

### **Consoling Angel Excerpt:**

My life couldn't be more complete. As we reached the apartments, I slowly got off the bike, surprised at myself that I had done this. Ordinarily, I'd never get on a motorcycle. James leaned over and caressed my cheek. Before I could open my mouth to tell him what was to happen to him, he gave me a quick peck on the lips. I couldn't let James walk away, not now.

Something in me grasped his wrist; my breath caught in my throat. I no longer cared about the rain. I must have looked like a drowned rat to him. "I have to tell you something," I blurted as I waited for his reaction.

James smiled, then chuckled as he caressed my face. The rain was preventing me from seeing clearly. "Sweetheart, it's raining and you're soaked. I hope this is important." Pulling him toward me, I faced him. I could change history. I could have him live out his life as he was meant to. If I couldn't save my father, I could save him.

"In the future, when you become famous, please be careful. Remember this: there will be a day that you are off to a race. You will not see a car until it's too late. James, please promise me. It could mean your life." I must have sounded like a complete and total idiot to him. Geez! I think I watched *Back To The Future* too many times. I sounded like Marty talking to the professor about his impending death.

Chuckling, he shook his head, expelling the rain off his head and onto me. Laughter erupted between us as I covered my face. He then cupped my face, kissed my forehead. "Are you sure you're not an angel? I cannot promise anything, but baby, I can promise I'll see you tomorrow. I'll pick you up here and you can ditch your responsibilities. Ride with me."

Sighing, now I knew how all those girls felt when they looked at him. What an offer that would be. Ditch school to ride with the man who was loved by so many. I was determined he'd listen to me. Gripping his hands from my face, I gazed into his eyes. "I'm serious!"

Before I could utter another word, his lips descended on mine. My body went

toward him and melted. I couldn't help but respond as I brought him closer. I was lost in his warm lips as they caressed mine. Lingering near my lips, he breathed, "I know you are." Then, winking as he kissed me again, smiling that beautiful smile of his, "How else can my angel guard me if she isn't with me?"