

# Chapter One



"Good morning," Diane said. She yawned and slid over to hug Daniel.

"I guess it's going to be a good morning, I had a good night's sleep, and I've awakened to a beautiful woman in my bed; what could be better," Daniel smiled.

"I can think of many things," Diane rolled out and put her gown on, "but we'll settle for what we have and not what we want."

"I have what I want," Daniel slid out of the opposite side of the bed and put his slippers on. He grabbed a large towel and headed for the bathroom.

"Where are you going?" Diane asked.

"To take a shower, something I do every morning."

"Well take the dog out for a walk first, and besides today the garbage needs to be taken out."

Diane walked out of the room, down to the kitchen, and began making breakfast. "Is there something special you want today?" She asked as Daniel was walking out the door.

"Just the usual, I'll be back in a minute."

"Yeah, I know, sausage egg and cheese and a cup of coffee," she smiled.

Diane sat down and began reading the magazine she had just bought.

She looked at the clock and hurried to the phone.

"Oh my god, Tammy! I almost forgot to call and wake you up."

"That's okay, girl. I figured you would. So, I set my own alarm clock."

What time are you coming by?"

"Give me a chance to feed Daniel, and I'll leave immediately after that," Diane said.

"Alright you know we are going to be in the streets for the rest of the day?"

"Yes, I've been waiting on this day," Diane said.

"Looking for wedding dresses and all the little do-dads that go along with it will be a challenge. Especially when dealing with someone as picky as you are," Tammy laughed.

"Well, if you don't allow me to fix my future husband some breakfast, there might not be a wedding," Diane laughed.

Diane hung up the phone, finished in the kitchen, and walked back into the bedroom.

Daniel was opening the bathroom door just in time. Diane walked in just after he walked out.

"Did you call Tammy?" He asked.

"Yes, I just got off the phone with her, she's waiting for me."

"Already!" Daniel asked.

The water in the shower drowned out Daniel, and he continued to get dressed.

Diane walked out of the bathroom.

"So where are you ladies going?" Daniel asked.

"We're driving up to Manhattan. Tammy says she knows of this good little store where they sell accessories."

"Do they sell cakes?" Daniel asked sarcastically.

Diane picked up a pillow and started hitting Daniel with the pillow; Daniel grabbed his own pillow and swung back at her. Daniel yelled! "Pillow fight"

Diane stopped after a few swings. "See what you've done now I have to do my hair all over again."

"Well," Daniel laughed. "You started it. I just helped with your punishment."

Diane grabbed the pillow again, then thought, *"I better get out of this house before I get in trouble."*

Diane drove next to Tammy's house and hit the horn. Tammy walked out of the house slowly. "You could've come in and talked to Tom."

"I figured we were already running late, and I wanted to get over that Brooklyn Bridge before all the traffic started." Diane smiled.

"Besides, I have all my life to talk to your man, he's married and not going anywhere according to Daniel."

"They been talking?" Tammy asked curiously.

"What do you know girl, you know if you know something it's your duty to tell it. That is our promise."

"Yeah, they have been talking, but just small talk. Anyway, which way girl, we have to get going. I have to fix dinner."

"Well, Tom is taking me out to dinner tonight. So, I don't have to be back till eight tonight. You should see if Daniel would like to take you with us."

"I'll call him when we get to the store. I don't want to be talking on the phone while driving," Diane smiled.

Tammy walked into the store. "So, what are we looking for, do you want silk or something like this?"

She held up a beautiful golden gown.

"That's beautiful, but what type of material is that?" Diane asked.

Tammy looked around for someone to help them.

"So, do you have a budget?" she asked.

"What are you willing to spend?"

"Nothing that's going to have me and Daniel at work for the rest of our lives, this store seems expensive."

"I know the owner," Tammy said. "She'll work with us on the prices. She gave me a huge discount on a gown that was very much out of our price range. She'll do the same for you; I have already let her know we were coming."

Hey, Cheryl, this is Diane; she's the bride-to-be," Tammy smiled. "Isn't she beautiful?"

"You're going to be a lovely bride," Cheryl said.

"So, what are we looking for or would you like for me to show you some fabrics and you can choose out of those?"

"I'm not very picky," Diane tried to sound convincing.

Tammy cleared her throat in protest.

"Yes, you are, girl." Tammy laughed.

"Well, follow me to the back. That's where I keep the good stuff," Cheryl smiled.

Cheryl turned and began walking away.

Diane looked at Tammy. "I don't have a budget, but I'm not going to make anyone rich either."

"Relax, girl, I've known Cheryl since childhood. If she says she's going to help me out, trust me, she is going to do just that."

The three ladies walked into a room with nothing in it but fabrics.

Cheryl walked back to the ladies.

"I have to take a phone call, you two choose which fabric you like, and I'll quote you a girlfriend's price on it." She smiled and walked away.

"What is a girlfriend's price?" Diane asked, looking at Tammy.

"That's a word she and I have been using since high school; it is more than a discount but definitely not free. So, it's sort of in the middle of discounted and free," Tammy answered.

Tammy took a few steps and turned back. "Did you call Daniel?" She asked.

"Oh," Diane said as she pulled her phone out of her purse and walked away.

She returned with a smile on her face.

"I just love that man," she said. "We're going to join you two; just tell me where we're going so that I can text it to him."

"Alright," Tammy smiled.

Cheryl walked back into the room, "So, have you picked out the one or ones you like?"

"Yes, this one here, and then there is one on the back shelf that I like," Diane answered.

Tammy whispered, "She had to walk away and talk to her sweetheart."

"Sweetheart now, husband later," Cheryl said and began to pull down the fabric.

"This is a lovely choice, and now let's see what the other fabric looks like." They walked down the aisle and stopped when Diane pointed at some fabric.

"This is also a lovely choice, we have just received this one in the store two days ago and it is selling quickly, this is the second spool of this fabric we have put out on the floor."

"This is very nice," Tammy said.

Diane agreed.

"All the accessories are over there in the corner. I'll give you a chance to choose, call me when you have made up your mind."

Diane walked over to Tammy, "This is going to be expensive. Feel this stuff!"

"You are only going to get married once honey, I promise that you are going to get a good price on this stuff, quit stressing."

Diane walked away to look at other materials and then returned.

"You can't walk away from what's in your heart, girl," Tammy said. "You know deep down inside you have chosen this one. Stop wasting your time looking for something cheap."

Cheryl returned. "Have you picked out the one you want between the two?"

"Yes!" Tammy said. Diane looked over at her.

"She's fallen in love with this here," Tammy smiled.

"I figured you would pick that one, here let's go to my office and come up with a price."

Diane walked in behind Tammy and sat down.

Cheryl brought two books and sat them down on the desk. "Now you have to choose the design while I look up the fabric price."

Cheryl thumbed thru the pages for a few minutes, then turned around. "That's a very good choice, and I think we should be able to make it exactly like the dress you have picked out."

"So, what is the price?" Diane asked.

Cheryl grabbed her calculator and started beating the buttons; she looked up at Diane and Tammy.

"Well, regular price, you would be looking at about two thousand and some change, but since you know my girl Tammy, I'm going to give it to you for only eight hundred."

Diane looked at Cheryl, and a tear fell from her eye, "Are you sure? You would do that for me?"

"Yes, but the accessories are sold separately."

"Okay," Diane said. She stood up, "We have a deal."

Cheryl smiled, "Leave all your contact information at the front desk, and I'll get in touch with you about fitting dates and other things."

"Definitely," Diane said and walked out of the office.

They both walked out of the store. Diane gave Tammy a big hug.

"Thanks, you have no idea how much that helps us out."

"Well, let's go brag about it over dinner with the guys," Tammy said, smiling.

Tammy finished her phone call. "That was Tom; the guys are going to meet us."

"Where?" Diane asked.

"Over at a restaurant closer to my house, don't worry you're going to love it."

The girls walked in the door. "There." Tammy pointed at the guys. Diane walked up and gave Daniel a big hug. "I missed you, babe," she said. Daniel smiled and sat down.

"Is there something wrong?" Diane asked. She sat down beside him.

"No. Why you ask?"

"You didn't say you missed me."

"I have other ways of saying I missed you." He looked over to her side of the table, and her engagement ring was sitting there. She sighed for a minute.

"There's an extra diamond there, and there'll be one on the wedding ring also," Daniel smiled.

"I thought about it the other day, and I think you are more deserving of just one diamond on your rings."

Diane reached over and gave him a big hug and kiss.

"Man! I love you," she said, smiling, holding up the ring she had just put on her finger.

After dinner, the restaurant turned into a light dinner and dance. "Are we staying?" Diane asked.

"Yes, I figured we haven't been out in such a long time."

Daniel stood up and held out his hand, inviting Diane to join him on the dance floor.

"Remember this song?" Daniel asked.

"Yes, I do," Diane said and made her way closer to him.

"I just love slow love songs." she put her arms around him and rested her head on his shoulders.

"Do you remember our first dance?" Diane asked.

"Yes, it was interrupted by your father. And it wasn't even a slow dance," Daniel laughed.

"Yes well, he found a way to accept our relationship," Diane smiled.

"Well, he had very little say in that," Daniel laughed.

"You were slipping out the window every chance you got."

"Those were the days, and we have never gotten tired of each other. I'm the luckiest woman in the world, I'm going to enjoy being your wife."

"I promise to respect you and your goals," Daniel said and looked into her eyes.

"And I will promise to do the same thing," Diane said as she stared back into his. They drew closer and began kissing.

Tammy walked up to them, "Hey, I hate to disturb what is going on here, but Tom and I are leaving; he has to be at work a little early tomorrow. We will see you two later."

The evening was getting late; the club was closing. Daniel walked over to the DJ and requested a song; he didn't tell Diane. He waited for the DJ to get around to playing it.

The song began to play. Diane looked over to Daniel. He just shook his head. "C'mon, let's dance." They danced until late that evening.

Just the two of them and the DJ.