

Aura of Passion

Quinn M. Kelley

"In the night, he awoke and held her tight,

As though She were all of Life

And it was taken away from him."

Ernest Hemingway

This novella is dedicated to my son,
Eric Matthew Kelley.

Chapter I.

Kitty and *Christophe* flew down initially on *Friday, April 14, 2025*, to finalize the lease on their apartment; it is a two bedroom, two and a half bathroom dwelling, with a master suite and one bedroom turned into an office for *Christophe* to write. It is part of the *West Isle Club Apartments*.

They stay in the towering, downtown *La Concha Hotel*, on *Duval Street*, for the nights of *March 14* and *March 15*, before they fly back to *Indianapolis International Airport*.

On *Saturday, March 15*, they walk down *Duval Street* and reflect, "*The Conch Republic* is so beautiful this time of the year," says *Christophe* to *Kitty*. She responds, "I fell in love with *Key West* the first time we arrived here on *Tuesday, July 26, 2011*."

On their first visit, they ate at *Sloppy Joe's Bar*, on *Duval & Greene Streets*. It is quite well known as being the hangout of *Ernest Hemingway*. They shared appetizers. Christophe visits the giftshop at *Sloppy Joe's Bar* that day, to see if he could find a *Ernest Hemingway/Sloppy Joe's T-Shirt* for himself, but to no avail.

Christophe and Kitty took a tour through the *Ernest Hemingway Museum*. Since Christophe had read all of his novels, and Hemingway was his favorite author; it was like striking oil.

In 2011, they posed in front of the famous *Conch Republic landmark*, that reads, *Southernmost Point of the U.S.A.; 90 Miles to Cuba*.

Their cruise went from Sunday, July 24, 2011 through Friday, July 29, 2011; their five year anniversary. They were supposed to travel to Cozumel, Mexico, but were diverted by a tropical storm, to the city of Freeport, in the Grand Bahamas.

There they Kissed the Dolphins, as well as made several purchases in the shoppes of Freeport. They also ate lunch while docked.

Their silver, *Jeep Grand Cherokee* is being transported separately. To take some of the burden off the transition period, they decide to rent a *Chevy Equinox*, from the *Key West International Airport (EYW)*.

They have their bank accounts set up in *Miami, Florida* and *Key West, Florida*. They have money invested in mutual funds and other sources of financial services.

On *Friday, June 13, 2025*, Kitty, Christophe, and Eric fly down, first class; via *American Airlines* from *Indianapolis International Airport*, to *Miami International Airport*, and then to *Key West International Airport*.

On *Saturday, June 14, 2025*, they have their first opportunity to scan *Duval Street*; palm trees are overhead. Kitty remarks, "Look, there's *Sloppy Joe's Bar*. Let's keep this in mind, as a possibility for dinner tonight."

"We ate there many moons ago, remember?" utters Christophe. "I do recall," says Kitty. She responds, "It sounds like a viable option." Kitty adds, "Behind us is the *Harry S. Truman Little White House*; do you feel like going there?" She bobs her head in that general vicinity. Christophe responds, "That's fine, but after that, let us meander to *Simonton Beach*."

As they walk hand-in-hand to the *Little White House*, Christophe admires her beautiful, black hair, parted to the side, and pulled into a pony-tail, in the bright sunlight. Kitty woo's Christophe with her firm legs.

The sun is hovering at 80 degrees. It is seven o'clock. Kitty asks, "To Sloppy Joe's?" Christophe responds, "Indeed." They seat themselves. A server takes their order; her name is Taylor. "What can I get you this evening?" asks Taylor.

Kitty responds, "A *strawberry daiquiri*, please." Taylor asks, "Sir?" Christophe responds, "Water with a lemon wedge, please."

Eric orders a hamburger, fries, and a Sprite. Taylor asks, "Do you know what you would like to eat this evening?" Christophe responds, " A *Pulled Pork BBQ Sandwich*."

Kitty was pondering. She then responds, "a grilled chicken salad, with Ranch Dressing." As they wait for their drinks to arrive, they look up at the ceiling and admire the rustic ambiance that envelops the eatery. Their minds journey back to the last time they were there; a mere fourteen years ago.

Then Eric, Kitty, and Christophe wander into the gift shop, and purchase three Sloppy Joe's t-shirts, and come back to the table to discuss a short trip north through the *Lower Keys, Key Largo,* and *Coral Gables*.

Christophe responds, "Once we get the *Jeep Grand Cherokee*, we can do all I will make all the reservations tomorrow."

The next morning they took the dogs, *Caesar & Chip*, for a walk on *Higgs Beach Dog Park*. They return to the apartment to put the dogs in their cages.

They eat lunch at *La Trattoria Restaurant*, on Duval Street. They walk home and Christophe goes to work making his reservations, on his lap-top.

Christophe reserves one night, two rooms in the *Cheeca Lodge & Spa, Islamorada*; one night, two rooms, at the *Hilton Key Largo Resort*; two nights, two rooms in the *Coral Gables Hyatt Regency*, and one night, two rooms, for the *Kona Kai Resort* on the way home.

Christophe books a massage with *Jodi Gray*, for Kitty, in *Big Pine Key*. Kitty visits Christophe in his new office. She brings him a fresh orange Gatorade, and compliments him by placing her arms around his neck and whispers in his ear, "I can't wait to make you fawn over me in *Islamorada*."

Christophe turns his head to the side, smiles from ear to ear, and kisses her.

Chapter II.

Kitty, Christophe and Eric leave for *Big Pine* on *Friday, June 27, 2025*.

Christophe says, "I made reservations with a licensed therapeutic massage therapist in *Big Pine Key*, whom you might enjoy, Jodi Gray."

"Where did you make hotel reservations?" asks Kitty. "I made hotel reservations in *Islamorada, Key Largo, and Coral Gables*. I also booked two rooms at *Kona Kai* in *Key Largo* on the way back," Christophe responded.

Kitty queries, "Are we going to a number of art galleries in Islamorada?" "Yes, several," responds Christophe, "*The Keys to Life Art Studio, Gallery Morada, and Morada Way-Arts and Cultural District*."

Kitty asks, "How about Key Largo?" Christophe responds, "Yes, there is the *Key Largo Art Gallery*, as well as the *Gallery at Kona Kai*."

“The *Key Largo Art Gallery* has local artists creating paintings, glass, pottery, and sculpture. The Art Gallery of Kona Kai has international work by *French painter Dirk Verdoorn*, and *Tuscan sculpter Polles*,” Christophe explains.

On June 27, 2025, Christophe and Kitty arrive in Big Pine.

Kitty says, "The Lower Keys! We are looking for Jodi Gray, you said?" Christophe responds, "Yes, a licensed therapist, specializing in therapeutic massage." "I found the building number," says Kitty, "It is 5-5-6."

Christophe announces, "I called ahead with a reservation." The massage goes as planned. Eric, Christophe and Kitty eat at *Papa Jim's Pizza and Subs*.

The couple arrives at *Cheeca Lodge & Spa*, in Islamorada. Christophe checks in to room 211 & 215, gets a wake-up call for 7 a.m., and gives Kitty all three of the key-cards.

The couple kisses in the door way, and make love as soon as she slides into *her purple, Victoria Secret Sexy Lace-Side Satin Slip*. Christophe is *immediately aroused and seduced*.

On Saturday, June 28, 2025, they wake up in their *California King bed*, in the *Cheeca Lodge & Spa*, at 7:00 a.m.

Christophe affirms, "There goes our wake up call." Kitty responds, "Do you want to eat at around nine?" "Yes, we had better re-set the alarm for 8:15 a.m., take shower a shower together (in the oversized shower), get dressed, and eat breakfast."

She was still wearing her purple, *Victoria's Secret silk slip* from the night before. They make love again, to welcome the new day.

Kitty says, "Today, we see the *Morada Way- Arts & Cultural District*?" Christophe asks, "Would you like to get into the hot tub before we leave?" Kitty responds, "Sure. Why not?"

Before they check out, they change into their bathing suits; she gets into her *Body Glove Hilo bikini*, and Christophe gets into his *Tommy Bahama* trunks.

Christophe says, “How about we go to *Morada Way Arts & Cultural District*; this is located on 81549 Old Highway. Then we can all hit the beach!”

Then the couple turned into *Shula Burgers*, on Overseas Highway, for lunch. All three of them had regular *Shula Burgers* to eat. Kitty orders her's with no pickle; Eric and Christophe have theirs with no tomato.

They view galleries in *Islamorada*, followed by the beach. The galleries that Kitty, Christophe and Eric visit are the *Morada Way Arts & Cultural Arts District*.

Kitty smiles from ear to ear, and remarks, "The beach appears divine today!" Christophe responds, "Yes, the Atlantic looks vibrant!" They arrive at the *Hilton Key Largo*, to check in at 12:30 p.m.

Chaz, the Front Desk Supervisor, checks in Christophe: "Name on the Reservation?" "Thomas. Christophe Thomas," responds Christophe.

Chaz asks, "Are you a *Hilton Honors Member*?" Christophe says, "Yes, here is my card." "I also need to see your driver's license, and a form of payment, for incidentals, Sir," requests Chaz. Christophe responds, "Sure."

Chaz says, "Here are your three key cards. You are in room 422 & 426." Christophe asks, " Can I get a wake-up call for 8:00 a.m.?" Chaz responds, "Yes, and check out time is 11:00 a.m."

Christophe gives him his key card. Kitty says to Christophe, "See you at room 4-2-2." Christophe adds, "I will bring up the the luggage."

Chapter III.

Once they enjoy the night together at the *Hilton Key Largo*, they eat breakfast together, and check out of room 422 & 426. They travel to the *Art Gallery of Kona Kai* the next day.

When they reach *Kona Kai* they are captivated by the paintings, sculptures, and eclectic appeal of the gallery's special pieces.

Kitty, Christophe, and Eric spend approximately two hours there; once this is over, they eat lunch at *DiGiorgio's Cafe Largo*.

Eric orders the *Chicken Parmigiana*, and *Kitty* and *Christophe* both have the *Veal Parmigiana*.

Kitty, *Christophe* and *Eric* head towards the *Coral Gables Hyatt Regency*, where they spend three nights; *Monday, June 30, 2025 through Wednesday, July 2, 2025*.

The first afternoon, *June 30, 2025*, they visit the *University of Miami Medical Center*, where Christophe has already been in contact with a new neurologist; *Wesley B. Wong, M.D.* Christophe has had *Epilepsy* since the age of fifteen.

That Monday evening, *June 30, 2025*, they decide to dine at *Ruth's Chris*. *Kitty* has the *Petite Filet* and *Eric* and *Christophe* have the *Filet*; all three steaks are well done. It is the first time they have dined at the *Coral Gables Ruth's Chris*, cooked to five-hundred degrees and heavenly!

The next day, *Tuesday, July 1, 2025*, is spent entirely at the *Vizcaya Museum & Gardens*. *Vizcaya Museum & Gardens* has a landscape and architecture influenced by *Veneto* and *Tuscan Italian Renaissance models* and designed in the *Mediterranean Revival architectural style*, with *Baroque elements*.

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