

**DAVID:** C'mon

**SAMIRA:** I think she's staying here!

**ROBERT:** She would have asked...or said something...wouldn't she?

**DAVID:** Not necessarily

*Beat*

**ROBERT:** This is awkward

**DAVID:** Is it just me or is she a little weird?

**SAMIRA:** I think she's sweet

*Pause as ROBERT looks towards the upstairs*

**ROBERT:** If she's staying, you're staying

**DAVID:** No problem

**SAMIRA:** What, are we all going to sleep in the same bed?

**ROBERT:** I'm listening

*EVE enters*

**EVE:** This is such a cool loft!

**ROBERT:** Thanks

**EVE:** It's a writer's place!

*EVE walks around; she stops at a bookcase with framed photographs and books*

**EVE:** Ooh, books! (*Picks up a photograph*) Is this your father?

**ROBERT:** Yes it is. Robert Senior

**EVE:** Robert Senior, you have his eyes

**ROBERT:** He lives in Clayton, it's not far from here

**EVE:** Ah sounds nice

**ROBERT:** Yeah still fishes, hunts...

*EVE puts down the picture and looks around the loft*

**EVE:** I can't believe I'm standing in her house

**ROBERT:** There used to be—

**EVE:** —I'm such a huge fan of your wife

**ROBERT:** That's nice to hear. Actually, not too many people know this but it was your dad who—

**EVE:** —Introduced you to each other

**ROBERT:** Ah...your dad told you about that

**EVE:** No

**ROBERT:** So how did...

**EVE:** I saw your wife speak at Cornerstone Books in Toronto, she told the story of how she and Paul tried to outdo each other

**SAMIRA:** It was always fun to watch the two of them duke it out over who could be more disturbing

**EVE:** Who usually won?

**DAVID:** I think we generally called it a tie

**ROBERT:** So you met Tara?

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**EVE:** Just briefly at the signing. *Cold Secrets*

**ROBERT:** It was her favourite actually

**EVE:** Mine too. I've read it three times

**DAVID:** Small world, you meeting Tara

**EVE:** Not really, I went specifically to see her

**ROBERT:** She never mentioned meeting you

**EVE:** Why would she?

**ROBERT:** The daughter of a good friend

**EVE:** How would she know that?

*Pause*

**SAMIRA:** Didn't you introduce yourself?

**EVE:** No

**ROBERT:** You should have, she would have loved to meet you

**SAMIRA:** Why didn't you?

**EVE:** This was years ago, I was seventeen. I didn't know Paul and your wife were even friends

**ROBERT:** (*Trying to figure it out*) So...you were a fan of my wife, and then a few years later found out that she and your father were friends

**EVE:** Yes

**ROBERT:** That's a hell of a coincidence

**EVE:** Isn't it?

**ROBERT:** Well that's too bad, Paul and Tara were great friends, she would have loved to meet you

**EVE:** Paul and your wife were very close

**ROBERT:** They were, yes

**EVE:** He didn't like talking about her disappearance

**SAMIRA:** It was hard on everyone

**EVE:** You had a lot of fun together

**SAMIRA:** We did

**DAVID:** The five of us would spend Christmas down south each year, we had some great times

**EVE:** But you don't anymore?

**ROBERT:** No

**SAMIRA:** Just wasn't the same, we had so much fun

**EVE:** Yeah?

**ROBERT:** Yeah we used to give each other a pretty hard time. Your dad could give it as well as he could take it

**DAVID:** *(Laughing)* Although he was generally more on the taking it side

**ROBERT:** *(Laughs)* True

**EVE:** Like what?

**ROBERT:** What?

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**EVE:** What kind of stuff?

**DAVID:** Oh just stupid stuff

**EVE:** Yeah like what?

**ROBERT:** Oh...jeez...*(Thinking but hesitant)*

**EVE:** I want to know more about him

**Dave:** C'mon tell her a good one

**ROBERT:** Well...ah...okay...here's one...I had a friend of mine call Paul...this was years ago...and say that she worked for a studio and they wanted to option one of his books for a movie. She laid it on big time. He played it all cool with her, she was saying, "Let me talk to the producers and blah blah," but just before she hung up she said, "Oh by the way ROBERT SAYS HELLO!" There was a pause and then we just heard "click"...we laughed out asses off...

**Dave:** *(Laughs)* Click

**EVE:** Aw poor guy. *(Slightly amused)* That's so mean

**ROBERT:** He didn't talk to me for a couple of weeks, he kinda laughed about it later

**DAVID:** Tell her about the van

**ROBERT:** Oh Jesus!

**EVE:** Tell me!

**ROBERT:** No

**EVE:** Oh come on, I want to hear the story

**DAVID:** Tell her

**ROBERT:** Ah man. (*Reluctantly*) We were down south about eight years ago, and I...

**EVE:** You all used to go every year?

**ROBERT:** We did yeah, anyway we were down south—

**DAVID:** (*Laughing*) —I still can't believe you did this

**ROBERT:** (*Stands*) I did this? *We* did this! I know a bunch of people down there, so I paid a couple of guys to grab Paul when he was walking back from the clubs in the middle of the night...they pulled up along side him and threw him into a van!

**EVE:** You did that??

**ROBERT:** (*Laughing*) He was scared shitless!

**SAMIRA:** I would kill you

**ROBERT:** Obviously I wouldn't do that to a woman

**DAVID:** (*Getting into the telling of the story*) Anyway they told him they were gonna kill him if he didn't come up with like ten grand or something. Just when he was about to crap himself, they dropped him off at the resort and said "ROBERT SAYS HELLO!"

*DAVID and ROBERT roar with laughter; SAMIRA is laughing a little less*

**ROBERT:** Jesus he was pissed off!!

**DAVID:** I thought he was going to kill you!

**EVE:** That's a terrible joke...it's not even a joke!

**DAVID:** It was later

*The laughing slows down*

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**SAMIRA:** It was all in good fun

**EVE:** I just don't see how that's fun

**ROBERT:** *(Still laughing)* Well you had to be there

**EVE:** He could have had a heart attack

*The mood in the room changes*

**ROBERT:** He was like thirty-eight!

**EVE:** At least you look out for each other

**ROBERT:** Now hang on...

**DAVID:** Yeah, we would never have done something he couldn't handle, he could take anything right along with the best of them

**SAMIRA:** I gave them shit

**ROBERT:** What?! You left him at the club! You set him up

**SAMIRA:** *(Laughs)* I didn't think you would go through with it!

**DAVID:** Eve it was all just a bunch of fun, it may seem a little harsher than it was

**EVE:** Being kidnapped and threatened, wow I hope you don't have a bunch of fun lined up for me

**DAVID:** I think you need to just...

**EVE:** Maybe you could water board me later and we can all have a good laugh

**ROBERT:** Uh Eve...

**EVE:** What fun!

**ROBERT:** It was funny

**EVE:** You and I have a very different idea of what's funny

**ROBERT:** Apparently we do

*A bit awkward*

**ROBERT:** Anyway, we had a...

**EVE:** Did you know he pissed himself?

*They stop*

**DAVID:** Jesus...he did?

**EVE:** Yes he did. He told me it was the most frightened he's ever been in his life

**ROBERT:** I actually *didn't* know that

*EVE says something under her breath; ROBERT catches it and quickly reacts*

**ROBERT:** What did you just say??

**SAMIRA:** *(Jumping in)* Okay...all right everyone. We were total jerks and you need to lighten up. You might be Paul's daughter, but you are also a guest

*Pause*

**EVE:** You're right

**SAMIRA:** There you go

**EVE:** You're right...I'm sorry, I'm just a bit sensitive

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**ROBERT:** He was our friend, not our father. My apologies. It was a stupid story to tell

**DAVID:** I guess I owe you an apology as well

**EVE:** Thank you. Don't get me wrong, I still think you're jerks

think many would argue with you on that

otions are running a bit high right now

*the subject*) Tell Eve about the book

**ROBERT:** Right...yes...(*Mouths "thank you" to SAMIRA as he gets up and stands behind the couch*) Seeing as you were a fan of my wife, I think you'll like this. Just before you arrived I was just saying that there may be a new book coming out, a collection of short stories

**EVE:** Really?

**ROBERT:** Yeah, sounds like it

**EVE:** That's amazing

**ROBERT:** It's been an interesting process. I started going through Tara's office for journals, files, that kind of—

**EVE:** —Her office?

**ROBERT:** Yes

**EVE:** She...she still has an office?

**ROBERT:** Yes?