

I had set my alarm clock so I could get up early in the morning, to head off to the cottage. Turning off the light and lying down, I snuggled under the covers.

I was just nodding off when I heard ringing. I hit the alarm clock, but the noise didn't stop. Blinking, it dawned on me that it wasn't the clock, it was the phone. I jumped up and answered it before the machine did.

"Kat?" the voice on the other end said.

"Yes?" I didn't recognize the voice. Who would be calling at this time of night?

"It's me, Sam."

"Oh, hi," I said, my voice flat.

*What does he want?*

"I was wondering, do you want to go out on Monday evening?"

"Oh, no, I don't think so." I tried to think of an excuse.

He went quiet, then asked, "Why not?"

"I don't think it's a good idea."

As the words left my mouth, I realized I shouldn't have said them. I should have thought of something better. I didn't know what else to say.

"Oh, so that's it? You don't want to see me again, do you?" I could hear the attitude in his voice.

"No. I think we should call it a day." The phone went quiet.

"Sam?"

"That's about right, you bitch!"

I froze, stunned.

"You lead me on and then dump me, you whore."

I couldn't believe what I was hearing. My God, where was the caring man from earlier? The one who had given me his jacket.

I slammed the phone down. As I did, I could hear him shouting and swearing at me. I couldn't believe my ears.

*Wow! I certainly had a narrow escape with him. I'm glad I didn't tell him in person.*

I was angry, annoyed that I hadn't retaliated.

*He was so nice. Who would have thought he could turn so nasty? Just wait until I get my hands on Jonathan. I'll wring his bloody neck. What was he thinking, introducing me to a lunatic?*

I made sure all the windows and doors were locked and finally went to bed.

I dreamt about the man on the rock. It was different this time.

*The nameless vision of masculine beauty watched the water bubble and swirl as it flowed past him. He turned his head in my direction and smiled. There was something wrong with his eyes. They were not the beautiful blue eyes I loved so much. They were yellow! He glanced back at the stream and my gaze*

*followed his. I looked back to where he stood and took a step forward. He wasn't there! My heart sank.*

*Where had he gone?*

*I scanned the area but he was nowhere to be seen. I heard a noise above me and saw a large bird flying high in the sky. It swooped toward the stream and took off into the woods. Where did he go? He was there one minute and gone the next. I had just plucked the courage up to speak to him and he'd disappeared.*

*Damn it!*