

color? dress that makes me feel ~~particularly~~^{especially} attractive. I kindled the fire, lit the candles, dimmed the lights, and put ~~on~~^{up} some soft jazz. The setting was magical, I hoped.

obviously, (there)

I have heightened

the tension by
raising the uncertainty.

Writing now, you know how it all turned out, but as you lived it you didn't. Give the reader some of that uncertainty and tension, and she'll thank you when you resolve it.

On one hand I was looking forward to coming home from the trip

but other hand I dreaded it because I didn't want the unresolved tension, if it was still there. I was worried that our usually intimate Eve and the coming year, New Years would be spoiled.

I could never have imagined what Barbara had prepared.

(....meet me in the living room.)
I read the note on the door what was she planning?
but nervous
Intrigued I followed her instructions.

The living room was glowing with flickering light and filled with the sweet aroma of chrysanthemums. I heard my favorite cool jazz spread with flowers and music. The food and champagne were invitingly arranged. It was clear that Barbara had gone to considerable effort to make this happen and I thought how wonderful it was to be realizing all the thought and work she had done, so gratefully, And I was also channelled