

The Island Getaway

by Posse Gal Christie

Erica walked along the quiet shores of Anna Maria Island, watching the children play in the surf and the lovers play out in the waves. She tried not to think of him, she tried not to miss him, but she missed him with every fiber of her being. She needed to get away and she ran from Pine Valley and from him as fast as her jet would take her. She didn't want to see him everyday and know that once again his heart was locked up tight against her love. She had done it, she knew that. She wanted to protect him from her and the truth but every single time she tried she ended up ripping both their worlds apart.

This time she had done so with the help of David Hayward. She didn't really sleep with him and Jack didn't believe she had either but he was livid with her and she ran. She had David for an alibi, she didn't want Jack hurt with anymore of this so she asked David knowing he would lie, cheat, and play as dirty as her to get at Cambias and he had no problem doing it...for a price. She found out four days ago what that price was.

This was the price, life without Jack. David had given Erica a very airtight alibi indeed just as he said he would. He went to Derek and Jack with her and answered their questions about that night. He said Erica was with him and that they had been in bed making love all night long. The look on Jack's face went from hurt to rage and he knew it was a lie. Derek had believed it however and said they were free to go and that is just what she did. When she got home the light was flashing on her message machine, Erica hit the button but she knew who it was. It was Jackson and he was furious at her, "I will be there in 1 hour Erica...be ready to answer me, damn it!" he said into the machine. As fast as she could pack a bag and get herself to the Enchantment jet she ran. Kendall had told her about this place in Florida that was so peaceful and tranquil. "A little peace and tranquility sounds like heaven...heaven without Jack isn't really heaven" she sighed as the plane left the ground leaving Pine Valley and Jack behind her.

She had rented this little cottage right on the beach. It was absolutely beautiful here. The water was a light sparkling blue and clear all the

way to the bottom. The sun was warm and it felt great to just lie there and listen to the waves break on the beach. The beach was pure white with powdery soft sand, kept perfect only for the few people who stayed here. She loved to walk the beach at sunset, collecting shells, lost in her dreams of what should be, and then she would sit on her back porch steps watching the kids that were vacationing there play tag in the surf. In the three days she had been here it had become sort of her nightly thing.

Erica walked backed to her cottage after her nightly stroll along the beach. She sat on the steps of her porch watching all of the neighboring children play the nightly game lost in her thoughts. "Excuse me, Mrs. Tyler?" one of the older people she had gotten to know a bit came up to her. "There was a man here a bit ago. A very handsome one he was." she was going on about him when Erica stood up and stopped her. "Mrs. Virginia what did this man look like?" Erica asked her. "He was very tall, blonde hair, stunning blue eyes, and his voice was very deep. Anyway he was looking for someone else, some model. He was a little surprised when I told him that the woman that rented this place here was Mona Tyler" she finished. "Oh god" was all Erica could manage sitting back on the step. "Are you ok honey?" the older woman asked her sounding concerned. "Oh no I am fine. Just a wrong house I guess. Hope he finds who he was looking for" she said waving good-bye to the neighbor.

Erica went up the steps and into the dark cottage. Leaving it dark she made her way through the place along the way to the fireplace. "Do you really hope he finds her, Ms. Tyler?" he said causing Erica to stop her movements. "Why are you here, Jack?" she asked keeping her back to him. "I thought we left some things unsaid the other day and I figured for you to run it must be pretty bad, huh?" he asked walking to her. "Oh god Jack don't ask...please. I don't want you in this please." she said to him "Erica honey, you didn't think I would just drop it really did you? You come barreling into the police station with David Hayward of all people announcing that the two of you where wrapped in each other's arms the night Michael was killed and then you leave town without a word to anyone...you know me better than that, honey" he said moving himself till he was standing face to face with her. "So, I found Dr. Evil and beat the truth out of him like any self respecting fiancé would have done." Jack said taking her face in his hands. "Don't you know by know that you can always come to

me?" he said placing a tender kiss on her lips before pulling away. "Jackson, you did not really beat up David did you?" she asked but as she looked at his hands she had her answer "Oh Jack are you ok?" she asked him taking his hand in hers causing him to smile. "What are you grinning at me like that for?" she asked pulling out of his arms. "Well at least I know you still care," he said touching her forehead with his own "Seems to me that's as good a start as any."

Jack and Erica spent the next few hours talking out all that had gone on the night of Michael's murder. He confessed his drug possession idea and told her how he planted the drugs in the condo and she had told him of helping David make that drug and using Enchantment to do it. She told him of them trying to poison Michael with it by putting it in the decanter of scotch and how they stayed there watching him drink it. Jack told her that he stepped down from the D.A.'s office and he was taking some time away from the law....time he wanted to spend right here on the beach with her. Erica couldn't think of anything she would rather do so she agreed. They decided to put the talks on hold for now. It was very late and they really needed to call Bianca.

They called Bianca and Maggie together and let them know where they were and how they could be reached if she needed them for anything and then they said they were staying put on that beach for the next 7 days....just them in their very private little world. Bianca was thrilled and Greenlee was going to stay with Reggie for the week. The kids were thrilled for them and couldn't express that enough. So it was set, Jack and Erica where staying in Anna Maria Island for the next seven days alone together. Jack smiled at the thought "What are you thinking Jack?" she asked him, knowing the answer but needing the words. "I was thinking that you and I have never had seven days all to ourselves. The mind reels with possibilities Ms. Kane" he said walking towards her.

"So Mr. Montgomery, what do you want to do first?" Erica asked him as he hung up the phone with Reggie and Greenlee. He turned to her and smiled "Wanna try and guess?" he asked, as he scooped her in his arms and carried her to the bedroom.