ENA EVANS

Ena Evans was born in the LAND OF DO YOUR OWN THING to Jane whose husband Jack had died when a machine in the butchery where he worked malfunctioned and he bled to death.

After a year of mourning at Jack's grave. Jane said to herself, I can't carry on like this any longer, it's affecting Ena. She starts sobbing too. Jack would not have liked this. I will sell the house and buy a modern one in a fashionable area. Everything in it will be new. Jack and I loved each other passionately but he would not have wanted me to be alone for the rest of my life or grieve so much. It is making me ill. I have lost weight, look drawn and haggard and really let myself go.

The next day she hired a limousine to take her shopping. She first went to BABY BOUTIQUE. Ena had been left with her neighbour Daisy. "These clothes are amazing," Jane said as she took several dresses and then several nighties, for it was summer, and a cute Red Riding Hood raincoat off

the racks. She bought a tiny pink dress for Daisy's little girl, called the driver of her limousine to take her shopping back to her house. "Please come back at one o'clock. I am doing some more shopping." She walked down Main Street, found a restaurant and went inside. "Would Madam like a table at the window? the host asked. "Yes, please," Jane answered. A waiter brought her the menu. "What can you recommend today?" she asked. We have a honey glazed breast of lamb served with green asparagus and roasted pumpkin. "That sounds great," Jane said, "and I would like a glass of your finest champagne and a crème caramel and coffee." "Certainly, Madame," he replied.

After lunch, Jane really enjoyed herself. It was summer and she went to EXCLUSIVE CLOTHES. The dresses on the racks were gorgeous. A sales lady approached her. "May I help you Madame?" she asked, noticing Jane's rather shabby best dress. "Please do," Jane answered with a smile. "As you can see, I need new clothes – lots of them." "You have a perfect figure, Madame." she answered, and I know just what will suit you!" After choosing dresses, underwear,

shoes and hats, Jane said. “I really can’t wait to go home and show Daisy, my best friend, all these lovely things. Please help me to choose an outfit for her. She is my height but a bit fatter.” On arriving home, Jane gave Daisy a gift-wrapped box, “Oh, Jane!” she exclaimed delightedly “how very, very kind of you. I love my outfit, such a pretty dress and hat and shoes to match. And Jenny will love her new dress.”

Jane set about looking for a new property. She looked up estate agencies and chose one which specialized in the suburb she wanted to live in. “I shall come around in an hour to show you some excellent properties,” said the saleslady. Sandy, a businesslike young woman, opened the car door and Jane sat next to her. “Now, Mrs Evans, what exactly are you looking for?” “Call me Jane,” Jane said. “I want a modern home with a large pretty garden. It must have a pool and a tennis court, and a stable for 2 horses. I want to learn how to ride and Ena will also when she is old enough. There must be very good security and a room near the entrance for the security man to monitor the house and

grounds." "I have three properties that meet your requirements. They are in the suburb of Serenity and are all about 5 million dollars." This did not make a dent in Jane's wealth. When Jack's insurance was paid out making her a very wealthy widow, she had invested the money wisely on the whole but gambled some of it on a company that was prospecting for gold. Her gamble paid off and made her very rich indeed.

Jane fell in love with the third property they visited and bought it lock, stock and barrel. She moved in a week later, putting her house up for sale. "Daisy," she said to her best friend, "take anything you want, and I will send the rest to the church for their jumble sale. I am only taking this small picture of Jack for Ena's bedroom."

Ena was two when Jack died and so she grew up in the lap of luxury, saw her mother married to the Duke of Daffodil Castle whom she met on the golf course, and it was love at first sight for them both. The Duke loved Ena and spoilt her

rotten. “Jane, my darling,” he said to her, “please may I adopt Ena?” “Yes, my dearest Ralph. It would be wonderful – and I have some amazing news to tell you – I am three months pregnant with a baby boy!” And so, Jeremy was born and after three years, twin girls whom they named Elizabeth and Susan. They were called Lady Elizabeth and Lady Susan. When Ena was five, she said to Jane, “Mummy, I want to be called Lady Ena.” “No, darling Ena,” Jane replied, “it’s because Daddy is not your real Daddy – he adopted you. Your real Daddy is my first husband, Jack. You have a picture of him next to your bed.” “A butcher! Why did you marry a butcher?” “Because I fell in love with him, and I was only an assistant in the florist next door.”

The family were prominent members of the Anglican church of Saint Margaret’s in the nearby village. The Duke was a registered Lay Minister and often officiated at Eucharist. Duchess Jane organized the distribution of clothes and food to the poor members of the church. She was well loved and popular, helping poorer sisters in the Lord in times of need. The children attended Sunday School

and the Young Members Club on Friday nights. They all accepted Jesus as their Lord and Saviour and were confirmed when they were fourteen. The Duke and Duchess were very grateful for all the blessings God had bestowed on them.

When Ena had grown into a beautiful young woman with red hair and bright green eyes and had just turned seventeen, she met Justin Fregard. He was eighteen, was not a Christian and she met him at a disco party in her best-friend, Tammy's home. Her parents were not at home and Tammy brought out the wine she had bought that afternoon. When Daddy arrived to pick her up, he was shocked and dismayed to find Ena giggling, swaying on her feet and clinging to a young fellow to whom Daddy took an instant dislike. "Get in the car," he said. "No" Ena said. "It's such fun with Justin." Daddy picked her up and plonked her on the backseat, locked the door and drove home. Leaving the snoring Ena in the car, he went into the Castle to break the news to Jane. She was horrified. "I'm going to phone Tammy's mother as soon as we have put Ena to bed." The

phone was answered by Justin. There was a terrific blare of music in the background. “Tammy’s parents are out,” he said. “Pity the old man took Ena home. The party had just begun.” And he rang off.

When Ena woke, she called for coffee and a croissant with almond filling, drank it, ate the croissant and phoned Justin. “Let’s run away and get married my darling Justin. You are the love of my life. I am very rich as I have part of my real Dad’s inheritance which Mummy has invested for me.” “Sounds good to me,” he replied. “Meet you at the Savoy for lunch.” Jane came into the bedroom. “We must have a serious talk Ena,” she said. “I am not allowing you to go to Tammy’s house or have anything to do with her. Her parents obviously let her do whatever she wishes.” “Not now, Mummy. I feel awful. I want to sleep and not go to school today. I have learnt my lesson,” she said. But she hadn’t - far from it. As soon as she was sure her parents had left to play golf, she packed a small case, called a taxi and left the Castle with not a backward glance.

Ena met Justin in the Savoy's opulent foyer, and they were led to the Riverside Restuarant with a beautiful view of the Thames. "This is the life for me!" exclaimed Justin. He called for the wine list and ordered a bottle of their finest champagne. After lunch they rented a large and luxurious penthouse in the theatre district, moved in and went to see a film that Ena knew her parents would not have approved of. "What a wonderful day my darling Justin," she said. They were both snoring and woke in the morning with bad hangovers. Life went on until Ena realized she was pregnant. "I have something marvellous to tell you my darling Justin. I am three months pregnant." "That's not marvellous," he said. "I suppose we can get a nanny to look after the brat." Ena was terribly hurt but managed to stop herself from tackling the issue. She knew Justin would never understand her joy.

Meanwhile, back at the Castle, Daddy asked Mummy why she did not freeze Ena's inheritance. "That will bring her home when Justin leaves her." "A good idea," said Jane and phoned her personal assistant at the bank. Ena and Justin

were shopping in EXCLUSIVE BABIES. They arrived with a stack of baby clothes, a pram, a playpen and a stroller. Ena handed over her credit card. It was refused. “Try it again,” she said. “This is impossible.” But it wasn’t. Justin punched her and she fell screaming onto the carpet while he fled, went to their penthouse, took all the cash and poured water and ink over Ena’s clothes, packed his clothes and everything he fancied in the apartment, called a mover and left, never to be seen again. In the shop, an ambulance was called and Ena taken to hospital where their baby son miscarried. After a day she walked to the penthouse. There was nothing to salvage. She cancelled the lease and left, exhausted, heartbroken and ill. But did she call her parents? No, she did not. She was too ashamed. Ena burst out sobbing, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Please forgive my wicked ways. I promise to serve you faithfully for the rest of my life.” She went out with a great sense of peace. On the main street, she saw a house named REFUGE FOR DESPERATE WOMEN and rang the bell. A smiling woman opened the door “Welcome,” she said. “Come in my dear.” Ena stayed there with other

women for three months. “This home is part of the Duchess’ Foundation. It’s a pity she is away, or you would have met her. She is with her family at their chateau in France for six months. What is your name, dear?” “Ena Evans,” she replied.

She walked on down the street and saw a shop called EXCLUSIVE WOMENS. There was a line of women waiting to be called for an interview for a job and Ena walked swifty to the manager’s office. No one challenged her as she was wearing a beautiful silk day dress with matching shoes and chic little hat that she had chosen for herself, that Mummy had donated to the house she had just left. She knocked on the Manager’s door. His name was on the nameplate. Mr James Good. Ena said, “Good morning, Mr Good, my name is Ena Evans, and I have come to apply for the job you are advertising.” James looked at the beautiful woman in surprise - she certainly didn’t look in need of a job. “I see your surprise, Mr Good. it’s a long story but I am destitute and will tell you all about it one day.” He pressed the buzzer. “Please tell all the ladies that the position has been filled

and thank them for coming. Tell them to go to the restaurant and I will inform the kitchen to give them the best table and a superb meal." "Please do me the honour of having lunch with me in my private dining room," James said. "I would be very grateful for your company Sir," she replied. And that lunch was the start of their courtship which progressed rapidly. James paid Ena a generous salary, and she proved to be an outstanding saleslady.

James went to the best jeweller in town, chose a large diamond ring surrounded by emeralds, booked a table for dinner at a well-known restaurant and picked Ena up. She looked ravishing in a long silk floral evening gown, and when James got down on his knees and offered her the ring, she jumped up and kissed him passionately. "I think we must go and visit your parents Ena," he said. "Yes," she answered, "they must be worried sick over me. I never contacted them because I was too ashamed. And they don't know that you are a Christian and I am too."

Driving to the Castle in James' Tesla, Ena started to cry, "I am so happy, darling James, to be coming home." Mummy and Daddy and her sisters and brother were all at Daffodil Castle. It was a joyous reunion. There was much kissing and talking over lunch in the Castle's Garden. James stood up. "Thank you so very, very much. I have something to tell you that even Ena does not know. I believe that the two ladies have been squabbling over who they should marry. They have both fallen in love with the same young gentleman. "I am really the Earl of Green Castle, and I share the Earldom with my two brothers who are waiting outside. Jeffrey and Jeremy walked in, and the sisters and the family gasped as they saw two copies of James.

"Exactly the same!" shouted Daddy. And they were. "Nobody could distinguish us from each other or say who was born first and so we share the Earldom," said James. Jeffrey walked over to Elizabeth. "My soulmate!" he exclaimed and kissed her passionately. Jeremy ran to Susan. "Darling Susan," he cried, "you are the passion of

my life!” And he kissed and hugged her for so long that everyone laughed.

There were four lovely Christian marriages that month. Simon married Griselda in the church on Daffodil Castle, and the other three were married in one ceremony in the Anglican Church of St John near Green Castle. James gave up his job and joined his brothers at Green Castle where he made the Castle self-sufficient by using the ballroom and chapel as a venue for society weddings, organized tours of the Castle, built a play area in the grounds for children and a delightful gazebo for teas and light meals. After blissful honeymoons, they all returned to the two castles and, after a few years, the sound of small, pattering feet echoed down their long corridors.