

John Krieg

Siren

I keep having the same dream. I meet this wonderful girl, and we really hit it off. Back at her place the sparks fly, and we decide to move in together. I somehow neglect to tell her about my wife and kids, but it doesn't matter. My life is taken over by the thought of being with her and I will work out the details later.

I go home and make up some excuse about extra work, and to make it up to them, I send them on a weekend get-away. As the car leaves the driveway I hurriedly pack essential clothing, my favorite books, and the TV I have in the room I go into to get away from them all.

I drive into town, my excitement lifting as I cruise down the pleasant tree-lined streets. I drive up one street and down the other until the realization is forced upon me that I've forgotten where she lives. Not to worry, I'll just give her a call. I didn't get her number. With information hanging on the line, it occurs to me I don't know her name. Even if I could go to the police, it is now painfully evident that I couldn't give a description beyond, "Killer body, great personality, hair kinda' long, didn't catch the color, didn't notice her height, forgot to look in her eyes, but her voice is sweet and pleasant – it could make you believe anything."

I'm forced to choose. Should I hang around town until I recognize her, and make up some fantastic excuse as to why I'm late for our rendezvous, or should I race back home in an all-out attempt to beat the return of my family? It dawns on me that I wouldn't have left in the first place if not for some serious back story issues that we haven't been able to solve for years. I decide to wait for the new love of my life. I never see her again.

John C. Krieg is a retired landscape architect and land planner who formerly practiced in Arizona, California, and Nevada. He is also retired as an International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) certified arborist and currently holds seven active categories of California state contracting licenses, including the highest category of Class A General Engineering. He has written a college textbook entitled *Desert Landscape Architecture* (1999, CRC Press). Additionally, he has co-published an environmental trilogy with Ivy House Publishing Group, and self-published two volumes of poetry, an autobiography entitled *Career In Crisis* (2007, Ribbonwood Press), and a collection of novellas and essays entitled *Ravings From the High Chaparral* (2008, Ribbonwood Press). John has had pieces published in *A Gathering of the Tribes*, *Clark Street Review*, *Conceit*, *Palm Springs Life*, and *Pegasus*. In conjunction with filmmaker/photographer Charles Sappington, Mr. Krieg has completed a two-part documentary film entitled *Landscape Architecture: The Next Generation* (2010). At present, John owns and operates a California-legal medical marijuana collective called "Natural Light Collective." Still long on stamina and creativity, but perhaps short on years, John wishes to witness the coming of one great American president, the restoration of our civil liberties, the federal legalization of marijuana, and the salvation of the environment in general. Although it is fairly obvious that John likes plants better than people, he is a realist concerning the necessity of book promotion and is willing to travel far and wide to achieve an audience.