

Your Man

by Angie

Vincent was dusting the top floor of the brownstone, dressed only in shorts and flip flops. It was a warm day in late summer and all the windows were open to catch any errant breeze. He had the radio on, and was enjoying the 'retro' selections of the local radio station as he worked. Since he could do housework almost naked and in daylight – something he certainly could not do Below – he found the experience almost erotic.

A soft drum beat and Latin-like instrumentals from the radio made him pause and he listened with pleasure as a familiar voice and words filled the room.

'If you want a lover / I'll do anything you ask me to'

He had heard this song many times over the years, the first time not long after he'd met Catherine. He had never expected the song would apply to him, then, but he had always loved its sensual poetry and the voice of the singer.

'And if you want another kind of love/ I'll wear a mask for you'

Vincent closed his eyes and listened as the fluid voice of Leonard Cohen oozed along his spine, the way it always did. He sent a wave of passion to Catherine, who was working downstairs in the Foundation office, and immediately received an answering blast of love that made him smile. THAT was a promise!

Later, when the evening was cooler and the moon was shining through the skylight onto their bed, he looked down at his Catherine. He remembered the song from earlier and murmured it to her softly, mimicking the sensual beat in his deep silken voice.

"....'And if you want a doctor / I'll examine every inch of you'."

He paused, reflected a moment, then continued huskily, *"Ah, the moon's too bright / The chain's too tight / The beast won't go to sleep' .*

.... I'd crawl to you baby/ And I'd fall at your feet / And I'd howl at your beauty/ Like a dog in heat."

Catherine knew this song well too. She gazed into his mesmerizing blue eyes.

"If you want a driver / Climb inside If you want a partner / Take my hand'," she whispered.

"I'm your man,"* he purred, and proved it to both their satisfactions.

END

**Leonard Cohen, "I'm Your Man" (1988)*

*If you want a lover
I'll do anything you ask me to
And if you want another kind of love
I'll wear a mask for you
If you want a partner
Take my hand
Or if you want to strike me down in anger
Here I stand
I'm your man
If you want a boxer
I will step into the ring for you
And if you want a doctor
I'll examine every inch of you
If you want a driver
Climb inside
Or if you want to take me for a ride
You know you can
I'm your man*

*Ah, the moon's too bright
The chain's too tight
The beast won't go to sleep
I've been running through these promises to you
That I made and I could not keep
Ah but a man never got a woman back
Not by begging on his knees
Or I'd crawl to you baby
And I'd fall at your feet
And I'd howl at your beauty
Like a dog in heat
And I'd claw at your heart
And I'd tear at your sheet
I'd say please, please
I'm your man*

*And if you've got to sleep
A moment on the road
I will steer for you
And if you want to work the street alone
I'll disappear for you
If you want a father for your child
Or only want to walk with me a while
Across the sand
I'm your man*

*If you want a lover
I'll do anything you ask me to
And if you want another kind of love*

I'll wear a mask for you