

“This is private enough,” he said shortly. “Why are you leaving?”
 “I signed a contract to work with you for one year. It’s almost up, anyway,” she said icily. “I want out. I want to go home.”
 “You don’t have anyone left in Austin,” he said, surprising her.
 “I have friends,” she began.
 “You don’t have those, either. You don’t have friends at all, unless you count Drew Morris,” he said flatly. (Palmer 15)

Coltraine tried to make Louise stay despite his act that looked hateful towards her. Louise argued that from the beginning she already felt that Coltraine never wanted her in the practice. She also told her that she became sure about it when she over heard Coltraine's conversation with Drew Morris. Louise's explanation surprised him. It can be seen in the quotation below:

The conversation above tells Coltrain's recall on what he was saying to Drew Morris. He was remorse fully what he said about Louise. He did not think that Louise attitude which always looked strong in front of him was just like a mask. Coltrain realized that he had been troubling Louise self esteem and hurt her. Coltrain was feeling really regret, but Louise ignored what he said and saying:

Louise seriously. Nickie already understood how his attitude towards the woman.

Everyone in the hospital thought that Coltrain hated Louise. It already become the common gossip in the hospital.

3.1.2 Coltrain's character care with Louise's

However, Coltrain's anger and jealousy stopped when he found out that Louise missed the work because she was sick:

He got his medical bag and went back into the bedroom. She was pale and she had a fever. He turned off the electronic thermometer and checked her lungs. Clear, thank God.

Her pulse was a little fast, but she seemed healthy enough. “A virus,” he pronounced.

He helped her up, noticing the frailty of her body. She didn't seem that thin in her clothing, but she was wearing silky pajamas that didn't conceal the slender lines of her body. He supported her to the door, and watched the door close behind her.

Minutes later, she opened the door again and let him help her back into bed.

He watched her for a minute and then, with resolution, he picked up the telephone. He punched in a number. “This is Dr. Coltraine. Send an ambulance out to Dr. Blakely’s home, 23 Brazos Lane. That’s right. Yes. Thank you.” (Palmer 23)

From the quotation above, it shows that Coltrane's attitude now is very different. He very cares with Louise. When Louise is sick, he is very afraid with her condition. He takes care and checks her condition. Although it might because he is a doctor that Coltrane feels the need to take care of her, Coltrane actually starts to feel sympathy towards Louise. He wanted to know the reason of her left hand got broken. He also started to let Louise know about himself:

He chuckled softly. “You don’t like me, do you?” he asked through pursed lips. “I’ve never given you any reason to. I’ve been alternately hostile and sarcastic since the day you came here.” (Palmer 24)

Louise was very gentle woman. She did not want her heart broken because of man. Louise has been traumatized by Coltrain attitude. Although now Coltrain attitude was changed:

Lou didn't want to be anybody's second-best girl. Besides, she never wanted to marry. It had been better when Coltrain treated her like the enemy. She wished he'd go back to his former behavior and stop looking at her mouth that way. She still tingled remembering the heat in his blue eyes. A man like that would be just plain hell to be loved by. He would be addictive. She had no taste for addictions and she knew already that Coltrain would break her heart if she let him. No, it was better that she leave. Then she wouldn't have the anguish of a hopeless relationship. (Palmer 29)

Quotation above explains that Louise did not want to be a spare lover. She was traumatized by Coltrane's attitude who always treated her arbitrarily. Now Coltrane began to change his habit. He began to care for Louise. However, Louise did not want to be hurt a second time. It is better if Coltrane treat her as an enemy. It shows that Louise is very weak in the relationship of love. She did not want to suffer from a hopeless love.

When Coltrain forced to pick up Louise to attend Christmas celebrations, Louise refused, she did not want to hurt other girl who loves Coltrain. Moreover, she knows they are going out:

“I know. I’m not going.”
 “I’ll pick you up in an hour,” he said, refusing to listen when she tried to protest. “I know you still tire easily after the virus. We won’t stay long.”
 “What about Nickie?” she asked irritably. “Won’t she mind if you take your partner to a social event?” . . .
 “Yes, I do,” he returned curtly. “We both belong to the hospital staff, and nothing will start gossip quicker than having one of us stay away from an annual event. I do not plan to have any gossip going around here at my expense. I had enough of that in the past, thanks to your philandering father!”
 She gripped her coat, furious at him. “You just got through saying that you didn’t blame me for what he did.” (Palmer 29-30)

“Nickie,” he said, confirming her worst nightmare. “She was watching, apparently, and she’s sweet on Copper. I guess she thought it might turn him off you if there was a lot of gossip about what happened. Rumors fly, especially when they’re about two doctors who seem to hate each other.”.

The quotation above tells when Louise is looking for Nickie to discuss the rumors that have been known even became the talk of Jacobsville hospital. Louise confront Nickie calmly and without showing the face of emotion. She even advised Nickie that she would never try anything that “subject him to the embarrassment you have with all this gossip if you really cared.” (36) The statement showed that Louise was not easy to hurt the other person, even if that person has hurt her. She is able to patience herself.

The next day, when Louise entered the office and face the raging patient, Coltrain standing at the door with an angry face. Louise guessed that he had heard rumors about them that are scattered in the hospital. As usual of Coltrain cold

The next morning was Monday, and Lou went into the office to come face-to-face with a furious partner, who blocked her doorway and glared at her with blue eyes like arctic ice.

“You don’t know?” he taunted.

His eyebrow jerked, but the ice didn't leave his eyes. "Did you start it?" . .

He glared at her and she glared back.

“That’s it, announce it to everyone in the waiting room, why don’t you, and see how many patients run for their cars!” she raged.

“That’s more like it,” she replied. “Don’t accuse until you ask. I didn’t start it. I have no wish to become the subject of gossip.” (Palmer 37-38)

Louise did not like to show her feelings. “She hate having him know how much she wanted him”(39). Louise the one that is not easy to talk about happy or sad feeling. It shows that Louise is very taciturn. Coltrane himself also admitted that Louise did not like to show her feelings “I’ve noticed that,” he returned. “You

Coltrain realized that Louise is an asset in Jacobsville hospital. From the first time she worked, Coltrain as the head of the hospital staff, gave her very hard work. But the more he demand, the more Louise gave:

“You made that perfectly clear.”

From the quotation above Louise never complained, despite the overtime work and hard work, not considering any heavy load that is given to her. Until Coltrane himself realized how lucky he is to have a tough partner, never complain and always concede in handling the job. Since the childhood, Louise has been taught not to always complain and still struggle not to despair. That is always remembered in Louise mind.

Louise did not have feelings for revenge to Jane, even though she was hurt by her. Instead, she defends Jane when her husband, named Todd Burke, was angry because he saw his wife with Coltrane which is her former lover:

Lou studied his glittery eyes for a moment, oblivious to the other two occupants of the cubicle. It was amazing how quickly things fell into place in her mind, and at once. She leaned against the examination couch. “Dr. Coltrain is the most decent man I know,” she told Todd Burke. “He isn’t the sort to do things in an under-handed way, and he doesn’t sneak around. If you trusted your wife, Mr. Burke, you wouldn’t listen to old gossip or invented tales. Small towns are hotbeds of rumor, that’s normal. But only an idiot believes everything he hears.” Coltrain’s eyebrows had arched at the unexpected defense. “Thanks, Lou,” Jane said quietly. “That’s more than I deserve from you, but thank you.” (palmer 69)

From the quotation above Louise is very kind, she defended and tried to explain everything to Todd Burke. Coltrain was very surprised to hear the defense of the unexpected done by Louise. She did not have a mind for revenge on Jane.

3.2.3 Louise's character accepting Coltrain proposal

After Louise heard Coltrain's explanation about their past relationship, she became realize that Coltrain was never interested to marry Jane. She also became sure that Coltrain tells the truth of her being the only woman who can captivate him. Therefore Louise admitted that she was also falling love with him:

“I never dreamed that it was like that for you, with her,” she said, dazed. “I mean, you and I...!”

“Yes, indeed, you and I,” he agreed, nodding. “I touch you and it’s like a shot of lightning in my veins. I get drunk on you.”

“So do I, on you,” she confessed. “But there’s a difference, isn’t there? I mean, you just want me.”

“Do I?” he asked gently. “Do I really just want you? Could lust be as tender as this? Could simple desire explain the way we are together?”

“I love you,” she said slowly.

Louise, he did not like her father. Because, he was destroying his life. The woman whom Coltrain wanted to marry was pregnant because of him, secretly she had an abortion and would remain married Coltrain.

3.3.2 Conflict between Coltain's and Louise's

The conflict between Coltrain and Louise happens along their character development. At the beginning of the story, both Coltrain and Louise are being enemy to each other. The cold personality of Coltrain always makes him in clash with Louise who has hard-headed personality. It can be seen from the following quotation :

He spared her a cold glance. "You look unprofessional," he said curtly. "At least have the grace to dress decently if you're going to cruise around with the ambulance service."

She stopped and looked up at him without expression. "I wasn't cruising anywhere. I don't have a boat, so how could I cruise?"

He just looked at her. "They don't need any new EMTs..."

"You shut up!" she snapped, surprising him speechless. "Now you listen to me for a change, and don't interrupt!" she added, holding up her hand when his thin lips parted. "There was an accident in town. I was in the café, so I gave assistance. I don't need to hang out with the ambulance crew for kicks, Doctor! And how I dress on my days off is none of your—"

she almost turned blue biting back the curse "*—business, Doctor!*"

(Palmer 9)

Louise's attitude was never reputed by Coltrain. He always mocked and blamed what Louise had done. Louise was usually just quiet because every time she wanted to open her mouth to respond to Coltrain's talk, he had already moved away and Louise was often talking to herself.

But this time was different. She snapped at Coltrain and responded to what he said. They are being the enemy. Others people also say that Coltrain and

Coltrain answer with grudgingly intonation and make Lou out.

Denouement : finally, in the end he choose to propose Louise and she accepted his propose.

