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Chasing the Rainbow

Susan Peterson Wisnewski

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Chasing the Rainbow

"I think you are wrong to want a heart. It makes most people unhappy. If you only knew it, you are in luck not to have a heart."

Oz from *The Wizard of Oz* by L. Frank Baum

Prologue

The driver slowed the sleek black car searching Chasing the Rainbow the storefronts for a name, Chasing the Rainbow an address, anything to find the destination for his passenger. The street was dingy Chasing the Rainbow with garbage strewn about; a sour smell of uncollected trash mixed with urine poured into the open car window. He drove around the block until he heard music wafting from an open door. He pulled the town car closer to the curb and turned to his passenger.

“I think I found it. Let me be sure. I’ll be right out,” he said.

“Fine,” she answered, Chasing the Rainbow looking out the window. The day started with drizzle and became rainier and rainier as it progressed. The damp and cold made it feel Chasing the Rainbow like a soggy April rather than a warming June, but her spirits aligned as if it were a beautiful day. She had waited for his invitation and it had finally come. Months of flirting, stolen glances, and innuendo-filled conversations—and now a proper date. He suggested a local pub that often hosted indie bands. Her taste was more along the line of a trendy restaurant or club, but perhaps a new environment was the precursor to a new beginning.

The driver returned. He opened her door. “This is it. It isn’t pretty. Are you sure this is where you want to go?”

“It’s an up and coming place. They have great bands. If I need Chasing the Rainbow you I’ll call later.”

“I’ll stay for a few minutes just in case.”

“There’s no need. I’ll be fine. You don’t need to worry.”

“Okay, but please, if anything happens just call.”

She patted his arm. “It’s fine, really.”

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She walked into the building, hoping to hear some fresh music, only to find it wasn’t a pub—just a neighborhood bar. It was dark with old wood paneling, dim overhead lanterns, and a row of mismatched barstools; it reeked of stale beer, sweat and Chasing the Rainbow cheap pine disinfectant. The entertainment consisted of several blaring flat screen televisions and an antiquated jukebox spitting out a long-gone hit Chasing the Rainbow from the seventies. Not allowing the dire surroundings to get the best of her, she looked around and found the man she came to meet. Chasing the Rainbow She smiled, walked over to him and considered kissing him, but decided a warm hug might be better. She didn’t want to overwhelm him. At the last minute she decided to do neither and allow him to set the tone for the evening. His back was

turned. She tapped his shoulder and said, “Hey handsome, is that seat available?”

He turned to her and looked as if she reeked worse than the air around them. Not a look of mere annoyance but one of pure disgust.

“I don’t understand,” she said.

“I’m sorry you got the wrong signals from me. You’re a great girl, but I am involved with someone. I have been for Chasing the Rainbow a long time. I’ve told you over and over that you have to stop. You have to stop calling me, texting, passing by my office, my apartment. Enough of this,” he said.

“What are you talking about? You’re the one who started all of this. We have a Chasing the Rainbow Chasing the Rainbow connection. You said it yourself,” she replied much too loud for her Chasing the Rainbow surroundings.

“We have a networking connection. I have a small firm that looks for good new people. You are a recruiter. I need people to work for me. You have people that need jobs. That’s our connection and our only connection.”

“But what about last month? After the meeting, we hooked up. What was that?”

“Hooked up? Are you kidding me? You followed me into the bathroom and attacked me. I was drunk. Very drunk. I did what any guy would do. I kissed you back. That was it. End of story. You have to stop. Please just leave me alone.”

“But you invited me to meet you here tonight,” she pleaded.

“No. You asked me where I was going tonight. I told you where I would be for some stupid reason. This is where I go after work to be by myself.”

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“You’re a pig. A disgusting self-centered pig. I hate you,” she screamed.

She got up and saw that all eyes in the not-so-crowded bar were on her, honing in to taunt her. The steely glares scorched her skin Chasing the Rainbow sending her reeling. She felt as if she were in an appliance store and all of the televisions were on different channels, each one competing with the others for attention. They were getting louder and louder. The pictures were getting brighter and brighter. Humiliated, she ran out into the night, dashed across the street without looking for traffic, and headed uptown. Her head was ready to explode from the dizzying sounds. The noise of traffic only added to her discomfort. The streetlights beamed on her, putting her in a spotlight, as if to tell anyone in sight that she was just made a fool. She had to stop running. She had to breathe or Chasing the Rainbow she knew she would explode.

This was not what she had planned. Not what she had expected. She had to regroup and figure out what went wrong. She needed this man. She needed someone to love her. They were a perfect match. Where had she gone wrong?

She had spent all day getting ready. She had found the perfect outfit. Had made her way to the salon to be sure Chasing the Rainbow her hair was immaculate. She hadn't forgotten to take her meds. Everything had been planned, sketched out in her head, but then—poof—in an instant all the preparation, all of Chasing the Rainbow the scenarios she had created for her perfect Chasing the Rainbow evening—all of it, gone. The arrangements had been for nothing.

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