they were greeted in the laneway by Vincent, who had finally shown up to have dinner with his lovely fiancée.

“Hello, you two, and how was your afternoon together, or should I even ask?” Vincent asked them.

“Hello Vincent, our afternoon together was fabulous, not that you care, considering you spent your afternoon with my sister’s best friend, Melody,” Camille retorted.

“What do you mean by that, Camille? Are you insinuating that something is going on between us?” he asked with a puzzled look on his face.

“Well, if the shoe fits, wear it,” she replied and walked away from Vincent, outraged.

“What is wrong with her?” Vincent asked Gustav, not quite sure what he did to deserve those comments from Camille.

“Well, for starters, she saw you walking quite intimately with Melody this afternoon while we were dining at the Eagle’s Nest Bistro,” Gustav replied.

“Nothing happened, we are just friends. She was asking me if there was anything that she could help Emily with for the wedding,” Vincent said casually.

“Well, from what she saw, it looked quite bad, and I do not think you should talk to my fiancée about this any further because if you do, you will have to deal with me,” Gustav threatened as he walked away from him.

Vincent stood there in astonishment, unsure of what they had thought they had seen that afternoon when they dined at the bistro. For a time, he was quite worried about it because the fact of the matter was that he had just made love to Melody only mere moments before they walked down the

street. He had thought to himself that they had no proof of anything, and as far as they were concerned, they were discussing the upcoming wedding plans and anything Melody could assist with. Vincent was quite upset that they had caught him walking down the street with his lover; mind you, most of Fort Langley had seen them as well. He had decided that from now on, they had to be more careful when they went out in public, because one day it could be his fiancée's parents who would see them next time. He continued to walk into the house when the door was opened abruptly before him, and Robert stepped outside to talk with him.

"I noticed that my daughter and her fiancée came in rather upset after speaking with you," Robert had said as he crossed his arms over his large chest.

"I am not sure that I know what you are talking about, sir. They seemed fine to me when they went in," Vincent stated, knowing full well that he had just lied to his future father-in-law.

"I cannot help but feel that you are lying to me, Vincent. I have this nagging feeling that you were caught doing something that you should not have been doing," Robert said dryly.

"Like I said, Robert, I am not positive as to what you are referring to," Vincent retorted.

"Very well, continue lying then. However, just for the record, I wanted to tell you to stop seeing Melody. I have

had numerous reports at the office all afternoon that you two were spotted walking quite intimately down the boardwalk,” Robert said as he stared Vincent down with his steel grey eyes.

“I can assure you that Melody and I are just friends and nothing more. So please stop with all the accusations, as I do not appreciate them at all,” Vincent said.

“If you insist on sticking to this story, then I will let it go for now, but be warned, from here on out, I am watching you. If you break my daughter’s heart, I will have you and Melody run out of town,” Robert stated coldly.

“Are we finished here now, Robert?” Vincent asked.

“We are for now, but like I said, I am watching you very closely, so do not make any mistakes, or I will take you down,” Robert replied.

Robert turned and began walking back towards the house, and Vincent followed behind, thinking about the conversation he had just had with Robert. He had considered telling Emily about it and then decided that it was best not to rock the boat too much, as Robert and Gustav could make his life difficult. As they entered the house, Elizabeth asked Robert what was going on and if there was anything that she could do to help with the situation.

“Everything is fine, my dear, nothing to worry your beautiful head about, I have taken care of it and let Vincent know that I am watching him and Melody,” Robert said.

“Very well then, I just hope that nothing is going on between them, it would crush Emily’s heart,” Elizabeth said with such sympathy in her voice for her daughter.

“I will take care of everything, and I will not let those two potentially hurt our daughter. I made sure to tell him that if anything is going on that I will have them run out of town,” Robert said.

“Okay, well enough of this conversation for now. Camille and Gustav are waiting for us in the garden to discuss their wedding plans with us, and Emily is waiting for Vincent on the terrace to finalize some of their wedding plans as well,” Elizabeth said as she took her husband’s hand and walked out into the garden.

As they walked out onto the terrace, Robert made sure that he glanced Vincent’s way to let him know that he meant business. Elizabeth gave Robert’s hand a gentle tug to tell him to forget about Vincent for now, as their other daughter and her fiancée were waiting for them in the garden. They continued past the young couple and walked over to the gazebo, where Camille and Gustav were waiting for them so patiently. Robert and Elizabeth casually walked towards Camille and Gustav so that they could discuss their upcoming nuptials that were to take place in just a couple of months. As they walked up to the gazebo, Camille noticed that there was quite a bit of tension between her parents, and it concerned her a great deal as to what could have them both so upset.

Heartbreak Falls

“What is wrong, mother and father, that would have you both so tense this evening?” Camille asked with such concern in her tiny voice.

“Nothing you need to worry yourself, my dear. I just hope that the problem that has presented itself will go away before it is too late,” Robert stated matter-of-factly.

“Now on with happier conversations, we need not trouble ourselves with terrible things, we have a wedding to plan,” Elizabeth said with such joy.

“That sounds like a wonderful idea, my dear, I would much rather discuss the wedding than the problem that has put me in a foul mood,” Robert said to everyone.

“Father, you need not worry about expenses for the wedding, I have devised a budget that has greatly reduced the cost for you,” Camille said to Robert.

“My darling, I am not worried about the cost of your wedding. I am willing to spend any amount as it is your special day and I want it to be perfect for you,” Robert said to her.

“I understand that, Robert, but Camille and I wish to be married on the banks of Heartbreak Falls and have a small gathering back at my place in the garden area. We would like to keep the whole function as small as possible. Just family and close friends,” Gustav said.

“Why would you two choose to be married on the banks of Heartbreak Falls? Do you two not know about the terrible

tragedies that have taken place there to couples that go there?" Robert asked with a puzzled look on his face.

"Well, that is why we are getting married there, Father, we would like to break the curse once and for all. That way, everyone can once again enjoy the beautiful scenery that surrounds it, just like we do every time we picnic there," Camille said to her father, as she reached out and held his hand.

"That is a wonderful thought, but do you think it will work out that way?" Elizabeth asked the young couple.

"We do believe in the power of true love and devotion and think that if someone were to get married there, it just may break the curse and then we can have it renamed for all to enjoy again till the end of time," Gustav stated.

"What else is there that we can help with for your special day?" Robert asked Camille.

"What I would love most of all, Father is a white covered carriage sitting at the end of the aisle, and then you helping me out just as the cellist begins to play the wedding march," Camille replies.

"That sounds wonderful, my dear. I would be so proud to do that for you and walk to the man that you are about to marry, who is standing on the banks of the falls," Robert replied with tears in his eyes.

"Well, Camille, dear as your mother, what can I help you with?" Elizabeth asked.

“I was thinking about cutting other costs like the cost of flowers by using flowers that you have grown right here in the garden, mother,” Camille stated.

“Oh my goodness, I would love for you to use my flowers, my dear. What ones were you thinking of?” Elizabeth asked Camille with such excitement in her voice.

“Well, I was thinking of red and yellow roses with white calla lilies, and baby’s breath for my hair,” Camille suggested.

“That sounds delightful, I would love for you to use the fresh flowers from the garden, my dear. Is there anything else that I can help you two with, like preparing food or something like that?” Elizabeth asked.

“Mother, we have decided to have it catered that way everyone can be present for the ceremony, and besides the gowns and tuxedos, that is the only real cost for our wedding,” Camille said.

“Surely there must be something else we can do to help you two out?” Robert asked.

“Robert, I am most pleased with the way that Camille has gone about it and made it so that the wedding is not going to break your pocketbook. She is quite talented when it comes to dealing with finances,” Gustav said as he grasped his fiancée’s hand.

“Very well then, if there is anything else that we can do to help with the wedding, please do not hesitate to let us

know, and we will do our very best to assist you in any way that we can,” Robert replied.

“We will most definitely let you know if there is anything that you can help with, Father,” Camille stated.

With that said, the two couples retreated from the gazebo in the garden to the terrace, where they joined Emily and Vincent, who seemed to have been engaged in a heated discussion about what had been said before he arrived. Emily had a real look of disappointment on her face, which troubled Camille greatly, as she did not like to see her sister so upset just before her big day was to arrive. Camille took the seat directly to Emily’s left side, sat down, put a caring arm around her sister’s shoulder, and gave her a gentle squeeze to let her know how much she loved her. As everyone sat down at the terrace table, Alfredo came out with dinner for the family and asked if Vincent and Gustav would be joining them for dinner this evening. Vincent had mentioned that he had some personal business to attend to for the wedding, so he would not be joining the family for dinner this evening. Gustav, on the other hand, said that he would be staying to spend time with Camille this evening.

“What would everyone like for dinner this evening?” Alfredo asked everyone who was staying for dinner.

“We would like something simple this evening, please. Maybe just a fruit platter with a small cheese and cracker plate,” Robert stated.

“Very well, sir, I will be right back with that. What would you like for beverages with your meal?” Alfredo asked.

“A pot of tea would be most acceptable this evening,” Elizabeth said to the aging gentleman.

“Yes, ma’am, I will return in a few moments with that for the family,” he said.

Alfredo turned on his heel and headed back into the house to retrieve dinner and the pot of tea for everyone. As Alfredo left the terrace, Vincent rose from the table and began to head inside so that he could leave to go and do his business in town for the wedding. When he left the terrace, Gustav followed him inside to stop him and warn him about hurting Emily and the consequences he would face if he broke her heart.

“Just a reminder, Vincent, if Robert and I find out that you have been cheating on Emily with her best friend, you will be run out of town and never to return. Not to mention, you will also have Nelson to deal with as well, and he is not too pleasant to deal with if you hurt one of his sisters,” Gustav stated.

“I have heard all this from Robert just over an hour ago. I do not appreciate your threats so close to our wedding day,” Vincent said with such anger in his voice.

“This is not a threat, it is a promise that we will follow through on, so I suggest you keep your nose clean and your trousers buttoned up,” Gustav said to Vincent.

“Like I said to Robert and you before, nothing is going on between Melody and me, other than friendship,” he said.

“You better hope so, because we will be watching you two very closely,” Gustav stated, and then turned and walked away from the man Emily was about to marry in three short days.

Gustav returned to the terrace to join the Bradley family for dinner and tea. As he took his place to Camille’s left, he gave Robert a look that told him what he had done, and Robert nodded his approval to him. Everyone sat there chatting and generally having a lovely evening together on the terrace. As the family sat there enjoying their light dinner and tea, they discussed the upcoming wedding, which was to take place in three short days, and the wedding that was to follow five months later. After everyone finished their dinner, they began to leave and go their separate ways to attend to the tasks they needed to complete in preparation for Emily’s wedding on Saturday afternoon.

Emily went up to her boudoir to lie down for a little while, as she was not feeling well that particular day. Camille and Gustav went into town to meet with Pastor Edward Dawson about their wedding arrangements. Robert and Elizabeth went on a leisurely walk together before he headed back to the office to complete some paperwork that needed to be done. When Robert returned to the office, he found a note tacked to his office door that sent chills up his spine, as he was unsure what to expect when he opened it. Robert gently removed the note from his door to find that it

had been left there by Vincent after he had left the Bradley estate earlier in the evening. He sat down behind his desk to read the note and was none too impressed by what it had to say. As Robert read the note that Vincent had left on his door, he could not help but chuckle at the fact that he felt threatened by himself and Gustav.

After reading the note, Robert took it upon himself to hire a private detective to follow Vincent, ensuring that he was not cheating on his daughter with her best friend. Robert left his office after reading the note and headed to the office of Donald Wesley, his private detective. As he entered the office, Donald greeted him and knew instantly that something was wrong because Robert would not have been there otherwise.

“Good Evening, Robert. How may I help you today?” Donald asked as he extended his hand towards Robert.

“I am here on personal business matters. I cannot seem to shake the fact that Emily’s fiancée is cheating on her with her best friend, Melody,” Robert stated coldly.

“I see, what is that you would like me to do for you then?” he asked.

“Would you please follow them and set my mind at ease, as their wedding is this Saturday and I do not want my daughter to find out when it is too late,” Robert said.

“I can do that. Do you remember what I charge for my services?” Donald asked him.

“I do; I have a cheque here for you already. And please be as discreet as possible when following either one of them,” Robert asked.

“You know I will be. I hope for their benefit that nothing is going on, or it will destroy your daughter if I find out otherwise just before her wedding,” he stated.

The two men continued to discuss what Donald was going to do for the family, and he would get back to Robert before the wedding took place.

“Very well, Donald, I am most satisfied with your work and how you plan to uncover any indiscretions on their part,” Robert said.

Robert rose from the opposite side of the desk and returned to his office to finish his paperwork so that he could be home early and let Gustav and Elizabeth know that he had hired Donald this evening. When he returned to the office, he found Gustav sitting at his desk completing paperwork of his own while Camille was at the dress boutique talking to Ms. Marple about her wedding gown that she wanted designed.

“What are you doing here, Gustav? I thought you and Camille were spending the evening together?” Robert asked him.

“We are, but she had to go and discuss her gown design with Ms. Marple quickly. So I thought I would come into the office and complete some paperwork while she was there,” he said to Robert.

“I see. Well, I am glad that you are here then, as I have a matter to discuss with you this evening,” Robert said.

“This sounds serious. Have I done something wrong to upset you, Robert?” he asked.

“Oh no, I just wanted to let you know that I have hired private detective Donald Wesley to follow Vincent and Melody to make sure that nothing is going on between them before the wedding this weekend,” Robert said.

“Perfect, because I was going to talk to you about doing the same thing when I saw you again,” Gustav said to his future father-in-law.

“Well, I was going to let it slide until I came into the office to find this note from Vincent tacked to my door,” Robert said as he passed Gustav the note.

As Gustav read the note to himself, he chuckled to himself just as Robert had done only an hour before that. The two men sat there discussing their options on what to do in case it was found out that Vincent was cheating on Emily. They had come up with a few ideas on how to deal with the situation and how to break it to her, but they hoped that nothing more was going on beyond what Vincent had told them earlier in the evening. Robert and Gustav sat at their desks, completing paperwork, when Camille came into the office to retrieve Gustav so they could spend the evening together and iron out some more wedding details.

“I am just about finished, my love. I will only be another few minutes, and then we can go wherever you like,” he said to her.

“Very well, love, I will go downstairs and wait for you in the carriage then and go over the notes I have to discuss with you about the wedding,” she said as she kissed his soft lips.

“Okay, dear, I won’t be long here,” he said to her.

Camille turned on her heel and exited the office, and headed down the stairs to the awaiting carriage. When she arrived at the carriage, Daniel helped her in, where she sat, reviewing her notes to discuss with Gustav. It wasn’t too long after she sat in the carriage before Gustav joined her, and they began on their way to spend the rest of the day together discussing their plans for their wedding in five short months. As the carriage started to move, Camille turned to Gustav and told him what she would like to do and the kind of food she would like served at the wedding reception.

“My dear, this is what I have planned for our big day. We will start at the falls where I will exit the carriage, and Father will walk me down to you on the water’s edge,” she said.

“That sounds perfect, anything you have decided will be alright for me,” he said to her.

“I know you would be happy with anything that I chose, but I would prefer to discuss everything with you other than my gown,” she said as she squeezed his hand.

Heartbreak Falls

“Okay then, my love. What else do you have for me to go over with you about?” he asked her.

“Well, you see, for the food I was thinking about going with a cold spread as it is summertime by the time we get married and nobody will want anything too hot,” she suggested.

“That sounds perfect. I have to agree with you on the cold spread, it is much simpler than doing a complete hot meal,” he said to her as he wrapped his strong arm around her shoulder.

“I am glad that you like what I have come up with. Is there anything that you would like to see for the wedding, my love?” she asked with a bit of worry in her diminutive voice.

“Everything you have done here is perfect, there is nothing that I would change, after all, everyone is coming to see you, the most gorgeous bride this town has ever seen,” Gustav replied to set her mind at ease.

The carriage carried on its way down the cobblestone street when Gustav turned and asked Camille where she would like to go to spend the rest of the day together.

“Any place is fine with me, love, as long as I am with you,” she replied.

“Daniel, can you please take us to the falls, my good fellow?” Gustav asked the driver.

“Yes, sir. I was going to ask where it was that you would like to go this afternoon with your lovely fiancée,” he replied.

“Thank you, Daniel, you are a good man. I hope that one day you will find someone to make you as happy as Camille makes me,” Gustav said to Daniel.

“I am sure that one day, I will find Miss. Right, and she will make me just as happy as you two are,” he stated.



Love no knows no bounds, but does it always find away into your heart? For one young couple they found each other when they needed each other most of all.

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