

Live and Learn

*By Suzy Hopkins*

Cute-as-a-button 15-year-old Julie decided she could walk all the way to her boyfriend Cory's house this sultry summer-vacation afternoon. She usually called him to come pick her up on his motorcycle but he indicated he had no money for gas.

She was just opening his front door when she heard him talking. Following the sound of his voice she heard him sweetly saying, "I love you so much. You are the best thing to happen to me. I cannot imagine my life without you," coming from the outside back steps. Horrified, she tore out the front door, crying. Her eyes were blurred by her tears so she tripped on the long steep flight of stairs tumbling down them, skinning her knees. She hobbled to her house, made her way to her bedroom, slamming the door. Bitterly, Julie whimpered, "I can't believe it. Cory said I was the best thing to happen to him, how he couldn't imagine his life without me."

She spent the rest of the day in her room torn between anger and sadness refusing dinner offered by her mother.

Cory called Julie at around eight PM and said, "My mother brought home a puppy. She is so sweet. You will love her as much as I do."