

[BVB9]

[Vanessa hates Paul]

I waited as Vanessa settled herself on the settee, ready to listen to me, and realized that this strong-willed and attractive woman was lonely.

She appeared edgy and frustrated, staring at the frayed settee like an actress deprived of her audience.

Despite all our years at the Adler, the tiresome clients and their impossible secretaries, this was the first time I had seen Paul completely at a loss. He was devastated. He really fell in love with Vanessa.

That fact has driven a small space between us.

If god exists, he is just a miserable organizer of destinies.

Vanessa, there are no Mr. Bigs or speculative capitalisms.

The system is self-regulating.

It relies on our sense of civic responsibility. Without that, society would collapse.

In fact, the collapse may even have begun.