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86,000 Words

**A NOVEL EXISTENCE**

by Mike Hammersly

## One

[Alternative Option: **One: The Eastgate Affair**]

Tom and Delores Frederickson hated one another. That was obvious. It was also to be expected. He had killed her younger sister. She had maimed his favorite aunt.

But that didn't keep them from seeing eye-to-eye on things. Nope. In fact, it was just the opposite. When Tom had proposed to Delores that wintry Chicago evening as the two worked their way north from the Loop along Michigan Avenue, bracing themselves against the gusts howling in off the Lake, Delores knew it would be a marriage made in heaven...*and* hell. What she didn't know was just how easily their relationship would slip from one into the other.

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[Etcetera]