

## Alice CB 1

### Start

ALICE: Don't lie to me. I've felt how you put your arms around me. Running them down my back. Feeling with your hands. Trying to see how much fatter I am.

HENRY: What?

ALICE: I know why we hardly make love anymore.

HENRY: Alice...you are so wrong here.

ALICE: You can't stand to touch me.

HENRY: Alice come—

ALICE: Well, I'll tell you something Mr. Henry Lane, you are not a perfect specimen. Your waist is thicker than your chest. You are not and never have been 6' 3''. And have you checked your hairline recently? If you are going to judge me by appearance you should have a look in the mirror first.

HENRY: I don't have to sit here and listen to this.

ALICE: Why is it that a man can let himself go and still expect his wife to be attractive, and *thin*, and still be attracted to him?

HENRY: I don't want you to be thin.

ALICE: So you think I'm fat.

HENRY: I didn't say that. I said I don't want you to be thin.

ALICE: So you want me to be fat?

HENRY: No, no, no. You see that is where you are making a ridiculous leap Alice.

ALICE: Thin or fat? What leap Henry?

HENRY: It isn't either or.

ALICE: Just answer my question. What would you rather I be, thin or fat? And don't lie.

HENRY: You. I'd rather you be you.

ALICE: What does that mean?

HENRY: It means the way you are is fine with me.

ALICE: Fat.

HENRY: Alice. This is a no-win conversation.

ALICE: You just don't understand. You're lucky. You're a man. It's different for you. You get older and wiser and even more attractive in some ways. I get older.

HENRY: You don't really believe that.

ALICE: Look at it out there, Henry. The movies. The magazines. The men are diverse. Old. Different. The women are all 22 or trying to look it! James Bond gets older, but his girlfriends never do!

HENRY: Lots of actresses are in their fifties.

ALICE: But only the gorgeous actresses ever have sex. And even they need a face full of Botox to have it! Otherwise they get to play grandmothers or cancer patients. Where is the vital, passionate, sexy fifty-year old who looks like me?

HENRY: They're actresses Alice. In movies.

ALICE: Well, what about your fantasy. The girl on the beach. Why does she have to be a girl?

HENRY: Because she was a girl.

ALICE: The truth is women my age become invisible unless you're trying to sell us liposuction or life insurance. Then we're everywhere.

HENRY: Comparing your life to the movies, just doesn't make sense. That's fantasy.

ALICE: Well maybe I want a little fantasy in my life. Maybe going to the movies every other week isn't enough. Maybe I need a little sweep me off my feet romance once in a while. A little surprise.

HENRY: (*hesitant*) Is this going to be about flowers? Because I thought we'd covered that.

ALICE: It's not about flowers. It's about feeling alive.

HENRY: Well, of course you're alive.

ALICE: I don't feel that way sometimes.

**Stop**

*HENRY sits down on the bed beside her. He reaches over and pinches her leg.*

ALICE: Ow!

HENRY: Alive.

ALICE: You don't understand.

HENRY: I guess not.

ALICE: The other day Henry I went back to the gym.

HENRY: Universal Fitness?

ALICE: Fitness Universe.