

Bitched!

By Sheila Creek

## Chapter 1: Intersection

Lady Naranja sat in a café with her buttered bagel and O.J. She listened in to a conversation at a table nearby. As a high school sophomore, she was quite curious about the adult world around her. She was fascinated by Brad Yayger's complaints to both Karen Dorchester and Elvira Wilshire about his Canine Lady and her two children. Apparently, he discovered her racist tendencies way too late. Twenty-six years later, he would pick up on a racist sentiment in a salon of love.

Back in the Winter of '99, Brad retold a story of the Canine Lady getting her knickers in a twist when a Latina lady picked up one of her fraternal twin bambinos. Ms. Naranja keyed in to the story, realizing that she had been mistaken in assuming that Brad and Elvira were married and that Darla Wilshire was his daughter. Brad emphasized the fact that the Canine Lady never got her knickers in a bunch when a Euro-American picked up one of the kids.

Ms. Naranja was at an age when many of her female friends were going boy crazy with hormonal lust. Her mother gave her sage advice about curbing her own physical desires. This came to mind when Brad complained that his Canine partner was no longer interested in sex. He suspected she was feigning disinterest in a power play to break up with him on legally advantageous grounds. This was exactly the way some of the young ladies treated their guys before dumping them. Her heart went out to Brad as a victim of a mercenary madame.

When Carry Grant came into the café and barged into the discussion, Ms. Naranja paid close attention to the way Brad settled him down and got him more attentive to the ladies. This impressed her as a gallant move. It made him more sympathetic in her eyes.

About that time, mom expressed concern that the daughter seemed to be under the weather. She assured mom that she was just a bit distracted by school work and planning a new project in Civics class. This was an excellent ploy to get the space she needed to eaves drop on the nearby table.

The little girl caught her attention when she kept grabbing for Elvira's flip-phone. It brought her mind back to her own childhood when she fondled her mother's jewelry, much to her chagrin. It was a typical developmental phase that would pass soon enough. She was glad Elvira did not treat the little girl as cruelly as her own mother had at the same age.

Brad began to rib Carry about his garish ghetto Rolly-Polex watch when the ladies at the table started to head out. Carry reminded the teen of some of the homeless guys she had seen hanging around at a local bus stop. His shirt was rumpled, and his hair could use a good combing. She was a bit too young to know about the business world, so she was unaware that they were business colleagues on a sales mission.

Once Carry and Brad were on their own, they started to speak in a weird language that she had never heard before. It would be her first exposure to a peculiar dialect of Computer Geek. There was also some general Business Geek thrown in concerning Carry's sales quota that got her perplexed.

She thought back on how her own father spoke technical jargon with guys from work. It was a very different dialect because he was a military contractor. He sometimes brought a uniformed officer to the house for dinner. Her mom was happy to host a guy in uniform, especially when it greased the wheels of her husband's business. The teen connected the Geek jargon to a story about a guy named Mitty that she had read in freshman English class. It sounded like gibberish, but it also sounded very real. The adult world was full of alien speech and alien ideas. She was determined to enter it with gusto and verve. If others could do it, so could she. The café experience started her resolve to learn and grow. It was an attitude that would last her a lifetime.

When Greta Garbo strode into the café to confront Carry and Brad, she made a big impression on Ms. Naranja. Here was a woman of power and influence, and sexy to boot. At this point in the framework, it is a good time to reference the framework for "Dorchester Lady" ([bit.ly/silk4ma](http://bit.ly/silk4ma)). That is where the characters are introduced and their names explained. The rest of this framework will be more comprehensible after reading that one.

Brad further endeared himself to the teen by the way he shrugged off Greta's jibe about losers arriving early. It reminded her of her own experience with bullies at school who taunted her about being punctual and never cutting class. Greta seemed like a bully, but at the same time, she seemed to have some sincere affection for Brad. It was as if her ribbing was only in jest.

Shortly after Greta arrived, the three of them left the café to leave the teen with a hole and with questions. The hole was an emotional attachment she had begun to form with a guy way too old for her, but who made her wet. The questions mostly concerned what they were up to and what would become of his falling out with the Canine Lady. It would not be until a quarter century later that the answers would come. Better late than never.

Meanwhile, Brad sat in the backseat of Greta's taxi with Carry beside him as the dynamic trio headed for Ingelside and a date with a server farm. He thought about his pending shipwreck with the Canine Lady and hoped that good things would come from it, especially a better domestic partnership gig.