

Enchanted Prologue by Elizabeth Parker

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Prologue-Accidental Love

She'll never forget the first time she saw him. He was tall, dark, and handsome—The cliché and stereotypical description of the perfect mate.

Courtney wasn't a skeptic but didn't believe in the theory of 'Love at First Sight.' It was just a glorified term people used to reveal their immediate affection for one another.

However, this time, the phrase carried much more significance. Courtney instantly felt a staggering connection.

She admitted to herself that she was uneasy at first. More accurately, she was frightened.

The sun hadn't even had its morning cup of Joe yet, and the stars were still twinkling ceremoniously around the luminescent moon.

Normally, she wouldn't walk around by herself that early, especially on Christmas. However, after the year that she had, she found herself doing many things she never would have done.

This year would be the first Christmas away from her family, friends, and ex-husband—if one could even call him that. She no longer included him in the “family” category.

She reached for her wedding ring—a habit she had developed long ago when life was carefree and thought she was in love. It was something she did every time she got nervous. She'd feel the ring on her finger and slowly rotate it. Only this time, she reached for it and remembered it wasn't there. As they say, old habits die hard.

No, her wedding ring was probably a mound of melted gold by now. The moment that her divorce was final, she sold it at the nearest pawn shop.

She wanted it off of her hand and out of her life. The shop owner looked at her sardonically when she strongly requested that he melt it.

In hindsight, it was sort of a peculiar request. Most people just want to take the money and run. Not Courtney. She wanted to make sure that any symbolism of her marriage had dissolved.

She glanced back toward the trees to see if the mysterious fellow was still out there.

He was.

It seemed he was as apprehensive of her as she was of him. However, Courtney perceived that he moved a few feet toward her.

Looking behind him, she thought for sure he'd have a companion with him, but no one else was in sight except the two of them, both alone.

She wasn't ready to meet anyone new, so she was relieved he was alone. She wouldn't be forced to make conversation with anyone.

The main reason for her Christmas vacation was to escape from the life she had deserted. Not permanently. "Just a break." She'd say. "I need some time to myself. Time to reflect. Time to absorb what had happened."

It was safe to assume that meeting someone was the furthest thing from her mind.

Her mother had recently asked if she would ever marry again. A quick, resounding NO escaped from her lips. "I can't even think of a commitment, no less marriage." Courtney barked back. People said she was bitter, and she'd agree with them. She retorted by saying. "I deserve to be bitter at least once in my life, don't I?"

The sun finally yawned and stretched. Courtney got lost in its beauty as she watched it peek over the mountains. It casted purple and pinkish hues over the valley, still covered with a light layer of snow from last week's snowstorm.

How she wished she had been here for that. While some may get cabin fever, the thought of relaxing by a cozy fire in the middle of a snowstorm sounded heavenly to Courtney. In the state of mind she was in, isolation would provide sanity and comfort.

After watching the mesmerizing sunrise for a few peaceful moments, she looked toward the trees and saw that the distant object of her affection had vanished. Her eyes shifted and squinted to try and find him, but all she could see were tracks in the snow. The weird thing was the tracks appeared to be heading her way.

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