

Origins: The Heartless Romantic

By Philip Mailloux, aka blacksun1520

Our story begins with John Lockharte, an accountant from Boston. John was a fairly normal 31 year old man, in good health and physical shape, not rich but not poor by any means. A coworker caught his eye one day, 29 year old Melissa, an actuary on the 2nd floor. John would routinely go out of his way to run into her at the office, and flirt every chance he got. The two began dating and John fell hoplessly in love and showered Melissa with gifts, affection, and romance like she had never experienced.

One day, Melissa was at John's apartment, when she stumbled upon a secret closet that John had forgotten to lock. Inside, she found a very disturbing shrine that John had created in her honor. It appeared that prior to their dating, John had been stalking her, and it continued into their relationship for a few months as well. Melissa was completely freaked out, and confronted John. He tried to explain himself, but it just got her more scared than she already was. She broke up with him, quit her job, and moved to a new city. John was devastated, and tried everything he could to win her back. Nothing he did worked, sending flowers and candy, writing poetry and love notes, it was all hopeless. John's heart ached so badly for Melissa and there wasn't another person on the planet he could imagine giving his heart to. Unable to deal with the pain of his broken heart, John sought out the help of a doctor, Dr. Thodt.

John explained his predicament to the good doctor, who had a solution to his problem. Hypnotic sleep therapy is what he recommended, and the first, and last, session was about to begin. John agreed to the treatment, not knowing exactly what was involved. Dr. Thodt took John to a room in the back of his practice, where the procedure would take place. John lay on a table, which the doctor promptly tied him too reassuring him that it was all part of the "healing" process. Under a drug induced hypnotic state, John was fully conscious and aware as the doctor finally ended his suffering.

The next day, a package arrived at Melissa's front door. She opened it and was horrified by what was inside... John's heart, freshly removed and packed in a cute pink box.