

Chapter One

The trip to Paris was uneventful as Emma slept most of the way and before long Cassie and her were landing. Once off Cassie began looking for Matt and soon found him holding a sign with her name.

“Cassandra I presume,” Matt said as Cassie reached him.

“Yes, and you must be Matt.”

“I am, how was your flight?”

“Fine, this one slept most of the way,” Cassie babied, as Emma giggled.

“Good, are you hungry?” Matt continued, as they walked to luggage.

“We could eat,” Cassie politely smiled. “When will we be heading to Michigan?”

“Actually we couldn’t get a flight out till tomorrow morning.”

“So we get to get in some sightseeing in while here,” Cassie smiled, glad for a little more time in Paris.

Matt laughed, “If you want, we’re staying at a hotel here by the airport but you have all afternoon.”

“First I’d like to settle in the room and then maybe head out. Will you join us?”

“Certainly, I’ve always wanted to see some of Paris.”

“Have they located Emma’s family?”

“Not yet, but I’m sure they will in the next few days if not by tomorrow already.”

“That will be good. What time is the flight out so I can call a ride home?”

“I can drive you home if you need. My car is still at the airport.”

“Thank you but I have a dear friend who would like to get us,” Cassie replied, adjusting Emma on her hip.

“Alright, once back in Michigan I will head back to the conference and see what they have found and then call you with further information. And our flight leaves here at nine.”

After lunch Matt took Cassie and Emma to the hotel where she called Graham. He of course was at work by then. “Do you have time to tell me what’s going on now?” Graham asked.

“It’s a long story and I really don’t want to talk about it over the phone,” Cassie said, still finding it hard to take in.

“Okay, I can tell in your voice it’s important. I’ll wait till you’re here, but if it helps I’m glad you’re coming home, I’ve missed you.”
“I’ve missed you too,” Cassie replied truly meaning it.

That afternoon Matt, Emma, and Cassie took in the sights of Paris. It was beautiful but very busy with tourists. Cassie was glad to have her camera on her to get many pictures knowing everyone would like to see them. By evening Cassie was tired so as soon as she could get Emma to sleep she took a long hot shower and went to bed herself. By now they were getting used to each other but she could tell Emma was feeling the absence of her parents and still had bouts of uncontrollable tears. Cassie debated on calling Graham, but opted not to. She wasn’t sure what to say to him about her feelings and some the reasons for returning early. She knew once home, they had lots of time to talk.

Morning came and once again Cassie was boarding a plane for the next eight hours. By the time the flight got in the air it was closer to ten in the morning Paris time and four in the morning in Michigan. Cassie knew adjusting to the time difference would be more difficult with Emma since it will only be noon when they arrived but she and Emma would still be on Africa time which would be six in the evening. She hoped the two of them could adjust quickly with little problems; although good with babies, Cassie was not used to them all the time.

Arriving back in Michigan, Cassie’s heart began to beat faster. She became excited to get off the plane and see Graham, her home, and her bed. Not to mention eating some good food and clean water.

“You said someone was picking you up, right?” Matt asked, as Cassie began looking around once they were inside the airport.

“Yup.”

“Good, then once you and Emma are with them I can head home myself,” Matt said holding Emma in his arms.

“Thank you for coming to help Matt, Richard and Kristi would have been so appreciative.”

“Hey, that’s what I’m paid to do,” Matt smiled. “No seriously it was fun and I’ve had a chance to meet two wonderful ladies in the process. But remember we’re not done yet, we still have to get Emma to her family.”

Cassie smiled as she finally saw Graham. She found herself almost running into his open arms. At that moment she knew she had missed him more than she wanted to admit.

Graham eagerly pulled Cassie into a tight embrace. This was what he had always wanted and here she was willingly embracing him. He stood there not wanting to let go. "I've missed you Cass," Graham whispered against her head.

Cassie snuggled in a little tighter already feeling a bounce in her spirit.

"Let me look at you," Graham smiled, holding Cassie in arms reach. "Although always beautiful you've lost some weight and look a little run down."

Cassie shook her head, once a doctor always a doctor. "I told you the food wasn't as proportioned as here but I would say it was healthier and we did get a lot of walking in on a daily basis."

"Healthier is always better," Graham patted his belly. "I could probably stand to lose a few pounds myself."

"You do not," Cassie lightly laughed, hitting his stomach.

"Anyway, I see that you are not alone. Care to introduce me?"

"Oh sorry. Graham this is Matt, he works with the conference and this," Cassie said, taking Emma as the men shook hands. "This is Emma, my reason for being here today."

"I don't follow," Graham replied, a bit confused as to why Cassie would have a baby.

"I suppose I should let you two catch up," Matt, seeing it was a good time for an exit, said. "We will call you as soon as we know anything. Meanwhile get her to your place and settled."

"Will the playpen and baby things be there yet?" Cassie asked, forgetting that she needed all kinds of things to care for a baby.

Graham stood back still confused but admiring Cassie for the air of control she was speaking with. She seemed to have grown in the short time she was gone both in a spiritual way and maturity.

"Tom was supposed to have someone drive it down today, so you should be set," Matt answered.

"Great and thanks Matt, I'll be waiting for that call," Cassie added, as Matt acknowledged heading off.

"Still a bit lost here," Graham replied.

"I'm sorry, I know I probably should have prepared you but wasn't sure how."

“Telling me you were bringing home a baby would have been a good start. Where’s her parents?”

“Well,” Cassie paused.

“Tell me you didn’t adopt her.”