

## SIEGE

(The Lost Love Letters of Catherine Chandler #3)

by Joy Faulkner

*Dearest Vincent,*

*Sometimes, I fear I can never bring you anything but pain. Believe me, the last thing that I ever want to do is to hurt you, yet I seem to do it all the time. Even when it's the last thing on my mind.*

*What can I say to you about Elliot Burch? It's true that for a time I thought I might be falling in love with him. I found him exciting, and fun to be with. I can't deny it. And maybe, briefly, I even considered that it might become something more than that between us. But it was only briefly, Vincent. Truly it was.*

*It's been such a long time since I relaxed, just enjoyed life. I've been working so hard lately, I haven't had time for anything else. And perhaps I've missed it, missed taking time out to be... myself. Perhaps that explains Elliot's attraction. He saw me as a woman. Not an investigator, or someone with a mission. Just a woman. And I found myself enjoying it. Wanting it.*

*Can you understand that, Vincent? Does it sound so very selfish to you?*

*Well, maybe it was, but it isn't always wrong to think of yourself. For me, or for you. Sometimes, we need it. Deserve it, even. Remember that, and know that I don't find it selfish or shameful for you to wish for a different life. One with me in it.*

*I know you only want my happiness, but the more I get to know you, the more I realize that my happiness is becoming inextricably bound up with yours. Just as yours is with mine. That isn't wrong of us, Vincent. Or selfish. We don't know yet what the possibilities are. Maybe there is a threshold, somewhere, out there, that we can both pass through. I like to think so.*

*I don't want to dream another dream, Vincent. I really don't. And maybe our way is filled with peril, but it is still OUR way, the way we have to travel. Together.*

*Don't be afraid of your feelings, Vincent, because you aren't alone. I share them as well. And yes, they are new to us, and different; something we don't even understand very well at the moment. But they can also be bright and hopeful, if we want them to be. So don't give up yet. If you are hovering on a threshold, then so am I. And we must give each other the courage to enter it. Boldly, and with joy.*

*Please don't be away for too long. If I must follow my heart as you say I must, it leads only to you. And it will be lost until I see you again.*

*Be well, my dearest friend, be well.*

*Catherine*