

Chapter 1

Sex, Lies & Other Unresolved Issues

“Our magnetic attraction is based largely upon how we value and treat ourselves, not just on how we value and treat others...without a genuine valuing of self, it’s virtually impossible to value others or be valued by them.”¹

*Sandra Anne Taylor~
Secrets of Attraction*

“You Bastard!”

Forgiveness would have been the furthest thing from mind! “You bastard!” I remembered thinking as he rolled off my body after being totally sexually satisfied. "You're breaking up with me!? What did I ever do to deserve this? I'm a great catch! I'm pretty! I'm tall; I used to be a Las Vegas showgirl!" I was extremely angry as these thoughts scrambled through my head, but, what did I say instead? "Oh gee, I understand. That's OK. We can still be friends."

How pathetic! What's worse is that I can actually remember going back to my house to get this guy's Christmas present – a hand-made collage for his kitchen. He had mentioned how much he liked my artwork, so I made this especially for him. I drove home, got it, then drove back and gave it to him, ribbons and all!!! Oh my God! Could I have been any more of a loser? Unbelievable! I can't imagine what I was thinking.

When I was young, I was so gullible and intimidated. I grasped and hung on tight to any guy who would give me attention. I settled for such inferior treatment. I stood up to so many other things like unfairness or inequality, but when it came to picking men, I just settled for what I thought was available. I rationalized that most guys were arrogant and deceitful, and that it was better to settle for something than to end up with nothing.

I knew I could attract all kinds of men. That was never my problem. But thinking that I deserved better, well, that belief had not yet occurred to me. I never realized I could make that choice.

Now, years later, if you told me to go back to this moment and forgive this guy, I would have said, "No way! He did not deserve to be forgiven. He was cruel, cold and deliberate. He could have broken up with me over the phone. He was mean and he knew that this would really upset me."

I would have assumed that this was somehow my fault, probably because I was too nice. Ordinarily, I would have thought it was my mistake for being so vulnerable. I knew he was a professional ball player, and could have any girl he wanted, but I stayed with him anyway.

And so forgive? That would be crazy! Instead, what I would have really had wanted to do was to face him and say, "%\$# off!!"

Looking back, I never did get that chance to vent my rage; however I do remember that I knocked on his door a few more times in the following weeks. Again, pathetic.