

Character Chart

<u>IDENTIFICATION</u>	
Full Name:	Bonita Hernandez
Nickname(s):	none
Meaning of Name(s):	bonita=pretty hernandez=son of Fernando (Fernando/Ferdinand=peace+brave and daring)
Address:	Oakview Condominiums #601 San Antonio, TX
<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	
Gender:	Female
Race/ethnic background/nationality:	Hispanic
Age: How old does s/he look?	Early 30's; she looks her age
Eye Color:	Dark brown/almost black
Body build/height/weight:	Tall/thin; she's always been slender but lost weight because John wanted her model skinny
Skin tone/type:	Clear, olive complexion
Shape of face:	Oval
Predominant/distinguishing features:	Large expressive eyes
Hair color/features/style:	Black, medium length, straight
Voice/tone/dialect/accent:	Bare hint of a Hispanic accent when she gets excited
Resembles:	?
Health:	Excellent
Physical disabilities:	None
Mannerisms/gestures:	Tears and nervous twitching when nervous or upset

Typical clothes/shoes/accessories:	Slacks and loose shirts, sandals, jewelry only when with John and he wanted her to wear jewelry he had given her
Eating habits/mannerisms/tastes:	Light eater, likes Mexican food the way her mother fixed it, but changed her eating habits to more meat and potatoes that John liked
<u>FAVORITES</u>	
Favorite color:	Light blue
Least favorite color/why:	Red—too bright
Favorite Music:	Used to enjoy conjunto music but started to listening to pop when involved with John
Least favorite Music/why:	Symphony—too high-brow
Food:	Mexican food, Tex-Mex style
Literature/favorite book:	Mysteries and romances, especially with humor
Expressions:	None
Expletives:	None
Mode of transportation:	Driving herself
<u>HABITS</u>	
Smoke/drink/gamble/etc:	Had never drunk much until the affair began; during the affair drank too much whenever she was with him—she drank rum & coke and learn to make his gin & tonic drinks just as he liked them
Hobbies/recreation/sports:	Gave up all activities except reading during the affair
Favorite activities:	Reading
Normal day:	Somewhat at a loss now that the affair is over; her life used to revolve around doing what John wanted, which was generally just being available for him when he wanted to see her
Daredevil or cautious?	Cautious
Same when alone?	Yes

<u>OCCUPATION/EDUCATION/MONEY</u>	
Occupation/ social class:	Family from working class; middle class lifestyle as an adult; trained as a hair stylist and very good at it; built up excellent clientele but gave up many of her customers when she cut back on her hours during the affair
Current job/how long/feelings/relationships:	Working in a high-end salon with prominent and affluent clientele; cut down from full-time to working only a few hours a week after the affair started
Education/intelligence:	Hair stylist training from several top trainers
Financial situation/spending habits/views on money:	Allowed John to pay for her condo and living expenses during the affair, which she strongly regrets; always before was self-sufficient; modest lifestyle and spending habits; saved most of the money she made from her part-time job
Most important possession:	Crocheted bedspread that her grandmother gave her for graduation from SAC
Transportation/car:	Small economy car several years old that she kept from before the affair; John wanted to give her a fancier car, but she liked her little car and took good care of it
<u>BELIEFS AND VALUES</u>	
Religious beliefs/strength:	Raised Catholic and attended church regularly into early adulthood. Left the church when she got involved with a married man and feels she is so sinful she can't return.
Philosophy:	The purpose of life is to help others; she lost track of that when she fell for John but still believes it.
Political party/views:	Has never been interested in politics and doesn't pay much attention to current events.
Values:	Life—ever since the abortion, she has developed a strong pro-life stand but has not made her feelings public
Priorities:	Recovering from her affair with a married man, getting back into a job, and becoming productive again.
Superstitions, etc.:	None
<u>DISPOSITION/ATTITUDES/PERSONALITY</u>	
Optimist/Pessimist?	Generally an optimist but struggling to get her optimism back after her recent experiences

Introvert/Extrovert?	Introvert
Confident/Self-conscious?	Lacks confidence but feels stronger since she did what was right even when it cost her the relationship with the man she thought she loved
Feelings about his/her appearance?	Takes her looks for granted
Greatest fear:	Not being able to have a normal marriage and family after what she's done
Worst thing that could happen:	Family and friends finding out the abortion
Most comfortable when:	Alone or in a small group of people
Least comfortable when:	In crowds or around people who know her ex-boyfriend and/or his wife
Greatest strength:	Determination to turn her life around
Greatest weakness:	Giving up her self-respect for a man
Darkest secret:	The abortion she had early in her affair
<u>RELATIONSHIPS</u>	
Marital/relationship status:	Never married
Significant other:	Just ended relationship with John Calhoun, a married man who stormed out of her life when she insisted on telling what she knew about an intruder in the hallway on the night Bonita's neighbor was murdered; John worked for his wife's family company; they met when he was her customer in the salon; he told her he wasn't married at first; then after she went out with him several times and fell in love, he told he was married and set her up in a condo in the same building he lived in; this went against her beliefs but she thought she was in love and wanted to make him happy; he promised to get a divorce and marry her after he lined up another job since his wife's family would fire him if he wasn't in the family
Who does he/she live with?	Always lived alone
Who does he/she spend the most time with?	Withdrew into isolation during the affair
Father/relationship with him/occupation	Construction worker—Bonita looks up to him as her hero and loves him a lot but doesn't have a close relationship with him, especially since the affair

Mother/relationship with her/occupation	Housewife—had always been extremely close until the affair, then she withdrew because she was ashamed
Siblings/relationships/birth order	Middle of 7 children: 2 older brothers, 1 older sister, 2 younger sisters, 1 younger brother
Children/ages:	None
Friends:	Withdrew from the friends she had before the affair; has recently become friends with David Nichols and Marilee Anderson after the murder of David's sister Barbara; surprisingly is beginning to like Tess, the "crazy lady" in the building
Boss/co-workers:	Doesn't have close relationships with anyone from work; used to be casual friends with some of the other stylists but gave up their social activities during the affair; on friendly terms with the salon manager but has little contact with her except to pick up her paycheck every two weeks
Enemies:	She hopes none, but fears that John's wife Abby will be if she learns of the affair
Who is his/her hero?	Her father
Other comments:	Pretended to be friends with John's wife Abby, but just casually spoke to her in the building lobby and common areas
<u>BACKGROUND:</u>	
Hometown:	San Antonio
Type of childhood:	Finances were always tight, but they always had plenty to eat and clothes and shelter even if they weren't as fashionable as she would have liked. The large family was noisy and chaotic but loving and happy.
First memory:	Her parents coming home from the hospital with her baby sister
Most important childhood event that still affects him/her/why:	She made friends with a girl in the third grade and invited her friend to her house; the girl's mother wouldn't let her go to a "poor Mexican" home; she both resented the prejudice and was embarrassed that her friend thought she was poor.

Past jobs/education/activities:	Worked as a hair stylist in a high-end salon for several years; was popular with customers because she was talented at making them look good and she listened to them; when the affair started she started cutting down on work until she retained only a few prominent and wealthy customers
Accidents/arrests/failures:	Broken arm from skateboarding fall in elementary school
Biggest regret:	The abortion foremost and the affair with John Calhoun second
Greatest accomplishment:	Finding the courage to defy John and tell what she knew about the night of the murder of her neighbor
<u>SELF-PERCEPTION</u>	
1 word character would use to describe self:	Sinful
1 paragraph description of how character would describe self:	A pathetic woman who let herself be used by a man she thought she loved at the cost of her self-respect
What does character consider best physical characteristic?	Her eyes
What does character consider worst physical characteristic?	Her body—too thin
Are these realistic assessments? If not, why not?	Yes, but the only reason she is so thin is because John wanted her that way; she is now gaining weight
How he/she thinks others perceive him/her:	She thinks anyone who knows about the affair will think she is a bad person, but she thinks most people don't even know she exists
What would he/she most like to change about self? Why?	Her willingness to depend on a man and give up her desires to his
If changes were made, would character be as happy as s/he thinks? If not, why not?	Not until she develops a healthier way of relating to a man
<u>MOTIVATION & GOALS:</u>	
Strongest motivation:	Doing what is right and atoning for what she's done
Immediate goals:	Get back to full-time work, move into a place she can afford on her salary
Long range goals:	Get married and have a family

<u>PROBLEMS/CRISIS:</u>	
How character reacts in a crisis:	She eventually does what is right—as she did when she reported what she knew about the night of the murder—but as then she may try to take the easy way out first
How character faces problems:	She tries to ignore them and hopes they go away
Kinds of problems character usually runs into:	She lets herself be too easily led by others.
How character reacts to change:	She can handle change in circumstances, but she doesn't do well with changes in relationships