

Main Focus: JOY, PAUL

(Lights up on Joy, writing on her laptop)

JOY- "Diane locked eyes with Ronaldo over a cup of hot cocoa. She imagined those lips, so full and red, like ripe tomatoes, pressing hers. It was cold out, but in his eyes she felt his intoxicating Latin fire, like a tsunami of Mediterranean sea musk. She couldn't wait to get back to his sheep farm."

(Paul enters, with luggage)

PAUL- How's the writing going?

JOY- Fantastic! I stayed up all night and I'm almost done! And I have to say, you were the inspiration for my romantic hero.

PAUL- *(reads laptop)* "His rock-hard abs rippled as he tore his flimsy shirt from his body. Diane gasped as she gazed upon his gleaming, smooth pectoral muscles like glistening hills of man flesh."

JOY- I made some improvements in you.

PAUL- Well I'm glad I could help. *(Starts to leave)*

JOY- Where are you going? I thought we could spend the day ice skating, snowball fighting, cookie decorating, present shopping and top it off with a sleigh ride?

PAUL- I have to head back to New York early.

JOY- What?!

PAUL- An emergency has come up with my book.

JOY- The day before Christmas?!

PAUL- Don't ask it to make sense, baby. I have to go. *(heads to the door)*

JOY- You're just running away, Paul! I know it. You're putting up all these walls around your heart- I know, because that's what I used to do before I met you. Well I'm not giving up! I'm planting dynamite around those walls and I'm going to knock them down.

PAUL- You can't! My walls are steel-reinforced for just such an attempt.

JOY- I also have a diamond-bit laser that will cut through those walls-

PAUL- My walls are reflective so your laser bounces off-

JOY- I will climb over-

PAUL- THEY ARE SUPER HIGH!

JOY- I'M A GOOD CLIMBER!

PAUL- THERE ARE SPIKES ON TOP! I can't do this! I have to go!

JOY- Don't you want the romance in your life to be as good as the romance in your books?

(Paul runs off)

(Joy looks at her laptop)

Now I'm blocked again!