

# Vignettes – Passion

by Angie

## 3. Siege

How my words came back to haunt me! How easy it was to persuade myself mere days ago, that I should keep aloof from Catherine! How it hurt when I felt Catherine falling in love with a man above!

Was it jealousy? No, I think it was just the realization - again - that we live in very different worlds. Elliot Burch is all that I am not - rich, powerful, and ... a man.

I know now that I cannot pretend to be apart, dispassionate, when it comes to Catherine. What made me pretend to myself that I could not name this thing, this emotion that rises in me and carries me away in my dreams?

Those dreams would not be so powerful without Catherine. She has opened my heart and shown me the glory of being able to care deeply for someone. I had never thought to feel that for a woman - or have one feel anything for me.

I know that Catherine cares for me. I can feel it when she thinks of me. I don't understand how I know this, but I do, just as I knew when her emotions were directed at someone else.

Catherine, perhaps, does not yet understand how deeply I feel for her, or how much of her emotional state is open to me. She clearly did not know the extent, at first, of what I felt along our bond - or perhaps her own state of mind wasn't clear to her.

I know that now she is ashamed of not seeing through his deception earlier. She was attracted to him because he was honest, in his way. He did not set out to deceive her. He simply did not want to know what was done in his name.

Just the same, she will never forgive him, I think. He reminded her of all that she left behind when she took her present course.

And now she and I are bound as never before. She is thinking of me now in a different way - as something more than a friend. How wonderful it is to feel a woman think of me that way!

Yet it is bittersweet. I can never give her what a man like Elliot could. We still live in different worlds and our dream is just that. But now, at least, our inner worlds are closer. I would not have that any other way.

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Oh, how I must have hurt Vincent when I encouraged Elliot! He told me he could feel what I feel, but I did not realize how deeply that went. Perhaps I did not want to know. In my way, I was as bad as Elliot - turning a blind eye to the obvious.

Vincent is so different to Elliot, that I find it difficult to believe that I almost fell in love with that handsome face and fine manners. Chandler, you have not shed the thought patterns your old life! I know I can't do so completely, but I hope I can do better now.

I actually thought that if I fell in love with Elliot, my relationship with Vincent wouldn't change! How could I think that? Just because our friendship means so much to me? When he asked me about Elliot he wasn't sanguine - he sounded sad, and told me our bond was just a dream! That woke me up!

Elliot really disillusioned me. I think Vincent probably felt that too, and that at least I am glad about. I would not want him to think that I have any residual feelings for that man.

Vincent is so honest. I know he cares for me. He can't hide it when we're together, especially when he hugs me. Does he realize how much he affects me? He must, but just the same, I sense that he is ... cautious, uncertain about me. That's not surprising now. Elliot almost came between us.

Just being close to Vincent gives me goosebumps of pleasure. When he hugs me, I don't want it to end. How wonderful it is to feel this for a man! I don't think Elliot could ever have given me that. He is too self-absorbed. Vincent is what he is and never pretends otherwise, even to himself. That's unique in my experience.

We are so close now. I can feel his presence, I think, in my heart. He has awakened something new in me. I want him to hold me tight, to trust me and confide in me.

Where are we going from here, I wonder? I think our journey will be different now. We have learned something more about each other. I'm not sure what that means for me, for the future, but I am not afraid. Vincent has taught me the meaning of courage. And passion - passion for life, for justice, for others ... for love. Especially love!

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