

The Hardest Way out of Love

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Chapter One

When Reva Lobban woke up, sunlight was streaming into her bedroom. Her cell phone was ringing and she picked it up. It was an unknown number. She pressed the call button.

“Reva, why don’t you leave my man alone?”

“What? Who are you?”

“Listen girl, if you don’t leave Karl alone, you’re going to be sorry.”

“I don’t know what you’re talking about. I don’t know any Karl.”

She wasn’t hearing anything. It seemed that the woman had cut off the call. She rolled over on the bed and got up. She decided to call the number and give the woman a proper tracing. All she got was her voice mail. She called Karl’s number and got his voice mail. She looked on her cell phone again, it was minutes to five o’clock. Her boyfriend, Denton Dennis, was down in Montego Bay on an audit assignment for his company.

Debra Menzies woke up before Karl Parker. She slapped him on his back, waking him up.

“Carlene will kill you.”

“I told her that I was at an old hits session with some of my friends. She knows that I like to attend those events.”

"If she phones any of them, they'll tell her that you're not there."

"I'll find something to tell her."

He reached for her, but she moved away.

"Oh God Karl, after last night. I don't have the energy for anymore sex right now."

He started peeling off his shorts, but she held on to his hand.

"Karl, I told you no, already. I'm sure that Carlene will be only too happy if you came home to her now."

"I just can't resist your body, Debs."

"What are you going to do when Simon's shift changes and he's only working daytime hours?"

"It's time we made up our minds. I'd walk out on Carlene this minute if you promise to be mine and only mine."

"You forget that I have a very jealous live-in lover. You know what he'd do if he caught both of us together."

As Debra got ready for work the next morning, her cell phone rang. She picked it up and pressed the call button, Dean Morgan was on the line. He was in his car heading out for work, when he called her.

"What the hell was wrong with your phone last night?"

"It needed charging. I didn't know until in the morning."

“Was Simon there last night?”

“Sure, he came home late, but he was here.”

“I want to see you this evening.”

“Okay, where and what time?”

“Make it Ricky Chin’s sports bar at six o’clock.”

“Okay, see you then.”

She heard the bathroom door open and Simon came out.

“Who the hell were you talking to?”

“A work colleague.”

“You expect me to believe that? Listen, I want to see you in the house by six o’clock this evening.”

“Why, what’s the problem? I’m not having an affair. You still believe all those lies Bobby told you.”

“You get off work early, by five o’clock most evenings, so why do you have to be reaching home after ten o’clock?”

“Sometimes I have to work late and many times the traffic is bad.”

She came up to him and hugged him.

“You know I love you, baby.”

He looked into her beautiful brown face. Her teeth had braces. She had shoulder length hair. She was a tall woman with heavy breasts and hips, just the way he wanted it. He on the other hand was a medium sized brown complexioned man. He was going on twenty-nine years of age while she was two years younger. He was a pharmacist while she was a customer service representative. The relationship was a little over two years old. They live in Zadie Gardens.

“Yeah, I know, maybe I’d feel better if you had a baby.”

“Simon, we need a house of our own, that’s what we’ve been saving for. We don’t need a baby now, darling.”

“Yeah, maybe you’re right.”

They pulled apart. She picked up her bag and car keys and kissed him goodbye. As she went towards her car, she thought about Karl Parker and Dean Morgan. Those two guys didn’t worry her. It was Syd Daniels. He and she had a torrid love affair when she first came to Kingston to work and study. That was about seven years ago. She had broken off the relationship when she caught him in bed with her best friend, Antoinette. He had been threatening her ever since.

In another part of the city, Reva Lobban was in her office and on the phone to Karl Parker. He was in his office when he received the call.

“Carlene called me wanting to know if you were with me.”

He laughed.

“She knows that I was at an old hits party with some of my friends. She is just trying to find out something.”

“Tell her not to call my phone again or else I’m going to really trace her off. By the way how did she get my number?”

“I don’t know how she got your number. I didn’t give it to her.”

“Karl, I’m going to stop talking to you. I want to stop being unfaithful to Denton.”

“But you said he wasn’t a very good lover.”

“So, what, what am I getting from you nothing, but sex. Don’t you get enough from her?”

“I don’t want her calling my phone any night she can’t find you.”

“It won’t happen again. I’ll tell her not to call you again. When can I see you again?”

“I’ll call and tell you.”

They both ended the call.

Dean Morgan and Debra Menzies drove into Ricky Chin’s sports bar at about the same time. They were now sitting at a table having drinks.

“Are you avoiding me or something? It’s about a week since I’ve seen you.”

"I live with a man. I've told you how jealous he can be."

"I've rented a room over at the Links Hotel for later."

She knew where it was, a twenty-room hotel on Westminster Road. She had been there before with either man on a few occasions. She shook her head, before taking some more of her drink.

"I didn't come here for that, Dean."

"So why are we meeting then?"

She picked up her bag and car keys.

"Every time we meet all you want is sex from me. Who is the sex maniac here? Aren't you getting enough from Merris?"

"How did her name come into this?"

"Maybe she isn't giving you enough. That's why every time you meet me you want sex."

"Anyway, Dean, I have to leave. I don't want Simon to become suspicious that I'm meeting other men."

"Okay, so when can I see you again?"

"I'll try for Saturday."

"Saturday is a long way from today. You forgot that today is Wednesday?"

"Be reasonable Dean, you know how jealous Simon is. Anyway, I have to leave."

She gave him a peck on his cheek before going to her car. He watched her drive out. He took another sip of his sorrel beer. Their relationship was nearly three years old. He knew that he had to be careful. Sometimes he wondered why he had gotten married to Merris Markman. Her father, David Markman, owned the Markman group of companies. The group was involved in the importation of both used and new motor vehicles.

They also imported motor vehicle parts. They also owned several petrol service stations. Dean ran the parts section of the company and in five years had made it into one of the biggest and most reliable parts supplier on the island. Junior Markman ran the vehicle importation and distribution section of the business. Merris was a director of all the companies in the group.

They had a seventy-five-room hotel and spa in Constant Spring which she ran. His marriage to Merris six years ago had gifted him these opportunities. They had two children, a boy and a girl. He had wanted more children, but Merris felt that she wanted to make a successful career as a business woman and more children would only get in the way.

He knew that one word to her and he would be thrown out of the company. Yet he couldn't resist women like Debra Menzies. He wanted her for himself. He wanted her to leave Simon and be his alone.

Just as he got up and was going to his car, he saw Tanya Dixon drive in. What the hell was she doing here? They have a one-year relationship going on. It was nothing strong as she had a boyfriend. If he was not around and he was available she might call him to come and keep her company. He

waited until she had parked and was leaving her car. She was a tall, copper colored girl going on twenty-five. She had well rounded hips and was very beautiful. In fact, just like Debra she had entered a few beauty contests, but had never won anything.

“Hi Tanya, how are you?”

“Dean, how nice to see.”

They shared a short hug.

“So, what are you doing here, Tanya?”

“I’m meeting my boyfriend. You know how it is.”

He knew that she was lying. She looked questioningly at him.

“I just finished meeting a client.”

“I’ll see you around, Tanya. Don’t forget to call me.”

“I’ll call and tell you when we can meet, Dean.”

She gave him a peck on his cheek before he went to his car and drove home.

Chapter Two

Reva Lobban and her boyfriend, Denton Dennis were meeting over lunch at Dodd's restaurant in New Kingston. Just as they sat down to lunch into the restaurant, walked Karl Parker and Carlene Royal. Karl spied Denton and came over.

"Hi Denton, how are you? Reva, you look stunning," he complimented Reva. The two men shook hands.

"Thanks, Karl," Reva replied, as he went over to join the already seated Carlene.

Their food arrived and they started eating. Denton had chosen curry goat and rice and peas. Reva had chosen country style chicken and rice and peas.

"I didn't know that you knew Karl."

"We met while I was at the bank."

Denton noticed that Carlene had ignored them and went to take her seat in the restaurant. He knew that women could be moody sometimes. He wondered if she had a grouse against Reva. They continued eating. They were together three years now and had a two-year-old daughter together. Denton was a tall man and carried a small beard. He would be twenty-seven years in a month's time. Reva was a medium sized woman, but very attractive. She was twenty-four years of age. She worked as a customer service representative with one of the largest furniture and appliance dealership on the island and was stationed in Constant Spring.

Denton was an external auditor. When they had finished eating, they both returned to their respective posts.

Karl and Carlene were just about finishing their meals. He had chosen ackee and salt fish and locally grown food. She had chosen rice and peas and fried chicken. Karl was a medium size, brown complexioned man, going on thirty years of age. He ran a stationery distribution business in Half Way Tree. Karlene was a tall, copper colored woman and was a supervisor at a large department store in Kingston. She was going on twenty-five years of age.

Syd Daniels was a thirty-three-year-old fitness enthusiast. He didn't drink alcohol nor did he smoke. He was the farm manager for a hundred-acre property in Bog Walk, St. Catherine. This was orange country. He had been working with Mc Kenzie Farms ever since leaving agricultural college ten years ago. The company was able to supply juice manufacturers as well as people coming on to the farm to buy fruits for the retail trade. He had a wife and three children. Both of them drove their own vehicles. His wife, Yasmin, was a supervisor at a commercial bank in Spanish Town. So, it was no problem getting the children to and from school. They lived in Patrick City.

He was still angry over what had happened between him and Debra Menzies. They had an intense two-year love affair. She had walked in on him and her best friend, Antoinette. The next day she came and took her things out of the apartment and told him that the affair was over. He had pleaded with her, telling her that the girl had forced herself on him. But she never came back. He had virtually schooled her through university and helped her poor parents. Though she wasn't the only woman he had.

Women were always telling him that they liked his physique. Even women older than him wanted him to go to bed with them. He had obliged, most times, especially if they looked good.

He had seen Debra around. She looked even more beautiful than four or five years ago. He knew that she was living with a guy by the name of Simon Carter. He had seen her with two other guys, Karl Parker and Dean Morgan. He had no doubt that they were her lovers.

How unreasonable she was. She had left him because he had been unfaithful to her and here she was being unfaithful to her live in lover. His mother had warned him about spending money on her, but he had been too besotted with Debra to listen to her.

He had felt like doing her something. What she had done still hurt him. What he had done for her and her parents, he knew that most men in Jamaica would call him a fool. Yasmin didn't mean much to him. It was only because she was looking for a husband and he a wife and children why he had married her. She was just an ordinary girl. He wanted somebody like Debra.

His friends would hate his guts for being with such a beautiful woman. He wondered if she had been unfaithful to him while they were going around. If they got back together, he would lay down the law as to how he expected her to behave. She would have to leave her boyfriend and stop seeing those two guys. He knew that her father was still alive. He wondered if Simon was helping her with the medical bills. Maybe that was the reason she had to turn to those two guys. Syd got up from around his desk and decided to go out to Linstead and have lunch.

Merris had just reached home when Dean drove in. After they had dinner, they saw that the children did their homework. The helper then got them ready for bed.

“Dean, when last have we gone out?” Merris asked as they sat in their living room that evening.

“I’ll say it’s been a long time, I’ll admit, but whose fault is it?”

She got up off the sofa and flaunted her body at him. She was maybe an inch or so shorter than Debra. She was copper colored. He knew that she looked fabulous. She went to the gym at least three days per week in the mornings. Dean on the other hand was a tall copper colored man, going on thirty years of age. Merris was two years younger.

“You look fabulous, baby,” he told her.

“And you look so handsome and well groomed.”

They shared light kisses together before pulling apart.

“So can we go out tomorrow night?” he asked her.

“Where will we go? How about Brenton Walker’s place in Gordon Town? I love the view and the food is delicious.”

They have gone there before for dinner and dancing.

He thought that it was a place for older people, but agreed to take her up there.

“How come, you’re home so early?” he asked her.

Normally she worked until after eight o'clock. He had complained that she wasn't finding time for him. She told him that she wanted to make a success of the hotel and spa. She said that the business was very competitive with several new hotels coming onto the market.

"By the way I saw Debra Menzies in Karl Parker's car this evening."

Dean was shocked. What the hell was Debra doing in that guy's car? It's no secret that he has a bad reputation with women. Merris saw the look of dismay on his face and sprang at him.

"Why are you looking like that? Is it because I told you that I saw Debra Menzies in Karl's car?"

"Of course not, I know both of them. Debra is along with Simon Carter and Karl is along with Carlene Royal."

"You know a lot about these people's affairs. I suppose I could ask you about quite a few people and you could tell me about their lovers. Are you and Debra lovers?"

"What kind of question is that? If you must know, she is a business associate of mine."

"Dean if I ever find out that you and that girl are lovers, I'll have you thrown out of the company and out of this house."

"You're rubbing it in. If you want to find out if I have other women, why don't you hire a private detective?"

"I have good friends out there. You'd be surprised what they phone and tell me."

Secretly he was worried, the house was in her name alone. The company belonged to her family. She could get rid of him in an instant.

“I have never been unfaithful to you, baby. I’ll never be.”

She looked at him.

“You know Dean, I’ve always been curious as to what you did during the time I was convalescing after I gave birth to Sean and Raquel.”

He laughed and took some more of his sorrel beer.

“I can always restrain myself. You know that’s what I did.”

“We have to make sacrifices. I’m trying to build our hotel brand. We have plans for both Montego Bay and Ocho Rios. So don’t complain if I don’t come home early or if I say that I’m tired.”

He laughed and drank some more of his beer.

“Anyway, I’m feeling very tired, so I’m going up. I’ll see you in the morning.”

She got up and went upstairs. He was left to recount his life so far with her. Outside it had started raining. He pulled back the curtains and looked through the glass. The last time he checked they didn’t have anywhere leaking. They had met at the university. She had been reluctant to talk to him. He was not one of the rich guys on campus and he didn’t drive a car. She had only started talking to him after she saw how good a

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