

The Incident

By: Kiersten Curtis

It all began with him, and how she would do anything to feel close to him even if that meant spending her last days as a free woman rotting in a cold, dark, prison cell. Jessie was a tall, dark complexioned, older man with a path leading nowhere. Vanessa was a divorced mom of two looking for something exciting to come her way. Little did she know, Jessie would bring her a little more excitement than she intended.

Fast forward a few years, Vanessa and Jessie are living a simple, yet unforgettable life. Things begin to take a slight turn for Vanessa when Jessie introduces her to his friend who goes by the name of heroin. Normally, Vanessa would back out and think of how the drug would affect her later down the road, but she was too invested with Jessie to let this stop her. She began each day injecting needle after needle. Veins bursting, steam rolling down her cheeks everytime she shot up because of the pain and heartbreak this little drug had already caused her. Vanessa was becoming that of the past and no one could recognize who she was anymore.

One smoky night, around ten o'clock, Jessie asked Vanessa for a ride to an old friend's house so he could finish up some business he meant to the previous week. As clueless as Vanessa could be, she agreed and they scurried along to the outskirts of their hometown. Keep in mind, both are doped up without any care in the world. They arrive at Jessie's "friend's" house and he goes in to collect his belongings. Vanessa sits patiently, yet shakily in the driver's seat waiting for Jessie to

return to the car. A few minutes go by when suddenly Vanessa hears a gun fired from inside. Looking closely through the front left window of the beaten down house, she can see what looks to be Jessie holding a gun. Before she can do anything about it, Jessie comes rushing out the front door over to the driver's side. He swiftly opens the car door, yanking Vanessa by her left arm, telling her to stay quiet and help him get the body. She follows after him with a sheer look of terror stretched across her face.

Unanswered questions ran through her mind, but she continued to help Jessie wrap the body of a young woman in a large white cloth. Blood began to seep through the edges of the cloth, but the two just left it alone and carried the body to the trunk of Vanessa's car. After throwing the body in and shutting the trunk, Jessie hopped in the driver's seat and made Vanessa sit on the passenger side. He sped off into the dead of night not speaking a word to Vanessa. Vanessa still not knowing what to say or what to do, she just sat in silence the whole way to their unknown destination.

They pull up to the town lake and Jessie opens the door, placing his feet firmly on the wet ground that surrounds him. He picks his heavy body up from the seat of the car and walks at a fast pace to the trunk. He opens it up and lifts the remains over his shoulder and begins walking towards the relaxed waters. He swings the body over his head and throws it into the water. Not knowing what to do, Vanessa still sits, waiting for Jessie's next move. She did not understand the last few hours that had passed, but she knew if she tried to say anything, Jessie would lash out against her.

The two drove back into town to their lower class apartment and parked the car in a nearby alley. They collected all belongings and went inside still not uttering a word to each other. Vanessa went to her room for the night, trying to collect her thoughts, but still not doing anything to relieve the confusion she was feeling. Jessie left the apartment around midnight and did not return until the following day. Vanessa never knew the reason, but she had a few guesses in mind.

About a week later, the local news reported a body had been found in the town lake. Frightened, Vanessa knew all too well of the sequences to come. The car was found near the lake with Jessie and Vanessa's fingerprints all over it. Apparently Jessie had drove the car that night to the lake to burn it and all things relating them back to the crime, but he could not go through with it. The police traced the steps back to these two and they were arrested on site. Vanessa was sentenced eleven months in jail for assisted murder, while Jessie got fifteen years for first degree murder.