

DEATH OF A NEEDY PET

By Deborah Klaassen

Love is a luxury, a needy pet that feeds on spare time and dies when it is neglected.

Deloris and Wilco have split up. They met during their first year in university. For four years, they were the ideal couple: both so handsome, so friendly, so witty, and very sexually driven. Never did Wilco hurt Deloris, and never did Deloris leave Wilco unsatisfied. And their fellow students knew all about it.

Deloris lived in halls, above a very popular chap called Jake. People would always whistle and call his name when they passed his window, to see if he was home. In order not to piss off his neighbours, Jake put up a sign, "Jake is in" when he was home.

After her neighbours told Deloris for the first time that they could hear her moan, she put a sign in front of her window, "Wilco is in". Her laughing neighbours told her in the kitchen that there was no need for a sign. They could literally hear him slide in. And out. Oh yes, with walls thinner than the sheets of their beds, everyone in her halls knew exactly when Wilco was in.

After they both graduated, they moved into a beautiful mansion in Bloomsbury together. It was September when they first saw their place. The sun came in through large windows and illuminated the spacious rooms. It was very bright, with high ceilings and wooden floors. They immediately fell in love with the place: this was where their dreams would come true.

They moved in three weeks later. In her faded jeans, Deloris opened a big bucket of white paint. Then she took off her white t-shirt and wrapped it around her head, to protect her hair. Wilco came in with a box of books. When he saw her like that, it took him only a second to drop the box and grab her by her waist. That's when they first made love in their new home, and in the final throws they knocked over the bucket of paint. A white love stain that still marked the wooden floor of the living room when they moved out.

Because a home like that is expensive, and their full time jobs were demanding. Their dreams turned to schemes and the bright white walls turned wintry. They could only spend their time once, and there was not enough to pay the rent and feed a needy pet.