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Shane: “Hello, Stessnie! You ... ready...to go home now?”



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Stephanie: “Oh! Shane! The kid down the street! How could I forget?”
(pulling him closer and whispering) “It’s a game Shane. If you want to play, don’t say anything. Just go behind the school and wait for me.” (pushing him away) Well, I guess I’ll see you around the neighborhood. Goodbye.”

Shane: “A game? Oh I LOVE games. O.K. I will play it good. Bye my pwincess Stessnie!”

Stephanie’s new friends were now doubled over in laughter.

Stephanie: “Princess? I don’t know you that well. Go away and swoon over somebody else. Go on! Get lost!”

From that day on, Stephanie and Shane Cassick were to be neighbors, never brother and sister at school. Stephanie somehow convinced Shane daily that she was not serious at school – just playing around. Thus, day by day, year by year the deception continued. And by the time Stephanie was a junior in high school.....she could not stand to look at Shane. He reminded her of the lie she was living.

Stephanie rolled her eyes in disgust as she saw the fourteen-year-old Shane stumbling his way down the school steps. He looked up with a jerk that was only half controlled, trying to find his adored sister. As soon as she was in view, a big smile flashed across his face. He moved his gnarled legs with great concentration and tried to run toward her, but he tripped and fell. Stephanie quickly excused herself from her friends, and glided behind the large oak tree that shaded the parking lot. She watched as Shane spotted her car, meandered over to it and got in!! She had to grip the bark of the tree she was concealed behind to keep from screaming out in anger.

Friend: “Hey! Look at the retard in Steph’s car! Where’d she go anyway?”
Once more, her tongue was quick with a lie.

Stephanie: “Isn’t this awful? His parents are out of town for the day, and since we’re neighbors, I was asked to drive him home. I almost turned them down, but my heart is just too big, ya know? Of course, I’m being paid to do it. Yeah! Forty bucks!I’d better go. I don’t want him to drool in my car!”

Stephanie spun out of the parking lot as fast as she could. Shane held up a piece of paper.

Shane: “Stessnie,.....I.....

Stephanie: “Just be quiet Shane. I thought I told you never to come in front of the school to meet me! If any of my friends saw us together, or thought that we were related, they’d laugh me to scorn!”

Shane: “Oh, you mean the game? I didn’t play it good?”

Stephanie: “How can you be so stupid? It was never a game, Shane! I can’t stand you! You’re so ugly, and twisted, and.....I wish I never had a brother!!”

Shane: “.....I’m.....I’m sorry, Stessnie. -----Ijust wanted to give you my pwesent. -----I drew it myself.”

Stephanie looked down to see the most beautiful picture of a little girl wearing a diamond crown, and holding some perfectly defined wild daisies. A tear welled up in her eye and she read the shaky signature.

Stephanie: “To my beautiful, princess Stephanie. ---- I.....love.....”

The terrifying sound of screeching brakes and the blast of an air horn caused Stephanie to quickly turn her head, just in time to see the tractor-trailer. Then crashing, shattering glass, grinding steel, screeching metal! The car ran off an embankment and slammed into a tree. ----Silence penetrated the air.

Stephanie: “Oh my head! I can’t move. What.... I can’t see! It’s so dark! (smells fire) Fire! Fire! I gotta get out! Oh, my leg! I can’t move!Shane.Shane!! -----Shane help me!!”

Thrown clear from the car, Shane lay in a motionless heap on the wet grass. At the sound of Stephanie’s cries for help, his twisted limbs began moving, almost involuntarily toward the object of his love. He was doubled over in indescribable pain.

Shane: (coughing and in pain) “I’m coming, Stessnie. I’m coming. ---
Where are you Stessnie?”

Stephanie: “Shane I’m blind! I can’t see! Get me out of the car, and away from
the fire!”

Shane: “It’s o.k. Pwincess. Shane is here. I will get you out. Just hold on to
me. Hold on. Hold on.”

With a super-human strength born of love, Shane pulled his bleeding
sister from the blazing car. Twenty feet away from the car he collapsed in
unconsciousness, falling on top of her, just as the car exploded!

But his beautiful Stephanie was safe; protected from the explosion by
Shane’s body.

Holding her daisies, Stephanie stood near the coffin, silently, sightlessly
waiting to say the words Shane had longed to hear.

Stephanie: (reaching to feel the coffin) “Shane? ----They tell me you’re here.
But I can’t see you. I can’t hear your voice. OH! I’m sorry I was
ashamed of someone as wonderful as you. You showed me true love.
But until now, I wastoo....blind.....to see it. Though I never said it
before,.....I love you. --- I do love you! ----with all my heart! I do love
you, my Prince Shane, ---now ---- and forever! (placing the flowers
on the coffin)-----Goodbye.”

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