

Entry for 50 Kisses competition

ROMANTIC HIDEAWAY

by

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EXT. COUNTRY COTTAGE - DAY

A charming picture postcard detached cottage, nestling on its own, amidst empty fields and countryside.

Secluded. Peaceful. Romantic.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

NORMAN (40s, very average looking) inserts a gloriously naff Valentine's card into a garishly coloured envelope and seals it.

He then kisses the envelope and writes "S.W.A.L.K." over the closed flap.

Norman props the envelope - which just has the name "Elena" on the front - onto a breakfast tray which has an equally OTT romantic theme:

The cappuccino has a "I heart U" in the froth, the toast is in the shape of puckered lips with jam lipstick, and there a single red rose on the napkin.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

As Norman enters with the breakfast tray, ELENA (21) is still asleep in bed.

Apart from the age gap, the other thing about Elena and Norman is that she is pretty - way-out-of-his-league pretty. Seems Norman is punching well above his weight.

NORMAN

Wakey Wakey!

Elena looks up at Norman then pointedly turns away.

NORMAN (CONT'D)

Come on - don't be like that - it's Valentine's Day. I promise you it's going to be even better than last year. And what better way to start than breakfast in bed.

Elena sits up as Norman rests the tray in front of her.

NORMAN (CONT'D)

That's my girl.

Elena hungrily gobbles up the food, ignoring the card.

Norman points out the "S.W.A.L.K." acronym on the flap.

NORMAN (CONT'D)

See that? That means "Sealed With A Loving Kiss". And one kiss deserves another - don't you think?

Norman offers his cheek to Elena - and waits. After a few seconds, Elena kisses him. Norman closes his eyes.

Suddenly the breakfast tray crashes onto the floor. Norman opens his eyes and lets out a gurgled cry.

Norman is being throttled by a heavy duty chain.

One end of the chain is fixed to an anchor embedded in the wall by the headboard and the other end is secured to a locked leg iron around Elena's ankle.

Elena stands on the foot of the bed and using all her weight leans back - keeping the chain taut for its entire length - but especially the loop she has managed get round Norman's neck.

Norman wets himself, stops struggling and goes limp.

Elena lets the chain go loose and searches Norman's pockets. She pulls out a bunch of keys.

But none of the keys fit the lock on her leg iron.

Then Elena sees the key in the padlock used to lock the room door. (The door opens inwards). The key is on a fob which has a second key - the key to her leg iron.

Elena rushes to the door but there is not enough chain for her to reach the key. She is short by a metre.

Elena looks around for something to use - goes back to Norman's body and removes his belt.

Elena tries to trap the padlock key with the belt buckle. She has two throws - almost hooking the key.

On her third go, she misses the padlock but hits the edge of the door - which then swings shut - leaving the leg-iron key on the other side of the now closed door.

Elena panics.

ELENA

Help! Somebody help! Help me!

EXT. COUNTRY COTTAGE - DAY

A long shot establishes how isolated the cottage is.

There is no one around to hear Elena's cries for help.