

LIVING IN PARADISE
BY
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This book is dedicated to my “Red Coconut” Family, especially giving thanks to the following for inspiring and encouraging me to write this book: Donna Cline, Mutzie Prasse and Barb Vasterling

CHAPTER 1

A STRANGER IN PARADISE

It was late afternoon when I arrived at my trailer in the “Red Coconut RV Park” on Fort Myers Beach, Florida. It was a warm winter day in mid January. My home is in Austin, Texas. I had some time off from work and thought I’d spend a couple of weeks on the island, I call Paradise, to relax and to have some time alone to think and work out some personal issues.

A few nights ago my fiance, Melissa, came to my apartment and told me she wasn’t sure she could marry me. When I asked her “why?”, she just said she needed some space and time to go over her feelings for me and to sort things out.

I know for a fact she was being manipulated by her parents to marry higher up, like a doctor or a lawyer. I’m a Texas Ranger and have been for the past ten years. Melissa is very devoted to her parents. That night she gave me back her engagement ring and told me to hang on to it till she came to a final decision. She said she would call me in a couple of weeks. That’s when I decided to come to my winter place in Florida.

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After I got settled in and unpacked, I took a walk on the beach and picked up some sea shells. It was low tide, so the waves brought in a good variety of shells. That's when I saw her, a young woman walking towards me, who was also picking up sea shells and analyzing each shell as if each one was a special gem.

She was looking down so intently, seeking sea shells, she almost stepped on my toes. When she looked up at me she was as startled as I was. She asked me if I found any good shells.

There was something striking about her. Her deep blue eyes looked right through me. Her long brown sleek hair fell to her small waist.

When she asked me my name I asked hers also. She hesitated, and then looked up at me and told me her name was Skye. I told her it was an unusual name, but that I liked it. She replied by saying she was born amongst the stars. I didn't ask her to explain.

Then, she told me she was visiting a friend for two weeks in the "Red Coconut RV Park." She asked me if I could show her around the RV Park. I said I would and we walked toward the Club house and looked inside. An exercise class was going on. She asked me what the women were doing and I told her they were doing Yoga. "What's that?" she asked. I tried explaining it to her, but she looked perplexed.

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She thanked me for the tour of the Park and asked me if we could meet again. I could tell she was lonely and so was I. There was going to be a Luau dinner dance in the club house that night. I had already paid for two tickets for Melissa and me. Since Melissa wouldn't be here, I figured, what the heck, I would ask Skye if she would like to go with me. She looked blankly at me and said, "Yes, I will go with you. You can teach me what a Luau is." I thought her answer was odd, and proceeded to ask her where her friend lived in the Park, so I could pick her up around 5:15 PM. The Luau started at 5:30 PM. That's when Skye said she would meet me at my trailer at that time and we would walk over together. I said, "fine," and told her where my site was. Then, we parted our ways.

...Earlier in the day, on the news, there was a UFO sighting. The news anchor said a large spaceship landed somewhere on Fort Myers beach. There were lots of lights on the UFO. One bystander told a news reporter she saw a figure, that looked like a person, emerge from the spaceship. Then, in a blink of an eye, the spaceship was gone. There were no other sightings of the mysterious figure.

...She walked aimlessly till she saw the beach. She needed to explore this world and bring back information to those beyond this planet. She had transformed herself into a human being and looked and acted like one. She could read minds, which would help her get by when communicating with Earthlings.

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5:15 PM sharp Skye showed up on John's doorstep. Skye was wearing a flowered Kaftan and wore a yellow hibiscus flower in her long dark tresses. She looked gorgeous.

John and Skye had a good time at the Luau, feeding each other pineapple slices and sipping wine. The dinner, which consisted of ribs, chicken, potatoes, beans, rolls, and a variety of fruit, was superb.

When John first asked Skye to dance she looked at him funny and stared at one of the ladies, who was having trouble dancing, and as if she read her mind, she turned to John and said, "I have two left feet." After John egged her on, she went out on the dance floor and stepped on his toes at first. Then, all of a sudden, she was swinging John around the floor and was laughing and just having the time of her life.

After the Luau was over John asked Skye again where her friend lived, so he could take her to her friend's trailer. She backed away and said she could walk back alone and asked John if she could see him tomorrow.

Skye wanted to walk the Matanza trails. She said she would meet John at 10 AM in back of the "Red Coconut" where the dumpster was, where there was an opening leading to the trails. So, they met the following day and Skye peppered John with a lot of questions. He almost felt like she was reading his mind at times. Sometimes she finished his sentences.

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Later, they rented bicycles and biked the whole seven mile island. They ate a seafood lunch at the “Gulfshore Grill” restaurant that overlooked the ocean. John reached across the table for Skye’s hand. John was mesmerized by the way Skye looked at him or through him. It was almost like he was being hypnotized.

John wanted to know more about Skye and where she came from. Every time he tried asking her questions she was evasive or re-directed the questions back to him.

Later that evening John asked Skye to go to dinner and a movie at the Beach Theater on the island.. The number one movie playing was “The Bucket List.” The theme was if it were your last day on Earth what would be on your personal list of things you would want to do before you die? For example, would you go scuba diving or sky diving? Skye smiled to herself and mumbled under her breath, *‘my last day on Earth...’* She told John she would love to go see the movie.

The rest of the week John and Skye played shuffleboard near the club house and cards inside the club house. One day there was a wedding on the beach and John briefly thought of Melissa and visualized her in a flowing white wedding dress walking barefoot in the sand to where the altar was surrounded by tikis. Skye brought him back to the present when she asked John if they were still going to the 60th Wedding Anniversary celebration in the

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clubhouse later that weekend. She told John she liked going to parties, because she never went to any before meeting him.

John told her they were still going. He thought it was odd that Skye never attended a party before. But, then again, she was very different from any other girl he ever dated and at times she was almost strange. That was probably what attracted him, her unusual and out of the ordinary personality.

The following week John and Skye spent a lot of time on the beach, suntanning, picking up shells, parasailing and taking long walks on the sand. John thought Skye had such a perfect body, maybe too perfect. John didn't know if he was falling for Skye or feeling sorry for himself.

The last day of the week Skye was acting indifferent towards John. She wouldn't hold his hand or look at him when they were walking. They had their first kiss the night before and when their eyes had met, John had questioned his feelings for Skye. Everything was happening so fast.

Skye started to cry and her tears were like pearl drops going down her cheeks. She told John she now knew the true meaning of love, but that she had to leave. She told him the truth, that she was an alien from another planet and had come to Earth on a spaceship. She was on a mission to find out how humans acted and what they were like.

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She told John she was not human and that she had to return to her spaceship that night. John, stunned, followed her out into an open field. The large spaceship was waiting for her. He felt like he was in a trance. None of this could really be happening. He begged Skye not to go. She told him he could go with her, but if he did, he would not return to Earth.

Some force was driving John backwards. As he stepped back he waved goodbye to Skye. Bewildered, John returned to his trailer where he had an unexpected visitor. Melissa was waiting for him. She was sitting inside her rental car.

John opened her car door and asked, “What are you doing here?” She replied, “Instead of calling you I decided to come to the island and surprise you.”

John replied, “That you did.”

Melissa continued, “I had a lot of time to think these past two weeks and I realized what a fool I’ve been. I’ve let my parents dictate and control my life for too long. I could have lost you. Oh, John, I love you and if you will take me back I would like my engagement ring back on my left hand.”

With that, John embraced Melissa and told her, “I love you too, Melissa. I’ve also had time to think, while being apart, and realize how much you mean to me. It’s you I want to spend the rest of my life with.”

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They kissed and made up and then went inside John's trailer. The first thing John did was place the engagement ring back on Melissa's finger.

When Melissa asked John how his two week vacation was, he responded with, "It was an out of this world experience. Some day I'll explain all of it to you, but right now, I want to kiss those luscious lips of yours."

They made plans for their Spring wedding. When their first baby was born, a year later, it was a baby girl. John asked Melissa if they could name the girl Skye. When Melissa asked John how he came to choose that name, he told her how their daughter's eyes were as blue as the sky.

Melissa held John's hand and looked up at him adoringly and said, "How appropriate to give our baby girl the name Skye, since she was born amongst the stars. I'll never forget that night, when I couldn't make it to the delivery room in time, and when we had to stop the car and you helped deliver our first child.

At that moment in time, far away in the Universe, lights were flashing in the sky and a figure was smiling and approving the new Earthling that was just born.

Chapter 2

RETURN TO PARADISE

Coming to “Red Coconut RV Park” in Fort Myers Beach, every winter, is one of our favorite things to do. It has been ten years since I married Melissa. Our daughter, Skye, is now nine years old. We love our family community here and have made many friends over the years.

We arrived early in December, this year. Skye is home schooled. The Park is beautifully lit up and decorated with Holiday lights. “Red Coconut,” as a business on the Beach, over the years, has won several awards for its Christmas decorations and lights.

Melissa and I joined the Shuffleboard team and were walking over to the Club house to practice for the Shuffleboard tournament, when we saw a new sculpture made from a log. The sculpture was a turtle and a baby turtle sitting on its back. One of the Park residents makes wood carvings for the owner of the Park. The sculptures are scattered throughout the Park and give the Park a special trademark. Walking around the Park you will see

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many other sculptures. There are bears, alligators, snakes, porpoises and much more.

Skye was going to the beach and we would meet up with her later for dinner. When 5 PM came around and Skye was no where in sight, Melissa and I decided to walk over to the beach across the street. Our trailer is on the Park side of “Red Coconut.”

There was something in the air, like a chill that went right through me, when I saw the other Skye again. She looked the same with her long brown hair. My jaw dropped when I saw her talking to my daughter. I was too far away from them to hear their conversation. I tensed up and didn’t know what to think or feel at that moment. All I knew was that *She* had returned to Paradise.

You see, I never could tell my wife about meeting Skye, the Alien, because I didn’t want to hurt Melissa’s feelings, or for her to have lost her faith or trust in me. The two weeks Melissa and I had been apart during our brief pre-marital break-up I feel guilty for having met someone else and dated her.

So, now, I have this dilemma and don’t know how to resolve it. As Melissa and I walk towards the two Skyes, I say “Hi” to my daughter. I look at the other Skye, as if I don’t know her, not wanting to let on we already have met. From the way Skye, the Alien, looks at me, she understands my wife doesn’t

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know about her. I sigh with relief that she doesn't say anything to me or to Melissa to give away our former friendship.

I ask Melissa to bring our daughter back to our trailer to clean up for dinner. We will be going to "Charley's Boat House Grill." This restaurant has the best Prime Rib I've tasted on the Island.

After my wife and Skye leave, at first I say nothing to Skye, the Alien. Then, I blurt out, in a quivering voice, "You came back."

Skye smiled warmly at me and said, "I wanted to meet your daughter." I gulped, wondering why. She continued, "Also, I am here for another reason." She paused, and then went on, "We want to study your planet more and see if we could survive here. Where I come from, the Planet may burn out in the next 100 years."

"Skye," I said, "I never told Melissa, my wife, about you and I being together during the time Melissa and I had separated for two weeks before our marriage. I chose your name for our daughter."

Skye replied, "I could tell just by looking at you that your wife doesn't know about me. Don't worry. I will never tell her about us." She continued, "I did fall in love with you, but knew it wasn't in the stars for us to be together. I am happy for you though that you have found true happiness and love in your life."