

Vignettes – Passion

by Angie

2. A Children's Story

I am learning so much about Catherine and her world.

She cares deeply about children – and knows that I do too - yet she was afraid I would frighten Eric.

In her world, it is adults who are afraid of the unknown. But how could she know how I am loved by our children – me a creature of fantasy, of nightmares?

I felt her happiness when she left me after rescuing Ellie, and it made my heart expand and rejoice. I have never felt anything like it.

Does she realize what I feel along our bond? I try to tell her, but I am not sure she understands. It is outside her experience - as I am. I have lived with a measure of empathy all my life, but it has never been this strong with anyone else.

What will our friendship be when she truly understands? Will it make her reluctant to express her passion above, or to reveal it in my presence? It would not be an unusual reaction to something so ... personal. Perhaps she does not wish to think about it.

I cannot stop thinking about it. I want to feel what she does, but what will that entail? Do I want to be so intimate with her life? Should I? Can I remain aloof to the emotions and experiences I know only from books?

I think I must be careful of the dangers to myself. I must be ready to help Catherine if she needs it, but I must not intrude upon her life any more than necessary – for both our sakes.

How will I walk this fine line when I know I am becoming more and more attracted to her? There is only one way. She must not suspect how much I need her and want to be with her. She must be free to make decisions without considering me. I must remain separate and stay away from her presence as much as I can bear. She deserves so much more than I can give her.

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Vincent looked so beautiful in the light from outside. When he talked to Eric that first time, I saw a side of him I had not expected. Of course children would love him! I'm ashamed that I thought anything different. Of course he would appear mythical to those young enough to have pure imaginations and fewer fears.

He is completely without vanity and speaks from the heart. They aren't afraid of him because they sense he would never harm them. How I wish adults in my world could see him like that!

When I stood with him in the culvert, after we re-united Ellie and Eric, he said he could feel my happiness. I'm so glad. I want him to know how much he has given me, how I've changed my life for the better. Corporate law would never give me the sense of accomplishment that came from exposing Ridley Hall and saving those children.

My life could not be more different now. Society lawyer to crusader for the underdog. I think even Joe believes in me now.

Vincent, despite his help, seemed a little reserved, hesitant, when we were alone. Of course, we live in different worlds and he has his own life to live. What did you expect, Chandler?

I must let him make the overtures and help him if he asks. I wonder if I need him more than he needs me? All I want is him reading to me - or holding me.

It's getting harder to say goodbye to him, but I must be strong - and not impose. I definitely do not want to make him feel uncomfortable!

For the first time I really care about a man. He is special. I could never have dreamed of anyone like him - but now I know a dream can become reality.

What a man!

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