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Good-time Boys: Twin Temptations

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Warning:

Warning: This book contains sexually explicit content which is only suitable for mature readers. This story has been rated *total-e-burning*.

Good-time Boys

TWIN TEMPTATIONS

Carol Lynne

Dedication

To my friends, who are supportive no matter what I write.

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Chapter One

Ranger leaned back and put his boots up on the old scarred desk. "I think it's great that you've decided to run for Mayor, but I've no interest in running for the City Council."

"Just give me a chance to talk you into it. You're an excellent businessman, and it's time for a change. The Council has been stagnant for too long," Rawley said, pleading his case.

"Sorry, brother. Still not interested. Running the feed-lot is about as public as I ever care to be." A sudden feeling had him sitting up and looking out the window. "Sorry, but I need to go. I think something's happened to Ryker." Ranger didn't give Rawley a chance to answer before he was heading out the door.

He ran to the northwest lot and scanned the area. "Bub?"

"Over here," Ryker called.

Turning his attention to the large group of cattle, he spotted Ryker limping toward him. Jumping over the fence Ranger ran toward him, pushing cattle out of the way in his haste. "What happened?" he asked, as wrapped an arm around his brother's torso.

"Stupidity is what happened. I knew to be wary of number three-twenty-nine, but I dropped my guard, and the damn cow kicked me." Ryker leaned on him as they walked out of the muddy lot.

As soon as they cleared the fence, Ranger stopped and knelt in front of Ryker. "Where exactly did she get you?"

"Mid-thigh, but if you think I'm gonna pull my jeans down out here where anyone can see you're nuts. Help me get to the office. I'm sure it's probably just a bruise."

Ranger helped him to the office and sat him on the cracked avocado green vinyl couch. It said a lot about their relationship that Ryker hadn't had to ask how Ranger knew he'd been hurt. They'd just always been that way.

Undoing Bub's jeans, he looked up and winked. "If you really wanted to flash me this morning all you had to do was say so."

"Smart ass," Ryker said lifting enough to push his Wrangler's down to his ankles.

"Woo-wee, that's some bruise you've got started there," Ranger said, as he looked at the swollen area on Bub's upper thigh. "A little higher and you'd have been out of commission for a long time." Despite his humour, Ranger hated to see Bub in pain and leaned over to kiss the hot, raised area. It looked to be about six or seven inch diameter of hurt. He was sure the bruise would spread well beyond that, but this is where the pain would be focused. "Let me get some salve out of the medicine cabinet."

Ranger went to the bathroom nestled between his office and Bub's. Running a washcloth under the cold water he rung it out and grabbed the salve. He caught Bub clenching his jaws when he returned, a sure sign he was in pain but didn't want to show it.

Kneeling, he placed the cool cloth over the angry red welt. "Do you think you should go for an x-ray?"

"Don't be stupid, it's a bruise."

"Yeah, well do you remember Curtis Eben? He got kicked in the shin by that horse and ended up having a stroke when a blood clot made its way to his brain."

Bub rolled his eyes. "I promise not to have a stroke, okay? Just put the damn salve on it. I'll be okay until I can get home and ice it."

"Stubborn mule," Ranger mumbled under his breath. He removed the compress and opened the tin of salve. Dipping his fingers in, he scooped up a generous portion and began lightly rubbing it on the raised area. After wiping his hands, he wrapped his arms around Ryker's waist and just held him. Just the thought of something happening to Bub had him shaking.

"Hey, guys, Momma asked me to drop these..."

Ranger's head whipped around toward the door. Lilly was standing with what appeared to be a box full of yellow sweet corn. "Fuck," he said, going still. "Don't you know how to knock?"

Lilly bit her lip and even from across the room, Ranger could see the tears in her jade green eyes. He hadn't meant to growl so harshly, but shit, it was Lilly.

Dropping the box at her feet, Lilly turned and walked back out the door without a word. Ranger closed his eyes and rested his forehead against Bub's chest. Most people were sickened by any display of physical affection between the brothers and they knew it. It was exactly the reason they'd built a house back in the woods of their family's ranch. There, they could hold each other and kiss on occasion and no one cared.

"I want her," Ryker said, as he closed his eyes and threaded his fingers through Ranger's hair.

Resting his head on Bub's chest he sighed. "I know, Bubba, I want her too, but it's still too soon. She's just not ready for what we have in mind."

"How much longer? We've waited damn near four years for her to grow up. She's twenty-one now, don't you think she's old enough to make up her mind? What if she gets snatched away from us?"

Ranger looked at the spilled box of corn. "You know one of us is gonna have to go talk to her about what she walked in on. I'd say it should be me. You'd just melt at the first sign of tears. Besides, I'm the one who yelled at her. It should be me that apologises."

"When?"

"Tonight, after the lot closes. I'll drop you by home and then come back to town." Ranger released his hold on Ryker and sat back.

"That plan doesn't make sense. Why don't we both go into town and you can drop me off at the diner. I'll get us a couple plates of chicken fried steak to-go while you talk to her." Ryker reached for his jeans.

"How's the leg?" Ranger asked when he saw Ryker flinch.

"Sorer than a motherfucker, but it's my own damn fault."

Helping him stand, Ranger pulled Ryker's jeans up. "We'll get it iced tonight and put some more salve on it."

Slipping on his boots, Ryker sat back on the couch while he tied them for him. "You think we disgusted her?"

"Lilly? Hell no. I think she probably would have joined in if we'd invited her. Naw, I think she was just surprised and got her feelings hurt when I snapped at her. It'll be okay." He stood and kissed Ryker. His brother was the sensitive one of the two of them, and always had been.

Dipping his tongue into the dimple on Ryker's left cheek, he grinned. "Thanks for the mid-morning snuggle, but I think it's time we both got back to work. Why don't you take over manning the phones and I'll go out and make sure everyone's still got some work to do."

With his leg propped up on a chair from the entry way, Ryker made a few phone calls. He ordered feed and arranged for some of the cattle to be shipped out to the county auction the following week. Now, with his head rested on the high back of his desk chair he thought of Lilly.

His fascination with her had started the summer before her senior year. He'd felt like a dirty old man, but the look in her eyes when she had caught him and Ranger kissing in the feed barn, had caused an ache that had yet to go away. He wanted to go after her when she'd turned eighteen and graduated from school, but Ranger would have none of it. He'd explained that Lilly was the perfect woman to let into their lives for the long-haul, not just a quick affair. In order to assure she'd be ready to commit, they needed to give her time to grow-up and experience a little bit of life.

"Yeah, right," Ryker said to the empty office. The evening Nate had teased Ranger about Lilly hooking up with one of the bar patrons had almost killed him when Ranger told him about it. Ranger had to talk him out of going to the Dead Zone and carrying that little five foot five woman out over his shoulder. Just the thought of one of those sweaty cowboys putting their hands on Lilly had him seeing red.

By the time Ranger came back in at the end of the day, Ryker had worked himself up pretty good.

"Ready?" Ranger asked, tossing him his black cowboy hat.

"Yep. I think I need to go with you to the Zone." He adjusted his hat and locked the front door.

"What brought this on? I thought you were going to get our dinner?" Ranger got into the quad-cab pickup.

"I've been thinking. I don't like the idea of Lilly working in that place. I think we should talk to her about it." He buckled his seatbelt, refusing to look at his brother. He knew what he'd see anyway. "And stop rolling your eyes at me."

"Geez, Bub, you can't just walk in and start demanding stuff of her. You'll scare her all the way to Kansas City. Why don't you let me handle it?"

"Fine, just make sure she understands that she shouldn't be working in a bar. She's better than that."

Ranger unbuckled and leaned over to give him a kiss on the neck. "You're so damn cute when you get all protective and shit."

"Just drive."

Chapter Two

Lilly was bussing a table when he walked into the dark smoky bar. He waived his hand in front of his face as he passed a table of chain-smoking cowboys. Finding a seat in the back, he watched Lilly work. Damn, she was beautiful. He'd give anything to take those long black curls out of the messy haphazard ponytail.

He watched as she spotted him and chewed on that raspberry coloured lip of hers. It must taste damn good because she seemed to chew it enough.

Straightening her shoulders, Lilly lifted her chin and walked over. "Ranger."

"How come you're the only one outside my brothers that can tell me and Ryker apart?" He asked, giving her his best playboy grin.

"You have two dimples, Ryker only has one. Now, what can I get you?" Lilly asked in a business-like tone.

"I don't suppose you can spare a couple of minutes to talk to me?"

Lilly turned her torso to glance at the clock over her shoulder. The movement accentuated her already large breasts even further and Ranger had to swallow a groan. "I get a break in ten minutes. If you're still here, I'll give you a couple minutes. Can I get you something from the bar?"

"Bottle of Michelob."

He watched the natural sway of her hips as she walked back toward the bar. Ranger caught himself staring and quickly looked around. Good, no one was paying any attention to the queer in the corner. After what happened with Lionel Hibbs, Ranger reckoned any bigots in town had learned their lesson. He didn't care if he disgusted people with his relationship with his twin, but he'd be damned if he'd let people try and intimidate him because of it.

Lilly came back with his beer, she set the bottle on the table and turned without a word. *Oh boy, he had a hell of a lot of climbing to do to get himself out of this hole he'd dug.*

The more he watched her, the more animated she became. He wasn't sure if this was the way she usually was at work or if she was trying to get him riled up. Regardless, Lilly was doing a damn good job of it. Ranger watched as she rested her hand on her cocked hip,

laughing at something one of the cowboys at the bar said. When he saw the man smooth a hand across her ass, Ranger stood. Running on pure instinct he stalked toward the bar. He knew Jeff, and he wasn't someone he wanted Lilly around.

Lilly must have seen Ranger coming because she quickly turned to face him and put up her hands. "Stop," she warned. "Just go back to your table and I'll be there in a minute."

Ranger was taken back by the vehemence in her voice. He narrowed his eyes and studied her for a few second. Lilly put her hands on her hips and stared right back. Deciding it wouldn't do much good to apologise for earlier if he was an ass now, he turned on his heel and went back to his table. He couldn't help but to feel like a kid who'd just been sent to his room.

His vibrating cell phone snapped him out of his pout. He looked at the caller ID and saw it was Bub. "Hey, sorry, I'm running a little late."

"You want me to come over? Our dinner's getting cold. Betty put them in one of those nice insulated containers, but sitting here's just making everything soggy."

"Give me ten minutes. Lilly's just walking over to take her break. Boy, Bub, we gotta talk. Lilly actually snapped at me a few minutes ago."

"Damn, what did you do? Lilly's one of the sweetest people I know." Ryker chuckled on the other end of the phone.

"Some asshole was taking liberties with her ass and I guess I took exception to it. Lilly shut me down fast."

"Who was taking liberties with our girl?"

He didn't dare tell Ryker that asshole had been Jeff Brown. "Doesn't much matter whose hand it was. By the way she reacted it wasn't an uncommon occurrence." Lilly was almost to the table, his heart lurched despite himself. "Here she comes, be there as soon as I can."

Ranger drank the rest of his beer as Lilly looked at him with narrowed eyes.

"What do you want, Ranger?" She crossed her arms, accentuating her breasts and stared at him.

"I wanted to apologise for earlier. Ryker was kicked by one of the cows and was...you just surprised me. I didn't mean to snap at you like I did." Ranger watched as Lilly bit down on her plumb bottom lip.

"I shouldn't have just walked in like that, I know, but I can't say it didn't hurt when you yelled. And as far as that..." Lilly motioned toward the cowboy at the bar, "...that is none of your business."

Ranger felt the hairs on the back of his neck stand on end at the statement. "Do you always let men grope you while you work?"

Lilly sighed and leaned forward, resting her arms on the table. "Listen, Ranger, I've spent a good portion of my adult life mooning after two people who obviously aren't interested. This is my time. I've decided to live life to the fullest and if a pat on the ass from a good-looking cowboy happens, I'll decide what I want to do about it, not you."

"You're wrong about those two guys not being interested, but you're too young for what they have in mind. You need to live a little before you settle down."

"Ha," she said, getting right in Ranger's face. "Either make the offer, or butt out of my business." Lilly stood and bent over, her lips barely touching Ranger ear as she whispered. "I guess the only thing you have to worry about is whether I'm still available once you think I'm old enough." She finished with a lick to the shell of his ear. When she pulled back it was to look directly into his eyes. "You want me to live a little? You just sit back and watch."

Lilly turned and sauntered off, sweet ass just swaying from side to side like she knew she'd drive Ranger crazy. He blew out a long breath and shook his head. Shit, had he just talked to her or issued a challenge? Ryker was going to kill him.

Ranger stood and after giving Lilly one last glance, walked out. Pulling up in front of the diner, he decided not to tell Ryker about everything that had happened. It was bad enough that he'd opened his big mouth about the ass groping incident. He sure didn't need to tell him Lilly was thinking about other men.

Ryker jumped in with the take-out bag. "It's about time you got here. He set the bag in the seat between them before reaching out to squeeze Ranger's thigh. "What's wrong?"

"Nothing, I apologised for being an asshole when she walked into the office. She accepted my apology but said it had hurt her feelings." He pulled out onto Main Street and headed toward home.

"And?" Ryker inquired.

"And nothing. I finished my beer and left." He refused to look at Ryker, afraid he'd give away his deception.

As soon as they pulled off the county road onto their long winding driveway, Ryker moved the bag to the floor and scooted over next to Ranger. He kissed Ranger's neck and moaned. "Why do I smell Lilly back here?"

"She leaned in close to talk so the whole bar wouldn't hear. She must've been wearing perfume." He jumped a little when Ryker grabbed the hardening shaft between his legs.

"Then tell me why you have lipstick on your ear?" Ryker asked.

"I just did," Ranger said in a defensive tone. "She leaned in and whispered in my ear."

Ryker's eyes narrowed at the obvious omission on Ranger's part. When Ranger stopped the truck in front of the garage, Ryker grinned. "You know I'm gonna be smelling on this neck all night."

"Be my guest," he said, and gave Ryker a quick kiss. "First let's eat, I'm starving. After dinner we'll get a nice ice-pack and ice your leg while we watch TV."

"Sounds like a plan."

Ranger grabbed the bag of food before Ryker could. "You're going to have enough problems getting up the steps without carrying something."

"Ahh, you're always thinking of me," Ryker teased and batted his long black lashes.

"Always," Ranger replied with a wink.

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With a large ice pack and towel in hand, Ranger crawled back in bed. "Let me put this under you so you don't get the bed all wet," he said, carefully lifting Ryker's leg to spread out the towel. He looked down at the still swollen bruise. "Have those pain pills kicked in yet?"

"If they'd kicked in already I'd be asleep." Bub ran his fingers through Ranger's hair as he adjusted the ice pack. "Thanks."

"You're welcome," he said, placing a kiss on the heated skin. "I think you should stay home tomorrow and keep this elevated."

"Stop frettin', it's just a bruise. Besides," Ryker said, pulling him into his arms, "you know I go crazy when I'm here without you."

"I could call Sonny." He kissed Ryker's neck up to his chin, running his tongue over his heavy five-o'clock shadow.

Ryker lifted his chin to give him more room to play. "I love Sonny, but he's not you. He's always so jittery when he's away from the ranch, he makes me nervous."

Ranger continued to distract Ryker with kisses while he thought about Lilly. Her words kept going round and round in his mind. Damn, he sure wished he knew what she had planned.

"What's wrong," Ryker asked.

"Nothing. Go to sleep, Bub."

"Now that's the second time you've lied to me tonight. What happened with Lilly?"

Ryker drew lazy circles over Ranger's back.

"I told her we were interested in her, but she needed to live a little first. She just got this really strange look on her face, and then she licked my ear and told me to sit back and watch while she did some living. I guess I'm trying to work out what she meant. I mean, I think I know, but I can't see Lilly getting wild just to prove something to us."

Ryker cleared his throat, and tilted Ranger's head up to look at him. "Why can't we just ask her out on a date? I'm sorry, but I really don't understand why we're waiting. I know I'm not the only one with feelings for her so why wait?"

How could he tell Ryker his greatest fears without sounding like a selfish asshole? He'd fought with himself for four years, ever since that day Lilly had first caught them. The heated look Ryker had given her almost boiled his blood. Was it jealousy or fear?

"Ranger, talk to me."

"We can ask her, I'll call her this week and see when her next day off is," he agreed, not wanting to analyze his feelings.

"Really?" Ryker grabbed Ranger's head and pulled him forward, thrusting his tongue into his mouth. "Turn off the light, I got a man to thank before these pain pills kick in."

Chapter Three

Driving to work the next afternoon, Lilly gripped the wheel so tight her knuckles turned white. "What were you thinking?" She couldn't believe she'd told Jeff she'd go out with him. "Okay, calm down and take a breath," she said out loud. "You're almost twenty-two years old, it's past time you explored the dating scene."

"But Jeff? Of all the men you could have spread your wings with, why'd you have to say yes to him?" Even though she'd asked herself that same question over and over since the previous night, she already knew the answer. Because he would give her the experience Ranger and Ryker seemed to want her to have. Evidently the twins weren't into virgins. A bark of laughter erupted from her throat. "Just my luck. I've saved myself for two men only to find out they want me more experienced."

Pulling into the lot, Lilly parked her fifteen-year old Toyota Corolla beside the light pole. Taking a deep breath, she rested her head on the steering wheel. So many sleepless nights she'd spent since she'd first seen Ranger and Ryker kissing in the feed shed. Watching the two of them felt like looking into the sun, you knew it was dangerous but you couldn't help yourself. Lilly had watched them for several long, passionate minutes before they'd heard her sigh.

They'd jumped apart so quick it made her head spin. While Ranger turned red and told her they'd be out in a minute, Ryker just stared at her, his eyes heavy-lidded with desire. She may have only been seventeen, but she knew what that look meant. From that moment on, she hadn't given other men the time of day. She knew someday, Ryker and hopefully Ranger, too, would follow through on that look.

Well, she knew what they wanted from her, and come hell or high water she would do anything she could to get herself the experience they seemed to require. She'd cut off one her red Dead Zone T-shirts so that it now exposed her belly ring. The shirt along with her short denim skirt and red cowboy boots should attract plenty of attention. Friday nights at the Zone were always packed with the town rowdies, and tonight was hers for the taking.

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"Ready to go?" Jeff asked, leaning against the bar.

No, she wanted to scream, but instead nodded. Going behind the bar, she picked up her purse and plastered a smile on. "Let's go."

Jeff put his arm around her bare midriff and walked her toward the door. "Where did you say we were going?"

Reaching his truck, Jeff opened the door and pulled Lilly into his arms. "That depends on if I need to buy you a burger before taking you home."

Panic froze her on the spot. No, no, not this fast. She wasn't ready yet. Looking up into Jeff's handsome face she smiled. "A burger would be nice," Lilly said, hoping to stall. God she hoped he was joking.

Jeff lifted her into the passenger seat and shut the door. Lilly fastened her seat belt and tugged her shirt down as far as she could. *Why hadn't she thought to bring another shirt?*

Starting the truck, Jeff looked over and winked. "Scoot over here, sugar." Jeff ran his hand up her bare thigh and started to dip underneath her skirt.

Without thought, she reached out and shoved his hand away. "I'm sorry, I just can't." She felt the tears welling in her eyes and shook her head. "Please forgive me." She unbuckled her seatbelt and got out of the truck. Digging for her keys, she quickly unlocked her car door as Jeff continued to stare at her.

God, she was embarrassed. This was all Ranger's fault. If he hadn't pressured her she would have never...

Her thoughts were interrupted when Jeff yanked the door handle out of her hand. "What the hell's going on with you? You tease me all night long with that damn outfit, and then the minute I touch you, you act like a scared virgin."

"Please, Jeff, let's forget about it," she pleaded.

He looked at her for several seconds before shaking his head. "You're not worth it," he said, slamming her car door. Jeff stalked back to his truck and roared off, spraying dust and gravel in his wake.

Lilly closed her eyes. She didn't know whether to be pissed or grateful. One thing was for sure though, as much as she desired the touch of a man, she'd found it was only Ranger and Ryker's touch she craved. Why couldn't they be the ones to take her virginity? Deciding

she deserved the answer to her question, she started her car and drove toward the twin's place.

When she pulled up to the house it was dark. She looked over and spotted both trucks so she knew they were home. Feeling guilty for coming uninvited, Lilly pulled her cell phone out of her purse and called the house.

"Hello?"

The deep steady voice was all it took to break her down. She started talking without censoring herself. "I'm so sorry, I just can't do it. I tried, I was going to go out with Jeff but I just couldn't go through with it. I've never really dated because I've been saving myself for the two of you, and I'm sorry that you want me to have more experience but I don't. I only want the two of you. Not some other man. Why can't you accept me the way I am?"

"Lilly," Ranger yelled into the phone, "calm down. Where are you, sweetheart? Do you need help?"

Lilly grabbed a tissue from the box between the seats and blew her nose. "I'm out front. I came over here to talk to you, and then the house was dark and I chickened out. I embarrassed myself with Jeff tonight, and now I'm doing the same with you. You must think I'm acting like such a child."

"Hang up the phone and walk toward me. We'll figure this out."

Looking up, Lilly saw Ranger standing on the deep front porch of the log and stone house. He was dressed in a pair of jersey shorts and nothing else and Lilly's breath hitched in her chest. Damn, he was a beautiful man. As if in a trance, she turned off her phone and dropped it back into her purse before opening the door and walking toward the porch.

Ranger stepped back and opened the front door. "Come in," he said, holding out his hand.

Without hesitation, Lilly took the offered hand and followed Ranger inside. "Ryker's still sore. He took a pill earlier and he's out like a light." Ranger turned toward her and started to say something but stopped himself, his gaze raking across her body like a branding iron. He gestured to the couch, "Have a seat, I'll get us a glass of iced tea."

Lilly nodded and sat on the couch. She tried to pull her skirt down as far as she could, aware that she was showing a lot of leg. Maybe that's why Jeff put the moves on her so fast? She suddenly felt like a cheap imitation of her true self. Looking around, she spotted a thin

blanket on the back of the old-fashioned rocking chair in the corner. Rising, Lilly quickly walked across the room and picked up the blanket.

"Cold?" Ranger asked, setting two glasses of tea on the coffee table.

Biting her lip, she shook her head. "More like embarrassed." She looked down at her bare midriff and short skirt before unfolding the blanket and draping it across her shoulders.

Ranger smiled and sat on the couch. "You've got a beautiful body. I like looking at it, but unfortunately for me and Ryker so does every other straight man with a pulse."

"Straight man? Do you consider yourself straight?"

"Yeah, why?"

"Well because I've seen the way the two of you kiss and I walked in yesterday to you wrapped around him with no pants on. I wouldn't exactly say those are the actions of a straight man." The look on Ranger's face confused her. Lilly couldn't tell if she'd pissed him off or if he was amused.

"It's hard to explain my relationship with Ryker. No one's ever been able to understand us and what we mean to each other. I can tell you that he is the only man on earth that I find physically attractive. I'm sure being my identical twin that sounds rather vain, but it goes beyond that. To love him is to love myself. One of us cannot function without the other, we've tried."

"But you both like women?" Lilly realised she'd been in love with these two men for years and had never talked to them about their relationship. She just figured they were gay or as she hoped bi-sexual. She was honest with herself enough to admit that she still didn't understand their relationship, but at least Ranger seemed willing to talk to her about it.

"Yeah," he chuckled, "we both like women. Well, we did like women, now we're only interested in one woman, you. Ryker and I haven't taken a woman to our bed for almost four years."

"Since that day..."

"Yes, since that day. I think Bub fell in love with you on the spot. Since then, he's refused to have any other women."

"And you?" She pulled the blanket closer, needing the security.

Ranger looked her in the eye before leaning over to take her hand in his. "Honestly? I don't know. I find you incredibly beautiful and I enjoy your company. I believe I have

feelings for you, but I'm not sure how deep they go yet. I know they're nothing like Ryker's. If you can handle dating us, knowing how I feel, then everything should be fine."

Lilly wasn't sure what to think of the rather monotone statement. She saw wariness in Ranger's eyes and wondered just what he was so afraid of. This was her chance though. Despite Ranger's speech, she knew the three of them could make a relationship work. She may be young and inexperienced, but she wasn't stupid. "I'd like that. Uh, to date, I mean."

"I'll ask Ryker to call and ask you out. If he finds out you were here tonight, dressed as you are, he'd never forgive me for not waking him. I'd rather you didn't tell him about our talk."

Hmm, she thought. She'd never known Ranger and Ryker to keep something from the other. Ranger was definitely hiding something. Lilly hoped eventually she'd be able to break through the wall he'd already constructed around his heart where she was concerned. Though his words were definite, his eyes showed her promise. "I'll be waiting for his call." Lilly stood and walked back to the rocker. Taking the blanket from her shoulders, she refolded it and placed it over the back.

When she turned around, Ranger's eyes were glued to the sparkling gem in her belly button. She self consciously crossed her arms over her bare skin. "I promise to dress more appropriately for our date."

Ranger rose and walked toward her. "I told you before that you looked beautiful. As long as you're with Ryker and me, wear what you'd like, no one will bother you. It's you being in a room full of drunken men with neither of us there that's upsetting to think about."

Ranger then surprised her by leaning forward and placing a soft kiss on her lips. "I look forward to our date."

"Me, too," Lilly whispered.

Walking to the door, Ranger walked with his hand on her lower back. "Drive safely."

"I will," she said as she walked down the porch steps.

Watching Lilly drive away, Ranger couldn't decide whether to jump for joy or break down and cry. It was the beginning of something. He just hoped it wasn't the beginning of the end for Ryker and him.

Chapter Four

Ryker and Ranger worked in tandem making breakfast the next morning. They knew each other so well they worked quickly and efficiently. Ryker cracked the eggs into the frying pan and Ranger handed him the salt and pepper. "So, I was thinking maybe you should call Lilly and ask her out."

"Me? I thought you were going to do it later this week." He flipped the hot bacon grease over the top of the eggs, trying to figure out what was going on. It wasn't like Ranger to change his mind so quickly.

He glanced at Ranger and shrugged. "Maybe ask if she'd like to go into Lincoln. We could go out to dinner and a little dancing or something. I know the bar is closed on Sunday and Monday, so it would be a perfect day to call her."

Transferring the eggs to their plates, Ryker eyed his brother. "You're sure?" At Ranger's smile and nod, Ryker felt something in his chest lighten. "I'll call right after we feed the horses."

They carried their plates to the table. He still had a slight limp but his leg felt much better. Easing down into the chair, he leaned over and gave Ranger a kiss. "Thanks."

Ranger grinned. "Don't thank me until she says yes."

"Thanks for agreeing to it in the first place. I know you still have reservations."

Ranger set down his fork and cupped Ryker's cheek. "You know I'd do anything to make you happy."

"I know. You always have. You're the only person I know who's never let me down." He covered Ranger's hand with his and leaned in to the caress. "Love you."

"I know. You're my soul. You know that right?"

"Yeah I do, and you're mine."

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Wiping his sweaty hands on his jeans, Ryker picked up the phone and called Lilly's cell.

"Hello?"

"Hi, Lilly, um, it's Ryker." He rolled his eyes at his own stammering, knowing he sounded like a sixteen-year-old boy asking a girl out for his first date.

"Hi, Ryker." Well that's good, he thought. At least she seems happy to hear from him.

"How's it going?" He asked, wincing.

"Good."

"Uh, the reason I called was to see if you'd be interested in maybe going to dinner with me and Ranger tomorrow evening? We thought we could go into Lincoln so as not to attract as much attention."

"I'd love to go to dinner with the two of you, but something tells me it wouldn't matter where we went, the two of you together will always attract attention."

Shit, he hadn't really thought of that. "Well, I guess you can come over here and we could cook out. It doesn't matter to us. We'd just like your company."

"I didn't say it would bother me, Ryker, but if the two of you would feel more comfortable at home, that's fine with me. The important thing is we spend some time together."

"Good, great. Uh, how 'bout we pick you up around seven? It should be cool enough by then to sit out on the deck." Ryker thought his face would split with the wide grin he was wearing. He felt lighter than he had in years.

"Seven's good, but wouldn't you rather I just drove myself over?" Lilly asked.

"No. Believe it or not, Ranger's pretty old fashioned about stuff like this. He'd have a fit if we didn't pick you up on our first official date. As a matter of fact, I'm not sure what he'll think about us not taking you for a proper evening out."

"The important thing is that we're all comfortable enough to talk. I think we can accomplish that best where the two of you feel most relaxed. Tell Ranger we can go to Lincoln next week if tomorrow night turns out nicely."

"Okay, I think he might buy that."

Speak of the devil. Ranger came walking in the back door. He tilted his head and gestured to the phone.

"Lilly, Ranger just walked in so I'll let him know about tomorrow night. I, uh, have to say, I'm really looking forward to it."

"So am I."

"Well, I guess I'll let you get back to doing...whatever it was you were doing." He rolled his eyes again and looked at Ranger.

"I'll be ready at seven."

"Okay, 'til then." Ryker hung up the phone. "God that was nerve racking."

Ranger walked over and wrapped his arms around him. "So?"

He grinned and kissed Ranger. "She said yes, but she thinks the three of us should be comfortable enough to talk so she suggested we just grill out here at home." He waited for Ranger's reaction.

Ranger narrowed his amethyst eyes. "Promise me you won't try to ravish her. We need to take this slow if it's going to work for the long haul. Remember what Momma always said, slow and steady wins the race. It'll be easy to forget that once Lilly's here, but taking it slow is the right thing to do."

Ryker grinned and held up his hand, "I promise." He hugged Ranger and kissed his neck. "I've got a lot of stuff to get done by tomorrow evening."

Ranger looked around the clean kitchen. "Like what?"

He shrugged, "Just because we aren't taking her out doesn't mean we can't make the evening special. I thought maybe I'd do something with the deck to make it seem a little more romantic."

Now it was Ranger who rolled his eyes. "Do what you want, Bub, but don't go overboard. I don't think Lilly will mind a simple barbecue."

"Of course she wouldn't, but that's no reason not to put forth a little effort to make it special for her."

"You're right," Ranger kissed him again. "How's the leg?"

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Standing beside Ryker at Lilly's apartment door, Ranger had to smile. His brother was so nervous he hadn't sat still all day, which was totally out of character for him. Usually on Sundays, they lounged in bed reading the paper, watching sports and snoozing on the couch, but Ryker had been up since six hanging fairy lights around the deck and picking wildflowers. They didn't have enough vases for all the flowers Ryker brought home so they'd improvised with jars.

When Lilly opened the door with a bright smile on her face and one of the prettiest dresses he'd ever seen, Ranger decided all the hard work was worth it. Ryker had been right. Lilly deserved a special evening.

As Ryker stammered a greeting, Ranger realised it was going to be a full-time job to keep his brother's lust in check. He didn't blame Ryker for his apparent attraction. Lilly looked absolutely edible in the pink and white polka dot halter dress, her sun-bronzed shoulders left bare. "Ready?" he finally asked, trying to save Ryker some embarrassment.

"I'm ready," Lilly held up her purse and keys.

After locking the door, Ranger let Ryker lead her to the truck. As Ranger flipped up the centre console, Ryker lifted Lilly into the seat. It seemed awkward having someone ride between him and Ryker, but the smile on Ryker's face assured him they were doing the right thing.

They made small talk on the way back to the house, Ryker fidgeting with the power button on the window. He'd never seen Bub like this. Usually he was laid back, ready for anything thrown his way. *This* was a totally different Ryker.

Pulling up to the house, Ranger watched Bub help Lilly out and the three of them walked into the house together. "I'll put the twice baked potatoes in the oven if you'll start the grill," Ranger said, stopping in the kitchen.

"Sounds good," Lilly said.

"Would you like something to drink? We have tea, beer and red wine." Ryker asked as he opened the refrigerator.

"I'll have some tea right now, but maybe a glass of wine with dinner would be nice."

Ryker looked up at Ranger. "Beer for me," Ranger said, getting the potatoes into the oven.

After filling two glasses with tea, Ryker gestured toward the French doors that led out to the deck. "Would you like to sit outside?"

"Yeah, that would be great." Lilly said and looked over at Ranger questioningly.

When Ryker turned his back, Ranger mouthed the words, "He's nervous."

Lilly smiled and took a deep breath. "Me, too," she mouthed back. She let Ryker lead her out to the deck.

Ranger could hear her gasp and utter words of approval at the decorated deck. Shaking his head, Ranger washed up a couple of dishes letting Ryker have a few minutes alone with

Lilly. He didn't understand why the two of them were so nervous. It was obvious they all wanted the same things. He didn't think any of them wanted a simple affair, so why were they so skittish around each other?

Deciding to ease the tension, Ranger went out on the deck with a new resolve. Lilly and Ryker were standing beside the grill watching the flames dance over the grate. Walking up to the pair, Ranger put his arm around Ryker and pulled him in for a short kiss. If Lilly was going to get used to the sight of them showing affection, it might as well start now.

He didn't miss the heated look Lilly gave them as she watched the kiss. Well, that went so well, Ranger decided to take it one step further. He broke the kiss with Ryker and leaned over to place a soft kiss on Lilly's plump lips. She surprised him by opening right away for his questing tongue. Groaning, he used his available arm to pull her into an embrace with him and Ryker as he took the kiss even deeper.

A whimpering sound from Ryker had him breaking the kiss. "What?" he asked Bub.

"My turn," Ryker groaned, right before covering Lilly's lips.

Watching the two of them kiss was even more erotic than he'd thought it would be. He was afraid it would seem awkward, but knowing Ryker's feelings, he felt happy for his brother. When their kiss started to become too heated, Ranger figured it was time to break them apart. "Shall we sit?" He asked, breaking into their apparent mouth fuck.

Ryker released Lilly's lips and looked into her eyes for several seconds. "Yeah, that would probably be a good idea." They broke apart and walked over to the outdoor dining table.

Ranger had to readjust his jeans as he noticed the hard points pressing against the thin material of Lilly's dress, it seemed they were all aroused. What he'd intended as a tension breaker had created a whole new set of problems. Even knowing it was too soon, didn't cool his desire for the two people seated across from him. *It was going to be a long night.*

Chapter Five

After dinner, they felt comfortable enough with each other to settle on the double wide lounge he and Ranger liked so much. Now, with Lilly between them, it quickly became Ryker's favourite piece of outdoor furniture. He was hoping that someday, their big bed became his favourite place to have Lilly, but for now, he was in heaven.

Turning to his side, he draped his arm over Lilly to land on Ranger's hip, who did the same. With the fairy lights glowing in the dark, Ryker watched Lilly's face as Ranger talked about the future.

"We just need to make sure you know what you're getting into. Ryker and I are private people, but we do like to venture out occasionally, and when we do we have to watch ourselves. It's plain to see we're twins, and any show of affection is usually greeted with disgust, so we usually keep that here at home. When we take you out, it would be better for all of us, if you pretend you're with one of us only," Ranger explained.

"Why? I mean, I can understand pretending here in town, although everyone knows the two of you are lovers, but why in Lincoln? Sure there's a time and a place for everything, but there's that gay bar there. I'd think the two of you could dance together or both with me and not draw too many eyes."

Ryker couldn't resist placing a kiss on her neck. "It's a little more acceptable yes, but even in that atmosphere we'd draw attention. Hell, until recently, we even embarrassed Rawley. People just don't understand our relationship. You need to give it a lot of thought. There's your mom, for example. Will she accept us or reject you because of us? What about your friends? We know it's a lot to think about, but we don't want you to be hurt by what people will undoubtedly say."

"Well, my mom already knows I've had a crush on the two of you for years. I'm not sure if she knows that entering into a relationship will mean the three of us, but I'll talk to her. I have a couple of girlfriends, but they also know me well enough that I don't think it will come as a shock to them." Lilly stopped and worried her lip with her teeth. "I think I'd be okay with the odd looks from strangers as long as the two of you are with me, but maybe

we should go out in public to test that theory now that we're more comfortable with each other."

"I like that idea," Ryker said, moments before kissing her. Even though it was only the second time they'd kissed, his tongue felt right at home sweeping the depths of Lilly's mouth. He tasted the wine they'd had with dinner and it went straight to his head. The bulge in his jeans let him know just which head, too. As the kiss continued, Ryker couldn't help himself and moved his hand to Lilly's breast. Running his fingertips over the swollen nipple caused the two of them to moan. Slipping underneath the material, he lightly pinched the hard nub unsurprised when he felt Ranger's lips join his fingers in their quest.

Lilly's moan was swallowed by his mouth as she lifted into their touch. Feeling Ranger's hand run up the length of his cock, Ryker thrust his hips. The action seemed to have caused Ranger to come back to his senses because he broke the connection with Lilly's nipple and removed his hand from Ryker's erection. "Stop," he said, tapping Ryker on the arm.

Breaking the kiss, he looked at Ranger. "What's wrong?"

"We need to slow down before things get out of hand."

He looked at Lilly, her exposed breast and bee-stung lips were a testament to how quick things had escalated between the three of them. He noticed the moisture from Ranger's mouth still clinging to the cinnamon coloured nipple and licked his lips. "I'm sorry, Lilly. You're just so beautiful."

Lilly shook her head. "Don't apologise. I've waited years for the two of you to touch me like that."

"Soon," Ranger said. "First we need to get over a few of the hurdles in our path. Namely your mom and going out in public. I don't think we should go any further until we know for sure this is what we all want."

Running her fingers, through Ranger's short black curls, Lilly gave him a chaste kiss. "For the record, I know this is what I want. It feels right. But I can wait until after our next date."

"How about tomorrow?" he asked.

"I'm off, but the two of you have to work," Lilly said, still with her hand in Ranger's hair.

"That's the beauty of owning your own business. We'll just take off early enough to come home, get cleaned up and pick you up, say around six? That'll put us into Lincoln around seven," Ranger said, tucking Lilly's breast back in her dress.

Ryker was sad to see it go, but understood what Ranger was trying to do. Thank God one of them had maintained control. If it had been left up to him, he'd be buried as deep as possible inside Lilly's pussy by now. Condoms, fuck, he hadn't even thought of buying condoms. He mentally added that to his list of things to do tomorrow at lunch.

"I think it would be best if we took you home," Ranger said, looking at Ryker. "I'm not sure I trust the look on Bub's face right now." Ranger grinned and gave Ryker a wink.

"Yeah, that might be best," he agreed, feeling way too horny to trust himself much longer.

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After they both gave Lilly a good-night kiss at her door, Ranger held Ryker's hand as they walked toward the truck. "It was a good date," Ranger said, breaking away to open his door.

"The best," Ryker grinned, getting in his side.

As soon as they left town, Ryker scooted over next to him. "Thank you," he said, nibbling on Ranger's neck.

Tilting his head to the side, he smiled. "You can thank me when we get home. I'm horny as hell now."

"Why wait," Ryker said, opening Ranger's jeans.

He felt Bub's hand cover his cock, seconds before his thumb pressed against the slit at the top. "Oh, fuck." One more mile and they'd be in their own drive where he could pull over. He didn't dare stop on the side of the road, not with his family living just down the road.

Trying to concentrate on the road, he rested a hand atop Ryker's. "Feels good."

"Mmm hmm," Ryker pumped harder kissing his neck.

Pulling onto their private drive, Ranger waited until they reached the tree-line before stopping the truck. He tilted the steering wheel to give Ryker more room and thrust up into Bub's touch. "Yes," he growled, feeling his sac draw up tight to his body.

Ryker held his hand still while Ranger continued to thrust into it. "Gonna," he panted moments before the first spurt of seed left his cock. He grabbed the back of Ryker's head and pulled him in for a deep kiss. "Oh, oh that was good," he moaned.

After cleaning Ranger's cock, Ryker tucked him back in. Ranger smiled and kissed him once more. "Let's get home so I can take care of you."

"I'm all for that," Ryker said with a smile.

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Lying in Ranger's arms, Ryker kissed his chest. "Where should we take her tomorrow night?"

"Oh, I don't know. I was thinking of LaMonts." Ranger swirled his fingers around Ryker's short curls.

"Kinda fancy. Lilly doesn't really strike me as the fancy-type. How about we just get a steak at Cattleman's Choice?"

"That sounds fine. You might want to give her a call and let her know. Women like to be prepared so they dress appropriately," Ranger grinned.

"Feels weird, taking a woman's needs into consideration." Ryker bit Ranger's already red nipple. "I like it."

"Rawley called again today. He's still bugging me to run for City Council."

"You thinking about it?"

"Hell no. But the more I think about Rawley running for Mayor, the more I think he's making a mistake. That man was born to be Sheriff, he loves it. Can you honestly see him behind a desk all day dealing with government bureaucrats?"

Ryker shrugged. "He just wants some changes around here. Since Mayor Channing's indictment for bribery and tax evasion, Rawley's been on a mission. So tell me why you don't want to help him?"

"It's not that. It's the fact that I don't want to live my life under a microscope. I enjoy working and then coming home where I don't have to answer to anyone but you."

"And hopefully Lilly," Ryker interjected.

"Yeah, and hopefully Lilly," Ranger whispered before they both drifted off to sleep.

Chapter Six

Pulling up to the small farmhouse, Lilly looked out over grounds knowing her mom would be outside somewhere. The farm had belonged to her grandpa before he'd passed away. Lilly had never known her father, so it had been just the two of them since her grandpa died when she was thirteen.

Spotting her mom's legs sticking out from under the old red tractor, Lilly walked toward the barn. Sitting in the small area of shade given off by the tractor tire, Lilly picked a blade of grass and began shredding it. "Hey, Momma."

"Hey, baby girl, what brings you out here on your day off?" Debbie Turner asked, crawling out from under the broken machinery.

"I need to talk to you." Lilly continued to pick and shred grass, not looking at her mom.

Debbie wiped her hands on a rag and scooted to the shade, shoulder to shoulder with Lilly. "So talk."

When Lilly hesitated, her mom bumped her shoulder. "You know there's nothing you can say to me to make me love you any less, so out with it."

"I want to date Ryker and Ranger Good," Lilly blurted out.

"Oh, Lilly." Her mom shook her head and wrapped her up in a hug. "There's so many things wrong with that idea. First and foremost, those two men are closer to my age than yours."

"Please, Mom, it's not about the age and we both know it."

"It'll be hard on you, but I guess growing up without a father was hard too and you made it through just fine. Do you see this becoming serious or is it just a whim."

"I've loved them for years, and Ranger told me Ryker feels the same way."

"What about Ranger? He's involved isn't he?"

"Ranger's different. I mean, I know he likes me and he's attracted to me, but he seems to be holding himself back."

Resting her head on Lilly's shoulder, Debbie sighed. "Some men are afraid of commitment. I've also never know those brothers to do anything separately. You can't have one without the other."

"I know."

"What happens in the future? I know you're still young, but I hope you talk with them before things get too serious. You love children, always have. Someday soon you need to discuss what you want for the future. Sex and dating is all fine and dandy, but you have to move toward what you want out of life, and I don't see you giving up the idea of having a husband and children. Even for the Good twins."

Lilly couldn't help but giggle as she gave her mom a little shove. "God, we've just started dating. I can't ask them about marriage and babies yet."

"Well you need to do it before you get yourself in too deep. I know from experience."

That snapped Lilly back to reality. Yeah, her mom did know something about that. She'd dated her high school sweetheart, sure he'd want to marry her after they graduated, Debbie Turner let Jes Mackey take her virginity. When she came up pregnant right before graduation, Jes turned his back on her and went off to college. He'd been killed in a drunk driving accident when he was in his junior year. Debbie had never dated another man. To this day she claimed he'd been the love of her life. Lilly always thought her mom was simply too afraid to love again.

"I'll talk to them, soon, but not yet," Lilly finally agreed.

Her mom kissed her forehead. "That's all I can ask. Well, that's not true. I do have one more favour. The three of you get down to the clinic and get yourselves checked out, and you get yourself on the pill."

"Mom," Lilly said, feeling completely embarrassed.

"You want my blessing? That's the price." Debbie winked.

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Wearing a pink and orange floral skirt and orange tank top, Lilly greeted her dates at the door. "Hey, guys, you're a little early," she said as she gave each of them a kiss. "Just let me get my shoes and purse and I'll be ready."

Ranger and Ryker followed her inside her tiny garage apartment. Ranger jabbed Ryker in the ribs with his elbow. "Someone was a little anxious, sorry."

Waving their concerns away, she sat on the bed to strap on high-heeled white sandals. "It's not a problem." Transferring her wallet and brush to her small white purse she smiled. "I know, women!" She rolled her eyes as Ranger and Ryker chuckled.

Walking toward the door, she leaned in for one more kiss from both of them. "I've been looking forward to this."

Ryker took an extra kiss and patted her ass. "You have no idea how hard it was to concentrate on work today."

"Ready?" Ranger asked, opening the door.

Ryker's brow lifted as he grinned. "Guess that's our cue to break it up."

With Lilly nestled between the two brothers, they made their way out of town to the interstate. "I haven't been to the Cattleman's Choice for years." She rested a hand on Ranger's thigh and was happy to get a grin and a wink. When she put her hand on Ryker's though, he winced. Lilly quickly lifted her hand. "I'm sorry, is that your sore leg?"

Ryker took her hand in his. "Yeah, best either go above or below." He brought Lilly's hand to his upper thigh. "My vote is for above."

Lilly felt herself blush as her fingers grazed the prominent bulge behind the denim fly. "You're trying to get me in trouble."

Grinning, Ryker leaned forward and looked at Ranger. "You planning on yelling at Lilly for trying to grope me on the way to Lincoln?"

"Nope, can't say as I blame her for wanting to do that."

Ryker looked back and Lilly and flashed a big toothy smile. "See? No trouble, amuse yourself."

Lilly knew he was teasing, but the temptation was very strong to do just that. She tried to keep her hand still, but Ryker kept squirming in his seat, causing the back of her hand to continually brush his erection. "Now you're tormenting me and you."

Ranger reached behind Lilly and thumped Ryker's head. "Behave."

"Yes, sir," Ryker said, biting his lip to keep from laughing.

After parking the truck, Ryker wrapped his arm around Lilly and walked her toward the door with Ranger following a few steps behind.

"We decided as far as the public goes, you're my date tonight," Ryker whispered in her ear. "Poor Ranger drew the short straw."

Lilly turned to look back at Ranger. "Well I guess we'll just have to make it up to him later." She turned back around giggling at Ranger's sultry growl. *Boy, was she glad she took her vitamins today.*

The hostess took them to a booth, and Ryker scooted in next to Lilly with Ranger sitting across from her. Picking up her menu, Lilly eyed the choices, finally deciding on the pot roast. When she set the menu down she noticed both men watching her. "What?"

Ryker wrapped his arms around her shoulders and pulled her in for a kiss. "Do you have any idea how beautiful you are?"

"Stop," she swatted him on the arm. "You'll either get me too embarrassed to eat or too horny, and I'm starving."

Their waitress came over and took their orders, all of them deciding to start off with a glass of red wine. Lilly couldn't help but notice the looks the waitress was aiming Ranger's way. She felt a little of the green-eyed monster rise up, and as soon as the perky blonde left, Lilly cleared her throat. "I'm not sure this is going to work."

"What?" Ryker asked in a panicked voice.

Before he could get himself all worked up, Lilly lifted her hand to his cheek and kissed him. "Stop thinking what you're thinking. That's not what I meant. This, me pretending to date only you or Ranger in public, isn't going to work for me."

Calmer now, Ryker kissed her nose. "What's wrong, sweetheart?"

Crossing her arms under her breasts, Lilly huffed. "I don't like other women thinking one of you is eligible." She pouted and glanced toward the waitress who was still ogling Ranger from across the room. "I was an only child and I'm not used to sharing."

Ranger grinned and leaned across the table. "Then give me a kiss, sweet thing."

With a smile, Lilly leaned over and let Ranger tongue fuck her mouth. She felt Ryker's hand inching up her skirt as he moaned. Breaking the kiss she looked into Ranger's eyes and then over at the waitress who was standing with her mouth open. "Much better." Pleased, she sat back down.

Settling back in his seat, Ranger smiled. "I would've never taken you for the territorial type."

"Well get used to it," she said. "Now, let's eat our dinner, and get out of here." She felt Ryker's hand slip under her skirt and turned toward him. "We're getting enough looks without you trying to make me writhe and moan. As nice as your hand feels, maybe we should save it for dessert."

Ryker grinned and removed his hand. "Wow, you're tough."

"One of us has to keep a level head or we're likely to be thrown out. Since I love this place, I'd like to come back sometime."

"Okay, we'll be good, and anytime you want to come back you just say so. It's nice to get out of Summerville once in a while."

Deciding it was better to talk now rather than later, Lilly took a sip of her wine. "I talked to Mom today about us."

Ranger's eye brows shot up, "Really? What did she say?"

Giving away only part of their conversation, Lilly unwrapped her silverware and put her napkin on her lap. "She made me promise that we'd all go to the clinic and get checked out and that I'd get on the pill."

Ryker grabbed Lilly's hand. "The clinic's not a big deal, we can go this week, but I guess I'm a little surprised you aren't already on the pill."

Lilly felt her face heat and looked down at her lap. "I've been saving myself for the two of you." Looking back up at Ranger she said, "When you told me you wanted me to live a little before you asked me out, I tried to get the courage to allow Jeff to take my virginity, but I couldn't go through with it."

"What? You'd let that womanizer take something as special as that?" Ryker almost shouted.

"It's what I thought the two of you wanted."

"No, God, no. We only wanted you to have fun with your friends and stuff. We both knew once we began dating you it would be for keeps. The last thing we wanted was for you to feel like you'd missed out on a part of your life twenty years from now. That's all, I promise." Ranger took her hand and continued. "And we're honoured that you saved yourself for us. As a matter of fact, Nate was teasing me a couple of months ago about the fact that there was no way you could be a virgin at twenty-one. I wanted to kill him."

"Wait a minute," she narrowed her eyes and looked from Ryker to Ranger. "Why did you discuss my sex life with Nate?"

“Oh, I didn’t really. I think Nate said something about Rio not coming home from the bar, and maybe he’d gone home with that pretty waitress.” Ranger shrugged. “The thought of you going home with Rio was enough to tear me up. Little did I know, Rio was trying to avoid Nate because he was sweet on him and didn’t want to cheat on Ryan.”

Lilly grinned, “So it bothered you huh?”

“Hell yeah it bothered me. Believe it or not, it’s been hard for me and Ryker to wait for you to get older.”

Ranger stopped talking while the waitress brought their food to the table. Lilly was pleased that the sly flirting had stopped but she grinned when the waitress winked at her. *Yep, that girl knew a lucky woman when she saw one.*

“Mmm,” she moaned at the look and smell of her pot roast. Lilly looked up to see both men staring at her. “Sorry, smells good.”

“Let’s just hurry and eat so we can get out of here,” Ryker said, squeezing her leg.

Chapter Seven

The closer they got to the house, the more Ryker wanted to play. He stole brief kisses and rode with his arm stretched behind Lilly, buried in the depths of Ranger's black curls. "Will you stay the night?" he finally asked Lilly.

"Yes," she replied, giving him a kiss.

Ryker could tell she was nervous. Smoothing his palm down her cheek, he kissed her again. "We'll take it slow. If nothing else it would be heaven just to hold you between us while we sleep."

"We'll see how things go. I've waited so long nothing seems real." Lilly worried her lip which Ryker was becoming accustomed to.

He licked the poor offended lip and ran his hand up under her skirt to rest on her thigh. Ryker looked up and caught Ranger watching his every move. He couldn't tell by the look on Ranger's face whether he was getting horny or something else. "Sweetheart, I think Ranger's feeling left out."

"Oh, we can't have that," Lilly said as she turned to kiss Ranger's jaw. He turned his head slightly and tried to kiss her while keeping his eyes on the road. Ryker smiled when Ranger released a soft moan as they broke the kiss. Knowing Ranger was just as nervous as Lilly was somehow very endearing.

With the mood in the truck shifting into playful, Ryker moved his hand higher under Lilly's skirt as he began kissing her neck. He smiled against her soft skin as she shifted enough to let him know his actions were welcome. Running his fingers over the lace of her panties he could already feel moisture soaking his fingers. "Mmm," he moaned.

Ryker looked into her green eyes seeking permission to go even further. Her answer was to open completely for him, hooking one leg over Ranger's thigh and one leg over his. Ryker rewarded her faith with a deep thrusting kiss as his fingers slipped under the leg of her panties to drag across her slit.

Lilly broke the kiss and tilted her head back as the first of his fingers worked its way inside the creamy depths of her pussy. "Oh God."

He watched as Ranger fidgeted in his seat as he tried to keep his eyes on the smooth blacktop. "Come on," he said to Ranger, "you can drive one handed, I know you can."

With a sideways glance, Ranger removed one hand from the wheel. As soon as Ryker felt Ranger's fingers slide in beside his, he withdrew and sucked one digit into his mouth. "Holy fuck, you taste good." He held the other finger in front of Ranger's mouth.

Ranger opened, seemingly eager for his first taste of Lilly. Ranger sucked his finger like he wanted to take the skin off. "Hey, I didn't expect to draw back a stub," Ryker joked.

"Sorry," Ranger mumbled, releasing Ryker. Ranger looked down at the speedometer, "Ten more miles," he said, pressing a little harder on the gas.

Whatever Ranger was doing with his hidden hand, seemed to be doing the trick for Lilly as she began to squirm in her seat, panting. Ranger looked over at Ryker. "Rub her clit."

Unbuckling his seat belt, Ryker grinned. "I can do better than that." He flipped Lilly's skirt up as he buried his face against her partially exposed pussy. Running his tongue over the small triangle of closely cropped hair about her slit, he inhaled. "You smell good, sweetheart."

Lilly answered by reaching down and trying to pull her panties off. Her actions were so frantic and mindless she wasn't getting anywhere. "Off," she cried.

Chuckling, Ryker slid her wet panties down her legs and off. He handed the garment to Ranger. "Smell."

As Ranger inhaled the scent of Lilly's desire, Ryker went back to her pussy. With his tongue poised at her channel, he thrust deeply into her core.

"Uhh," Lilly stiffened and grabbed Ryker's hair.

With his nose pressed against her clit, Ryker began torturing her pussy with his tongue, lapping every ounce of cream her body produced. When her grip tightened even more he slid his tongue up and covered her clit with his lips, sucking and biting down gently.

"Ryker," she screamed as she came.

Moving back down, Ryker scooped cum from her body with his tongue as he unzipped his jeans. Taking his throbbing cock in hand it only took two strokes for his own orgasm to overtake him.

"Fuck," Ranger howled.

Ryker looked up in time to see Ranger's cock empty its seed onto the steering wheel with Lilly's hand wrapped firmly around it. The smell of sex was so strong inside the truck cab, Ryker's cock continued to twitch in his fist.

By the time they pulled in front of the house, and Ranger put the truck into park, the three of them were exhausted. Ranger, resting his head against the back of the seat, turned to Ryker and Lilly. "Don't ever do that again. I could have easily wrecked and killed us all."

Ryker leaned up across Lilly to give Ranger a kiss, sharing Lilly's essence. "For that? I'll take my chances." He used the tails of his shirt to clean himself up before crawling back onto the seat and opening the door. "How about we take this inside?"

As Ranger tucked himself back in and fastened his jeans, Ryker got out of the truck. He turned back toward Lilly and scooped her out of the seat.

"I can walk," she whined.

"Yeah, but I'd rather carry you. Ranger's too damn big for me to carry around or else I'd carry him too."

Ranger had the door unlocked and opened by the time Ryker made it to the top of the steps. Walking straight to the bedroom he lowered Lilly to the side of the bed. "Would you like some wine while we recuperate?"

"That sounds good." Lilly started to undress right before his eyes.

Instead of running off to get the wine, Ryker stared in awe. As the tight tank top lifted over her breasts, his mouth began to water. "So pretty," he groaned, falling to his knees in front of her. Just before burying his face in her cleavage, he turned to Ranger. "Would you get us some wine, please?" he asked with a boyish grin.

Ranger rolled his eyes and walked off muttering under his breath. Lilly tossed the shirt to the floor, and Ryker captured both breasts in his hands. Bringing the generous mounds together he sucked on one nipple before moving to the next, happy when they pebbled immediately. He was sure her chest would probably be dotted with hickeys the next day, but he liked the thought of marking her.

A throat clearing behind him drew his attention. He pulled off one of the generous nipples with a pop and looked behind him. Ranger was standing with a bottle of wine and three glasses. "Why don't you give Lilly a break long enough to get undress and have a glass of wine, Mr. Greedy."

Ryker released Lilly's breast as she sighed. "Sorry," he said feeling like a lecher. Standing, he walked to the bathroom and cleaned himself up from his earlier orgasm. Running a soft washcloth under the hot water, he carried it back to the bedside table, hoping they'd need it later.

Lilly was already under the covers, nestled in the centre of the bed. She looked perfect there, Ryker thought. Although he did acknowledge it would be strange not to sleep next to Ranger. They'd slept spooned together since they were babies. In the past, they'd shared women, but none of them had been invited to spend the night, this would be the first.

As he undressed he looked over at Ranger. Seeing the stunned look on Ranger's face as he poured the wine, Ryker guessed he was thinking the same thing. Lilly must have noticed the sudden tension in the room. "Is something wrong?"

Tossing his clothes aside, Ryker got in bed and pulled Lilly into his arms. He decided to be honest with her. If this relationship would work honesty needed to come before shame. "Ranger and I have never been separated in sleep. It just hit us both, I think."

"Well, that's easily fixed," she smiled and scooted over to the far side of the bed. "The two of you will just have to take turns sleeping in the middle."

Ryker loved her more at that moment than he ever thought possible. She hadn't questioned or made them feel ashamed. Lilly had simply come up with the perfect solution. Ryker pressed his lips to hers. "God, you're perfect for us."

Ranger stood over them, handing them each a glass of red wine. Ryker looked up to take his glass and met Ranger's gaze. He knew Lilly had jumped her first hurdle in gaining Ranger's love as well.

Getting in bed, Ranger quickly finished his glass of wine, and set it on the table. He motioned for Ryker to look at Lilly and grinned. Glancing over, Ryker saw Lilly trying her best to stay awake. Seems her orgasm combined with the nerves of their first date had worn her out. Finishing off his wine, Ryker took Lilly's glass out of her hand and passed them both to Ranger. "Poor baby," he crooned, pulling Lilly against his chest.

They both watched as she yawned and promptly fell asleep. "She's just so damn cute," Ryker said, putting his other arm around Ranger, who cuddled up against him.

"She is," Ranger agreed. He brushed the hair away from her face. "You think it's going to work?" Ranger asked, lips barely touching Ryker's.

“Yeah, I really do.” Ryker opened his mouth and kissed Ranger. After several minutes they broke apart and settled in for the night, Ranger’s head resting on Ryker’s chest next to Lilly’s beautiful face.

Chapter Eight

Waking up before dawn, surrounded by the people he loved put an immediate smile on Ryker's face. He could feel Lilly's soft curves against his morning erection as well as Ranger's half-hard cock tucked against the cheeks of his ass. "Life just doesn't get any better," he whispered to the morning sunrise.

The need to explore was strong, but his conscience kept telling him to wait, Lilly deserved more than a quick, before-work, kind of loving. It would be her first time, and Ryker wanted it to be memorable for all of them. Still, a little groping couldn't hurt, as long as they didn't do too much.

Working his way up from her stomach, Ryker brushed his palms across her warm breasts, happy when they immediately pebbled for him. His fingertips explored the raised bumps and ridges surrounding her tight buds as he kissed her bare shoulder.

Lilly arched her back, pushing her sweet ass against his aching cock. "Morning," she said, reaching behind her to hold on to his hip as she continued to grind herself against him.

He felt Ranger's cock stiffen the second his eyes opened. "Having fun without me?" Ranger asked in his rough morning voice.

"Just starting," Ryker said. He reached back and pulled Ranger closer.

"What about my morning hand job?" Ranger chuckled.

"You'll have to make do rubbing against me this morning because I've got my hands full at the moment." Ryker looked over his shoulder and kissed Ranger.

Ranger looked at Ryker before glancing toward Lilly. Ryker could tell what he was worried about, but they all needed to get used to each other. Nibbling on Lilly's neck, he whispered in her ear. "You don't mind if Ranger rubs off on me this morning do you?"

Lilly took his hand off her breast and drew it down to her pussy. "Not as long as you take care of me, too."

"Hot damn, pass me some lube, brother."

"Uh...I thought we agreed..." Ranger stammered.

"Right, I need to talk to Lilly about that." Ryker kissed Lilly's shoulder again.

"Sweetheart, Ranger and I think it would be better to wait a little longer to make love to you. Lord knows it's not because we don't want to, but you deserve something special. And we aim to give it to you."

Lilly turned her head and kissed him.

"That said, I thought we could do a little playing this morning before Ranger and I have to get you home."

"I like to play, but just so you know, any time would be special to me as long as it was with one of you." Lilly turned in his arms to face him.

"You do say the sweetest things," Ryker grinned. With his hand to the back of her head, Ryker pulled her in and licked her lips. When she opened, he delved in deep, tasting her passion just bursting to be set free.

The ringing phone and a nudge from Ranger finally broke them apart. "What?" Ryker asked looking over his shoulder.

"There's a call for Lilly. Its Rawley," Ranger said, passing the phone to her.

Ryker looked at Ranger and he shrugged. "He wouldn't tell me anything. Only that he couldn't find Lilly so he called Debbie, and she told him to phone here."

Turning his attention back to Lilly he listened to her side of the conversation as Ranger's hand wrapped around his cock. He thrust his hips back against Ranger's erection as he tried to concentrate on what Lilly was saying to Rawley.

"Okay, yeah, I'll have the guys drop me by the station. Thanks for calling, Sheriff." Lilly disconnected and handed the phone back to Ranger. "My landlord called the police this morning. She went out to get her paper and saw my car had been vandalised. Rawley wants me to come by the Sheriff's office and file a report." She bit her lip, "I know you guys need to get to work, but could you wait after you drop me off so I can make sure my car will run?"

Ranger released Ryker's cock and crawled over the top of both of them to sandwich Lilly in between their warm bodies. "Of course we will. If you want, you can borrow one of our trucks until you get your car fixed."

"Thanks, but depending on the damage, it's probably not worth fixing. My poor baby was on her last leg anyway."

"We'll figure it out. The most important thing is to find out who would do something like that. Did Rawley say if he suspects kids or a different type of threat?"

"He didn't say. It's only me and Mrs. Clemens, and she doesn't even hear her own phone half the time. Rawley doesn't even know when it was vandalised, could've been any time after you two picked me up yesterday evening."

Brushing the hair off her face, Ryker kissed her. "I don't like the thought of you there alone if someone's trying to start trouble."

"It's probably just kids. I'll be fine, besides I can't leave Mrs. Clemens there to deal with it, she's darn near eighty."

"As much as I'd like to stay right where we are, we need to get going. Ryker, why don't you go hop into the shower while Lilly and I make breakfast?"

Sticking his bottom lip out, Ryker sat up. "You've always been a party pooper."

"No, I've always been the one who gets your ass to work on time," Ranger grinned, swatting Ryker's ass as he walked by on the way to the bathroom.

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As soon as Ryker shut the door, Ranger looked back at Lilly. "Do you think it could have anything to do with your failed date with Jeff the other night?"

Sitting up, Lilly swung her legs over the side of the bed. "I can't see Jeff doing something like that. He was a real jerk Saturday night at work, but I've never heard of him having a violent streak." Lilly looked toward the bathroom.

"Maybe you should come back and stay the night tonight after you get off work." Ranger slipped on his jeans and watched as Lilly put on her clothes. *Damn she sure was a beauty.*

She seemed to be thinking about his invitation as she slipped her skirt on. Lilly paused and slapped her forehead. "Oh, no, I can't. Dang you two have completely fried my brain for anything but the two of you. I forgot tonight's Bunco night at Jeanette's house, and I promised mom I'd go. I even scheduled an evening off."

"How long does it usually last? You can always come by after." Ranger hated to beg, but he really didn't like the sound of someone destroying her car. He tried not to make a fuss, not wanting to worry either of them, but he planned on making a phone call to Rawley later.

Lilly was back to biting her lip as she slipped the shirt over her head. He sighed as her perfect breasts were once again covered. She seemed to know what he was thinking and gave him a wink. "Later," she teased.

Hearing the water shut off, Ranger grabbed her hand and led her to the kitchen. "Quick, let's get breakfast going. Do you need a shower?"

Lilly shook her head and retrieved a carton of eggs from the fridge. "I'll just put my hair in a ponytail until I get back from filing the report." Pulling down a bowl, she began cracking eggs. "I hope you both like scrambled. Sorry to say, I'm not much of a cook."

Ranger hugged her from behind, "Scrambled's my favourite." He ran his tongue around the shell of her ear as he slipped his hands under the thin tank top and up to cover her breasts. Lilly rested her head back on his shoulder as she arched into his touch.

"Oh, now I know why you wanted me to shower first, you pig," Ryker said, still drying his hair with a towel.

"I couldn't help myself," Ranger said, squeezing her nipples.

He felt the snap of the towel on his ass and turned his head toward Ryker. "You're asking for it, Bub."

Ryker smiled and pressed against Ranger's back. "Yeah? What am I asking for?" Ryker used the position to stretch his arms out around Ranger and onto Lilly's breasts.

With two sets of hands on her, Lilly moaned. "Well unless you both stop, it sure ain't breakfast."

Ranger and Ryker both laughed and released their hold on her. "Okay, I'll get in the shower," Ranger said, placing one more kiss on Lilly's neck. He turned toward Ryker and kissed him. "You be good and let the woman feed us before we're late for work."

"Yes, sir, boss." Ryker saluted.

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Pulling up in front of her tiny apartment over Mrs. Clemens garage, Lilly gasped. "Oh, no." As soon as she saw the busted out windows, she was glad Ryker had insisted she borrow one of their trucks. They'd still followed her home, but at least now she had a way to get to the Sheriff's station. She felt Ryker's arm wrap around her waist as Ranger parked and got out of his truck.

"Holy shit," Ranger said, as he walked toward her destroyed Toyota. He narrowed his eyes and looked around the street and yard. "This wasn't done by kids." He looked right at her. They both knew who'd done it.

"Excuse me, but is there something you all want to let me in on?" Ryker asked.

Lilly looked up at Ranger, who closed his eyes and nodded. She turned back to Ryker. "It's just a guess, but Jeff wasn't very happy with me the other night. When we got into his truck, he immediately started putting his hand up my skirt and I kinda freaked out. I apologised and told him I couldn't go through with it. Needless to say, Jeff's not used to being shut down. I don't know how we'd prove it though."

"I'll kill him," Ryker said, jaw tensing.

"No, you won't, Bub. It's Rawley's job, let him do it." Ranger put a hand on Ryker's shoulder. "Our job is to protect Lilly, not play cops."

Lilly looked at her battered car again. Every window was either cracked or busted along with her tail lights and headlights. She decided to take Ranger up on his offer for a place to stay. "I'll talk to Mrs. Clemens and tell her I'll be gone for a few days until they find out who did this. I'd like to try and convince her to go stay with her sister in Lincoln. If she agrees, I'll probably drive her up this afternoon, if it's okay that I use your truck?"

Ryker hugged her. "You can use anything of mine you want," he gave her a grin and a wink. "Just make sure when you come back to pack, you have one of us or Rawley with you."

"Will do," she said standing on her tiptoes to give him a quick kiss. "And I'll be by after Bunco tonight."

With one last look at Lilly's car, Ryker shook his head. "Let's get out of here."

Chapter Eight

By mid-morning, Ryker was back in the office. He looked at the clock and picked up the phone. Surely Lilly had had time to fill out her police report by now. Dialling Rawley's number he waited. When he got a recording he hung up and tried his cell phone.

"Sheriff Good," Rawley answered.

"Hey, did Lilly come by?" Ryker leaned back in his chair and put his muddy boots on the edge of the desk.

"Yeah, I'm over at her place right now. She's upstairs getting some things together while I take some fingerprints off the car." Rawley paused, "Lilly's staying with you for a couple of days I take it?"

He could almost hear the censure in his big brother's voice. "Yes, something wrong with that?"

"Nope, not as long as you're sure of what you're doing. And before you get all defensive, it's not because of her age, even though I know that's a sore spot with you and Ranger. I just need you to be sure this is what you want, because it might not go over very well in town. You need to think a little about what's good for Lilly and the consequences of your actions."

"Rawley, we know all of this. Ranger and I have talked about it for years. What it would all mean to our personal and professional lives, and we decided that Lilly had a right to choose for herself. We had a nice talk last night and the night before. I think she knows what she's getting into. She talked to her momma, so we're not sneaking around behind anyone's backs. Just let us deal with it."

"Deal, huh? What about Lilly's car?"

Worrying his fingers through his hair, Ryker closed his eyes. "I don't think that had anything to do with me and Ranger. I'm sure she told you about her almost-date with Jeff."

"Yeah, she told me. If you're going to continue this with her it will be your responsibility to make sure she stays safe."

"Yes, Sheriff, we realise that. Why do you think we're insisting she come stay with us until this whole vandalism thing is settled?"

Rawley sighed on the other end of the phone. Ryker could just picture him taking off his hat and wiping his brow. "On a brotherly note, if this is what you all want, I'm happy for you."

Ryker knew his brother meant it. Ranger told him about the talk Ranger and Rawley had a couple of months ago, and it meant the world to them to have his blessing. "Thanks."

"Be careful, that's all I ask. Not everyone's going to be as accepting of this new relationship."

"We know. Call us if you find out anything about Lilly's car. Do you think it'll be totalled out by the insurance company?"

"Yeah, I'd say so. The whole car's not worth more than a thousand bucks. I hope she has full coverage."

"Doesn't matter. We'll figure something out."

"Here she comes, do you want to talk to her?"

"If you don't mind," Ryker grinned. He heard Rawley hold out the phone and tell Lilly it was Ryker.

"Hi," Lilly answered.

"Hi, sweetheart. Did you get Mrs. Clemens to agree to go to her sister's?"

"Finally," she chuckled. "I'm taking her up to Lincoln in a few minutes."

Ryker's body began to stir from the sound of Lilly's voice. "Make sure you drive safe, and keep a watchful eye out for anything suspicious. I don't think anyone would be foolish enough to bother you in broad daylight, but it doesn't hurt to keep your eyes open."

Lilly laughed. "I care about you, too. I need to go. Mrs. Clemens is standing on her porch with suitcase in hand. I'll call you before I go to Bunco."

"Bye, sweetheart. I'll see you later." Ryker hung up the phone and closed his eyes. "Life is good," he whispered to himself.

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Lilly went straight to her mom's after dropping Mrs. Clemens at her sister's retirement apartment. She pulled up to the old farmhouse with just enough time to take a quick shower and get ready.

After her shower, she dressed in a pair of navy shorts and a floral button-up camp shirt. Pulling the sides of her hair back into a large barrette, she went into the kitchen to find her mom.

"Hey, baby girl," Debbie said.

"Hey, mom," Lilly answered, giving her mom a kiss on the cheek.

"What did Rawley tell you about your car?" Debbie asked, putting plastic wrap over the top of a plate of brownies.

Lilly snuck a brownie off the plate before her mom had it completely covered. "That he'd send a report to my insurance company. He went over with me earlier to take fingerprints and wait for me to pack a bag. Ranger and Ryker think I should stay with them until we know whoever did this has got it out of their system." Lilly pinched off a piece of the dessert and stuck it into her mouth.

Debbie's eyebrow lifted as she looked at Lilly. "You know you could've just come home for awhile. Are you sure staying with them is a good idea?"

Lilly looked at her mom for several seconds. She'd thought about the implications all the way home from Lincoln. "Yeah, mom, it's what I want. If people are going to have a problem with it, it won't matter if it happens now or two months from now, because I feel that this thing between the three of us is right."

Debbie walked over and kissed the top of her head. "Okay." She looked up at the clock. "You ready?"

Lilly picked up the plate of devilled eggs on the counter while her mom carried the brownies. "Let's go play."

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Getting out of Ryker's truck, Lilly grabbed her purse and a plate of food. She looked around at the cars lining the street. "Pretty good turn out it seems."

"It's usually a good crowd when we play in town." Debbie came around the truck to meet Lilly on the sidewalk.

"Maybe I'll get lucky, and you won't need me to play after all," Lilly grinned. She'd much rather be playing with her men than a bunch of old women.

They headed toward the big front porch when a voice like nails on a chalkboard spoke up. "Isn't that Ryker Good's truck?" Mary Waters asked. Mary was several years older than Lilly and liked to think of herself as the town beauty.

"Yes, it is. What gave you your first clue? Could it be the Good's Feedlot sign on the side?" Lilly knew she was being snide, but dammit, she wasn't in the mood for this holier than thou bitch today.

"Why are you driving Ryker's truck? I thought you were going out with Jeff?" Mary inquired with her hands on her bony hips.

Lilly really didn't want to get into this before she even stepped foot in the door. "No, I'm not dating Jeff. Someone vandalised my car last night so Ryker said I could borrow his truck. Is that okay with you? Or should I have phoned first?"

Mary narrowed her eyes. "What, you going out with Ryker Good now? I thought he was in that perverted relationship with his own twin."

Lilly took a deep breath. Her mom tried to pull her into the house, but instead, Lilly handed Debbie the plate of food. "You go on in. There's something I need to clear up with Mary."

Debbie looked at her and finally sighed. "I imagine this means you won't be staying?"

"Sorry, mom. I'll set the bitch straight then I'm outta here."

Her mom gave her a kiss on the cheek, "You don't need to run away just because one person doesn't understand."

"No, you're right, I don't. But I'm also not going to spend my free time around people who think like Mary does. Life's too short to put up with the bitches of the world just to be polite."

Debbie nodded and went inside. Lilly turned toward Mary and started walking. She had no plans of hitting the woman, but that didn't mean she couldn't scare her a little. Mary took a step back for every one Lilly took toward her. When she was finally backed against the porch railing, Lilly leaned in, her face inches away from Mary's. "Now you listen here. If I ever hear you say another bad word about Ranger and Ryker, I'll kick your scrawny ass from one end of Main Street to the other. They're very private people and you need to learn to respect that. Whether I'm dating Ryker or Ranger or both of them, it's no business of yours. Now get your own life and leave the people I care about alone."

Mary looked shocked. "So, you're just as perverted as they are?"

“Look, Little Mary Sunshine, if I were you, I wouldn’t talk about perversions. Not with all the talk I’ve heard around town about you. I’ve never mentioned what I’ve heard because it’s usually just a bunch of drunk guys talking at the bar, but if you push me, believe me, I’ve got enough ammunition on you to make both your folks disown you. Now, back the hell off.” Lilly didn’t wait for Mary to reply. She turned on her heel and walked back to the truck. At least she knew of two sexy men who’d be happy to see her.

Chapter Nine

Ready for their usual evening ride, Ranger finished cinching Pete's saddle and looked over at Ryker. "You about done?"

Hoisting his long frame into the saddle, Ryker reached down and pet Magic. "We're ready."

Their attention went to the front of the house when they heard a vehicle pull up. Ranger groaned, "Sounds like company." He mounted Pete and they rode toward the front of the house. Ranger was surprised to see Lilly still sitting in Ryker's black pickup with her head on the steering wheel.

Riding over to the window he knocked. Lilly's head sprang up and she smiled. The window rolled down and Lilly leaned her arm on the door. "What are you two cowboys up to?"

"Just going for our usual evening ride. What happened?" He could tell by the look on her face she wasn't happy, though he didn't see tears so at least he knew she hadn't been crying.

Lilly smiled and waived away his concerns. "I just realised that I'd rather spend my evening with the two of you."

Ranger knew she wasn't telling them the whole truth. He suspected she'd had her first brush with the ladies of the town and their attitudes toward him and Ryker. "Well, lucky you caught us. Care to slip up behind me and go for a ride?"

"I'd love that." Ranger moved Pete back and Lilly opened the door.

Looking over his shoulder, he could see Ryker and Magic waiting patiently by the corner of the house. Evidently Ryker was giving him a few moments alone with Lilly. It said more than words could have about Ryker's hopes the two of them would fall in love as well.

It wasn't until Lilly climbed out of the truck that he saw her white shorts. Smiling, he pointed toward them. "You might want to change into some blue jeans. If you don't those pretty shorts will be brown by the time we get back."

Lilly looked down and blushed. "Yeah, I guess you're right. Give me a second?"

"Sure, let me just get your bag for you," Ranger said. He dismounted and reached in the truck bed to heft out the large suitcase. Walking toward the house, he gave Ryker a wink. "I won't be but a minute." Without the actual words, he was assuring his brother he wouldn't take liberties with Lilly while in the house.

Ryker surprised him with a wide grin. "Take your time. Magic and I will graze the lawn."

He narrowed his eyes at Ryker. "Keep Magic away from my grass." He'd worked for years to try and get a nice lawn to grown in the thick shade of trees that surrounded their house, and Ryker knew damn well he didn't want Magic grazing.

Following Lilly into the house they walked through to the bedroom. Ranger sat the suitcase on the end of the bed and turned toward the closet. "We emptied out half this dresser and a good amount of closet space."

Unzipping her suitcase, Lilly rifled around for a pair of jeans. "The dresser space I can definitely use, but I didn't bring many hanging up things. I'm a pretty casual girl."

Ranger couldn't resist and stepped up behind her. Pressing himself against Lilly's back, he kissed her neck. "My kind of woman. Although, I'll admit, I sure did enjoy that pretty dress you wore the other day." He reached down and unbuttoned her shorts. Sliding the zipper down, he let the white cotton shorts fall to the floor as he ran his hands over the pretty white lace of her underwear.

"I brought a few. I wish I had something sexy to wear for the two of you, but I've never really had a need for such clothes." Lilly dropped the jeans in her hand and reached back to place them on the back of Ranger's neck.

Subtly shifting one of her legs up onto the bed, Ranger slipped his fingers under the waistband of her panties. "Mmm, you're always so wet," he groaned against her neck.

"Only when I'm around the two of you," Lilly replied.

A sudden attack of the guilts stilled his hand as it rubbed against her clit. "How 'bout we take a blanket on our ride with us. You, me and Ryker, under the stars for your first time?"

"Yes," she whispered, turning her head to get a kiss.

Ranger removed his hand and spun her around into his arms. "I can't think of anything more beautiful than the sight of you spread out naked on a blanket by the pond." He kissed

her, delving his tongue deep, sweeping inside her mouth with a passion that was quickly becoming unmanageable.

Lilly was the first to pull back. "If you don't stop kissing me like that, I'll tell you to forget the ride and take me right here," she winked.

"Can't have that. Ryker and I promised each other we'd make it special for you. Why don't you get changed and I'll hunt up a blanket and some supplies." Ranger turned from her, and dug through the bedside table for several condoms and a tube of lube. Stuffing the supplies in his shirt pocket, he went to the kitchen and found a large freezer bag and added a wet dishtowel.

Lilly came into the kitchen smiling, "Anything I can help you with?"

He turned around and shook his head. "Nope, just need to get a blanket and we're all set. Why don't you go out and make sure Ryker's horse isn't destroying my lawn."

By the time he had everything together and went outside, Ryker and Lilly were already kissing, Lilly leaning over the porch rail and Ryker still on Magic's back. He cleared his throat, breaking the two of them apart and handed the blanket and baggie to Ryker. "You carry these. I already called dibs on riding with Lilly."

"Oh, you so did not call dibs, but I'll give you this round because you went in and did all the work."

Ranger knew Ryker was still in matchmaking mode because he could argue with the best of them and if he'd really wanted Lilly to ride with him, he'd have gotten his way. Ranger gave Ryker a look that told him he knew exactly what he was doing. Ryker flashed his stunning toothy grin and looked up at the sky.

"Clouds are moving in. If we don't get to riding, we'll all get wet."

Ranger took Lilly's hand and muttered, "Some of us are already wet."

Ryker did a double take, looking from Ranger to Lilly. "Well let's get a move on."

Ranger let her saddle up first before seating himself behind her. He kissed Lilly's neck and whispered in her ear, "You'll be safer in the saddle and I can play." He handed the reins to Lilly, knowing she was an excellent rider. "We'll have to bring your horse over from your mom's."

"I'd like that, being able to ride along side the two of you in the evenings." She moaned as Ranger cupped her bouncing breasts. "Although this way definitely has advantages."

As they neared the pond, the sky started to rumble. Looking up Ranger could smell the rain in the air. As long as the lightening didn't get too close, let it rain, he thought. His cock was so hard he thought he might be putting dents into the back of the saddle as he continued to rock against it, fondling Lilly's breasts through her open shirt. By the time they arrived at the pond, Lilly's back was arched as she leaned into his ministrations.

Ryker was the first off his horse. He didn't bother tying Magic, instead dropping her reins to the ground. This was her home and she felt as comfortable by the pond as anywhere. Spreading the blanket in a soft patch of grass, he undressed in no time, never taking his eyes off Ranger and Lilly. Stalking toward them, Ryker eyed Ranger's hands still fondling Lilly's breasts. "My turn," he said, pulling Lilly off Pete and into his arm.

Ryker carried Lilly to the blanket and eased her out of the remainder of her clothes. When they were both naked, Ryker wrapped himself around Lilly. "I love you," he whispered, looking into the green depths of her eyes. "I'm nervous. I want this to be special for you."

Lilly cupped his cheek, "It's already perfect."

Ranger knelt beside them and dropped the lube and condoms on the blanket. Ryker looked over and watched as his brother fisted his hard cock, pumping it slowly. As the first raindrop fell, he began licking his way down Lilly's body, squeezing and nipping at her engorged nipples before moving on. He got a sigh as he sucked the skin at the top of her pelvis. He needed to mark this woman, the need was undeniably caveman mentality, but as he brought the blood to the top of the skin, he felt satisfied. Swirling his tongue through the small patch of closely cropped curls, Ryker glanced over at Ranger. Although he was still stroking himself, he had a look on his face Ryker had never seen before. Lilly thrust her hips, and wrapped her fingers in his hair, pushing him lower. *Well if that wasn't a hint*, he smiled. Separating the lips of her pussy, Ryker inhaled. Damn, her scent was forever imprinted in his soul. He licked the soft folds, scraping his teeth lightly across the tender flesh, before sliding his tongue through her channel and up to her clit. Taking the swollen flesh in his mouth, he bit down gently. Lilly moaned and gripped his hair in a tighter fist. Releasing his hold on her clit, he moved down to delve his tongue deep into her core. Ryker moaned as Lilly's taste exploded across his tongue. He felt his pre-cum dripping down onto the blanket and knew if he didn't bury himself in her depths he would die.

Ryker looked up from his position between Lilly's thighs and looked at Ranger. "You plan on joining us?"

"Yeah," Ranger said looking up into the rain. "I'm trying to figure out what area to delve into first."

Ryker saw that look pass over Ranger's face again as he stretched out beside Lilly and took her mouth in an erotic, tongue lashing kiss. Ryker watched them for a few seconds making sure Ranger was indeed okay with this, before reaching for a condom. Tearing the foil package open he looked to Ranger. The question of who would make love to Lilly first had never really been discussed, and Ryker wanted to make sure before taking the lead.

Ranger gave him a solemn look and nodded. Ryker assumed the look had to do with the fact that Ranger wanted a turn. Well, he'd have to just wait. As Ryker rolled the condom down his length, the sky opened up. "Would you rather take this back to the house?" he asked Ranger and Lilly.

Lilly shook her head. "Not until I'm officially yours."

Deciding they needed to get Lilly into the house as soon as possible, Ryker reached down and checked to make sure Lilly was wet enough. He knew the first time would be a little painful, but at least he could make sure she was well lubed. Smiling, he buried two fingers in her drenched pussy. Pulling them back out, he held his fingers to Ranger's lips. "Our lady's ready."

Ryker moaned as Ranger took the offered gift, licking Ryker's fingers clean before releasing them. Leaning over her, Ryker held his cock by the root and positioned it at her wet pussy. As he slowly, inched his way inside her tight sheath, he watched her face for any sign of discomfort. What he saw, was the face of a woman in transformation. When his cock came to the barrier of her virginity, Ryker kissed her. "This might hurt for a second."

Lilly's answer was to thrust up, impaling herself on his cock. Her face showed nothing of pain, only joy as she tossed her head from side to side. Confident that Lilly could handle him, Ryker began a slow rhythm in and out of her wonderfully tight pussy. "So good," he moaned, as her body tightened around his cock every time he withdrew. He saw Ranger sit up out of his peripheral vision and figured Ranger was stepping back to give Ryker and Lilly this special time together. God he loved that man.

As Ranger watched Ryker and Lilly he felt something shift inside him. This was as big a step for Ranger as it was for Lilly. He'd seen Ryker have sex with women before, just as Ryker had seen him, but this was different. This was Ryker declaring his love for Lilly. Though their relationship was admittedly odd, he and Ryker had never had intercourse with each other. They allowed themselves to express their love through kisses and hand jobs. Hell, once or twice they'd even gotten drunk and given each other head, but they'd always drawn the line at penetration. Now, looking at the love in Ryker's eyes, a wave of jealousy clouded his vision. They'd always loved each other, been connected in a way no one else had understood, but until this moment he'd never known the true depths of those feelings. Now watching Ryker making love to Lilly, Ranger was suddenly terrified Lilly would somehow take his place in Ryker's heart. That she would have a piece of Ryker he'd never have.

Ranger pulled back a little and watched as Ryker and Lilly writhed on the blanket as one. They were so beautiful together. Suddenly, Ranger was glad it was raining so neither of them would notice the tears that began running down his face. This was the reason he'd put Ryker off from Lilly for so long. He'd made excuses about her age for years, but he knew in his heart, this was what he hadn't been prepared for.

As he watched Ryker kiss her, Ranger felt cut-off. He felt his breath hitch as the two of them began to pick up speed. It looked like they'd been doing this for years, both of them looking at each other with love in their eyes. It was suddenly too much and Ranger started to stand, to run back to the safety of his home. What kind of freak was he that he suddenly wished with all his heart that he was Lilly. That Ryker was making love to him. He could never let Ryker know, the thought of seeing disgust aimed toward him from Ryker was enough to keep him silenced forever.

A hand shot out and wrapped around his wrist before he even had time to move. Ranger looked up into Ryker's amethyst eyes. "Don't," was all Ryker said.

Ranger flashed a glance down at Lilly who apparently was in another world. Her neck arched, eyes closed. The knowing look Ryker gave him made him feel ashamed. This was a beautiful moment for Ryker, and Ranger knew he was ruining it. Shame filled him as Ryker drew him in for a kiss, his knowing eyes never breaking contact with Ranger's.

Lilly yelled as she climaxed. They broke their kiss and looked down at her. She was staring at the two of them, watching them kiss. Ranger just hoped like hell she couldn't read his thoughts as well as Bub could. At least he knew he still held his secret.

Ranger watched as the veins in Ryker's neck stood prominently as he emptied his seed into the condom. Several seconds later, he was pulled down with Ryker to help shield Lilly's body from the pounding rain. He watched Ryker give Lilly a tender kiss before turning back to him. He knew what Ryker wanted.

Swallowing his hurt, Ranger placed a tender kiss on Lilly's lips, knowing things may never be the same between him and his brother.

Chapter Ten

Ranger insisted Ryker cradle Lilly in his arms on the ride home. He was afraid she'd be sore after her first time and didn't want to take chances with her riding on the hard saddle. Now, cradling Lilly's small body against his chest he watched Ranger's back as he rode in front of them.

"What's wrong?" Lilly asked, her head resting on his chest.

"Nothing," Ryker said, holding her a little tighter.

Lilly looked up at him before turning her head to look at Ranger. "Have I done something wrong?"

"No, sweetheart, you haven't done anything wrong." He looked down and gave her a tentative smile. "Ranger's hurting. I'm not sure why, but I can feel it, I always could."

"Do you want me to leave?"

"No, but I need a little time alone with him to try and find out what's going on. I'll draw you a nice hot bath when we get home and while you're soaking and getting warm, I'll talk to him." He just hoped Ranger would let him. Ryker knew the second Ranger started to pull away. It was almost like a physical sensation going off in his brain. He wished he knew the reason. The only thing he could come up with was that Ranger had figured out he'd never be able to fall in love with Lilly. The thought broke his heart. Loving her was as natural as breathing to him, and he wouldn't give her up without a fight.

He thought about what it had felt like to finally sink his cock into Lilly, knowing no one had been there before. She was tight and hot, and goddamn he loved her.

As Ryker rode up to the barn, Ranger was there to take Lilly into his arms. He waited until Ryker dismounted and passed her back. "I'll take care of the horses while you get Lilly warm and dry."

Ryker felt like a lead weight had landed in his stomach. Taking a deep breath he nodded and carried Lilly inside. He felt like he was outside his body, unable to reconcile his feeling between his brother and the woman he loved. Drawing a warm bath, he used his favourite bath salts and lit Lilly a few candles. It was bad enough he was going to leave her

after making love for the first time to talk to Ranger. He didn't want her to think she was unloved.

Slipping under the water, Lilly cupped his cheek. "Go to him, I'll be fine."

Ryker leaned over the edge of the tub and kissed her, trying to put all the love he felt into this one awkward moment. "Hopefully I won't be long."

Lilly gave him a slight smile and nodded. He could tell by the strained look on her face that she was hurting as well. Dammit, this was supposed to be the answer to all his prayers, so why did everyone he loved feel sad?

Ryker closed his eyes and stood. Walking out to the great room, he spotted Ranger making a fire even though it was barely October. Sitting on the floor in front of the large river stone hearth, he stared at the flames. "Talk to me."

"Huh?" Ranger looked over seemingly unaware that Ryker had even entered the room. "Where's Lilly?"

"Taking a bath. I came to talk to you." He reached out and ran his fingers through Ranger's wet curls. "What happened back there?"

"What do you mean? I think you were pretty much involved in the whole process," Ranger tried to pass Ryker's comments off as a joke.

Ryker put a hand to either side of Ranger's head and made him look him in the eyes. "What happened to you while I was making love to Lilly? Don't tell me nothing because I could feel it—feel you—pulling away from us."

Ranger shut his eyes. Ryker watched as his Adams apple bobbed up and down in the firelight. He could tell Ranger was trying not to cry. He'd only seen him cry twice before. The day their Dad died and the night Sonny was shot. Ranger was tough, always had been. He was the one who'd held Ryker together when they'd been forced to leave their home at the age of eighteen. It had always been Ranger.

Now his brother clung to him fighting to keep the tears at bay. "I'm scared," Ranger finally whispered in a guttural voice.

He pulled Ranger into his arms and buried his face in his neck. "I love you. You're part of me, I can't live unless I know you're beside me, but I love Lilly, too. Please don't ask me to give her up."

Ranger shook his head, "Never. I'd never ask you to do that. I'm not sure how I'll fit in with the two of you though. I like Lilly, a lot, but it doesn't feel right making love to her

knowing I don't love her like you do, and I'm not sure I ever will. She's yours and she always will be. So where does that leave me?"

Fuck! He'd never even thought of a scenario like this happening between them. "Are you saying I can't have you both? That I have to somehow choose?"

"No, my mind's just all screwed up right now." Ranger said.

Feeling a warm hand on his back, Ryker turned to see Lilly, wrapped in the large blue terry robe he'd laid out for her. "Can I say something?" Lilly asked chewing on her lip.

Nodding, Ryker released one of his arms that held Ranger and pulled Lilly into a hug. The feel of both of them against him was right, dammit.

"I know I shouldn't have heard what I did, but I'm glad I took the chance." Lilly kissed Ranger's cheek. "I don't want to take Ryker away from you. And I was wondering if you could give us a chance. I don't expect you to vow your undying love for me right away, but I already love you, I have for years. Just give me the opportunity to show you I'm not trying to come between the two of you? I wanna make a life here, with Ryker and you. I can be patient, give you time, hell, I'll give you whatever you need. But please, don't give up on me. I'm not sure how you feel about sharing his love and attention, but I'd rather have part of him than none of him."

"How does that work?" Ranger asked, his voice hoarse with emotion.

"I'm not sure. This is all new to me. Maybe we could both try loving Ryker and maybe someday soon you'll grow to love me, too."

Lilly didn't have to spell it out. He knew she was talking about intimacy between her and Ryker and between him and Ranger. She seemed to know his brother pretty well. Ranger didn't want to make love to Lilly with his feelings still up in the air and Lilly was saying she understood that. She was also telling Ranger he could still be intimate with him and she'd give them the space to do that. He shook his head, finding it hard to believe he'd found a woman who understood what Ranger meant to him.

Time seemed to stand still as Ranger and Lilly looked at each other. Ryker finally released the breath he'd been holding when Ranger kissed the tip of Lilly's nose. "We'll see how it goes. Who knows, maybe it's my own confusion about what comes next that's getting in the way." He cupped Lilly's cheek. "I do care for you, no matter what, I need you to understand that. I'm just confused right now. Who knows, I may wake up tomorrow and realise I'm madly in love with you and this whole conversation will have been wasted."

"Never wasted," Lilly kissed Ranger's forehead. "You're feelings are as important to me as Ryker's, and if something's bothering you, we need to work it out together."

"Deal," Ranger agreed.

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The alarm woke them the next morning. Ryker was in his usual spot sandwiched between Ranger and Lilly. Stretching, he wrapped himself around Lilly as Ranger snuggled up to his back. "I don't want to go to work," he groaned, burying his head against Lilly's warm neck.

"Sorry, Bub, but we've got a hundred head being loaded this morning for auction." Ranger kissed his shoulder.

"What's your day like, sweetheart?" he asked as he kissed his way around Lilly's shoulder and neck.

"I need to call the insurance company and see what they're going to do about my car. I have to be at work at three, but I'll get off around eleven-thirty if we aren't too busy." She groaned as he slid his fingers between her pussy lips to the core of her.

"You sore?" Ryker asked, nipping her shoulder.

"No, make love to me," she said, turning her head for a kiss.

Ryker looked over his shoulder at Ranger. "We have time for some love?"

"Yeah," Ranger said, "I'll just go get in the shower."

"I really wish you wouldn't try to run away every time I wanna make love to Lilly." He pulled Ranger's head down for a kiss.

Wide-eyed, Ranger looked over at Lilly. "Is that okay with you?"

"Of course," she smiled at Ranger.

Rummaging in the drawer, Ranger came back with a condom and lube.

Ryker watched as a spark of desire flashed across Ranger's face as he threw back the covers. With the three of them nude, it was easy to see Ranger's need in the erection bobbing against his stomach. *He is scared*, Ryker thought. It wasn't that he didn't desire the two of them together, it went deeper. Ryker was determined to root out the problem, and soon.

Sitting back on his heels, he looked at the condom in Ranger's hand. "Care to put it on me?"

Looking nervous, Ranger tore open the package and scooted closer. Ryker pulled him into a kiss as Ranger slid the latex down his aching cock. His hands felt natural on Ryker's shaft as they continued to kiss, Ranger reaching down to run his fingers over Ryker's heavy sac.

A physical shiver from him and a moan from Lilly broke their kiss. "Thank you," he whispered against Ranger's lips. He hoped Ranger understood he was thanking him for everything, not just the sexy two-minute hand job.

"Stretch out beside Lilly, I'd like to look into the eyes of the two people I love." He smiled as Ranger did as he asked. "Feel free to play if the mood strikes," he teased as he placed the head of his cock to Lilly's core.

As his cock slid into the tight channel, Ryker leaned over and kissed her, pushing his tongue in as deep as his shaft. "Oh, sweetheart." He felt Lilly's body tighten around him as he pulled out only to fill her again.

The harder he thrust into her, the more she appeared to like it. He smiled when he watched as Ranger put a hand on her lower stomach, stroking her soft skin. Ryker didn't think Ranger was even aware he was doing it. His smile grew wider. That was a very good sign.

Lilly's gaze connected with his, yep, Lilly was thinking the same thing. Hooking one of her legs over his shoulder, he looked down at Ranger. "Help a brother out?"

Ranger grinned and held Lilly's other leg up against his body. As his hips pistoned faster, driving his cock deep into her depths, Lilly's breathing changed, going from panting to stuttering. He knew she was close. Reaching out, he held his finger in front of Ranger's mouth who automatically opened and laved Ryker's digit thoroughly.

Withdrawing his finger he positioned it at Lilly's back puckered hole and slowly inserted it. If she was going to eventually make love to both of them at the same time, she'd need to get used to having both holes filled.

Lilly, it seemed, was more than ready. As soon as he breached her tight ring of muscles her back bowed, body tightening around his cock. Her cry of release was like music to his ears. Removing his finger he buried himself and pumped his seed into the condom. Falling forward, he caught himself with his arms and loomed over her. Sealing their passionate session with a kiss, he moaned as he felt Ranger's hand skim down his back to land on his ass.

Turning his head, he kissed Ranger. Ryker was surprised when a finger ran down the crack of his ass to tap against his hole. He opened his eyes, still kissing Ranger's soft lips. The small touch was beginning to wake his cock, still buried inside Lilly.

Ranger seemed to realise what he'd done and his eyes flew open. For a split second, the need was apparent. Could it be? His train of thought was interrupted as Ranger leapt off the bed. "I'm going to grab a shower," he mumbled walking away.

Ryker closed his eyes. A soft hand to the side of his face had him smiling. Opening his eyes he stared down into Lilly's jade green jewels. "I'm in love with you."

"I know. I can feel it when you look at me," Lilly replied, bringing his head down for another kiss. Their tongues lapped at each other's mouths as his hands buried themselves in Lilly's long black curls.

"We have a lot of head of cattle to get loaded this morning, but maybe I can talk Ranger into taking the afternoon off. I thought we could go to the walk-in clinic in Lincoln."

Lilly smiled and wrapped her legs around him. "I like that idea. As long as I can be at work by three-thirty, I'm game."

Ryker licked a path from her ear down to the hollow of her neck. Swirling his tongue in the divot of skin, he moaned. "I want to bury myself deep inside your sweet pussy without anything between us."

"Mmm hmm," Lilly sighed as he worked his way down to her pebbled nipple. Nipping at the turgid flesh with his teeth, he laved the sting with his tongue. "Did you like when I filled your ass with my finger?"

"Yes," she whispered.

"I want the three of us to make love. That'll mean either Ranger or me taking you there. Are you okay with that?"

"Yes," she grinned. "Actually I look forward to it." Lilly looked toward the bathroom door. "Maybe we should get Ranger drunk and seduce him."

"I thought about asking Sonny to talk to him. Whatever's really wrong with him, he won't tell me, but maybe he'll open up to Sonny."

Lilly shook her head. "You know he won't. If he eventually opens up to anyone it'll be you. I think the two of you need to go out drinking. It's been my experience that more things are said with liquor on the breath."

“Maybe we’ll just get drunk here. Ranger likes to dance when he drinks and I’d rather be home for that.” Ryker heard the water shut off in the bathroom. “Don’t be surprised if you come home tonight to two sloppy drunks. Ranger can usually drink me under the table so it’ll take a lot to get him loose lipped.”

“I’ll happily pour you both into bed.”

Chapter Eleven

By lunch-time the three of them were on their way to Lincoln. On orders from Ranger, Ryker drove this time. It appeared Ranger didn't want a replay of their last trip. The highway thrummed under the tires as they travelled up the interstate. "So what did the insurance company say about your car?"

"That they were totalling it, and the check should be to me by the end of the week. It won't be much, but maybe I can use it, with some of my savings on a down payment for another one."

Ranger who'd been looking out the passenger window turned toward Lilly. "What are ya looking for?"

She shrugged and turned the stereo down. "Don't really care. Something cheap and reliable."

"Oh, that mystery dream car that every used car buyer searches for," Ryker joked. He reached down and squeezed Lilly's thigh. "We'll find something."

"Yeah, I was going to ask if we could go into the city this weekend."

"Sure," Ranger said, placing a kiss on Lilly's forehead.

Ryker almost drove out of his lane at the unsolicited gesture.

Ranger must have caught the look on his face because he cleared his throat and looked back out the window. He knew Ranger wasn't as unaffected by Lilly as he let on. Now he just needed to find a way to get Ranger to see it.

"I thought maybe Bub and I would come into the Zone for dinner later. Check to make sure Jeff isn't anywhere around."

He'd said it so casually. Ryker knew Lilly wouldn't think anything about it, but he could tell by the tick of his jaw that this thing with Jeff had been on his mind. Ryker'd heard Ranger talking to Rawley on the phone earlier in the day. He knew they hadn't found any evidence to link Jeff with the vandalism, but Rawley had promised to have a Sheriff's department vehicle out in the parking lot when Lilly got off shift.

"Oh, it's a good night too. Kathy's making pot roast." Lilly gave Ryker a look, eyebrow raised.

"We'll probably just stay for dinner and a couple beers before heading home." He looked over at the back of Ranger's head before giving Lilly a wink.

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The clinic was a busy, but they'd promised to give the three of them a call the next day with their test results. "One more day," Ryker sighed as he tilted the icy mug of beer to his lips.

"Yep," Ranger said absently. His mood brightened when he spotted Garron and Sonny coming through the door. Ranger stood and waived them over. "Hey, guys, what brings you to the Zone?"

Sonny and Garron looked at each other and said at the same time, "Pot roast."

Smiling, he sat back down. "Pull up a chair." He saw Lilly making her way over to them. There didn't seem to be as many drinkers here tonight as there were roast eaters.

Lilly kissed Sonny's forehead. "It's good to see you in here again. You two looking to eat the special?"

"You know it," Garron said, rubbing his palms together in anticipation.

Lilly grinned and turned toward him and Ryker. "Another round of beer?"

Ranger nodded and finished off his mug. "Thanks, sweetheart."

Lilly picked up the two empty glasses and raised her brows at Garron and Sonny. "Beer or whiskey?"

Garron spoke up, "Beer for me and a Coke for Sonny."

As soon as Lilly walked off, Ranger turned to his brother. "You been having headaches again?" He knew Sonny didn't drink when he was taking pain medication for his headaches.

"A few," Sonny shrugged.

Ranger reached across the table and covered Sonny's hand. "You call if you need anything."

Sonny chuckled and rolled his eyes. "I think you've got your hands pretty full right now, but it's nice to know."

A picture of having his hands full of Ryker and Lilly flashed through Ranger's mind. He immediately felt his cock harden behind the fly of his jeans as he pictured the three of them making love, only instead of them both inside Lilly he was buried deep inside Ryker. A beer being set in front of him snapped him back to the present. He felt his face heat at the thoughts that had swirled around his head all day. *What the hell was going on with him?* He shook his head in disgust.

And just like that his mood turned. Needing to get away, he drank his beer as fast as his throat would allow. When he set the empty mug on the scarred table top, he looked over at Lilly. "I'd like my food to-go." Ranger said, his voice deep and rough.

"Sure, I'll go tell Kathy to put it in a container." Lilly looked at him for another second or two before turning and walking toward the kitchen.

"Something wrong?" Ryker asked.

"Need to leave." He looked at Ryker, the image of being buried inside him still fresh in his mind. "You stay. Have Garron and Sonny drop you off on their way by."

Without waiting for a reply he stood and walked toward the bar, Lilly was just coming out of the kitchen with his dinner. Digging in his pocket, he hoped Lilly wouldn't notice his rock hard erection. He pulled out a twenty and handed it to her. "Good-bye."

Turning on his heel, he left the bar and drove straight to the liquor store.

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By the time he was dropped off, Ryker had worked himself up pretty good. He'd wanted to leave with Ranger earlier, but the stubborn ass hadn't even given him a chance. He'd been forced to try and explain Ranger's actions to not only Lilly but Sonny and Garron as well.

Needing time alone before he confronted Ranger, Ryker had Garron drop him at the end of the drive. Now, as he walked the long gravel drive, he started to feel strange. At first he thought maybe it was the beer and food combined with the worry that was upsetting him, but as the ache became more severe he knew it was more, it was Ranger. Something was wrong.

Despite the ache in his gut, Ryker took off running through the trees toward home. As soon as he broke through to the clearing he noticed Ranger's truck wasn't parked in its usual spot. "Fuck," he screamed to the singing birds as he ran up the steps and into the house.

The first place he went was to the bedroom. Seeing the closet door ajar, Ryker swallowed the bile rising in his throat. He knew what he'd find before he even opened it. The ache in his gut telling him Ranger had gone.

After checking out the closet, Ryker picked up the phone in a daze.

"Dead Zone."

"I need to talk to Lilly," he managed to rasp out.

After a few long minutes, Lilly got on the phone. "Hello?"

"He's gone."

"What?"

"Ranger's gone. I came home and most of his clothes are missing. He's left me." He felt the sting of tears seconds before they began to fall. "I'm gonna have Garron bring me back to the bar to pick up my truck. I gotta go find him."

"No. I'll be home as soon as I can. I love you," she said before hanging up.

He fell back onto the bed and covered his eyes with his arm. "Where are you?" he whispered to the quiet room. Replaying the scene in the bar once again, Ryker tried to figure out what had set Ranger off. No matter how many times he went through the conversations, nothing odd stuck out in his mind.

The pillow under his head was Ranger's and when he turned he could smell his familiar scent. As he buried his face in Ranger's pillow, a thought occurred to him. "Shit," he said picking up the phone. He hit speed-dial and waited for Ranger to answer. Why hadn't he thought of it before? His hopes were soon dashed when Ranger's voice mail answered telling him to leave a message.

"I need you. Why'd you leave me? You've never done that before and I don't even know what I did wrong. Please, love, please call me."

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Fumbling with the phone, Ranger was barely able to figure out how to retrieve his message. Hearing Bub's voice asking what he'd done wrong was like someone taking their finger out of the hole in the dam. A rush of regret and self loathing washed over him in a

wave of pain. Throwing the phone down, he picked up his second bottle of Jack, sloshing a good amount down his chin as he drank.

Looking around, he sighed. *Sonny*, he thought. *Maybe I need to call Sonny*. Although he was the youngest of the Good boys, Sonny seemed to be the glue that kept them all together lately. Since his injury, Sonny had changed, and in Ranger's opinion, for the better. He couldn't just leave town without telling someone where he was going and he knew if he tried to tell Ryker, his Bub would say anything he thought he wanted to hear to make him stay.

Falling off the couch in his attempt to retrieve his phone, he shook his head. "Damn, who moved the couch on me?" Blinking his eyes several times, he studied the display on the tiny phone before remembering Sonny's number.

"Hello?"

Ranger opened his mouth to talk and a sob erupted instead.

"Where are you? Ryker called here frantic. He's got Lilly on the way to pick him up so they can look for you."

"Don't tell." Ranger fell back to the floor and rubbed his eyes.

"Okay I won't. Just tell me and we'll figure this out together."

"The apartment. I can't go back there, Sonny. I can't. I'm...there's something wrong with me."

"You just stay where you are and I'll come over. Don't you move."

"Gotta throw up," he said getting to his knees. He tried to stand and fell back again. He heaved what little contents his stomach held and fell back to the floor.

Chapter Twelve

Running toward Ryker's truck, Lilly was so busy digging the keys out that she didn't notice Jeff pull up. Opening the door, a hand reached out and grabbed her arm.

"I heard you was messing with them Good twins. I was right about you. You're nothing but a filthy slut." Jeff pressed her against the side of the truck flinging the door the rest of the way open. With a hand around her throat, he pushed her down onto the seat. With her legs still on the ground, Lilly's back felt like it would break in her present position.

"I don't have time for this," she tried to get up, scratching at Jeff's face, hoping to get free.

A jarring slap to the side of her face stopped her. "Listen to me, bitch, if you can spread your legs for those queer perverts, you can spread for me. Nobody teases me and gets away with it." He started unfastening her jeans, the smell of his breath a testament to how much he'd already drank before coming to the bar.

Looking around, Lilly spotted the keys on the floorboard where Jeff had tossed them in his haste to get her into the truck. Taking a deep breath, she managed to get a hold on his hair with one hand. She pulled and kicked while stretching out to grab the keys. Another blow to her cheek came seconds before she swiped a key across his smarmy face.

"Fuck," Jeff screamed, releasing her and bringing his hands to his face. Blood ran between his fingers as she kicked him out of the way. Jeff seemed to be so shocked that she'd hurt him he let his guard down long enough for her to scramble and get the door closed and locked.

As soon as he heard the snick of the lock, he charged the truck, his face red from both blood and fury. Lilly's hands were shaking as she worked the key into the ignition. A loud crack sounded and she looked over just in time to see Jeff's foot come flying once again toward the driver's side window. Putting the truck in reverse, she hit the gas, not caring whether she ran him over or not.

Pulling out of the lot at a high rate of speed, she looked around the truck for her purse. "Dammit," she screamed when she realised it must still be in the parking lot. Lilly didn't

know if Jeff would follow her or not, but she didn't have time for this shit. She knew if she went to the Sheriff's station they'd make her stay until they tracked Jeff down. Unwilling to waste the time, she decided to go straight to Rawley's house.

Lilly honked her horn as she pulled up at Jeb and Rawley's ranch road. Both men came flying out of the house, running toward the truck. She tried to get the window down but the damn thing wouldn't budge. Finally opening the door, Rawley pulled her out of the truck. He took one look at her face and cursed as he held her in a tight embrace.

Shaking off his hold, she tried to calm down enough to tell him what happened. "I can't stay, Ryker needs me."

"He didn't?" Rawley's face went white.

"No, it was Jeff. He attacked me, tried to get my pants off in the parking lot. I hurt him. You'll see the evidence on his face. He's probably half-way to Lincoln by now. Arrest him, do whatever you have to do, but I have to get home to Ryker. Ranger's gone. We don't know where but we're going to find him."

"What?" Rawley gave Lilly a gentle shake. "Slow down, where's Ranger?"

Exasperated, Lilly huffed. "I don't know. Ryker got home and his clothes were gone. I need to go," she tried to pull away. "They need me." The words stopped her. "Or maybe they don't," she said in a small voice. "Maybe I'm the problem." It was suddenly too much and she started to sink to her knees. "Oh God, this can't be happening." Her dreams were crashing down around her as Rawley did his best to hold her upright.

Turning his head, Rawley yelled for Jeb. "Get my truck."

The next thing she knew she was being cradled in Jeb's arms as Rawley drove toward Ryker and Ranger's house. Jeb dabbed at the tears on her cheek with a bandana. "I called the station. They'll find Jeff. It'll be okay, Lilly. We'll get you to Ryker and help you find Ranger." He continued to talk to her until, in her exhaustion she drifted off.

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Ryker heard the sound of a vehicle pull up and ran to the front door. Opening it, he was surprised to see Rawley running toward him through the dark yard. "What're you doing here?"

Rawley ran up the steps and blocked his view of the truck. "There's been a situation."

"Yeah, I know, I'm waiting for Lilly to get home so we can find him."

"No. Yes. Oh fuck." Rawley ran his fingers through his hair. "I know Ranger's gone, and we'll help you find him, but right now Lilly needs you."

"Lilly?" He tried to look around Rawley's bigger body. "Where is she?"

Rawley grabbed his shoulders to keep him still. "She's in the truck with Jeb. Jeff attacked her in the parking lot of the Zone."

"What," Ryker fought the restraining hands trying to hold him back. "Let me go," he growled taking a swing at Rawley.

"You need to calm down before you upset her even more. Jeb called the station and we've got people out looking for Jeff. He'll be charged, but Lilly's the one I'm most concerned with. She seems to think Ranger left because of her."

"No! It's because of me." He struggled again. "So help me God, if you don't let go of me I'm gonna kill you." He narrowed his eyes at Rawley who released him, holding his hands up and backing off.

Running to the truck, Ryker swung open Jeb's door. Lilly was cradled in his arms with her head buried in his neck. "She's asleep," Jeb whispered.

"Get in," Rawley said, getting behind the wheel. "We'll drive around and see if we can't find Ranger."

Jeb scooted over as much as he could while still holding Lilly. Ryker climbed in and immediately took her into his arms. When she was transferred, Ryker got his first look at her face. Two big bruises were blossoming on her otherwise perfect skin. "Oh, sweetheart," he said, cupping her face in his hand.

Lilly opened her eyes and looked up at him. "I'm sorry."

"Shhh, just rest while we look for Ranger," he soothed. He looked down and noticed her unbuttoned jeans, the zipper half down. "Sweetheart? Did he touch you?" He asked, pulling up her zipper. He flashed a scowl at Rawley and Jeb who shook their heads like they hadn't noticed.

"N-No, he tried, but I cut his face with the keys."

Bending down, he tilted her chin and kissed her. The overwhelming relief that that animal hadn't raped her had him squeezing her to his chest. "He'll pay for this, sweetheart. Ranger will make sure of it." The thought of Ranger finding out what Jeff had done seemed

to galvanize his strength. Ranger may be able to just walk out on him, but he'd never let someone hurt Lilly and get away with it.

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Sonny let himself in to the apartment above the feedlot offices. "Ranger," he called as he entered the dark living room. Stumbling around, he finally found the light switch and flipped it on. "Oh shit," he said as he saw Ranger face down on the carpet beside a pile of vomit.

Squatting beside his brother, he rolled him over. "Ranger," he said, slapping his cheeks. Sonny couldn't tell if Ranger was just passed out or if he needed an ambulance. He started to worry when he couldn't rouse him. Ranger was a lot bigger than he was, so he knew he couldn't carry him into the bathroom.

Rubbing his chin, he looked around the apartment. With a grin on his face, he walked into the kitchen and dug around until he came up with a large stew pot. Filling the pan with ice cold water, Sonny carried it back to Ranger. "Forgive me, brother." He poured the contents of the pot in Ranger's face, after making sure it was at least turned to the side. The last thing he needed was to drown him while trying to help.

Ranger coughed and swatted at the water pouring down on him. "What the hell?" Ranger tried to sit up but fell back to the carpet.

After setting down the pan, Sonny helped Ranger to the sofa, away from the mess. "You called me over here and then passed out." He took the blanket off the back of the couch and dried Ranger's face and hair. Ranger was still swaying until his head fell onto the back of the old sofa.

Sonny had never seen Ranger like this. He wasn't sure that he'd even seen him tipsy more than a couple times in his life, but this? Something was seriously wrong. While he waited for Ranger to wake up a bit, he pulled out his cell and called Garron.

"Sonny?" Garron asked as soon as he picked up the phone.

"Yeah, it's me. I found him passed out next to a pile of puke. I got him onto the couch but I still don't know what the problem is."

"Rawley came by looking for him. He had Ryker and Lilly in the truck with him and Jeb. Babe, Jeff attacked Lilly tonight when she left the bar to go home."

"Shit, is she okay?" He looked over at a still dazed Ranger.

"Physically she seems okay. She's got a couple bruises on her face where he hit her. Damn, babe, I guess he tried to rape her."

"What!"

"He didn't get further than undoing her jeans before she slashed him across the face with the keys and managed to get away, but emotionally she's not doing well. Rawley said on top of everything else she's been through this evening, she's blaming herself for Ranger."

"What the hell is going on?" Sonny shook his head. "Okay, give me fifteen minutes then call Rawley and let him know where we are."

"Sure thing, you doing all right? Getting a headache or anything?"

Sonny smiled at the concern in Garron's voice. "I'm fine. Just need to put my family back together."

"Well if anyone can do it, it's you. Love you."

"Love you. I'll call when they get here." Sonny hung up and looked at Ranger. "Come on, wake up. We need to talk, and there are some things you need to hear."

Chapter Thirteen

Giving Ranger another cup of coffee, Sonny stepped into the bathroom and called Ryker.

"Hello?"

"Did Garron call?"

"Just a few minutes ago. We're on our way."

"Well, I'd like you to stay outside 'til I come get you. I'm not trying to piss you off, but he asked me here to talk, and I'm just now getting him sober enough to form sentences."

"Sober?"

"He was passed out when I got here." Sonny went on to tell Ryker what he'd found. He heard Ryker's broken sigh on the other end. "Please, let me talk to him. I don't know what's going on with the three of you, but I've never seen him like this."

"I'll be waiting at the bottom of the steps."

Sonny hung up and flushed the toilet, hiding the phone away in his pocket. "You ready for another cup?" he asked walking back into the living room.

Ranger turned his head and looked at him through half-closed eyes. "Doesn't matter," he sighed, "nothing does."

Stopping by the kitchen Sonny filled a cup for himself before carrying the pot to the living room. He topped-off Ranger's and set the pot down on the table. "Drink," he pointed toward the cup. "Then you can tell me why nothing matters."

Taking a sip of the hot brew, Ranger stared into the black depths. Sonny thought he was about to drop off again when he finally spoke. "I can't do it anymore."

"What can't you do? Are you talking about your new relationship with Lilly? I thought you really like her."

"I did. I do. But...I'm jealous."

"Jealous?" Sonny didn't understand. Ranger and Ryker had bedded several women in the past, why was this one making him feel this way? Setting his cup down, he scooted closer

to Ranger, who it seemed had curled in on himself. "You're jealous when you see Ryker making love to her?"

"Yeah."

"And she doesn't let you make love to her?" Hell, maybe Ranger wanted Lilly all to himself.

"I haven't really tried."

Sonny rubbed his eyes. It was like trying to get a piece of candy out of a child's hand. "I'm sorry, but I still don't understand. Why are you jealous?"

In a moment of sudden rage, Ranger threw his cup across the room. "Because she gets to make love to Ryker."

Trying to calm his brother, Sonny cupped his face. "I love you so much and I really am trying to understand..."

Before he could get any further, Ranger broke down, tears pooling in his eyes. "I'm sick. That's why I have to go away. I love him so much, and I want to make love to him. And I know that's dirty and wrong, but I can't help myself." The tears began running down his chiselled cheeks as Sonny pulled him into his arms.

"Are you telling me the two of you have never had sex?" That was totally unbelievable to him. He'd never known two closer people in his life. The love they had for each other was completely pure, whether the rest of the population felt so or not. The idea that Ranger had never allowed himself to physically demonstrate that love with Ryker broke his heart.

He hugged Ranger tighter, rocking him back and forth. "I had no idea. We all just assumed..."

"We kiss, we jack each other off, but there's a line we promised we wouldn't cross. It never hurt like this until I watched Lilly and Ryker make love for the first time. They love each other so much that it wasn't just about sex. It was like, while I watched, their souls joined."

Ranger pulled back and buried his face in his hands. "I've thought of nothing since but making love to him."

"Tell him."

"No, I'd rather just leave than to have him look at me with disgust."

"Ranger, forget about what society thinks for a minute. Who told you not to make love to the person you love most in the world?" He already had a good idea, but he needed to hear it.

"Dad. He came into our room one night after we thought everyone was asleep. We were almost eighteen, but we still couldn't sleep apart. So after everyone else was down for the night, Ryker would crawl into bed with me. We didn't do anything then, not even kissing. We just needed to hold each other. But one night Dad came in and caught us. He screamed at us and told us we were disgusting. That we were too old for that kind of thing and it would only lead to us fucking each other like a couple of sick perverts. We promised him we'd never do something like that. Then we begged him to allow us to sleep together at night."

Ranger looked into his eyes. "We both know how that ended. We tried for two nights to sleep apart. Ryker would try and hold my hand from his bed. Dad came in almost every hour to make sure we were separated. Finally it was too much, so we moved out." He looked around the apartment. "We were damn lucky Mr. Zook let us live up here and finish high school."

Running his hand over Ranger's wet curls, Sonny sighed. "I won't begin to understand the bond the two of you have. I don't think anyone could understand unless they had the same thing." Sonny stood and walked over to the front window. He saw Ryker and Lilly sitting on the bottom step.

"Society thinks it's morally wrong to want what you want, but it used to be acceptable. Just look at all the old Royal families. They married within their own family quite often. Over time, people decided it was wrong. I think a lot of it has to do with inbreeding, but hell, you and Ryker don't have to worry about that." He tried to chuckle but it stuck in his throat.

"My point is we think it's wrong because someone told us it was. You're two grown men, and as private as the two of you already are, I see absolutely nothing wrong with expressing your love the way the two of you want."

He looked back toward the couch. Ranger was looking at him in awe. "You mean you wouldn't be grossed out?"

"Ranger, everyone already thinks the two of you are making love. And I mean everyone. The people who still love you and talk to you are the ones who've looked beyond society's code of morals to their own set. And what they see is two people very much in

love." Sonny walked over to the door. "There are a couple of people sitting out here that would like to talk to you. Just be honest with them."

Sonny opened the door. Ryker and Lilly were already standing, looking up expectantly. Turning back once more, he smiled at Ranger. "I love you, brother, I'll always love you." He turned and walked down the stairs to stand in front of Ryker and Lilly. Seeing Lilly's face he placed a kiss on her nose. "He's coming down from a pretty good drunk. He was lucky he emptied his stomach of a lot of the whiskey but be warned, it smells like the inside of a Jack Daniels bottle in there."

Ryker grabbed him up in a hug. "Thank you." He looked at him for a few seconds. "Can you tell me what it was that set him off?"

"Shame." Sonny kissed Ryker's cheek. "Talk to him." Sonny looked at Lilly. "If you'd sit down here with me for a few minutes, I'd appreciate it."

Seeming to understand, Lilly turned to Ryker and kissed him. "Go get him and talk him into coming home."

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As he walked up the stairs, Ryker's mind played through a dozen different scenarios of why Ranger would feel so ashamed he'd leave him. Didn't he understand nothing would ever make him want Ranger gone?

With a twist of the knob, he was standing inside the apartment that held so many memories. Damn, Sonny hadn't been kidding about the smell of the place. He shook his head and walked toward the couch. Holding out a hand, he gestured toward the back of the apartment. "Let's go talk."

After a few seconds hesitation, Ranger took his hand and managed to stand. Leading him to the bedroom, Ryker put his arm around Ranger's waist. They'd always had their most serious discussions spooned back to front in bed. It only seemed right that they do that now.

Not bothering to take off their shoes, both men stretched out on the small twin-sized bed that had been Ranger's growing up. The only difference was now, Ranger needed to be held. He spooned his body to the back of Ranger's and wrapped him in his arms. "Don't ever do that to me again," he whispered, kissing Ranger's neck.

"Hold judgement until I tell you why I left," Ranger said. As he told him his reasons, Ryker began to hold him even tighter. He wasn't sure what would explode first, his head or his cock. Over the years he'd tried giving Ranger hints while they were in bed together, but Ranger had been so adamant forever about never crossing that line, Ryker had finally given up.

It wasn't until Ranger mentioned the promise they'd made to their father that he understood. To Ranger, a promise was set in stone as soon as the words left his lips. To know a single sentence uttered thirteen years ago had kept them apart angered him. Ryker wasn't mad at Ranger, but at wasted time. He'd always known Ranger would be his life-time love, partner, whatever title a person wanted to attach, but the thought that they could have gone without expressing that love fully because of one stupid promise...

"So, what do you think?" Ranger asked. "I can move back in here if it'll make you uncomfortable to have me living at home."

Ryker smoothed his hand down Ranger's chest to the semi-hard cock trapped in his jeans. He applied a good bit of pressure and kissed his neck. "I've wanted to make love to you since I was fifteen. I know that comes as a shock because we never really talked about it back then, but that doesn't mean I didn't dream about it almost every night."

Ranger stilled a few seconds before turning in his arms. "I love you," Ranger said, taking his mouth in a heated mating of tongues and teeth.

As much as Ryker wanted to strip off Ranger's clothes and make love to him right there, he wanted Lilly with them when it happened. She'd earned the right to be part of this beautiful occasion. Breaking the kiss he cupped Ranger's cheek. "Let's go home. I'd like Lilly to be part of this."

"Do you think she'll be grossed out by us?"

"Lilly? Are you kidding? She loves it when we touch each other. Just think what it'll do to her when she watches us make love." Speaking of Lilly, he knew he needed to tell Ranger about Lilly's attack this evening before he saw her. Ranger's emotions were so close to the surface he wasn't sure how he'd react to the news that Jeff had dared hit their woman. He was grateful that Jeff was right now sitting in a cell at the Sheriff's station. Rawley told him he'd let Jeff sit there overnight until Lilly went in and formally identified him as her attacker.

"Love, before we go, I need to tell you something. It's going to piss you off and you're gonna feel like killing someone, but it's already being taken care of."

"What?" Ranger sat up and looked down at Ryker.

"When Lilly left the bar..." Ryker went on to tell Ranger everything he knew, not wanting to keep anything from him ever again. He banded his arms around Ranger's to help control his instant desire to rush out of the room.

"She's calm now. It took a while, and I don't want you to go running out there and dredge it all back up again. Just love her, please."

"You know I think I can let myself do that now. Love her, I mean. Before there was just too much..."

"Shhh," he whispered kissing Ranger. "Come on, let's go home." Ryker got off the bed and pulled Ranger to his feet. Funny how a good cry and an emotional breakthrough could sober a person. As they walked through the living room arm in arm, he looked at Ranger.

"No more Jack for you."

"Don't worry. Jack and I are no longer friends."

Chapter Fourteen

Ranger cradled a still slightly shaken Lilly in his lap the entire ride home. Ryker put his foot down, however, when he attempted to carry her into the house. "You're still too shaky to take chances like that with her," Ryker said, taking Lilly from his arms.

"I can walk," Lilly reminded the pair.

"Yes, you certainly can, but not tonight." Ryker gave her a quick kiss and carried her into the house.

Getting his suitcase out of the truck, he carried it back into the house. He must have known deep down that he wouldn't be able to leave Ryker because he'd never bothered taking the bag up to the apartment.

Setting it in front of the closet, he turned toward Ryker and Lilly. They were both sitting on the end of the bed looking at him. "What?"

Ryker grinned, "We're just waiting for the okay to attack you."

Ranger laughed and spread his arms out to the side. "Attack away."

Before he could take another breath, Lilly was pulling his T-shirt over his head as Ryker fumbled with his jeans. When he started to sway, Ryker stopped and pulled him toward the bed.

"Let's get you horizontal first."

Ranger sat on the bed while Lilly unlaced his work boots and pulled them off. He looked at a still dressed Lilly, her smiling face marred by the puffy looking blue and purple bruises. His insides still seethed with the thought of Jeff touching her. He'd better hope they put him away for a while. Otherwise he'd have to deal with the Good brothers. "Hey," he looked up at Lilly. "Am I the only one getting nekkid around here?"

Lilly grinned and pulled her T-shirt over her head. "I should probably shower. I probably smell like beer and pot roast."

"Two of my favourite things," Ryker said, taking a nip of her exposed breast. He bent back down to pull Ranger's jeans and underwear down and off, before wrapping his arms around Ranger's mid-section.

Threading his fingers through Ryker's curls, he sighed. "Your turn, Bub."

Ryker nodded but didn't remove his head from Ranger's chest. "I just want to hold you for a second."

Now naked, Lilly climbed onto the bed. With her knees planted on either side of Ranger's hips, she pressed herself against Ranger's back. Ranger looked over his shoulder at the plump breast resting there. With one hand buried in Ryker's hair, Ranger used the other to trace the dark areola with his fingertips. "You're so beautiful."

Lilly tilted his head up and ran her tongue over his lips before delving inside for a long, slow kiss. She glanced down at Ryker before meeting Ranger's eyes. "This is a very special night for the two of you."

Ranger glanced down at the top of Ryker's head. "Yes."

"Would you like some time alone?" she asked.

Ranger thought about it for a second. The fact that Lilly even asked warmed his heart. She was a good addition to their family, and for the first time, he honestly felt they all had a future together. "No." When Lilly continued to question him with her eyes, he continued. "After Ryker makes love to me, I'd like to make love to you."

Lilly's brows shot up. "You feel like making love to me?" Lilly asked, her voice coloured by a hint of disbelief.

"It was never that I didn't want to before. It was just that I felt a certain amount of jealousy." He paused and bent to kiss Ryker's head. "It was like being consumed by guilt. I knew I'd never be complete without making love to both of you. I didn't think it would ever be an option, so I figured it was better to not have it than to have half of what I really wanted."

Ryker lifted his head. "Well then, let us give you the whole enchilada." Ryker placed a kiss on his bare chest before standing. He quickly stripped out of his clothes as Lilly folded down the covers as far as she could.

"Snugglefest with you in the middle this time." Lilly pulled him into the centre of the big bed. The sheets were cool against his heated skin as he was surrounded by two beautiful, naked people.

Ryker started by running his hand across Ranger's chest, stopping to pinch and tease at his nipples, before moving to his corrugated abdomen. He traced each ridge and indentation

like he was a blind man trying desperately to memorise every detail. Ranger felt his cock drip pre-cum onto his stomach at the loving caresses.

Not wanting to miss out, Lilly quickly moved between Ranger's spread thighs. As she swirled her tongue around his balls, stopping to suck them one at a time, Ranger let himself go. No longer would he think about anything but these two people loving him. He spread further when Ryker joined Lilly at his groin. His cock began to twitch and bob, desperately asking for attention, but both his loves ignored its silent pleas.

"Hold your legs up for me," Ryker moaned, trying to lick a path under his balls to the crease of his ass.

Lilly backed off enough for Ranger to hook his forearms under his knees and pull them to his chest, leaving himself open for Ryker's questing tongue. Lilly, bless her heart, moved around on the bed to straddle his face. Lifting his head, he took his first real taste of Lilly directly from the source. Her cream was sweet and thick and Ranger began eagerly lapping all the essence he could reach.

The first contact Lilly gave his cock was with her tongue, drilling the tip into the dripping slit at the top. "Uhh," he moaned, face buried in her sweet tasting pussy. The combination of Lilly's lips wrapped around the wide girth of his cock, Ryker's tongue lapping against his puckered hole and the taste of Lilly's cream had him on edge. Damn, he didn't want to come. This moment was too perfect to shoot like a teenager.

Blowing a puff of air across Lilly's swollen clit, he gritted his teeth as she moaned, sending a vibration down the length of his cock. The introduction of Ryker's finger into his virgin ass had him crying out as he thrust deeper into Lilly's mouth. "More," he groaned. Taking Lilly's clit into his mouth, Ranger sucked greedily.

Another finger soon followed and a zing of pleasure ran up his body as Ryker found his prostate. Unable to help himself, Ranger's cock shot burst after burst of pearly white seed down Lilly's throat. He should have felt guilty for not warning her, but right then he didn't even remember his own name. Apologies were the furthest thing from his mind. Lilly evidently had the same problem because within seconds, she began bucking against his face, signalling her own release.

As he tried to catch his breath, Ryker licked a path up his crack, across his sac and spent cock and up the ridges of his torso to land on his mouth. Every inch Ryker licked tingled. Ranger didn't think he'd ever been this sensitive or stimulated in his life. He ate at Ryker's

mouth like a starving man, tasting his own earthy essence on Ryker's tongue. "Fuck me," he whispered, when they broke their kiss.

Ryker grinned and nodded. Reaching over to the bedside table, he pulled out the lube and a couple of condoms. As Ryker rolled the latex down his shaft, he seemed to be studying Ranger. "I don't want to hurt you. Like you, I've never done this before."

Reaching up, he grabbed the back of Ryker's neck and pulled him down for another kiss. "It'll hurt more if you don't do this."

Stretching out beside him, Lilly smoothed her hand over his flaccid cock as she rested her head on the pillow beside him. He looked into her jade green eyes, seeing his own love reflected back at him.

A slick finger snapped his head toward Ryker. Kneeling between his spread legs, Ryker's face was one of concentration as he continued to ready Ranger's body for his possession. "You know," Ryker said, "it will be easier on both of us if you got on all fours."

Ranger thought about it for a split second before shaking his head. "I want to look at you, please," he pleaded.

With a hand to his cheek, Ryker nodded. "Any way you want, love."

Lining up his sheathed cock, Ryker took an extra second to apply more lube around Ranger's hole. "Just breathe and let me in," Ryker whispered.

The initial stretch of his outer muscles took Ranger's breath, the burning pinch of pain causing sweat to break out on his forehead. Trying to ease the process, Lilly began kissing his neck as she wrapped her fingers around his burgeoning erection. "It's okay, breathe, baby," she continually crooned in his ear.

Ranger looked down to where Ryker's body was joining with his. It was finally happening. Meeting Ryker's eyes, he saw the worry and the love his brother felt. With a deep breath, Ranger's body automatically bore down allowing Ryker's cock to slowly slide in to the hilt. Once totally inside him, they both felt it, the connection that they'd both longed for. It was evident in Ryker's face that he wasn't alone in his feeling of euphoria.

Ranger felt tears drip down the sides of his face only to be quickly licked away by Lilly. "Love you," he silently mouthed to Ryker. The moment was too perfect to break the silence with words. He felt his body lighten and relax as Ryker began a slow slide out, only to push back in again.

"More," he moaned a few minutes later as both Ryker and Lilly picked up their pace. The feel of Ryker's heavy sac slapping against his sensitized skin on every thrust, had him out of his head with pleasure in no time.

Lilly's hand around his cock slid back and forth as she continued to whisper in his ear. She spoke of how much he was loved and how right this was. Ranger knew he only caught about half of what she was saying, his climax building to a level that had a roar sounding in his ears. "Close," he grunted, as Ryker changed angles just enough to peg his gland on every thrust.

"Bub..." he howled as he came, jets of fluid coating his own chest as well as Lilly's hand. His mind took flight, lost in a sea of colours as his body continued to tremble with the last of his orgasm.

When he opened his eyes again it was to see Ryker looking down at him, while continuing to piston his hips, driving his cock again and again into Ranger's body. He could tell Ryker had waited for him to come down from his climax before slipping over the edge himself. After two more hard thrusts, Ryker yelled his name and buried himself as deep as possible. Ranger would swear he felt the force of Ryker's cum even though securely encased within the condom.

He pulled Ryker's sweaty body down on top of him and tilted his chin up for a kiss. Even the feel of Ryker's tongue tangled with his seemed different now, deeper, closer. Breaking the kiss, Ranger pulled Lilly in for a kiss which soon evolved into a three way mating of mouths.

No words were needed between him and Ryker about what they'd experienced, they both knew. Ryker finally pulled back and smiled. "Sorry to interrupt this Lovefest, but I need to go take care of something." He reached down and held onto the condom as he slipped from Ranger's body.

He watched him disappear into the bathroom as he continued to stroke the soft skin of Lilly's lower back. "It's been one hell of a night." Suddenly remembering everything Lilly had been through, he felt ashamed. "Are you sure you're okay?"

"I'm more than okay, I'm feeling fabulous." Her face became serious and she kissed his chin. "Jeff can't touch me, not where it matters. My heart is so full it can't be tainted by what anyone else says or does. I have you and Ryker to thank for that."

Before he could say anything, Ryker was standing over him with a warm washcloth. He tenderly cleaned Lilly's hand and his stomach before moving down to clean his tender ass. Ryker tossed the rag and climbed back into bed.

Pulling the covers up around them, Ryker yawned. "Let's take a little power nap."

It had been a long hard day on all of them and the bliss of sleep overtook them in minutes.

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The alarm woke them the next morning. Ranger reached over and slapped at the clock until it finally shut off. He looked at the two people in his arms and smiled. He couldn't believe they were all still in the same position. They must've been dead to the world all night long.

Without opening his eyes, Ryker grumbled, "How long before we have to get up?"

"Well, eventually we're going to have to get up for food and water, but I don't see that happening for several hours."

That had Ryker's head popping up off his chest. "What? We're playing hooky?"

"Yep. I've got a woman to make love to this morning and I have a feeling I won't be satisfied with just one round." Ranger grinned as Lilly perked up.

"Cool," she said with a grin.

Ryker released his hold on Ranger to retrieve a condom from the floor where'd they dropped it the previous night. As Ryker handed it to him he got the cutest little boy grin on his face. "Can I ride when Lilly's done?"

Ranger smacked him on the ass with one hand as he took the foil packet with the other. "I'm not a damn horse."

Laughing, Ryker looked down at Ranger's hard shaft. "I'm not so sure."

Shaking his head, Ranger rolled the condom on before he stretched out over Lilly. Starting with her lips he licked and teased his way to her swollen nipples. Latching on, Ranger suckled as he reached out and pulled Ryker against them. He glanced up and released the nipple to join the twosome in a three-way kiss. "You love these beautiful breasts while I explore."

Nodding, Ryker broke the kiss and replaced Ranger's mouth on the still wet nipple. Hearing Lilly's moan, Ranger moved down between her legs. He ran his tongue over the soft, hairless lips before parting them with his fingers. Now open to his gaze and mouth, Ranger licked his lips. So perfect, every inch of Lilly was like an artist's rendition of the perfect woman.

With temptation this close, it didn't take him long to stop admiring and start loving. He ran his tongue around the delicate fleshy folds of her pussy, grunting when a drop of cream dripped down the crack of her ass. Not wanting anything to go to waste, Ranger ran his tongue up the tight crevice catching the river of essence now streaming toward his open mouth. With a lick up to her clit he took the tiny swollen bundle of nerves between his teeth and bit down enough to drive Lilly crazy. Her hips bucked toward his face as she begged him to fuck her.

"Please," she moaned.

With one last pull to the sensitive clit, he worked his way back up her body. Using his upper body strength, he pushed up over Ryker's head to kiss her. "I love you," he said, sinking into her hot depths. The tightening of her inner muscles squeezed his cock like a vice. "Damn you feel good."

Ryker popped off her nipple and looked at Ranger. "Told ya," he chuckled, moving his head out of Ranger's way. Ranger saw him reach for the tube of lube and squirt some in his hand. He knew exactly what Ryker had planned.

Hooking Lilly's legs over his shoulders, Ranger picked up his rhythm. The harder he pounded into her, the more Lilly begged for it. He felt Ryker's hand brush his sac as he rimmed Lilly's ass with his lubricated fingers.

"Like that?" Ryker asked Lilly after inserting a finger.

Ranger could've told Ryker how much Lilly enjoyed it just by the tight squeeze on his cock at the insertion.

"In me," Lilly yelled. "Please."

Ryker looked at Ranger. "How do you want to do this?"

"Me on bottom," Ranger said as Ryker removed his fingers. Without losing contact, Ranger flipped them so Lilly was now riding him. He pulled her head down for a kiss which left her ass at the perfect level for Ryker.

"You sure you're ready for this, sweetheart?"

“Yessss,” she hissed as Ryker’s latex-covered cock inched its way inside.

Ranger stilled his movements until Ryker was fully seated. “Tell us when you’re ready, sweetheart.”

“Kiss me and then move,” she said, kissing him passionately.

She seemed to be setting a rhythm with her tongue that Ranger decided to follow. As he thrust into her, he felt the slide of Ryker’s cock through the thin membrane. “Oh fuck,” he cried, breaking the kiss. He looked up at Ryker. “I can feel you.”

“Uh huh,” Ryker grunted trying to match his rhythm.

Lilly’s nails dug into his chest as she rocked back and forth between them. “Yes,” she screamed throwing back her head as she came.

The continued friction against his cock from Ryker, combined with Lilly’s tight heat had him growling his release next. He watched Ryker through spotted vision as he buried himself and shook with the force of his orgasm.

Pulling both of them down, Ranger attacked their mouths and necks with his teeth and tongue. His world was at peace for the first time in his life and he would allow no one to tear them apart.

Epilogue

Two Years Later

Answering the knock at the door, Lilly smiled and stepped back. "It's about time you got here," she scolded, as Garron grabbed her up in a hug, Sonny spinning her around to hug her next.

"Sorry, we had to wait for Mr. Mayor to get off the phone," Garron said, looking over his shoulder at Rawley.

"Hey, you could've driven separately. It's not like you were chained to my truck." Rawley nudged Sonny out of the way to place a kiss on Lilly's cheek. "How does it feel to no longer be a newlywed?" Rawley asked, holding up a decorated bottle of bubbly.

"With those two men? I'll always feel like a newlywed." She grinned. Lilly thought back to her wedding with Ryker a year ago and then the ceremony directly after where she committed herself to Ranger in front of their friends and family.

"Speaking of...where are they?"

"In the barn, feeding the horses," Lilly winked. "I think they just wanted to get out of party preparations."

"Sounds like them." Rawley handed her the bottle of champagne and headed toward the back door.

Jeb swept her up in a big hug. "So, please tell me you're making ice cream?"

Lilly kissed Jeb on the cheek. "Don't I always. I know it's your favourite."

"Well," Sonny said, "if we're going to be fair, I like it as much as he does."

Lilly held up her hands and walked toward the kitchen. "Sorry, fellas, you'll have to fight that one out on your own. I have enough trouble refereeing two men, I'm not about to start with you two."

"Spoilsport," Sonny said, sticking his tongue out.

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Ranger and Ryker were both sitting on the floor of the barn, playing with the new puppy they'd gotten for Lilly. "Ow," Ranger cried when the dog's tiny white teeth sank into his finger.

"What the hell's going on in here?" Rawley asked, coming into the barn.

"He bit me," Ranger said in return.

Rawley put his hands on his hips and looked down at Ryker. "Didn't your momma teach you better than that?" He asked with a laugh.

"Ha ha, very funny," Ryker grinned and held up the puppy. "This little guy has good taste in chew toys."

Bending down, Rawley scooped up the puppy. "Lilly know about this?"

"No," Ranger narrowed his eyes, "and don't you go spoiling the surprise. We're going to give this little guy to her in the morning." Ranger grinned and looked at Ryker. "We're both in agreement that if we give it to her tonight, she'll insist on having it in bed with us. And Ryker and I have too many plans for that."

Rawley held the puppy in the crook of his arm and rubbed its tiny belly. "Hi, little guy. I'm going to be your favourite Uncle." Rawley lifted the chubby puppy and rubbed noses with it.

Ryker hooked an arm around Ranger's waist and rolled his eyes. Who'd have thought the biggest, toughest member of the Good family would have the biggest soft spot for dogs. "How ya doin'?" he asked thumping Rawley on the back.

"Okay, don't seem to have enough time in the day, but I'm happy."

"How could you? Working as part-time Sheriff while running the Mayor's office."

"Well if Garron would stop being an ass and take over as Sheriff, I wouldn't have to do two jobs." Rawley continued to scratch the puppy behind the ears.

"He might be more inclined to consider it if you didn't make him cut his hair." Ryker took the dog from Rawley and put him back in the kennel before leading the group toward the back deck.

"Sorry, but you can't have a small-town Sheriff with long hair, it's just un-American."

Ryker stopped and turned around. "Seems to me you're holding a few prejudices you need to let go of."

That had Rawley spitting and sputtering just like Ryker knew it would. Ryker used the opportunity to climb the deck steps. "Where's my wife?" he asked looking around.

"She's in the kitchen showing Jeb how to mix up homemade ice cream." Sonny said, from atop Garron's lap. "She looks good by the way. I was worried about how she'd hold up with Jeff's trial, but she's come through it just fine."

"Yep," Ranger said, wrapping his arms around Ryker. Ryker leaned back against the solid wall of muscle. Two years ago they would have never shown this type of affection around people, even their family, but everything was different now.

"We'll see in another couple of years how she does. I imagine Jeff will get out on parole by then," Ranger said, squeezing him tight.

"Well, even if he does get out early, he'd be a damn fool to come back here with a Sheriff like Garron in charge." Rawley looked at Ryker and winked.

"Dammit, I told you, I'm not cutting my hair," Garron fumed.

"Well I've been thinking about that, we may be able to negotiate the hair thing."

Chuckling, Ryker pulled Ranger toward the kitchen as soon as he saw Jeb come out the door. Spotting Lilly washing a few dishes, they both pressed against her. "Forget the dishes, it's a party."

Lilly turned and gave them each a kiss. "If I don't wash them now, I'll have to stay up late after everyone leaves and we won't have time to celebrate before we all fall asleep. I was hoping we could take a ride out to the pond. I have a Lady Godiva impression I want to do for you both," she said, blowing them kisses.

Ranger poked Ryker in the stomach. "Pass me a dishtowel, brother."

About the Author

An avid reader for years, one day Carol Lynne decided to write her own brand of erotic romance. Carol juggles between being a full-time mother and a full-time writer. These days, you can usually find Carol either cleaning jelly out of the carpet or nestled in her favourite chair writing steamy love scenes.

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