

In the World

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“Dance like it's the last night of your life!” he yelled. The pounding rhythms almost drowned out his voice.

The girl smiled in response and grinded a little closer against him.

After the next song, he held her arm and guided her off the dance floor. She smiled trustingly as she followed him past the dark corners of the club and into the alley.

“China was devastated by bombs yesterday. The few survivors are trying to piece together who could have sent the missiles and why. No country or terrorist has yet claimed the act. We'll go live to our man on the scene. Tom?”

“Thanks, Karen. It's terrible! The bombs were aimed at shopping malls and spas, truly a gruesome irony. The Chinese government is sending out aid to everywhere that was hit but there were just too many sites. The Red Cross has gotten involved and China is opening its borders to any charitable organization that is willing to help—”

“—found that several shipments of birth control have been tampered with, causing women to die. No one is sure who has done this or what their purpose may—”

“My co-host, Lindsey, is sick today so we'll carry on without her. In local news, a bomb went off yesterday in a Victoria Secret, killing several women. Witnesses say—”

“—new series glorifying female suicide has high ratings for the eighth week in a row. Rob Stann, an expert in psychology, is here to tell us what may be behind this trend. Rob?”

So many people had died to get him to this point. He was almost there. It had taken him a very long time, but he had found the last of them and soon they would be dead as well. Then, his life could finally continue.

“Meredith, I love you.”

She smiled. “I love you too, Jon.” She kissed his cheek and sat down on the sofa.

He sat next to her and grasped her hands. “I have something for you, but I'm afraid it won't really be a surprise.”

“What is it?”

He smiled at her. “You're the last woman alive on Earth.”

She stared at him for a moment. “What?”

“You're the only girl in the world. It took a lot of time and effort but I managed it.” He stood with an expectant smile on his face, waiting for praise.

“You killed every woman in the world except for me?” she asked, not registering his words.

“Yes,” he said, nodding. “You wanted to feel like you were the only woman in the world, so I made that happen. You are my one and only, Meredith.”

She slid her hands out of his grip. “You killed several billion people for this?” Meredith began backing away from him.

“Yes. It was all for you. So many times I thought about stopping, but I remembered your face and I just couldn't. So, Meredith, there's just one thing I want to ask you now.” He got down on one knee.

“Oh no,” Meredith said, backing away another step. “You can't tell me you just killed all of the women on the Earth except me and then ask me to marry you!”

“It does seem a little redundant on my part. You know that I won't stray.”

Meredith spun on her foot and raced out of the room, the door slamming behind her.

Jon levered himself up and wondered. What had he done wrong? He had done everything for her. Maybe she would find comfort in another man's arms. He could not allow that to happen. “Well,” he thought, “I guess she's even harder to win than I thought.” Jon stood up and hummed. He could reuse some of his plans for killing women but he would have to rework most of them. Then, once it was just him and Meredith, then it would be enough and she would love him. Jon smiled, picturing their future together as he aligned his weapon grid.