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I Stole Her Heart Away

by Miriam Silver

The bench was empty when I sat down just wanting a bit of 'me' time. I had a lot to think about, to make, I definitely didn't want company while I contemplated not only my immediate future but the long term implications of today's decisions while the icy feeling inside me threatened to submerge me.

"Please don't let me disturb you" I heard as I tried to unwrap my sandwich, and looked up at a casually dressed youngish female about to make herself comfortable by my side. I continued struggling hoping she would see that I was fully occupied.

"I don't usually talk to strangers you know" she said, "it's just that I think my life is about to fall apart.

Without sighing, I patted the space beside me and put thoughts of my messy life to one side.

"Talk away; got it, want half? I'm listening" my offer of food was refused enabling me to ignore her, which gave her the signal to carry on.

"He used to baby sit, come home in time so I could meet my ex colleagues, give me a night out. Not anymore, doesn't even get home in time to read Daisy her bedtime story. She's my daughter, turned three, loves nursery. I suppose I've become 'boring stay at home Mum' but we agreed that's what I should do"

As she stopped I enquired what she did before she had a baby.

“I worked for the same firm as him, that’s where we met, I’ll have to retrain when Daisy goes to school, only about a year to go now it’s been going on since Daisy’s birthday, perhaps even longer, I’m not very observant, just trusting I suppose.”

I had more or less switched off, finished my lunch when I heard,

“I think he’s been meeting someone, I know I’ll have to confront him, ask him outright.”

When I didn’t answer, she looked at me, up until then she had just gazed into the distance, airing her thoughts to me, a stranger

“Thanks for listening, you’ve been a great help, must rush, have to collect Daisy, maybe I’ll get strong? bye and thanks again”.

I picked up the remnants of my lunch, looked at my watch and realised I should leave now if I wanted to keep that appointment, after all that’s what I’d come here for, to think, to make some decisions.

That young mother made me face that marriage or motherhood can’t be the means for a reliable loving relationship. I’ve been drifting, with him of course. Together enjoying work, drinks with friends, meals at the best places, sex when ever, holidays, it’s been good. He’s the only one that’s come anywhere near to stealing my heart.

If I don’t keep that appointment today, it will be too late, I must think, his offer, move in with him, do I really want all that that entails? We’ve never even discussed having a family.

