

Valentine's Day

by Judith

The Rose

Catherine stared at the expensive red roses and Valentine's card. Both from Tom. She sighed. They expressed a lover's sentiment, but it wasn't from Tom she needed such gifts. She glanced over her balcony wall, frowning down into the darkness of the city. It was almost midnight. The day was nearly over, *and yet...*

Then she heard it, the sound she'd waited all day for. Softly-booted footfalls at the far end of her balcony. She gasped, looking up eagerly. Vincent stood there, illuminated with light and shadow from her apartment's windows. In his hands he held a single, red rose...

The Kiss

"I wish we could stay like this all day." Catherine stretched, pushing one leg between Vincent's naked thighs.

“I’m afraid Mouse is going to burst in at any moment demanding to know what’s keeping us.” Vincent laughed. “He wants your advice about what to give Jamie for a Valentine’s gift.”

“Chocolates are always good.”

“Like this?” Vincent pushed one hand beneath his pillow, bringing out a beribboned box.

“Exactly like this.” Catherine smiled, opening the gift to reveal hand-made confections. “Have I told you lately how much I love you?”

“Not lately...” Vincent leaned closer to kiss her chocolate-covered lips...

The Day

Catherine decided true perfection came in the tall, broad shape of her husband stretched before her on the bed of their private retreat. Nothing could be more perfect than this, she thought as she settled, cross-legged, beside him.

“Happy Valentine’s Day...” She bent at the waist to kiss him slowly, lingeringly. She felt his deep sigh of contentment feather past her seeking lips.

“Come here...” Vincent moved, turning to pin her beneath him. “For now, and always...” he whispered, trailing kisses down her neck, and beyond...

“Always...” Catherine breathed into the depths of his mane, before she followed his lead...