

PALO ALTO ODYSSEY

Christi endangers her marriage

CHRISTI decided to have an affair.

She thought about it carefully, and selected as her appropriate candidate the buff contractor who was remodeling three houses that she and JJ had purchased in Old Palo Alto.



CHRISTI

Christi worried that she was getting old and that no one would love her, and thought that an affair would reassure her.

She was also worried that her husband would have an affair first; so in some way she

viewed having an affair herself first as a form of protection.

Christi said to herself, "I have the right to enjoy myself while I am young, and have a good time." Then she burst into tears.

This is part 59 of a 72-part fictionalized serial appearing in the Daily Post, written by John Angell Grant with illustrations by Steve Curl.

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"You're beautiful, Christi," the contractor had said to her one afternoon, as she examined his new tile work in the kitchen.

"Thank you," said Christi. "And you're beautiful, too."

The contractor laughed. That's all it took and that's how it started. The fact that JJ was traveling made things easier.

For their first adventure together, Christi and the contractor went to the Epiphany in downtown Palo Alto, and got a room. Later they met at his condo in Mountain View. They saw each other twice a week for about a month.

"Any more than that," said Henry the contractor, "And we run the risk of getting caught."

It sounded to Christi like he had some experience in these matters, and she asked him about that.

"Whatever," Henry replied.

"Do you love me?" Christi asked.

"Of course," said Henry.

"Then why don't you want to see me more?" she asked.

"We have to be careful," said Henry.

"Careful of what?" asked Christi.

"Of your husband finding out," he said. "You don't want that, do you?"

"I don't care," said Christi.

That response caught Henry short.

"You don't want to end your marriage, do you?" he asked.

"I wouldn't mind," said Christi.

"Well, I don't want to be part of that," said Henry. "I don't want JJ Boggs coming after me. That would be the end of my business here in Palo Alto."

JJ was in Switzerland talking with a pharma company. One of his latest projects was a wristband that calculated the wearer's mental health, by accepting data about metabolism, diet, exercise, mood, personal interactions, sleep and other information; to help a wearer calibrate her optimal personal happiness.

It was a technology with huge potential, JJ felt. Part of his excitement about the project was to develop a device that could help his wife.

He was calling his beta model "The Christi."

More Monday.