

## UNDER THE MIDNIGHT MOON

*Lou never told me she looked like this.* Drew smiled at her. His gaze took in her long hair, so dark it appeared to be black. Almost transparent ice-blue eyes were startling in their beauty. Since Mindy's attention was focused on the lake, he checked out her body. First stop, the scooped neck of her sweater, which revealed enough cleavage to hold his attention. *Nice, at least a handful...maybe more.*

"It's frozen. Can you skate there?"

Drew snapped back to her face. "It can be dangerous, especially in a warmer winter. Hard to know how deep the ice actually is."

She shifted in her seat. *Small waist, generous hips. Hate a tiny-hipped woman in bed. Nothing to grab onto.* He leaned slightly to the left, hoping she didn't notice him checking out her rear end. *Can't see much while she's in the chair, but from here it looks perfect.*

Mindy dug a lipstick out of her purse, drawing his eyes to her lips as she slowly reapplied the pink color. His mouth went dry as he followed the trail over her sensuous lower lip. He wondered what it would feel like to have them pressed against his.

"What's good here?" She asked, picking up the menu before looking at him.

"They make a great blue cheeseburger." Food was the last thing on his mind.

"Hmm. Haven't had one of those in an age. Fattening, but I didn't have breakfast, so maybe I'll splurge."

The waitress arrived to fill their water glasses. Drew ordered two blue cheeseburgers with fries and *Cokes*.

"Your return address says Oak Bend. Do you live there, too?"

"I live in Pine Grove, but work in Oak Bend."

"How come? I'd think the benefit of being out here in the boonies is that you can live and work in the same town."

"I found a small house here real cheap. I'm fixing it up with Gavin's help." He unfolded his napkin and put it in his lap.

"You own a house? So great to own a house." She sat back, a smile lighting up her face.

"Be careful what you wish for..."

She cocked her head slightly. "What do you mean?"

“You’ll know soon enough.” A Cheshire Cat grin stretched his lips.

Mindy cocked an eyebrow at him.

“What do you do for a living?” He took a sip from his water glass.

“I’m an administrative assistant in an accounting firm. But my passion is the theater.”

*My passion is quickly becoming you and the law.* “What exactly do you do in the theater?”

“I’ve written a play. I like to direct, produce...anything that connects me...it’s like it’s in my blood. I’ve been working in experimental theater on weekends, hoping to get a break.”

The waitress brought their food. Mindy’s eyes lit up as she gazed at the giant, juicy burger. Drew picked up his and took a healthy bite. Mindy cut hers in half before attempting to eat.

“I’ve never seen anyone do that before,” Drew commented.

“I grew up with two big brothers...slobs, both of them. My mom and I are dainty eaters.”

“So where are you from, originally? New York City?”

She laughed. “I guess I look New York by now. I come from a small town upstate. My dad has a dairy farm with my two brothers.”

“Your family must miss you, being so far away.”

“My dad wanted me to stay and help out on the farm...get married and settle down there. He never understood how I feel about the theater. We’ve lost touch. Everyone’s lives get so busy and all...” Her voice trailed off, and her gaze fell to her plate.

They ate in silence for a few minutes. *Now that Lou’s gone, she’s all alone. Pretty young to be completely on her own. Maybe she’ll stay here? There aren’t any women like her here.*

“What about you? Where are you from?”

“I’m from Washington, D.C., one of five kids. I went to law school at Kensington State and got an internship at a firm in Oak Bend. After graduation, they offered me a job. So I stayed. Now I’m a partner. It’s a small firm but that gives me more freedom. I get to do lots of different things instead of the same stuff all the time.”

“You’re settled here?”

He took another bite of his burger and nodded.

“How’s the single life up here...or is that too personal?” Embarrassment at her bold question brought pink to her cheeks. *Even more beautiful when she blushes.*

“It stinks. We sure don’t have women up here who look like you,” he blurted out. *Idiot! Shut the hell up. Smooth, real smooth. Why don’t you just ask her to take off her clothes and lie on the floor? Jerk!*

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