

A Christmas Gift

When Christmas is approaching, and you are looking for that special gift to surprise the one you love, what better than to take them to Venice for a romantic festive few days and that's what she did

Nancy and Zane had been together for five years; things were becoming a little stale. She felt like something was lacking. They both had full-time jobs and didn't get to spend much time together, because of the hours they both worked, so Nancy thought what better way to spice things up with the trip to Venice, booking a lovely little hotel along the Grand Canal close to the Rialto Bridge, it had a superb canal view of the restaurants and cafes nearby, it looked beautiful. She mentioned she had a surprise to him, and he needed to book four days off, and he wanted to know why?

"I can't tell you why it would ruin the surprise."

"Well... I can't...." he said so matter of factly

"I have organized it now, please..."

"You should have checked with me before you did whatever you have done" he shouted angrily

Nancy put her head down and said she was sorry. All she wanted to do was surprised him. "I'm sorry..."

At this point, Zane felt a little guilty for snapping at her and told her he would see what he could do.

"Thank you... you'll like it, promise."

Zane went to work the next day to book the four days off but moaned about it to Logan, his friend.

"What's wrong with you? Nancy wants to do something nice for you, and all you can do is moan?"

"I had other plans."

"What Plans?"

"It doesn't matter now."

A week before Christmas Eve, the tickets arrived. Nancy wrapped them up in a fancy envelope, and when Zane got home, she presented him with it. She was so excited.

"What's this....?"

"It's your Christmas gift."

"My Christmas present....?" Zane opened the envelope, and he was quite intrigued. As he pulled the tickets out "A trip to Venice."

"Yes I thought it would be romantic" she interrupts excitedly

"Yeah... it's hmm.... Well, thank you."

"Thank you... no kiss, no hug?"

"Hmm yeah ..." as he gave her a very half-hearted kiss on her cheek

She felt a little disappointed at his lack of enthusiasm she had been so excited about this gift.

The days rolled by and before they knew it, it was Christmas Eve, and they were at the airport on their way to Venice.

Zane was very quiet throughout the flight, but Nancy put it down to the little turbulence they had during the trips at the best of times. Zane wasn't the best passenger during flights he wasn't too keen on flying, when they finally arrived in Venice they grabbed their bags and headed for their hotel, along the Grand Canal; the canals had a long history, the atmosphere was warm and genuine, there Christmas lights everywhere it was indeed a magical place.

They put their bags in their room Zane sat on the bed checking his phone he seemed to do that a lot. Lately, Nancy sat down beside him, and he quickly put his phone in his pocket, she moved closer and kissed him

"I don't think you'll be needing your phone for the next few days she giggles, all Zane wanted to do was go down to the bar for some lunch he just didn't seem to be interested in anything at all "we need to keep your strength up don't we?" she giggles again Trying desperately to lighten his mood.

They made their way down to the bar, where Zane promptly ordered a pizza and a bottle of wine, Nancy had that romantic feeling, she desperately wanted things to be like they used to be, so she moved her hand over to Zane's; unfortunately, he swiftly moved his hand away "have I upset you?" she asked

"No.... but I do want to talk about us."

"Oh, that sounds exciting..."

She was hoping he was going to pop the question; unfortunately, that wasn't the case; it was very much the opposite.

That evening Nancy suggested they went for a ride on the gondolier hoping this would put him in a romantic mood

"Why...?"

"It would be romantic That's why"

"NO...," he said abruptly

"What is wrong with you?"

"Nothing"

"There is."

"Let's just get something to eat then go back to the hotel."

"Wh....? I wanted to make this few days special, and all you have done is a grouch."

"Just let's eat."

Nancy was so upset she sat there quiet during the entire meal, she didn't understand why he was so off with her,

As they headed back to the hotel then decided to have a nightcap in the bar. She moved closer to him and kissed his cheek "Let's go up to bed" she said winking at him.

She had bought some sexy lingerie and told him she wouldn't belong a few minutes later she appeared at the bathroom door, reviling she her stocking top by showing only one leg, on opening the bathroom door, she stood seductively revealing the rest of her lingerie, as she looked around the door she found her he had his back to her, she didn't believe it, was he asleep? She climbed into bed and ran her

finger down his back that always worked; he turned his head round to her "let's just go to sleep yeah" then moved away from her creating a gap between them. She turned over, feeling deflated and hurt by his rejection.

The next morning Zane had woke early and booked his flight home for that evening. When Nancy woke she was excited "Merry Christmas," she said as she moved closer to kiss and hug him, "Yeah Merry Christmas", he suggested they went for breakfast, where he ordered scrambled eggs and toast and a pot of tea.

"Are you not going to try an Italian breakfast? I'm going to have the Italian breakfast sandwich it sounds good; eggs cheese sausage or ham with a latte I think."

"Just stop talking a minute."

Nancy looked at him she was confused by his moodiness he'd had a face like a slapped arse since they'd arrived, what's wrong with him? she thought

"I'm going home."

"What...? We've just got here" now she was confused, what the hell was this guy's problem.

"I've met someone else" he blurted out

"What...?"

"Don't make me say it again...."

"But...."

"I'm flying back home this evening by the time you get back I will have moved out."

"Why would you come here with me and tell me this... why would you do that?"

"I was going to tell you after Christmas, but you bought these tickets, and I didn't know what to do."

"So you are going to leave me here on my own? Could you not have waited till we got home?"

"I'm sorry... you need to know I was finishing it."

"Oh I see...well it explains a lot, it's quite clear now."

"I'm sorry."

"Just go...."

"Nancy..."

"Just go...."

Zane placed some money down on the table

"Take your money and shove where the sun doesn't shine; I don't want anything from you."

She put her head down she wanted to cry, biting her tongue to hold the tear back that was threatening to leave her eyes, but wasn't going to do that in front of him she certainly wasn't going to give him the satisfaction. Zane got up from the table and looked down at her "I'm sorry" then left he went to their room and gathered his stuff and left for the airport, leaving Nancy all alone in Venice.

Nancy sat at the table and began to cry one small little teardrop fell from the corner of her eye, then beads of teardrops came rolling down her face one after another she was heartbroken she could believe he had done this to her, and he just left her all alone to.

The waiter came over with the bill and noticed her tears he asked if she was alright, wiping her eyes she said she was fine, she did, however, wonder what she was going to do on her own and right there. Then She decided that she would enjoy her Christmas in Venice, she had so been looking forward to it, not even Zane was going to spoil it for her, she headed to the Christmas market in Mercati di Rialto there were wooden stalls, she bought some small Italian Statues, handcrafted Venetian gift masks to take home with her, she spotted a snow globe it was so pretty she just had to buy one for herself, when she shook it the snow fell around a gondolier, after her shopping trip around the stalls she made her way to St Mark Basilica, where the Christmas mass was being held.

She suddenly felt a little hungry she went over to the café across the bridge, it was a lovely little place she sat down and ordered herself some Tuscan soup with a crusty roll and the Italian style hot chocolate, after lunch, she wandered slowly back to the hotel, she didn't want to sit around in the hotel room for too long as she thought about what Zane had done and how he had just deserted her in a country she didn't know and had never been too, lucky for she was quite a confident person and she wasn't going to let it phase her, she decided to take a quick shower she did, however, have a bit of a cry but then thought to herself, No... do not waste your tears on that man he is not worth your time.

Later that evening, she walked through the narrow-cobbled streets admiring the beautiful buildings surrounding her, making her way to the restaurant a little further down from the hotel. She did felt a little nervous on her own though, it wasn't going to stop her, she had come to Venice for what was meant to be a romantic break but instead she got dumped, so she was going to see all she could whilst she was there, she was unsure about what she was going to do when

she got home though, she found the restaurant the hotel receptionist had recommended she went in asked for a table "Si Signorina"

As she waited she gazed around, what a beautiful restaurant, she looked the wall that shelves and shelves of wine racks, the walls were a deep purple with a gold beading, the floor was black marble absolutely stunning, the room was filled with round black glass tables and black chair, and there were same table chair were the same outside too.

She asked if she could have a table outside it was a wee bit nippy, but she didn't mind.

The waiter asked her what she would like to order to drink "white wine please" he brought her a glass of wine then took her order.

she had decided on the Aubergine rolls with spinach and ricotta, She sat admiring the view while she waited.

A man in Blackcoat passed her, she thought he must be cold as his collar was up covering his face; he went in and sat at the end of the bar with his back to the door, however, she thought no more of it as the waiter came out with her order, the Aubergine rolls were beautiful deliciously creamy they came on a bed of salad, she really enjoyed them they were extremely filling, she couldn't have eaten another thing, she did decide on a Cappuccino though. She sat enjoying her Cappuccino

when the waiter approaches her with another glass of wine and a very fancy dessert.

"I didn't order this... Thank you"

"No Signoria, the Gentleman at the Bar did"

She turned to see who the waiter was pointing at; it was only the man at the end of the bar with his back to the door.

“Could you please tell the gentleman thank you; but no thank you”

She thought maybe it was time to pay her bill and go back to the hotel. as she felt very nervous after all she was alone.

The waiter went over to the man and spoke to him. The gentleman took the wine and dessert from the waiter and made his way out to her, she thought oh no he's coming over what should do she couldn't just go she hadn't paid her bill, as he got closer she sighed with relief and smiled as she realized who the gentleman was.

“What are you doing here?” she asked

As he places the desert back in front of her he asks her “Do you want the made-up version or would you like the truth”

“The Truth...”

“I knew you were here”

“How...?”

“Zane had said you and he were coming here”

“That doesn’t explain why you’re here”

“No, it doesn’t, does it”

“Did you know what he was going to do?”

“Well; I had a feeling he was seeing some else ”

"So... everyone knew but me, but why would you care? "

“Look, I wanted to tell you how I feel”

“How you feel.... About what?” she asked inquisitively

"About You..." he said sitting down on the chair facing her looking deep into her blue eyes as he pushed a strand of hair from her face

"About... Me?"

"Yes... You"

Nancy looked down at her hands, Logan lifts her chin with his finger "in case it had escaped your notice I've always liked you, it's me that wanted to taste your sweet kisses in the morning and it's me that wants to have cuddles in the evening, I think we could have something very special, the question is, are you willing to find out?"

She stared back at him, straight in to his big green eyes, suddenly Zane disappeared from thoughts, he was right they could have something special; she'd actually liked him more than Zane when she met them both in that night club on her birthday night out with the girls she hadn't realized that Logan liked her, he'd never said a word, she nodded and smiled, he leaned in to kiss her, his lips were soft when they touched hers she fell in to them responding so naturally, they smiled at each other in unison knowingly

"Now what?" she asked

"Well... I think you should share that desert with me"

She laughs as breaks in the desert, holding up the fork with a piece Tuscan tart she places it to his lips as he took it from the fork he could taste the dark chocolate and the custard filling "Hmm that's good you should try this"

She laughs giddily, he was funny, charming and very good looking his eyes were like emeralds and his hair felt like was dark satin to touch, short layered and stylish, it just sat on the top of his collar.

She gazed at his lips as He asked the waiter for the bill, then teasingly told that was mostly her bill. then chuckles "Shall we go" she took his hand then slowly strolled back to her hotel hand in hand he kissed her tenderly goodnight, but she pulled him in closer she didn't want to let him go, "I could stay?"

She took him by the hand and smiled "Yes you could"

They entered the lift and walked along the corridor to her room she opens the door to her room and gently pulls him in as his warm lips descend on hers she inhaled sharply, he'd took her breath away his fingers softly caressed her cheek, brushing against her hair, he knocks the door shut with his foot as his kisses deepen whilst he unzips her dress, his finger caress her body he was soft and tender she was like putty in his hands, he made love to her gently but commanding then they fell asleep in each other's arms. She woke in the early hour the sun was just starting to appear, she gazed over at Logan and wondered to herself why she had wasted so many years on Zane when everything she'd ever wanted was right there right now.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

I hope you enjoyed my short Christmas story; all the characters are fictional and all of my imagination.

Deborah C Langley

