

Beauty and the Beast Tidbit (100 words)

by Zara Wilder

Innocence

Elliot dropped onto the backseat, pulling his town car's door shut. He would have to call her, after she had time to calm down. Maybe sleep would give her a little perspective.

He realized this had never happened to him before. He'd spent his life shunting liability onto others, tying up loose ends behind the scenes. But no one ever accused him of shady dealings that he'd not actually done. Until today. And no woman had ever left him over a troublesome business venture. Until tonight.

Judged without trial, condemned, and executed. Peculiar feeling: innocence maligned. He didn't like it.