

**NO REGRETS by cindi myers**  
**excerpt**

Candace was waiting at a booth when Lexie rushed in. “Sorry I’m late,” she said. “We had a client and I had to wait for him to leave.”

“A client. Sounds like business is picking up.”

“Nick’s new in town.” She slid into the booth and helped herself to a fresh tortilla chip from the basket in the middle of the table. “Things will get better. Besides, when things are slow I can study.”

“How are the Spanish lessons coming?”

She shook her head. “Not so well. I don’t seem to have much of a knack for languages.”

“Hang in there. You’ll pick it up eventually.”

She nodded. “I will. I’m determined to speak the language by the time I go to Spain.”

“And when will that be?”

“This fall, maybe? I think I can have the money saved by then.”

“That’s amazing to me, considering the pittance this detective is paying you.”

“It’s not that bad. And I still have some insurance money left from the accident.”

The waitress came to take their orders, then the conversation resumed. “So wasn’t there something on that list of yours about men?” Candace asked. “Any luck in that department?”

Lexie nodded. “I’ve found the perfect candidate.”

Candace leaned toward her, expression eager. “Who?”

“My new boss, Nick Delaney.” She tried to keep the triumph out of her voice, but failed. The look on Candace’s face was worth all the pain of keeping her plans a secret until now.

“Are you crazy?” Candace said. “He’s your boss.”

“And he’s perfect.” She ticked off the reasons on one hand. “He’s recently divorced and definitely not interested in any kind of serious relationship right now. He’s hard-nosed and practical. And he’s gorgeous and sexy.”

“Do you think he’s interested?”

She smiled, remembering how Nick always watched her when he thought she wasn’t looking. “Oh, he’s interested.”

“Has he said anything?”

She shook her head. “And I don’t think he will. Which is why I’m going to proposition him.” She’d made the decision last night after realizing that in over a week on the job, Nick had been nothing but an absolute gentleman. She was pretty sure he wanted her, but just as sure the practical, sensible side of him she so admired didn’t intend to let him do anything about the attraction. If she was really

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“Friday after work, I think. That will give us the whole weekend to get to know each other.” She grinned. “We’ll be great together, I just know it.”

“Aren’t you forgetting one thing?”

“What’s that?”

“A lot can happen in six months. What if you fall for this guy?”

He stomach quivered, but she ignored it. “It won’t happen. Neither of us is interested in an emotional attachment right now.”

“All right then, what if he doesn’t go for it? That’s going to make continuing to work for him a little awkward, isn’t it?”

She dismissed this idea with a wave of her fork. “Why wouldn’t he go for it? Isn’t casual, non-committed sex on a regular basis with an attractive woman every man’s fantasy?”

“He could still say no. Men do, for whatever reason.”

She shook her head. “He won’t.” Sometimes when she looked at him she was struck by the sadness that seemed to weigh him down. “I think he’s really lonely.” She shrugged off the melancholy image of Nick and reached for another chip. “I think I’m just what Nick needs in his life right now.”

“Maybe. But you need to be careful.”

Familiar advice that she’d long ago grown tired of. “I’ve spent my whole life being careful and it taught me one thing.”

“What’s that?” Candace continued to look worried.

She smiled, and enjoyed the thrill that filled her at the thought of her own daring. “I’ve learned that caution is really overrated.”

After all, caution hadn’t saved her from almost dying in that car wreck. It hadn’t gotten her through rehab or into a new job. Playing it safe wasn’t going to get her Nick Delaney either. For that she’d have to tell caution to take a hike while she mustered up all the daring she could manage. But she had no doubt a hot guy like Nick would be worth taking a few chances for.