
BROKEN
TOY
AMARIS RICCI

Broken Toy

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Thirty-two year old GenaiWatson has had enough. The one man she thought loved her was married and the second man was not the settle down type and after that she gave up.Now back home in Barbados running out of money with8 year old daughter. Sofea depends on her to survive and during her yearly check-up – she is told she has a tumor in her head. Negative – she's dying, positive – her thoughts are clearer, she is more focused on what she needs to do with her life. She must act now and secure her daughter's future. What she did not bargain for was the sexy doctor who had taken on her case. Barbadian Dr. Pierce Cavello was HOT. Drop your panties and leave them in an envelope hot. Forty, single and rich with a three month old son Pierre, whose mother decided she didn't want children and ran off with the garbage man.Concoction for love or heartache, who chooses?

Prologue

'How long do I have?"
"Why would I put a date on your life? I don't know and you don't need to know. Put everything in place and die peacefully."
"You have been good to me doc, thank you. I hope one day you find a good woman who loves you like I do."
Silence.
"Oh geeze! Oh god! Blame the tumor. I have to go."
"Like hell you do."
He gets up, pulls her into his arms and kisses her. When he detaches from her lips about five minutes later, he is panting, she is holding onto the chair for support and they are both fired up.

"We will have this conversation over dinner. My place, I'm cooking, bring Sofea

Chapter ONE

Genai grew up in Eagle Hall, St. Michael. Her parents were humble and loving. Always there when someone was hungry or needing money to pay a bill or needing somewhere to sleep. Many evenings she came home from school to find a woman and children at the table eating or someone cleaning up around the house in exchange for food.

Her father was a hard-working man. He was the manager at a manufacturing company for 34 years and was ready to retire. It was the only job he ever had. He was 16 when started as a porter lifting crates onto a truck for delivery and everyone loved him. He studied everything he could get his hands on and worked his way up the ranks. He met Genai's mother Genine when he was 20 and although she would just smile as she passed by on her way to school, he knew she was meant for him. One day he got up the courage to say hello.

"Good evening Miss, I would like to take you out on a date with your parent's permission and yours as well."

"Well then, you can walk me home."

Genine and Malcom walked and talked for 20 minutes and when they got to her house, there were lots of people there, the police and an ambulance. Genine rushed inside only to find that both her parents were dead. A man desperate for money, climbed the back fence and went into the house not knowing someone was at home. Her mother screamed when she saw him and tried to fend him off, he stabbed her twice and her husband hearing the noise rushed in only to receive multiple stab wounds as well.

At first Malcom didn't know how to react but when Genine turned and saw him, she rushed back to him and he held her tightly. When everything died down, most of the officers had left and only close neighbours remained, Geninerealised she was now alone.

"What's your name?"
"Malcom Watson, what's yours?"
"GenineBroomes."
"I have to call my mom and let her know I will be late, do you have a phone?"
"In the living room next to the archway, funny, it hasn't rang since I got home and it usually never stops ringing."

Malcom let her go and went to make the call. The Broomes' household was nice and cosy, very suitable for a family. Nothing was out of place and it was not cluttered with unnecessary things. He told his mom what had happened and said he would be home when Genine was okay or close to it.

When he got back to her, she was thanking someone and waving goodbye.

"That's the last of them, I'm all alone now. What am I going to do?"
"Marry me."
"I don't even know you."
"Marry me and get to know me, I promise you I will do my very best to make you happy."
"I'm only 17."
"I will be 21 in a week, you can come to live with me at my mother's house."
"This house belonged to my parents I'm not giving it up. If you are serious about marrying me, you can live here if their death doesn't bother you."
"Whatever you want is fine with me, just marry me and let me make you happy."
"Yes."
"Come, close up the house and you can stay with me until we get it cleaned up, go pack what you need for tonight."
Genine looked up at Malcom, she never realised how good looking he was until that moment and for some reason she trusted him.

She went inside and packed an overnight bag along with her school things for the next day. They locked up the house and took the bus over to Malcom's home.

"Is this her?" His mother asked as they opened the front door.
"Yes ma, this is her."
"Welcome to the Watson household, it's nice to finally meet you."
"Thank you but what do you mean?"
"Malcom has been saving his money for when you said yes and he started talking about you over a year ago."
Genine spun around to look at Malcom who was standing behind her and broke into tears.

"Oh dear." Said his mother.
"It's okay ma, she is still shaken up about her parents, I only asked her out tonight then I asked her to marry me and she said yes. A whole lot to take in in one night."

"Come child, you are with family, we will take good care of you. Put your things in the bedroom just off the kitchen and I will have something for you to eat in a minute."

Genine turned to face Mrs. Watson and then ran to hug her.
"It's alright child, everything will be just fine, off you go."

Genine nodded and did as she was told. As she sat on the bed she just cried and cried and it's only when she felt a hand on her cheek she realised she had fallen asleep.

"Hey."
"Hi."
"Get a shower and mom has your dinner ready."
"Okay. Thank you."
"Thank me when you say I do." Malcom smiled and left the room. He peeked back in and said "The bathroom is through that door, everything you need is in there."

Chapter TWO

In the days to followMalcom helps Genine to deal with her parents' home. She decided they would need money when they started a family of their own so she held a flea market and sole all the things her parents left except the ones she held close to her heart. The more expensive things were sold at an auction and with the money she opened a credit union account and deposited all of it.

They were sitting at the dining room table looking over their plans for their future.

"Malcom, how much money do you make now?"
"Five hundred a week."
"I want to stay in school and get my degree."
"No problem, I will have to put in some over time often is all."
"No, that's the cause of many failed marriages. Next thing you know some woman will be staying late working with you and I will hardly get to see unless I am awake when you come home. This house has four bedrooms, we can fix up one and turn it into an apartment."

“Okay, I will get my uncle to do the renovations. I should have an estimate soon. When would you like to get married, I want to wait until you turn 18 so we don’t have any issues.

“My birthday is in 2 months and it’s a Saturday.”
“Would you like to get married on that day?”
“Yes.”
“Fine with me. Anything else?”
“Why me?”

Malcom saw her question for what it was and hoped he had the right answer.
“You passed by my work place every evening and no matterhow tired you were or how bad a day you had, or which teacher got you mad, you always said good evening. Most of the girls usually stuck their nose in the air and never even bothered to speak. A whole year I watched and waited for you and you never missed.”

“Okay, I hope I live up to your expectations.”
“You already have more than you know. I just told you how much I work for and it never occurred to you I would be lying or that I had to fully support you while you studied. You are willing to make my life less stressful by creating an extra source of income for us both.”

Genine blushed.

“That’s the smile I live for, don’t change it. What career would you like to have sweetie?”

“Not sure yet, I don’t think I so much want a career, I want to be a house wife but still have the option to work. I would rather set up something at home, if that’s okay with you that is.”

“I would love having you at but it’s not something that I will demand of you so I will leave that up to you. I realise there is some land at the back of the house, I will get someone to dig it up and plant some trees and vegetables, we can set up a shop out front until you decide what you want to do.”

“Sounds good. Now, our wedding.”
They sat and planned their wedding day and how they wanted their future to go.

Malcom's mother had gotten sick and she left the house for him when she died. He fixed it up and rented that out as well. They now had several sources of income and Genine decided that she would stay home and run everything. With that decision she studied Property Management and Real Estate Law.

They got married on her birthday and even though it was a small wedding they were both satisfied.

Their daughter was born about five years after they got married, things were going well and they were both happy. Malcom was moving up at work and he was promoted to Manager. Genine was quite content with staying home with their baby for now. She hired someone to work the shop in the mean-time but this turned out to be a mistake.

Chapter THREE

Genine got into the habit of walking her husband to the bus stop while pushing their daughter in a pram. She would kiss him as the bus was seen in the distance and she would wave to him as he got in. She would then go back home and prepare for the day ahead.

She had hired a girl around her age to work in the shop while she went out to meet prospective clients. Her duties were to take care of the shop and watch Cassie as she was just a baby all she needed was to be fed and changed, she was a quiet child and never fussed about anything.

Malcom had considered getting a car so his trip to work would take less time and he was always eager to get back home to his family. He discussed it with Genine and she agreed and she would learn to drive as well.

Amanda was a quiet and unassuming girl, she didn't flirt with any of the customers who came to the shop and they were mostly men who bought alcoholic beverages, food items and personal care items. The women seemed to like her quiet nature. What they didn't know was that Amanda had designs on Malcom. She would pretend to stay late in order to tidy up and re-stock for the next day but she really was checking their routine and when the time was right she would make her move.

Genine had no idea what was going to happen and if she had any inkling she would have not only fired Amanda but she would have warned her husband.

After Malcom had gotten the car and Genine had learnt to drive, she would take him to work and pick him up on evenings.

One evening Genine had a late evening client to meet and she asked Amanda to watch Cassie until Malcom got home. Amanda decided this was her opportunity to put her plan into action.

Genine picked up Malcom from work and dropped him off at home. He immediately went to his daughter. He totally ignored Amanda other than to say good evening. Amanda was pissed. She took out her bag and set out to get what she wanted.

"Mr. Watson would you like something to drink, I'm about to re-stock and there is one cold soda left."

"Sure, I'm about to eat anyway, thanks."

Amanda poured the drink and took it for him. Malcom put Cassie in her play pen and went into the kitchen while drinking his drink.

"Amanda, I don't feel well, can you stay a bit longer until Genine comes back?"
"Sure I don't have to be home anytime soon." Amanda smiled to herself. Yes!

An hour and a half later Genine came home.
"Amanda why are you still here, is Malcom at home?"
"Yes Mrs. Watson he said he wasn't feeling well and asked me to watch Cassie until you came back, I think he is asleep in his room."

Genine went into the house and checked on Cassie who was sound asleep. When she went into their bedroom Malcom was still asleep, in his boxers under a sheet. She checked for a fever and he had none. She decided to let him sleep.

"Amanda, you can lock up and go, it's getting late, I will pay you for the overtime at the end of this week."

"Thanks Mrs. Watson." Amanda locked up the shop and made her way home.

Genine began to worry when Malcom didn't wake up.

"Malcomhoney wake up please."

He groaned and tried to open his eyes.

"Sweetie, are you in pain?"

"Genine?"
"Yes honey, I'm here, do you need anything?"
"Hungry, need food and some pain killers, my head hurts."
"Can you stand?"
Malcom did his best to stand up.
"Hold on to me, let's get you some food."
They made their way into the kitchen and Malcom sat down at the dinner table. Genine made some ginger tea and handed it to him. She heated up some food in the microwave and put it for him as well. As he drank and ate, Genine spoke.

"Should I take you to the hospital?"
"No, nowhere else hurts, just the head and my stomach feels upset. If I'm not better in the morning I will call into work and go see a doctor."

Fortunately when he awoke the next morning the headache was gone and his stomach had settled.

"Are you going to work honey?"
"Yes, I feel much better, the food and the tea did the trick, thank you my love. Are you taking me in today?"

"No, I don't need the car today, I have some paper work to do for the Properties and the shop as well."

"Okay, have a great day, I love you."
"Love you too hon."
Malcom kissed his daughter and left for work. On his way out, Amanda was on the way in.

"Good morning Amanda."
"Good Morning Mr. Watson."

Chapter FOUR

"Mrs. Watson, can I talk to you for a minute?"
"Sure Amanda, what's up?"
"I can't work for you anymore my conscience is bothering me too much."
"What's wrong?"
"I'm pregnant for your husband, we've been having an affair for about six weeks."
"Pray tell why would you lie about something like that? Are you looking for a cash cow or something? My husband is not interested in you."
"I'm not lying, your husband has a brown spot on his penis that looks like a snowflake."
Genine could not argue with that as she obviously had seen it.

"Why come to me now and not when it started?"
"He doesn't love me, he told me so, he said it was just physical as you no longer please him in bed." Amanda's face was sullen.

"Well it seems you have a predicament Amanda because my husband will never leave me."

"Yes he will, he already spoke to the divorce attorney, he was going to tell you in a few weeks but I didn't know I was pregnant so I had to let you know now."

"Amanda, there is something wrong with this story and I will eventually find out so be very careful what you say to me. Malcom will be home soon so get your story straight before I confront him."
"I'm not staying for that, he will be angry at me for telling you."
"Oh no dearie, you will stay. If you are woman enough to sleep with my husband you will be woman enough to see this through to the end. Now sit down and don't move, his car is pulling in."

Genine listened and waited. They were in the living room and Malcom would see them as soon as he came in.

Malcom unlocked the door and when he saw Genine he smiled brightly, then he saw Amanda.

"Good evening Amanda."
He walked over to Genine and planted a warm kiss on her lips.
"Hello my love. Is Cassie asleep?"

"I need to talk to you for a bit, take a seat please."
"What's wrong hon?"
"Amanda says you two have been having an affair and she is pregnant with your child."

Malcom looks at Amanda and does something unexpected. Malcom bursts our laughing.

"It's not funny Malcom."
"It is to me considering she does even exist in my mind other than as an employee. Why in God's name would I have an affair with her when you are the world to me?"

"She says you told her I don't please you in bed anymore and that you are filing for divorce."

"Okay now this is nonsense. Amanda why are you making things up?"
"I'm not, you seduced me and told me not to say anything and now that I'm pregnant you want to disown me?"

"Amanda we both know I never touched you, why lie? Is it money you want because after this there is no way we can employ you."

"I can't believe you Malcom, after all the times we shared, you are casting me aside, you said I was better than she was."

Malcom turned to Genine who was silently crying.

"Honey, I don't know what she is about but I promise you I have never had an affair with this girl and her baby is not mine. The only child I have is Cassie."

"Fine be like that, when my baby is born we will get a DNA test and you will see he is lying. I will pick up my last payment tomorrow."
"No, don't ever come back here, I will have it sent to your house, now get out, you have caused enough stress in my family."

Amanda gave Malcom a nasty look and left.

Malcom sat down on the sofa next to his wife.

"Genine Sahara Watson, on both your parents' and my parents graves, I swear to you that I never touched her, you have to believe me."

"I believe you Malcom and I hope I don't live to regret it."

Months passed by and Amanda was forgotten. Cassie was now almost a year and one day Genine was in her home office and she heard a knock on the front door. She got up and went to open it. Much to her surprise it was Amanda.

"Hello Genine, this is Malcom's baby, tell him I am willing to get the DNA test done as soon as possible so he can start supporting his daughter." She turned and walked away.

Genine had gotten a cell phone package for her and Malcom which was cheaper than two separate plans. She picked up her cell and dialed his number.

"Hi honey is everything okay?"
"No, Amanda was here with a baby and she said she wants a DNA test as soon as possible, do you still stand by your original words?"
"Genine, I never touched that girl, there is no way that child could be mine."
"Okay Malcom but we need to do this test as soon as possible."
"We will go tomorrow. I have to go, I will see you in a few hours, I love you Genine."
"I love you too Malcom."

Chapter FIVE

"Hello Mr. and Mrs. Watson and Miss James. We ran the test and without a doubt the baby is Mr. Watson's."
Amanda smiled broadly.
Malcom on the other hand was furious.

"How is that possible when I never touched her?"
"You can't lie anymore Malcom my baby is yours, we created her." She reach out to touch his arm.
"Get away from me, I don't know how you did this but it won't end pretty when I find out."

"Genine……I don't know how this happened but I didn't touch her."

"Well, I am going home." Genine got up and walked out. Malcom followed her. They got into the car and made their way home.

Genine was in a daze. She felt as if someone punched her in the stomach.
Malcom was silent on the way home. When they entered the living room he spoke.

"Genine, do you believe me?"
"How can I? You promised me you didn't have an affair yet the test says the child is yours, what am I supposed to believe?"
"Believe the man you have loved from 17 years old, I was there when you found your parents, I have never been with another woman since our wedding night or before. You were my first, I didn't have an affair, please Genine, of all the people in this world I would never lie to you."

Genine looked at her husband and realised he was telling the truth.
"Okay if you didn't touch her how is the baby yours?"

"I don't know but eventually she will slip up."
"You have to support the child you do know that right?"
"Why?"
"Malcom! As much as this hurts me to my core, the child is innocent. All I can ask is that you have nothing to do with Amanda, she is dangerous."

"I will set up payment through the court. I have to figure out how she did this."

"How can you forget having sex with someone unless you were drugged or drunk?"

"I don't drink you know that honey, my father was an alcoholic."
"Yes I know that so that leaves drugged, when would she have an opportunity to drug you and have sex without being caught?"

"I don't remember being so out of it at any time. I leave work and come home, im here with you and Cass, when we go out, we are all together. I have never been alone with Amanda long enough to have sex without you knowing."
"I do."
"You do? When?"

"Last year I came home and Amanda said you weren't feeling well and you asked her to stay with Cassie until I came home. I found you on your bed asleep and you slept for about 4 hours, I woke you up to eat and drink tea. You went to work the next morning with no effects."

"Oh God, she drugged the drink, she said she was re-stocking and there was one cold drink left. How could I be so stupid?"
"She had to have been planning this all along and we never saw it."
"I'm sorry honey, I never thought she was this devious and now I have a child with her."
"I have a solution but this will only work if you intend to be a part of the child's life. I could not be a mother if I took that away from you."
"You would let me see the child?"
"Of course I would, you didn't do this on purpose and Amanda is clearly already an unfit mother."
"What are you proposing?"
"We take the child from her."
"Honey, are you sure you want to do that? It's hard enough accepting how this happened but to see the child everyday will be a reminder."
"Do you not understand the depth of my love for you? I knew something was wrong when Amanda started spinning her story I just needed to keep the faith that you weren't lying to me and you weren't."
"If you are sure you want to do this I will go along with it."
"I will call Amanda and ask her to bring a witness and present her with our proposal, we will need a witness as well in case she gets nasty."
"Okay honey but right now, I need to see Cassie and hug her and then I want to make love to you, I am aching for you so badly."
"Oh I think I can manage that, go see your daughter, I'm gonna take a shower.

Chapter SIX

Amanda shows up with the baby and her Father. As they step inside her father's eyes light up.

"Good evening, have a seat let's begin. This is our friend and Justice of the Peace, Sean Gittens, he will be our witness to this meeting." Genine spoke with authority and confidence.

Everyone sat down. Amanda did not know what to expect but she had it in her mind she would ask for tons of money to keep quiet about the so-called affair.

"Amanda, the DNA test has proved that the child you gave birth to is my husband Malcom's is that right?"
"Yes she is."
"You also stick to your claim that my husband had an affair and she is the result?"
"I do."
"Amanda, it has been brought to my attention that on the 24th April you purchased arousal pills from the pharmacy in Belleville and on the 12th of May you gave my husband a soda laced with the pills, which also induces sleepiness, is that true?"
"What? Who told you that?"
"I came home and you told me Malcom had asked you to stay with our daughter until I arrived. You drugged him and had sex with him, that's how you got pregnant and that's why he stuck to his story of not having an affair with you, am I right?"
"No! He would sneak out when you were asleep and we had sex in the car."
"Give it up Amanda, your lies won't hold, you stupidly told a friend of yours what you did and she told her friends and everyone is talking about you and what you did, all I had to do was find the right person to ask. How stupid do you think we are that we wouldn't figure it out?"
"I'm not lying!"
Amanda's father was now angry. He originally had the idea that Malcom got his daughter pregnant and didn't want to support the child.

"Mr. and Mr. Watson, I came here with the wrong information in my head since I wanted to believe my daughter was wronged but now I see she is not in the least bit right. All I ask is that you help with the child's care as I can't do it on my own and she can't seem to find work since you fired her."

"If you accept my proposal we can solve that problem. Amanda really doesn't want the child, she just wants money. My husband and I are willing to raise the child as our own, she is welcome to see her but she cannot be alone with her at any point, she is unfit to be a mother, you can also see the child if you wish. Once we take the child we will seek adoption."

"Fine by me."
"Don't I have a say in this?"

"NO! You have ruined your life by your lies and these good people are offering you a solution, take it and let's go get the baby."

"Amanda if you decide to raise the child on your own you will have to take Malcom to court for support and we will present our proposal to the judge at that time."

"Go to hell all of you."

As much as Amanda didn't get what she wanted, she took the baby back that same evening and left her on the step. She knocked on the door and ran away.

Chapter SEVEN

Genine became a wonderful mother to the baby and she named her Genai. Malcom falls in love with his wife every time he looks at her.

"You know honey, I never thanked you."
"For what my love?"
"Believing and trusting in me, Amanda could have destroyed us."
"I married you for better or for worse, yes I agree it was hard but our love and dedication to each other won out. Do you want to know what really made me believe you?"
"What?"
"You stood by your words, even when the test came back, you stood by what you said originally and did not change."
"I see, what I still don't understand is why I don't remember."
"The pill was supposed to make you sleepy but it knocked you out completely since you hadn't eaten anything and that was her mistake."

"Ah anyway. Water under the bridge, are you happy taking care of Genai? No regrets?"

"None, she is our child and we will give her all the love we have as well as her sister."

As time passed the two girls were inseparable then one day Cassie took ill while at school and the Principal called Genine and asked her to come pick her up. She hadn't eaten any lunch and was now complaining of stomach ache. On her way from the school Cassie threw up blood and she was screaming. Genine took her to the hospital.

"Mrs. Watson, I'm sorry but Cassie's appendix burst and her entire system is inflamed, we will do our best but……"
"I don't want any promises Doctor just try to save her that's all I ask."

"Mummy is Cassie going to die?"
"I hope not sweetie, I hope not, come, I have to call your father."

"Honey, I'm at the hospital with Cassie, we need you here."
"On my way."

Malcom showed up just in time to say goodbye to his daughter.

"Mr. and Mrs. Watson, I'm sorry but Cassie's body isn't strong enough to fight such a rapid infection, her organs are shutting down and at this stage, all I can do is give her pain killers and allow her to die peacefully."

"Thank you Doctor, can we see her?"
"Yes, follow me."

Cassie was laying on the bed with tubes, wires and machines all around her.

"Take them off." Malcom whispered.
"Pardon?" The Doctor looked up.
"Take off the wires and the machines. Give her the pain killers and leave her be."

"Sir, I would….."
"Do as he says Doctor." Genine said in a no nonsense tone.

The Doctor did as they asked and when the last machine was unplugged, Malcom picked her up, sat on the bed and held her in his arms. Genine sat on his left and Genai on his right.

Cassie opened her eyes.
"I'm dying right?"

"Yes sweetie but it's okay, we love you, we will always love you."
"I love you too Daddy. Take care of Genai, she's all you got left, God knew I was dying and he sent her to keep you and mummy happy."
Genine let out a soft cry.
"Genai, you take care of them."
"I will big sis, I will."
"The angels are singing, I have to go sing with them."

With that, Cassie closed her eyes.

There were no further tears from her family. The doctor and nurses stood and watched as the family lay her on the bed and covered her with a sheet.

Malcom spoke to the Doctor and made preparations. They family of three left the hospital and headed for home.

Chapter EIGHT

Cassie's funeral was scheduled for a week after her death. Genai was finding it hard to cope and she would stay in her room and not eat.

Malcom went through the days in a haze. Genine took it the hardest, she closed up the shop, stopped seeing clients and she would only get up to take a shower. On the day of the funeral, no one cried. Genai held on to her father and he held on to Genine. When they reached back home all hell broke loose.

Genai wanted to sleep in Cassie's room but Genine wouldn't have it.

"I said no, now go to your own room."
"You can't tell me what to do you aren't my mother!"
"Genai Sabrina Watson, if I EVER hear you speak like that to Genine, you won't like it, now do as she says and go to your own room."

"I hate both of you, you killed my sister!" Genai ran to her room and closed the door.

"I'm sorry honey, she didn't mean it."

"I know, she was closer to Cass than any of us, let her cool off."
"I feel like my heart has been taken out."
"What did I do wrong Malcom? Did I not feed her properly? I gave her snacks but not regularly, where did I go wrong?"
"Gen honey, don't, you would never harm our little girl intentionally and if we go down this road we will never be able to carry on."
"I know, I know, I just……. Can we have another baby Malcom please?"
"Genine, now isn't the time to think about that, you will only be trying to replace Cassie, come, let's get something for you to eat and we can check on Genai later."

Things were somber for a while and eventually Genai was becoming her old self. Genine was more loving towards her and Malcom was coming along as well.

Genine had re-opened the shop and gone back to managing properties. She was happy again and she often talked about Cassie. One thing she wanted though was her husband's touch. He hadn't made love to her since Cassie died.

"Honey, Genai has piano lessons can you take her today and come back? I need to talk to you."

"Sure honey. Genai are you ready? I'm your chauffer this morning."
"Coming daddy! Mummy where's my back pack with all my…..oh!"

Genine was standing at the door with the back pack Genai couldn't find."
"Thanks! Can I go to Angie's house after lessons?"
"Only if her mother approves, I will call her when you leave. She will pick you up if she says okay."

"Thanks mum. I'm sorry about what I said after Cassie died, I do love you and I am glad you are my mother." Genai hugged and squeezed Genine, who kissed her on the top of her head.

"Get going pumpkin."

Malcom and Genai held hands and went out to the car. Genine waved and went into Operation: Seduce My Husband.

She tidied up the breakfast dishes, put the laundry in the laundry room, swept and mopped and prepped for lunch. She took a shower and put on a lilac matching lace panty and bra set. Malcom loved to see her in lilac. She put on a sundress and

went into the kitchen to begin lunch. Malcom would be back in half hour and she wanted something light so she made vegetable pasta with cheese sauce.

Malcom came through the door as she was turning the stove off.

"Smells good."
"Lunch, you just had breakfast."

"Oh be like that. Now, you said you needed to talk to me."
"Sit down."

Malcom made his way to the living room and sat on the sofa. Genine sat across from him.

"Why won't you make love to me?"
"I wanted to wait until you were ready, I didn't want you to rush into making a baby so soon."
"Why didn't you tell me? I feel as if I repulsed you or something."
"Never honey and I'm sorry I didn't say anything, forgive me, I thought I was looking out for you."
"I understand, so now that we have the house to ourselves, I need you."

Genine stood up and took off her dress.

"Oh my, oh my, come here."

Genine walked over to her husband and straddled him. He placed his hands on her thighs and moved her back and forth against his hardness.

"So you do want me after all."
"I always want you, you are my life. Are you sure you are ready? You might get pregnant."
"I would have ten babies with you and this has nothing to do with replacing Cassie, I made my peace with that."
"In that case, I can't wait to go in to the bedroom and forgive me for rushing, three months is a long time."

"Let me help you."
Genine eased backward and undid her husband's belt and zipper. She couldn't get him out of his pants so she got up. Malcom quickly pushed his pants down to his

ankles, kicked them off and sat back on the sofa. Genine had taken off her panty and she wanted to taste him. She knelt between his legs and took him into her mouth.
"Ohhhhh." She continued for a few minutes and then Malcom pulled her up.
"Tell me what you want love."
"I need you inside me."
Malcom got up and put her to sit down, he knew what she really wanted but was always too shy to say. He positioned himself between her thighs and slowly licked her. Genine responded with a loud moan.

"Oh yes!"
Malcom loved doing this to her, her responses always made him grow harder. It was the only way she could get her release and he always made sure she was satisfied first. He didn't stop until he felt her body stiffen and she grabbed his head.

"Now please."
Malcom got up and slid himself inside his wife. Genine immediately wrapped her arms around him and pulled him as close to her chest as possible.

"I'm sorry I waited so long."
"It's okay, you gave me the time I needed."
"Mm."

They made love for hours and without even falling asleep they got up, showered and had lunch together. Genai would be home later that evening so they made love again and when they woke up the sun had just set.

"Thank you." Genine whispered.
"You my love are most welcome, do you think we made a baby?"
"You want another child?"
"Yes."
"Okay. Now let me get up our daughter will be home soon wanting her dinner."
"A little bit more……."Malcom turned her on her side backing him and lifted a leg while entering her.

"Pure wickedness."
"Sue me."

Chapter NINE

A year and a half after Cassie died, Andrew was born. Genai was fussy she had a baby brother. She was a straight-A student and she wanted to go to Christ Church Foundation School.

The years flew quickly and she got what she wanted, she passed for Foundation and it was there that she decided she wanted to be a Fashion Designer. She studied hard and when she was awarded a scholarship to go to Italy, she was ecstatic. When she told her parents, they were just as excited as she was.

"Your mom will go with you and help you get settled, actually, I have vacation time owed to me, we can all go."

When the semester began, Genai was ready and rearing. Her scholarship was for three years. She would be 19 when she was finished, and she would be taken on as an apprentice for one of the more popular designers.

She finished with honours and she came back to Barbados for a vacation before her apprenticeship began.

Andrew was now almost 11 and taller than his mother. He had passed for Foundation as well, wanting to follow in the footsteps of his big sister. When she came home, they spent the entire 3 weeks together. When it was time to go back, Genai had mixed emotions. She was gone for three years and she would be gone for another two, she wanted to be home yet she didn't want to miss this opportunity.

"Pumpkin, I know you are having doubts and I want to share something with you. Before I married your father and had Cassie, I decided I would get my degree. In my head I needed to have that option open to me. What I really wanted was to be a housewife and only if your father could afford it. At that time he could but we found ways to bring in extra income, hence the shop and the garden. When Cassie was old enough I ventured into properties. You need to decide what is best for you, if you want to be a housewife, a gardener, even help me out here at home there is nothing wrong with getting your education first."

"Oh thank you mom, you always know how to make me feel better."

"Okay what else is there?"

"Granddad told me what Amanda did."
"When was this?"
"Just before he died, he also left everything for me in his will but Amanda doesn't know this. The will states that the contents must only be revealed when I turn 21 and if anything happens to me before then, it falls to you, not even dad but to you."

"I see. Your grandfather was a very understanding man."
"Can't say the same for my mother. She's pregnant for the fifth time."
"But she doesn't have any children besides you!"
"Exactly. She has had four abortions in the last 4 years."
"Jesus. Genai, I won't speak ill of your mother but all I ask is that you keep your head as high as you can. I was blessed to meet a man like your father. The right one will come along for you as well."

"I hope so mum."

Malcom watched his two girls as they hugged.

"Dad?"
"Yes sweetie."
"I'm sorry about what Amanda did to your family and I know you love me but I'm glad you have someone like Genine, she is the most wonderful person in the world."

"I know." Malcom laughed as Genine snaked her arm around his waist.

"Now punk, take care of my parents, don't make me come back and hurt you." Genai hugged her brother and kissed him on the cheek.

"I love you sis, Skype me when you touch down."

Genai said her goodbyes and left to board the plane. Within half an hour she was off to Italy once more.

Italy is a place of culture, fine wine, fashion and food. Genai got to experience everything there was to offer. While working on her first line, she met a hot sexy photographer. He was picking up instructions for the next photo shoot.

"Hello, can you tell me where I can find Genai Watson?" He was American.

"You found her."
"Oh, hi, I'm the photographer."
"Here you go." She handed him a file folder with everything he needed for the shoot." Genial turned her back to hide the blush.
"It's nice to see a woman with such dark skin blush for me."
"Keep it up and you can take me out to dinner."
"I will pick you up at 8, address please."
She scribbled it on the inside of the folder.
"Um, what's your name?"
"Marlon."

The first dinner went without a hitch. The second one did not go so smoothly.
"Marlon, if you answer that phone one more time I'm going home, I refuse to compete with anyone for your time."

"It's just my clients trying to book dates, you know how it is in the fashion world."
"Yes I would know I'm a designer, look just take me home please, I think we are ending before we really begin."
"Fine if you want to be a bitch about, get a cab home." Marlon got up and left her restaurant.

Genai stared at his back as he left.

"I will pay for your dinner if you let me sit with you."

Genai looked up and saw a tall, sexy muscular man standing on the other side of her table, with a smile that could melt rock.

"I can pay for my own dinner but you can sit and help me with my embarrassment."

"The young man needs a lesson in etiquette when courting such a beautiful young lady."

Genai laughed, she was still not accustomed to the level of flirting Italians display at the drop of a hat.

"I have seen you before, you design for Finesse Couture do you not?"
"Yes I do and you are?"

"I own Finesse Couture. Fernando Marcello at your service." He took her hand and kissed it softly.
"Oh dear, I think my embarrassment level had risen to unmentionable amounts."
"No need bella, most people don't know who I am, I own lots of businesses Finesse is my newest accomplishment. Now tell me, do I pay you well?"
"Not in the least bit. I am handing you my designs as an employee and when I leave I can't put them in my portfolio because of the contract I signed, which is partly unfair since this is my first job."

"Ah while I do understand your issue, look at it from my point of view. If we allow everyone to use the designs created under our employ, we would be open to wide spread knock offs. What I would suggest you create your own line and keep it until you leave and branch out on your own. Use Finesse as a stepping stone to better things."

"Thanks for the advice."
"As for your salary, I will make you a deal. Design me 5 of your most creative pieces and I will pay you $1000 US for each one. I will give you the title of each one and you go from there."

"How about I create 20 pieces and you help me get started on my own business."
"I will have the contract drawn up for you tomorrow."
"Conditions?"
Fernando sat back in the chair and smiled.
"You are quite the perceptive woman."
"I try."
"I would like to show you the world from a different perspective."
"That would be?"
"I have several shows coming up as you would know, I would like to introduce you as my newest designer."
"Sasha would have my head on a platter, she already thinks I sleep around."
"Do you?"
"No I don't, I have never been with a man and I don't intend to start anytime soon."
"Beauty, brains and morals, I like that."
"Somehow I think women forget their morals around you."
"Maybe so but I never do anything to a woman she does not want me to do. I will tell you what I want to do and after that the decision is purely yours."
"Somehow I think women do whatever you want, I can see undergarments in a draw somewhere in your office."

"None of them are yours bella."
"I have no intention of leaving them there either."
Fernando motioned to the Maître D, when he came over Fernando spoke softly.

"The young man who was here earlier, left without paying for his dinner, send a bill for his meal to Marlon Grant, it's in the database. This young lady's name is Genai Watson, she eats here free as of now."

"I never told you my name."
"I already knew it when I came over, now come, let me take you home."
"Wait, why did you tell the man I can eat here for free?"
"This is one of mine and young Marlon Grant always brings his dates here."
"Oh."
"No fear, I will give you access to all my businesses."
"Why?"
"Simple, you don't fall all over me and try to see what you can get out of me. You bargained with me just now to secure your future not to cheat me. That speaks volumes."

Chapter TEN

Genai was in heaven, Fernando took her to places she would never have dreamed of, wine samplings, food extravaganzas, art shows and she was beginning to have feelings for him but she said nothing.

"Genai, just because you are sleeping with the boss doesn't mean you can stroll in here whenever you like."

Everyone turned their heads to the direction of the voice.

"Good morning Sasha, here are the designs for the next line and since I was up all night finishing them I think being fifteen minutes late won't hurt but in any event I apologise and it won't happen again." She said nothing about the sleeping with the boss bit. Genai turned and walked into her office. She was the youngest designer there and she didn't care what everyone thought of her. She earned her stripes and she didn't sleep with anyone for them.

Fernando strolled into Finesse Couture one Friday afternoon and it was chaos. The newest line was on the board and everyone was running around like they were nuts.

It seemed as if everyone stopped at once as he appeared in the foyer and the only one who continued to work was Genai. She looked up, saw him and went back to work as if he wasn't there.

Sasha appeared and started yelling.
"Get back to work this is not a spa!"
"Good morning Mr. Marcello are you here to see the new line?"
"I'm here to see Ms. Watson, I believe she has some designs for me to see."
"I don't know about any new designs."
"That is clear Sasha. Ms. Watson if you are ready to present, I will meet you in the board room in five minutes. Sasha get me some coffee please and something to eat from the deli down stairs."
"Yes sir."

Fernando walked away and left Sasha standing there.

Genai went into her office and picked up her artfolio and made her way to the board room.

Fernando was sitting in a side chair looking like food porn. Genai had to restrain herself from walking over and kissing him.

He had given her 10 titles - Walking Sex Toy, Life, Morning After, Quick and Dirty, Soaking Wet, Mother of Pearl, Swish, High Life, Midnight Run and Jail Bait.

Genai took a deep breath and made her way over to him.

"You look nice."
"Thank you Fernando, so do you."

She opened the bag and pushed it towards him.

Fernando's face never showed any expression, he turned each page slowly and inspected each design. When he was finished he pulled a cheque book from his jacket pocket, wrote on a page, torn it off and handed it to Genai.

"Fernando?"
"Genai?"
"You put too many zeros on this."
"Just enough to get you started."
"I guess this means……."
"It means, we had a deal and you came through. I will give you the number of some people who will guide you, listen to them and learn as much as you can. If you need me I am here for you."
"I thought you were going to ask me to have sex with you."
"Do you want to have sex with me?"
"Yes."
"Why?"
"You didn't ask."
"I need more than that bella."
"Every single guy that has asked me out, expected he would end up having sex with me, most of them actually said it out loud. You never did, you know the kind of power you have over women and I am not immune. All I ask is that you don't treat me like garbage when you don't want me anymore."

"You are so precious Genai, I wish I was a younger man."
"Are you saying you don't want me?
"If things were different yes."
"I don't understand Fernando, what was all of this for if not what men usually want? We have spent the last four months together, why?"

"Bella, did you not know that I'm married?"
"What?"
"I thought you knew, oh dear, now my embarrassment level is relatively high. I'm sorry Genai, I have a wife and five children, two of them adopted and I actually love my wife."
"Why didn't you tell me? Oh never mind, keep your money and the designs, I'm leaving."

"Genai wait!"
"What for, I thought……how could I be so stupid?"
"This is all my fault, I just assumed you knew. Forgive a foolish man. Take the money, you earned it. I am sorry I hurt you."

Fernando closed the art bag and zipped it.

“Take the designs and start your business, you have the potential to do great things. Oh bella don’t cry, this is just a glitch, you will find someone who will love you as you need.”

Fernando hugged her and wiped her face with his handkerchief.

“I have to go now, do not let anyone stand in your way, capicse?”
“Yes Fernando and thank you.”

Genai managed to stay off men until she was 24. She went back home for the reading of her Grandfather’s will and she asked her mother to put the money towards sending Andrew to college if he needed it. She was making enough money and she didn’t want them to struggle so consider it a gift. She came back Italy with a renewed vigor. She worked hard on her designs and she had some of the wealthiest clients in Italy. Other designers even allowed her to show one piece in their shows every once in a while.

Being successful is one thing but when you have no one to share it with can be hard on a young woman. She met Nikolas while she was out shopping for fabric. He seemed reserved and quiet. He smiled at her when she was coming out of the store. She smiled back and kept walking. She decided to grab lunch and while placing her order a soft deep voice whispered behind her in the line.

“Are you following me?”
Without turning around she responded
“Well since you are behind me, I should ask you that question.”
“Touché. You smell nice.”
“Stalker.”
The voice behind her let out a sexy low laugh.
“You are worth getting sent to prison for.”

Genai stepped up to the counter.
“Genai sweetie, what can I do for you today?”
“Same as usual Don.”
“Coming right up. Next.”
“I’ll have what she’s having.”
“Are you sure?”
“Yes.”
“Two burritos with everything, a house special iced tea, a slice of apple pie and a house muffin to go. Separate bill.”

"She's gonna eat all of that?"
"That my friend is the first part. I love a woman who isn't afraid of food."
Genai found a seat in her favourite corner and waited for her order. When she took her seat she got up the courage to put a face to the sexy voice that was teasing her. He was nice looking, not drop dead like Fernando but he could pass.

"So, would you mind if I ate with you?"
"It's a free establishment, you are free to sit where you want to."
"Are you always so harsh with people?"
"Only stalkers. Have a seat."

As Nikolas sat down Genai looked at him fully. He had a sexy pair of brown eyes and a mouth made for kissing.

"So tell me Genai, can I take you out for a date so I don't have to stalk you?"
"I don't date, I have a business to run and dating is the last thing on my list."
"You are too young to work so hard bella. One date is all I ask."
"Okay if I were to say yes where would you take me?"
"There is a lovely restaurant on the next street, the food is fantastic and the wine is to die for.

Genai wanted to laugh, she and Fernando owned that place. He bought the building and they ran it together. It was time to have a little fun.
"Okay, what time are you picking me up, my house is about 10 blocks from here."
"7."
Genai gave him her address.
"Food's ready Gen!"
She picked up both orders, paid for them, handed Nikolas his and left. She didn't want a repeat of the Marlon episode, so she drove her car and parked it in her spot at Fernai's. Just as she was getting out, the valet spotted her.

"Vanelli, I'm leaving my car here 'til tonight okay!"
"Okay miss."

Genai took the bus home and had her lunch in front of the television. She took a nap about 4. She got up around 6 and suddenly felt alone. Her home wasn't big, two bedrooms, kitchen, living and dining, home office, laundry room and a guest bedroom. She missed her family and decided after the next show she would go home for a visit or bring them up to see her. The latter sounded better. She picked up the phone and dialed the number.

"Hello, Watson house, this is Andrew."
"Since when did you have a deep voice?"
"Since you don't call often enough to hear it." He said with a slight attitude.
"Andrew is something wrong?"
"We miss having you around is all."
"That's why I'm calling, I want you, mom and dad to come up for a visit."
"When?"
"You all decided I will get the tickets you can pick them up at the airport counter."
"Great I will tell them when they get back from the supermarket."
"Sorry about not calling more."
"It's okay, mom told me she was glad you weren't stuck here and that you followed your dreams. I love you sis never forget that."
"Thanks bro, I will call in again in a few days."
"Bye big sis."

Chapter ELEVEN

As Genai got ready for her date, she realised that she didn't feel excited or apprehensive. She wasn't going the extra mile to look good. She designed her own clothes and never put them in any of her lines so you would never see her personal designs anywhere except her wardrobe.

She chose a navy green satin halter top that buttoned at the nape of her neck. It was studded in two rows of 6 between her ample breasts and the cups were lined with a silicone covered sponge for support. She never permed her hair, always wore it natural. She pulled the pins out and let the plaits drape her shoulders. She was on her way to the living room when she heard a knock.

Nikolas was standing at the door dressed in jeans and a polo shirt. Genai looked down at herself then back at him.
"I thought we were going to Fernai's."
"We are."
"No jeans allowed and no polos."
"Really? I would have to go home and change then, um can you meet me there?"
"Sure."
Genai closed the door and decided this date would the first and the last. She called a taxi and made her way inside the restaurant. All the staff knew her and they also

knew when she was playing secretive with someone. She usually ate in the executive room Fernando insisted on but when she sat outside they knew not to let people know she was one of the owners and they treated her like normal.

She ordered wine and was on her second glass when Nikolas came through the door. He spotted her and the Maître D showed him to the table.

"Sorry I'm late, car gave some trouble on the way back."
"Not a problem, I ordered wine would you like some?"
"That's a bottle of ……."
"Yes I know what it is would you like some?"
"Who's paying for it?"
"If you can't afford to eat here why invite the young lady in the first place?" Genai asked pointedly.
"Bella, I will pay for your meal and the wine, my table is free." A voice behind her made her want to laugh loudly.
"Sure."
Genai gave Nikolas a disappointed look and left.

"Am I always to be saving you from idiotic men with no class?"
"At least, I am in a better position this time and my car is out front."
"I saw it, that's what made me come in."
"How are you Fernando?"
"I am great, business is great."
"I'm glad. You know I never thank you for not taking advantage of me years ago."
"I have daughters bella, my conscience would bother me."
"Unfortunately, you seemed to have ruined me for other men, I can't lower my standards for any less than what you are to me."
"You do wonders for an old man's ego. I am honoured to have you as my friend."
"I wish I wasn't."
"After all this time? You know I cannot."
"That's what makes it so hard, I fell in love with the man that you are, I can't help that."
"I understand bella, I do. Now, we have wine to drink and food to consume, I hear this place is fantastic."
Genai laughed, she and Fernando got up and went to their private room and had a wonderful dinner. Nikolas was forgotten.

Genai went on a few dates after that, not looking for a partner but just to have fun. She realised that Italian men were naturally loving people and unfortunately they shared that love with quite a few women at the same time.

She refused to have sex with just anyone, she had to have feelings for him. She didn't expect her life to play out as it did but just like her mother taught her, you have to roll with the punches.

Tylan V was one of the most sought after models in Italy. By the age of 18 he had been seen on every magazine in print and online. He was told about this hot designer who didn't conform to the rest of the fashion world and he wanted to meet her.

Genai was in her production room going over some fabric samples with her staff when she heard giggles and laughter in the foyer. She made her way through the double doors to find a man she had always admired.

"You must be Genai, it is nice to finally meet you." He took her hand and kissed it softly.

"Tylan Vincenzo, it's nice to meet you as well. I will be free in about ten minutes my secretary will show you to my office."
Genai turned and went back to the production room. She had to get out of there fast, her stomach was doing flip flops and the goose bumps on her skin felt like golf balls.

She finished up her meeting and gave instructions to her staff. She took a deep breath as she pushed the door to her office.

Tylan was standing at the window with his hands in his pockets, his jeans spreading across his ass nicely.

"So, what does the great Tylan V want with a small time designer like me?"

"I want to start my own clothing line, these older designers are too stuffy for my tastes."

"How many designs would you like, when would you like to launch, what look are you going for and what's your budget?"

“Fifty, in three months on my birthday, casual but stylish and whatever you ask I am willing to pay.”

“$500,000 US upfront and $250,000 US immediately after the show.”
“Done, have the contract sent to my lawyer and I will personally bring it back to you.”
“Fine.”
“Now with business complete, I want to make love to you.”
“Why?”
“Why not, we are two young people full of life, why not share each other bodies just for the sake of sharing.”
“Nice answer, I will think about it.”
“Don’t think, people think too much, life a little. This way we have no expectations from each other and we know what we are doing with no lies or empty promises in between.”
“I’m still a virgin.”
“At your age?”
“I wanted to wait for a husband.”
“I understand and I applaud you for staying so pure especially in this business. I shall not bother you again on that subject. I will bring the contract in a few days. Get it to me soon.”

“You are still giving me the work?”
“Yes, one has nothing to do with the other. You are great at what you do. Now I have to go seduce some young pliable girl who won’t say no to me.”

“I didn’t say no.”
“Yes you did, you just didn’t realise it.” He kissed her on her forehead and left.

Genai threw herself into her work. Tylan did as promised, not only did he bring back the signed contract but her cheque as well.

“If I incur any other expenses just let me know and you will be reimbursed the next day.”

“Not a problem. I will have the first 10 in a few days.”
“Gracie.”

Over the next three months Genai and Tylan spent lots of time together and she was beginning to regret saying no to him.

Her parents arrived in the first month after she met Tylan and when they met him they loved him. Genai had to keep telling them they were not involved.

"Will you three quit trying to hook me up! I am fine with the way things are right now."
"Tylan is so full of energy and ideas and he isn't a pretender, what you see is what you get."
"Yes I agree but he also isn't the settle down type and I don't need to be competing with every skirt in Italy for his time. No were are good friends and he is my client, that's it."

Genai showed her family a wonderful time, she took them to her work place, to meet Fernando and his wife Anella at the restaurant.

Their time together was over soon and Genairealise something about her parents she never realised before. Her father was now 46 and her mother was 43. They still looked young but as time went on they were beginning to show their age.
"What's wrong pumpkin?"
"Oh mum, you always know."
"Always, tell me."
"I want to come home soon."
"Your bedroom is still there."
"You aren't disappointed?"
"Why would I be? You followed your dream, if you came home and sat on the beach every day for the rest of your life, you achieved what most people don't have the guts to do. When you are ready sweetie, your home is always waiting for you."

"If you two start that crying thing again, I'm going back home on my own."
"Not without me!" Andrew shouted.

The Watsons said good bye to Genai and boarded their plan back home.

"Okay Genai, if you are going to do this, go all the way." She picked up her cell phone.

"Hello Bella, is everything okay?
"I want you to make love to me."
"Where are you?"
"At the office……"

The line went dead. She put her things in her bag and waited.
Tylan burst through the door and just stood there.
"Let's go bella."
She got up and left the building.

Since coming to Italy when she was 16, Genai had always loved city life, when she bought her first house she wanted to be close but not too close to the hustle and bustle. For work yes but she didn't want the glamour and the glitz 24 hours a day.

Tylan got to her house in no time. It was just on the outskirts of Milan in Via AchilleBizzoni. They had not uttered one word since they left her office which was located on Via ErcoleOldofredi.

He pulled into her car port, switched off the engine and just sat there.
"When we get out of this car, please do not change your mind, I have been waiting for you since the day I saw you. Do not get confused bella, I am not ready to be serious with anyone just yet even though you would be the woman I choose. Do you still want to?"
"Yes Tylan I do."
"Come then."
They got out and Genai closed down the garage door while Tylan unlocked the door to the kitchen.
"Would you like something to eat bella?"
"No food, I will get nervous and change my mind."
"Come, where is your bedroom?"
"Follow me. I need a shower though."
"We shower together."

Chapter TWELVE

Genai knew she was pregnant, that could be the only explanation. She made an appointment with her doctor.

"About eight weeks, congratulations my dear."
"Thank you Doctor."
He gave her a prescription and some leaflets. She paid the receptionist and made her way to her office in a daze.

Pregnant.

“Tylan I need to see you.”
“I am in your building, be there in a few.”

“What’s wrong? Tell me and Tylan will fix it.”

“I’m pregnant.” She closed her eyes and waited for the anger.

“How far?”
“Eight weeks.”
“We have been making love unprotected for three months, it’s no surprise. What will you do?”
“I want to keep the baby. I don’t need anything from you, I just wanted you to know. I will be closing up shop after I find work for my staff. I need my parents to help me through this.”

“I wish I was a better man for you Genai, you would make a wonderful wife and you will be a great mother too.”
“You aren’t angry at me?”
“This might sound selfish but I have never loved a woman like I love you. I have also never been with a woman unprotected before. You are the only one I have been seeing since we started. How ironic is that?”
“I see, but the thought of a baby scares you.”
“I would not make a good father bella we both know this but you will be strong for both of us.”
“At least you are honest.”
“I know you said you didn’t need anything from me but I can’t let you leave without giving you a little something.”
“Alright.”
Tylan pulled his check book and scribbled on it. When he handed it to her she broke into tears.
“Tylan……”
“There is nothing I can say that will make up for my irresponsibility but this should keep you for a while and I hope you let our baby know who their father is when they are old enough to understand. When the money runs out, let me know I will send some more for you.”

Tylan pulled Genai up from her chair and kissed her like never before. She knew that would be the last time. She tucked the check in her purse and went out to speak with her staff.

When she told them of her plans, some of them cried, some wished her well but they were all glad to have worked with her. She assured them she would not leave until she found placements for all of them. It was hard leaving Tylan but it would be hardest leaving Fernando, he was her shoulder, her confidant, her secret love.

"You have finally decided to leave yes?"
"Do you always know my thoughts?"
"The baby you are carrying is about the only thing that would make you leave and go home."
"How did you know?"
"Bella you look absolutely radiant, the baby is spreading you out in a short time. Send me photos of the pregnancy."
"Oh Fernando, I am such a fool."
"Why bella?"
"I have loved two men and neither of them were mine."
"I believe we both love you in our own way but look at the bright side, you are going to have a child, the greatest and most precious gift in the world. Be happy."

"I am, I am and my parents will be happy too."
"I will send you your share of the profits from the restaurant every month."
"I want you to buy me out."
"No bella, trust me on this, tell you what, I will let the money accumulate in an account here, you never know when you will need it and as a parting gift, I have this for you."
He handed her one of his personal envelopes.
"This is half a million dollars Fernando, I can't take this!"
"Genai, you have been a good friend to an old man like me, you never tried to get me to change my mind about making love to you and for that I have the utmost respect. This is nothing, it won't even put a dent in my bank account and my wife wishes you well."
"You told her about me?"
"Of course I did and do you know what she said? She said that you were the only one she could trust not to take me away from her."
"I wouldn't have tried, I value your friendship too much for that."
"Precisely my dear. Now, I have to get back to work. Stay in touch, with technology we can chat every day, don't be a stranger."

Genai sold everything including the house, she sold all the equipment and the G Design headquarters building. She kept her designs and her personal wardrobe. When she checked in at the airport she had one suitcase and a carry-on.

When she arrived in Barbados, the warmth of the sun on her face was enough to make her cry. The atmosphere was totally difference from the busy Italy. She went through Customs and Immigration and made her way outside. No one knew she was coming so she hailed a taxi. When she pulled up it was around 10 in the morning.

She got out and as the taxi man was taking her luggage from the car she was knocking on the front door.

"GENAI!" Her mother almost knocked her over with a hug.
"MALCOM! She's here!!! ANDREW!!!!!"

"I guess you are glad to see me."
"Glad is not the word. Do you need cab fare?"
"No mama, I already paid him." The driver put the luggage on the front porch and said goodbye.

Genai spent the rest of the day catching up and listening to Andrew talk about the girls hounding him at Community College.

Genine knew why her daughter came home. It was written all over her face. She decided she would tell her on her own.

One morning Genai woke up and decided to talk to her parents after Andrew had left for school.

"Mom, Dad, I'm pregnant."

"We know pumpkin, we were just waiting on you to tell us."
"You aren't mad?"
"Mad? Why would we be?"
"You always said I should have children after I got married."
"That's not what I said, I told you that you should make your own path and do what's best for you. Yes I would rather you had a child for your husband but life doesn't always work out like that."

"Thank you."
"Now, I think with a baby on the way some renovations are in order, what do you think honey."
"Cassie's room?"
"No better reason than a new baby."
"Okay I will need to get started so everything will be ready by the time she arrives."
"How do you know it's a girl?"
"I believe in God, and when Cassie died my heart broke, we still had you and then Andrew came along, I believe this baby will bring us the kind of joy that Cassie did."
"I hope so papa."

"Okay so we knock out the wall or just put in a door way?"
"Put in a door way, she will need her own bedroom eventually."
"Okay less work and you can choose the colours."
"Thanks papa."

Sofea Watson was born at the QEH hospital on November 12th. Her grandparents and uncle were so excited that there was a new addition to the household. Genai was a bit apprehensive at first but when Sofea smiled at her, she knew she did the right thing.

When she brought her home, Andrew fussed over her. Genine did the changing and the bathing while Genai did the feeding. They all took turns in getting her to sleep.

Chapter THIRTEEN

Andrew was now over six feet tall and he wanted to travel, learn new languages, meet people and eventually open a business of some kind. He knew his mother would not want to let him go so he proposed that his father retire and the three of them go see the world together.

"Oh mum you have to go and dad will love it."

"What will you do? You came home to be with us and now we might leave you and Sofea."
"I still have my designs, I will think of something, I still have some money left so don't worry about me, you stayed home to be with us now you need to go out and have some fun with dad. I came home because I needed you, now Andrew needs you."

They held a flea market and sold all the things they no longer needed and it would bring extra cash. Genai decided she would use the old store space for her designs and workshop. The apartment was still being rented out so that was still a source of income. Genai was sad to see her family go but she knew they needed this and Andrew was itching to travel.

Sofea was now three and Genairealised she was slowly running out of money. She was trying to make at least 300 dresses to open the store with and then she would find someone to continue making them and she would run the store. She moved Sofea into Andrew's bedroom and converted another part of the house into an apartment. It wasn't enough. The tenants paid faithfully but she couldn't charge anymore because of the size of the rooms as they were self-contained all-in-ones.

She decided she would visit the clothing stores and see if she could get a few contracts. She got a few and the money slowly began to creep back in. Sofea was beginning primary school in the coming September and when Genai checked her account, she had $1000 left. She had spent the better part of the money she got from Fernando and Tylan fixing up the apartments, retro-fitting the old shop and keeping food in the house. She decided she would go to the bank and get a loan. Her parents had titled the house to her as they weren't coming back and neither was Andrew, they would visit in a few years but never to live.

The bank gave her hell, she did not have a permanent job, she had a child and the rent from the tenants wasn't nearly enough. She knew if she asked Fernando or Tylan for money they would send more than she needed but she was determined to make it on her own steam and she knew it was going to be hard.

"Your only option is to Mortgage the house. It's worth more than you are asking for but it will qualify you for the amount you are asking for."

Genai closed her eyes and took a deep breath.

"I am asking for $25,000 and you want me to put up my house?

"I'm sorry but the house is the only thing in your name, even though the designs are worth more than the house, we cannot take them into account."

"Fine, here are the deeds but I want more than $25,000. I want what the house is worth."

In a week's time, Genai now had $350,000 to do what she needed and she would have quite a bit left back to survive on.

Sofea was growing nicely, she had her father's good looks and Genai noticed the boys at school were infatuated with her. She would be eight in a year and she would need to start talking to her about life on a different level.

She had gotten the store up and running and her clientele was beginning to grow. She was making her payments on time, her tenants were still faithful and she was content although her nights were empty, she didn't want anything to interfere with Sofea's life. She dated a few guys her own age but they all turned out to be insecure and flighty. One guy she had been seeing for a few months began to drop hints about being serious and she entertained the thought for a while. After one night of hot steamy sex, she left his house and drove home as she still had her father's car. She called him back to tell him she was willing to be his girlfriend and a female answered his cell.

"It's after midnight, why are you calling my husband?"
"Oh dear, I'm sorry I must have the wrong number."
"That's okay, it happens, have a good night."

Genai, felt run over. She ran through in her mind all the things she and Mark did, when were and how. She tried to recall any signs that would say he was married. None, they always had sex at his house and there were no photos of a wife or any children. She decided she would get to the bottom of it.

She never thought of it before but there was no land line in the house, they always spoke on his cell. She gave up before she began thinking Mark was not worth her time no matter how great the sex was. Weeks went by and one day her cell rang while she was in the cutting room.

"G-Designs how may I help you?"

"Hello, this is Mark's wife Nella, I need to get some things cleared up can you meet me somewhere?"
"Lady, this is not a good idea."
"I'm not a crazy woman, I just need to clarify some things with you from one woman to the next."
"Fine, meet me at the Esplanade in half hour I have to get a sitter for my daughter. I will be wearing a red halter dress."

Half an hour later Genai was standing next to a van waiting. A woman was walking with a baby in a stroller and she was looking around. When her eyes saw Genai she picked up her pace and headed in her direction.

"Here we go."

She was about four feet away when she stopped.
"Are you Genai?"
"Nella I assume."
"Yes, look, I know it was you who called the other night and said it was the wrong number. I've been through this before. How long?"

"About three months."
"Do you know what gave him away this time? Your perfume. It's a Chanel No.5 and it costs about $4000 US. I had a sample a few weeks back."
"It was a gift from a friend."
"Some friend."
"Look, I didn't know Mark was married. I'm not seeing him anymore."
"We have three children and one on the way."
"Why stay if he cheats like clockwork, do you have any idea how much time we spent together? Don't you even care?"
"I love Mark, he's all I have and with four children whose gonna want me?"
"You would be surprised. I am no expert on men clearly but if you aren't careful, ten children later and he will still be cheating. Either you stand up to him or keep getting hurt."

Genai turned and walked away, got into her car and left.
"That went well." She whispered to herself. When she got back home Sofea was doing her homework.

"Hi mama."
"Hey peachkin, did ya miss me?"

"Always mama." She lifted her cheek for a kiss which her mother gave her with a resounding smack."

"Where would you like to go this weekend?"
"Andromeda Gardens please!"
"Good choice. Finish up and dinner will be ready soon."
"Okay mama."

Genai glanced at her daughter sitting at her desk, she was a beautiful child, mannerly, loving, giving, smart as ever and without a father to protect her. She had been sending Fernando photographs from the day she got back home, he knew more about Sofea's life than her own father.

Genai shrugged and prepared dinner for two. She went into the store and did some paper work while Sofea was sleeping. She wasn't doing too badly, she would try a bit more marketing. She decided to create a Facebook page and see if that would help. She hired a photographer to do a shoot and he was awesome. The photos were ready in a week. She created the page and posted them. Within a few weeks she had orders every day and more people were coming to the store to see what she had. The higher paying clients wanted original designs and she obliged.

Genai saw the doctor once a year and one day her world crashed.

Chapter FOURTEEN

"Genai, I wish I had better news but I found a growth in your brain. I would like to operate as soon possible."
"No biopsies, no operations, find another way, I have an 8 year old, I can't be away from her."

"Sweetie I know you are scared and if there was another way I would tell you. Look this is the number for our best surgeon, he will give you a better understanding of what's going on inside your head and the best course of action to take."
"Thank you."

Weeks passed.

Dr. Pierce Cavello was sitting in his office when his head nurse brought a file and dropped it on his desk.
"No new patients, I'm having trouble keeping up with the ones I already have."
"This one has a tumor."
"Quit tryna set me up Jo."
"Look at the file Doc."
"Fine fine now get out let me grumble in peace."

Pierce opened the file and began reading. What peaked his interest is that she had no family history of any forms of cancer. They had other ailments but none of this magnitude and not at this age. He picked up the phone and dialed the doctor who sent the file.

"Is she pretty?"
"Would you take the case if I said yes?"
"Yes."
"She's pretty."
"Bye Jason."

A few days later Pierce was beginning to wonder if the woman would ever make an appointment, didn't she want to live?"

One Friday evening when things were slow, a lady walked into the clinic and stopped by the reception desk. Dr. Cavello was sitting at the desk looking through some files he wanted to review. Joanne had gone to the bathroom.
"Good evening can I help you?"
"I'm here to see Dr. Cavello. I can make an appointment if it's not convenient."
"The Doctor is available to see you."

"Well isn't this a pretty little girl, what's your name sugar?"
"It's Sofea what's yours?"
"I'm Joanne, you can call me Jo."
"Nice to meet you Jo, this is my mother Genai Watson."
"Dr. Cavello, *this* is Genai Watson."
"I heard it the first time. Ms. Watson come this way to my office please."
"Can I leave Sofea here, she won't be any trouble."
"Sure you can, I have ice cream if that's okay."
"Can I mama?"
"Sure but not too much."
"Thank you mama."

Genai followed Pierce into his office and sat down to the chair he pointed at.
"I'm dying and I need you to help me do it peacefully."
"I don't help people to die, I give them a reason to live. See that little girl out there, she is the only thing I want on your mind. Put her as your focal point and we can go from there. I have read your file and there are a course of treatments I can recommend. I can't promise they will work but I am willing to try anything to prolong your life."

"How much is this going to cost?"
"The first treatment is $1000, the second $5,000, the third $10,000. The tests and scans cost about $15,000."
"I don't have that kind of money."
"Here take this form and fill it out, I will recommend you to receive assistance for the treatments, you will have to pay the rest."
"When do we start and will I be able to continue working?"
"Tomorrow and sometimes yes, some of the medications make you feel a bit sick."
"Okay. I can pay for the first treatment now."
"Do you have a job?"
"I'm a designer, I have a store attached to my home."
"Okay I make house calls as well in case you need me urgently."
"Thank you."

Over the next few months Genai was subject to injections, scans, tests and physical and mental exams. She was tired all the time and she started losing her hair. She was in the bathroom brushing her teeth and as she washed her face, she looked into the sink and saw a lock of hair. She put her hand over her mouth so as not to scare Sofea. She took her cell from her robe pocket and dialed Pierce.

"Genai, what's wrong?"
"My hair."
"Be right there."
Pierce had gotten accustomed to her call when something was wrong, he could be dog tired, he would pick his son up and go over to her house. Many times he ended up sleeping in the spare room with Pierre.

When he got there Genai met him at the door wearing a scarf, her face wet with tears. She took Pierre and put him in Sofea's old play pen.

She took his hand and led him into the bathroom. She opened a towel and showed him the hair that had fallen out since she called him.

"I'm sorry, I'm sorry." He hugged her tight and let her cry some more. He was usually tired the next morning but seeing her was worth it. He planned to go all out to help her fight.

Genai was running low on money again. The treatments were taking a toll on her body and she couldn't work most days, she lost many clients and the faithful ones were very understanding.

One day she was standing in the bathroom looking at her now bald head in the mirror.

"He's just being nice to you as a patient, don't even think about it."

Genai decided she was not going to be defeated, she would work as much as she could so she could leave Sofea with something.

She called Fernando.
"Ahh Bella, it's good to hear you."
"I have cancer Fernando, I need you to contact Tylan in case I die soon."
Silence.
"I will not, he is not the type of force you need right now. Are you sure nothing else can be done? Do you need money?"
"The tumor won't stop growing and nothing seems to be working anymore. I'm too tired to fight anymore. Save the money for Sofea."
"Don't give up yet bella, please, fight a little longer just for Sofea."
"You always knew how to get my spirits up Fernando. I have to go now. I will call you tomorrow."

Genai drops Sofea off to school and drives to Pierce's clinic.

"Hi Genai, having a good day are we?"
"Definitely Jo, is Pierce in?"
"Yep and all alone, go right in."

"Hi." She stood in the door way and watched him nose through a file.
"Hi." Pierce immediately got an erection. Genai was wearing gypsy earrings, and flowing red skirt and a white gypsy top and sandals to complete the look. She was bald headed.

“So tell me Doc, the tumor is misbehaving again?”
“Seems that way. I can’t think of anything else to try.”
'How long do I have?”
“Why would I put a date on your life? I don't know and you don't need to know. Put everything in place and die peacefully.”
“You have been good to me doc, thank you. I hope one day you find a good woman who loves you like I do.”
Silence.Genai back away and stops when she meets with the door.
“Oh geeze! Oh god! Blame the tumor. I have to go.”
“Like hell you do.”
He gets up, quickly makes his way over to her, pulls her into his arms and kisses her. When he detaches from her lips about five minutes later. He is panting, she is holding onto the door knob for support and they are both fired up.

“We will have this conversation over dinner. My place, I'm cooking, bring Sofea.”

Chapter FIFTEEN

Pierce is a wonderful cook. He is trying out new healthy recipes for when Pierre is old enough to eat adult foods. He decided on Garlic Chicken with Orzo noodles. For dessert it was cheesecake and he made sour-sop punch. Genai shows up with Sofea in tow who runs straight to the baby, who snuggles up to her and continues to sleep.

Pierce serves dinner and they all sit down to eat. Sofea wants to stay close to the baby so she eats quickly, much to the demise of her mother who is a bit uneasy after the soul scorching kiss in Pierce’s office.

“Momma may I be excused?”
“Sure peachkin, please be careful, he is still very fragile.”
“Yes momma.” Sofea gets up from the chair, takes her plate to the sink, washes it along with her hands, dries both and goes to the sofa bed where the baby is now fully awake and laying on his back.

“She is a wonderful child. Just like her mom.”
“Pierce.”

“Genai, I kissed you and it felt wonderful, I haven’t kissed another woman since Penny got pregnant and left after our son was born. I don’t get involved since I didn’t want anyone to mess up my son’s life but you declared your love for me in such a simple way that I know you had to mean it. Did you mean it?”

“Please don’t do this. I’m not going to be around to be the kind of woman you and your son need. Don’t make me break my heart when I have to leave, It’s already killing me to leave Sofea.”

"Wouldn’t you rather spend whatever time you have left with someone who loves you back? Don’t throw this chance to be happy away because you have to let it go in the end. Give us the opportunity to love each other and our children. Which brings me to my next suggestion.”

“What’s that?”

Pierce pulls out a ring from his pants pocket.

“Marry me Genai.”
“Pierce?” She shrieked.
“I am so afraid of not taking this step. We’ve known each other long enough and I want to give you the happiness you deserve in the time we have, please say yes. You and Sofea can move in and I know you will be a great mother to Pierre.”

“I need to think about this Pierce.”
“No you don’t, you have been thinking all your life and it’s gotten you nowhere. Take the plunge, marry me next week.”

Genai looked at Sofea and Pierre. They were happy. Why couldn’t she be?

“Don’t make me beg sweetie. I need this as much as you do.”
“Yes, I’ll marry you.”

“Oh thank you Jesus.” He placed the ring on her finger and got up to pull her from her chair. He embraces her in a warm hug.
“Are you guys getting married?” Sofea appeared right next to them.

Genai let go of Pierce and held out her hand to her daughter.
“Yes honey, are you okay with that?”
“Yes momma, I will have a little brother and a cool dad now.”

Genai hugged her daughter tightly.

"Sofea, would you like to move in here? You can have your own room."
"Yai, can I have a book case? I have my books in boxes 'cause we don't have enough room."
"You can have everything you need honey. Is Pierre asleep?"
"No he is up, I think he needs changing and he's hungry 'cause he's sucking on his fingers."
"Okay be right there."
"I can change him if you want."
"Sure, everything is on the table next to the sofa bed."

"I guess that settles that. I can have you moved in by tomorrow. Call the movers when you get home in the morning."
"When I get home? We aren't leaving?"
"Not a chance. I bought some stuff for you and Sofea, so you don't have an excuse and you won't need any clothes for what I have in mind for you."
Genai blushed forty colours.

"Pierce, I need to tell you something."
"What hon?"

"I have some debts that I've been working to pay off, I don't want them spilling over to you. I just thought I'd let you know."

"How much?"

She lowered her head. Pierce put a finger under her chin and raised her head.

"You will be my wife soon. I know you have been struggling, especially being sick and having to care for Sofea all on your own. Tell me."
"It's about fifteen thousand. I'm behind in everything. Her school fees, lessons, my own personal bills, not even mentioning the mortgage on the house."

"I will clear them for you, it's not an issue."

Genai pulled away.

"Honey, don't. Look, years ago, I fell in love with Penny while I was in Med school. She liked to live lavishly and in trying to keep up, I ended up with over

forty-five thousand dollars in debt. I was lucky enough to get grants to do research and some of that paid off what I owed. I know what it's like and you didn't ask so I am offering. Tell you what. What's the balance on the mortgage?"

"About twenty-five thousand." He went to his briefcase, took out a check book, scribbled on a check and handed it to her. It was forty-thousand.

"There, pay off the mortgage and rent out the entire house and use the money to clear the rest of the bills. Are you more comfortable with that? Consider it a wedding gift."
Genai, couldn't stop the tears.

"Why couldn't I have met you years ago?"
"We needed to have Pierre and Sofea to bring us together. I have loved you from the day I saw you at the clinic but I couldn't bring myself to say it. When I found out it was you who had the tumor, I didn't want you to think I was pitying you. You were the only patient who had all my numbers, whose been to my house. I slept at your house the times you needed me."

"I guess I'm glad I blurted it out then."
"Definitely. There is something else I need to talk to you about. It's a new procedure."
"NO!"
"What?"
"No more procedures, no more poking and prodding, blood tests. I can't do it anymore."
"You're giving up? I can't believe you!"
Just then Pierce started to fuss. Pierre went to the kitchen, prepared a bottle and gave it to Sofea who was happy to feed her new little brother.

Pierce stood and watched this lovely little girl, take care of his son. He knew he made the right choice.

"Pierce."
"What Genai?"
"Are you angry with me?"
"I am not angry. Would you like dessert?"
"Yes thanks."
"Me too daddy." Pierce's heart took a nose dive. He gripped the counter and tears filled his eyes.

Genai was shocked that Sofea was so taken with him, she never even knew her real father and any male she dated, she never let Sofea meet them, which turned out to be a good thing.

"Pierce. I'm sorry about that."
"What, about your daughter calling me daddy or that you are ready to die and leave us?"

He took a chocolate covered cheese cake with digestive biscuit crust from the refrigerator. He sliced off three pieces, handed Genai one and took one to Sofea.

"You haven't even heard anything I found out but you just decide that you've had enough."
"Just for the sake of argument, let me hear it."
"Well, it's new obviously and the criteria to even be considered is extensive. You qualify in every single aspect, even age and the fact that you had a child. The only problem is that the patient has to die first."

"Can you guarantee that it will work? How much does it cost?"
"Have you lost your mind? We never know if something will work until we try. There is no way you can ever know what will happen on that operating table. A doctor will tell you what he needs you to hear because he really wants to be the first to say 'I did it' other than that the only one who knows is God. It costs about $450,000."

"Then I am not doing it." She sat down to the table and ate her cheesecake.

"Genai.....oh never mind. Let's put the children to bed and we can do what we are aching to do but are unsure of how it will turn out."

Genai gave Pierre a bath while Sofea took hers. She dried and powdered him and he was so quiet at times she thought he was asleep. He looked up at her when she sang to him and he smiled and drifted off to sleep. When Pierce found them, she was still holding him in a rocking chair in his nursery.

"My son loves you, soon he will be your son and yet you want to give up." He walked over, kissed Pierre on his forehead and left.

Genai looked in on Sofea who was excited about her new bedroom but she was too tired to do anything and she barely got her nightgown on before she fell into the

bed. Genai rolled her over, covered her up and kissed her good night and left. She made her way to the only light left on in the upper part of the house. She stood at the bedroom door and watched as Pierce pulled back the covers. He turned to face her and smiled. When he held out his hand, she stepped forward and took it. He immediately pulled her as close to him as possible and kissed her deeply.

"I can't wait to plunge myself into you and make you mine. Do you want me as much as I want you Genai?"

"Yes I do, but I need to shower first."
"Why? You weren't doing anything."
"I perspire a lot and it just manages to accumulate in my panties so I wear shields a lot. I just need to be clean for you."

"A little sweat never bothered me but go ahead if it will make you feel better."

They walked into the bathroom and the scent of potpourri filled the air. Pierce turned the mixers and let the tub fill half way. He pulled Genai in front of him and began to undress her.

"Pierce, don't look."
"What's wrong honey?"
"I have scars from when I was pregnant with Sofea."
"Honey, it doesn't matter to me. I am not one of those men looking for perfection. You gave birth to a wonderful child, I will be your husband soon, seeing you naked is something I plan to relish in quite often."

He unbuttons her top and pushes it from her shoulders. He hears her intake of breath and bends to kiss her. She leans into the kiss and wraps her arms around his waist.
"I'm scared."
"Me too honey but know that I will never hurt you or make you do anything you are not ready for. If you want to stop, I can wait."
"No more waiting."
Genai stepped back and slowly took the rest of her clothes off. When they were in a pile on the bathroom floor, she looked down at them afraid to see disappointment in Pierce's eyes.
"Just beautiful Genai. Let me touch you."
She nodded her head slowly. Pierce reached out and gently caressed the scar on her tummy. She trembled as his hands roamed all over her.

"Honey, you need to take that bath or this will end very quickly. Now that I've seen you, my need to wrap your body around me is ripping me apart."
Just then Pierre's soft cry could be heard over the monitor in the bedroom.
"Go ahead, I will be finished soon." Genai told Pierce. He kissed her on the lips and left to go take care of his son but when he got there Sofea was already changing him and he quickly went back to sleep.

"You are going to be sleepy at school tomorrow shug.'
"I don't mind, I....."
"What sweetie?"
"I wanted you and mummy to have some privacy. I know she's been lonely ever since I was born and even though she may go out on a date, she's never let anyone near me before so I know you must be real special to her."
"Well aren't you a perceptive one. Pierre is not your responsibility sweetie, you need to be a lovely 8 year old not a baby sitter. We will let you help sometimes but this is not your job okay?"

"Okay dad. Wait, it's okay if I call you that right?" She looked hopeful.

"It's great you want me for your dad, I am honoured. Now, go back to bed and if this little elf wakes again, I will see to him okay?"
"Yes please. Night."
"Night sweetie."

Pierce checked on his son again and left the room. When he got back to his bedroom, Genai was sitting on the edge of the bed waiting.

"Everything okay?"
"No, Sofea thinks it's her job to take care of Pierre because we need privacy."
"Oh no!"
"Oh yes, she already had him changed when I got there. She is such an intelligent child Genai and she needs her mother. Don't leave us please, I just found you and Pierre needs you. Please don't give up."
"Pierce honey this is more than just me giving up, what's wrong?"
"Sofea asked me if it was okay to call me dad. She says you were lonely and I must be special to you if you let her see me. Do you have any idea how much that means to me? This is the kind of unconditional love people search for all their lives. When my son was born, I vowed never to leave him as long as the choice was mine. I love you so much Genai."
"I love you too Pierce, make love to me please."

Pierce closed and locked the door, and lowered the volume slightly on the baby monitor. Genai was wearing a soft silk robe she found in the closet.

"Blue is your colour. I'm glad you like it."

He pulled at the sash and quickly pulled the robe off her. Within a few seconds, there was enough heat in the room to power a locomotive for a few hours.

"Oh hell Genai, if I had known you would feel this wonderful I would have taken you the first day you came into my office. Don't move honey, just let me feel you, it's been so long."

"Pierce, I can't hold it much longer."
"It's okay you let go, I'm gonna be a while." He grinned widely as she increased her pace on top of him and pretty soon she whispered his name as her orgasm shook her. She went limp and fell onto his chest.

"My turn." Pierce flipped her over onto her stomach, pulled her up by the waist and slowly entered her from behind.

"Oh, yes, that's it." Genai was still sensitive and she felt every stroke, every pulsating movement he made inside her.

Pierce slowed down, he wanted this to last but Genai was so wet he knew it would be over soon.
Genai pushed up from her position and was now leaning back against Pierce. She gently pushed him backwards so he was sitting on his ankles and she was now in his lap. She reached up and ran her hand over his head. He reached around her to toy with the spot where they were joined and she pushed against him even harder.

"Genai, I love you so much." He barely got the words out.
"I love you too." With that last declaration of their love, Pierce pulled out, turned her on her back and sunk himself deep inside her. He wanted to melt his body into hers. His strokes became frenzied and when Genai called his name again, they both reached their peak the same time.

Pierce was staring down at Genai. She was crying. He eased out of her and lay down next to her.

"Was I that bad?"

She laughed lightly.
"That's never happened to me before."
"What honey?"
"Sex with someone I am in love with and who loves me back, well at least not the way I feel about you. We grew to know each other, you love me even though I'm sick and you have never treated me like I would infect you. Sofea was an accident that I have never regretted. We didn't use protection as he was my first and when I told him I was pregnant, he said he was not ready for a family. I came back here and I never saw him again. That does something to a human being. You feel worthless and used like a broken toy."

"I'm so sorry you had to go through that, sometimes we men can't see the treasure we have but his loss my gain. Not only do I have the love of the most beautiful woman on earth but a daughter as well who is just as beautiful."

Genai snuggled up against Pierce and when she thought he was falling asleep, she felt his arousal poking her in her back.

"Again?" She asked, hopeful.
"Hell yes again, I was hoping you weren't sleeping."
"Oh my you are wicked."

They made love again and this time it was slow and gentle. Somewhere during the bewitching hours, they fell asleep only to be wakened by the shrieking sound of a baby.

"I'll go, you sleep." Genai got up and put on her robe and made her way to Pierre's nursery. He had turned in his sleep and gotten his foot stuck in-between the mattress and the bars of his cradle.

"Oh you poor thing, let mummy kiss it and make it better."
She picked him up, took the baby oil from the table next to his bed and sat in the chair. She lay him on her lap and poured some oil in her hand and rubbed her hands together, then massaged his foot which was now slightly red. In no time at all Pierre was drifting back to sleep while Genai sang to him.
"Stay awake don't rest your head, don't lie down upon your bed. While the moon drifts in the sky, stay awake don't close your eyes."

She looked down and Pierre was once again in la la land. She slowly got up and put him back in his bed. While tucking the sheets in she stood there looking at him

and wondered if..... nah, she put the thought out of her head. She made her way back to the bedroom and Pierce was still asleep. She disrobed and got in next to him.

"What took you so long?"

"Nothing..... I..... never mind."
"Yes Genai, I would love to have a baby with you. The way you looked at my son just now told me everything. Why would you hide your feelings from me?"

"How could I leave you with three children and we don't even know if I will live long enough to carry a child to term. I wasn't hiding from you just not sure if I was being selfish to even ask."

"Oh my love, don't you realise by now I would risk hell to make you happy. I know the loss of a baby during pregnancy is a hard thing to take but the thought of watching you swell with my baby inside you fills me up more than you can imagine. I would love to try if you would.

"Yes, I want to try and I will be more positive from now on."
"Good now let's get some sleep those two children of ours will be wanting breakfast soon."

"Go away little person." Pierre opened his eye to see a round face peeking at him from on top his chest.
"Well hello there little elf, did the wicked witch of the house bring you to wake me up for breakfast?"

Pierre smiled at his father.

Pierce and Genai were married a month later at the request of Sofea.She wanted a fairytale wedding for her mother and she got at least half of the things she requested. They got married in the hospital chapel and then held a reception at a local hotel.

She doesn't want to do the procedure. Pierce calls her selfish and they argue about it every day.

“You said you loved me, yet you are giving up before we have a chance.”

About 4 months after they said I do, Genai takes ill and soon after arriving at the hospital, she dies. Pierce does the procedure anyway. He moved his office temporarily to the hospital and the operation took 18 hours while accompanied by 4 other surgeons. They literally had to scrape her brain. Her induced coma was to allow the tissue to heal and to gradually allow brain activity to slowly take place. Her medication is reduced weekly but when she awakes from her coma after three weeks, she has amnesia. The other doctors say she will have to start her life all over if her memory doesn't come back. When she got discharged, Pierce takes her home and she settles in.

Pierce has been taking care of Sofea and he reminds her every day that her mother loves them all, she just can't remember yet. He had told Sofea he would try to perform the operation and if he isn't successful, he will take care of her. She was the bravest little girl he had ever seen. He moved her to a school near the hospital so she could walk over. Pierre stayed at the hospital daycare and Sofea would sit and read to the children until their father came to pick them up. Every day she would peek in at her mom and let Pierre kiss her cheek.

Pierce had just put down a book he was reading when he heard a scream. He looked at Genai and she was fast asleep. The sound was Sofea. He ran to her room and she was thrashing about on the bed.

He took her in his arms.
"Shhhh, it's okay honey, Daddy's got you, I'm here."
"Dad?" She blinked a few times.
"Yes honey, I'm here."
"It was awful, mom was screaming at me that she didn't know me, she was yelling at Pierre that he wasn't her baby and that you weren't her husband."
"Awwshug, none of that's real, just your fears for how our life is right now. Tell you what. Mom starts therapy in a few days, I will keep you up to date with her progress and I will show you how to talk to her okay?"

"Yes dad, I love you."
"Love you too peachkin, now back to sleep, you’ve got school in a few hours. I will wake you for breakfast." He kissed her on her forehead and left.

Genai was sitting on the bed when he got back and the memories of the first time they made love yanked on his loins. His arousal was immediate and before he could hide it, Genai spoke.

"Will you make love to me Pierce?"
"I can't honey, it wouldn't be fair.'
"I need to remember what it feels like to be a woman. I see the way you look at me and I know you love me but you don't touch me."

"Honey, you have been through somethingtraumatising and I have to keep my feelings in check where sex is concerned, as much as I would love to bury myself deep inside you, you wouldn't ..... geeze, don't cry honey."

"It's frustrating not knowing who I am, my children, my husband, what do I do?"
"One step at a time love, I am not going anywhere. Now, if you still want to make love I can but take it slow."

"Yes I do, I have this need to feel you, I can't explain it and I know it's not just physical." She holds out her hand and he takes it.

For the first time since she came out of her coma, Pierce kisses his wife on the lips and without warning, Genai has a flashback and she pulls away.

"Talk to me honey, tell me what you saw."

"How do you know I saw something?"
"Hello, Doctor here."

"I saw blue shirt under a white coat and tall buildings through a window."

"Holy shit."
"What?"

"You had a flashback of the day you told me you loved me and I kissed the hell out of you. I was wearing a blue shirt under my lab coat and the buildings behind me are the NIS buildings in Culloden Road."

"Holy shit is right, shall we continue?"

"Your choice, I don't want you to get too excited and have a relapse."

Pierce kissed her again and when he pulled her robe apart, she had another one. He didn't stop.
"I'm not stopping so don't worry, I intend to fill every part of you so your body will have no choice but to know that you are mine."

With every touch, Genai kept quiet. She was slowly remembering but she wanted to be sure she was actually having memories and that her brain was not just repeating what her family told her. When she reached orgasm, it seems as if it released her life in one fell swoop. Everything from her child hood, Fernando, Tylan, her parents, brother, Sofea's birth, her vows, the wedding, when she got sick. She quickly fell asleep and she knew Pierce was excited to hear what she remembered. Boy was he in for a surprise.

She got up before everyone the next morning and started breakfast. She made their favourite. Bagels with cream cheese, banana muffins with raisins on top, cranberry juice and mint chocolate cocoa. She went to Pierre's room and when he saw her his eyes lit up. She picked him up and planted kisses all over his face. She missed his smell, his eyes everything. She made her way back to the kitchen and waited for the aroma to make them come running. She was not disappointed.

Sofea got there first.

"Mo.....hiGenai."
"Sofea, it's Momma, call me Genai again and you won't live to see your teens." Genai smiled behind her annoyed face. Sofea saw through it immediately.

"You remember, you remember!!" She ran over and hugged her mother so tight Pierre began to squirm.

"Sorry, Pierre." The tears threatened to consume them both.

"I love you momma, glad to have you back and it's about time to ‘cause dad's cooking was making me fat." They both laughed.

"What are my two favourite ladies laughing at?"

"I need to tell you something."

"Sure honey, what's up?"

"First of all, I am so angry at you for doing the surgery when I told you not to. I'm angry that you didn't tell me it was you who was going to perform it. I'm angry at that nurse who thought I was so out of it that I wouldn't hear her make a pass at you and when I go back to that hospital she will get a piece of my mind. I also want you to know that I love you more this moment than I have ever loved you. I am glad you took a chance when I didn't have the guts to. I appreciate you taking care of our children when I couldn't and if it's okay with these two, I would like to have a baby with you."

"You remember, you remember!!"
"Geeze, you been hanging out with your daughter way too often buddy. Yes I remember everything, thanks to all of you."
Pierce walked over, took Pierre and handed him to his sister.

"Sofeashug, I need a few minutes with mummy, take your brother into the play room and I will call you in a few minutes."

"Um Dad can't you wait to start on that baby later when we are asleep?"

They both looked at Sofea.

"I may be 9 but I have an old soul. Try not to break anything with the way you two are looking at each other. Come on bro, we are way too young for this convo." Sofea took her brother and went to their play room and shut the door.

Pierce looked at his wife and turned away. He made his way to the laundry room and waited for her. She came in locked the door and within seconds he was inside her up against the wall.

"I have missed you so much Genai."

"I missed you too honey, we better be quick those two were hungry."

"I'm hungry too, now shush."

It was really quick, record time actually. Pierce hardy broke a sweat but they were both panting. It took less than 6 strokes and all hell broke loose. This is what they needed, to be one with each other again in every way possible. When they came back out Sofea was feeding Pierre his breakfast and eating at the same time.

"I was starving sorry and he was too."

"That's okay peachkin, let's all eat and I think we should do something exciting today as a family."

"Yes let's go, to the park, circus or Disneyland."

"Disneyland is a little bit far for just a day but if your father can take a few weeks off we can go for a vacation."

"Can we dad?"

"Sure love, I will make all the arrangements. Are you okay with us having another baby?"

"Sure, I am mom's, Pierre is yours, now you can have someone from both of you." Glad you're back mom. I gotta' go shower."

"Sure honey. Let's get you cleaned up little man."

"Momma." Sofea stopped at the doorway, Pierce almost dropped his plate and Genai was staring at her son.

"Momma." Pierre repeated as if waiting for her to acknowledge her title.

"Oh sweetie, I love you, I love you." She picked him up and twirled him. He squealed with delight.

A few weeks later they all left for Orlando and they spent a glorious three weeks doing everything they could think of. When they reached back home Genai was apprehensive, she knew she missed a period but she was so scared of her hormones being out of whack after the surgery especially with the regimen of medication she was on. Her treatment lasted 6 weeks and scans had shown no signs of regrowth. She knew Pierce would be happy so she decided to wait another few weeks before she told him and then she would be sure. She made an appointment with her Ob/Gyn and when she was sitting in his office, she took in all the posters about being a new mom, diets, nutrition and the different stages. When she was pregnant with Sofea she did all of that alone. Her parents and brother were instrumental but now she had a wonderful husband to share it with.

"Well Genai, you are most definitely pregnant, have you completed the meds you were on?"

"Yes about a month ago. I didn't think to protect myself with my husband. How stupid could I be?"

"Genai, you are not stupid, you've been my patient from the day you came to see me when you arrived here pregnant with Sofea. Now, I will speak to Pierce and we will work out how to handle the pregnancy, don't worry. You know the drill, pick up your pre-natals from the pharmacy, no charge and tell Pierce to come back and see me for your next visit."

"Thanks Doc. Bye now."

Genai made her way home with a heavy heart. How could something so precious make her feel so sad?

She pulled up tothe house and she sat in the driveway for what seemed like hours. She got out and when she pushed the living room door, she was greeted by a smiling face.

"Momma." Pierre squealed and held out his arms to her. She picked him up and kissed his cheek.
"Hello cutey pie, how are you today?"

Pierre rambled for about 5 minutes and Genai nodded and laughed and tickled him. She put him back in his play pen and made her way to the aroma that was bursting out of the kitchen.

"Evening honey."
"Hello Genai."
"How was your day?"
"Oh I don't know but imagine how I felt to know that my wife is about 6 weeks pregnant and I had to find out from a lab tech. Other than that my day was great how was yours?"
"I only confirmed it today, why are you angry with me?"
"You *knew* before today, I saw you in the mirror rubbing your stomach and talking to our child, OURS. I waited and waited for you to share those moments with me. Moments I never had with Pierre. His mother waited until she was 4 months to

even let me see her and now you? Dinner will be ready in 10 minutes. Sofea is changing."

Pierce turned back to the stove. When he looked around again, Genai was gone. He assumed she had gone to see Sofea but when Sofea came down and asked for her mother, His stomach did flip flops. He called her cell phone and it rang from her bag in the living room. The car was still in the driveway behind his.

"Are you angry at mom?"
"I was peachkin, I was kind of hard on her for not telling me she was pregnant."
"Oh. Are you sorry?"
"Yes I'm sorry about being hard on her."
"No. Are you sorry about the baby?" Pierce looked at his daughter and realised what she was asking. The fear of him abandoning them just like her father did.
"Sofea honey, I am not going anywhere. As long as I have life I will always be here for my family."
"Okay, now go find mom, she's in the laundry room crying, I heard her on the way down."
"Smart aleck, set the table and go get your brother, he's probably chewing on the padding by now."

Pierce turned off the burners and opened the oven, he took out the lasagna and placed it on a wooden cooling rack. He took off his mitts and made his way to the laundry room. He pushed the door and his heart broke. Genai was sitting on the floor with a towel to her face to muffle her cries. He sat down beside her and put his arm around her shoulders.

"Years ago a woman came into my office. She was the most beautiful woman I had ever seen. The first thing she asked is if she could leave her daughter with the Nurse and I told her it was okay. She sat down and when I asked what I could do for her she said "I'm dying and I need you to help me do it peacefully." It was at thatpoint I knew she would change my life in the most profound of ways. As time went by I saw her and her daughter sometimes 3 or 4 times a week and I tried my best not to let it show how I was falling in love with them both. I used to long for her smile. I would lay at night in bed and imagine making love to her for hours, walking on the beach, going to dinner, the movies. I envisioned her taking care of my son and breast feeding our baby. Then one day she told me she loved me. Not in the normal way people do it and I don't think she meant for me to find out but at that moment I knew I needed her in my life however she would have me. I married her and adopted her daughter and she is now the mother of my son. I have

never regretted the moment I kissed her or said I do. I made a special dinner for us tonight and for some reason I spoiled it by acting like a childish fool and I wish I could tell her that I was sorry and I want to make it up to her."

"I didn't tell you at first because I was afraid I would lose it and you would be disappointed. I knew how much you want to have a baby with me and when I was at the doctor today it hit me. What if you change your mind, what if you leave and take Pierre with you? I couldn't imagine what that would do to both me and Sofea. I'm sorry, I didn't tell you before."

"Honey, it doesn't matter now. Our love is still as strong as ever, this is just a small stone in our paths and we can step over it and move on. Do you want to have our baby?"
"Oh yes, yes I do, never doubt that."
"Well then we no longer have an issue. Let's go have dinner with the rest of our family and celebrate the new addition."
"That easy huh?"
"With us, yes it is. What we have is unique to us and no matter what we face, it's you me and those other two and when the other one comes, they will jump right on the bandwagon."
"I love you, thank you for understanding."
"Love you too and thank you for telling me how you really felt, I just needed to hear. Oh and Sofea was scared I would leave you because of the new baby."
"Oh God, I didn't even think my thoughts would project onto her. Is she okay now?"
"Very much so, I reassured her I wasn't angry at you for being pregnant and that I would never leave either of you."
"Okay, let's go eat."

Dinner was fantastic. Genai talked about how she was feeling and she got Sofea to talk as well, Pierre chimed in with his feelings as well. Pierce sat and listened to the two ladies in his life and his son and there is nothing he could want more.Eight months later Sofea stood next to her mother in their private room and held her baby sister's hand.

"What shall we call her peachkin?" Her mom asked.

"Piege."

"I like that." He father replied.

Two days later, Genai, Sofea, Pierce, Pierre and Piege left the hospital and made their way home. Life was indeed great.

“Stay Awake – Mary Poppins.

The end.

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