

"If Only"

# "If Only"

By : Christian Taylor

College students gather at the annual Halloween party for a night of drinking and a good time. Derek, a senior at West Brooke University, is hanging out with friends until a girl catches his eyes. This leads to a night of passion and to an uncertain future when morning comes.



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## Chapter 1

Halloween finally has come to the college community of West Brooke. Perhaps, it wasn't more obvious than down at Lansing Street, where it was holding its annual Halloween bash that they've held every year since the 1960s. Now, Lansing Street is well-known for its many bars and restaurants, which has made Lansing Street, a popular hangout spot for college students. Its yearly Halloween bash has become a local event for the many college students, who are looking for a good time and the chance to dress up for the holiday.

Now, when we think of Halloween, we think of ghouls, ghosts, and scary stories. However, sometimes, strange happenings can happen that doesn't exactly scare people, but can lead to something else and its called love. Certainly, that would have been the first word to come up when we think of Valentine's Day. However, love strikes two individuals during this Halloween night, but like the old saying, 'Love is complicated.'

As the Halloween bash got underway, the bars were full of college students dressed in the Halloween best, enjoying the endless stream of drinks and hanging out with friends. Among the crowd at the bar called "Brothers" was a college student name Derek.

Derek, a senior at the West Brooke College was dressed up as prince charming, wearing attire reminiscent to the renaissance era in the days of Shakespeare and his shaggy black hair was combed back. Sitting at the bar with his friends, they talked amongst themselves and about to play a drinking game.

"Alright, you all know the rules of the game," Derek instructs his friends on the rules of the drinking game, "Each one tells a joke, if nobody laughs at the joke, the person that told the joke has to drink a shot. However, if someone laughs at the joke, then the person that laughed has to drink a shot. Got it?" He asked the group.

The group began to hoot and hollered with anticipation. Derek nods his head and grinned with excitement.

"I'll go first." Derek volunteered himself to tell the first joke.

"Let hear it!" Derek's friend Josh said as he and the rest of Derek's friends all looked over to Derek waiting to hear the joke.

"My brother was so dumb, the only thing he past in high school was a kidney stone!" He said with a grin. All of Derek's friends were trying to keep a straight look on their face, but Josh and Jake cracked.

"Josh! Jake! You have to take a shot," Derek hollered as Derek's other friend Daniel managed to keep a straight face. Josh and Jake grab a shot off the bar counter as Derek and Daniel watched on. Jake and Josh swig their shots down before setting the empty shot glasses back down on the wooden bar counter.

"I'll go next," Daniel volunteered as he waited for the group to have their attention on him before telling his joke, "What's cheese that isn't yours?"

The group turned toward each other briefly before turning back towards Daniel and all shouting in unison, "NACHO CHEESE!"

None of the them cracked, not even a smile from Daniel's joke.

"Oh, come on!" Daniel shouted with disapproval as he reaches over to where the shots were and grabbed one. Meanwhile, Derek and the rest of the group begins laugh from Daniel's failed joke. Derek laughed as he looked over his shoulder and checked out his surroundings.

His green eyes surveyed the whole barroom before something caught his eye. He noticed on the other side of the room was an attractive girl sitting alone at a table.

"Hey! I'll be right back." Derek announced the group. He soon got up from the barstool slowly and made his way through the crowded room, not once taking his eyes off the girl.

"Derek! Where are you going?" Jake shouted, but Derek never acknowledges or answered him. As he got closer, he could see her leaning forward in her chair wearing a dark green gown with her long flowing wavy blonde hair draped over her left shoulder as she stared down at her drink stirring it with a red straw. As Derek continued to push his way through the crowd, he could see her looking up at the crowd, showing her mesmerizing eyes that could stop traffic from its beauty. Derek could feel his heart beating faster as he approached the table; she looked back at Derek with a straight look on her face. Derek quickly took a deep breath before walking up to her and leaning towards her right ear.

"I saw you from across the across the room and I noticed that you were sitting here by yourself," Derek shouted over the noise of the loud music, "Why are you here by yourself?"

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She leaned turned her head towards him and spoke into his left ear, "It's the Halloween party of the yearâ why miss it?" She said.

"Yeah, that's true, but it's no fun when you're not with friends." Derek hollered back and he pulled up a chair and sat down next the girl, who turned in her chair so that she was facing towards Derek.

"Tell me about it," she said as she took a sip of her drink, "all my friends had their dates with them and I didn't feel like being the odd one outâ so here I am."

"Oh I see." Derek shouted as she nodded her head, "what's your name by the way?"

"I'm Jenna, what's yours?" She asked.

"Derek," he said as he cracked a smile, "you look amazing, what you are supposed to be?" He asked.

"A princess," Jenna said as she took another sip of her drink, "you must be my prince charming." She said jokingly as the two laughed.

"Yes, I am, how did you guess?" He asked.

"It was that goofy outfit." She said sarcastically. Derek joking frowned as Jenna laughed at his reaction.

"Hey, I couldn't find anything better than this. Besides, I don't I look that bad," Derek laughed as Jenna smiled as her light green eyes targeted his green eyes, "Hey! If you're a princess, where's your crown?" He asked pointing at her head.

"I left it back at the castle!" Jenna said sarcastically before explaining, "No, one of my best friends wanted to wear it for tonight."

"I'm assuming that she'sâ!" Derek said before Jenna interrupted him.

"A self-centered bitch?" Derek burst out laughing by Jenna's remark.

"Actually, I was going to say, 'she's a princess too?' butâ!" Derek laughed. After they stopped laughing, the two silently stared at each other for a moment as if they both didn't know what to say next. Jenna took one last sip of her drink before asking, "Do you want to go someplace else?"

"Like where?" Derek asked.

"Why don't we take a walk down to Riverside Park?" She suggested.

"Sure." He said. The two got up from their seats and proceeded to head over to the front door as they pushed their way through the crowd. Jenna grabbed Derek's hand as Derek lead the way out, proceeding to out of 'Brothers' and walked down Lansing Street towards Riverside Park.

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Derek and Jenna walked down the sidewalk making their way through the human traffic of Halloween parties as they headed towards Riverside Park, which ran along side the Carey River that ran through the West Brooke Campus. As they crossed Lansing Street, Derek looked over to Jenna and asked, "So do you go to school here at West Brooke?"

"No," the two got to the other side of the street and began to walk into the park, "I go to school over at Midwest Tech College. I will be transferring here to West Brooke for the spring semester next year." She said as she stared down at the cement path that was covered with dead leaves.

"Oh, cool, what are you going to school for?" Derek asked as he put his hands into his pants pockets.

"English Literature," Jenna said looking up at Derek, who was walking beside her at her left, "I've always like writing since I was a little girl." She said.

"Interesting choice, what do you write? Poetry? Novels?" Derek asked.

"Oh, all of them." Jenna responded.

"Good for you," Derek shook his head, "I couldn't be able to write a novel to save my life." Derek grinned. Jenna giggled by his quirky comment. Suddenly, she stumbled and somewhat lost her balance, which Derek quickly grabbed her arm and wrapped his arms around her slim waist preventing her from falling to the ground.

"I think the alcohol is beginning to take its effect!" Jenna said as they both burst into laughter. During the stumble, Jenna's foot peeked out from under the dark green gown and noticed that she was wearing boots.

"Wait! Wait a minute!" Derek stopped walking with his arms still around her waist. He pulled her dress up revealing that she was wearing black boots.

"Why are you wearing boots? I didn't know princesses wear boots!" Derek said sarcastically and started laughing. Jenna, however, gave him a sarcastic look as she pushed him away so that he would let go of the bottom of her dress.

"Very funny, Derek," she looked down at her dress and adjusted it for a moment before looking back at Derek, who was still giggling from the whole thing, "a heel broke on one of the shoes that were going to be wearing tonight and I didn't have any other pair. So I decided to be creative." She explained.

"I see." Derek said still grinning.

"O.K., smartass you can stop now." She joking said.

"I'm just giving you a hard time." Derek responded as the two started walking again. By now, the sun was beginning to set causing everything to become darker. They could still hear the music and the hollers from the Halloween bash back on Lansing street.

"I never got the chance to ask you," Jenna looked over to Derek, "What you going to school for?" she asked.

"Business management, I'd like to run my own business." He said.

"That's cool, what kind of business would you be interested in running?" Jenna asked as she wrapped her arm around Derek's masculine right arm. This caused Derek to stutter in his speech.

"Iâ I never really thought about that. I guess a restaurant or some kind of a company." He said.

"That's cool. I think you would do great." Jenna said.

"Thanksâ I hope so." Derek said.

"You will," Jenna leaned her head against Derek's right shoulder, "Believe me. Hey! Back at 'Brothers'; were you there by yourself as well or were you with friends?" She asked.

"I was with a couple of buddies of mine." Derek said.

"What were they dressed up as," Jenna paused for a moment looking as if she was about to burst of laughing,

"Your knights of the round table?" She said bursting into laughter, which Derek did as well.

"No," he shook his head as he tried to stop laughing, "One was dressed up as a pirate, another was dressed as a zombie, and the other was dressed up as a grim reaper." He said.

"Hmm... Why do I get the feeling that this is a start of a joke?" She asked.

"It's not, but were playing a drinking game that required us to tell a joke." Derek said as the two started laughing again. As the two continued to make their way through the park they could soon hear music coming

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from the direction to where they were head.

"Where's that music coming from?" Jenna asked Derek.

"I think it's from that new restaurant. They have loud speakers that play that classical stuff." Derek said.

"It's almost fitting given how we are dressed this evening." Jenna said. That was when Derek got an idea. Although, the alcohol was now causing his speech to slur somewhat, he got into the character of prince charming. He stepped away from Jenna, which caused her to stop walking.

"My lady, can I have this dance?" He asked as he put his left hand behind his back and extended out his right hand towards Jenna, who didn't have a clue what was happening.

"What are you doing?" Jenna asked not sure what to make of Derek's request.

"My lady," Derek leaned forward still having his right hand extended towards her, "Can I have this dance with you?" He asked again. The music playing in the distance caused Jenna to realize what Derek was doing. She soon followed suit in getting into character and said, "You may, my prince."

She took his hand, walked up to Derek, and got close to him as embraced into a hold. Derek wrapped his arms around her slender waist and her body against his. Jenna wrapped her arms around his masculine back. Derek could smell her perfume, which caused him to become aroused.

They began to sway to the music as they began to dance on the cement path. The two never said anything as they let the music take over. After several minutes, the song ended and suddenly without warning, Jenna gave Derek a passionate kiss on the lips. Jenna quickly stopped, leaning back from Derek.

"I'm sorry." She whispered looking towards the ground feeling a little embarrassed.

"I'm not." Derek whispered. She looked up and stared into his green eyes and gave a slight smile. Slowly, they moved in to kiss, tightening their embrace and kissing with increasing passion.

**Check back this week for Chapter 3 of "If Only"**

## Chapter 3

At that moment, everything that mattered in both of their lives had no meaning. In what seemed like a dream or a fantasy before, was now a moment that Derek never felt before. He's been in situations like this before, but this time, it was different. As he brushed her silky blonde hair back, he started kissing her neck, which caused Jenna to lean her head back.

"Make love to me, Derek." Jenna whispered as she started to unbutton his black jacket. Derek, suddenly, picked her up and carried her over to a cement retaining wall as he continued to French kiss her. He set her on the retaining wall, which Jenna laid down on her back. Derek ran his hands up her legs, pushing the dress up and exposing her shapely legs to the autumn air. Jenna moaned as Derek ran his hands up her body feeling her slim waist and creasing her breasts. He soon started kissing her neck again as she ran her fingers through his shaggy black hair.

"Derek," she quietly whispered as Derek continued to kiss her neck, "Derek." She whispered again turning her head towards him.

"Yes?" He whispered as he looked into her eyes.

"What are you think about right now?" She asked as she wrapped her arms around his back. Derek didn't say anything at first; he stared into her eyes taking deep breaths trying to catch his breath.

"What did I do to deserve a girl like you?" Derek asked rhetorically, as he rested his forehead on top of hers.

"Maybe it was luck that brought us together." She suggested as she took her left hand and brushed his shaggy black hair away from his face.

"Maybe its fate." Derek suggested.

"Or maybe this is just a dream." She thought as she kissed his lips.

"If it isâ let's enjoy this moment before we awake." Derek whispered as he began to kiss her soft lips again. Suddenly, the moment was shattered by a shout from out in the distance.

"Hey! Go get a room!" The voice shouted. Derek and Jenna look up to see where the voice was coming from. It had become dark enough that the lights on the path turned on, where they could see a couple of college students dressed up in costumes walking down the path. Derek looked back at Jenna and asked, "Do you live nearby?"

"Actually, I do," Jenna sat up and pointed in the direction, where she lived, "It's about a block or two away towards that way." She said.

"What are we waiting for?" Derek helped Jenna off the retaining wall, "Let's go." Derek said as held her right hand and they started walking down the dead leaves covered path away from the other college students. The two stumbled down the path heading out of the park before crossing Duffy Street and heading down Cameron Street. Many of the houses they past, were full of college students drinking and playing loud music; many of them were wearing their Halloween costumes showing their Halloween spirit.

Soon Derek and Jenna started walking up an old crack cement path to her house. The house was huge in comparison of many of the houses on the block. The house was an old Victorian style house that looked to be almost three stories high. It was painted yellow on the siding, which the paint was beginning to crack and peel from the forces of nature. The frames of the doors and windows were white, but the paint wasn't nearly as bad in condition as the rest of the house.

They walked onto the front porch, where Jenna reached into her purse and pulled out a set of keys. She briefly fumbled with the keys looking for the right one to open the door as Derek stood behind her rubbing her back with his left hand.

"That feels good." Jenna said smiling as she put the key into the keyhole and turned it. After a clicking sound came from the door, Jenna turned the knob and opened the door. Jenna walked in as Derek followed closely behind. Jenna flipped a light switch, which turned on the lights in the walkway.

"Welcome to my home away from home," Jenna said as she set her purse down on a table, "Make sure you take your shoes off before you come any further?" Jenna said.

"No problem." Derek said as he began to slip his black shoes almost losing his balance in the process. Derek walked away from the door and started check out his surroundings.

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"Nice place," Derek's green eyes surveyed his surroundings, "Do you live here by yourself?" He asked.

"No," Jenna began slipping her boots off, "I have three other roommates, but they are all on a vacation to Europe. They'll be back sometime next week." She said as she walked up to Derek.

"At least, we won't be disturbed." Derek said. Jenna just smiled as she approached him. Her light green eyes look into Derek's green eyes, where they both knew what was going to be happening. She grabbed his left hand and guided him up a flight of stairs, which made a creaking sound as they stepped on the wooden steps. Once at the top, she guided him down a small hallway into the first room on the right.

Jenna let go of his hand and took a couple of steps before turning around staring at his eyes. Derek walked up to her with a slight grin on his face as he wrapped his masculine arms around her slim waist and started to kiss her soft lips. Jenna proceeded to unbutton his jacket and started running her hands up midsection.

Derek removed his jacket, which dropped to the wood floor. Derek started pull the spaghetti straps off of her shoulders, which slid off of her figure and pooled around her feet. Derek could feel his heart beating out of his chest as he stared at her almost naked flawless body, only being covered by black bra and panties.

"Nice." He whispered as Jenna started walking backwards towards the bed, where Derek soon followed. He removed his shirt revealing a tone muscular chest and arms as he pressed his body against hers, which she could feel his state of arousal. They slowly fell onto the bed, where Jenna was laying on her back. Derek was on top of her starting to kiss her neck and slowly began to work his way down.

"Put your hands on me, Derek." She said as Derek ran his hands from her waist and worked his way up to her breasts as he caressed them. He kissed her tone flat stomach, which caused her to giggle. Derek unbuttoned his pants and started to kick his pants off as he crawled up towards her beautiful face. He soon unhooked her bra, which revealed her beautiful breasts as he started kissing her lips and placing his hands on her breasts. Jenna wrapped her arms around his back as they both were both enjoying the moment that they were having together.

They soon changed positions, where Jenna was on top. She lay down on his body and rested her head on his chest. Derek brushed her long wavy blonde with his fingers.

"You O.K.?" Derek asked.

"Yea, are you?" Jenna asked as she wrapped her arms around him.

"Yeaâready for more?" Derek asked. Jenna raised her head and stared at his eyes. She gave a slight grin and started to kiss his chest and began to make her way down towards his boxers. Derek looked straight up at the dark ceiling in anticipation.

## Chapter 4

Morning arrived as the sun began to rise above the horizon of houses. Its warmed rays shined through the window of Jenna's bedroom and onto Derek's face. Derek slowly began to wake up as he rolled over to get the sun out of his face. He could faintly hear the sound of a shower running in the distance, which later went silent after a few minutes. He cracked open his eyes and quickly began to target different areas of the room. He slowly sat up in the bed, rubbing his green eyes almost thinking that he was dreaming.

He slowly raised the covers and looked underneath to reveal that he was completely naked. He looked over the covers and noticed Jenna standing in the doorway staring at him.

"Morning," Jenna was leaning against the doorframe wearing nothing, but a white bathrobe, "Did you sleep well?" She asked. Derek lowered the bed sheets to keep him covered.

"Good morning, yeah I did. How long have you been up?" Derek asked.

"For about a half hour," Jenna walked over to the bed, "Did you just wake up?" She asked sitting down at the foot of the bed.

"Yeah," Derek kept looking around his surroundings, "I really had fun last night." Derek said with a slight grin on his face. However, the look on Jenna's face told a different story.

"Yeahâthe best Halloween I've ever had." She said looking away from Derek. Derek knew that she wasn't being truthful.

"You're lying." Derek said as he wrapped the bed sheet around his waist and began to move over towards her.

"How am I lying?" Jenna asked as Derek sat next to her.

"I can tell by the look on your face. Are you regretting it?" He asked. Jenna didn't say anything at first.

"This was just a one night stand, Derek. You know that." Jenna said looking over to her left and looking into his green eyes. Derek was stunned by her comment.

"A one night stand? I wasn't thinking of it that way." Derek explained.

"Come on," Jenna got up from the bed and started to pace, "You're no different than any other guy I've met. You're all the same! You see a good looking girl, you meet her, and you try to sleep with her by the end of the night. Then the next morning, you leave with no intention of seeing her again." Jenna shouted.

"That's not me!" Derek retorted.

"Bullshit!" Jenna shouted back. Derek got up onto his feet, using his right hand to keep the bed sheet around his waist as he tried to explain.

"Let me tell you something," Derek stood in front of Jenna as she looked on, crossing his arms, "Last night, when I saw you at the bar, I felt something. I've never met a girl, who just took my breath away. Not once was I thinking about myself or whether or not if I could sleep with her by the end of the night. All I kept thinking about was that I really wanted to meet you." Derek explained. Jenna looked down at her feet continuing to listen to Derek's plea, which was causing her to feel embarrassed.

"If you want me to leave I will, but understand that I'm not like that. I feel that we got something here. Please, don't count me out because of what others have done before." He pleaded with her. Jenna looked up at him with tears beginning to roll down her cheeks.

"How do I know," Derek wiped a tear off her left cheek with his left hand as she tried to get the words out,

"How do I know that you're telling me the truth?" She sobbed.

"Come here," Derek pulled her over to the bed and sat next to her on her right side, "I understand if you've been hurt before. Please, give me a chance. I promise that you will not regret this." Derek said as he tied the bed sheet so that it would stay at his waist without falling down. He then grabbed her right hand with both of his hands to try to comfort her.

"If it's love?" She asked.

"It's not ifâthis is love." Derek said as he wiped another tear off her right cheek with his left thumb.

"If only..." Jenna stopped mid-sentence staring straight into his green eyes.

"If only what?" Derek asked. Suddenly, everything went dark. Derek could hear several voices calling out his name.

"Derek!" A voice called out.

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"Derek, wake up! Another voice shouted. Derek could hear the sounds of loud music and loud conversations as he opened his eyes. He could see his friends Daniel, Jake, and Josh surrounding him as they tried to get him to focus.

"Dude, are you alright?" Daniel asked as he shook Derek's left shoulder. Derek's eyes darted different places throughout the bar, trying to figure what had happened.

"Hey man, you O.K.?" Jake asked.

"Where is she?" Derek asked. His friends stood their puzzled by Derek's question.

"What are you talking about?" Josh asked.

"Where's Jenna? Where is she?!" Derek stood up on his barstool and looked to see if she could see her.

"Jenna who?" Jake asked. Derek soon leaped over the barstool and barged his way through the crowd trying to look for her. His friends quickly followed after him as he headed towards the table, where he remembered seeing her at. Derek rushed over to the table to only find it was empty. His heart sank in disappointment and confusion as he tried to understand what had happened.

"Derek, talk to us! What's going on?" Josh asked as he and Derek's friends surrounded him.

"She was right there! I swear I was speaking to her and we went for a walk." Derek hollered over the loud music.

"Dude, you never left!" Daniel said.

"Yeah, you dozed off." Jake said as Derek continued to stare at the empty table.

"Come on, let's get the hell out of here," Josh began to push Derek towards the front doors, "Maybe the air will clear your head." Josh suggested. Daniel and Jake walked ahead as Josh continued to push Derek away from the empty table.

"But, she was there! She was real!" Derek continued to look back towards the empty table as they made their way through the crowded bar and towards the front doors. Derek shook his head trying to relax and forget about the whole thing. Daniel and Jake walked out of the front door just as Derek and Josh were a couple feet behind. Suddenly, Derek stopped dead in his tracks. The girl in the dark green dress with long blonde hair and light green eyes was now standing right in front of him; getting ready to show her I.D to the bouncer.

"Derek! What's wrong with you?" Josh asked walking up beside him. Derek never said anything as he stared at the girl, trying to figure out what had just happened before.

**The End**

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