

A Date Night to Remember!

Julia

I'm packing my suitcase and getting ready to leave life behind for a week of sunshine and relaxation because my wonderful husband has planned a romantic trip for two on the sandy beaches of St. Lucia. Tomorrow can't come soon enough!

We haven't had a romantic trip together like this since our honeymoon because with Jackson's work schedule, if he did manage time away from his patients, we made sure it was a family trip where everyone was enjoying the time together.

Josie walks into my room and stands at the end of the bed watching me pack. "Hi honey, Is everything okay?"

"Aren't you going to pack anything pretty in case dad wants to take you to a fancy dinner?"

"I haven't gotten that far yet. Dad said we would spend the days on the beach or at the pool. I'm packing shorts and sundresses in case we want to go explore the island a little bit."

"I think you better pack a few nice things. Dad just left to go to the dry cleaners to pick up his suits for the trip."

I stop and look at my daughter, "That's what he said?"

"Yeah Mom, so you better grab a few dresses in case you need to be dressed up too."

"Well then," I say with my hands on my hips, "It's perfect timing then that you're here. Do you think you can help me pick out the right dresses for a romantic beach dinner?"

My daughter smiles and comes over and wraps her arms around me and looks up, "I can help you. We better pick out shoes too, and maybe some jewelry."

"Good thinking. What in the world would I do without your help!"

The driver pulls up in front of the beautiful resort in St. Lucia and from the minute Jackson helped me into the car to head to the

airport he has been holding my hand or touching me to know he is here and in the moment.

"This is stunning, I still can't believe we are here for a week and alone. Thank you for taking me on a romantic trip. I can't wait to relax with you and enjoy the sunshine."

"Honey, I promised that I would always put you first and after the last few months I wanted to make sure you not only heard me but believed me. We are going to enjoy ourselves this week. I have many plans for us."

"You do?"

"Yes, I have a week full of surprises for you."

"Like what," I ask excited and curious.

"If I told you, it wouldn't be a surprise, now let's get checked in and get our suits on so we can go explore the resort and get the lay of the land."

We walk into the resort and up to the beautiful open lobby where the breeze floats around us. "Hello and welcome to St. Lucia," the woman at the desk says.

"Thank you, we'd like to check in—Mr and Mrs Harte," Jackson says. As he checks us in to the resort I wander around and look at the beautiful lounge and pool area off the back. As I glance out at the clear blue water with the mountains rising from the sea, I feel the stress of the world begin to melt away.

I feel his arms come around me and his chest press up against my back, "Are you ready for some peace and quiet and pampering?" I glance over my shoulder, "Pampering? I'm always up for pampering."

"Let's go get unpacked and check out our home away from home for the week." He takes my hand, and we follow the concierge who takes us across the resort pointing out there are five pools and twelve restaurants available for our enjoyment.

"Here is your Butler Suite, please go in and look around. I am happy to answer any questions before I leave you to yourselves."

I look around the room and my hand moves to my mouth and my eyes tear up, "Jackson, this is beautiful."

"Honey, you are what's beautiful, and this is all for you." He takes my hand, and we walk over to the door, "Let's go check out the outside."

"Oh my god, this is amazing. Look they even have cushioned loungers on the beach under that tiki hut. This is amazing."

Our concierge from the resort follows us outside, "We hope that you enjoy your visit with us. Your suite comes with a butler, and he is here to help you as well as the twenty-four-hour in-room dining. On your private veranda you have a plunge pool, jacuzzi, outdoor shower and over there you have your own private beach area with chairs or a hammock in the trees. Do you have any questions before I leave? The butler will be by to bring you a complimentary bottle of champagne shortly and introduce himself."

Jackson walks over to the concierge and shakes his hand, "Thank you, this is perfect. I appreciate the hospitality."

"You are quite welcome Mr. Harte. I will leave you then to begin your stay and I believe your appointment is at four o'clock."

"Yes, thank you for everything."

"Appointment?"

"First surprise. We have time to unpack, take a dip in the water and have some bubbly first."

Jackson and I are sitting at a private table on the beach for a romantic dinner. "I may not ever want to leave here. I think we need to make a point of coming back here again. Maybe as a couple's trip with all our friends?"

"That could be fun. The guys could do some deep-sea fishing while all the ladies get pampered at the spa."

"Our couples massage when we arrived was the best pampering I have enjoyed in a long time. I've also enjoyed skinny dipping with you in our private pool at night. This has been an amazing week and wonderful time to be with you alone honey."

He takes my hand that is resting on the table into his, "It's not over yet. As a matter of fact, I have a surprise for you tonight." He takes his hand and pulls something from his pocket, a blue box

with a white ribbon. "Something special for my beautiful wife. Please open it."

I know this blue box; most women hope to receive a gift wrapped in a blue box. I slowly open the box and find the most beautiful infinity band of diamonds. My eyes fill with tears, and I look over to my husband.

"Julia, we have twenty-five years of marriage together, two beautiful children, and a group of ridiculous friends. My life would not be as happy and fulfilled if I didn't have you by my side. I know I made you doubt my love, but I've been putting you and our family first and making sure that none of you ever feel as if you aren't the most important people in my life. We've journeyed through life together, facing both joys and challenges, my love for you has only grown stronger. Will you consider walking down that aisle once again, and promising to continue this amazing adventure with me by renewing our vows?"

"I can't wait to say 'I do' all over again. I love you."

"I love you too baby, now how about a dance with your husband on the beach."

"There's no music."

"We make our own music sweetheart, come on."

"He pulls me into his arms and as we dance, he hums our song into my ear."