

Six Drabbles

(2022 Conzine)

by Judith Nolan

Blue Eyes

Baby Jacob lay asleep in his crib. His naming party had passed. He'd slept through most of it, much to his parents' relief.

Vincent leaned over the crib, looking down at his son. Catherine was asleep behind him, tired from the festivities. But Vincent couldn't sleep. He was absorbed in the tiny miracle of his child.

Catherine told him how and where their union had happened. He believed every word. But he retained no memory of it.

He sighed deeply. His son opened his eyes and dark blue met sapphire. The two stared at each other, lost in the moment.

Vincent

"There was a time when Vincent was very sick, wasn't he, Father?"

"You're right, Samantha. When Vincent first came to us, he was so very tiny and very sick."

"And he cried and cried, for three whole days."

"And he cried for three straight days. No one thought he would survive."

"But you knew better than anyone, didn't you, Father?"

"Yes, even at his weakest, I could feel the strength in him. But that was in a time of terrible darkness for our world. A time we must never forget."

"Vincent learned, right, Father?"

"Yes, he learned how to live."

Mutual Satisfaction

"There... Yes... Right, there, Vincent... Ohhh, yes... That's it..."

"Um, Catherine...?"

"What is it, Vincent?"

"I was just wondering when we're going to stop doing this and order our pizza."

"You're thinking about ordering pizza right now?"

"I'm hungry..."

"Just a little longer, then. Now, a bit more to the right... Yes, that's it... You've got it..."

"You're enjoying this, aren't you?"

"You have the best hands for the task. None better. How can you tell I'm enjoying it?"

"Oh, I have an idea or two."

"I like you scratching my back as much as you enjoy eating pizza."

"*Touché...*"

Halloween Night

Charles Chandler sighed when Catherine appeared from her bedroom. "Have I ever told you how beautiful you are? You remind me more and more of your mother."

"I miss her too, Dad." Catherine led him toward the balcony doors.

Charles smiled as they stepped up and passed through the sheer curtains. "I'm so glad you've found someone to love. I have my memories and I have you."

"You sure do." Catherine drew him into the night. "And I have Vincent."

A large, dark shape walked into the pool of light spilling from the apartment.

"Good evening, Charles," Vincent said quietly.

Catherine's Tree

"This is your tree, Catherine?"

"Yes, this is it. Yesterday afternoon, I climbed high and sat down. I looked up at the sky and said, 'Don't worry, Daddy. I won't fall. I won't fall.' I hope he heard me."

"I'm sure he did. I wanted to tell you again, Catherine, that wherever you are, wherever you go, you take me. You stand for me... For us. For our dream. You carry our light."

"I heard you saying that while I was sitting up there. I heard you as clearly as I do now."

"Because it is a truth worth repeating."

Catherine's Promise

"Catherine... I don't know what will happen now..."

"You must promise me one thing... That you will share it with me... Whatever happens, whatever comes..."

"Whatever happens, whatever comes... Know that I love you..."

"Know that you will never lose me. No matter how far apart we are, until this is over. I can promise you I will find you. You must never try and hide yourself from me again."

"I know that now. But if all else fails...?"

"Then I will come for you. No matter where you go or what happens. We are bound to each other, forever..."
