

## “White Lights”

The city lights were bright and captivating, drawing in the most distracted of bystanders. On this evening, the lights were the main source for lighting the dimly lit bar. The perfectly trimmed pine trees gently decorated the entrance of the cozy, yet upscale bar. The businessman sat at a bar table close by the entrance. The woman scurries in from work to meet the man, who patiently waited for her.

“What are you drinking?” the woman asks the man as she grabs a seat next to him.

“Makers on the rocks. What would you like? I’ll tell the bartender?” He replies.

“A vodka cranberry would do.” She replies.

“I would think you would have gone lighter, like a glass of wine. You shouldn’t drink so much.”

“Hey Hun, what can I get you?” the bartender asks as she grabs a glass nearby.

“I will take a vodka with cranberry juice, with a squeeze of lime.” The woman replies.

“Right away dear”

The woman brings over a rocks glass with vodka and cranberry to the woman. The man slowly turns away from eye contact with the woman and returns to watching the game on the television.

“Don’t worry, it’s only one” The woman says as she turns to the man.

The man ignores the statement, still watching the television. Carrie takes a sip of her drink.

“So, as we spoke on earlier this week, I need you to trust me and understand the dynamic of our relationship. I am here to make you happy but the way you react to our issues, it causes turmoil that should not be.”

Carrie looks away from the man and stares at the television, pondering and taking in what the man is saying.

“What happened to that player? Why are they taking him away?”

“He fell and possibly is injured. They want to make sure he’s okay to finish the game.”

“Oh.”

“Do you understand what I am saying? I try my hardest to make you happy despite my life and everything I have going on, but in the end, you act as if it does not matter.”

“I understand what you are saying and what you have been saying, but you do not give me enough. I want more from this and from you and you do not give me that.” Carrie responds. Commotion rumbles on the other side of the bar. A man stumbles into another man and causes a heated exchange. The manager swiftly ends the issue and both men sit back down.

“I just don’t know what more I can give you. As much as you say you don’t want more from me, I always feel like you do and I cannot offer that to you right now. I care about you and I would give you the world, but I can’t commit to a relationship right now. If my life was different, I would definitely give you that but it is not possible.”

“I never wanted a relationship from you. I just want you to show me you care and that I actually mean something to you. I know a relationship is not possible, but that is also something I have not asked you for.”

The bartender slowly walks by looking for empty drinks and a chance to offer food to Carrie and the businessman.

“You can do what you want to do. You will do what you want to and if you wanted to show me you care, you would.”

The business man sighs. “I do everything in my power to show you appreciation. It makes me feel as if I am unappreciated because you don’t value what I can offer. I can only do so much to make you happy in this.”

The bartender grabs the empty glass from the man. “May I get you another sir?”

“Yes, a double.”

The bartender gets a clean glass and pours a double shot for the gentlemen.

“I’m on a schedule, I have a birthday dinner to attend.” Carrie tells the man.

“I wouldn’t want to take you from that. I really just wanted to spend time with you when I had time off.”

“Understood. I appreciate that. I care for you a lot; I just want to feel like you actually want to spend more time with me. You push me aside and always have other things that hold more precedence to you. Any woman wants to feel wanted and you can verbally tell me until you are blue in the face, but actions speak louder than words.”

The man stood silent. The bartender reaches for the woman’s glass but the man interjects.

“She’ll have a glass of wine.”

“I’ll take a glass of prosecco please” Carrie responds to the bartender.

“I have a very busy schedule and I can do but so much to make everyone happy.”

Carrie sips her glass of sparkling wine and stares blankly at the television.

“I can tell you are empty inside.” The man states.

“I have to go. It’s my friend’s birthday and I cannot miss her dinner.”

“I know, but I am giving you time. The time you always wanted.” The man says in a pleading manner.

Carrie takes her last sip and stands from the chair.

“When the time is right you will understand, Actions speak louder than words.”