

## **Betrayal Served Cold By Eva Tremaine**

Angela sat crunched in the corner of the master bedroom's bathroom crying hysterically. *This can't be happening again, not again.* The false hope. The disappointment. She could not continue to deal with this. She had not shared the news with Gregory yet. The disappointment on his face the last time was unbearable. The way his eyes had accused her of being a failure, she promised herself that she would never do that again. She had both the music and shower on full blast with the door locked so she could cry in peace. She had been trying for almost two years. They had promised themselves that this would be their last attempt and she had failed again. She didn't know how she was going to bring herself to tell Gregory he would never be a father.

Angela had sworn off adoption and using a surrogate, despite Gregory's objections. He had hesitantly agreed but prayed she would change her mind. However Angela's mind was made up. No pregnancy meant no children for them, ever. She whispered the word ever again and the flood of tears started all over again.

Gregory knocked on the door to alert her that he was leaving for work, unaware of the turmoil occurring on the other side of the door. She didn't answer and she prayed he would just go away and leave her to mourn in peace. She could not face him now. He knew Angela could be moody as she was dealing with a lot, heck they were both dealing with a lot.

"Baby, have a great day and I will be home early. I love you."

Gregory was on top of the world at the possibility that he was finally going to be a father.

Once Angela was sure Gregory was gone, she exited the bathroom, holding herself shaking with pain. Flopping down on their California king

size bed, she cursed God for this torture, questioning what she had done to deserve this. Despite what Dr. Steiner had said, she and Gregory had talked and decided to try one last time. They waited a few weeks for her body to heal and then they attempted baby making the old fashioned way. She had missed her period. She thought she felt morning sickness. She thought she was finally pregnant. She went as far to tell Gregory she thought she was pregnant and would confirm today. He wanted to stay home and be with her but she convinced him to go to work. She would take the pregnancy test and confirm that they were going to be parents. Then it happened, the negative sign on the pregnancy test shattered their dream. She took two more pregnancy tests in hopes the result would change, it didn't. What a cruel joke someone had played on her.

Reaching for her cell she dialed Eric knowing he would answer, he always did no matter what he was doing.

"Eric," Angela cried.

"Angie, what's wrong baby girl?"

"This can't be happening again. I can't do this anymore."

Eric didn't say a word but just listened, afraid to hear what he already knew. Tears began to form in his eyes as he waited for Angela to continue.

"I'm not pregnant Eric," Angela screamed. "This is so fucked up. Why me? Why me?"

"I'm sorry baby girl. Do you need me to come over?" He didn't know what to say to Angela to console her. They had already had this conversation too many times in the past.

"No," Angela responded wiping tears and snout from her face. She was a hot mess and she didn't care. She felt like her entire world was crumbling around her. "I just need to face that I won't ever be a mother.

I'm a failure. Some women are having children like it's going out of style and I can't manage to have even one."

"Stop it Angie! I won't allow you to sit here and beat yourself up over something you have no control over. You have done everything you can and followed all the directions of the doctors. It's not your fault baby girl."

Angela just sat in silence so Eric continued, "Have you spoken to Gregory?"

"No, I can't bring myself to tell him."

"I know you feel like the world is coming to an end but it is not the end. This is just one lost battle but the war is not over. You have to keep on fighting baby but you also have to talk to Gregory as soon as possible."

"I can't Eric. I just want to get away for a few days and I will talk to him when I get back."

"Angie, you can't run from this. If you need a few days to unwind I got you. We can drive up to the timeshare and just chill but first you have to put on your big girl panties and talk to Gregory."

"Can't it wait until we get back?"

"Angie, handle your business and get it over with. Call me once you have spoken to Gregory and I will start packing. Love you baby girl. Call me if you need to talk, no matter the time."

"Love you too," Angela said hanging up the phone and dreading the conversation she would have to have with Gregory.