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"Geraniums Should Be Illegal" by Eva Schultz

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Connie dedicated her morning to waiting by the front window for Ed's car to turn down the street of their retirement community. She tossed her silver hair, checked her lipstick, and headed out to accidentally run into the lanky widower.

"Eddie! What a surprise!" she called, waving. "It's been too long!"

Ed glanced up from unloading his groceries. "Yes – since right after our date. I tried calling, but I guess you didn't get my message."

Connie flashed the dimples that had been breaking hearts for 50 years. "I guess not! I've been so busy with my association duties, and I know you were busy settling in." She moved a step closer. "We should go out again. How about the homeowners' meeting this afternoon? I'm proposing a new bylaw about front yard landscaping."

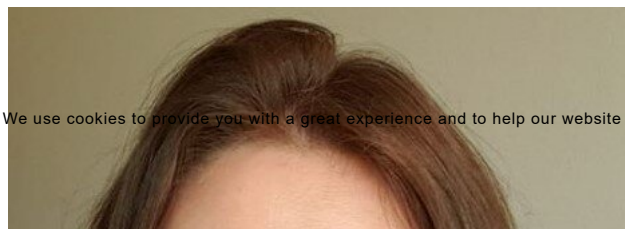
She nodded at the row of identical townhouses across the street. In front of one, a pudgy woman in saggy culottes stood watering a bed of magenta geraniums with an oversized watering can. "Linda just put in those ridiculous hot pink flowers, and it's ruining the look of our block. I'll need the votes to get a new rule in place. Can I count on you?" She smiled up at him.

Ed turned and pulled a heavy bag of gardening mulch out of the trunk. "Sorry, neighbor," he said with a wink. "My afternoon is spoken for."

He turned and waved at Linda, who waved back and blew him a kiss.

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About the Author: Eva Schultz lives in Aurora, Illinois, where she is a business writer by day and a fiction writer by night. Her work has appeared most recently in Shady Grove Literary, Havok, Flash Fiction Podcast, and Writer's Digest. She lives with a big orange cat named Gus and enjoys drawing, painting, and collecting typewriters.



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