

A FAMILY AFFAIR

My sister had only been going out with Jonathan for a few months when they announced their engagement. As Linda gleefully flashed the ring under my nose, she told me that they had booked a hall for an engagement party that Saturday.

I was almost fit to burst when I arrived at college next day. My friend Vicky couldn't miss the huge beam on my face. "Does double maths appeal to you that much?"

Ignoring her usual sarcasm, I told her the news excitedly. "And you're invited."

"Of course I am, you plank, but who else will be there?" Vicky yawned, "I don't know but you could check with Linda." I sat back triumphantly, "Glen, of course."

Her mouth hung open after the yawn, "You lucky beggar. Are you going to try and get off with him?"

"What do you think?"

Glen went to a six-form college down the road from ours. He was tall and gorgeous with blond cropped hair and sexy blue eyes.

When it first came out that he was Jonathan's kid brother I was the envy of my fellow students, most of them female.

Now, at last, I had the chance I'd been dreaming about. I'd hardly slept all night thinking about what I wanted to happen. I could just imagine us wrapped in a steamy clinch.

"Are you listening to me?"

Vicky's voice cut through my thoughts and I looked at her dreamily,

"What?"

"I said what are you going to wear for the party?"

I grinned, "Something short, slinky and so tight, it'll give Glen trouble with his breathing"

We were still giggling like kids when we went into double-maths.

The day of the party didn't start off too well. The shop that sells the black Lycra micro-dress I wanted, sold out only minutes before I got there. I traipsed round town all day, unable to find anything remotely like it and ended up back home, empty-handed, at tea-time.

Her imminent engagement must have made Linda less obnoxious than usual because she actually gave me not only sympathy but a free choice from her substantial wardrobe. After a quick look, I went from the sublime to the ridiculous and picked a dress the complete opposite of my original intentions.

It was a deep, rich damson that floated and swirled round my ankles in layers of voile. Even Linda admitted that I looked elegant and feminine and not, as she so charmingly put it, like the tart I'd have looked in the black, Lycra micro-dress.

The hall was filling up by the time we arrived and I scanned it eagerly until I spotted Glen. Then my heart sank. He was standing with the most gorgeous girl I'd ever seen. She was tall and skinny with long black hair. To add insult to injury, she was wearing my black, Lycra micro-dress and looked absolutely stunning.

I hadn't planned for this.

When my parents walked off to an empty table I followed miserably and

sat down as they went off to meet Jonathan's parents. I found myself glowering at Glen and felt ashamed at my childish reaction. What was that about the best laid plans of mice and men?

My annoyance with myself increased. Why had I been so naive not to believe that someone like him would have some ravishing female in tow?

As I studied them, I suddenly realised that Glen was looking my way and smiling. My face began to burn as he left her and began to pick his way through the guests towards me.

I kept my gaze down as he reached the table and only looked up when he spoke.

"Hi! You're Linda's sister aren't you? Samantha?"

I felt weak at seeing him at close range for the first time. He was even more gorgeous and those blue eyes made me glad I was seated. I managed a sickly smile.

"I'm Glen, Jonathan's brother. Can I sit down for a minute?" I nodded, feeling tongue-tied.

"Looks like we're going to be family. " I nodded again.

Now that I had cancelled my carefully rehearsed game of seduction, I suddenly relaxed. We chatted for a while until the music started and he asked me to dance. As we walked onto the floor I spotted his girlfriend and realised he had forgotten about her. Casually, I said, "That's a beautiful dress she's wearing."

Glen glanced over and shrugged, "It's OK I guess."

"But she looks gorgeous."

"She looks tarty."

I stifled a grin, "Have you told her that?"

"What? I'd have been in traction now. Would you appreciate your brother telling you that?"

I blinked as his question sank in, "She's your sister?"

Glen nodded and looked down at me, "Now, you look gorgeous, if you don't mind me saying."

Did I mind. I looked into his eyes and smiled. They were giving out very strong signals.

I guess I knew then that this would be much more than just a family affair.