

## VICKY – VICTORIA

It was Feb 2, both Groundhogs Day and Vicky's Birthday. She decided to work instead of staying home alone again - naturally, and feeling sorry for herself. She turned 40 today. She thought for sure she would have made it by now. She thought she would have grown into her name Victoria instead of feeling like the same plain old Vicky. She thought she'd feel sophisticated, associate with sophisticated people, live in a sophisticated neighborhood with a sophisticated husband and three sophisticated children. Instead she worked at the same old dead end job, lived in the same old shabby apartment, had no real friends and absolutely no prospects of a boyfriend!

Vicky rode the creaky elevator up to her 3rd floor office. Once there she collected her mail from the mailroom and schlepped down the hall to her cubicle. She plopped down in her worn office chair, then with a sigh flipped through the same mundane letters and memo's before noticing something - a shiny red - foil envelope.

Interesting she thought, perhaps someone remembered her birthday after all! But who? The outside of the envelope was blank. She slowly loosened the flap. With the way her life had been going lately she half expected it to blow up in her hands! She gingerly pulled the card out . It read "You mesmerize me with your beauty. Your short platinum blonde hair glistens like diamonds. I've fallen for you from across the office floor. Meet me for coffee on Valentine's Day, after work across the street at Della's. With Affection , Your Secret Admirer.

Oh Sweet Lord she thought to herself, What a major slap in the face! Could this day get more depressing? Clearly the card was not intended for her! How could she be so

sure? For one thing Vicky's hair was dark brown, and shoulder length! The only one in the office with short platinum hair was Chrissy from processing. Oh sure, she wasn't surprised. Chrissy was gorgeous. Vicky suddenly felt extremely drab and dowdy.

After lunch Vicky decided to take a walk over to the Processing Department and have a look around. She was curious to see who Chrissy's admirer could be, and also give her the card. He said he admired her from across the office floor so it had to be an office with a clear view of Chrissy's desk.

Vicky gathered a few papers in her arms and made her way to the processing department. She ran into Tina who was busy at the copier, "what brings you over to these parts Vicky? " " Oh just dropping off some paperwork" Vicky fibbed. " well it's good to see you" Tina said with a smile. Vicky smiled and continued down the hall to processing.

She saw Chrissy almost at once, and her secret admirer was right Chrissy was gorgeous! Her hair did shine like diamonds. Chrissy looked up and smiled. " Hey Vicky " she said. " Hi Chrissy" Vicky replied, " I thought I'd say hello before heading back over to Subrogation. So how's life? "Dating anyone, Vicky inquired?" "Yes", Chrissy said

"I am. It's getting pretty serious too. I wouldn't be surprised if if I got engaged on Valentine's Day." "Oh that's wonderful", Vicky said with a genuine smile. "Well I'd better get back" Vicky said suddenly deciding to keep the card to herself. " Be sure to let me know what happens" Oh I will" Chrissy grinned, I'll be so excited I won't be able to keep it quiet!"

Vicky turned to go and slowly paroused the offices in direct view from Chrissy's desk. There was Dan but he was married, Brody was gay so he was out. Oh so it's probably Steve, Vicky surmized. He's the only one left that it could be because Ben, the remaining male within view of Chrissy's desk was almost 70 and married as well!

Vicky thought about the card and Steve a lot over the next few days. She found several excuses to visit the Processing Department in order to observe him. He was a very handsome man.

Vicky decided to take Valentines Day off. She had a lot to do. At ten o'clock sharp she walked into The Technicolor Salon. "Hello she said to the stylist, I'm Victoria. Cut it short and bleach it Platinum Blonde! " Hot date" the stylist inquired? "No, she responded, I'm just going out for coffee."