

A Disappearing Act Gone Sour

By Jane Nannono

Call me a fool or anything you want and I'll accept it with dignity as long as it can bring me closer to Tenda, my beloved. It's funny because at 38 this self-made business owner and master of my destiny did not know that love could be as sweet as can be and yet in an instant could turn into an intense heartache that penetrates deep into one's marrow!

That was before the rainy morning in August when I'd taken my car for its regular service and came into contact for the first time with a young lady, Tenda. Instantly, her smile had disarmed me and I've been enthralled by her ever since. She's brought so much joy and pleasure into my life that I had previously knowingly or unknowingly denied myself. It's incredible that four months ago, we didn't even know of each other's existence. As our relationship deepened over the intervening months, I was so confused about what was going on in my life that I had been married to Samuel. He's

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"I want to talk to you about what's happening between me and Tenda. I can't pretend that it's not happening."

"What's happening?" Samuel asked, intrigued.

"Since I first met Tenda I can't figure out what's actually happening to me. I must admit that I'm losing myself. I feel as if I don't belong to myself anymore and it frightens me."

Samuel was silent for a moment before asking, "Why are you frightened?"

"I've dated a number of women before- this much you know - but I've never felt the way I feel about Tenda. I seem to be doing things on- the- spur- of- the- moment. Everything's spontaneous and unplanned- not my usual character at all. Like today's lunch with Tenda's parents; I didn't have to accompany Tenda but I just couldn't say no to her. This isn't like me at all!"

To my surprise, Samuel only laughed out loud.

"I'm serious about this new 'me'. I'm slowly but surely becoming 'Mary's little lamb'. I enjoy being with her and being seen with her," I said as simply as I could, wishing my friend would understand my fears and concerns.