

Untitled

BY MISSY

When his eyes adjusted, he saw that he was in a hospital room. He saw Maddie in the hallway through the square window in the door. When he turned, he saw Alex sitting next to the hospital bed. "Alex? Baby, what's wrong? Who's in here? Why the hell are you in a wheelchair?" He ran to her and knelt down, ignoring whoever was in the bed. "Alex, aren't you talking to me?" He saw her holding her side. "You're hurt. Who hurt you?" Then he looked at the bed. When he saw who was in it, his face went pale. "This is really messed up."

"Don't you remember what happened?" a voice asked. "Ah, well, of course you don't." David turned around and saw Maddie.

"Maddie, what's goin' on here?"

"First off, I'm not Maddie. She's still out in the hallway. I'm your, well, guide. This is how you chose for me to look."

"Huh?" David was beyond confused.

"David, your life is in a state of limbo right now, and it's not the kind you enjoy doing at work.

"You know about that?"

"I know everything about you, David, that's why I'm here. Now, you're going to see a montage of your life thus far. It'll go by quickly, so pay attention."

David watched his life from the time he was born until that moment in what seemed like a matter of seconds. "O.k., so now what?" he asked. "I'm not gonna die, am I? That wasn't the 'my life flashed before my eyes before I died' thing, is it?"

"Well, David," Maddie said, "it doesn't have to be the end. The only problem is, your body is starting to

give up."

"What? I don't give up! You know that, well, Maddie knows that, but you said you know all about me, so you know that too..."

"David, calm down. This is why you're still alive. Your will hasn't been broken...yet."

"Yet? Yet isn't a good word. Yet means something's gonna happen, but hasn't yet...yet..."

"David, your will is getting weaker, so I was sent here. I'm going to show you what may happen to you if you strengthen your will and save yourself."

"So, your like the ghost of Christmas yet to come?"

"Something like that, only I'm going to show you a positive future. David, first you need to tell me why your will is depleting."

"I dunno, you tell me. I'm unconscious, you know."

"You feel guilty."

"About what?" David questioned.

"About her," Maddie answered motioning towards Alex.

"Why would I feel guilty about her? I love her."

"That's just it. You feel guilty that you couldn't protect her, that she was hurt."

David's face was solemn. "Well, I didn't before, but I do now."

"What?"

"Feel guilty. Look at her...it's my fault."

"The funny thing is, David, she's

sitting there thinking the same thing about herself."

"Huh?"

"She feels that if she never have moved here, you wouldn't be laying there...dying."

"I'm dyin' now! You guys aren't very subtle...but that's nuts. How could she know that any of this would've happened? Me, I coulda stopped him, if I wouldn't have left the office. Maybe if I..."

"David, what happened was fate, it couldn't be changed..."

"Fate?!" David interrupted. "Fate has her sitting there with her side split open and me dying? That's such crap! All I wanna do is hold her and take care of her...this isn't making you uncomfortable is it?"

"Remember, I'm not really Maddie."

"Oh, yeah, I forgot. But I can't hold her, 'cuz I'm, well, you can see what I am."

"Your guilt is overpowering your want for her. That's why we have to go on a little trip. Close your eyes David." David closed his eyes. "O.k., we're here."

"Whoa, how'd we get here? Where's here?"

"That's why you had to close your eyes, you're not allowed to know how we do it. And we're at Blue Moon, well, the future Blue Moon." The office was enormous. Everything looked brand new and the office was done in blue and white. It looked too nice to be an office.

"Whoa, nice place. So, how'd this come about?"