

## Jim DeMartini

Jim DeMartini, was one of the smartest, kindest men she had ever met. He was also one of the toughest. Her mind kept going back to the time he brought her into the office and told her “You are going to fail, and this is why...” In that moment she hated him, but she took his advice and earned one of the biggest bonuses in the company that year as a result. He was the only one who cared enough about her to tell her the truth and “straighten her out”.

When she initially met Jim, she felt an immediate attraction for him and tried hard to curb the runaway flirting that had perfected after watching her friend Crystal “work” men. Her attraction was understandable. In addition to his physical good looks (dark, deep-set eyes, beautiful olive skin, and light curly hair that didn’t seem to belong on someone with such dark features) Jim had an interesting combination of “street-toughness” indicated by his thick Brooklyn accent, and kindness indicated by his actions. She initially was so moved by Jim that she was willing to overlook his macho posturing in the form of a homophobic comment (after all, he didn’t know that Sequethia had a gay brother).

As she got to know Jim more, she realized that the attraction that she initially interpreted as sexual was actually a kinship between them. Like Sequethia, Jim had come from a background that people now euphemistically call “humble beginnings”. Like Sequethia, Jim was raised in an environment where he just didn’t seem to fit in. Jim was part of a close-knit Italian famiglia with a family business, but he couldn’t participate in the family business because his mother was half Irish (which explains his Sicilian features and light hair that made him irresistible). She figured this out when he mentioned that his uncle had written one of the most well-known books about the Mafia, which became one of the most famous Mafia movies of all time. Like Sequethia, Jim was brilliant and appreciated this aspect of Sequethia. He saw her as a little sister, and she began to see him as a big brother.

Sequethia initially believed Jim to be her enemy, when in truth he was one of the many “angels” that showed up during the course of her life to move her forward on her path. It was a miracle that Sequethia had learned to see Jim (and her initial experiences with him) differently.