A DARKER SHADE OF BLUE

By : llsgg

FOLLOW ON FROM A DEEPER SHADE OF BLUE,.... 10 YEARS AFTER LIZ FINDING HAPPINESS, THINGS CHANGE AGAIN, HER SECOND MARRIAGE, IS IN TROUBLE, THE LOVE OF HER LIFE BROKE HER HEART, WHAT WILL LIZ DO NOW, ... AS LIKE BEFORE I AM NOT GREAT WITH SPELLING AND GRAMMAR, HOPE THIS WON'T STOP YOU FROM READING ON, AS I WILL TRY TO CORRECT THINGS AS I GO XXXX * THIS NOVEL IS NOW COMPLETE, I WILL BE MAKING A SPOOF VIDEO FOR IT LIKE I DID WITH MY FIRST NOEVL IN THE SERIES,A DEEPER SHADE OF BLUE* THANKS FOR READING MY NOVELS AND SHARING MY CRAZY DREAMS XXXXX here is a link for the video that goes with it..... http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iRJFf44RzoE

Published on
Booksie

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EPILOGUE

A DARKER SHADE OF BLUE : Chapter 1

CHAPTER 1

10 years on

I am not bio polar, I am depressed, and no, it's not the same thing. And it's not surprising, that I am depressed with all the ups and downs I have had to go through in the last few years.

What started out to be what I thought was going to be a happy ending, was me growing up and seeing that life can changes at any moment, and many times. You may think you know where you are, and then something new comes along and knocks you off your feet again.

Yes in life there is good and bad times, but in all the time I have been on this planet I do think, I have had more bad than good, yes I have been lucky, I have two wonderful children, and have lived a showbiz lifestyle, but sometimes people only want love and loyalty, not money and fame, because that can go at any moment, love, hopefully will always be there, that is if the people in your life, are loyal, and not everyone in my life has been loyal, and being the person I am, it's me who always either has the pick up the pieces, or ends up getting hurt the most, in my case usually both..... No wonder I get depressed.

I woke up sweating, it had been another restless night, I thought a break away at our holiday home on the island of Gozo, a small island next to Malta, with just me and Samantha, might of helped me, to see if me and Emilio had a chance of ever being happy again, as we had not been getting on, but it was not helping.

Joseph was with James, back in the UK. I never liked to separate the twins, as they were so close but Joseph, thought some girl time together, might help me sort out my feelings for Emilio.

Though Emilio was only Joseph's step father they got on well, us arguing was hurting everyone.

I had been in Gozo for four days now, we bought the villa eight years ago, and every chance we got, me and Emilio and the twins would come out here. We had our friends, and family come out here as well. We had such great parties, even had a few Christmas's out here.

Then things changed.

As the kids got older and started school I could not always travel with Emilio around the world to his performances. I missed him so much, I would pine like a dog waiting for its master, yes I had the kids to look after and lots of good friends, who would keep me entertained, but without him lying next to me at night, I was a wreck. I would panic he might die in a plane crash flying out to perform, or even worse, he might meet someone else, as he worked with many top celebrities, and all I was when he first met me, was a dresser at the opera house.

But what I did not expect him was to do was have an alleged affair, with the person who took over my job.

He could of cheated on me anywhere in the world, but no, it had to be at home, in London.

He claimed it was not an affair, someone had set him up. They were friends who just worked closely together.

Bullshit,

Did I not give him all he wanted, was I not faithful to him. what more did he want, I loved that man so much, more than anything, more than the kids even. I thought we were kindred spirits.

How could he do this to me?.

I discovered the affair, or set up as he called it when it appeared in one of the tabloids.

All those years ago, when it was announced that Emilio had fathered one of my twins, his career took a bit of a bashing. The opera world looked down on him for a while but together we got his reputation back up and he filled opera houses again, and everyone wanted him to perform with their company.

Now this so called fling, made us all look bad. And would change his career, for ever.

Mum, I heard Samantha call me from the lounge of the villa, are you ok? I got up out of bed. It was another boiling hot day. I looked out of the window. The beach was not far away and could hear the waves roll in. That's why we chose this place. Not too far from the sea, a great spot. Just now it was only me and Samantha here to enjoy it.

Yes love, stick the kettle on will you, I shouted back.

I was 34 now but felt older, when I was younger I wanted to be older now I was older, I wished I was Samantha's age again.

Joseph and her, would be twelve soon, their tenth birthday was the last time we had a big party for them. As not long after that the affair came out. To be honest I didn't want to think about it. I was not sure what the future held for me and Emilio.

All this happened nearly two years ago, but it could of happened yesterday for how raw I was feeling. But it was not just the fact he had cheated on me, was why I was now here in Gozo and he was back home in London, he had also not sung at all for nearly a year, because his voice had gone and he was a changed man.

Chapter 2

CHAPTER 2

I could of done so many things to get back at him for what he did, to me well and the kids, as they were hurt by it to, but seems, he brought his own miss fortunes on himself, but I really didn't want that to happen.

All the rowing and shouting we did after the fling, affair or whatever you or he wants to call it was exposed, caused him to lose his voice.

He thought it would come back, after all, we all lose our voice from time to time in our lives. But the rows we had came close to punches, mainly from me. Memories of my time with James came back into my head. The time I walked in on James with my sister, made me go crazy, as I pictured Emilio doing the same with this Olivia, and I had worked with this Olivia, in the opera house, before I had met Emilio. She was a college. Why could it not of been with a stranger, not someone I knew well.

I moved out of the house for a while I stayed with Nicole and Gilb. Then I went and stayed with James and ruby.

I was acting like he had died, I was a mess. Ruby and James looked after the twins for me, while me and Emilio tried to get back on track, but however much he told me it was nothing, and they never had sex , even though there were photos of them kissing and her sitting on his lap, like two lovers, the more I could see them at it in my head.

He cancelled all his performances, and told the press he needed to be with his family, to sort things out. The truth was he could not sing, and singing was his first love, even over me, and the kids.

I hated him, but for the kids sake I made sure he went to get help with his voice. If me, and him did split up I still wanted him to sing for the kids, and his other boys.

While he seeked treatment, I tried to put on a brave front. I moved back in but slept in the guest room. Not like I slept much, I would get up get the kids ready for school, then go back to bed, until it was time to pick them up. Then cook them tea help them with home work then when they went to bed, I would open a bottle of vodka, and drink the lot. If Emilio was around I would take it to bed to drink.

I was creeping back into my old ways.

If the kids were not around I would of killed myself, I think.

Emilio was told not to talk and to rest his voice so I kept out of his way because, we would of only rowed.

When he was allowed to talk, I did not want to hear what he had to say, as far as I was concerned, I was not enough for him, and all those times I cried myself to sleep when he was away, he was probably not even thinking about me, only her and when he would see her again. And did she travel with him, abroad, while I could not go, all these thoughts went round my head, so I just drank to help numb the pain.

Mum I heard you crying again last night, Samantha said as I sat down in the lounge after making myself a cup of tea.

I'm sorry love I said. I don't know why I just can't get over all this. I wish I could move on but it's like something won't let me.

Samantha was a bright girl, she and Joseph knew what their fathers had done to me. And though they loved their fathers they were angry on how I was treated by both of them. But I told both of them I don't care how they treated me, but as long as they love and treat you right don't be worrying about me.

I wasn't a twisted parent, I didn't want my kids hating their fathers, because they had done wrong to me. People need to make up their own minds in life, and the twins were growing up fast. And I did not want them to make the same mistakes I did, With my parents

Mum if you want to go back home we can get the next plain out of here, Samantha said as she came and sat next to me.

I looked at her long dark brown hair, and her brown eyes, she looked so much like her father, it brought a tear to my eye. I turned away to wipe it.

I made on I was looking out the window.

No, we can stay on another week Sam, I promise to venture out of the house today and we can go for a walk, or into town maybe.

I looked down at my tea cup then back at her with a smile.

Since we arrived in Gozo all I did was stay in the villa. I did not leave in case the first thing I did was go to a bar.

This was a Detox trip as well, as I had become an alcoholic again. But enough was enough and I had to get clean for my kids.

I'll get the door, Ruby called out to James and Joseph who were on the lap top in the dining room. It was about five thirty in the afternoon, James was working on a new album with vexed and wanted josephs input, on what design they should have on the album cover. James enjoyed including his kids in his work, Joseph, could play the guitar, and James would tech him the songs he sang, and went over new material with him. Abbey, James other child, was trying to become a singer, she was still young but with training and in time could go somewhere, with her voice, but James wanted to make sure she was ready, when the time came, but just not yet.

Emilio is everything ok, Ruby said as she let him into the house. He looked at her and gave a false smile.

Well no better than before, he said. Ruby smiled back.

James and Joe are in the dining room, if you want to go through, Ruby said lifting her arm, as if to show the way.

Emilio walked through to the dining room. He knew the layout of the house, as he had been there many times with Liz.

James looked up from his laptop. And Joseph stood up to see who had appeared in front of them.

Ruby followed in behind and asked Emilio if he would like a coffee and could she take his coat from him.

Emilio turned to ruby, and said yes, a coffee would be nice. He removed his black and white scarf, and then took of his long black coat, and handed them both to Ruby. She smiled at him as she went away to hang them up.

James removed his reading glasses, and got up from the chair he was sitting on, at the table. Joseph stayed seated.

Well what can I, do for you then, James said, wondering what this visit could be about.

Chapter 3

CHAPTER 3

Nothing was said by either for a few minutes. Emilio stood with his arms crossed, while James stood, but was leaning against the dining table. Joseph looked at them both wondering what was going on.

In recent months James and Emilio had not got on. They had even got into an argument, over the alleged affair. James stuck up for me of course, but Emilio had pointed out how James had been bad to me. Which James could not disagree with. James said he knew he had wronged me, but why could Emilio not admit he had hurt me too, why didn't he just come out and said he had an affair, instead saying it was being blown out of context. Maybe then me, and Emilio could work out our differences. But Emilio was adamant he did nothing wrong, and it was me, making it worse for both of us. James knew Emilio was also angry with me, because of his voice problems. And that was part of the problem, why me and Emilio had not made up.

Ruby came into the dining room with two coffees. She could sense the atmosphere was tense so called over to Joseph to see if he wanted to come with her while the men talked. Joseph looked at his father who smiled and nodded his head. Then he looked over to Emilio, who was now holding his cup of coffee, Emilio gave him a smile and winked his eye. Joseph got up from the table and looked at both of them again then followed Ruby out of the dining room.

When Joseph had left the room, James took a sip of his coffee. So what have you come here for then, James asked Emilio.

Emilio could not make eye contact with James, he looked down at his coffee and around the dining room, but was finding it hard to speak.

Has your voice gone again, James said to him in an angry tone.

Emilio then made eye contact with James.

No, it has not gone, Emilio replied angrily.

James smiled and took another sip of his coffee.

Look, I am here because I don't think I can cope any more. Emilio said putting his coffee cup down, on to the table, then putting his hands to head.

James just stood and listened.

This has gone on too long. Emilio said pulling out a chair from the table, and sitting down on it.

If me, and Liz cannot move on, then I think we should part. Emilio said, with a twisted face.

James finished his coffee, and put his cup down on the table.

Emilio looked at James for approval.

Why are you telling me this, James replied.

Because she talks to you, Emilio said looking away again.

But she is your wife, you should be telling this to her, James replied, almost shouting at him.

Ruby stuck her head around the door. Everything ok in here?, she asked

James looked up and said yes,

Ruby held on to see if Emilio would reply

Emilio turned around to speak.

Yes, he replied and added how lovely the coffee was.

Ruby smiled at him then looked at James.

James smiled at her, then she closed the door.

Emilio got up off his chair and went over to the patio doors, and looked out onto the garden.

James sat down again, and shut his lap top down.

I am not going to go over old ground again with you Emilio, James said, but everyone who knows and care for you both, can see something needs to give.

Emilio turned to James to hear what he had to say.

James carried on

If you think you have a future with Liz, you need to admit what you did, and stop blaming her for your voice going.

This made Emilio's blood boil. He was about to say something, when Joseph came rushing in with news, that Samantha had text him to say she and I had gone out today and that I was feeling a lot better.

Emilio looked at James, then looked at Joseph.

Joseph came up to Emilio, whom he called papa, and said, so this mean things will get back to normal again, we can all be a big happy family again.

Emilio looked again at James, then turned back to Joseph, he bent down to his eye level and smiled.

Let's hope so eh Joey, he said trying to hold back tears.

Joseph reached out and hugged him.

Emilio looked at James again.

James gave a slight smile.

Then Emilio got up kissed Joseph on the head, and ruffled his hair.

Joseph went over to James, and hugged him

Emilio looked at them both with red eyes.

Ruby came back into the room again.

Emilio turned to her and once again thanked her for the coffee, and then asked for his coat and scarf as he was leaving.

Ruby said ok, and went to fetch his belongings, Emilio turned to looked at both James and Joseph again, smiled, then left the room.

Dad, Joseph said to James, will things be ok now.

James hugged his son again, let's hope so son, let's hope so.

But James felt things would not just fall into place and this would be dragged out a bit longer

Chapter 4

CHAPTER 4

Mum, does this hat really suite me. Samantha, asked me for the tenth time. Yes my dear now would I let you go out looking daft.

Samantha laughed, and my nails they look so grown up, she said admiring them for the hundredth time.

I had treated us both to a day of shopping and pampering. It was what we both needed, and now we were in town having a meal, at our favourite restaurant.

I am not sure your dad would approve though I said sipping a cocktail. I don't think he would approve to me drinking alcohol either but he wasn't here, and I wasn't going to get bladdered, I thought to myself.

It did feel strange only the two of us eating out as usually it would be the four of us or even more if James and Ruby, or Gilb and Nicole, and their son came out to stay with us.

The owner of the restaurant Pepe, came and spoke with me, he said he had heard Emilio was not well and had not sung in a while. I told him he was at home getting well again, and this was a girly holiday. He may of known the truth that me and Emilio had separated but never brought it up in conversation.

Sitting back watching the world go by, made me feel better, better than I had been in ages. Today had been a real eye opener for me. I had a wonderful day with my daughter, and I didn't miss Emilio at all.

I think I had been waiting for him to say he was sorry and he never meant to hurt me, like he did and that even though his voice had gone we would still be ok, stronger even. But he never said that. And today I finally realised that. Today I realised I could go on without him.

After all, his first wife did. She married again, and was happy, his four other boys had moved on, they still spoke and saw their dad when they could.

It's taken me a long time. But I came to the conclusion, in life sometimes you really just have to cut your losses and move on. Look at me and James. We get on better now, than we did when we were married. And maybe the same would happen with me and Emilio.

I looked at Samantha, she loved it here. She sipped her coke and liked to watch people go by. Then it hit me, before long she and Joseph would be in boarding school, then what would I do. I would be on my own. I started to well up again. But stopped myself, before any tears could fall.

No I am moving on I told myself. They will have a good education. I will find something to do, I will show everyone I can go it alone.

I started to panic; I had just reassured myself, I would be ok, now I was having doubts again.

Maybe I did have bi polar. That's what the doctor said, maybe he was right.

No he was not right, it was fear of the unknown, I will be brave, I will be ok.

I looked around at all the people passing us, as we sat in the restaurant.

Then something caught my eye.

I looked at a picture across the road of the Virgin Mary.

It was like she was saying to me, you can do it girl. I stared at it for what seemed like ages. Maybe the cocktail was going to my head.

Mum, are you ok, Samantha said bringing me to my senses.

I looked at her and smiled, of course my dear, I replied.

I knew what I had to do now.

Tomorrow I would ring my solicitor.

Goodbye my lover goodbye my friend, I thought to myself.

I can see them Joseph said to James, as he spotted me and Samantha, come through arrivals at Heathrow airport.

Samantha caught sight of her brother and ran towards him.

I was knackered, pushing the trolley, with our cases on. When I got up to where, James and the kids were, I felt like I had run a marathon.

Joseph ran over to me and gave me a big hug.

Joey, I said hugging him back, god how I have missed you.

James came over and helped with the trolley.

You look well Liz he said giving me a peck on the cheek.

Thanks I feel much better, I replied smiling but feeling tired.

Come on then kids, James said as he began to push the trolley, who will help me load these into the car.

I will dad Joseph said, already trying to lift one of the cases.

And me, uncle Jim, as Samantha called him.

I followed on behind, with the duty free.

James was in his late fifties now, he hardly had any hair, and what hair he did have was grey, so he shaved it off, and kept it short. He looked his age, but still not a bad looking bloke. But people who did not know us, would of thought he was my father, of course he was around the same age as my dad, but James was my ex husband and father to one of my kids. Ruby had looked after him well, they still had not married. But neither was bothered, they enjoyed how they were together. They were both afraid marriage could spoil things, so were happy to stay as they were.

After loading the cases in the car James asked if I wanted to pop to his first for a cuppa. Ruby and James had moved back up to London, not too far from where me, and Emilio lived. But I was knackered, all I wanted to do was go home and sleep, as tomorrow I had plans.

None of us spoke about Emilio, on the drive home. I didn't even know if Emilio would be home when I got there.

As we pulled up to the house, I did start to panic again. James could see it in my face.

He unlocked the doors and told the kids to get out, and see if anyone was home. They could not wait to get out of the car. James turned to me and asked if I was ok. I looked at him, and said yes. But we will need to have a chat before long, about the kids. James looked at me puzzled. I smiled at him.

Everything is ok, for now, I told him, but when they go off to boarding school you will have to look out for them.

What do you mean Liz he said, looking even more puzzled?

Don't worry about it now James, all will be revealed, in time, first I have to face Emilio, let me get over that hurdle first.

James took hold of my hand and squeezed it, ok Liz he said, now let me help you with your bags, and you go do, what you got to do.

As I got out of the car Emilio was at the door and was hugging Samantha.

I could hear her say look at my nails daddy, aren't they pretty.

As I lifted one of the cases out of the car I looked at James as he had heard what she had said too. Now I will be for it, I said laughing, James laughed too, as he knew Emilio would not approve.

Chapter 5

CHAPTER 5

For the last week of my holiday, I had worked out in my head what I wanted to do, and be, from now on. My whole life would change. I never told Samantha what my plans were. Many would say I was being selfish, but as long as the kids were safe and had all they needed, that's all that mattered to me. It would not be easy, and would take some time, to become what I thought, was the only way forward for me. If it was what I needed to do to have peace in my life, then I would move heaven and earth to get it.

But first I had something at home to sort out.

James closed the boot of his car, gave me a hug and a kiss, waved at the kids, then got back into his car and drove off.

I waved till I could no longer see his car.

I turned around and Emilio was still stood at the door with the kids.

We stared at each other for a few minutes.

He still looked as gorgeous, as the day I had met him, his curly black hair, now had a few greys in it, but he still had those come to bed eyes.

I composed myself, damn those eyes tempting me back, nope I was moving on, he chose to share his love with someone else, maybe even others when he was away all those times, with the opera, I will not share him with anyone.

I took hold of the handles on mine and Samantha's cases, and dragged them towards to front door. The kids went into the house, Emilio stepped forward and took hold of my case.

His hand touched mine. We were close now, and I looked into his angel eyes. I could smell his after shave as well, it was my favourite.

No, I thought, stay strong Liz.

I smiled and still holding on to Samantha's case, and other bags I went into the house.

I did not turn around as I heard the door shut behind me, and I took my case straight into the kitchen.

Emilio followed behind with my case.

I let go of my case, put my bags of duty free on the kitchen counter, and went over and put the kettle on.

I would empty the cases in a while, but I was dying for a cup of tea.

The kids had gone up stairs to Joseph's room, he had much to tell his twin sister.

The house looked clean. I was impressed.

The kettle had boiled and I took a cup from the cupboard. Before I closed the cupboard I turned around to see if Emilio wanted a drink.

He was stood by the kitchen door, arms folded, just looking at me.

Do you want a drink, I asked him.

Yeah a black coffee please he replied.

I made our drinks and passed him his coffee.

I took hold of my handbag and with my cup of tea went into the lounge and over to my computer.

I put my cup and bag down and switched on the computer.

I picked my bag back up, and took out my camera.

When the computer came, on I sat down and put in my password.

When the computer was ready to use, I took the memory card out of my camera, and uploaded the photos, of mine and Samantha's holiday.

Emilio came into the lounge and sat down on the couch still holding his coffee.

I knew he was there but, I carried on with what I was doing.

I could hear the kids laughing up stairs.

Emilio just stayed sat down on the coach, watching all I did.

I checked my face book account, and emails. I did have an email come in but I did not want him to see it so, I quickly finished up on the computer and shut it down again.

When the computer had shut down, I bent down to switch it off. I picked up my now empty cup and handbag. I stood up and went towards the kitchen again.

Emilio stood up and took hold of me.

He had his hands on my arms.

I looked into his beautiful face.

He looked at me.

At any moment I could of just kissed him, and I wondered if he felt the same.

Then he spoke

Liz , we need.....,

Before he could say another thing, I answered for him

To talk, yes I know, and we will I replied, trying to keep up a front.

I am not sure if that is what he was going to say, but I was certain I was not going to fall in love with him again.

Though deep in my heart I loved him still, I ached for him, I yearned for his touch.

The taste of his lips on mine, the feel of him inside of me, his soft gentle hands touching me all over.

But he had betrayed me, and thoughts of me killing myself again, entered my head. Then the kids laughter made me realise why I had not.

He back off, and let me pass.

Just as well, as I was starting to break down and I had come this far.

I put my cup down on the kitchen counter. I went to sort out mine and Samantha's cases, when Emilio came in and took hold of me once more.

I tried to pull away but he was too strong for me and I was too weak to resist.

Liz, he said pulling his face close to mine, I tried to look away, but in the end, with tears falling, our lips touched.

He pulled me in closer, one hand holding tight hold of me and one hand touching my face and hair.

I, in turn, put my hands through his curly hair.

I know I should of fought to pull him off me but I couldn't.

His smell, his feel, were like a drug to me.

We had not been this passionate in over a year.

Why now though.

I had planned a new life, without him.

Just then one of the kids came running down the stairs, and at last I pulled away.

Joseph came running into the kitchen.

Mum, mum, he said all excited.

Look what Samantha bought me back.

I looked at Emilio who had walked away to look out of the window.

Yes love I said to Joseph, I was there when she picked it.

It's lovely mum, thank you both.

I looked again at Emilio who was trying to sort his hair out, he hadn't turned around, he was still looking out of the window.

I turned back to Joseph,

Now you go help your sister sort her case out.

I pointed to Samantha's case and he took hold of it and carefully carried it up stairs.

I walked into the hall, behind him and watched as he lifted it carefully over each step.

When he had got to the top and was out of site, I went back into the kitchen.

Emilio was no longer there.

I went into lounge. He was picking up his car keys from the mantel piece.

He looked at me, then passed me and went into the hall way. He picked up his coat hanging by the door.

He put his coat on, and opened the door.

Before he left, he turned to me again.

His eyes were red

A tear began to fall from my eye.

Then he turned and went out of the door, closing it softly behind him.

I went back into the lounge and watched as he got into the car and he drove off fast.

I collapsed in a heap, and began to cry, but made sure I never let the kids here me.

Why did I come back here, for my heart to break again .

Chapter 6

CHAPTER 6

I got into bed and set my alarm, so I could get up early.

I was in bed before Emilio came home, from where ever he went earlier on.

I picked myself up after breaking down, when he left earlier.

I unpacked the cases, put a wash on, then dried and ironed all the clothes me and Samantha took on our trip. The kids went to bed, and I had a long relaxing bath. More things crossed my mind as I lay in the bath, again was I doing the right thing, and where had he gone to.

I got out of the bath and he was still not home. So went to bed, back in the guest room.

I missed my old bed, or our bed, as it once was, but could not sleep in it when I found out about his cheating.

Lying in bed, I thought it was time I heard the real details about what he and Olivia did, or did not do.

Tomorrow, when I came back from where I had to go, I would ask him.

It was Sunday tomorrow and the kids were going to James's for dinner, and Sunday was soon going to become my special day.

It must of been gone 3am, when Emilio came home. I was awakened, by hearing him lock the front door.

I looked over at my alarm clock. I would be up in a few hours time, but for the first time in ages I had been sleeping properly, without the aid of pills and alcohol.

The night back in Gozo when I looked into the virgin Marys eyes, in that photo of her across the road from the restaurant, gave me a calm feeling that everything would be ok, and that night after having that single cocktail, I went back to the villa and slept like a baby. She was in my dreams. Her warms arms wrapped around me, like a blanket, reassuring me things would get better, but she whispered in my ear, to be happy was to help others, to be happy. I woke up and realised that is what I must do. But like her I must do it alone.

I heard Emilio climb the stairs, he then stopped outside my room. Was he going to come in? Part of me wanted him to, to make love to me, like we did when we were happy. But then I remembered my big day tomorrow, and that was what I had to focus on now.

He stayed outside my room for few moments, then I heard him softly sing, our wedding song, that's all I ask of you from the phantom of the opera. He did not sing loud, as to wake the kids, but I could hear his voice sounded good.

I wanted to get out of bed and run to him, tell him to sing it louder, as his voice was back. But I stayed still. He sang the whole song, then he walked off to our room, opened the door walked in and closed it.

Lying in bed with tears rolling down my face, and knowing he could not here me, I softly finished the song, love me that's all I ask of you.

Then I fell back to sleep.

The email was from a nun.

While in Gozo I had rang my solicitor, and explained how I wanted to become a nun. Gilly pots had passed away, died of a heart attack poor bugger, so Nicole's family put me in contact with someone new. Kate Nella, was a bit younger than Gilly, but , like Gilly, good at her job. Me, and Emilio had separate solicitors, so my business was private and he would not know of my plans until I wanted him to and when the time was right.

You can't be a nun Kate said, youre married. Well then I will have to divorce Emilio, I told her.

So it is over between you two then she replied.

I think so I told her.

Well listen before you are sure you want to become a nun, and I don't think you can, even if you divorce him, think it over a bit more, Kate said.

I am sick of thinking and waiting. I want to go out and help people, I said, quite sure of myself.

Ok Ok, said Kate, I will look into sorting out your divorce, and I will put you in contact with someone who knows more about nuns than me, though I am sure you will not be able to become one. And what about the kids, she carried on, how will they feel?

She probably thought I had lost the plot, or my so called bio polar was kicking in, but I was sure what I was doing was right for everyone.

The kids will be in boarding school soon, their fathers will make sure they will be ok, but if I can't become a nun I want to come as close as I can to being one. I replied.

Helping others was a good thing to do, the kids would be ok with me doing it I'm sure.

Before I got home I looked online about all the things I could do, to become a nun. It was highly unlikely I could become a full nun, but if I could help them, give them my time, my time to help others. I am sure the Virgin Mary would approve.

The nun wrote and told me, that at this stage in my life I could never become a full sister, but, if I was really certain, and committed, and prayed, maybe in the future I could join the sisterhood, but in a different sector, maybe even in another country they would except me as a nun, if that is what I really had my heart set on, but it would be a waiting game, and the kids were still at home, so I could begin to prepare myself before they left for boarding school.

The nun did say that they always needed help, and were very grateful I had found my calling to help others. She explained I would need to go to mass as often as I could. And I was welcome to come and visit her and the other nuns, in their Monastery.

This is why I had set my alarm, to get up early. I was going to my first mass, I had no idea, what it involved but I would turn up and hope someone would explain it all to me and welcome me into the church. They might turn me away for all I knew, but after mass I would go on and visit the monastery.

Seeing no one knew of my plans and not wanting to worry the twins, I decided to leave a note for Emilio, to say I would be away for most of the day, and to make sure the kids were ready for when James arrived to pick them up.

I left the note in the kitchen. I went back into the lounge to get my car keys, and Emilio was in there. I nearly jumped out of my skin.

He was stood with only his pyjama bottoms on, his hair was a mess but, he looked sexy as hell.

I wouldn't tell him where I was going, just that I was going out.

What shops are open at six thirty on a Sunday morning he asked?

None, I replied, looking over to the coffee table where my car keys were lying.

Then why are you dressed up and sneaking out of the house, he asked looking tired and angry.

I have an appointment to see someone, I said walking past him to the coffee table to pick up my keys.

I thought he might grab me but he didn't.

I thought he might start a fight, with me, but he didn't.

Before I went to Gozo, arguing was all we did.

What was he up to?

I knew what I was doing but, I had no idea, was going through his head. But then I did not care anymore, my calling was to help others, in turn then, it might help me, heal myself.

I walked out of the lounge, towards the front door. Emilio followed me.

I opened the door and went to step outside, before I left the house, I turned to him and said, I think your voice has returned.

His face changed, he did not smile but I think he was happy, for what I had said.

I smiled and quietly close the front door.

It was still dark outside, and a bit chilly. How I now missed the heat of Gozo.

As I drove away from the house I could see Emilio looking out of the bedroom window.

My heart was pulling me back to him, but I had made a promise, to myself, and to the blessed Mary. I would help others. It was what I had to do, and my new purpose in life.

Chapter 7

CHAPTER 7

I never did get to ask talk to Emilio about what went on with him and Olivia. When I arrived home later, Nicole, Gilb and Harvey were at the house.

I had been at church all day, I then went and spoke with the sisters at the monastery.

Everyone I spoke to throughout the day welcomed me with open arms, and was glad I had found the calling. Some recognised me, and asked how Emilio was, I said he was getting better, and left it at that. Though some must of wondered why I wanted to be closer to god, and give up my husband and children.

Emilio even seemed in good spirits.

Nicole came up to me and gave me a hug, asked how I was.

She was my best friend but I could not even tell her of my plans and what I had done today.

The twins were back from James's and Harvey, Nicole and Gilb's son, was upstairs, playing a console game with them in josephs room.

I'm ok thanks I told her.

She pulled me to one side

So are you and Emilio ok now then, he seems much happier, that holiday with Sam must of done you good.

I looked over to Emilio who was chatting with Gilb, but he turned to look at me, then back to Gilb.

Yeah it was a real eye opener, I replied, and me and Emilio well, nothing's changed were not back together I said, quietly.

But he seems so happy, Nicole replied, when we turned up and he said you were not home, I thought, we would be sitting in silence till you came back home, but he's not stopped chatting .

His voice is back I told Nicole, I could hear him singing last night and it sounded good.

She smiled

That's wonderful news, she said, and before, I could say any more she had turned round to congratulate him.

Emilio looked up, and looked at me.

The room went quiet.

Then Emilio, whilst looking at me, announced it was early days yet, and he had a long way to go.

Nicole turned back to me and saw my face was red.

Are you ok Liz, she asked

I was a bit embarrassed, as I don't think he wanted that made public yet. Mind you since him not singing the money had stopped coming in, so for him and the kids I hoped he could get back to work, as things were getting tight, but soon he would not have to worry about my welfare.

I made an excuse I was hot and was just going to take my coat off and change, my clothes.

I went into the bath room and looked in the mirror, and at my long hair.

It wouldn't be on my head for much longer, it would be all cut off, and donated to a charity that helps makes wigs for people with cancer.

That was my first act of self worth, for my cause, to help others.

I looked down at my wedding and engagement rings, plus the other rings I had on my hands.

I started pulling them of my fingers.

I removed my ear rings . Then washed my face, I took off all my makeup.

All of these things would mean nothing to me soon. I could not work with the poor, and needy all dolled up with bling hanging off me.

I went and changed into a t shirt and jeans.

Before I went back down stairs to the others, I went into Emilio's room, as I called it now.

I placed my wedding ring and engagement ring, in the jewellery box that was on my dressing table.

I had not been in this room for a long time.

I just could not face it.

But it looked the same since I had last been in it.

I looked at my bed, thoughts of me and Emilio in it, making love came rushing back.

The nuns gave me a cross, and I hid it under my clothes, this would be the only thing of any meaning, I would wear with pride now. I took hold of it to calm my nerves,

Hail Mary mother of god, give me strength, now in our hour of need. I kept repeating it. Trying, to control my breathing.

I needed to be out of that room.

When I came out of the room Samantha, was there.

Mum, are you ok, you look ill, and what were you doing in dad's room, she asked looking worried.

Not knowing what to really say, and still in a stake of shock, I made up a lie that I tripped and fell into the door, and it opened.

I think she knew I was lying as she knew I had not been in that room for over a year.

Then she noticed the cross hanging from my neck.

I quickly put it under my tshirt .

Sweating I told her not to worry about me, I was fine, and she should go back and play with Joseph and Harvey.

Silly mum tripping up, I said trying to make light of the situation.

But she was not daft.

Mum, she said, reaching out to cuddle me, I know you and dad are going to part.

Holding her tight, and trying not to cry, I said, who knows what will happen love.

She replied, you are no longer wearing your wedding ring, so you and dad, must be splitting up.

God she was cleaver, but I think when I went back down stairs the others would notice also.

I told her not to worry about it now, and seeing we had guests, I didn't want any arguing with her dad tonight, so let's not say any more for now.

She agreed, kissed me on the cheek, and went back to josephs room.

I went back to the bathroom cleaned my face up, and then went back down stairs, to be with the others.

Nicole and Gilb stayed for a few hours. They both tried to make conversation between me and Emilio, but my mind was elsewhere.

I think Nicole gave up in the end and hinted on to Gilb it was time to go.

I felt terrible not really wanting to talk with them. They were my best friends, but I would also be leaving them behind, on my new path in life.

I hoped in time they would forgive me.

When they went, I made the kids packed lunches for school then headed for bed.

Emilio wanted to talk with me, but i told him i was tired, and not feeling great.

But we need to discuss the kids birthday which was coming up.

I told him I would go along with what he and James decided, then I walked away.

The next day I dropped the kids off at school, then went straight to the hair dressers.

I went to one where no one would know me.

When I asked, the stylist to cut all of my hair off, but I wanted to keep it, she asked me three times if I was sure.

I did love my hair, but I was doing this so others could have a better life.

The hair dresser tied my hair up, platted it, then cut it off.

When she passed me my hair, I looked at it and started to cry.

The hair dressers, bent down, and asked if I was ok.

I told her I would be in time, as I explained why I had wanted my hair cut.

She smiled at me at said that is was a kind thing to do.

She told me she would give me a new style, that would suite me, and she would not charge me for it.

I was to give the money, I would of paid for the hair cut to the same charity my hair was going to.

When she had finished, I looked for ages in the mirror.

It would take some time to get use to it but I liked the hair cut.

I thanked her, and with my hair bagged up I went straight to the monastery.

When it was time to pick the kids up, a few of the mothers commented on my hair. Some were shocked I had cut off my long hair, and others really liked it.

When the twins came, out they both had mixed reactions

Joseph liked it, but Samantha did not, in fact she started to cry.

Did dad make you cut your hair off, she asked, why I tried to calm her down.

No love, dad has not seen it yet, I said giving her a hug.

I knew he would not like it but, it was my hair I could what I wanted with it.

Emilio was not home. I had not told him of my plans, and he did not tell me of his.

I did wonder if he was out singing somewhere, I hoped so. But then I had visions of him with Olivia, and it made me shiver.

He came home just before the kids went to bed. When he saw me, his face looked shocked.

He gave the kids a kiss and a hug, and Joseph ran on up to bed, but Samantha was holding on tight to him

She still did not like my hair cut and had hardly spoken to me all evening. I knew that fact she didn't have long left at her school was playing on her mind as well, not to mention me and her father not getting on. I

think she hoped our holiday would sort things out. And she came to realise it had not.

Emilio asked her if she was ok. She told him, she was sad, because we were not friends any more, and wanted it back to how it was before. Emilio kissed her head, and then she went off to bed. But she gave me a dirty look before she went. It hurt me big time.

I went off to make the kids packed lunches, and Emilio followed me into the kitchen.

When did u decide you wanted your hair cut, he asked me.

I carried on making the kids school lunches, and told him I just wanted a change.

He went over to make himself a coffee.

I liked your hair long he said, while he waited for the kettle to boil.

I could feel an argument coming on, but I held it in.

He made his coffee, and came and stood next to me.

You're not wearing your wedding rings either he said.

I had finished the kid's lunches, and put them in the fridge.

Liz why are you ignoring me, he asked raising his voice.

I turned around, and said to him

Liked you ignored me all those times I asked what happened with Olivia.

He put his head down.

I went up to him and right in his face I told him,

You do your thing, and I will do mine as long as the kids are ok that's all that matters.

He looked me in the eyes.

I looked back into his.

Then I turned and walked away off up to bed.

Chapter 8

CHAPTER 8

The next 4 months went fast. The twins had a great birthday, even though me, and Emilio were still living together, but like strangers. All our friend and family came, and we made it special for the kids, as not long after they went off to boarding school. How I would miss them, but my faith in the mother Mary kept me going.

I still had not had told anyone else of my plans, only my solicitor knew, and she was getting the divorce papers ready. Every time we spoke she kept asking me if I was doing the right thing. And I kept telling her, I could see no way back, so I had to move forward, in a different direction.

I was going to either the church, or the monastery most days. I missed the twins so much, and the sisters at the monastery, were a comfort to me, I could tell them anything. I helped them with all I could and I told them I still wanted to be like one of them.

My feelings for Emilio were still there, but, keeping busy helped to block them out of my mind. When we were in love it was obvious I was obsessed with him. I needed to be with him all the time, even though I had the kids to look after. The times he was away, I should of done something to keep myself from missing him.

But still, he had other plans, with other people, so no matter how loyal I was to him, the loyalty was not returned. But I knew the mother Mary and the sister would be there for me always.

Emilio had made some progress, his voice was back and he had been asked to make a new album, then if all went well, he could start back in the opera. The press picked up on it and stories of his affair, and voice break down, were mentioned, which he had to try and ignore. As did I, as some people at the church came up and asked about it. I just said it was the press trying to cause trouble. Though we were not together, as a couple, I wanted him to get back to his singing and be happy about it.

Because he would be getting some news in the post very soon

Kate had contacted me to say the papers for my divorce to Emilio were ready and she was sending them out straight away, but I still had time to change my mind.

I told her to post them tomorrow.

The next day, when I arrived at the monastery, a sister Paulette, was waiting to speak with me.

She was not from my monastery, as I called it, but had heard of my good work and my willing to help others.

She told me she knew how much I had done for the sisters, and how now my kids were in boarding school I had no dependants to worry for.

She knew about mine an Emilio's situation, and how I had stayed with him for the sake of the kids, and his career, and how I had given my hair to someone who did not have any.

She had came to let me know that even though I could not be a full nun like her, at this time, I could join a sector straight away who would be very grateful for my help.

If later on I still had my heart set on become a nun, I would need an annulment, from a catholic priest, when I divorced Emilio. Even though I was not married to him in church and I had not long joined the catholic faith, she felt I had done a brave and courageous thing, and the catholic church would recognise this.

This filled my heart with joy and at the same time sadness, and would Emilio admit his cheating in court let alone, in the eyes of the lord.

I asked her, when could I start?

When I got home later, I did not expect Emilio to be in.

We still never told each other where we were going, each day, and what time we would be back, and now the kids were away. We hardly saw each other.

As I closed the front door he came running at me with letters in his hand.

I knew what they were.

So you could not tell me to my face then he said, with much anger in his voice.

Feeling a little scared and emotional, I told him, if I had said they were on the way we might of got into an argument and seeing your voice is back, I did not want to be blamed for it going again.

Gritting his teeth and not knowing where to look, he walked away shaking his head.

Waiting to see, what he would do, or say next, I had thoughts of packing a suite case and remembering where I had put my passport. As tomorrow I was off to live in Romania with some nuns who helped out the needy, which included the elderly and alcoholics, seeing I had been an alcoholic , I could give them some support.

I could hear him pottering about in the kitchen, so I took a deep breath and went into speak with him.

He had opened a bottle of vodka, and was drinking it straight from the bottle.

What the hell are you doing, I said as I grabbed it from him, and went to empty it down the sink.

He pushed me, and tried to grab it back, but in doing so the bottle fell from my hand and smashed all over the floor.

For fuck sake I shouted, at him. Then I realised I should not be swearing, what would mother Mary think?

He began to cry.

I went to get the mop and dustpan and brush.

When I came back he was leaning on the kitchen counter crying.

I quickly swept up the glass and mopped up the vodka.

I emptied the glass in the bin and put the mop back.

Watching him, I went over and stuck the kettle on.

He was still leaning on the counter with his hands in his hair, crying like a baby.

Emilio I shouted.

He turned around; his face was all puffy and wet from the tears.

I got two cups out of the cupboard. I made myself a cup of tea, and him a coffee.

There was a box of tissues on the side, and I got a few out and gave them to him.

He wiped his face and blew his nose.

I then passed him his coffee.

He thanked me for it.

None of us spoke for a few minutes, then I decided I must tell him of what I was doing.

Emilio I have to tell you something.

Tomorrow I am leaving for Romania .

I took a sip of my tea.

He looked at me all confused.

I am off to help the nuns out there, so in time I can become one myself.

His jaw dropped.

You're joking right, he said not really believing me.

No I said shaking my head.

Come on, a nun you, he said trying to make light of it.

What's wrong with wanting to become a nun I said getting angry.

But you have a family he said drinking his coffee fast.

The kids are safe in boarding school, and me and you, I paused, will be divorced, soon.

His face changed again.

He began to cry again. But he did not get angry.

So that it, is it? He said, walking around the kitchen.

We will be really over then.

Not answering his question, I instead told him about what I had been doing all this time, for me to be going to Romania.

I started going to church, and helping the nuns out, and I cut my hair off to give to someone who needed it.

So that's where you were going all day, he replied.

All those Sunday morning up early and out of the house, he carried on.

I thought you might of been meeting with someone.

I laughed; yeah I was, I told him, the Virgin Mary

He laughed back.

He walked over to me.

Liz he said, looking me in the eye.

I must tell you, yes I did get close to Olivia, I don't know why I let myself do it, it must of brought back memories of when you use to dress me, I was stupid, and it meant nothing, I swear.

I looked away, as a tear fell; at last he was telling me what I wanted to know for so long.

We never had sex Liz. All we did was hug and kiss and that damn reporter came into the dressing room that night after the performance, and took those photos.

I looked back at him

But if you hadn't been caught would it of carried on, and would you of ended up having sex.

Emilio turned his head away.

There was my answer.

I walked out of the kitchen and went up stairs.

He followed me, and all the time telling me it would not of carried on.

I went into my room, and pulled my suite case out from under the bed.

He was pleading with me to reconsider, going to Romania.

As I was packing my case, he kept telling me, he was sorry and how we could make it work again.

In the end I got angry and shouted at him.

If you had told me all this two years ago them maybe we could of moved on, your voice would not of gone, and I would not be packing this suite case.

I started to cry, but carried on packing. I only needed the basics.

I went into the bath room and got my tooth brush.

When I came back into the room he was sat on the bed, next to the case.

I needed to tell James of my plans so decided to pack my case get my passport and go and stay with him and ruby tonight.

Liz, Emilio said as I zipped up my case.

I still and will always love only you, I want you back in our bed, it's so lonely without you there.

Ha, trying the old sex charm was he.

But it worked

Within ten minutes we were both naked and all over each other, in our room.

I had not had sex in two years, and god how I missed it.

He kissed me all over, like he always did, and I couldn't control myself. All thoughts of the mother Mary and the nuns went out of my head. His lips on my breasts, felt so good, I had missed him kissing me there and, his tongue licking my back. His touch alone made me scream.

He began singing softly, like he did on our wedding night. Thoughts of that night, made me come, before he even fucked me.

Then when we did make love, I thought I was going to faint.

Him on top of me, moving in and out of me, him kissing my neck, then me gently biting his lower lip, his curly black hair touching my skin, his hands grabbing my breasts, then gently smoothing my stomach.

He pulled me up to sit on him, and I held on tight to him, as he thrust harder and harder. I rested my head on his shoulder as I could feel his cock right inside of me, one hand on my as the other stroking my back with his fingers. I could feel his wedding ring, rub over my spine.

Then I realised I wasn't on any birth control.

The mother Mary came into my head.

I jumped off him, and ran out of the room.

What was I doing, what had I been thinking.

I quickly got dressed, and he came in to see what was wrong.

He was naked and still hard.

I couldn't look at him.

I needed to get out, before he tempted me back.

What's wrong, he asked. I never answered him as I finished getting dressed.

I grabbed my case and ran down stairs.

He wasn't right behind me he had run back into our room to get his dressing gown.

That gave me time to get my passport, hand bag and car keys.

When he came down stairs, I was at the front door.

He grabbed me, and asked what I was doing.

Emilio let me go. I said.

But we just made love. Did it not meaning anything to you?

It did, but I did not tell him that.

I pulled away from him, holding tight to my suite case. I ran out side he followed.

I pressed the alarm on my keys to unlock the car.

The car beeped, and I opened the driver's door, I threw my case in, and quickly got in myself, and shut the door.

He tried to open the door, but I quickly locked it.

Liz, he said crying and banging on the window

I put the key in the ignition, the car started.

His hand was now on the window, I turned to face him, I was crying, as well.

I put my hand on the window, as if we were touching, but the glass was in the way.

I'm sorry, I love you, I said.

I took my hand off the window, and onto the steering wheel, then speed off fast.

I could see him in my wing mirror; he fell to the ground and was crying in a heap.

I wanted to turn around, go back pick him up and go back to bed, but I had made a promise.

So I kept driving until I got to James's house.

Chapter 9

CHAPTER 9

On the way, out of my mind with remorse, worry, fear, regret, I decided I would not ask to stay over and instead go straight to the airport, after telling James of my plans.

I couldn't stop thinking about Emilio's touch, or his lips on mine. But then I would think of the mother Mary, and how I betrayed her.

I parked the car on James's drive, and would leave the keys with him, and ring for taxi. Emilio could arrange to get the car later.

I knocked at the door. I was shaking and in a right state

Ruby answered it. She went to say hi, but saw the state I was in and ushered me in quick.

She called out for James to come quick.

He ran to see what was wrong.

I held tight to my suite case and asked if I could use the phone, straight away.

He said sure, but what's wrong Liz.

I put my suite case down and picked up the phone and asked if they had a number for a taxi.

Ruby went and looked in the phone book which was lying next to the phone.

She found one and read it out to me.

While I spoke to the taxi firm, James looked at Ruby and asked what was going on.

I put the phone down, and turned to James.

Wiping my eyes, I told him, I was off to Romania, and didn't know when I was coming back.

James asked why I was going.

I told him, I was divorcing Emilio and going to be a nun.

He looked at Ruby, then back at me, and laughed.

Come on now Liz, tell me what's really wrong.

I got mad

I am not joking, I am going away.

Ruby and James looked shocked.

Sorry I didn't mean to shout, I said.

James stepped forward and put his hands on my shoulders.

Look you can talk to me, what's happened.

I looked him in the eye.

I said to you, when you picked me up from the airport that day. I was going to do something, but would tell you when the time was right.

Well that time is now.

James hugged me.

I pulled away, as I had more to tell him.

James the kids don't know, only you and Emilio know.

Is this why you are upset he said, taking hold of my hands.

I said nothing. It made me think to when James wanted to divorce me, and we ended up making love then we parted.

What a fool I was then, and I was still a fool.

I heard a car horn beep.

Right I must go.

I gave ruby my car keys and asked her to give them to Emilio if he should come round looking for me.

She took them from me, but squeezed my hand. She smiled and wished me good luck in whatever it was I was doing.

I looked at James, and started to well up again.

Look after Joseph for me, tell him I will always love him, and I hope one day he forgives me for not telling him.

James started to cry.

Liz I can take you to where ever it is your going, he said, pleading me not to just go like this.

I looked at both ruby and James.

I need to do this, I said with a tear falling from my eye.

I picked up my case, and opened the front, door, and ran towards the taxi,

And towards my new life..... yet again.

All the way to the airport I cried and cried.

God knows what the taxi driver thought.

I was flying out in the early hours, but I was going with two nuns and a few other women who, were also wanting to become nuns, but like me, could not yet become one.

I walked around the airport, hoping no one would recognise me.

I went over to the place I was to meet with everyone.

The nuns would have my ticket and explain everything to me.

I held tight to my cross I wore round my neck. Speaking to the mother Mary in my head.

I asked her to look after the kids and Emilio, and could she somehow know I was sorry for just leaving them.

I saw a woman walking in my direction. She looked familiar. She kept looking around, like she was looking for someone.

When she got closer, I realised who it was, and ran up to her.

Omg Bev is that you.

She looked shocked but delighted to see me.

She was carrying a small case, a bit like mine.

Liz is that you, she said looking me up and down.

It sure is, I replied, happy to see a face I knew, in this crowded airport of strangers.

So what you doing here she asked looking me up and down, once more.

Did I want to tell her I was wanting to be a nun, I was not ready for the world to know that yet, so I said I was off on a business trip.

And you, where are you off, I asked.

She looked around, and then she told me she was off on holiday to see a friend.

Not a man friend I said nudging her.

She looked around again, like she was looking out for someone.

Yeah she laughed, you know me, Liz.

But somehow I didn't believe her, she looked on edge, like she was hiding something.

Then I saw a nun coming over to us.

Both me and Bev, cleared our throats.

Hmm I thought, what is Bev up to.

The nun came up to us and asked if we were here for the mercy trip.

Bev and me, looked at each other.

Then looked at the nun, and at the same time said yes.

Me and Bev looked at each other again, then I said really.

She replied and said well what's it to you.

Then she realised I was going to, and said, hold on so you're going as well.

My secret was out, as was hers.

Yes I said trying to be prim and proper.

The nun asked us our names,

She looked down on her sheet she was carrying, and ticket them off.

I am waiting for one more lady to arrive and then I will take you to meet sister, Bella.

Oh I am sister Hannah, by the way she said holding out her hand to shake ours.

I was in shock Bev wanted to be a nun, I thought she would chase men, until the day she died, but Maybe like me she had seen the light, or realised she was getting to old for the game.

We waited for a further fifteen minutes, then a lady with her hair platted, came up towards us.

I am sorry I am late sister, she said, I went past MC donald's, and had to have a big mac, seeing it will be my last for a while.

I looked at her, she still had the burger relish around her mouth.

And it looked like a moustache, or was that a moustache she actually had.

And you must be Antoinette the nun asked putting out her hand to shake hers.

Yes but please call me Toni, as everyone usually spells my name wrong, and always do the joke, off with her head.

I looked at Bev, with a frown.

This woman could of passed for a nun any day, she looked like butter, wouldn't melt, but I was to find out she also had a past.

Right ladies follow me sister and we will go meet sister Bella and explain everything.

The nuns told us when we got to Bucharest, we would then be driven to a small village, which needed our help badly.

The people there had next to nothing, but the sistes, went out every day to help the young old and those with addictions.

I could not speak Romanian, but the nuns told us the town's folk understood some English, and we would get by.

We would be staying in a convent out there, but life would be like nothing we have ever known.

Sister Bella handed us a dark blue habit, and a veil each.

The town's folk would not know, or really care if we were not actual nuns. As soon as they saw us, with this on, they would know we were there to help them.

And we were told when we arrived we would need to shave our heads.

My hair had grown a bit since I had cut most of it off, but I wasn't looking forward to having no hair at all.

But they told us the people were not very clean, and lice infestation, was rife out there, so for our sakes it was better we had not hair.

Toni looked sad about this, as I think she was found of her hair, I bet when it wasn't tied up in plats she had long hair like I did.

I looked at Bev and Toni, and said come on now ladies, we can all have egg heads together.

Bev and Toni laughed, the two nuns looked at each other, and frowned.

Sister, I piped up trying to be serious, will we need to have new passport photos taken.

No sister Hannah, answered, we have paper work for you here to say what you are doing and that you are in our care, we know you ladies are here to do work for other dear mother Mary and would not betray us, but running off, whilst out there now, would you ladies.

Bev, shivered like someone had stepped on her grave.

The nuns spoke with us some more, on what we would be doing, then our flight was called out and we made our way to departures.

The three of us changed into our habits and veils. We would get our hair shaved in Romania.

The nuns said we should pray while we waited to board the plane.

Then the call came for our flight.

We cued up at the departure gate, my mind was now set on Romania, and helping the poor. The praying had calmed me down, and was grateful, I at least knew someone going on this trip.

While standing in line, Bev asked me what happened between me and Emilio as she thought we were a match made, in heaven.

I don't know if she knew about the affair rumours or not, but told her we just didn't get on, and we parted.

The airport was noisy, but then there were a lot of people in it.

But I could hear someone shouting in the distance.

I tried to ignore it, but I could hear it getting louder.

The cue moved on slowly. Hurry up I thought.

The voice was getting nearer, and I recognised it.

It was Emilio, shouting my name.

I did not look round, and Bev even commented, ha,ha, someone wants you Liz. I pretended to laugh, but inside I was shitting my pants.

I was stood behind the nuns, but in front of Bev and Toni.

Liz where are you was all I could hear. The nuns looked around but knew me as my full name Elizabeth.

The nuns had got to the departure desk, they showed the attendants their tickets and passports, then they walked through the departure gate towards the plane.

At last it was my turn.

I handed my ticket and passport to the attendant.

Meanwhile I could here another voice now, James was calling out my name, and Bev recognised his voice.

I looked at her and she said I think they are calling for you Liz.

I looked back at the attendant.

He said I would need to remove my veil as I did not have one on in this photo.

I looked back at Bev, and behind her I could see James and Emilio looking around for me.

God know how they got into departures.

If I took my veil off, they would spot me, but if I didn't I would not be getting on the plane.

Toni and Bev began to take theirs off, as they would be asked the same question.

I was holding the cue up and the attendant was getting impatient.

I turned around and could see and hear James an Emilio, still shouting for me.

I heard a lady not far down from us say, I wish those big mouth idiots would find this Liz and shut the hell up.

Something in me clicked and I went mad.

I pulled my veil off and stepped, out of line to see the woman who had just said that.

Snobby old cow, she was mutton dressed as lamb.

She saw me looking at her and smiled, but then looked away.

What did you just say?, I said nearly shouting at her.

Bev could see me getting angry and tried to push me away.

Excuse me sister, the woman said realising I was talking to her.

What did you just say, I repeated myself, but making strong eye contact with her. The rest of the cue looked to see what was going on while the attendant told me to hurry along. I turned round and told him to shut the fuck up for a minute.

He was taken aback by my words, and went red.

Bev grabbed me. Liz what are you doing.

I looked at Bev, and Toni stepped forward to try and calm me.

The woman piped up and said Jesus, you nuns want to get out once in a while, and started laughing.

I went crazy, pulled away from Bev and went up to her.

I went right in her face.

Who are you calling idiots?

The woman looked frightened, and backed away.

Well who you calling an idiot.

The people in the cue behind her stepped back.

Bev and Toni grabbed me to get back to the front of the cue, Bev started apologising, on my behalf, saying I always got like this before a flight.

I tried pulling off, when security came running in and grabbed me.

The whole airport was watching.

I told the men to get off me and Bev tried to calm me down.

She's just nervous about flying, she will be ok when she's on the plane, Bev was telling the security guards.

I stopped trying to pull away, and composed myself.

The men let me go, and I straightened my habit out.

I am sorry I said.

The men told me I should know better being a nun.

I had dropped my veil, in the struggle I bent to down to pick it up, and when I stood up again I saw Emilio and James looking right at me.

I went red but quickly turned around and headed back to the attendant.

Shaking, I told him how sorry I was, and didn't mean to be so rude.

He looked at my passport again and then handed it back to me, then he told me to go through.

I heard Emilio shout my name again.

I looked around, I stared at him for a second then turned back around and walked towards the plane.

Chapter 10

CHAPTER 10

I had been in the small village helping the nuns, for almost six months now.

It had not been easy at first. Not easy by far. I had never seen such poverty.

Most money raised for the poor starving and neglected goes to Africa, but people needed to know there were other countries and places around the world, which were just as bad.

Bev left after a month it was just too much for her, and she was getting on, so she could not keep up with all the work.

Toni and I were still here, but deep down if I had the choice to leave at any moment I would be on the next plane out of there.

I found out Toni, use to be a drug dealer, as well as a user, to look at her you would never of guessed, but I suppose it takes all sorts. She finally got clean, and wanted to go out into the world to help others.

I had not heard from anyone back in England. Mind you I did not leave an address for them to contact me. At the time I just wanted to get away, before my feelings for Emilio, got strong again.

But every night I and any spare time I had, which was not much, I would sit and think about him and the kids.

I had hoped they might come looking for me. But no one came.

There was a phone at the convent, but I never rang anyone on it, and no one rang for me.

I just accepted that they had let me go.

Me, and Toni got on well. And a few other women had come out to help as well.

But I was not keen on the nuns, they were like power freaks. Who made us live on the bread line, like the poor, while they ate well, and were always clean. We were lucky to get a bath once a week, and it was not even with hot water, so some times we never even washed, which annoyed me, as I had always been a clean person. But for the sake of the Virgin Mary I kept my head down and helped with the towns people.

I had been working with the alcoholics and drug addicts. Mind you seeing they were so poor I wondered where they got the money from to get drunk and high.

I told them how I was when I was an alcoholic, and those who could understand me, told me why they were drinking.

I had to admit if I had been born in this village I would of ended my life through drink years back.

Toni had been put to work with the elderly, and she enjoyed her work, working with drug addicts, would of been too much and she could of been tempted back.

My job was more intense, as the people I met with could be very dangerous and violent at times, but I learnt to watch for the signs.

I man did once try going at me, but I punched him in the face, and knocked him clean out.

The nuns pulled me up on this, but I was defending myself, and argued the case with them.

They let me carry on with the job as no one else wanted it.

Christmas had come and gone.

I wondered how the kids got on. They were at boarding school term time only. I bet Samantha hated me.

But I was not a proper mother to her or Joseph, in that state I was. Without me there, she would in time get over me, and be happy with her dad, whom she was so very close to.

I did hope Emilio had gone back to the opera, and if he wanted to be with Olivia he could now do.

For the next few more months I ploughed on helping others, a lot worse off than me, but I was starting to feel drained.

Yes I was doing a good thing helping these people, but I did picture myself, in a better role.

The twins thirteenth birthday was coming up and I really wanted to let them know, I still loved and thought about them every day. But I was to be contacted, before I could get the chance to contact anyone.

I was in a meeting with the drinkers, when Sister Agatha came running in and told me I was needed on the phone straight away.

I was dreading what I would hear on the other end.

I ran up to the convent, saying hail Mary over and over , until I got to the phone.

Shaking I picked it up and said hello.

Liz is that you, a voice answered.

Yes I said not remembering the name that went with the voice.

It's me Kate, the person said.

Oh thank god I said, relieved, it wasn't the kids or Emilio, I would of not known what to say.

Liz you're a hard person to track down, you never left anyone any contact details.

Kate said, in a hurry to get out whatever she had to tell me.

Sorry about that, I replied, and what did she have to tell me.

Look Liz, I have some news, she went on.

I took out my cross that I usually wear around my neck, from my pocket, and held it tight. As I waited for her to tell me whatever it was, she had called me for.

First of all, Emilio's agreed to the divorce, but it has taken me two weeks to track you down, Kate said.

Breathing out a sigh of relief, I held my cross up to my mouth and kissed it, but inside I was hurting, for a love that died.

Replying quickly, I said, so do you want me to come home to sign the papers and get it sorted?

Kate paused.

Liz there is something else.

Her voice changed.

I held my breath.

Liz, Emilio was in an accident last week.

I said nothing, and fearing the worst, I let go of my cross, and it fell to the floor.

Liz are you still there, I heard Kate say down the phone.

I fell to the floor as well. My heart was pounding I wanted to scream, but couldn't. No sound came, just tears.

I would never see my love again.

Liz can you hear me, Kate was shouting down the phone.

With tears falling, I answered yes.

Liz he is in a bad way, she said.

What, he's still alive, oh thank god, thank the blessed mother, I said in my head.

Liz you need to go home to be with Sam, she needs you, Kate said sounding sincere.

I didn't know what to say, but I had, had enough of this place and was leaving.

Ok I said, I need to make arrangements. I replied.

No need Liz, I have booked you a flight, all you need to do is get to the airport, can you do that, your plane leaves tonight.

It was a few hours' drive to the airport, I would need to leave now.

I told her I would be there.

Kate wished me luck and to keep in touch when I got back to the UK.

I said goodbye, but before running to ask one of the sisters to take me to the airport, I thought about all I was going back to.

And how ill was Emilio.

But I was still his wife and I needed to be there for the kids now

I rushed to find one of the sisters. I told her I had to leave immediately and could someone give me a lift to the airport.

She said she would tell the other nuns.

I told her I would pack my stuff and would be in my room.

I decided I would wear the clothes I left the UK in, I had not wore them since I was at the airport, the day I left to come out here. They were not clean, and I had no time to get cleaned up myself, but I was only interested on getting on that flight.

I had lost a lot of weight, so they were hanging like rags on me.

I took my veil off, and looked at my head in the mirror.

I had shaved it the day before, so was bold as a coot.

I looked a mess. I could pass for one of the poor Romanians I had been caring for.

No one came to my room, and I had been waiting for ages. So I took my case, and went looking for the nuns.

I found sister Bella, I asked if she had been informed of my request to be taken to the airport.

She said she had been told, but was too busy, to just drive me to the airport.

I asked if someone else could drive me then.

She laughed.

I was taken aback with this.

We have gods work to do, she said not even looking at me. Do you think we are going to drop everything, because, you want to go back and see your husband, whom, you are divorcing.

I was very hurt by her words.

He's been in an accident sister, he's very ill and my kids need me. I said almost begging.

You gave up your family when you decided you wanted to join the mother Mary and the sisters, did you not, she said trying to be smug

I could not believe she was saying this.

Sister while I have been here, I have done all you have asked of me, now can you not do me this favour.

Sister Bella, turned to me, with a nasty look.

I have already told you we have gods work to do,

Before she could finish, I butted in

Fuck god, now if you won't give me a lift, I will take your fucking car and drive myself there.

Sister Bella stepped back and looked at me with her mouth open.

Well I said, will you give me your car keys, or will I have to take them by force.

I was full of such anger, I really would of hurt her if she never gave me the keys.

She took the car keys from the pocket in her habit.

Shaking, she gave me them.

I grabbed them from her hand and ran,

I got in the car, and I saw Toni running up towards me.

Liz where are you going she asked.

Sorry Toni, I said starting the old banger. I have a family who needs me, and I am going back to be with them.

I could see other nuns and sisters, running towards the car, and behind them sister Bella.

I looked at Toni dressed in her veil and habit, I wished her well, and to have a nice life.

The nuns were getting closer, so I put my foot down and sped off, out of the convent.

I had not been this stressed in months. But I had to get that plane home.

I couldn't reads road signs very well. I just hoped I could remember the roads we came in on all those months back.

Time was running out. I had to stop and ask people, which way it was to the airport, half could not understand me.

But then a miracle happened.

I saw a sign with an aeroplane on it, and I knew I was nearly there.

I parked the car up and chucked the keys on the seat.

I got out, and ran towards the entrance. I could hear a man shouting something in Romanian; probably something like you can't leave your car here.

I got inside and ran towards the information desk.

Thank god the woman at the desk could speak English.

I told her I had a ticket waiting for me.

She checked it out.

Yes there was a ticket for me, but I had to hurry as my flight was closing as they had brought it forward.

I ran like the wind, to where I had to check in.

I made it with a minute to go.

I showed them my passport and they did query it, as seeing I had no hair now.

I explained I had been with the nuns, and had to shave my hair.

A supervisor was called and they were speaking in Romanian, but looking me up and down.

I had packed my habit and veil and got them out to show them.

Then I remembered I have dropped my cross in the convent, but never picked it back up.

That had been my comfort, and connection to the mother Mary, now I would never see it again.

But none of that mattered now, I had to get back to Emilio and the kids.

Finally the supervisor said it was ok, and I could fly.

I ran to departures, and I only just made that as well.

Again I was questioned about my photo, and nearly got into an argument, trying to prove who I was.

My case had gone in the hold so I could not get my habit and veil out to prove I was a nun again.

Then I saw the supervisor, who I had just spoke to, walking towards me.

Holding a walkie talkie he shouted to the attendant, something in Romanian, and the attendant, nodded, and said I could go.

I never felt so relieved in all my life.

As I made my way to my seat, all the other passengers were looking at me with disgust. Not sure if it was because I had nearly held the plane up or, because of the way I looked,

I sat down, and just stared into space.

I was going home.

Chapter 11

CHAPTER 11

I had to be woken by one of the air stewards.

I must of fallen asleep straight away.

The people who I had sat next to on the plane, must of just climbed over me, to get off the plane.

It took me a while to come to and the air steward, asked if I was ok.

When it dawned on me, we had landed back in the UK. I undid my belt and ran, to get off the plane.

I ran to go get my case, and then I had to deal with customs. I was questioned again. I told them I was Emilio's wife and he had been in an accident, and needed to get to his bed side.

The customs officer, who was dealing with me, had said he had seen it on the news, but I didn't look much of a wife to him.

Not surprising, I looked more like a druggie than an opera singer's wife. He probably thought I was nuts, and I wasn't wearing my wedding rings. So that got them asking me more questions.

Well who was that woman pictured, going in with his kids to see him then, he said not convinced, I was telling the truth.

I thought that was his wife, he said.

My heart sank

He must of found love again, that's why he had agreed to the divorce. Maybe it was with Olivia.

In the end the man took pity on me, said I should, get a bath, and some food.

Fucking prick I thought, I know who I am.

When I got through arrivals, lots of people were there.

They must of thought look at the tramp. I could see them all looking at me. But I recognised no one.

Wheeling my case to an area where there was not many people about I sat on it and put my hands to my head.

I had no money or phone, to ring anyone.

Seeing I looked like a beggar, maybe I should ask someone for some spare change.

I knew how the poor Romanians, who I had been helping, felt like now.

I was just about to ask someone for some change, when I heard a voice I knew.

Dad, could she of missed the flight.

It was Joseph and James.

They hadn't recognised me walking through arrivals.

I went to run up to them, but what would Joseph, let alone James think of me.

I took some deep breaths.

Then I walked over to them.

I never said anything I as stood behind them. I was just so happy to see some familiar faces.

James turned around and looked me up and down and gave me a dirty look.

Sorry I don't give to beggars, he said turning away, and pulling Joseph away from me.

He hadn't recognised me. I must of looked a right state.

I was so hurt by his comments.

Starting to cry, I had to speak.

How is he?

James turned around again.

He looked angry, but then his face changed.

He realised it was me.

He had a look of shock on his face.

Liz is that you, he said.

Yes I said nodding my head, with tears rolling down my dirty face.

Joseph grabbed on tight to his father.

James hugged him, and told him it was ok.

Joseph turned to James and said is that mum.

Wiping the tears, from my face and bent down next to Joseph, he stepped back and held tighter to his dad.

I got back up, and looked at James.

Liz what happened to you, he asked.

Trying to make a joke of the situation, I told him I fancied a hair cut like his.

He smiled then looked down at Joseph.

Joseph looked at his dad, then me and started to smile.

I could really do with a hot bath and some clean clothes I said to James.

He took hold of my case and walked to wards the exit. Joseph was not so scared of me now.

But kept staring at my bold head.

James had rang on ahead to Ruby to run a bath for me, and see if she had any spare clothes.

When we got into James's house, Ruby came rushing up to me and told me the bath was waiting and some clean clothes.

She looked me up and down and asked if I was ok.

I told her I had been better.

I got into the bath and it felt like heaven.

Hot water was a treat out there, and had not had a proper warm let alone bath in nearly a year.

When I stood up and got out of the bath, the water was brown.

I had to scrub the bath. The shame of leaving it would of killed me.

When I came down stairs, James and Ruby were waiting for me in the lounge.

Ruby got up and went to get me a cup of tea.

She told Joseph to come see if we could find any biscuits to go with it.

When they both left the room, I asked what happened to Emilio and how was he.

James told me, how he had been driven home after his first performance back at the opera house, when another car came out of nowhere and hit the car he was in.

He suffered bad head injuries. He developed a clot on the brain and they had to operate. His brain swelled, he was lucky to of survived the operation.

But they don't know if he is brain damaged or not. He had been put into a coma; they took him out of it again, but still, he has not come around.

I began to shake and cry.

And what about Sam, how is she?

She won't leave him, she just sits by his bed side.

Even Joseph can't persuade her to come home for a bit.

I needed to see them both now.

But then I remembered what that customs officer said.

There was a woman with Sam going into see him, in the photo.

I wiped away another tear.

So who's the woman I said asking James straight out.

James looked at me, with sad eyes.

He did start seeing that Olivia again.

I looked away, with more tears falling.

Liz he waited for you, he tried to get in contact with you, but got nowhere, even I in the end told him to move on.

I had let her have my husband, I should of fought for him. What at stupid selfish bitch I was.

Trying to find myself, I lost all around me.

I put my head in my hands.

James asked what happened to me.

Why did I have no hair, why did I look so thin and ill.

I looked up and told him I gave myself to god, and he did this to me.

James came over and hugged me.

Ruby came in with my tea.

Joseph offered me a biscuit.

I ate the lot.

I needed to see Sam and Emilio even if Olivia was there, so I asked James if he would take me this moment.

James said he would come in with me.

I was frightened and angry. But if Olivia was there I would face her.

We got to the intensive care ward.

Both me and James pumped some alcohol gel on our hands. Then the nurse smiled and let us into his room.

I could see Sam sitting next to him holding his hand tight.

Olivia was lent over talking to him, in case he might hear her.

James closed the door.

Both Sam and Olivia turned round.

Sam's face dropped.

Olivia stood back, from the bed. I could not see Emilio's face from where I stood.

Sam got up and came over to James then looked at me.

She looked at me up and down.

Then from nowhere she slapped me hard across the face.

I fell back. James stepped in as she went for me again.

What is she doing here?. She said shouting at me through James.

I was shaken up quite badly, my own daughter not yet thirteen hitting her own mother. She had grown up quick while I had been away

I deserved it though.

So I told James to stand back, he looked at me funny. I said stand back James, so he did.

Sam went at me like a mad woman, hitting me round the head, slapping me, shouting things at me, telling me she hated me and wished it was me in the bed and not her father.

I let her do and say what she wanted.

The beating hurt, but the pain inside my heart hurt more.

In the end James pulled her off me.

My lip was bleeding, and i had scratches across my face.

Olivia stepped forward, to try and calm her. I then got my strength back and went at her.

I grabbed her by the throat, pushing her up against the wall by the door.

This is your doing. I said

My daughter hates me, because of you.

You were a friend a work college, but you stepped over the mark.

Trying to talk, let alone breath, she said, Liz you have got it all wrong.

James was now trying to pull me off her.

Sam now tried helping James pull me off her. Then security came running into the room.

They pushed past James and Sam and grabbed me.

They pulled me out of the room, I was kicking and screaming. I still had not seen Emilio.

James followed and asked me to calm down.

The guards sat me down on a chair just outside of the room.

They radioed in for a nurse to attend as I was bleeding badly.

Then I heard Sam shouting from in the room.

He's waking up, he's walking up. I looked at James.

Go see I said while the guards held me down.

Then a nurse came running, up to me, I told her she was needed in there.

The guards just nodded.

Then I heard them press the buzzer, and loads more people came running up, and into the room.

Eventually a nurse came and looked at my wounds.

Whilst the guards held me, she cleaned me up.

She asked what at happened, I just said I fell.

She asked if I was Emilio's wife.

I said yes, but for how much longer I didn't know.

She said she remember reading how he'd cheated on me.

Thanks I thought, that's made me feel loads better, seeing the woman who he had cheated with was in the room with him now.

I felt like just getting up and going, without even seeing how he was, after all he was with Olivia now.

Or they could put me in a padded sell if they liked, I did not care for anything or anyone any more.

Then a doctor came out of the room.

He is asking for you, the doctor said.

I didn't really register what he said.

Tell James I am just going to go home, though where was home now. I bet Olivia had moved in

No you miss understand me, I mean your husband, asked for you.

I heard what he said the second time.

I looked at the doctor.

It appears he heard your voice and he woke up from his coma.

I stood up, but the security guards, stayed close to me.

The door to his room opened again, and this time Olivia walked out, she was holding her throat. She stopped in front of me, look Liz, the first time I did get close to your husband, but we never got involved, then when you left he came to see me again.

I could of gone at her again, but the guards were there so I had no chance.

She carried on still holding her throat,

He told me you were over and did I want to start dating him, I said yes. But all he ever did was think and talk about you.

I got friendly with Sam, but she needed someone to talk to with you not around.

That really hurt me, and I looked down.

But I finished with him, and then the next day he was in the crash.

So have been here to comfort Sam.

What a fucking stupid bitch I was.

I still was not fond of her seeing she and my husband nearly got it on the first time, but she stuck around for Sam.

Then Sam came to the door.

Olivia looked at Sam and smiled.

Sam smiled back and waved at her.

Olivia turned back to me, and whispered in my ear. If she really wanted to, she could have Sam and Emilio, but she wasn't that evil, and wished me luck, as Emilio was now disfigured, and wondered how long I would stick around to care for him.

Then she walked away

Sam stood in the door way looking at me.

She had been crying.

I looked at her.

She spoke.

Dad wants to see you.

With that I fainted.

Chapter 12

CHAPTER 12

I woke up.

I was lying on a bed, a comfortable bed.

Not like what I had been use to for nearly the last year.

But I was not alone.

I was lying on someone and there arm was stroking my back.

My head was on their chest, and I could feel it rise, then go down again.

I was too frightened to move.

Was I dreaming?

Or was this for real?

But how did I get here lying next to this person.

Then I remembered I had gone into hospital to see Emilio.

Omg god I was lying next to him.

The last thing I saw was Sam's face at the door. Then, nothing.

My arm was aching so I was going to have to move.

I gently pulled myself up, and turned to face Emilio.

I almost fell of the bed.

He put his arm out to stop me falling.

He spoke and I could just about understand him.

Hey you he said, trying to smile.

His face was smashed up.

He had tubes coming out of his nose, which had been broken.

He'd had stitches and bandages covering most of his face, and had drips in his arm.

And his hair,

His beautiful hair, had been shaved off.

And his head, had been stapled together, but was misshapen.

He did not look like the Emilio I had loved, and ran away from.

I sat up on the bed.

I could not stop looking at him.

He reached up and touched my face. Mine wasn't in great shape either, after Sam going at me.

Then he smoothed my bald head.

Me you and James have the same haircuts now, he said trying to laugh.

I smiled at him and took hold of his hand.

My injuries would heal a lot better than his I thought.

I let go of his hand, and got off the bed and sat in the chair next to the bed.

It was just me and him in the room.

I did not know how I felt. I had pinned for him so much, now seeing him like this, my feelings changed again.

Why could I not stop changing my mind.

I was so sure I loved him again, and wanted him back and for him to want me.

Now I was just numb

Maybe I did have bi polar after all.

I had to stop looking at him.

I know I looked a state as well, but he was in a worse state.

I looked around the room hoping James and Samantha would come in.

I sent them away, Emilio said,

He knew I was looking for them.

He reached for my hand again.

I looked down at his hand. They were still the same hands that had held me, and touched me.

So how did I end up on your bed, I asked trying to work out my next move.

I asked them to lay you next to me, he said, as he gripped onto my hand.

I pulled my hand away and scratched my head.

Olivia was here, she was at your bed side, shouldn't it be her sat here instead of me, I said not knowing if it was the right thing to of said, but it needed to be.

Emilio looked down at his bed sheets and pulled them up, and tried to tidy them up.

Well I said,

Ill or not, I wanted an answer.

He looked at me with his damaged face.

I got lonely he said. But we are not together now

I turned away.

We never said anything for a few minutes.

Then he asked what had happened to my face.

Feeling ashamed but felt I had to say it, I told him.

I dropped everything to come back and see you, and Sam, and when I came in, she went for me.

But then I deserved it for leaving her.

Emilio tried to sit up more in the bed, and was quite taken aback at what Sam did.

She should not have done that, he said.

Well like I said, I deserved it.

I felt really awkward, but then a nurse came into the room, and behind her were Emilio's four sons. And his ex wife was behind them.

I got up.

His sons came over to him, but looked scared as hell.

I told him I would see him later, and went to walk out of the room.

Emilio tried to reach out for me, and called me back.

Knowing that I was being watched now by his sons and exwife .

I came back over to his bed.

He took hold of my hand.

Liz, please come back and see me.

I looked into his eyes trying not to think about his injuries.

Ok I said, then let go of his hands, smiled at those watching me and walked out of the room.

The nurse followed me out.

She asked how I was.

I said I was ok now, and nothing a good sleep wouldn't fix. And I went to walk away.

He hasn't seen his face you know, I hear he was a good looking bloke, it will be hard when he knows the truth, she said trying to be sympathetic.

I turned back to her, she smiled.

Then told me James and Sam were down the corridor waiting for me.

I smiled and walked away again.

When the nurse was out of site, I bent over and put my hands on the top of my thighs, to catch my breath.

I didn't want to speak with James and Sam at the moment, I needed time to think.

I decided I would go and see if Nicole was in.

I walked the opposite, way to what the nurse told me, but making sure she was not up a head.

I finally got out of the hospital.

I had no money so would walk to her house, and ring Ruby and tell her to let James know I was with Nicole.

The coward's way out, I know.

But I needed, to think what I should do, for the best.

It was late when I got to Nicole's, and thank god she was in.

When she opened the door I was expecting her to tell me to fuck off.

She looked at me, then reached out and gave me a hug,

I hugged her tight back, and said I was sorry for going and not telling her.

Well your hear now, but I am not keen on the hair cut Liz, she said laughing.

I will tell you everything, but can I make a call first.

I rang Ruby and told her to get James on his mobile and tell him I was sorry I never caught up with him and Sam.

That's all I seem to be doing was letting people down, but then I had had my fare share, but that was not the person I was.

I would make it up to people I promised myself.

Nicole had heard Emilio was in hospital.

I said he was in a bad way.

She and Gilb had not seen him in a while.

When he started seeing Olivia, they backed off, as they were my friends, even if I had run off to be a nun.

Liz what made you do it, and are you going back.

No I am not going back there.

I thought it was what I needed to do to be happy, helping others.

But you stopped helping those who need you the most, she said not trying to tell me off, but she was right.

I am fucked in the head Nicole.

I am bi polar, there I said it.

Who said that, she asked.

A doctor I went to see when it came out about Emilio.

You were angry and depressed Liz she replied, who wouldn't be, when the man you love, cheats on you.

Yeah but I just could not get over it.

Even out in Romania, though I trusted in the Virgin Mary, Emilio was there in the back of my mind.

I tried everything I could to just let him go. But I could not. Why?

Then I heard he had been in an accident, I climbed hell and high water to get home.

Nicole put her hand on my shoulder, for support, and I carried on.

I even told one of the nuns to fuck god, because she would not let me leave.

Wow, Nicole said looking shocked.

Then I came home to see Emilio, like that, Sam attacked me and Olivia was there.

Welcome fucking home. I said laughing but really wanting to cry.

Nicole got up and asked if I wanted another cup of tea.

I asked her if she had anything stronger.

She gave me a dirty look and said is that wise.

I said well what have I, got to lose.

Gilb joined us, and I told him about it all

We all chatted and drank late into the night.

We spoke about old times, and all the good times

How the years had flown by, our kids were growing up, and how things had changed.

I told them both, I did not know what I was going to do.

I could not go back and see the nuns.

But did I want to go back to Emilio.

They told me I could stay with them if I had wanted.

I said I would stay the night then, I would have to make a decision.

Do I keep running, or do I stay and look after my family.

I feel asleep on their couch.

I woke in the morning to a song on the radio, coming from their kitchen

The song I found out later was in a life time by Clannad and bono.

The song spoke to me, the words so haunting but so true.

Hard to tell
Or recognize a sign
To see me through
A warning sign

(First the thunder) Satisfied
(Then the storm) If the past it will not lie
(Torn asunder) The future you and I
(In the storm) Get blown away

In a lifetime
In a lifetime

And as the rain it falls
Begin again
Heavy in my heart
As the storm breaks through

Believe the light in you
So the light shines in you
Without colour, faded and worn
Torn asunder in the storm

Unless the sound
Save your body's soul
Unless it disappears

(First the thunder) Selfish storm
(Then the storm) Hold on the inside
(Torn asunder) One life
In the storm

In a lifetime
In a lifetime
In a lifetime
In a lifetime.

I got up and Gilb was in the kitchen making some toast, he asked if I wanted some.

I said yeah thanks.

He asked what my plans were for today, thinking back to the song, I told him I would go home, and get sorted out.

Nicole appeared in the door way.

Morning trouble she said to me, well hung over.

Rubbing my bald head, I smiled.

My heads not much better either, I said laughing, but my cut face, hurt when I laughed.

I just told Gilb I am going home, I have much to sort out.

Nicole smiled as she went to pour herself a large black coffee.

So will you get back with Emilio then she asked.

Who knows, I said.

But he needs looking after, and if I can look after alcoholics and drug addicts living below the poverty line in Romania, I can look after the man I married, and once loved.

Nicole smiled again, put her coffee down and came over and gave me a hug.

I wish you all the luck in the world Liz, one day you will be happy again.

I hoped she was right.

I rang James and he came to pick me up. He had a spare set of keys to mine and Emilio's house.

Samantha and Joseph were with him.

I told them all I would look after him.

Samantha was un impressed.

Dads a freak now mum, how long before you run off again?

I did not answer her.

I was not sure of my feelings for him, but for the kids sake I would look after him.

And if he wanted to go back with Olivia I would let him.

Chapter 13

CHAPTER 13

The kids got out of James' car, and were waiting for me.

James asked what was wrong.

I told him I was afraid to go back into the house.

Why he asked.

The memories it holds.

James said well let me go unlock and you come in when you're ready.

I passed him the house keys. He got out and went in with the kids.

My car was sat on the drive next to Emilio's.

Thoughts of the night I drove from here, to James's, then off to Romania, came flooding back.

Seeing Emilio on his knees crying, in my wing mirror as I sped off, to what I thought was my new life.

Fucking fool I thought to myself.

If I had forgiven him, for something he didn't really do? what would life be like now.

The Joseph brought me back to reality, but knocking on the car window.

Mum, are you coming in, he said, with his sweet face.

Taking a deep breath, I said yes, and got out of the car.

Walking in I knew I had to take us all away from here.

If I was going to be with Emilio, we all needed a fresh start.

And I was going to have the kids near to us not at boarding school, unless James wanted Joseph to stay there.

They had come off school, but if they knew I would look after Emilio they could go back.

But I knew with Emilio being how he was, he would not be going back to work, and we could not afford the life we had.

I had to think ahead now, and be real.

I had lived below the poverty line, and made it.

And maybe we would not be that not so bad off, but we could not afford the house, here and in Gozo.

I needed to speak to mine and Emilio solicitors, and also tell them I would not be divorcing him.

After getting my bearings in the house, I went to my room and changed into my clothes, I told James I would wash the clothes Ruby lent me, and give them back to her later.

James asked if wanted any help with anything.

I told him I would sort myself out then go in and see Emilio.

He asked if I was taking Sam, or he would watch her again for me.

I asked Sam if she wanted to come.

She said of course I am coming, who knows what you might say or do, on your own with dad.

What do you mean I said getting a bit angry?

Well you might see him again, get his hopes up, then, run off again.

Hang on young lady; I said defending myself against my own daughter.

I loved your father like you would not believe, he hurt me first remember, it took me a long time to get over it, you could say I had a nervous breakdown.

Sam put her head down.

I carried on, James and Joseph just stood and listened.

I ran off yes, I left you all, yes, I fucked up.

Now I am back, to show you all how sorry I am, and look after your father.

Samantha looked at me again.

I don't know what will happen between me and your dad, but I will look after him.

Sam started crying and ran to me.

She gave me a hug and broke down.

I looked at James and Joseph.

James smiled and Joseph hugged his father.

I held on tight to Sam.

She cried for ages.

When she lifted her face, which was now red, puffy and wet, she said sorry mum for hurting you yesterday.

I smiled at her, it's ok love, I deserved it, but don't do it again I said.

James said he would leave us to it and if I wanted him he would come over.

Samantha let go of me, and I went over and hugged Joseph.

Good luck mum he said to me.

Then Sam came over to hug her twin.

You need to get back to school brother she said to him.

I will he replied, I am missing me mates.

James turned to Joseph, I can take you back today if you like son.

Can I dad? please.

Yeah let's get home pack your stuff and you can be there in time for tea, James said patting his head.

Ahh cool, dad. Joseph replied.

Before they left James asked me if I wanted to help him plan something for the twins birthday, which was coming up .

Hugging Sam, I said yeah, of course, my twins will be 13, and we need to celebrate that.

Ok then I will find out what Joe wants and you let us know what you fancy young lady, James said to Sam, as he patted her shoulder.

Samantha smiled.

And we waved them both off.

When I closed the door, I said to Sam let's get ready to see your dad.

Sam smiled.

I hoped I was not getting her hopes up.

Trying to be all wifely, and motherly, I got a bag of things together to take into Emilio. I did ask Sam, when was the last time he had clean underwear on.

She looked at me funny.

Don't know mum, she replied.

I did not want to bring her name up, but I asked Sam if Olivia had taken him any clean clothes in.

No she said.

I needed to know what went on with Olivia and Emilio when I went away, so I asked Sam.

Well she said, looking upset.

When dad rang to say you had left, I stayed on at school. He told me you would be back.

Then the holidays came and you did not come back.

Dad carried on best he could, then he went back to the opera.

She paused for a bit and then carried on.

He let me know he was dating Olivia.

I wasn't happy about it but you never came back, so I just let him do what he had to do.

She stayed over a few times.

And she came for Christmas.

I was gutted.

Sam looked at me.

Is this upsetting you mum she asked.

A bit love, I replied, but do go on.

She was nice to me and Joseph. And dad was happy for a while.

But then Olivia told me all he ever went about was you.

That was some comfort I suppose, but still she had been in bed with him, so feelings of betrayal came back into my head.

Dad rang me in school to say they had broken up.

I was sad, for him, but for her as well, she said looking away.

Then the next day James rang to tell me of his accident, and he came to collect me.

I rang Olivia and told her and she came to see me and stayed with me and dad in hospital.

I did not know what to say.

Sam needed a mother, and I just up and left, I can't blame her for wanting Olivia near her.

Trying to put on a front, but my heart was aching, I told her to let's get a move on to see her dad.

When we got to the hospital I could see a lot of reporters there.

I did hope it wasn't for me, in the state I was in, no hair and cut face they would have a field day. We would have to get past them somehow.

When I went to Romania, I never took my phone, but had it back now, and someone began to ring me.

I reached into my bag to answer it.

It was James, he said my solicitor had been on the phone and told me keep away from the hospital, as Olivia had gone to the press about me, and Emilio's accident, and in her words the love triangle.

Too late I was there, and one reporter clocked me and Sam.

There she is he shouted.

Shit.

I grabbed Sam, and pushed past them. I could see the security guards trying to make way for us.

Did you become a nun because he cheated on you, one reporter shouted out.

They say he looks worse than the phantom, another said.

Were you in the same accident, someone else called out.

Fucking assholes I thought.

And wait till I saw Olivia again.

The security guards ushered us to Emilio.

He had been moved to another ward, as he was out of danger now.

Before I went in, a doctor approached us.

Mrs Mauzon, I hear the press is outside, is this you're doing.

No it is not doctor I said angrily, his bloody floozy, went to them

Very well, he said.

Now you must know he has seen himself, and he's been upset ever since.

We are keeping an eye on him, and I don't want him to get too stressed.

Oh god I thought.

The doctor opened the door to his new room, and we walked in.

Two nurses were trying to change his bandages but he was fighting against them. Telling them to just leave it.

Samantha grabbed me and put her hand to her mouth in shock.

It's ok love, i said.

Putting my hand to my own face, my bandages could do with changing.

Nurse, I shouted out.

Couldn't do me a favour and clean my face up instead.

The nurse's stopped what they were doing.

I winked at them.

Emilio's full injuries were on show.

He looked bad.

One came over to me, and said he needs his bandages to put back on, or the wounds will not heal.

I know that nurse I can do that, just do my face, give him time then I will do it.

She looked at the other nurse, and made a gesture for her to come over.

Mrs Mauzon will do his bandages, Sharon ,she said, to the other nurse.

This is Mrs Mauzon she said looking shocked.

But what about the other woman?

I gave her a dirty look.

She shut up.

Mrs Mauzon had asked if we will change her bandages, the first nurse said.

But we need to do Mr Mauzon's , this stupid nurse, Sharon said.

I pulled her to the side.

Look dopey it's obvious he is upset, I said to her quietly.

Do my face, then I will do his.

The nurse looked confused.

The other nurse stepped forward.

Look Sharon go help Maureen change Mrs Haggert's catheter, she told her.

The nurse went out of the room.

The first, intelligent nurse cleaned up my face, while Samantha watched, but kept an eye on her dad.

Then the nurse left me the bandages and explained where they had to go.

I told her I would put them on him.

She smiled and said she would pop back later, then left the room.

I looked at Sam, as if to say go speak with your dad.

He was crying but the tears were hurting him.

Hey dad, what's up she said.

Emilio turned to her.

Sam's face looked scared.

She hadn't seen the full damage.

Nor had I, but she was a child and it frightened her.

Emilio could see she was scared and looked away.

She got up and said she was off to get a drink, then ran out of the room.

I called her name she turned around with tears in her eyes and shook her head.

Then, she disappeared.

I went after her.

Sam, wait up.

She fell to the ground and screamed.

Emilio must of heard her.

Sam it's ok I said trying to comfort her .

I said I will see if Nicole could come get her.

I got my mobile phone out and rang Nicole.

She said she would be down straight away.

Sam said she would wait in the car park, for her, but away from the reporters.

I told her I would wait with her, but she said no mum dad needs his bandages on.

I told her to tell Nicole to ring me when you got in the car.

Wiping her face she said ok.

I hugged her and said things will get better.

Not for dad they won't she said pulling away.

I kissed her head.

I will come get you later, I said to her.

She smiled and ran off to meet Nicole.

I walked back into the room.

Emilio was hysterical.

I want over to him and told him to calm down.

It hurts he said, and I am a monster.

Don't be daft I said trying to dab his tears that were stinging his wounds, but not making eye contact.

My own daughter is scared of me, Emilio said

She had not seen you without the bandages. So she was shocked, I said still trying to calm him.

She hates me, he replied.

She does not hate you, she stayed by your bed day and night when you were in the coma, I said trying to make him see sense.

Emilio calmed down.

She did, he asked

Yes, I replied, now bandaging up one of his wounds.

You're still her father, face or no face, she loves you whatever.

Emilio tried to smile.

I finished bandaging his up.

There see what was all the fuss.

Why can't you look me in the eye?

What I said,

While you put my bandages on, you kept trying to look away.

I did not, I replied, but he was right.

Do I look that bad, he said, nearly shouting at me.

I shouted back.

So you want the truth, I said.

Yeah you do look bad, really bad, your face and head are fucked, there is that what you want to hear.

What had I just said.

How cruel was I.

I looked away.

I didn't mean to say it like that.

Emilio said nothing.

I turned back to him.

I took hold of his hands.

I am sorry I didn't mean to say that.

Emilio looked down.

My phone rang, is was Nicole saying she had picked Samantha up from outside and would see me later.

I told her thanks and switched my phone off.

Look you were in a bad accident, and lucky to of survived it, your face will heal, your hair will come back, and you can have plastic surgery.

But it's not about looks, it what's inside that counts.

What was I saying?

Emilio looked me in the eye.

He gave a slight smile, and another tear fell.

I got up sat on the bed and hugged him.

But was careful not to catch his bandages and tubes.

I hugged him for ages.

Then I lay down on the bed next to him.

He put his arm around me.

I lay there next to him not saying anything, just us to, holding each other.

I drifted off.

We must of been a sleep for about an hour when the nurse, who was here earlier on, came in and asked if we wanted a cup of tea.

I sat up and Emilio's hand rubbed my back.

For a moment I thought we were back at home in our bed, like old times.

Yes please I said

I looked at Emilio.

Do you want one?

Yes thanks he said, but you will have to help me drink it.

I smiled. I will hold your straw.

He smiled back.

I would be helping do a lot of things from now on.

Not long after, a physiotherapist came to see him, he had been lead down for a long time, and he had to get up to prevent bed sores and blood clots.

I sat and offered support.

Emilio struggled, but he made some progress.

The physio, said he would come in tomorrow, and then each day till he was happy with him.

By the end of it Emilio was knackered.

It was getting late and I told him I better go see how Sam was.

I had not mentioned that the reporters had been outside, they might still be there, for all I knew, but would face them.

I gave him a kiss on the top of his head.

He pulled me in and kissed my lips.

They were not broke.

But I still did not know my feeling for him.

In the end I pulled away, as I could feel my mouth where Sam had hit , start to rip, and I did not want it bleeding again.

Sorry did I hurt you he said, touching my bald head.

No, just I don't want my cut mouth to reopen and bleed on you.

He stroked my face gently.

I put my hand on his hand.

And stroked that.

Then I got up and said I would see him tomorrow.

He tried to smile again.

Then I went out of the room.

I had to gather my thoughts together.

One for my feelings, and two for the reporters if they were still outside.

A few were still outside and they asked how he was.

I told them he was doing good, but had a long way to go.

Some were asking stupid hurtful questions, I ignored them.

One asked how I got my injuries, I said nothing

Another asked about Olivia.

I said she needs to get her own husband instead of trying to take others.

I walked away to my car.

Let them write what they want I thought.

I know the truth.

When I got to Nicole's, Sam was adamant, she wanted to return to her boarding school the next day.

I asked her if she wanted to see her dad before she went back.

She said she could not face him at the moment.

I understood.

I thanked Nicole, then me and Samantha went home.

She slept with me in my bed that night, not saying much.

The next day she was up before me, and all packed.

She wanted to go straight away.

I told her if she wanted to talk about anything with me, she could.

She said she was ok.

She wasn't.

I told her not to bottle things up like me.

She looked at me and smiled.

On the drive to her school, she hardly spoke.

I told her, she would have to change schools at some point.

She just shrugged her shoulders.

And told her to take no notice if some of the girls were cruel to her.

I came in with her, and spoke to the head teacher.

I told her she needed watching and maybe some counselling.

The head was every understanding.

She would keep me updated and call me regularly.

I was very worried about Sam, I did not want her to turn out like me.

Chapter 14

CHAPTER 14

When I finally got into see Emilio, he was sitting in the chair by his bed, with no drips in him, and no catheter.

Well, I see the physio, has been hard at work, I said trying to be happy for him.

I did not think you were coming back he said.

I went over to him and sat on the bed, I took hold of his hand.

Sam's gone back to school, I told him.

He looked sad.

She will come round, I told him.

Will she, he asked, looking gutted.

In time yes.

First we need to get you sorted.

Emilio asked if I would help him have a bath.

Am I aloud, I replied.

Yes the nurse said as long as my face keeps dry.

A nurse brought a wheel chair in and helped me get him into it, and I wheeled him to the bathroom.

The nurse would need to help me get him in the bath.

The physio had taken off his compression stockings, but he would need to put them back on later.

I tested the water, then me and the nurse got him on his feet.

I removed his dressing gown.

He was only wearing his boxers, and clean ones I had brought in yesterday.

I pulled them down, and he stepped out of them while the nurse held onto him.

Then we helped him into the bath.

The nurse left us and I would call her when I needed help to get him out.

I washed his back and front, his arms, all over really but not his face and head.

I feel like an old man he said to me. Needing help to stand and get in a bath

You look like an old man I said laughing.

He started crying.

Now don't start that again I said, trying to make him stop.

Liz, he turned to me

I am so sorry for hurting you.

Let's not talk about that now.

I said pouring water down his back.

But I want you to know, what a selfish fool I was.

I did not answer.

I was so wrong.

His English had improved so much from when I first met him, all those years ago.

And the second time around I said, meaning why did he go back with Olivia.

I don't know why he replied,

But I thought about you all the time, he said.

What even during sex, I asked, not really wanting to hear the answer.

To be honest the sex was over as quick as it started.

And we did not have much of it, Emilio said, knowing I did not really want to hear that.

Great I thought, you still had sex though.

Liz, he said again

Yes I replied.

Do you still want to divorce me?

Not really wanting to answer that yet I changed the subject.

Do you want to still be with Olivia, I said.

Of course not, it's you I love, he said quickly.

I said nothing, but carried on pouring water down his back.

I helped him clean his teeth, god know when they were last cleaned.

Right I think that's you clean, I said reaching for his towel.

He said no more.

I called for the nurse.

We took his hands and helped him up and out of the bath.

I wrapped the towel round him.

And helped dry him off.

I never made eye contact and didn't say a word.

When he was dry, I helped him back into his boxers, then put his dressing gown back on him.

Then we got him back in the wheel chair.

I wheeled him back to his bed.

He told me to stop, a moment

Liz please don't ever go away again, I will do anything, you want. He said shaking.

I finally looked at him.

Emilio, I will look after you ok, I said, knowing I still cared for him, but now with pity.

I wheeled him back to his room, and on my own got him up and onto his bed.

I helped him in.

Liz I mean it. He said holding on to my hand tight.

I needed to tell him what I had planned to do.

I sat down on the bed.

Emilio, we have to be realistic now.

I will stay with you and look after you, and who knows where we go.

But knowing you will not work for a while or ever again, I have been in contact with our solicitors.

I told them to put the house on the market, and the one in Gozo.

Emilio was shocked.

Let's be real now I said.

If me, and you were to share a bed again, it will not be in that house, or in London.

I have told Sam she will have to change schools.

But I will stay with you.

Emilio asked if I loved him.

For now I cared for him, I was not in love with him at the moment, as Olivia, still burned in my soul.

Emilio squeezed my hand.

We can be how we were Liz.

Maybe I said, not wanting to think back to memories long gone.

I put his stocking back on, and checked he was comfortable.

I looked at my watch, it was time to go.

Right that's me off I said reaching over and kissing his head.

He pulled me in for a cuddle.

I never resisted, if it made him feel happy then I was doing a good thing.

Liz, only look after me, because you really want to and think we could be happy again, don't do it for pity, he said as he held tight onto me.

I promised Sam I would look after him, if I left now and never came back, she would never ever speak to me again.

Why could I not be happy, this is what I pinned for.

But did Emilio only want me know, because Olivia did not.

Though she never said, she did not want him.

God why was I such a pessimist.

Why could I not be grateful he wanted me back, and he was sory.

Was it because of his face?

How fickle was I.

But I needed to think.

Could I love him again?

I might not be in tomorrow I told him.

I have things to do.

I did have to meet with Kate in the day, but not all day, so I could go in at some point but, I didn't know if I wanted to.

Ok he said.

I got up, blew him a kiss and walked out.

Getting to my car, for the first time in years, i fancied a cigarette, so i decided i would go buy some.

I found a Tesco's.

I went in and bought a pack of twenty menthols.

While I was there I bought a lucky dip lottery ticket.

I don't know what made me buy it, but I thought. A few quid would be nice to win.

Getting home I could see a figure sat on my door step.

Who the hell was it?

Not the press again please.

No one had called to say they wanted to see me.

I was a bit scared.

Was it a burglar?

I drove in slowly with my lights, on full.

Whoever it was never ran away, so they were waiting for me.

I drove up to them but made sure the car was locked.

They had a suite case with them.

I left the engine running.

The figure walked to the car, leaving their case on the door step.

I could see it was a man.

Should I bring the window down to speak to them, I could open it a bit.

So I did.

Just enough, to see the persons face.

Excuse me, the voice said, I am looking for Liz.

Knowing the voice, but him not recognising me, I said.

Terry is that you?

I brought the car window right down.

Liz, is that you, he asked looking puzzled at my appearance.

Yep it's me.

We looked at each other for a few seconds.

Any chance of a cup of tea, or coffee he asked, I have been waiting out here for you for ages.

I smiled, nearly ripping open my torn lip again.

I did my window back up, opened the door, and stepped out.

I locked the car, and got the house keys out of my handbag.

I could see him looking me up and down.

I will tell you inside about the hair and face, I said, as I know he was looking at me as if to say what happened.

Sorry I did not mean to stair, he said looking sheepish.

I opened the door, and he grabbed his case and followed me in.

I had not seen or heard from him in years, what was he doing here now.

Chapter 15

CHAPTER 15

I closed the front door.

I told terry to put his case down, and did he want a drink.

Yeah please am frozen, he said rubbing his hands.

I went into the kitchen, put the light on, and switched on the kettle.

I put my bag down and took out the ciggies, I had bought, I opened a draw, and took out a lighter, and lit the cigarette.

I shouted to terry to see if he wanted one.

I got me own ta, he replied coming into the kitchen.

I haven't smoked for years, I told him, taking a deep drag.

But tonight I fancied one.

He lit his cigarette, and blew the smoke out.

I keep saying I will give up, but I won't, He said smiling.

The kettle boiled and I made our drinks.

Passing terry his drink, I had to try and stop staring at him.

He had aged but was still good looking.

I heard Emilio had been in a bad accident he said.

Yeah, he's in a bad way. I said taking a sip of my tea.

Were you in it to, he asked not knowing of our relationship break down.

No I said laughing.

I look like this because I became a nun.

Terry almost spat his tea out.

Come on let's sit in the lounge and I will tell you all about it.

We talked for ages.

I told him about what happened to me and Emilio and why I went off to be a nun.

He told me about his life in America, and how he was over here, looking to do a movie, and he saw in the paper about Emilio, and he wanted to come see me.

He got in contact with James, and James told him where I lived.

Him, and Gary were still going strong, but the press kept on at him for not being married and starting a family, so had to hire girlfriends from time to time.

I opened a few bottles of wine that were in the house, we both hated wine, but it had alcohol in it, and we just needed to let out hair down.

It got really late, and I said he could stay over

I must admit, being drunk I could of fucked him.

But I was not that drunk.

We did start to get close, even with the state I looked.

I looked more like a man than a woman.

And seeing he was gay, we could of got it on.

I will need to buy a wig, tomorrow I thought.

But I said I was tired and had to see Emilio at some point in the day.

So we hugged each other and I went up stairs, while terry slept on the couch.

Next morning, my head was aching again.

I need to cut the drinking out, I thought.

I got up and had a shower,

My face was still wrecked but healing.

I went down stairs, and terry was still a sleep.

I made a phone call to Kate, to see what was going on with the house situation.

She said thinks were getting sorted but Emilio would have to speak to his solicitor, at some point.

I did a bit of house work, Then, I could hear terry waking up.

He walked into the kitchen, with just his boxer shorts on.

My knees trembled.

I had not had sex in over a year, and my hormones were kicking in.

Morning, I said trying not to blush.

Morning, he said back, I was wondering is it ok I have a shower, he asked.

Yeah sure, I will get some toast on for you when you're ready.

Cheers he said and asked where the bathroom was, I told him up stairs, and you can't miss it.

I needed to do a food shop, as had hardly anything in.

When I heard him coming back down the stairs, I put the last of the bread in the toaster.

He looked so handsome, and smelt lovely.

I made him a coffee and buttered his toast.

Here you are I said passing it to him.

I asked him what he was up to today.

He said he had to meet with the director, and go over the movie plot.

I said I could give him a lift, to where he had to go.

He said thanks, and accepted my offer.

Half hour later we were ready to go.

I opened the front door, and to my horror, a load of reporters were outside.

For fuck sake I shouted.

Terry was as shocked as I was.

So your husband is ill in hospital and you're off having affairs with movie stars, one reporter shouted.

Quick I said to terry as we tried to get into my car.

Does your girlfriend know what you're up to terry, another shouted.

Ignore them, I said to terry.

We got in the car and I drove away fast.

That's all we need I said to him, as I smoked my last cigarette.

I dropped terry off to where he needed to be.

He said it was nice seeing me again, but would keep away in case they hounded me more.

They will any way terry, I said not even bothering to get upset about it all.

He gave me his number and if I needed to chat or if maybe we could meet up again, then I should call him.

I said thanks, and gave him a hug.

He got out of the car and I drove off.

I need to find a wig shop.

When I finally got parked at the hospital, I checked my appearance in the mirror, one last time.

I hoped it would deter the press.

A long black wig, with a fringe and sun glasses, to cover my cuts.

I got out and lit a cigarette, before I went in, I had bought another packet.

No one took any notice thank god, though I doubt god was pleased with me.

When I got in to see Emilio, his sons were in the room with him.

They looked at me and then looked away.

Emilio looked angry.

His sons got up and hugged him.

They spoke to him in Spanish, but I could not really understand what they were saying.

I removed my sun glasses.

His sons passed me but never made eye contact.

They looked angry too.

When they left I went over to Emilio.

I sat next to him.

He said nothing.

What's wrong, I asked.

He never spoke.

His body language, was not good either.

Are you in pain, or something.

He crossed his arms and looked away.

I was getting angry.

For fuck sake will you tell me what's wrong, I said

Turning to me, but his arms still crossed, he went mad.

What's wrong, you ask me? what's wrong.

I will tell you what's wrong, he said

You pretending to be all **Righteous** , then taking a man back to the house, and doing god knows what with him.

What? I said not understanding what he meant.

I had a phone call to say you fucked a man last night in my house.

You what?, I said.

Well is it true or not, he said fuming.

No it's not true, I said, knowing what he meant now.

Terry came to see me last night, I told him.

He is in London, to speak with a director about a film.

He heard you had been in an accident.

He got in contact with James, and he told him where I lived.

He wanted to see if we were ok.

Emilio looked at me, like I was lying.

I carried on.

He stayed over on the coach, this morning, when I got ready to come here, and drop him off, the press were outside.

Emilio was still not sure if I was telling the truth.

He is an old friend, and he is gay I shouted.

Shit I thought; hope no press had heard that.

It's bad enough I look like I do, he said, and that we have not been getting on, the press have loved it, now you are pictured with a man.

You have got a fucking cheek, I snapped back.

You were pictured with Olivia, actually doing something.

Terry was visiting, and stayed on the coach.

My boys were not happy, he said, and what about Samantha.

Now I was well pissed, a friend had come to see how I was, and I get this shit.

Emilio I will ring the school and speak to the head and Sam and tell them what happened and not to take any notice. I told him.

But this should not of happened he shouted back.

I had had enough.

I go up and told him to believe what he wanted. If he didn't trust me, go ring Olivia and let her care for you.

I started to cry so put my sun glasses back on.

I walked out of the room.

I could hear him call me but I kept on walking

Chapter 16

CHAPTER 16

I can't do anything right, I said to myself, driving round London, crying my eyes out with my music on full blast.

My wig and sun glasses were on the passenger seat.

My mobile phone had not stopped ringing but I had ignored it.

In the end I decided I would find an off licence.

Arriving home, I was expecting reporters to be waiting for me.

But there was no one thank god.

I got in and the first thing I did was ring Samantha's school.

The head was very understanding, and would tell Sam none of rumours were true.

I then looked at my mobile.

Kate had rang, and James.

I did not return their calls.

I took the alcohol I had bought out of the bag, and drew all of the curtains.

If the press were in wait, I did not want them, taking pictures through the window.

I was going to drink myself, stupid.

I could hear someone calling my name.

My head was killing.

God knows what time it was, let alone what day.

Then I could hear whoever it was banging on the door, then moving to the window, and tapping on that.

Liz, are you in there, are you ok, the voice said again.

Whoever it was would not give up.

Then I heard another voice.

I worked out it was two men.

I tried to pull myself up, it took forever.

The house was a mess.

Empty bottles, everywhere.

I have been here before I thought.

I swore I would not do it again.

So getting some strength from somewhere, I got up, picked the bottles up and tried to tidy up a bit.

The two men banging the door and calling my name did not give up.

I went into the kitchen and got a glass of water.

I was stumbling all over the place.

I got out some paracetamols, and took those.

I decided I would have to answer the door.

I somehow got to the door and tried to see who it was, calling me.

I unlocked the door, which took me ages.

When I opened the door, James and terry were there.

The sun light hurt my eyes.

And I fell down.

When I woke again I was lying back on the coach.

I could hear, James and terry talking in the kitchen.

I got up.

I was still shaky, but not as bad as before.

They were stood talking.

They turned to look at me.

I rubbed my head.

And what do I, owe this pleasure, I said.

Liz you're a fucking handful James said.

I was shocked at his outburst.

I said nothing.

You had us all worried, he went on.

Terry looked at me.

No one has heard or seen you in over a week.

So I wanted to be on my own I replied, feeling I was getting a telling off from my dad.

You wanted to drink your troubles away more like, James said nearly spitting feathers.

The kids are ok aren't they, I asked worried in case that was why he was hear.

They are fine, but your husband is not.

Oh yes Emilio.

Terry took out a cigarette and offered me one.

I took it, and he gave me his lighter to light it.

Thanks I said.

James gave me a dirty look.

Your smoking and drinking again, he asked.

Don't go on James I said.

Liz, look at you, you're a mess, someone needs to say it, you need to sort yourself out, James said really having ago.

You can't just keep running away or going back to the drink when things get tough, he said not giving up.

He was right.

I put the half smoked cigarette out, then told them I was off for a bath, and they did not have to stay I would be fine.

I had a bath,and brushed my teeth about 10 times.

I looked in the mirror, my face was almost healed.

I wondered how Emilio's face was.

I needed to go see him.

I would tidy up later.

I ran down the stairs, grabbed my handbag, and car keys.

James and terry were still there.

I told them I was sorry for fucking them about, and that I was off to see Emilio, and they could see themselves out.

Liz, wait James shouted.

I turned around.

Liz, he called me and said you had not been in.

He said he accused you of sleeping with terry.

Yeah he did, I replied.

Terry spoke.

I went in with James and spoke with him.

Told him, the press are fuckers.

I smiled.

He asked us to come and check on you, terry carried on.

Then James spoke.

He said you will have either run off to be with the nuns again or gone home to drink you're self stupid.

Terry then replied, we took the easy option first and came and checked here.

I smiled again.

Liz the reporters are still hanging about at the hospital, let me take you and all three of us can go in, and the press can see you have nothing to hide, James said.

Ok let's go I said.

When we got to the hospital, there were a few reporters there.

The three of us got out of the car, and the reporters came over.

I linked arms with both terry and James and told them to smile.

James looked at me funny.

Let's give them something to write about.

Shouts of, how many men you got on the go now then Liz, and does your current husband knows about your ex and you're lover, came from the reporters.

Tossers, I shouted, and terry laughed out loud.

I wondered, how Emilio would be with me this time I saw him.

I got to the room. James and terry came in with me.

Emilio was dressed and sat on the bed looking out of the window.

He turned around, and got up.

Some of his bandages had been removed.

His face was still bad, but healing.

He smiled at me.

I smiled back.

He looked over at James and terry.

Then back to me.

Sorry he said.

I went over and hugged him.

He hugged me tight.

James came over and said him and terry would leave us to it.

I smiled at him and said sorry for being a pain, again.

James kissed me on the cheek, and winked at me.

If you want me to come pick you up ring me, he said.

I will get a tax I told him.

I looked at terry.

He looked so fit standing there next to James.

Emilio took hold off my hand.

But I was still looking at terry.

Thoughts of shagging him came into my head.

What a bitch I was.

Terry smiled.

I started to blush, and felt awkward.

I swallowed hard and turned to Emilio and smiled.

James and terry said bye and left.

Emilio touched my face, and said I was nearly healed.

Shame I could not say the same about his.

No wig today, he said trying to make a joke.

No I said, can't keep this beauty hidden for long, I said laughing.

Changing the subject Emilio said he could go home tomorrow, if I wanted him there.

Thoughts of oh shit, the house is a mess and I need to do a food shop, came into my head.

That's great news I said.

Do you mean that, he said.

Yeah of course, but I will need to clean the house first, I said.

What did you do?, last week, Emilio asked.

Being honest, I told him I got drunk out of my head, and can't remember half of it.

Shit I thought, I was meant to ring Kate, so I could sort out selling the house and look for somewhere else.

That reminds me Emilio, I said, we need to sort out the house.

So you still want to sell it he asked looking upset.

Taking a deep breath, I told him yes, as we will not be able to afford it, and plus, I had promised I would look after him, but I wanted it to be a new start for us.

Ok he said, we can get it sorted.

He didn't want to move, but we both had to make a sacrifice.

Still holding my hand, he told me he was upset he would probably never sing again.

I told him maybe not at the moment, but who knows later on, but we had to be ready for what was happening now.

But who would want to see this sing again, he said getting upset and pointing at his face.

People can be and would be cruel.

Your face will get better I told him.

Your voice is still ok isn't it I asked him.

I don't know have not tried to sing, he said.

When we get home you can try then I said trying to reassuring him.

I had so much planned he said.

I did feel sorry for him.

I got a tissue and wiped his tears.

Then the door to his room opened, and in came some of his colleges from the opera.

He let go of my hand.

I got up and made way from them to come and chat with him.

Some had popped into see him before, others has not seen him since before the accident and were shocked by his appearance.

I told them I would pop out for a bit so they could chat with him.

I walked around the hospital, and went for something to eat, I was starving, seeing I had not ate much in the last week.

A million things went through my mind.

Like how would it be, when we were back home together.

I looked at my watch.

I better get back to him then go home and get the house ready.

When I went back to the room, Emilio was on his own crying.

I rushed over to him.

What's wrong? I asked.

I could see it in their eyes, he said breaking his heart.

See what I said.

That my career is over, I will never perform again.

We don't know that for certain I said trying to calm him down.

Don't patronise me, he said getting angry.

Emilio calm down, I shouted.

And don't pretend there could be anything between us again, he said, I saw how you looked at the terry, you fancy him like crazy, he said trying to pull his bandages off.

What have I told you, he's gay, I said trying to stop him pulling his bandages off.

Why don't you just fuck off with him he shouted, and pushing me off, knocking me to the floor.

I could not control him so pressed the panic button.

Nurses came running in.

He was now pulling at his face, blood was going everywhere.

I started crying, he had gone mad.

More nurses and a doctor came running in.

They tried to pin him down.

In the end the doctor had to sedate him.

His face was more of a mess.

When the drama was over, the doctor told me he would have to stay in and be monitored, as his mental health was not good.

I agreed.

Mrs mauzon he is in delayed shock.

If he went home tomorrow, the littlest thing could set him off again.

And maybe it's best you stay away for a bit, the doctor said being quite stern with me.

What I said.

You maybe, causing his mental health problems.

His words hurt me badly.

But I was not going to argue the case.

Emilio was not well, and half of it was my doing.

Ok doctor whatever you think is best, I said, turning my face away, trying not to cry.

Can I say goodbye.

He is asleep now but you can go over.

The nurses were trying to clean up his face.

I bent down and kissed his lips, then left.

I got a taxi home.

I cleaned the house then went out to food shop.

He wasn't not coming home, after all, but I tried to carry on, for his and my sanity.

Chapter 17

CHAPTER 17

It would soon be Christmas again.

Where the time went I did not know.

The twins were now 13.

But Samantha had not come home to celebrate it.

She had said on at school.

So me, Joseph, James , ruby, Nicole, Gilb and Harvey went out for a meal.

Joseph was sad his sister was not with him on his birthday.

But seeing Emilio would not be there she did not want to come home.

Emilio had been sectioned.

He refused to see anyone.

So i got on and sold the house in London and Gozo on my own.

I had enough money left to pay to keep Samantha in her boarding school, to pay off our solicitors and buy a new house in Cornwall.

And that's where I was now.

I bought a small three bed house, not far from the sea.

I had imagined the three of us living quietly down here, and Joseph coming to stay, in the school holidays.

But instead it was just me and my puppy Dalmatian, I bought for company.

I got work in a pub on an evening.

No one knew of me and Emilio and all our goings on down here, but if they did, they did not say.

I asked James and ruby not to come and see me, or Nicole and Gilb.

I needed to a just to life again.

It was lonely, but I hoped Emilio would get better and I could look after him.

I rang the hospital most days. But he never wanted to speak to me.

I just had to except it.

I would spend Christmas down here on my own.

James and ruby demanded I come, stay with them, and I said no, but if Joseph wanted to come see me for a few days before he went back to boarding school, I would be grateful.

Samantha said she would go stay with Nicole and Gilb, as she liked Nicole, probably more than me, her own mother.

She blamed me for Emilio going mad, and not wanting to speak to anyone.

I did not argue the case.

I would wake in the morning and take the dog for a long walk down on the beach.

I thought about so much.

I would get home clean up then get ready for work.

Same routine, every day.

But it was good for me.

I had hair again, not much but I was not the weirdo with the cut face anymore.

So I blended into the town, and no one bothered me.

But I did want more.

I got into work at six, and either served at the bar, cleaned up glasses, and dinner plates, or even served food.

The pub I worked in was always busy, so I always had something to do.

But I enjoyed my work.

The landlady, who gave me the job, was called Barbra or Bab's as she liked to be called.

She was a woman in her late fifties.

She had three grown up sons, who lived and worked abroad.

Her husband died five years back but she kept the pub going.

She lived in the town all her life, and everyone knew her.

She gave me a chance, when others didn't.

As some small towns, did not take kindly to new comers.

She asked why I had moved down here.

I told her my husband was not well and being cared for up in London, and he was the main bread winner. So we had to down size and I chose down here.

She never asked if I had kids.

So I never brought it up.

I did what work was needed, then went home.

I did chat with people, but mainly to say hello, and have a nice day.

I was working in the pub Christmas day. I had nothing better to do.

I had put money in Sam's and Joseph's banks, for Christmas.

It was no good buying present's, I would never see them open.

I sent Christmas cards, to everyone, but I did not put any decorations up in the house.

There was no point, no one but the dog and me, would see them.

Christmas eve, morning, the dog woke me, early.

She woke me by barking and liking my face.

Ok poppy, ok poppy, I'm getting up what's wrong.

I walked her early but not this early.

It was still dark outside.

I put the kettle on.

Then I heard the door knock.

Who's that I thought at this time?

Poppy started barking again.

Shhh poppy, I said.

No one ever knocked this early.

And if anyone ever knocked the door it was only ever the post man.

I opened the door.

Emilio was standing there.

I was so shocked to see him.

He had hair again, short like mine.

He was wearing his long black coat. And carrying the bag I had left with him when he was admitted to the mental hospital.

His face was better, but scared.

He looked at me, then, asked if he could come in as it was cold.

Coming back to my senses, feeling a bit scared, I let him in.

Poppy went up to him, wagging her tail.

He bent down to pat her and he started to lick his face.

I was worried he might get angry but he let her, carry on.

I went into the kitchen and made a pot of tea.

He came in and put his bag down.

Nice place he said.

It needs some work I said pouring us both a cup of tea.

I did not know what to say to him, I had not spoken to him in months, and thoughts of had he escaped, and was he here to kill me filled my head.

Your looking well he said as he sat down at kitchen table, and took the cup of tea, I made him from my hand.

Thanks I said, you too.

He smiled.

So is Samantha here, he asked.

No I replied, she is staying with Nicole and Gilb.

Oh, he said as he sipped his tea.

She blames me for you going away, and not speaking to anyone, I said, wondering if should of gave a different answer.

Emilio never answered, but poppy came up to him again, and he patted her and stroked her back.

Well I am ok now, he finally replied.

Taking a gulp of my tea, I asked him if he really was.

He went over to his case and took something out.

I noticed it was the box that my wedding ring was kept in.

He opened it and took out his wedding ring, and my wedding and engagement ring.

He put his wedding ring on, then, looked at me.

He asked for my hand.

I was not sure if I should give him it.

I looked into his eyes.

His eyes burned me with a passion, I had missed so much.

I gave him my hand.

He kissed it.

Then, placed my rings, back onto my finger.

I smiled, but what was I really feeling.

Then he pulled me into him and we kissed.

Poppy watched as with her tail wagging.

I did not fight to pull away.

I let his warm sweet lips caress mine.

His fingers touched my face, and he ran his fingers through my hair.

I touched his battered face.

I even kissed his scars.

He closed his eyes and let me kiss each one.

Whilst, he held me tight.

He undid my dressing gown cord, and pushed my dressing gown off my shoulders, to the floor.

I was wearing a night dress underneath.

I did wonder if I was dreaming.

It was like when we first met again.

I kissed his neck.

Then he removed my night dress.

And threw it on the kitchen table.

He now kissed my neck, and then moved down my naked body.

He kissed my breasts, and I had to hold in my excitement.

He may of looked different but his love making was just as good.

He lifted me up, holding on to my ass and back.

And he carried me up the stairs, to my bedroom.

He kissed me all the while.

The dog followed.

But we both looked at poppy and she sort of knew not to come in. So she ran back down stairs, wagging her tail.

He laid me on the bed, and removed his clothes.

Then he joined me on the bed.

He climbed on top of me.

Kissing me, all over.

He kissed my arms and legs.

I was so turned on.

It had been a long time since I had sex, with him.

I had imagined having sex with terry, but he made his film, then went back to America.

I even thought about the sex me and James had when we were together, all those years ago.

I had time to think about a lot of things.

Then Emilio started singing, in my ear.

I grabbed tight hold of him, and started to cry.

He then entered me, and we fucked for ages.

He was as gentle as he always was.

I felt so safe with him again.

Like we had never parted and he never had the accident.

When we had both come, we just lay in each other arms.

I was expecting poppy to bark but she never did.

Emilio kissed my back.

I turned to him and stared at his face.

Then I stroked it.

He let me.

We had not spoken the whole time, apart from him singing to me.

I think we were both too frightened to say the wrong thing, so just enjoyed it, without words.

Could we be happy again?

Chapter 18

CHAPTER 18

He washed my back, as he sat behind me in the bath.

Poppy sat by the bath.

Emilio blew some bubbles from his hand, and poppy jumped up to eat them.

We both laughed.

We had not had a bath together since the kids were small.

He washed my hair, and I turned around and washed his, being gentle with his face.

Though it was hard, as he kept reaching out to kiss me.

I think in the end there was more water out of the bath then there was in it.

We got out and dried off.

Poppy was waiting to be walked.

Come on then girl, I said putting my hat on.

Are you coming I asked Emilio.

Yeah why not, he said.

He put his coat on and took hold of my hand.

It was still dark and quite cold as we walked along the bay.

There were a few people out walking.

And those who were off to work, on one of the busiest days of the year.

We stopped a few times to look out across the sea.

Emilio said I picked a great place to live.

When we got back to the house I asked him what his plans were.

Getting warm by the fire, he said if it was ok by me, he wanted to stay here with me.

I didn't want to get my hopes up of ever being happy again, but today I felt happy, and he seemed happy, so I said yeah why not.

He got, up and came over to me, picked me up and span me round.

We both laughed.

And when he put me down he kissed me.

Then I remembered I was working tomorrow.

Emilio I have to work tomorrow I said .

Really? he said still holding me.

Yeah I said.

What on Christmas day, and talking of Christmas day where is your Christmas tree?, he said looking around the room.

I was expecting to be on my own so there was no point in putting one up.

Nonsense he said

We can go and buy one today, and a turkey.

I laughed.

Ok I said,

Oh wait I have to work this evening, I said feeling gutted.

Well then I will go out and get everything then Emilio said.

Laughing again, I said if we hurried around I could come with him.

How I wished Sam could of been with us.

Maybe she might just come down, if I worked quickly.

Emilio did you want to call Sam, I asked him.

He had not spoken to his daughter in a long time.

Yes I do he said.

I rang Nicole and asked how everyone was.

She said fine.

I asked if I could speak with Sam, but wanted to speak to her again after.

She went and got her.

I watched Emilio playing with poppy in the kitchen, while I waited.

Hello, a voice came on the phone.

Hello sweet heart I said.

Hi mum Sam replied.

What you up to, I asked.

Just watching TV, with Nicole, she replied, not really wanting to speak with me.

I looked over to Emilio and ushered him to come to the phone.

Sam there is someone here who wants to speak with you.

I told her hoping I was doing the right thing.

I passed the phone to Emilio.

Hello darling Emilio said.

Sam never said anything.

Emilio looked at me and shrugged his shoulders.

I told him to wait a minute.

Then Sam spoke.

Dad is that you, she said.

Yes darling it's me, Emilio replied, with his eyes welling up.

I held his hand.

Dad are you ok? Sam asked.

Yes darling I am fine now, and am down here with your mother, he said.

When did you get there dad, she asked choking back tears.

Today, he said.

Are you staying for Christmas? Samantha asked him.

Yes I am, but I need to buy a Christmas tree and put it up, he said.

Oh, Sam replied.

I might need some help to decorate it, but you mum has to work tonight, Emilio said looking at me smiling.

Wish I could help you dad, Sam replied.

Well why don't you then Emilio said to her.

Could I dad? Sam said all excited.

Yeah if you can get organised, and get on the train or bus, then I can come get you, from the station down here.

Samantha got off the phone and called to Nicole.

Emilio passed the phone back to me.

The next voice I heard was Nicole's.

Liz is it true, is Emilio home with you, Nicole asked.

Yes, it's true I said, feeling all aglow.

How wonderful, I will get Sam on a train and text you of what time she will get to Cornwall.

Thanks Nicole, I hope this hasn't inconvenienced you, I asked wondering if I had wrecked her plans.

Of course not, Nicole replied, Sam needs to be with you both, just promise me you will all have a great time.

We will I replied.

I got off the phone to Nicole and me and Emilio hugged each other.

Then I kissed him.

He held me for ages.

Then poppy jumped up at us.

We had better get a tree and turkey then I said.

So me and Emilio went into town, and went Christmas mad.

We bought a tree, decorations, food, a little drink and we managed to but each other presents, without each other seeing what.

We were not well off like we were before, but we got some good stuff.

Nicole has text me to say Sam would arrive down here at six.

I would be in work by then, but Emilio said he would use my car to go pick her up.

And then he would bring her home, and get the tree up and prepare lunch for tomorrow.

I hoped Bab's would let me take half the day off at least.

I got to work and asked her straight away if I could work my usual hours, instead of all day.

She asked me why.

I explained my husband had come home, and my daughter had come up to stay as well.

A daughter, you never told me you had kids, she said.

I have twin's in fact, I told her.

I have a boy as well, but he is with his father at Christmas.

She looked at me funny.

Wait you mean you have twins by different men.

Yeah, I said feeling awkward.

I read about a woman who had that, must be quite a few years back now, she said trying to tell me the story.

She had a boy by that pop star from the eighties, James, vexed, I think, and a girl by a opera singer, who was in a bad accident not long ago.

Going red, and taking a deep breath, I looked her in the eyes.

Oh my, she said.

Clicking on it was me she was talking about.

Liz what a life you have had, she said, wanting to know more.

Well there you go, I said.

You should write a book about your life, she said.

I laughed, you mean what a disaster it's been.

No, I read some of the newspaper reports, about when you and James got together, and the divorce and then I saw your wedding photos in the magazine.

Then the affairs, oh and didn't you go off to be a nun, but came back when your husband, became deformed, but he went mad.

Bab's stopped she knew she had said too much.

It's ok I said, things happened and were all sorted now, and Emilio is not deformed though his face is badly scared, but he can still sing, and he had a bit of a break down, but he is ok now.

Sorry she said.

I made some mistakes; I said feeling like I had got a weight off my chest.

Me and Emilio are giving it another go, if it works it works, if it does not then we tried.

Bab's rubbed my shoulder.

I hope it does my dear, she said.

Now you take the whole day off, if you want she said, spend Christmas day with your family.

Are you sure I asked.

Yes of course, she said looking over at a crowd by the bar, who were watching the TV and talking very loud about what the reporter was saying.

Both me and Bab's stop to hear what had got them talking.

On the news it was reported someone had, until midnight tonight to claim a hundred million on the euro millions, or it would go to charity.

The men were saying they wished they had the winning ticket.

And what they would do with the money.

The ticket was bought months back in London.

Bab's shouted out, well I would still keep this place going if I won that money.

The pub cheered.

I laughed and got on to collecting glasses.

But I heard someone say to another person, who buys a lottery ticket and forgets to check the numbers.

Then I remembered I had bought a lottery ticket, after wanting a cigarette badly. The night terry turned up.

Don't be daft I said to myself, I am not that lucky.

I carried on working but, knowing I had a lottery ticket in my bag, was bugging me, so to put my mind at rest I went to check.

I had put it in a small compartment in my bag, forgetting all about it.

I got it out a looked at the numbers.

From what I could remember I did have four of the numbers, the reporter had read out.

I began shaking.

What were the others?

I had to get back to work, the pub was packed.

I just hoped the news report would come back on again before midnight.

It was getting on for closing time.

I was staying to twelve to help tidy up, so would try and catch the eleven o clock news.

I rang Emilio to see if Sam got in ok.

He said she had and the house was ready for when I got home, and to tell me she loved poppy.

I was so happy.

Then I saw the news report.

Holding my breath, I waited for the numbers to be read out again.

I defiantly had the first four numbers.

I needed one more and the lucky star numbers.

They numbers were said.

I looked down at my ticket.

It was mine.

I had the forgotten ticket.

Shaking and not caring about what I was meant to be doing I ran to the phone.

I rang Camelot.

I read out the numbers, and the security code on the ticket.

The man on the end of the phone confirmed I had the winning ticket.

I gave my name and address, and phone number, and explained I was calling from work.

He asked me if I had told anyone else.

I said no.

He said do not tell anyone else till I was contacted again.

But it would be on boxing day, as they were closed tomorrow.

They would put out a press report that the winner had been found but not name me.

But I had to look after the ticket.

I came off the phone.

Took a few deep breaths, put my ticket back in my bag.

Then, went back to work.

Chapter 19

CHAPTER 19

It was midnight and was now Christmas day.

I wished everyone a happy Christmas.

I walked home alone, as Emilio had taken the car to pick up Samantha.

I was scared but excited.

I kept tight hold of my bag.

When I got in Emilio and Samantha, had fallen asleep down stairs waiting for me.

But the house was decorated, and it really felt like Christmas.

Poppy who was lying on the floor next to Sam, got up and wagging her tail, and came over to see me.

Hello you I said quietly.

I took her out for a wee, then, she went to sleep in her basket.

I didn't want to wake Emilio and Sam so I got some blankets and covered them both.

I turned the lights off, and went to go upstairs to bed, making sure I kept my handbag with me.

As I was about to climb the stairs, I felt Emilio's arms wrap around me.

I turned around and he kissed me.

Merry Christmas, he said.

Merry Christmas I said back.

Is Sam ok? I asked.

Yes she enjoyed herself tonight.

Good I said.

I took hold of his hand and went up stairs.

We got into my bed room, and I put my handbag by the bed.

Before I could do anything else, Emilio took hold of me and removed my jumper.

He kissed my neck, then my mouth.

I lifted his t shirt off, and softly kissed his chest.

He had looked after his body while he was in the hospital.

He was in his forties now but still had a fit slender body.

He removed my jeans socks, pants and bra.

I removed his trousers sock and boxer shorts.

It was like a game between us.

It was cold so we got under the bed covers.

I sat on top of him,

And we fucked for hours,

He pulled me back and forth, but we tried not to make a lot of noise, so not to wake Sam.

Nothing more embarrassing, when you're a teenager, then hearing your parents at it.

His hands were all over my body.

Then we changed positions, and he got on top of me.

Then he fucked me from behind.

In the end I could not hold it in and had to scream.

He held me close.

The sweat was dripping off both of us.

I fell asleep in his arms.

Forgetting all about how I had just become a millionaire.

A knocking at the bedroom door, woke me up.

Coming to, i realised it was Sam.

Quick, where was my night dress.

I ran to a cupboard, that had Emilio clothes in, that I had brought with me when I moved down here.

I pulled out a pair of pyjama bottoms and threw them at him.

He was still a sleep.

I grabbed my dressing gown, and put it on.

Come in I said.

Sam opened the door, and with her came poppy.

Poppy jumped onto the bed, and began licking Emilio's face.

He woke up.

Samantha laughed as did I.

Coming to, Emilio opened his eyes and saw the dog.

He said, oh it's you.

While Emilio played with poppy, I went down stairs with Sam.

Mum, are you and dad back together now then, Sam asked all excited.

Not completely sure, but not wanting to ruin the happy moment, we all seemed to be in, I said, yeah I think so.

Yes, me and Emilio had made love like we did in the old days, and I loved it.

But i still had a feeling it would not last.

I needed to be more optimistic than pessimistic, but with my bad luck, I was not taking any chances, even if I had just won a hundred million pounds.

Emilio got up, and got the dinner on while me, and Sam took poppy for a walk.

Samantha had not been here before, as she refused to come see me, until now.

She said it was nice down here.

But I wasn't sure I would be here for much longer once the news got out about my winnings.

When we got back Emilio said a man had called to speak to me and would ring back in a bit.

I asked who it was, he never left his name, Emilio said, giving me a funny look.

I hoped it was someone from Camelot.

We sat down to dinner that Emilio has prepared and cooked all by himself.

It was lovely.

We were just about to eat desert, when the phone rang again.

I ran to it.

It was Camelot, asking if there was any chance I could get to London tomorrow.

I was expecting someone to come down to me, but I could get up to London tomorrow, if James or Nicole could put us up for the night.

I told them I could come up, and they told me where to go.

I got off the phone to them, and then rang James.

Merry Christmas I said

Oh merry Christmas Liz, James replied.

Are you up to much, I asked.

Just finished our dinner and Joseph and abbey are watching a TV.

Ah that's nice, I replied.

What about you, are you working, James asked.

No I said change of plan, I have visitors.

Oh said James

Yes I have Emilio and Sam here.

The phone went quiet.

Then James spoke.

Really, he said.

Yeah he turned up yesterday morning, and Sam came last night, I said feeling a bit weird.

Everything ok, he replied.

Yeah were all good, better than good I said.

Well that's great news Liz, James said, felling happy for me.

Look James was wondering if we could come up and stay over tomorrow night, I asked hoping he would say yes.

Yes come up, will be good to see you all again, and Joseph is missing Sam, James said excitedly.

Ah thanks will be good to see you all, it's been a while, I said relived.

Right then I better tell ruby and Joseph, the good news, and I will see you tomorrow.

Ok James thanks, see you tomorrow, my love to everyone, bye, I said and put the phone down.

I went back into sit with Emilio and Samantha.

Who was that then, Emilio asked.

We have to go to London tomorrow, I told him, I need to meet with someone then we are staying at James over night.

Emilio looked at me funny.

What's wrong, he asked.

Nothing, it's all good but I cannot tell you, until tomorrow.

Samantha looked at her dad.

Why can't you tell us now? Emilio asked.

Because for our safety, and so I am sure, I will tell you tomorrow.

Samantha looked at me.

If you trust me, you can hang on till tomorrow I said.

Both of them were different with me, after that.

They hardly spoke to me the rest of the day.

I gave Emilio his present, but he was not really interested.

And I never opened his, that he got me.

At seven, I took poppy for a walk, then, went to the pub.

I was so angry, I could not tell anyone yet, as what if it was a right balls up and I had not won after all.

But I was being turned against, by my family because of it.

The pub was heaving.

Dogs were allowed in.

I sat at the bar and Bab's cam up and said hello.

Thought you would be with your family she said.

I was walking the dog and had to pop in and see you all.

She poured me half a Guinness.

On the house she said.

Thanks I replied.

Poppy sat at my side, while I held onto her lead.

The TV was on, and the news came on about how the lost ticket holder had come forward.

I went red, and drank my Guinness fast.

I could hear folk saying whoever it was who won, it was one lucky bugger.

I put my glass on the bar.

You drank that quick, Bab's said.

Yeah I was thirsty, I replied, needing to get out of there.

I was due in work the day after boxing day, but was not sure I would ever see Bab's or the rest of the staff again.

I had not been in this town long, but I was sure to be moving on again.

I started to panic and needed to think.

So I said I better be getting back and see you all soon, then left.

I was in bits, and did not want to go straight home, so I ran with poppy.

It was a cold night but I was sweating.

I ran all over town.

I ran along the bay three times.

Poppy, was loving it.

I was crying.

I could see all the Christmas lights around the town in people houses.

I wanted to run away.

But instead in ran around.

What would happen to me?.

What would happen to us?.

Me and Emilio had only been back together a day but I could feel it crumbling already.

In the end I went home, and hoped they were in a better mood with me.

Where have you been Emilio asked as I came in.

I was sweating buckets.

And poppy was exhausted.

I went for a run I said.

What at this time of night and on Christmas day, Emilio asked.

I often run with poppy on a night.

But what about us he said.

I was angry now.

What about you, I said back ,nearly shouting.

None of you have been around for ages.

I have my own life, I said taking my coat off.

I can't even talk to people on the phone without having to explain myself.

I wanted to shout out I had been speaking to Camelot but I held it in.

Samantha came to see what was going on.

I looked at her.

Then, Emilio.

I then ran upstairs to take a shower.

I cried while the water washed my sweaty skin.

When I got out of the shower, I dried off, but could not go back down stairs and face them.

So I went and packed for tomorrow.

I must of fallen asleep on top of the bed.

I woke to Emilio lifting me into the bed.

He put the covers over me, and kissed my cheek.

I rolled over.

What's wrong, he asked?

Waking up I said, there was something I had to do and he would find out as soon as I could tell him.

Are you ill, he asked?

No don't be daft, I said.

Is it a man, he went on.

No way, I said, getting a bit touchy.

Ok Liz, I will wait for you to tell me, he said stroking my face.

It's all good I promise, I said to him.

He climbed in bed next to me and pulled me into him.

He put his strong arms around me.

And it made me feel warm and wanted.

His breath on the back of my neck was gentle.

His facial hair was beginning to grow, and I could feel it on my shoulder.

We never made love we just lay next to each other but close.

We needed to be up early to, as it was a bit of a drive to London, but I could hardly sleep.

Chapter 20

CHAPTER 20

We got away early, but had to stop a few times to let poppy go to the toilet.

Me, and Emilio took turns driving.

I will be getting a better car than this, I thought when I claim me money, and a house somewhere hot again.

When Emilio was singing, we did have a good life, and all that we wanted and needed, he must of had about four million to his name, but a hundred million, was a lot of money.

And now he was not working we could enjoy it together, if we got that far.

We got to James's, and we all went in.

Ruby asked what we wanted to drink, Emilio said he would have a coffee, but I told her and James, I had to be somewhere.

James asked where, and I felt put on the stop again, but like I told Emilio, I would tell him when I get back.

I needed to get out of there quick as I wanted this over with quickly.

I got to where I needed to meet to Camelot people.

I went in, and showed them the ticket.

I was asked a lot of questions, and had all the documents; I needed to prove who I was.

The bank was shut, until tomorrow but because of the amount of money I had won, the bank I was with's manager, was there also and allowed the money to go into my bank today.

I was asked if I wanted to go public with the news, and I said no.

I explained how the press had hounded me enough over the years, and wanted to enjoy this money in private.

They understood.

Everything was signed, and I was now a very rich woman.

I left feeling a weight had been lifted but, what did the future hold for me now.

On the way home, I thought about what I would do with the money.

I wanted to look after those who had looked after me, including my friends and family, the money would be half Emilio's as he was my husband, but the money I gave out would not be wasted.

I stopped off and bought a crate of Champaign, I wanted them all to share in my win.

I saw Nicole and Gilb's car parked outside James's house.

All my friends and family together, good I thought, and I can repay them all for their kindness and help, today.

Before I got out of the car, I got the cheque book out the bank manager gave me.

I wrote out a few cheques.

Then took a few deep breaths, got hold of the crate of Champaign, and walked to the house.

Joseph answered the door.

Hi mum, have you been shopping he asked.

Sort of sweetheart I said struggling in with the Champaign.

Everyone was in the dining room.

I went in and they all looked at me.

I put down the Champaign.

I took out the paper work from Camelot, and passed it to Emilio, who was sat down at the table.

Then I gave a cheque to James and a cheque to Nicole.

Joseph, Samantha, Harvey, and abbey, stood watching.

James showed his cheque to ruby and Nicole showed her cheque to Gilb.

Emilio looked up at me.

Is this for real, he asked?

Yes I said smiling.

Ruby put her hand to her mouth.

Gilb, looked at me and said nothing.

James hugged ruby, who was crying.

Liz we can't accept this. James said looking at the cheque.

You can and you will, I replied.

You have done so much for me, and I have put you through hell. I carried on.

So take it, or else, I said laughing.

Nicole, said , it was too much money to give her , and Gilb.

I told her to enjoy it.

Emilio came over to me, still holding the letter.

Liz I can't believe it, he said.

Well believe it i said.

He hugged me.

I'm sorry I could not tell you before, but I wanted to be sure it was the winning ticket.

And I just gave James and Nicole ten million each, so were not so rich any more, I whispered in his ear.

He lifted me up and laughed.

What's twenty million between friends, he said looking me in the eye smiling.

Right let's get the Champaign opened, I said tomorrow we have to go shopping.

We all celebrated on through the night.

The next day with sore head, I rang Kate.

Hello dear she said, how are things.

Quite good I said, and was wondering if you wanted to be my solicitor, again.

She laughed.

Come into some money have you, she said not realising I had.

I have in fact, I replied.

Laughing again, she said can you afford me.

With eighty million in the bank I think so, I said all smug with myself.

The phone was silent.

Then she asked if ok in the head.

Now I laughed.

Yes my head is fine.

I was hoping you could look into finding another house for us and a holiday home, I have not decided where yet, but be ready when I do decided.

She still did not quite believe me.

I won that hundred million on the lottery, I told her.

Ok Liz , she said, well you will need to fax me through a letter of proof.

I will don't you worry, I replied.

But when me and Emilio decide where we want to live I will be in contact, I continued.

Ok Liz she said.

Bye for now and I put the phone down.

She would have a shock when she saw the fax.

I needed to get back to Cornwall, tell Bab's I would not be coming into work and pack up the house.

I hoped this time where ever we moved would be forever.

6 MONTHS LATER.

I can't believe he would do this to me again, I said to James.

Look we don't know the facts, the photos might be photo shopped, he said.

If they are why have the press got to keep hounding us, and why is he not answering his text's or emails.

I said taking a gulp of vodka straight from the bottle.

Liz your only hurting yourself and the drinking won't help, he said felling sorry for me.

I look a fucking fool again, I said getting really upset.

Let me explain

We sold the house in Cornwall and bought a house in bath.

Then Emilio had gone to the states for surgery to reconstruct his face.

I did not go with him, but while out there he was going to look at a holiday home in Mexico for us, and have a holiday, and recover from the surgery as well.

He told me some of his opera colleges would meet him out there, and they would have a catch up.

But the press photographed him, with Olivia, sitting on a beach in Cancun.

James came down to see me as I was upset.

Do you think he did this because I did not go with him, I said to James.

He said nothing but listened to my pain.

Or do you think he would always go back to here, I said feeling drained.

Liz to be honest, I am tired of it all, James said getting up and looking out of the window.

I was shocked by his words.

I am an old man now Liz, me and you are only connected by Joseph.

He said staring out into the garden.

I said nothing.

Liz you need to sort this out between yourselves, James said turning to me.

I'm sorry James, I said wiping my face.

He was right though.

Every little thing, I would ring him and tell him about.

I have a family and a career to be getting on with Liz, James said sitting back down.

No you're right James, I did not think, I'm sorry, I said, trying to sit more comfortable in my chair.

He came over to me, and took hold of my hand.

Liz, I have known you since you were young and I have watched you grow.

We have had our ups and downs, but have remained close.

There's nothing I would not do for you, you know that, James said.

I nodded my head.

But now you must decide if you trust him or not, and I don't want you going off the rails or becoming a nun again, until you get the answer, James said sincerely.

I laughed, but started to cry again.

You're talking like you're leaving me James, I said a bit worried about what he just said.

No I am not going anywhere but I am your friend, and ex husband not your dad, he said.

I suppose I have always seen you as my dad, haven't I, I replied.

Yes you have, and I am honoured, but your parents are not far away, you could always go see them. He said hoping I might.

No way, I said pulling my hand away from him.

Dad disowned me years ago, and mum well she followed dad in the end, said I had fucked my life up and it was my own fault.

The twins had only seen their grandparents a handful of times, but James's other daughter by my sister, was always welcome there.

Plus they favour charlotte over me and always have done.

Give them another chance then Liz, James said.

I sent them a cheque and they returned it James, they want nothing to do with me.

Plus dad would go on about how I picked bad men.

Ok James said, don't bother with them, but why don't you get a flight out to Mexico, and go speak to Emilio yourself?

I wouldn't have a clue where he was I said, looking at the magazine with Emilio and so say Olivia in it, for the hundredth time.

For god's sake, James said

I shut up.

Something else was bothering James.

James, are you ok, I asked, realising, I needed to think about him, and not me at this moment.

Yeah, he said taking the vodka bottle out of my hand, and having a large drink himself.

No something is up? Please, tell me, I said getting up.

Nothing's wrong, I came to help you didn't I, he said angrily.

No something else is wrong, I know I am pain in the arse but I know you from old, tell me what's wrong, I said really worrying for him now.

It doesn't matter Liz just leave it, he said taking another swig.

I went up to him, and took the bottle,

What is it James?

He turned away, and started to cry.

I put the bottle down and went to hug him.

James what's wrong, please tell me.

Crying on my shoulder, then wiping his tears, oh it's nothing really.

Pulling him a tissue from the box on the table, and giving it to him, I waited for him to sort him self out.

He wiped his nose then told me.

Me, and ruby have been going through a rough patch that's all.

Oh no I said putting my hand on his shoulder.

I just hoped it would pass that's all, he said.

Is there anything I can do to help I said, wondering why they were not getting on.

He looked at me then looked away again.

No I will just go see someone about it, James said really trying not to talk about whatever it was that had upset him.

Is it that bad I said, felling so very sad and worried for him.

It will be fine he said, getting agitated.

Are you ill James, I said now grabbing his arm.

No I am not ill Liz, I just can't get it up any more ok, he said pulling my arm off, and feeling ashamed.

I stood in shock.

I passed James the vodka bottle.

He took it and drank quite a lot.

James you can get help for it you know, I said trying not to upset him more.

Yeah I know but it not nice to admit Liz, he said sitting down again still holding the vodka bottle.

So were both fucked then I said.

Passing me the vodka bottle, he said, note quite in my case.

I smiled, and he laughed.

How long you been like this, I asked.

Before Christmas, things were not right, then, when you gave us the money I thought, us having a few holidays, might sort it, you know time together, having fun, but no nothing changed, James said now openly.

Taking a big gulp, of vodka, a shiver went down me, and I passed it back to James.

You will have to stay over now you have been drinking I said, getting a bit tipsy.

Yeah I know, he said finishing the bottle off.

You had better ring ruby I said.

Chapter 21

CHAPTER 21

The answer phone clicked on, hi leave your name and number and we will get back to you.

Liz, are you there it's me, look I suppose you have seen the pictures, but if you haven't gone crazy hear me out, yes that is Olivia in the photos, but she was out here with the opera company, we were only talking, she came with the others, and wanted to know how I was now.

That's all, I promise you.

I am now in Acapulco, that's why I did not get back to you straight away, Michael is with me, and I have found a place, I am sure you will like.

I am going to get the paper work for the place, and fax them to you and Kate.

I think this is the place for us.

I hope you're not angry with me,

Please email me, to let me know you're ok.

My face is starting to feel much better.

I am missing you Liz,

Why don't you get a flight out?

Say yes to the house Liz then, I can come home.

Liz,

I love you.

Then the phone went dead.

There's nothing wrong with you James, I said laying on his chest, in mine and Emilio's bed.

Aye, I suppose not, he said, stroking my arm.

It started to rain outside, and the rain was pelting off the window.

It made me shiver so I cuddled into James.

He pulled me in close to him.

I know I am a pain, but I hope I can be helpful when needed, I said to him.

James laughed.

He reached over to the bottle of whisky by the bed.

He took a swig then passed it to me.

I sat up and took a drink from it.

It tasted vile, but I don't think many people like the taste, of whisky, they just drink it, because they do.

I gave it back to James.

He took another drink, then, placed it back next to the bed.

Waste not want not he said.

Then took hold of my face and kissed my lips again.

I climbed on top of him and rode him like he was a horse.

I was on the pill, and I know he didn't have any stdi's and nor did I, so we were safe.

Whatever problem he thought he had, he didn't have any more, and even though he was getting on for nearly sixty, he still knew how to show a lady a good time.

My house had land, so no close neighbours, to hear me scream.

Poppy was at farm down the road.

I had got friendly, with the local farmer, who also had dogs, and his wife loved poppy and she would have her over to play with her dogs, and they had plenty of space to run about. We would walk the dogs together, and said if I ever went away on holiday or was busy poppy could go and stay.

I called her up and said I may have to go abroad and she straight away offered to have poppy.

I was lucky to know such a kind person, who never asked into my business.

The kids were at boarding school, and Emilio and ruby were not around, so even though we knew what we were doing was wrong, we just enjoyed the moment.

His aging hands on my thighs, holding tight as I moved back and forth over his definitely, erect cock, felt good.

James was always rougher than Emilio, which I had seemed to of missed, as I was really going for it, as was he.

We were drunk, but in control.

I got up and put a CD on.

James asked what song I was going to play.

Marvin Gaye, let's get it on, of course.

He laughed out loud.

I got back into bed, and we made out to it.

He fucked me from behind.

And it took me back to when he took my virginity, in that hotel room.

He held tight hold of my breasts, and I held on to his ass.

As he thrust in and out.

He kissed my shoulder,

And I let out a scream.

He fucked me harder.

I put my hands around his head, and started to move up and down in time with him.

God I had missed this.

I didn't care about Emilio, in that moment.

I had spent every waking minute worrying about him.

I even turned to god, for help.

But it was James who had made me feel good about myself, for the first time in a long time.

I did wonder what was going through his mind.

Did he feel bad, for betraying Ruby?

Or like me didn't give a fuck about everyone else, and was just enjoying what was happening right now.

If anything we had helped each other out.

He released my anger worry and hurt, and I save him money going to a private doctor, ok he had the money, but this was more fun anyway.

We must of been at it, for hours, in the end we fell asleep in my bed in each other arms.

I woke up about seven am.

I went to get a glass of water as my head was spinning.

I noticed a message on the answer phone.

I pressed play.

After hearing the message, I feel to the floor.

What had I done?

Emilio had rang me, to say nothing happened, and he loved me.

Yet I had got drunk and fucked my ex husband.

I ran to the toilet to be sick.

After I had finished throwing up, I brushed my teeth and got into the shower and scrubbed myself.

Why did I never learn.

I sat crying in the shower.

James came into the bathroom.

He saw me sitting on the floor in the shower, through the steamed up glass.

He opened the door.

Liz what's wrong, he asked.

I could not stop crying to tell him.

He reached up to turn the shower off.

Then got my towel and put it round me, and helped me out.

He held me for ages.

I said I was sorry, to him about twenty times.

What's to be sorry for he said?

I was really thinking of Emilio when I was saying it.

When I had calmed down, he walked me into the bedroom.

He dried me off.

He passed me my dressing gown and I put it on.

He dried my hair with the towel.

Then kissed my head.

Now, you going to tell me what are all the tears for.

Emilio left a message on the answer phone.

Oh, James said

I took hold of his hand.

He explained Olivia was there with the opera company, who he met up with.

But they were only chatting; she wanted to know how he was.

James smiled.

I believe him James.

Well that's good Liz, he said touching my face with his other hand.

But I betrayed him, I said, as another tear fell from my eye.

And I betrayed ruby, James said.

She has always been good to me, he said, looking down.

We have both been bad bastards, I said.

Yep James said.

But I am not going to lie, and say I did not enjoy it, James said, wiping my tears, with his hands.

That made me smile.

And you fixed me Liz, James said pulling me into to hug me.

I did something right for a change then, I said trying to laughing.

Yes and it has made up for all the times you have been a pain in the ass, to me, James said laughing.

We just held each other for a moment without saying anything.

Both, collecting our thoughts.

Then I spoke.

He told me to get a flight out to see a house he likes, I said to James, while he still held me close.

Then what you waiting for, Liz, James said.

I grabbed tight hold of his hand.

Ok we did wrong, he said.

But if only we know, then no one else gets hurt.

Your right I said.

I was in a haze, but it was just a one off between me and James, he would go back to ruby and I would go back to Emilio.

No one would know, so no one would get hurt.

We agreed we would keep it to ourselves, and it really was just a one off.

When I was dressed, and James had had a shower, I made us some breakfast.

We spoke like we always did.

Like, we didn't even have a night of passion.

I emailed Emilio, and told him I would book a flight and come out and meet him.

He was still awake.

So we got on the web cam to each other.

James kept out of site.

Emilio was so excited to hear from me.

He said he was worried, I would of got the wrong end of the stick.

His face looked good, the surgeon had done well.

I really believed him, that he had been faithful, to me, but I could not say the same.

I tried not to think about what me and James did, and just be happy Emilio had been true.

We spoke for a bit then he said he was going to get some sleep, and he couldn't wait to see me.

I touched the screen and he touched his, like we were touching each other, I know how sad and sloppy.

Then he blew me a kiss, and said goodbye.

I clicked off the chat.

And put my head in my hands.

I started to cry, but these were tears of joy.

James came back into the room.

He had heard all we said.

He came over and put his hands on my shoulders.

You better get packing, he said.

I looked over my shoulder.

I need to book a flight yet, I said, giving James a sort of smile.

Well then he said taking hold of the mouse, and clicking on the internet explorer, icon at the bottom of the screen, let get looking and get you out to Mexico.

Chapter 22

CHAPTER 22

Three days later, and the plane landed in Acapulco.

The flight seemed to take forever.

If we did buy this house, we would be out here staying for months at a time, not just a week.

I collected my suite case, and made my way out through the arrivals gate.

It was boiling, and fanned myself with my passport.

Mexico had a reputation for being a dangerous country, so I was on my guard.

I walked out to loads of people, waiting for the other people on my flight.

Then I saw Emilio.

I stopped and could, feel myself welling up.

He looked so well.

His opera college Michael was with him.

He looked at Michael, then came running over to me.

When he got to me he picked me up and spun me round.

I held tight on to him, and started to laugh.

Then he put me down.

We looked at each other, he touched my face.

I was afraid to touch his in case I damaged it.

He lifted my hand up to touch his face.

It's ok, he glue it on properly, Emilio said.

I smiled and smoothed his face.

Then he lent forward and kissed me.

I didn't want him to stop.

I had missed him so much.

When we finally pulled away from each others, lips, he took hold of my hand, and with his other hand took hold of my case and we walked to where Michael was.

When we all got outside, Michael went to get the car they had hired, whilst out here.

How was the flight, Emilio asked, with his arm around me?

Terrible I said.

Yeah it's a bit far away from England he said laughing at me.

So are we going to the house now, or are we staying somewhere else, I asked, wondering where we were going.

The house, Emilio replied.

I am renting it for a week, and if we like it at the end we can put in an offer he said smiling.

That's good I said, now excited to see the house.

Michael pulled up, Emilio opened the car boot and put my case in, then, we both got into the car drove off to see the house.

Don't you think it's a wonderful view Liz, Emilio said to me as we stood looking out over the balcony from what would be our bedroom if we bought the house.

Yeah a lovely view, and right by the sea, and you know how I love to see the sea, I said smiling.

So I did good then Emilio said turning to me.

Yes you did, I said.

Right let's get on the estate agents, and contact Kate, Emilio said all excited.

That night, the three of us went out to celebrate.

Well all ate well and drank plenty of tequila and Mezcal.

The Mexican people were very welcoming to us.

Emilio even sang with a mariachi band, and people stopped to hear him.

It made him feel good, and he was certain he wanted to go back to the opera.

With thoughts of what me, and James did, still in the back of my mind, I was nervous about making love with Emilio, that night.

He felt on top of the world, but I was cautious.

Michael was so drunk he came in and fell asleep on the couch.

Emilio took my hand and said, did I want to try out the bed?

I said nothing, and I was a little drunk, but followed him into the bedroom.

He opened the patio doors, as it was so hot.

He went and looked outside.

A cool breeze came into the room.

I sat on the edge of the huge bed, I was tired from the flight, and the alcohol was kicking in.

Emilio came back into the bedroom.

He took his shirt off.

Then came over and kneeled by me and put his head on my lap.

I stroked his hair, which was growing back fast.

I loved to feel his black curls, I was almost jealous of his hair.

His kneeled there for ages, while I kept stroking his hair.

I had wondered if he had fallen asleep.

Then he moved his head and took hold of my hands.

The room was dark, but I could see his face.

He got up and lifted my dress off.

Then he lied me down on the bed.

He began kissing my neck.

Then, moving down to my stomach.

I did not care Michael might hear us.

I gave out a moan

He kissed me, in between my thighs. Then down my leg, and taking off my sandals, he even kissed my feet.

I giggled.

He then took my hand and kissed that, then kissed all the way up my arm.

Then he began kissing my neck again then moving on to my lips.

I took hold of his face, as he kissed me, then, ran my fingers through his hair.

He then turned me over and undid my bra strap.

He tossed it on the floor.

He then, climbed on top of me.

He took hold of my breasts as he kissed my back.

His tongue going up and down my spine, made me scream.

He then undid his trousers, and got out of them, and threw them over to where my bra landed.

He turned me over again, then, started kissing my breasts.

I lay back and let him lick my nipples.

He then removed my pants.

And, went down on me.

I had to hold tight to the edge of the bed.

His tongue inside my wet vagina was like nothing in this world.

I tried hard not to scream, but it was just too much for me.

Then Emilio removed his boxer shorts, and fucked my brains out.

He was rougher than I had known him to be.

And I enjoyed it.

The sweat was dripping off us.

I held tight hold of him, as he kept thrusting me, he even he started to moan.

We could not of been closer than we were at that moment.

He kept thrusting his cock inside me, harder and harder.

I grabbed hold of his ass, while he, kissed, no bit my neck.

He was like a vampire, but did not draw blood.

I then took hold of his hair again.

I tried everything to stop myself from coming.

Then with one big thrust he came.

And I fell back on the bed, out of breath, and soaking wet, all over.

Where did that come from I said.

Wiping the sweat from his brow, and pushing his black curly hair back from his face, he smiled and said, I missed you.

I missed you too, I thought to myself.

I feel asleep with him wrapped around me.

When we woke in the morning,

We made love again, not as fierce as last night, but still with, all the yearning, of two people who were meant to be together.

I hoped with all my heart, would could be as happy as this forever.

But this is my story, and as you know I don't have that much luck.

Chapter 23

CHAPTER 23

JUST OVER A YEAR LATER.....

Are you sure doctor, I said

Yes I'm sorry Mrs Mauzon, it has spread.

So how long have I got then, I said wiping my eyes.

Can't say for sure, but hopefully a year or more, the doctor said compassionately.

A year, is that it? And I have so much planned, what a bugger I said.

Mrs Mauzon, have you spoke to anyone else about this, the doctor asked.

No doctor, I haven't told anyone else, I said knowing I would have to get things in to order soon.

It might be time to tell them, he replied.

Yeah maybe when I come back from Mexico, I am going out there for a month, maybe the last time I go there, so I want to enjoy it without this hanging over my head, I told him.

Well we can make sure you are comfortable, and not in pain, the doctor said.

Well to be honest doc, I don't fancy waiting to die, I will do what I need to do, while I still can, then I am off to Switzerland. I said knowing what I wanted.

Do you mean Dignitas, he replied?

Yep, can you get the paper work for me, I asked him

If that's what you want Mrs Mauzon, the doctor said.

Doctor, I have more money then, I can spend, but not one penny of it will kill this cancer, will it.

I am afraid not he said.

Well then, I want to die with dignity then, I said, realising this was for real.

Ok Mrs Mauzon, I will get the forms ready, he said.

I got up and shook his hand, and told him thanks for all he had done for me.

He wished me well, and I walked out of his office.

I was numb, but there was nothing more I could do.

My time was nearly up.

I only discovered I had skin cancer a few months back when I went into a private hospital for, a boob job, and tummy tuck.

I decided to treat myself, seeing I had the money to do so.

I had no idea a mole on my back, had gone bad, and it was only the surgeon doing my boob job who spotted it.

I still had the operations, but the tests came back it was stage four melanoma, so I went back into hospital to have the mole and a few lymph nodes removed.

But today I was told the news it had spread and before long, other organs in my body would be riddled with cancer and not long after death would come.

But I was not going to wait to die, I wanted out when the time was right.

I must of been walking around with it for ages, apart from my depression, I had no other symptoms.

But I or anyone else, would never of known.

Just one of those things.

Me, and Emilio and the kids were off to Mexico for a month, for a holiday.

Which would now be my last.

Emilio did not know I was ill, I told him my hospital appointments were to do with my surgery.

Even with the mole cut of my back, I told him, they needed to take some skin from my back, in case it was needed elsewhere.

If he believed me or not I don't know, but he never questioned it.

I so wanted to tell someone my problem, but after the years of relying on others, when I was down, or depressed I hopped I would fight it and never have to tell them.

But I was not going to win this, and would eventually have to tell them all.

I got back home, and Emilio was running about all over the house getting stuff ready.

Poppy, came running up to see me.

Hello girl, I said patting her head.

She would be leaving us for the last time today, to stay permanently, on the farm.

I would miss her but it was not fair on her here as we were away, or out a lot, and we did not have time for her.

She loved it on the farm, and I could go and see her when I was home in bath.

I bent down and gave her a hug.

She had been my companion when I was on my own and had next to nothing.

But I knew she would be going to good people who loved her like I did.

I called for everyone to come say good bye to her.

Sam and Joseph, came and hugged her, Sam started crying.

Poppy licked her face.

Think of it like she is going on a holiday like us, I said to the twins, but inside I was welling up.

Then Emilio came to say good bye to poppy.

He looked at me and could see I was upset.

But for other reasons as well, that he did not know of.

Are you ok he asked?

Yeah, I said.

Everything ok at the hospital, he said bending down to hug poppy.

Yeah I said, as a tear fell from my eye.

He got back up, and looked at me.

I went to get poppy's lead and her things.

Right I am off, I said, I won't be long.

I put poppy's lead on her, and took her to the car.

In the short drive to the farm, I told poppy of my cancer and told her I would miss her and sorry she was going.

If she understood me or not who knows, but when I got to the farm, I didn't stay long.

She came here often but now this would be her permanent home.

I gave her a hug and a kiss and watched her run off to be with the other dogs,

I handed her stuff over to the farmer, then got into the car and drove off, back home.

I pulled in before I got home and sobbed my heart out.

For me, and for poppy.

When I got home again, Emilio had got all the cases packed, and they were by the front door.

The mini bus will be here in an hour he told me.

He was still running about the house getting it into order.

I was dreading the long journey; we had to get to London first then the long flight to Mexico.

But we had a share in a plane, coast us a few million but was worth it.

We could go anywhere in the world when we needed.

Seeing Emilio was back to singing.

We had a house keeper, who would watch the house while we were away.

But we still liked to leave it clean, before we left.

I kept the pain relief the doctor had given me, in my handbag, when we got to the airport, I would have to declare it but I would say it was for my recent plastic surgery, for the pain of that.

Emilio was chatting to the twins while I made myself a cup of tea.

But all three of them kept looking over at me.

What were they up to I wondered.

Everything ok, I shouted out.

Oh yes, love Emilio replied.

Yes mum the twins said.

I drank my tea, and went to get changed.

I had a quick shower.

I loved my new boobs, and tummy.

Just a shame I would not be able to enjoy them for long.

Emilio said he liked me how I was, but was happy with what I wanted to do with my body.

So for my birthday, I booked to have the surgery.

It bloody hurt afterwards, but I was so happy with the results, I wasn't getting any younger, so why not.

I just wished, I had discovered the mole earlier and maybe I would of had more time, now I was living on borrowed time.

I got dressed, and Emilio shouted up to say it was nearly time.

I came down and they were all waiting for me.

I looked at them all.

My beautiful family.

Samantha and Joseph started giggling.

They would soon be fifteen, but I would not see their sixteenth birthday.

Beep Beep.

The mini bus was here.

Right lets go Emilio said opening the door.

It was like he was on a mission.

He had organised this holiday.

But it was like he was planning something, else as well.

When we go to the airport the kids, were all excited.

What's up with them I asked Emilio.

I don't know, he said also acting all suspicious.

Then I saw them.

Walking towards us with their cases, were James, ruby, Nicole, Gilb, Harvey, Kate, Michael and his wife, a few of his opera colleges, and my parents.

What's going on I said.

Emilio, smiling, told me we were all off to Mexico so we could re new our wedding vows.

I was in shock.

Emilio took a small box out of his coat pocket.

And, got down on one knee.

Everyone stood around to hear what he had to say.

Liz, me and you have had our ups and downs, with have had good times and bad times.

But we have got through it all.

And it is obvious we are, meant to be together.

So I was wondering if you will marry me all over again.

I looked at everyone, and they were all waiting with baited breath.

Then I looked back down at Emilio.

I started to well up.

Of course I will, I said as tears rolled down my check.

He got up and kissed me.

I hugged him tight.

Then he took hold of my wedding finger and slipped the new ring on.

It sat on top of the wedding and engagement ring he had gave me all those years ago.

I felt so loved.

And was happy, that our close friends and family would be there to share it with us.

But was shocked to see my parents.

How did Emilio convinced them to come?

When we arrived in Mexico, hours later, some of our party were staying in a hotel not far from our villa.

So our private couch dropped those off, while me Emilio , the twins, my parents, James, ruby, Nicole, Gilb and Harvey went to our villa.

Emilio had arranged a party at the villa, and when we got in people were there cooking food, and organising, the house, for our guests.

We are to have a joint hen and stag party tonight, he told me.

I was so excited.

You organised all this I said.

Well I had to get in a little bit of help but yes I did most of the planning, he said, so happy with himself.

Tomorrow we would renew our vows on the beach not from our villa.

I did wonder if he found out about my cancer, and this is why he had decided to do all this.

When everyone arrived we all had a good time.

We had a mariachi band, and Emilio could not help himself but join in with them.

And even James sang a few songs.

I was so happy.

The twins were even spending time with my parents.

Me, and dad had a chat.

Surprised to see you out here dad.

Well he said trying to play the big man, Emilio insisted we come.

Seeing as I never came to your first wedding.

I said nothing.

And to be honest, I have missed you.

That shocked me, and I looked at mum who smiled.

I have missed you too dad, I said.

Maybe I have not agreed with all you have done, but you're a grown woman and you make your own choices in life now.

Emilio really loves you, money or no money, dad carried on, and you seem to be good together.

Yes we are dad, I said.

Well that's good enough for me, he said.

I hugged him.

And he hugged me.

After all these years, of not liking each other, and not speaking my dad, who I had craved love from, told me he was happy for me.

I reached over and hugged mum.

I was so blessed that my parents could be with me, before I left this planet.

All of us had a great night.

We all drank and danced the night away.

I was so excited for the wedding tomorrow.

I woke up to an empty bed.

I had hardly slept, as it was so hot.

I just lay in Emilio's arms, all night.

The men had got up and gone to the hotel down the road to get ready.

I don't know what time it was, but somewhere in the villa, I could hear voices, then loud music.

The marriage of Figaro by Mozart started playing.

It made me smile, and I got up out of bed.

Put my dressing gown on, and walked into the lounge to see Samantha, and Nicole, being made up.

Two stylists were doing their hair and makeup.

Mum and Kate were already dressed ready, for the wedding.

Michael's wife and his opera friends wives were also dressed and ready.

Nicole looked over.

Emilio rang to see if everything was going ok, and I said you were still asleep, so he told me to play this music very loud.

I laughed.

I love this music I said all excited.

Then a Mexican woman called Betty came up to me,

Ahh Mrs Mauzon, i am here to dress you.

She was carrying a wedding dress.

Mr Mauzon hopes you like it she said holding it up for me to see.

I looked at mum, with my mouth wide open.

Then I looked back at the dress.

It was beautiful.

I hoped it fit me.

Mrs Mauzon, I can also a just this dress if need be, so if you want to try it on now, and then I can see if anything needs fixing.

She came with me into my bedroom.

I needed a shower, but put the dress on looked in the full length mirror in my bedroom.

The dress fitted just right.

No alterations would be needed.

You look lovely the lady said.

And he picked this dress, I asked while still staring at it in the mirror.

Yes Mr Mauzon, organised everything, you are lucky to have him, I wish my husband was as organised, she said laughing.

I got back out of the dress, and thanked her.

I told her I would have a shower, get my hair and makeup sorted then could she help me back in the dress.

She told me that is what she was here for.

I went and got a cup of tea, and some toast.

I had to take my medication, without out anyone noticing.

I had to take twelve pills a day now, and was surprised I had hid it from everyone for this long.

Then Sam came up to me, her hair and makeup all done.

Mum the flowers have arrived.

Ahh good, I said.

Thank god, I had took the pills before she came in or she would of asked questions.

Mum I have organised a surprise for dad.

Oh really honey what's that.

Well of course I could not tell you before but, I got in contact, with Aunty Joanna, and she is out here as well, and coming to the wedding, Sam said all happy.

Oh Sam that's great, I am sure dad will be over the moon.

Emilio did not see his family much.

A bit like me I, suppose.

Samantha you look beautiful I said to her.

I need to get my dress on, she said, running back into the lounge.

Nicole and Sam were going to be my bridesmaids, like when I first married Emilio.

I made sure I hid my medication and then went to get a shower.

When I got out everyone was dressed and ready, and were waiting for me, to get my hair and makeup done.

Nicole and Samantha were wearing long dark blue bridesmaid dresses, that matched my wedding dress.

Samantha looked so grown up.

I cried tears of joy.

Mum stepped forward and hugged me.

Come on love let's get you ready, she said.

Half hour later, I was ready.

I stepped out of my bedroom, and felt a hundred million dollars.

I thanked the stylists and Betty, who helped dress me Nicole and Samantha.

Everyone said how nice I looked.

Emilio did a good job I said.

He did, everyone said

Right let's get this show on the road I said picking up my bouquet of blue and white flowers.

I could not wait to see Emilio.

Chapter 24

CHAPTER 24

Dad took my hand.

You ready then he said.

Yeah I am I said, feeling a bit wobbly, but so happy my father was going to walk me down the aisle, well the beach.

We were getting married, not far from our villa so we did not need cars to take us, we all walked down.

The others walked on in front while dad and me, walked behind.

The other people, who lived around us, came out to see me and wished me well in Spanish.

When we got to the beach, I could see the set up for our renewal blessing, and all our guests waiting.

There were holiday makers on the beach and others from around the area, who had come to see what was happening.

I stopped to take it all in.

Are you ok Liz dad asked me?

Yes it's just so overwhelming dad, I said holding tight hold of his arm.

Mum, Nicole and Samantha, had stopped to see if I was ok.

Mum, I called her over

What's wrong love she said?

Nothing, I said feeling a bit unwell, but I want you and dad to both walk me down to Emilio, I said trying not to cry and wreck, my makeup.

Ok love, mum said taking my arm.

Dad looked over to mum and smiled.

I looked at Nicole and Samantha, and nodded for them to go on.

As we got closer, music started to play.

It was Shania twain's, song, you're still the one.

I thought my heart would burst.

I could see Emilio, waiting for me, with his sister, next to him.

All our family and friends were stood waiting for me.

Nicole and Samantha walked down the aisle.

And I followed with mum and dad.

I looked at Emilio and started to cry.

And he had tears in his eyes.

I looked over to James and ruby.

They were crying.

Joseph, looking smart in his wedding outfit, gave me a smile.

I looked at Gilb, and he winked at me.

I finally got to Emilio and mum and dad handed me over to him.

I passed my bouquet to Samantha, and took hold of Emilio hands.

You look lovely he said.

The music stopped

Everyone sat down, but Kate got up and walked towards us.

We both turned to face Kate, who would be conducting the ceremony.

Ladies, and gentlemen, friends and family.

We are here today, to share in the renewal of vows between Emilio and Elizabeth.

Two people, who were meant to be together,

Their commitment, and love for one another, has shown us all, through the tough times, love will always be there, if you want it to be.

Both of them have had their fair share of trouble.

But I think we all agree, Emilio and Elizabeth love each other with a love so strong.

Kate then looked at Emilio.

Emilio turned to me, and he began to speak.

Liz, my friend, my lover my soul mate.

I am so happy to have you in my life, and as my wife.

As Kate said we have had our troubles, but we have gotten through them.

He began to cry.

I let go of one of hands and wiped his tears.

He smiled and carried on.

I took hold of his hands again.

Liz, I know, he said, crying again.

I looked at him, realising he meant he knew about my cancer.

I wondered if anyone knew what he was on about.

No one spoke.

I was worried what he would say next, and held tight to him so not to fall over.

Liz I know, in my heart I will never love anyone like I love you.

He never let slip to the others about my cancer, but he was talking to me, in a way I knew what he meant.

Liz always know where ever you go, I will be right beside you.

I will always look after you, and love you to the end.

I began to cry, holding tight hold of his hands.

All our friends and family were in tears as well.

It was my turn to speak.

I had not written anything down, and what I did say, would come from the heart.

Emilio, my love, my dream, my life.

From the moment I first saw, you I thought, what a hunk.

Everyone laughed.

Your beautiful smile, you beautiful eyes, your beautiful hair, your beautiful voice and your beautiful heart.

Emilio smiled.

There is no one else I would want to spend my life with.

And I want you there when I breathe, my last breath.

Emilio started crying, and so did I.

I carried on, as best I could.

I love you so much.

I cannot begin to explain, how much, but know this, the whole universe cannot contain the love I have for you.

Without you I am nothing.

When I am away from you, I am a wreck.

But when you're near me,

I cried again.

I am so happy.

I love you.

I looked at Kate, and she was wiping her eyes.

She composed herself, then spoke

Well ladies and gentlemen we can all see, the love these two have is a strong heartfelt love.

Emilio put his arm around me and hugged me tight.

Kate held out a letter for us to sign, that we had renewed our vows.

We both signed it, and Emilio kissed me.

I didn't want him to stop.

Then everybody cheered, even those who just come out to see what was going on.

Music started to play again.

I have nothing by Whitney Houston

We turned to face everyone,

Then Emilio picked me up and carried me down the aisle.

I held onto him tight.

Everyone was cheering

You lot carry on to the restaurant and we will be there in a bit, he told everyone.

They must of all thought, were we off to have sex.

Emilio carried me across the beach. I just looked at him.

Then when we got to the path he put me down.

He took hold of my hand, and we walked back to the villa.

He was crying.

So was I, but he was really upset.

He could hardly look at me.

We got into the villa, took his suite jacket off, and he fell to his knees.

I got down onto the floor, and hugged him.

Why did you not tell me Liz, he said crying like a baby.

Because I thought I could fight it, I said also crying.

How long have you known; I asked him.

A few weeks, he replied.

I opened one of your letters, from the hospital, by mistake and it said they thought it was spreading.

We both cried.

Is this why you planned this I asked him.

Yes he said.

I cuddled into him.

I only found out I had it when I went for my boob job, I told him.

I have had it a long time, so it was too late when I found out, I said holding on tight to him.

They can't do anything? he asked.

No I am stage four now.

All this money and it worth nothing, he said getting angry.

I know how shit is that I said, trying to make light of the situation.

He got up and picked me up.

He held onto me.

How long have you got he asked me.

Maybe a year, I told him.

Do you feel unwell now, he asked.

Not really, but I'm taking medication, to help with it.

He said nothing but hugged me tight.

Emilio I am going to Switzerland, to die.

He turned and looked at me.

It's all organised, I said.

When he asked?

Not yet but when I know I can't take any more, or I become too ill, I will go.

He began crying again, and held tight hold of me.

I hugged him just as tight.

Liz I won't be without you, he said.

You have to look after Sam, I said.

No, I can't be without you Liz, he said, pouring his heart out.

And I can't be without you, but you must look after her, I replied.

Without you I just can't go on, he said.

I took hold of his face.

Emilio you must promise me, when I have gone you will look after Sam and keep on singing, I said feeling weak.

I began to fall.

Liz are you ok, he asked panicking.

He caught me.

Yeah, I am ok, it's just all this upset and the heat.

He helped lay me on the couch.

Should I call a doctor he said, running to the phone?

No I will be fine, I am just exhausted.

He went and got me a glass of water.

He bent down and helped me drink it.

We need to get to the restaurant, I said to him.

You're not well; he said, you're not going anywhere.

I will be ok in a bit, I told him trying to get up.

But I wasn't ok.

Emilio got on his mobile phone and rang James, and told him, what had happened, and to tell, everyone to carry on with the party.

I tried to get up again, but I was dizzy.

Emilio, went into the hall then rang for a doctor.

I could hear him speaking to someone in Spanish.

There is no need for a doctor I said.

I somehow got to my feet.

But I needed to hold on, to the wall to stop myself from falling over.

The door knocked.

Emilio went to answer it.

It was James and Nicole.

I did not move in case I fell down, I just tried to hold onto the wall.

They came into the lounge, and saw me.

Liz what's wrong, James said coming over to help me.

I let go of the wall and he helped me sit down again.

Nicole stood with Emilio.

He was telling her what was wrong.

James held onto my hand.

Liz what's wrong, he asked again.

I could see Nicole start to cry.

James looked at her.

Then back at me.

Ok, Ok I said, I have cancer.

James just looked at me.

Emilio began to cry again.

James turned to him.

Then back to me.

He began to cry.

It's ok, I said.

James took tight hold of my hand.

He did not know what to say.

I have a bit of time yet, I said.

But I was beginning to doubt that, as I was feeling quite bad, and it had come on sudden.

I tried to get up again.

But my legs gave way.

James went to catch me and Emilio ran over.

Let's get her to the bedroom, James said.

Emilio and James helped me on to bed.

I was still wearing my wedding dress.

Nicole came in.

I asked her if she would clean my face up, as I bet I looked quite a sight.

Her makeup had run as well.

Emilio opened the patio doors, to let some air in.

James helped to make me comfortable.

Nicole got a wet wipe and cleaned my face.

Emilio came over and sat by me on the bed.

I will be ok in a minute I told him.

It was just all the excitement, and emotion of the day, if I rested I would be ok.

But I was feeling really bad now.

When Nicole had finished cleaning my face, I asked her if she would fetch my hand bag, and a glass of water.

She went off to get them.

The others will be wondering where we are, I said to Emilio.

Not to worry he said.

I began to cough.

And I was finding it hard to breath.

Both Emilio and James helped me sit up while, I tried to catch my breath.

Nicole came back in with the glass of water and my handbag.

I took the hand bag off her and opened it up and got my pills out.

I was looking for my morphine pills.

I had so many pills and I began to panic.

Nicole helped me find them.

Are these the ones you want she asked?

Yes, that's them.

James opened the packet and took out the pills.

How many he said.

I can take two I told him, still fighting for breath.

He popped out two pills and gave them to me.

Emilio took hold of the glass of water and helped me swallow the pills.

I lay back on the bed.

Exhausted, and still struggling to breathe.

Emilio got up and said he would ring the doctor again.

James and Nicole stayed with me.

I was told I had, at least a year left, I said to Nicole and James.

James took hold of my hand.

What cancer is it Liz, he asked.

I have stage four, melanoma.

I have had it ages apparently, I told him, trying to control my breathing.

When did you find out, Nicole asked?

Only a few months ago, But, the yesterday the doctor said, there was nothing more they could do

Liz why did you not tell anyone, Nicole said crying.

Because I thought I have burdened you all enough over the years with my problems, and besides, I was planning on telling you today, at the restaurant, but well, now you know, I said feeling tired.

So Emilio did not know either then James asked.

Well I thought he did not know, but this trip out here and us renewing our vows, well he knew, but said nothing.

James looked at Nicole.

Nicole started crying, but hid her face from me.

Emilio came back into the bed room, wearing his suite jacket again.

They are sending an ambulance, I heard him say to James.

No need let me sleep and when I wake up I will be ok, I said drifting off to sleep.

Emilio came and lay by me on the bed.

I could feel him touch my face.

James asked him why he never told anyone, that he knew about me being ill.

Emilio said he was waiting for me to tell him, and also hoping I was hiding it from him because I would get better.

And you rushed to get all this done, James asked him.

Looking at me and stroking my hair, Emilio said, there was nothing he would not do for me.

And he knew I would love it.

James smiled.

The door knocked.

Nicole went to answer it.

It was my parents, the twins, Gilb ,Harvey and ruby.

Nicole had the job of telling them what was wrong.

I could hear people crying.

Emilio kissed me and got off the bed to go see everyone.

James then bent over and kissed my head, and went out to see ruby and Joseph.

I was told I would have a year to live,

But knowing I was loved so much, it was like my body had said enough was enough.

As soon as the room was empty,

I passed away.

I died knowing I was loved.

Chapter 25

CHAPTER 25

The twins came into the room, and looked at me lying there.

They thought I was just sleeping.

Emilio hugged Samantha.

She was well this morning dad, how could she get so ill so quick

She has been ill a while, but no one knew, Emilio said to Samantha, as he held on to her tight.

James came in with Joseph.

Joseph was crying, and ran to his sister.

Samantha and Joseph hugged each other.

Ruby came and held James's hand.

Nicole came in next with Gilb.

Nicole was crying again, and Gilb comforted her.

Gilb put his hand on Emilio's shoulder.

Emilio turned to him and smiled, as if to thank him for his support.

Ruby offered to make people teas and coffees, and left James in the bedroom.

The twins followed her out.

Then my parents came in.

My mum and dad stood looking at me.

Mum came over and kissed my face.

But dad just stood looking at me.

He knew I was gone.

Emilio went over to the patio doors, and looked out.

James joined him.

They said nothing but stared out to the sea.

Mum looked at dad who had a single tear, coming from his eye, and shook his head.

She knew, he knew, I was gone.

Nicole saw my mum's face, and knew I had gone, and began to cry.

Gilb hugged her tight.

Mum took hold of my hand and started to get hysterical.

Emilio and James turned around.

They looked at Nicole and Gilb.

And then at my dad, who had turned away with his head in his hands.

Emilio walked over to the bed.

Why are you all crying, he said?

Mum got up and ran out of the room.

Dad stepped forward, and took hold of Emilio, as James looked on behind him.

Courage son, courage.

Emilio knew what he was trying to say.

He turned around and climbed onto the bed next to me.

He touched my face.

And, cried Liz.

He shook me, but I was gone.

With tears falling like rain from his eyes he called my name again.

Liz.

No he screamed.

You can't leave me yet.

James got hold of him and tried to pull him off of me.

No, Liz you can't be gone, Gilb helped James.

Liz, Emilio screamed, you said you had more time.

James and Gilb got Emilio off the bed and held him back.

Samantha and Joseph ran in.

Samantha looked over at me, then her dad, who was crying his eyes out, but being held up by James and Gilb, who were also crying.

Dad, she said.

He looked at her with tears rolling down his face, and shook his head.

No, she screamed, and ran to her dad.

Gilb and James let go of him.

Samantha and Emilio hugged each other, and cried their hearts out.

Joseph ran to James and they too cried together.

There was a knock at the door and ruby went to get it.

The paramedics were here, but it was too late.

Ruby showed them into the bedroom.

Everyone was stood round crying.

Kate and Emilio's sister arrived, and came in to hear the news.

Mum and dad were in the lounge.

Dad was trying to comfort mum.

Harvey came into the bedroom, to see what was going on.

He saw his mum and dad crying and holding each other.

He went over to them, and hugged them.

The paramedics, checked for signs of life, but there was nothing they could do.

One of the paramedics radioed for the police to come.

Emilio told Samantha to go out of the bedroom now, as there were things the paramedics had to do.

James told Joseph to do the same, and Nicole and Gilb took Harvey out as well.

Emilio and James came over to the bed.

The paramedics asked in Spanish what had happened.

Emilio explained, I had had stage four cancer, but known of us knew I would be gone that quick.

Emilio picked up mu handbag and took out all my pills.

The paramedics looked at them, and knew, he was telling the truth.

The police would still have to come and investigate my death.

In the lounge everyone was either sat or stood around crying.

Ruby was trying to comfort Joseph, Sam was being comforted by Emilio's sister.

Kate sat with mum and dad and Gilb, Nicole and Harvey, were in bits.

Michael and his wife turned up, and were told about my death. Michael said he would go back and tell the others at the restaurant.

Emilio and James stayed with my body the whole time.

The police came and took statements.

Then after a few hours my body could be removed from the villa.

I was still in my wedding dress, and everyone else was still in their wedding clothes.

But Emilio did not want my body to go.

He asked if I could stay a bit longer, but the police and paramedics said because it was so hot it was not a good idea.

He held onto me like I was sleeping.

Kissing my head, and hands.

James in the end told him it was time.

But I will never see her again James, Emilio said, holding onto my lifeless body, crying.

I know James said, also crying and trying to give Emilio support.

Emilio knew I had to be taken away, so he spoke to me one last time.

He held my body like I was a sleep in his arms.

Liz, my beautiful Liz, you went before you should have.

He stroked my face, and hair.

You carried this pain alone,

But I knew,

I knew my love,

James turned away, crying his eyes out.

Emilio took hold of my lifeless hand.

I am so glad you were still here, to marry me again.

If we had not renewed our vows, I am telling you now I would not be long behind you.

James turned around.

But you asked me to look after Samantha, and keep on singing.

And I will, for you my love.

But I will never stop thinking about you,

Every song I sing, and every time I look at Sam, I will see you.

My love, my world, my soul mate.

Emilio kissed my lips one last time.

The paramedics looked at each other.

Emilio turned to James, and asked him to help him take my wedding dress off.

They both undressed me, and then put my night dress on me.

Both crying their eyes out.

The paramedics went to get their trolley and a body bag.

Emilio took hold of my hand.

He looked at my wedding rings.

He then asked the police man if he could take these now.

The police man said yes.

He removed the rings he had give me, and put them in his trouser pocket.

The paramedics came back in.

They laid, the body bag net to my body on the bed, and went to put me in it.

But Emilio said no he would do it.

James said he would help him.

Carefully and gently, both Emilio and James took hold of me and placed me on the bag.

James came round to kiss me on the check.

He also spoke to me.

My little Liz, how I have watched you grow.

I will always remember our good times together, sweet heart.

And that you gave me a son.

Who I will look at, and see you.

Sweet dreams, and see you again someday.

He kissed me on the head and walked out of the bedroom, crying.

Emilio wiped his face.

He came round and kissed me head.

Good bye my love, he said

Then he zipped up the body bag.

And cried out Liz again.

The paramedics picked my body up and put it on the trolley and I was taken out of the villa.

Emilio followed, and then so did everyone else.

The neighbourhood had come out to see what had happened, also.

Emilio ran towards the trolley with my body on, and told the paramedics to be gentle with me.

They said they would.

Everyone watched as the ambulance drove off.

Emilio stood in the middle of the road till the ambulance was out of sight.

Then feel to his knees and cried.

Chapter 26

CHAPTER 26

Two months, later back in the UK.....

It was a dry day.

But it would not be an easy day.

People had gathered at our home.

It was the day of my funeral.

Emilio just stood looking out of the window.

Samantha and Joseph sat next to each other, staring into space.

Ruby and Nicole were handing out teas and coffees to people who had come.

While James and Gilb stood around not knowing what to say.

My sister was there with my parents, and her and James daughter abbey.

Terry had turned up with Gary.

Bev had come, and my old school friends.

Most of Emilio opera colleges came to show their respect.

Emilio's four sons and ex wife were also there.

Emilio had arranged everything.

He kept himself busy as he was dreading this day.

The sound of horses hooves trotting, got every ones attention

The hearse had arrived. And poppy was with it.

Along with the other funeral cars, two pipers and two drummers

Emilio had been looking out of the window, waiting for it.

Everyone knew it was time.

The funeral director jumped down from the carriage.

Four black horses had pulled my body home, for the last time.

Emilio had flown my body over from Mexico.

He wanted to be near me over here.

The funeral director, opened the back of the carriage, so all the flowers and wreaths, that were outside the house could be put in.

Everyone started to gather outside.

Nicole went and spoke with the house keeper and the staff who had been hired in for the wake, afterwards.

Then she asked Emilio if he was ready.

Emilio just stood looking at the hearse, holding my wedding rings.

Samantha and James came over to him.

Its time, James said.

Samantha took hold of her dads and hand, and they walked out of the house, towards the carriage.

The horses, stood still, and poppy sat next to them.

Seeing poppy with the horses, Emilio started to cry.

The flowers and the wreaths were now in the carriage, with my coffin.

The funeral director came over to the Emilio, and asked if he was ready to go.

He said he just wanted a minute to look at my coffin.

Samantha walked over with him and he touched the glass, of the carriage.

Inside there were flowers and wreaths, galore.

There were, mum, wife, daughter, sister, and friend wreaths.

And flowers of many colours.

And at sitting on the coffin was a photo of me and Emilio.

Have a safe journey my love, Emilio said.

He walked back around to the front of the carriage with Samantha.

James and Joseph, followed behind them, The piper's and drummers, got ready.

Everyone else got into their cars.

Emilio took a deep breath in, and started to walk.

They would walk me to the end of the drive of our house, on to the road.

The pipers and drummers started to play amazing grace.

They followed behind, the carriage.

Then the cars followed behind them.

It was a slow steady speed, as everyone followed behind Emilio.

As we lived in a rural area, the police were there to stop the traffic and let us pass.

People got out of their cars to see my carriage, and hear the pipers and drummers play for me.

There must of been about twenty cars, following behind the hearse.

But people who had been made to stop did not complain.

When the pipes and drums has finished Emilio stopped walking.

James, Joseph and Samantha, stopped as well.

Emilio looked up to the funeral director, and the carriage driver.

And, bowed his head.

That was the sign he would now get into the funeral car.

Samantha, James and Joseph followed him.

The pipers and drummers, had served their purpose, and stood to the side to let the precision pass.

And then the carriage moved on to the church.

The carriage came to stop at a Christian church not too far from our home.

The cars followed in behind.

Emilio and James rushed to get out of the car.

Then Gilb and terry came over to them, along with dad and Joseph.

They would all carry me into the church.

Samantha went and stood with mum, ruby and Nicole, and Kate.

When it was time the men lifted my coffin, and slowly carried me into the church,

Seeing I had turned to god, and the mother Mary, Emilio thought it right I had some sort of religious burial.

Walking into the church, James Blunt's, goodbye my lover was playing.

Everyone followed in behind.

The men placed my coffin at the altar.

The vicar was waiting.

It was a woman.

And she had known me.

It was Antoinette.

The would be nun, I had made friends with in Romania.

She had come home and joined the Christian church and became a vicar.

When everyone went to sit down, she approached my coffin and laid my cross on it.

The one I wore all the time I was sister, with her.

She had kept it all this time, since the day I left Romania, to get back to Emilio.

She had met with Emilio before the funeral, and it came out she knew me and told him about my cross, and asked him if she could give it me back on the day, and he agreed.

When the music had finished, she began to tell people about me.

And how I helped those people in Romania, but in the end I missed my family too much, and that god would of recognised that their love had to come before him

She spoke of my love for Emilio, and my children and my friends and extended family.

She said how I liked a drink and maybe a bit too much at times, but could relate as she too had been an addict.

She spoke of my depression, but how I was never down for long and, how my love for Emilio kept me going, even in my darkest times.

But she told everyone that even though I was not here in body, my spirit would always be around them, and that they should take comfort in that.

When she had finished Emilio got up to speak.

He came over and kissed his hand and touched my coffin, then rubbed his hand along it.

My beautiful Liz is not here anymore he said, giving, the gesture of all around him.

He paused, trying to hold back tears.

But she will always be here.

He said placing his hand on his heart.

He touched the coffin again.

It will be hard to carry on without you Liz, but I will do my best, until, we meet again.

He looked the photo of us which was sat on top of the coffin.

See you again one day my love, he said looking at it.

Then he went and sat back down.

The church was silent.

Antoinette, read out the Lord 's Prayer.

Then the song my heart will go on by Celine Dion, began to play.

Then, she looked at Emilio and the rest of the pall bearers to come and carry the coffin back out of the church.

Emilio stood up then James and Gilb, and then terry and Joseph and my dad.

As before they lifted me up and slowly walked back down the aisle, behind Antoinette.

I was being buried in the grounds of the church.

The music was still playing as my coffin was carried out of church.

Everyone else followed behind.

The music was turned up, and Antoinette, walked over to my plot.

The grave diggers took off their hats, to show their respect.

When the song had finished, my coffin was rested above the hole, it would be lowered into the ground on two strong straps it was sitting on.

With everyone gathered around my coffin, Antoinette, said we now deliver our sister Liz to the ground, earth to earth ashes to ashes dust to dust.

The grave diggers lowered my coffin slowly as Antoinette threw in some dirt,

Run wild by Barbra Streisand started to play and a bucket of blue roses was passed round for everyone to take one and throw it into the grave.

I wasn't much of a singer, but when I did sing I would try and sing Barbra Streisand songs, and this one I would sing to Emilio, and if we had parties, I would always sing this.

Emilio began to cry again.

And James and Samantha and Joseph came over to comfort him.

Together they threw their roses into the grave.

No one can hold you now for you are an island, they sang, as the music played loud for all all to hear.

Then everyone hugged each other.

While everyone one else walked away from the grave, Emilio said he wanted to stay.

He told James to tell the others to go on back to the house.

James said ok, and walked away with the others.

Emilio bent down by the grave.

He took out my wedding rings and kissed them.

Looking into the grave, he just kept saying my name,

Liz

Liz

Liz.

Chapter 27: EPILOGUE

EPILOGUE

Liz

Liz,

Liz wake up will you.

Caroline was shaking me,

Liz, are you ok?

What I said.

That's a big bump you have on your head Bev, said coming to help me.

Not really knowing where I was or what was going on, I felt someone pull me up.

Get her on this chair jenny said.

I was helped on to the chair.

I looked around to see who had helped me.

I recognised him.

Too much of the black stuff, he said with a, Scottish accent, bending down to check on me.

I was still not sure of what had happened to me.

Bev came over with some ice in a tea towel.

Now will one of you hold this on her head, she said.

Caroline took hold of it and placed it on my head.

Ouch I said.

Now Liz do you know what day it is, and who the prime minister is, jenny said try to play the doctor.

All confused, I knocked the icepack off my head and stood up.

Bloody hell Liz, Caroline said.

I'm not dead then I said looking around.

The whole club was looking at me.

Bev came rushing over to clean up the mess.

She's gone mad jenny said.

No love, Bev said bending down to pick up the ice cubes, you tripped over, and banged your head.

I looked at my hands.

They were young looking.

And I had no wedding rings on.

I turned round to the man who had helped me up.

He was now standing back at the bar.

He smiled.

I smiled back.

Then, ran to the toilets.

Caroline and jenny followed after me.

Looking in the mirror, my head had a big bump on it.

But looking back, was a seventeen year old me.

I turned to jenny, the year is nineteen ninety seven, and tony Blair is prime minister.

Ok you're not mad then, she said to me.

Caroline said, I think it's better if you went home.

Yes, you are right, I turned to her, all excited.

No, I think she is mad, Caroline said to jenny.

My head will heal I said blowing a kiss to myself in the mirror.

She's not well jenny said.

I walked back out to the bar.

Bev was now back behind it, chatting away to the man who helped me up.

Jenny and Caroline rushed out behind me.

The song, blue savannah, started to play.

Who keeps playing that song Bev shouted out?

That must be the fifth time tonight; she said drying a pint glass.

I started to dance.

Caroline and jenny just stood and watched me.

Then I started to sing along with the song.

Right let's get her home, Caroline said to jenny.

You take it easy now Liz, Bev said.

No way I replied, I have plans

I went up to the man who helped me.

Thanks for all you have done for me James.

He looked shocked I knew his name.

Bev stopped to see what I was doing.

I gave him a hug and a kiss on the cheek.

He said, that's ok sweet heart, you just watch yourself now.

I said I would, and winked at him.

Caroline and jenny got hold of me and pulled me away.

James you're a great lover, I shouted as I was dragged out of the club,

Everyone was looking at me, but I did not care.

James turned to Bev and laughed, then shook his head.

Bev shrugged her shoulders, then, smiled.

With Caroline and jenny holding on to me, I skipped down the road, shouting out my plans for the future.

For my eighteenth birthday I have decided I want to go to Majorca, oh and we need to go to London, I hear it's a wonderful place, oh and Mexico, Scotland and Malta, oh and I need to buy a lottery ticket, I am feeling lucky.

Ok Liz whatever you say,

Caroline said, shaking her head at jenny.

I just found out I had a second chance at life.

Not many people can say, they have had that.

And this time I would live my life right.

The end.

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