



THE

PARK

A PLACE WHERE AIR FLOWS DREARY
AND RELATIONSHIPS CRASH AND BURN

STORY 1: THE CHEAT

EXT. NEW YORK CITY PARK. - EVENING

FRANCESCA DOWNS Paces in a small area. She is anticipating something and the anxiety is represented on her face.

A Man appears from behind a bushel of greenery and small trees. This is MARTIN ALEXANDER who looks like he is carrying tension in the fiber of his existence.

MARTIN

Francesca, sorry I'm late. I had to be strategic in getting here

Francesca's face exhibits relief.

FRANCESCA

Martin, I almost thought you weren't coming.

MARTIN

I am the one that told you to meet me here. *I wouldn't stand you up.*

FRANCESCA

(eager)

Did you tell her? How did she take it?

MARTIN

(regret in eyes)

I didn't tell her.

FRANCESCA

What?

MARTIN

Listen. I'm just going to be honest here, I'm not going to leave my wife Ive had a change of heart.

Francesca is broken. She can barely release a response. Her body becomes enraptured in hurt

FRANCESCA

Why? What happened?

MARTIN

I had a long look at me. Look at my life. I asked myself what would make me break my vows with my wife. The answer was simply me. This wasn't about an attraction to you or anger at her. **It was about me.**

Francesca takes a few steps away. She is stunned beyond belief.

MARTIN (CONT'D)

I was aging. Unhappy with my life. I had dreams. Dreams that were not coming to fruition. I was becoming complacent, agitated and...

FRANCESCA

(interrupting; tears in her
yes)

So you were using me?

Martin takes a moment to think about the comment which rings with a bit of possibility to him.

MARTIN

I wasn't using you or at least I wasn't trying to.

FRANCESCA

Then what would you call it? You promised me a future. You insisted that you were leaving your wife. I quit my job because you were going to move far away from this place.

MARTIN

I never told you to quit your job.

FRANCESCA

You told me we you were going to divorce you wife and we were moving 2000 miles south. What does that mean to you?

MARTIN

I am sorry for the confusion. You left on good terms, I am sure they will give you your job back

FRANCESCA

I left on good terms? That's all you have to say. You uproot my whole life and your response is simply 'you left on good terms?'

MARTIN

Francesca..

FRANCESCA

Don't Francesca me. Fix it..**Fix it martin!**

MARTIN

How?

FRANCESCA

Keep your promise to me. **Leave your wife and be with me like you promised.**

MARTIN

(matter of fact)

I ca't do that. I don't love you. **I love my wife.**

Francesca is spiraling.

FRANCESCA

Then you go to hell. **Straight to hell!**

Martin moves in to comfort Francesca. Francesca reels back dramatically.

FRANCESCA (CONT'D)

Get away from me. **GET AWAY GET AWAY GET AWAY GET AWAY!!!!**

The loudness of Francesca's voice startles Martin. To avoid any attention he decides to exit the area.

MARTIN

You take care of yourself...

Martin then exits the area. Francesca starts hyperventilating.

FRANCESCA

(to herself)

Take care of myself. **Oh you haven't seen the last of me yet.**

A FEMALE VOICE pierces the air.

FEMALE VOICE

That is definitely the last that you have seen of my husband.

A stunned Francesca turns and finds LACY ALEXANDER standing on the opposite side of the park from which Martin just exited.

Lacy moves closer to Francesca

LACY

I heard the whole conversation. I'll deal with my husband momentarily. As for you, my husband made it very clear that you two are done. Make sure you understand that in its purest meaning.

FRANCESCA

(mater of fact)

Your husband used me.

LACY

It doesn't matter. You knew that he was married.

FRANCESCA

Unhappily married

LACY

Again it doesn't matter how you view our situation. The bottom line is the fact that it now time for you to stay away.

Lacy then moves past Francesca heading in the same way as her husband. Francesca Decides on one last dig.

FRANCESCA

*Your husband was into me...*he was into me very much. That says alot about your marriage don't you think?

Lacy slowly turns. The dig stung but she tries to keep her composure.

LACY

A whore is easy to please. What we he and I have shared in our bedroom is more than physical. Any Squirrel can get a nut, but it takes love to keep a man.

FRANCESCA

Then all you have to do is keep him isn't it?

LACY

I've already got him? Didn't you just hear his words?

FRANCESCA

(cocky like)

Hmm then all you have to do is keep him, isn't it?

Lacy smiles.

LACY

Don't you worry about that sweetheart.
Whatever happened between he and I from
this point on. Will have nothing to do
with you.

Lacy then turns and exits the area.

FRANCESCA

(to herself)

That's what you think.

Francesca exits the opposite way.

What's to come in the bigger story:

Obsession, Stalking, Blood.