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Ravleen

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Nick knew he wasn't what ladies wanted to bring home to their parents. He wasn't the worst, but he wasn't at the top of anyone's list either. On occasion he helped out at the local shelter and at the hospital no one knew he did this. In fact, one of his mother's friends had asked her if he volunteered. His mother nearly choked on her tea as she laughed, "Who? Not my Nicky. He's a good boy but not that good."

When his father was around, he often heard him say, that he was nothing but trouble from the day he was born. I didn't bother him because he never met anyone he wanted to impress until he met her, Ravleen. Five feet, seven inches, long raven black hair, dark green eyes but when he looked at her he swore he could see the universe swirling around in them. He found himself wanting to be a better person around her.

He spotted her again as she sat quietly in the park, she was alone on the bench. Not too many people sat near her, well no one sat near her. The place was busy too. But people seemed to avoid the area where Ravleen was sitting. She didn't seem to notice, or maybe she just didn't care. Either way he found that attractive.

Casually he walked over to her and sat down close to her. Looking over at her he waited for her to tell him to give her some space or back up a few notches. She didn't. she just smiled.

"Hi Nick, how are you today?"

"I'm good. How are you, Ravleen? I said your name, right, didn't I?" He felt so eager to please.

"Yes, you did. The sun is out. The children are playing. It is a beautiful day."

He looked around at the others in the park. Nick really didn't care about them. He was only interested in Ravleen.

"Would you like to get a movie?" he asked.

"A movie?"

"Yes, my treat, we could go and watch a matinee then get a bite to eat?"

"Hmmm," she pursed her lips together. "A tempting offer.

"Just say yes," he waited eagerly.

"I have a question for you Nick." She paused.

"Ravleen, you can ask me anything," he reached out and held her hand. Her fingers were ice cold.

"If this was your last afternoon here on Earth. What would you like to do?"

"That's a strange question," he paused and gave it some thought. Smiling at her he replied, "spend it at the movies with you, then dinner."

She nodded, "let's go see that movie. You can pick which one we will watch."

Jumping up, he held her hand as they walked down the street to the movie theatre. Nick felt like he was in heaven they watched a double feature and Ravleen really seemed to enjoy his selection. They continued their date down the street to the Italian restaurant. Seated in a small booth at the back he ordered for them both. He was rewarded with a dazzling smile.

Dinner came and they ate. He noticed Ravleen really didn't eat much but she said the food was divine.

After dessert, he suggested they take a walk in the park. The moon was out, and it was a warm summer evening. She didn't counter his suggestion, just smiled and nodded. Holding her hand, he noticed it never seemed to warm up.

"Would you like my jacket?"

"No, I'm good."

"Ravleen, can I ask you something."

"Yes."

"Why did you agree to go out with me?"

"That is not the question that weighs on our mind."

He turned a little red as he felt his cheeks heat up. "Can I kiss you?" he asked softly.

"Yes," she smiled.

He felt like he just won the lottery. Carefully not to rush it. He wanted to savour the moment. Cupping her face in his hands. He looked into her eyes and felt mesmerized. There right there, it was like looking into the universe seeing the future, past and present all at once. Leaning in he brushed his lips across hers, and then he couldn't hold back.

It was like fireworks shooting off in his head. The world fell away around him like a soft blanket falling to the floor. It floated, drifted down until he found himself looking up at the night sky. Ravleen knelt down beside him.

"Come," she said softly.

"What happened?" he sat up feeling a little confused.

She helped him up and he smiled at her.

"Sorry, I don't know what came over me."

"Is there anyone you want to say goodbye to?" she asked softly.

"Goodbye?"

She nodded.

He looked down at his feet as he thought about the question. His eyes trailed over to a body lying on the cold cement walkway. The body looked strangely familiar. It was his body!

"Don't look," she whispered into his ear.

"Is that me?"

"No, this is you."

He looked at Ravleen then at his warm empty body, then back at Ravleen. "Who are you?"

She grinned, "I am your guide, I am the one who is here to take you home. I am Ravleen reaper of souls."

"Oh," he nodded. "Well show me the way."

She took his hand and they headed further into the park. Looking down at her hand. It was funny, it was the first time she felt so warm.