

Return To Sender #1

It was a normal work day lunch meeting with friends, and Dave did not think it would be a very special day in his life. One of his friends had invited an out of town business partner, she was very attractive and was happy to engage in friendly conversation. At the end of the lunch Dave took the opportunity to ask Betty if she would like to see the sights of interest in his home town, at lunch he had learned that Betty was not married or in a committed relationship. The next day Dave and Betty went to the art museum, they both had a common appreciation of fine art. Dave was most attracted to fine porcelain sculpture, this was rooted in his training as an aerospace ceramic engineer. He told Betty that he had a small kiln and art studio at his home where he worked on his porcelain art, this was the place where he found real worth and fulfillment in his art work. Dave gave Betty a tour of his home studio, where he proudly displayed his work. Betty was impressed by the quality of Dave's art work, she could tell that Dave had poured out his heart into his porcelain sculpture. She was physically attracted to Dave and by his passion for his art work.

Dave and Betty started dating, they were in the cloudy world of love and passion, their attraction for each other was apparent to friends and work associates, who thought that they were a good match. The love affair was almost at the three month mark, and Dave thought it was time to move to the next level of the relationship. Dave and Betty were having lunch when Dave brought up the topic of a long term relationship, and asked how Betty felt about marriage. Betty looked like she was surprised by the conversation Dave had started, she told Dave that she was very attracted to him and that she would like to continue their relationship. Then she told Dave that her contract to work for the local company was going to expire soon, and that she would have to return to her home company in another state. She told Dave that she would still like to have a relationship with Dave but it was too soon for a long term relationship or marriage.

Dave was not ready for the answer to his question that Betty had delivered, he told Betty his love was genuine and that he would give Betty time to think about their relationship. Betty explained that the time they were apart would be good for their relationship and they could communicate on line, and that they could still spend weekends with each other from time to time.

Betty returned to her home town and her job, Dave was back to his normal work schedule and life as a bachelor, his life was not the same without Betty. His days and nights were filled with thoughts of Betty and her sweet smile. He did call her and send her E-mails, chat on line and found great pleasure when Betty would contact him. This continued for months, and Dave could tell from their conversations that Betty had changed. He could tell that her separation from him was not as painful for her as it was for him, he tried to explain how much he loved Betty and needed to be with her. Soon the contact with Betty was often short or connections could not be made, Dave was despondent and heart broken. The weekend visits did not happen as planned, it just was not convenient or possible to make the connection.

Dave's world had imploded, empty lost and alone he turned to his art work for some comfort and escape from the separation and loss of his relationship with Betty. Dave was working on a sculpture of a dove, when he had the inspiration to add an opening with a lid on the back of the dove, it could be filled with small love notes to Betty.

He could in each note explain all the things that he found to be so attractive and beautiful in

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her, his love would be in his porcelain sculpture gift and in his love notes that it contained. Hand crafted and fragile, filled with his love the sculpture was completed, it had been Dave's master work perfect in all respects, with no defects. The love notes were all in place filling the sculpture with his love. He was very careful to choose the correct protective packaging material to protect his gift of love on its journey to Betty, insured and protected the package was sent. Dave knew that this special gift would be the proof of his love for Betty and the gift would cause her to respond with the same love for him. The days passed and no response was received from Betty, there must be some problem with the delivery of the package. Dave got on line and checked to see if the tracking of the package would show what had delayed its arrival to Betty. Dave was in disbelief as he looked at the tracking information, the package had been delivered and signed for by Betty. She must be so impressed by the gift that she cannot find the words to show how much she did love Dave. The days passed and turned to weeks, there must be an explanation for the lack of response.

One day Dave returned home from work and found at his door step a package, it was the package he had sent to Betty. The package was in rough shape battered by the journey of a two way trip, he picked it up and inspected it. The corners of the box were bent, the protective paper wrapping he had chosen was gone, stamped on the box were the words,

"Return To Sender"!

Frozen at his door step Dave moved to the door and opened it and went inside, he could see the box in his hands and feel it but he could not understand how it could be true. Dave sat transfixed at the table in his kitchen looking at the box, his hands shook as he opened the returned package. Dave could feel his blood turn cold and drain out of his face as his eyes fell on the opened the box on the table. The box contained the shattered fragile porcelain sculpture, all the love notes had been spilled out lost and rejected, the love and protection that he had provided was gone. Dave's tears ran down his face and were added to an ocean of pain and rejected love.

Brother

Christopher