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It was love at first sight

by Penny Humphrey

‘It was love at first sight, that feeling of irreversible attraction, delight, and of belonging.

He knew she felt the same. Their eyes locked across a crowded room just like in the movies, their fate was sealed and he moved swiftly towards her as if she might disappear in front of him.

She held her hand out to him, soft and warm and he wanted to clasp her right there and then but he just held it briefly and told her his name. She smiled and moved close to him, her full mouth just waiting for his ardent kisses.’

“Mmm, gosh pretty steamy opening, I can only imagine what’s coming after that!”

Sophie groaned inwardly as she read the first lines of Tom’s next sickly love story. Of course she could imagine what was coming after that. It was the same format as always, she could have written it for him. Another man and woman staring intently at each other and a female in the background glaring at them. The sort of book you pick up at the airport and chuck in the bin when you get to your destination.

Tom had taken a leap of faith with Sophie’s encouragement. He gave up a secure job to concentrate on writing the book that had been evolving in his mind for years but it was hard, words eluded him when it came to setting them down for good.

Their savings began to peter out and he tried out the Mills and Boon type love stories. He found he had a talent for them.

Better still they were funding the mortgage and school fees.

Sophie tried to encourage him from time to time to try again with the book he left work to write but the ideas were fading away as he had to admit that he had become hooked on the holiday romances.

She wandered into the kitchen and noticed his mobile on the side when it beeped a text message. She picked it up to take through to him and noticed a name she didn't recognise – Jenny.

More out of idle curiosity she pressed the enter button

The words leapt up at her and stung:

“I'm counting the hours until I see you.”

She flicked up the rest of their conversations and it was like reading one of his books. Corny, steamy words, declarations of eternal love, teenager mush but this time for real. His addiction to his stories had spilled into his life and unwillingly Sophie would become the glaring female in the background.