Chapter 1

When Abella first met Gary Spencer at the shopping mall, there had been an instant attraction. His distinctive features captivated her, she was almost spellbound, he was a handsome, medium height, and burly built. She felt his piercing green eyes focused on her, when he instantly caught, sight of her. He smiled, and then walked closer to her. As if a bottle of perfume opened, she could smell the fragrance, of love lingering between them. He was her destiny. ‘May, I help with your bags?’ His words came from his mouth clear and concise. She pursed her lips in an awkward twist and smiled. ‘Thanks!’ She said, ‘However, I’m sure I’ll manage.’ Her reply was shy and curt. She walked a few short steps and knew his eyes were on her back. She felt uncomfortable knowing he watched her, she felt in comparison to a waddling duck with all her bags. She stopped, turned, and saw his unbroken stare focused on her. She eyed him uncomfortably, and then raising her voice, she said, ‘I guess an extra pair of hands would help.’ He smiled, walked towards her, took some bags of her, and walked her, to her car, he said, ‘I’m Gary Spencer.’ His broad grin, flashed across his face, showing his white shapely teeth. She smiled back at him, ‘Abella Delgado.’ She said her soft tone, complemented her name. She opened the car boot and placed the bags of shopping inside. ‘Thank you, for the help.’ She said. He raised his eyebrows, and said, ‘A pleasure, Abella.’ searching her, finding her irresistible. ‘Would, you be interested in having dinner with me, sometime, soon?’ He asked. She smiled, pushing her hair behind her ears, as she set the last bag into place. ‘I don’t know, why not, perhaps you could come to my place tomorrow?’ She suggested, reaching into her bag, pulling out a notepad, she scribbled, and tore the page. He anxiously scrutinized her every move. She held out her hand with the note, and said, ‘this is my phone number, call me, I’ll give you directions.’ He smiled at her, pacing her from head to toe. He accepted the note.’ Thanks, I’ll be looking forward to tomorrow.’ He replied. She got into her car, smiled at him, nervously inserted the key into the ignition, started her car, and at a snail's pace eased out of the parking area. He raised his hand and gestured in a wave. Her beauty captivated him, her golden curls shining, gently swaying with every movement. He had seen her car leave, until the car disappeared out of sight, smiling to himself, he walked to where his car had been parked, got into his car, read the written note which he still held, tucked the note into his shirt pocket, started his car and drove off. The next day, Gary went to visit Abella. She introduced him to her mother Theresa, a smart slender and beautiful woman, who eyed him cautiously. Theresa’s family viewed her as the matriarch, she was always in control, a practical -mother hen, who always thought no one, was good enough for her daughter. ‘You'd better had a good reason for being here!’ Theresa exclaimed, her voice stern, her gaze focused on Gary. Abella realized, Theresa was going to be rude to Gary, so she intervened, ‘Mama, I invited Gary, over in appreciation for his kindness yesterday.’ Abella showed Gary, into the dining room. Feeling very uncomfortable by her mother’s behavior, she apologized, ‘I’m sorry for that my mother is more than usually protective of me.’ Gary smiled, ‘I don’t blame her with beauty like yours. I think she should have had to hire bodyguards.’ She found him humorous, she laughed. Abella excused herself, to go to fetch the meals, when she’d returned her mother joined them. There had been silence at the table. Theresa’s eyes stayed fixed on Gary. ‘What work do you do?’ She asked. She surprised him by her sudden interest in him, he replied, ‘I’m a computer programmer.’ He looked at her, and then turned his focus on Abella. ‘I see you show an interest in my daughter.’ Theresa remarked flagrantly, just before putting a spoonful of serving into her mouth, ‘I must admit it would be difficult not to show an interest in such beauty, Mrs. Delgado.’ Abella blushed, when she heard his remark. ‘It’s time for dessert.’ Abella said, trying to avoid the uneasy topic, she rose up from her seat, and went to the kitchen. Gary admired her, as she gracefully moved, her high heeled shoes, tapped on the tiled floor, until she was out of sight. Theresa searched Gary’s face, with a stern remark, ‘my daughter, is not to be used and discarded by men, so I suggest, if you got an ulterior motive, you should leave now!’ Without hesitation, Gary confessed, he had been attracted to Abella. ‘I’m not on familiar terms with how Abella does feel about me right now, but I would love to get to be acquainted with her, Mrs. Delgado. Theresa hadn’t intimidated him. He responded, nonchalantly. When Abella came back into the room, she had seen Gary hadn’t been nervous, and her mother had the impression of being, in control. ‘I’ll take my dessert, in front of the television, my favorite program is about to begin.’ Holding the small dessert bowl, with a serving of trifle, Theresa excused herself and left the room, ‘I hope my mother didn’t get the better of you.’ Abella remarked, as she sat. He smiled sarcastically and responded, ‘Nothing, I couldn’t handle.’ She laughed scornfully, ‘Explains, why you are still here, more often than not by now, my dates, would have left. I think my mother finally met her match.’