

## Preface

Imagine a place where there are two classes of people. You have the working class of people, living in a town where everyone works, male and female, making general wages. They marry; have children who grow up having the same ordinary life. The cycle continues as they grow up; move on in life following in the footsteps of their parents. Their free time, when allotted, is spent with friends relaxing in the park and just having fun without spending their hard earned money. Parties only happen on special occasions and with little expense. Children are taught in public schools and very few continue go on to college. They are raised simply and are taught to marry within their societal boundaries. They are the small store owners, the teachers, the mill workers, the farmers, the housewives, the nurses and the average hard working person. Although not rich, they are content and happy and have come to know their place in the structure of their society. Most of them live close to, or in the downtown area of their 'city'.

Then, there is the rich, high class society of people. These people have a good amount of money to live on, most of which was passed on from generations before. They have large estates called Manors with servants and butlers. They are taught that they are above the lower classes. Their lives include ballroom parties, shopping at only the finest stores uptown, staying away from the lower classes, and maintaining a higher standard of living. Men are taught how to become businessman and to wear the pants in the home while women are taught to respect their husbands, speak only when necessary and to become the Lady of the Manor. Women are taught to dress with sophistication at all times, maintain proper etiquette, and to speak with grace and class. Women are expected to host parties, train their children, and maintain a good standing at all times. The men spend their days in the office and their free time playing polo, tennis, and participate in the occasional fox hunt. The women spend their time in lessons, learning different forms of music, art, horseback riding, and things that pertain to running a home. Children are educated in the home and taught to marry within their class structure. They are raised knowing that although there is a societal class lower than their own and that to marry outside of their

class, would shame the family. These people live outside of town on what is known as ‘the hill’. Although there are some that actually do have mansions on the hill that overlooks the town, many have large estates in the countryside nearby. They are ‘old money’, many of them descendants of aristocrats and they have been brought up and taught to live as though they are special and different than those from ‘downtown’.

Although these worlds are completely different from each other; they have learned to coexist, each respecting the other for the world they were born into. At times there are those few who feel it is ridiculous to live so differently, but nothing is said to upset the balance of life. Young men and women from the lower class dream that they too could have what the upper class does, by business instincts or marrying into a family, but they know it can only be a dream. This is a place where customs and traditions have been handed down through many generations.

This is where our story begins. Conrad Jeffery Douglas Denchfield was born twenty-four years earlier, to Sir Charles Christopher Alexander Denchfield III and Lady Emily Katherine Elizabeth Denchfield, of the upper echelons of society. He and his three older brothers, Charles Christopher Alexander IV, Richard Philip Patrick, and Andrew Theodore James, all grew up learning the ways of their lives. Conrad and his brothers all followed in their father’s footsteps in the business, but now that it was Conrad’s turn to take his place in the family structure he was torn. With a four year span between him and Andrew, he was on his own more of the time and was left to his own thoughts and understandings. His two oldest brothers, being eight years older than he, had already settled down with their wives and families, leaving Andrew and Conrad to become closer as brothers. Yet he still did not like the idea of upper and lower classes of people. Growing up he had come across people from downtown and thought they deserved to have just as much as he did.

Finally, on his twenty-fourth birthday he was expected to join the business with his father and brothers. But he had other ideas in mind and he knew his decision would change his life. The evening of his birthday, he told his parents and family that he did not want to join

the business but to actually move out and live in town with the regular people and learn about the lower echelons of society. He was tired of the life he lived, always having to do what was expected and only what was allowed within his society. He had learned that there was more to life out in the world and wanted to learn what it was.

Although it broke their hearts, Sir Charles and Lady Emily knew they had to let him go with their blessing or lose him forever. His father being in such a high position knew he still had to follow protocol when it came to people making this decision and had to tell his son that by making the choice he was, he would no longer be accepted in their society and that he would have to make it on his own financially. He would be sent off with enough money to get settled, but that he would lose his inheritance and the title that came with being a Denchfield. Furthermore, if he chose to marry within the lower class, then he would be better off not coming home at all. Andrew, having compassion, pleaded for his brothers sake, that if he did indeed marry and have children that they would make an exception to tradition and allow Conrad and his family to come home if he so chose. Also that if he did marry and something were to happen to him, that they would keep to the custom of an unmarried son taking on the widow as his wife. Lady Emily, hating the thought of losing grandchildren, agreed, only if that meant that if Andrew was still unmarried, he'd take on the responsibility.

Conrad thanked his brother for his support and hoped that as his family they would try to be more open-minded about what else was to be found in the world and that if he found a bride, they would try to be more accepting than they appeared to be.

Leaving his home the following day with only his personal belongings, some money, and his personal butler, Reginald, he set out. Ready for the adventure and ready to embark upon what lay ahead for him.