

HEAVEN HATES THE TRUTH BY ALEXANDER TSYPKIN  
Translated by Paul Lazarus

Sometimes I marvel at life. Here you are: over fifty, rich, healthy, smart, super successful, but loneliness can bring you to your knees. You have to keep appearances up, so you do your best not to bitch and moan. However, sometimes you just have to let it all out, wail. You don't want to scare anybody so you keep the volume of your life all the way up.

And then one lucky meeting. One conversation and you feel like even the air has changed. Everything is different. You're happy with every breath you take. Just the sight of her makes you happy.

Vadim met Sonya by chance. Well, their cars met. He was on his way home when his Mercedes bumped into her Peugeot. He was distracted and they crashed mid-turn. She wasn't particularly beautiful or young but she was special. While they were waiting for the police, they started up a conversation and moments later he couldn't take his eyes off her. It's funny, when you fall in love at first sight, you think that all your thoughts are being heard by the other person.

"Sonya, we only met an hour ago but it seems like I've known you my whole life."

"Vadim, that's way better than..."

"The other way around."

"Are you reading my mind?"

"No, I'm reading mine. That's why it feels like..."

"Like we see the same therapist."

"Exactly!"

She laughed. You always fall in love with the way another person laughs, always.

And, Sonya loved U2. So, did he.

"Vadim, music is like sex. It brings up your most buried feelings and reveals our deepest soul. You can't hear it in your mind and turn it off. So, later, I'll check if you really love U2 or if you lied to me. I even have proof. "With or Without You" is inked on my shoulder."

Vadim loved this song. Sonya had gotten the tattoo for her husband, who was now refusing divorce and wanted full custody of their child, although, as usual, it was all about money. Sonya's soon-to-be-ex was towing the traditional line: I can't live without you, but if you leave, I'll destroy you.