

** Excerpt **

Garden Waves

Chapter Three

The following morning, Tess noticed an ominous sky approaching the shore from the east. By late morning it started to rain, and the wind picked up with continuous speed. All signs in the sky pointed to a hurricane, she thought. Just as the thought crossed her mind, hurricane warning sirens started to blare throughout the town.

Tess went outside just as Kevin drove into her driveway. “Are you ready? They’re predicting a *hell* of a hurricane,” he said as he got out of the car, and then rushed over towards her.

Tess seemed a bit confused and did not immediately say anything at all.

Kevin took hold of her shoulders, “Did you hear what I said, girl? We’ve got to get out of here *now*.”

Tess looked Kevin straight in his eyes. “I’m not leaving.”

“What are you talking about? You *can’t* stay here. What’s the matter with you? Your house is too close to the water to ride out a hurricane!”

“Kevin, I’m not leaving.”

“What!”

“I understand your concern, but I won’t leave.”

The rain started to pour as the two friends stood out in the driveway. Kevin just looked at Tess with disbelief and shook his head.

Tess took hold of his hand. “You’re a good friend to care, Kevin.”

“Of course I care, Tess. That’s why you must come inland with me. It’s not safe to stay here!”

Tess had a look in her eyes that seemed determined. “I must stay.”

“Why? I don’t understand.” Kevin was beside himself as he listened to Tess. “You’re coming with me!” He took hold of her wrist and started to drag her into his car. Tess though pulled back with all her might.

“No, Kevin! Don’t force me to leave!” she pleaded.

“I can’t let you stay here, Tess. Don’t you understand?” He refused to let go of her.

“Kevin...it’s my decision not yours.” She released herself from his grip.

Just then a police car with flashing lights came by. “There’s an evacuation and you’ve got to leave now.” The officer inquired through his open window.

Kevin turned to the police officer. “She won’t...”

Tess stopped him from continuing. “Thank you, officer,” she interrupted.

“We’re just getting ready to go,” she answered.

After hearing Tess’s assuring statement, the police car rode off. Kevin looked at her in disbelief. “Tess...What’s going on?”

“Just go, Kevin. Go!” She turned around and then ran back into her bungalow, locking the door behind her.

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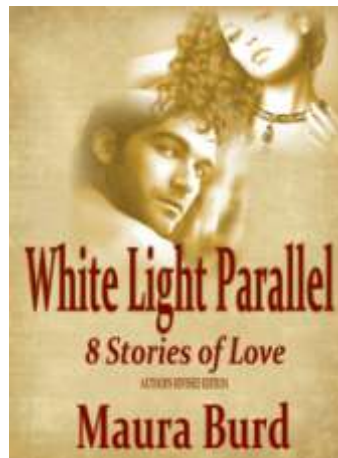
Kevin stood out in the rain a while hoping Tess might come to her senses. After a few minutes he waited for her in his car, blaring on his horn a few times to try to get her attention. When she still didn't come back outside, he got out and pounded on her front door. Tess wouldn't open the door. Realizing it was hopeless to get her to leave against her will, he drove off to Suffolk.

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