

***Hello Spain, Goodbye Heart* Excerpt for Promotion January 2023**

By LoLo Paige

Everything slid to slow-motion as an impossible tide rolled toward Dayna. She couldn't dispel the feeling she was walking away from something wonderful. Her chest clenched, and a familiar heaviness anchored her heart.

She felt like Meryl Streep in the truck behind Clint Eastwood at the end of *Bridges of Madison County*, when Meryl was torn between staying in the truck with her husband or jumping out to run after Clint—knowing if she didn't—she'd lose him forever.

This is insane! Dayna had only known this guy for a couple of hours, didn't even know his last name. Her heart mashed into a roiling mix of confusion. The romantic notion of being on a European vacation had clouded her mind with impossible fantasies.

A hole opened in her heart. Mariko and the bus blurred. *Choices, choices.* But which were the right ones? Dayna reminded herself of the wonderful people she had yet to meet on this trip, and Alex was only the first of many.

As the bus pulled away, he stood on the boardwalk, smiling and waving, as if he'd known her all her life. She pressed her palm to the window, watching him grow smaller, and the bottom fell out of her.

If only.