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Ménage Àmour

THREE of a KIND



Stormy Glenn

THREE OF A KIND

Lovers of Alpha Squad 4

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MENAGE AMOUR



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DEDICATION

To Ms. Cleo, who understand that three of a kind can be a treasure.

THREE OF A KIND

Lovers of Alpha Squad 4

STORMY GLENN

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Chapter 1

“Hey, Jake, how’s it hanging?”

Jake Logan looked up from the coffee cup he silently contemplated to see his friend and fellow Navy SEAL team member, Sam McKenzie, walk into the dining room with his own cup of coffee.

“Slightly to the left, Sam,” he replied, “You?”

Sam laughed as he sat down across from Jake and began drinking his coffee. “I have no idea. According to Daniel, it’s his property now. You’ll have to ask him.”

Jake chuckled. “TMI, my friend.”

“Yeah,” Sam laughed again, “probably. So, what are your plans for the day?”

“Cami has me roped into doing the *traditional* thing and going out to cut down a Christmas tree. Want to come?” Jake asked, an eyebrow raised in query.

“No,” Sam chuckled, “Cami has roped me into getting a room ready for her friend, Heath. Tell me this, who died and made Cami the Christmas queen?”

Jake laughed but didn’t reply. Cami had taken over and insisted that everyone celebrate Christmas. They had all fallen into her demands because they felt so bad that her sister, Mari, was missing. She needed something to keep her mind off things.

After a few moments, Jake asked, "Heath? Isn't he the guy that Cami used to get pregnant? Artificial insemination or some thing like that?"

"Yeah, he's the one. Nick's going to spit purple kittens."

"But," Jake asked, confused, "isn't Heath gay?"

Sam nodded wiggling his eyebrows suggestively. "Yep, and according to Cami he's *really* gay too."

"What exactly does *really* gay mean? How is *really* gay any different than regular gay? I'm gay, you're gay, Daniel's gay."

"Thank god!" Sam said. He grinned over at Jake, putting his hand to his lips in mock astonishment. "Wait, you're gay? When did that happen?"

"Funny, very funny," Jake replied sarcastically. "Smart ass!" Sam knew Jake was gay, all of their team members did. Jake didn't flaunt it but he had never tried to hide it from any of them either. "How is this guy any different than you or I? Are there different levels to being gay?"

"Well, Cami says he's *flamboyant*, whatever that means," Sam replied. "I guess we skipped the day they taught that in Gay 101. We'll just have to wait and see."

Jake took another sip of his coffee only looking up when Sam let out a low exclamation, "Oh, my god!"

"What?" Jake asked quickly as he glanced over to where Sam gawking and his eyes widened. "Oh, fuck me!" he whispered to himself.

His cock twitched at the site of the man walking in the front door. He was sex personified. The gorgeous little man stood maybe five foot eight and weighed about one hundred fifty five pounds and he was absolutely stunning.

His short wavy pale blond hair was slightly messed giving him that *just crawled out of bed* look. His skin displayed his beautiful golden tan like a beacon.

Jake lowered his gaze to the perfectly tight muscled stomach encased in a silky white shirt. He could see the small outline of the tattoo around his bellybutton showing through the nearly transparent material. Jake instantly knew he wanted to explore that tattoo, preferably with his tongue.

He watched as Mr. Sexy rubbed his abdomen absently then ran his hand down his jean-clad thighs and Jake groaned, "Damn!"

The man's jeans hung low on his hips and fit him like a glove. Lust rushed straight to Jake's cock, and he had to swallow before he could speak.

"Oh, fuck me," he whispered again.

"Yeah, just about," Sam replied. "That man is lethal."

Jake's gaze slowly explored every inch of the man's form up his body until he reached his face. Everything in the room seemed to fade away as he stared into the deepest sea blue eyes he'd ever seen.

When a wide grin overtook the man's face, showing off a dimple in each cheek, Jake's cock jumped up and down doing a happy dance. The smile reached all the way into Mr. Sexy's eyes and contained a sensuous glint. He hadn't missed Jake's obvious examination and approval. Yeah, he knew he was hot.

Jake tried to act nonchalant as he reached under the table and rearranged his hardening cock. He felt blood coursing through his veins like an awakened river as blue eyes followed the movement of his hand. He knew exactly what kind of effect he had on Jake and he enjoyed every moment of it.

Heath had spotted the big man the second he had walked into the house with Cami. His gaze had been drawn to him like a moth to a flame. He was perfection. He looked like all the big bad boys Heath had been with in the past, only hotter. A lot hotter!

Heath nearly drooled when the object of his desire stood up and began walking towards him. Holy fuck, he was sexy. Every damn inch of his tall frame spouted muscles and firmness. Heath wanted to

crawl right up his six-pack abs and kiss him until they both passed out.

“Hey, Cami?” He drawled loud enough for everyone in the room to hear him. “I just figured out what I want for Christmas.”

Cami looked to where Heath’s attention was focused and giggled. “I told you that they grow them nice down here,” she said with a grin. “Have you been a good boy? Are you on the naughty or nice list?”

“Oh hell, honey, right now, with what I’m fantasizing about, I am definitely on the naughty list. But if I promise to be really good at being really naughty do you think Santa will still put him in my stocking?”

“I’m not sure he’d fit, Heath,” She stated, giggling.

“Fine, put me in his stocking then,” Heath pleaded as Jake stopped right in front of him. He was pretty sure Cami was correct. The man stood at least a half foot taller than Heath. There probably wasn’t a stocking big enough but Heath sure wanted to try.

Cami laughed as she gave Jake a kiss on the cheek before turning back to Heath and grabbing his hand. “Heath, I’d like you to meet Jake Logan, one of the Alpha team members. Jake, this is my dear friend, Heath Bentley.”

Jake shook Heath’s hand. “Hello, Heath, it’s nice to finally meet you. Cami’s told us a lot about you.”

Oh hell, the man’s voice had the perfect deep timber. It made Heath’s cock tingle. “Oh please, tell me none of it was good,” Heath replied, not letting go of Jake’s large hand.

Jake chuckled. “Well, she did mention a few things that have you on the nice list, but I’d really like to find out what might have put you on the naughty list.”

Heath couldn’t keep himself from leering seductively at Jake. This was just too good a situation to pass up. “Hmmm, I’ll show you my stocking, big boy, if you show me yours.”

“Heath!” Cali exclaimed. She grabbed Heath’s arm and gave him a little shake. “You need to tone it down a bit. These people aren’t ready for you.”

“I think he’s charming.” Jake chuckled deeply. “Please don’t be afraid to be yourself around me. I promise I can take it.” He gave Heath a slow alluring wink.

Heath beamed at Jake’s compliment. He felt flushed, excited, and for the first time since he could remember, nervous. In the past he had adjusted his personality to that of his current lover’s wishes. But for some reason, he found that he wanted Jake to like him just the way he was.

Heath knew he could be gaudy and ostentatious. He wore tight flashy clothes and flirted outrageously. It had gotten him many black eyes and sore ribs over the years but he refused to hide the fact that he was gay from anyone.

When he tried to pull his hand back from Jake’s, Jake refused to release him, surprising Heath. Heath looked up at the big guy, raising an eyebrow at him as if to ask what his intentions were. He nearly jumped out of his skin when he felt Jake’s thumb softly caress the palm of his hand before he reluctantly released him.

An unmistakable message passed from Jake to Heath in that caress. Jake seemed to be saying he was interested. Heath tried to mask his enthusiasm at the gesture. Jake reflected the perfect man as far as Heath was concerned. Big, tall, and interested!

Heath would have thought a big Navy SEAL would have been more hesitant at letting someone know his sexual interests but Jake seemed to be fine with it. Heath liked that. Someone confident in their sexuality was a big turn-on, especially someone that made him nearly come in his pants just by looking at him.

Jake swept Heath’s body from head to toe and gave him a wide suggestive grin as he leaned down to whisper in his ear. “Maybe later we can discuss just how much of me *you* can take.”

Heath gulped as he felt a damp spot appear on the front of his jeans. Damn, this guy could give as much as he took. He felt giddy with anticipation. Christmas definitely looked up.

Jake seemed reluctant when he dropped Heath's hand and turned his attention to Cami. "So, you want a Christmas tree, huh? Got a size in mind?"

Cami smiled at Jake and Heath. "Big," she replied. "At least six feet tall. I want a tree that goes nearly up to the ceiling. Something no one can miss. Think you can manage it?"

Jake nodded, "Yeah, probably. It may take me a bit of time to find just the right one but I'll see what I can do."

Heath turned to look out the large front window to the snow covering the ground outside, then back to Jake in astonishment. "Christmas tree? You're going to get a real Christmas tree?" Heath asked. "As in go outside and cut one down?"

"Yeah, Cami wants a real tree. Says it's more traditional that way," Jake replied, rolling his eyes.

"So, what? You're just going to go out and get one? Cut it down and drag it back and everything?" Heath asked in awe. He'd never really had a Christmas tree before, let alone a real one. Christmas wasn't a holiday he celebrated much. Never had been.

"Yep, got the ATV all ready to go. Want to come?"

"Out there?" Heath looked through the front window again, eyeing the snow covered ground. "In the snow? Where it's cold? I don't even have a winter jacket."

Jake laughed "Not a problem," he answered as he grabbed a plush red winter jacket from the nearby closet and wrapped Heath up in it. "I'll keep you warm."

Heath barely got out a yelp before Jake lifted him up in his arms and carried him out the front door to the waiting red ATV.

Before he could formulate a complaint, Jake swung his long legs over the ATV, set Heath down in front of him and sat down behind him. He started up the motor and began drove into the woods.

Chapter 2

Jake was surprised at how daring he was being with Heath. While he had never had a problem approaching those he felt an attraction to, he had never been so obvious. But he hadn't wanted to leave Heath behind so soon after he had met him. He didn't want to let the smaller man out of his sight.

The feeling of his cock rubbing against Heath's lower back created quite a bit of friction for him. Each bump in the road only added to it. Jake knew from experience that he was moments away from coming in his jeans like a teenager.

Figuring they were far enough away from the house that no one could see them through the snow-covered trees, Jake pulled over and shut off the engine. He pushed himself as far back on the seat as he could go. Grabbing Heath by the hips Jake swung him around so that Heath's legs draped over his.

Wrapping one arm around his waist Jake pulled Heath as close as he could. He moaned when he felt his cock rub against Heath's own growing erection, the thick material of their jeans the only thing separating them.

"I'm going to kiss you, Heath," Jake whispered.

"Yes, please."

His grabbed Heath's jaw with his other hand and tilted his face up to his, capturing Heath's lips in a long powerful kiss. Jake's tongue explored every inch of Heath's mouth, aroused by his sweet taste.

Jake growled deep in his throat when he felt Heath take the initiative and wrap his arms around Jake's neck pulling him deeper into their kiss. Moving his hands slowly down Heath's back, Jake

grabbed his hips and began rubbing Heath's body up and down against his cock.

Heath suddenly cried out Jake's name and arched his body stiffening with his release. Jake went out of his mind at the sight of Heath in the throws of passion. He bit the side of Heath's neck as he climaxed and soaked the front of his jeans with load after load of his seed.

He gently licked the slight bruise he had left on Heath's neck before closing his eyes and resting his forehead against Heath's, trying to recapture the air that had left his lungs in such a rush. He felt gratified to feel Heath having the same problem breathing that he did.

Once he had sufficient air in his lungs again he opened his eyes and looked deep into Heath's beautiful blue ones. He placed a quick kiss on his lips before speaking.

"I want you, Heath," Jake whispered as his hands caressed Heath's ass, pressing his fingers hard between his cheeks, giving Heath a clear idea of what exactly he wanted.

"Yes," Heath moaned as he arched his head back and tried to pull Jake's lips back down to his neck.

Jake desperately wanted to take Heath right there and then. But, they had a few problems. One, they didn't any lube of any kind. Two, they were outside in the cold. And three, he wanted more from Heath than a quick fuck in the woods.

"Heath," he said trying to pull Heath from his lust-induced trance, "Listen to me for a moment, please."

Jake waited for Heath to regain control of himself, surprised at the guarded look that dropped down over Heath's face. Heath pulled back from Jake and wrapped his arms around himself as if he were cold. He seemed to be curling into himself.

He would love to know what went through Heath's head at that moment. Something had definitely upset him and given him that wounded puppy look. Heath had been so animated before. Now, all

the life and vitality that had attracted Jake in the first place seemed to be draining out of him.

Jake stroked his hand down the side of Heath's angelic face. "What's wrong, Heath? What's going through that beautiful head of yours?" Jake asked.

Heath shook his head. "It doesn't matter. Just tell me what you want."

* * * *

Heath had realized that Jake wasn't kissing him anymore. He had raised his head and looked up into Jake's serious ones as he wrapped his arms around his chest. Uh oh, here it comes, the conditions. Damn! He had really started to enjoy himself, too.

He had been pleasantly surprised when Jake had carried him outside and basically kidnapped him. He couldn't have been happier when Jake had stopped the ATV and began making love to him. It had been wonderful. He couldn't remember when he had ever come so hard and so fast.

Now Jake had gone serious on him. He knew it was too good to be true. No one could be as perfect as Jake seemed to be. Now he would start making conditions. *Don't do this. Don't do that. I want you but you have to behave the way I want you to.* He had heard it all before.

Heath felt his arousal start to deflate as he waited for Jake to tell him what his conditions were. Heath knew he would behave any way that Jake wanted if it meant he could have the big guy. He wanted to him too much to give him up.

He also realized that changing his personality to please Jake meant that they would never have a lasting relationship. Heath could only behave himself for so long before he acted out. And, much like his previous relationships, Jake would get angry and it would be over.

Heath wasn't sure he wanted to go through that with Jake. This time, he was very afraid that he would not be able to protect himself

from Jake. He didn't know if he believed in love at first sight but what he felt for Jake was damn close.

Heath watched Jake's eyebrows draw together in a frown. "Of course it matters. Something has obviously upset you. Was I to assuming? Didn't you want this?"

Heath was astounded. Jake thought he didn't want him? "Of course I wanted this. I would have stopped it if I hadn't wanted you to have me. And I want more."

"Then tell me why you're so upset. What did I do wrong?" Jake demanded roughly.

"You didn't do anything wrong, honestly. I guess I'm just waiting for you to tell me what your conditions are," Heath said sadly as he ducked his head and shrugged his shoulders.

"Conditions? What conditions?" Jake asked.

"For letting me have you, be with you," Heath explained as he looked up at Jake. He didn't understand Jake's confusion.

"Oh, baby, that's what I wanted to talk to you about," Jake said. "There's no reason to be upset, Heath. At least, I hope you won't be upset."

Heath couldn't stand the waiting any longer. It drove him nuts. He could feel tears begin to form in his eyes as he pleaded, "Please, just tell me what you're conditions are. I'll do whatever you want."

"I just want you, Heath. But, despite my actions earlier, I don't do one night stands. There's just nothing in it for me. Sex without some sort of commitment doesn't work for me."

Jake smoothed back the soft hair on Heath's forehead as he continued. "I know we just met and all, but I want to get to know you better, a lot better. I think there's a connection between us, something special, and I want to explore that."

Heath heard Jake sigh deeply. "Look Heath, I'll be real honest with you. You fascinate me. I think you are the most beautiful man I have ever laid eyes on and I want you to belong to me. Do you understand what I'm saying?"

“No, not really,” Heath replied quietly. He got it that Jake wanted him. A lot of men did. Heath had never been at a loss for male attention. Men seemed to flock to him, gay and straight.

What he didn’t understand was Jake’s desire for exclusivity. Did he want him to be faithful while they got to know each other? Did he want to just be together for the holiday season? Did he want something more? What?

It wasn’t like Heath planned on sleeping around or anything. He had never once been unfaithful to any of his lovers, even when they had slept around on him. He just didn’t believe in it. When he became involved with someone he was with only him.

Realization suddenly dawned on Heath. He knew what Jake wanted. It would take some work on his part but if he really wanted Jake in his life he could do it.

There would be no more flirting with anyone except Jake. He would definitely have to dress down a bit. He couldn’t do anything that might attract the attention of potential suitors. Damn! That meant no more dancing either.

“Okay, I can do that,” Heath said suddenly as he smiled. He could do this. Surely it couldn’t be that hard. Heath started making a list in his head of all the stuff he needed to do to be *exclusive* with Jake.

“Okay?” Jake asked, seeming surprised. “You’ll belong to me? Exclusively?”

“For as long as you want me,” he said as he gently caressed the side of Jake’s face.

Jake grabbed Heath’s chin and forced his gaze up to his. “Heath, you better be real sure you know what you’re saying. If I make you mine, I won’t let you go.”

Heath liked the sound of that. It gave him a warm fuzzy feeling inside thinking of being with Jake for a long time. The longest relationship he had ever had only lasted six months before his lover had dumped him for flirting. He’d have to remember not to do that with Jake if he wanted to keep him.

Still, it remained to be seen how long he could go without pissing Jake off. His exuberant behavior usually pissed off his lovers at some point. A couple of them just left or dumped him. One had taken it out on him physically. He really hoped Jake wasn't like that. As big as he was, Jake could do some serious damage. Still, it would almost be worth it to have Jake for however long he could.

Jake watched as different emotions crossed over Heath's face. Hope, anxiety, fear, and finally, determination. Again he felt the need to know the thoughts that went through Heath's head. They were both taking some mighty big leaps here considering they had just met. But something about Heath made Jake feel like he needed to stake a claim on him before he got away.

"Heath, are you sure? You don't know anything about me. I can get a little possessive sometimes. And I like to get my own way. I hate blueberries. You might not like me once you get to know me."

"Then, don't you think we should get to know each other better?" Heath said suggestively as he rubbed his body against Jake's. He reached down to push his hands under Jake's shirt only to have Jake capture his hands in his.

"Whoa, baby, let's slow down a bit. We have all the time in the world to get to know each other. Right now we have a Christmas tree to go find."

"Does this mean no sex?"

"No," Jake chuckled. "It just means I want to take the time to get to know you outside of bed. Sex is not the be all, end all of a relationship, Heath."

Jake grinned at the pouting look that formed on Heath's face. "Fine!" Heath harrumphed as he pulled his hands free from Jake's grasp and crossed them over his chest again.

"Damn! You're just about as cute as you could be, aren't you?" Jake laughed as he kissed Heath on the nose before turning him around and starting up the ATV again. "Come on. Let's go find us a Christmas tree."

It didn't take Jake long to find a Christmas tree he felt Cami would approve of. It stood at least six feet tall and very big and bushy. He turned off the ATV and pulled the axe out of the back storage box.

"You coming?" he asked Heath.

Heath shook his head. "Nope. I like snow but I prefer to watch it through a window rather than be knee deep in it. I'll just sit here and wait for you."

Jake chuckled. "Okay. If you get too cold, there's a blanket in the storage box you can wrap up in."

He saw Heath nod out of the corner of his eye as he turned and headed for the tree. Jake walked to the intended Christmas tree and started cutting it down.

He occasionally looked over to Heath, nearly blushing at the blatant desire on Heath's face. Every look made his cock harder until he nearly ripped the tree out of the ground just to have it over and done with.

The only thing he could think of was getting Heath back to the house where he could explore the interest shinning so brightly in Heath's blue eyes.

Jake finally got the tree cut down and drug over to the ATV. He ties a length of rope around it several times then secured it to the back of the ATV.

"Hey Jake?"

"Yeah?" Jake asked as he looked up at Heath.

"What do you do here?"

"Here?" Jake asked.

"Yeah, here at the ranch. Cami said you're some sort of soldier or something but you live on a ranch in the middle of nowhere with a bunch of other guys. If you're a soldier, shouldn't you be on a military base or something?"

"You'd think, huh?" Jake chuckled. "I am in the military. I'm just part of a special ops team."

“Okay,” Heath said, “that still doesn’t explain why you live on a ranch instead of a military base. Are you on leave or something?”

Jake shook his head. “No. The guys here are all part of my team. We live here because we can’t live anywhere else. You might say we’re a *special*, special ops team.”

“And that means?”

Jake yanked on the rope one last time then walked around the side of the ATV to stand in front of Heath. He rubbed his hand along the soft golden curls on the side of Heath’s face as he gazed down at him.

“I guess if we’re going to be involved, you should know this,” Jake began. “We were all involved in a government experiment that went wrong. By the time we got away, we were all changed.”

“Changed? Changed how? Are you sick or something?” Heath asked quickly as he jumped to his feet. He grabbed Jake’s hands in his, squeezing them.

“Not exactly. We don’t do well in large numbers, hence the ranch in the middle of no where. We can get pretty aggressive sometimes so Cole...he’s our commander—”

“Yeah, Cami introduced him to me earlier. What about him?”

“Well, like I said, he’s our commander. He decided we needed a home base where we would feel safe and could be who we are without fear of hurting someone.”

“What do you mean hurting someone?” Heath asked quickly. Jake could see a little frown appearing on Heath’s face, his eyebrows drawing together.

“I would never hurt you, Heath. I hope you’ll believe that. I’m just not comfortable around strangers or in crowds. You’re completely safe with me and the guys.”

“I’m a stranger.”

“No, you’re not. I’ve already decided that you’re going to belong to me. I’m just hoping that you’ll agree to it. However, now that I’ve made that decision, you couldn’t be safer.”

“Why?” Heath asked.

“Because I’ll protect you, keep you safe.” Jake pulled Heath into a standing position, wrapping his arms around him. “I have a feeling that if you let me, you’re going to become very important to me, Heath.”

Jake felt Heath laugh against his chest. “I think I’d like that.”

Chapter 3

Jake and Heath pulled back into the yard a few hours and several stolen kisses later, pulling a beautiful six-foot Douglas fir tree behind the ATV. Jake rushed a frozen Heath into the house then went back outside to unhook the tree from the rope attached to the back of the ATV. After rolling up the rope and putting them and the ATV away in the barn he dragged the tree into the house.

It took Jake and Cole several minutes of rearranging before Cami gave them a satisfied nod, happy with the positioning of the tree. Leaving Cami to decorate, Jake went to his room to change into dry clothes before joining Heath in the living room. He was curled up in one of the overstuffed chairs wrapped in blanket.

Jake squeezed into the space beside Heath and wrapped an arm tightly around Heath's shoulders. He hoped Heath wouldn't object. When Heath just laid his head on Jake's shoulder and curled into him Jake was filled with a feeling of peace and contentment.

He hadn't had that many lovers, three in fact, if he didn't count a couple of one-night stands. But he had never felt a sense of contentment with them just from holding them. Now that he thought about it, he couldn't remember just sitting with them like this before, curled in front of a roaring fire.

It felt nice. Jake didn't feel the usual frustrated need to have sex and leave that he normally did. He was content to just hold Heath in his arms and enjoy the fire while listening to Cami and Cole arguing over Christmas decorations. A new snow fell gently outside, the fire warmed the room, and Heath lay in his arms. It didn't get much better than this.

His friends were here and seemed to be happy. He could see Daniel curled up on Sam's lap, the two of them talking softly in-between snuggles. Caleb sat on the couch talking with Julia, Sam's wife. Nick played chess with Rune. Sky and Jax seemed to be alternating between glaring at each other and sending each other coveted looks. It was a perfect evening.

Jake came out of his musing by the feel of Heath squirming next to him. Jake wasn't quite sure what Heath was doing until he felt Heath's hand cover his crotch. Quickly looking down then around the room he could see that no one knew what Heath was doing under the cover of the blanket. Heath had the blanket situated in such a way that no one could see what he did.

Looking down at Heath's bowed head where he leaned against his shoulder Jake could see a devilish grin covering Heath's lips. Heath slowly unbuttoned Jake's jeans just enough to fish his hardening cock out of his pants.

Jake muffled a groan into Heath's honey hair as Heath slowly stroked Jake's cock. His hand left a trail of searing heat everywhere it touched. Jake felt like his skin burned with every touch. When Heath turned his head and bit him on the side of the neck Jake knew he wasn't going to be able stop himself from coming.

He heard Heath yelp as he suddenly grabbed him in his arms, stood up, and carried him down the hallway to the bathroom. Slamming the door behind him with his foot, Jake sat Heath down on the counter top and pulled his legs around him. He leaned down over Heath and latched onto his lips. With Heath's hand still wrapped around his cock he began to pump his hips.

"Harder," Jake demanded, groaning as he felt Heath's hand tighten around him. "Oh, yeah, just like that...oh god...yeah. I'm gonna—" The feel of Heath nipping the side of his neck sent Jake over the edge. Jake roared as he erupted into Heath's hand, sending a fountain of seed over them both.

Jake dropped his head into the crook of Heath's neck and slowly let his legs slide down while keeping his body pressed against his. "Heath, honey, that was... Oh my god, Heath, that was unbelievable," he whispered against Heath's neck before lifting his head to place little kisses over his face.

Realizing that he had left Heath in the wind while he enjoyed his sexual ministrations, he unbuttoned Heath's jeans and reached in to give him the same attention he had received only to bring his hand back wet and covered in cum.

His eyebrow lifted in query as he looked down at Heath. He couldn't contain his wide grin at the soft blush covering Heath's face. He leaned down and gave him a long passion-filled kiss before standing up and letting Heath scoot off the countertop.

"Damn! You're a hot little piece, aren't you? Do you always come this easily?" Jake asked as he leaned over the sink and washed off his hands. Jake could see Heath blush again in the mirror over the sink.

"Not usually. This seems to be a new...uh...development for me," he murmured quietly. Heath gave Jake a seductive look under his eyelashes. "Must be you."

Jake chuckled as he turned back to face Heath. He leaned down to give Heath a quick kiss then wet a washcloth. Kneeling down at Heath's feet he reached for the button's of Heath's jeans. He needed to clean Heath up.

Jake inhaled deeply when he pulled Heath's cock out of his pants. Oh man, he appeared perfect here too. Long and thick, Heath's cock matched every fantasy Jake ever had. Jake's hands trembled as he wiped Heath clean.

He chuckled at the moan that escaped from Heath as the warm wash cloth traveled over his balls and semi hard cock. Jake placed a quick kiss on the head of Heath's cock before placing it back in his pants and buttoning him back up.

Standing up, Jake cleaned himself off before dropping the wet wash cloth in a nearby laundry hamper and buttoning up his own

jeans. Jake's eyebrows shot up in surprise when he turned to face Heath and saw an anxious look on his face.

"What's wrong, baby?" he asked as he pulled Heath into his arms.

"You're not upset with me?" Heath asked hesitantly, pressing his head against Jake's chest.

"Why would I be upset with you? You just took me to heaven. If anything, I should be thanking you."

"For starting this out there in the living room?"

Jake laughed. "Well, you could have picked a better place, that's true. But, Heath, I'll be honest, that was totally hot. Almost as hot as you coming in your jeans."

"So, you're not mad?" Heath asked curiously.

"Hell, no! Heath, if you want me, take me," he laughed, nuzzling the top of Heath's head.

"You mean it?" Heath asked. He looked astonished to Jake. "I can just take you when I want you and you won't be mad?"

"Well, I guess there are some places you should show some restraint. Church, a courthouse, a football game, if someone's holding a gun to our heads, the usual. The breakfast table is probably out too. But, other than that, if you want me, take me. A little warning might be a good idea in some cases."

He wiggled his eyebrows at Heath, making him laugh. "Just to be fair about it, you should know that I plan to take you whenever I want you. So, if you suddenly find yourself thrown over my shoulder and dragged off to my bedroom to be ravished or with your pants around your ankles and your cock in my mouth, just remember that you have been warned."

Heath started laughing again, "Duly noted, big guy." He leaned up to look into Jake's beautiful brown eyes. "So, if I wanted to drag you off to your room right now and have my way with you, you'd be okay with that?"

“Heath,” Jake began hesitantly, “I haven’t been with anyone in a long time. Remember what I told you earlier, I don’t do one-night stands so it’s been awhile for me. I’m a little out of practice.”

“I’m sure I can remind you of anything you might have forgotten,” Heath chuckled.

“Oh, honey, it’s not that. I have no doubt that one look at your sexy ass and everything would come back to me in a heartbeat.”

“Then, what’s the problem?”

“I want to be with you more than anything, Heath, and I have no doubt that it will totally hot. But before we make love I would like us both to get tested. I’m tested on a regular basis because of my work but...”

“You don’t know if I’m okay,” Heath finished, nodding his head.

Jake shrugged his shoulders. He was a little embarrassed. “Doc can test us in the morning if you’re willing.”

Heath seemed a little surprised at Jake’s request. “Of course I’m willing. And I really appreciate the fact that you care enough to wait until we are tested. But that doesn’t mean we can’t do a few other things in the meantime.”

Jake closed his eyes and groaned. “Oh hell, you’re going to be the death of me, I can see it now.”

“Does that mean you don’t want me to spend the night with you?” Heath asked seductively. “I suppose I could go to my own bed, all alone, no one to cuddle with—” He started to head for the door, laughing when Jake pulled him back into his arms with a growl.

“Forget it! You’re never sleeping anywhere but in my bed again,” Jake threatened as he tossed Heath over his shoulder. “You might as well pack up your shit and move in. I’m not letting you go.”

Heath laughed more as Jake pulled the bathroom door open and carried him out. Jake waved to the stunned group they passed as he carried Heath through the living room and down the hallway to his bedroom.

Jake shut and locked the door behind him before tossing Heath onto the bed. He pulled his shirt over his head and tossing it on the floor.

Heath sat up on the bed, the laughter in his voice slowly dying away as he watched Jake strip. Jake saw him swallow as he pushed off his boots then unbuttoned his jeans and dropped them to the floor too.

Jake stood there and let Heath take his fill of his naked body. Heath's gaze riveted on Jake's face then slowly moved over Jake's body. Jake heart jolted and his pulse pounded as Heath stared at him.

"Hot damn!" Heath murmured. The burning desire in Heath's eyes made Jake feel like a god. It made him feel powerful, masculine, and very aroused.

Jake sauntered over to Heath. He stopped at the end of the bed and grabbed Heath's boots and pulled them off to drop them on the floor.

When Jake grabbed the legs of Heath's jeans and began pulling, Heath couldn't seem to unbutton them fast enough. Jake had Heath's shirt pulled off and dropped on the floor seconds later.

"Up there, baby," Jake said as he gestured to the top of the bed. Heath scooted to the top of the bed where Jake pointed. Jake climbed onto the bed and began crawling slowly towards him.

Heath lay back against the pillows. Jake could see and feel Heath's eyes devouring him. Seems he had unleashed a monster. And he couldn't be happier about it. Heath was clearly excited.

Heath moaned when Jake leaned in and licked the inside of his thigh. The little sound made Jake's heart pound harder in his chest. He slowly moved up Heath's thigh to his balls and licked them from one side to the other.

"Jake, I'm going to blow if you don't stop that," Heath groaned.

Heath's head thrashed around on the bed as Jake licked his way up to the tip of his aching cock, paying special attention to the slit in the top before engulfing the entire head in his mouth.

“Oh fuck...Jake...just like that!” Heath begged as Jake began sucking on the top before pushing his head down to swallow up his entire cock. Jake began humming as he lavished his cock. He knew it would send vibrations through the entire length of Heath’s cock.

“Oh god, don’t stop... please don’t stop!” Heath cried out.

Jake loved the sounds that Heath made as he loved him. He left no doubt that Jake pleased him. Jake smiled around the cock in his mouth when Heath grabbed his head and began pumping his hips up and down. Jake wasn’t sure Heath even knew what he did.

Jake quickly pulled his mouth off of Heath and replaced it with his hand when he felt Heath’s balls draw up tight against his body. He pumped his hand as fast as he could, licking Heath’s balls and softly drawing them into his mouth.

Heath’s loud roar rewarded Jake as streams of cum shot out of his cock and splattered his chest. Jake continued to pump Heath’s cock a few more times before crawling up Heath’s body to kiss him.

Heath drew in several deep breaths before opening his eyes to look at Jake’s smiling face hovering above him.

“You okay, baby?” Jake asked softly.

Heath laughed. “I’m better than okay. I’m perfect.”

“Hmmm, yes...you...are!” Jake agreed as he ran his hand down Heath’s cum-covered chest. “Let’s get you cleaned up and then we can cuddle and talk. I want to know everything about you.”

Jake rolled off the bed and went to the bathroom to grab a washcloth. Coming back into the bedroom he quickly cleaned Heath off before dropping the washcloth on the floor. Pulling the blankets back he picked Heath up and deposited him on the sheets, climbing in beside him and pulling the covers up over them both.

He scooted up to lean against the headboard and pulled Heath to sit between his legs, leaning back against him. Wrapping his arms around Heath he kissed him on the top of the head.

“Now, tell me everything.”

“Everything?” Heath asked skeptically.

“Yep, I want to know it all.”

“Well, okay. Many, many, many years ago there was nothing. Then this big bang thing happened—” he began, his voice saucy.

“Very funny, smart ass,” Jake growled. He tickled Heath’s ribs, causing him to laugh. “No, I’m serious. I want to know everything about you. What are your likes and dislikes, your hopes and dreams? What do you want out of life? Do you have any family? Do you like cats or dogs? Do you want kids?”

“Oh, guess you *do* want to know everything,” Heath replied, a little astounded that Jake wanted to know so much about him. No one in his past had ever wanted to know that much about him. They just wanted his body. Jake seemed to want more. On one hand it thrilled Heath. On the other hand, it scared the crap out of him.

“Well, I like you,” Heath began.

“I kind of figured that,” Jake stated bluntly. “Please, Heath, I want to know more about you.”

“Why?” Heath wasn’t really quite sure why Jake wanted to know everything about him. He had already told him that he would have sex with him.

“Because I think I may be starting to fall for you and I want to know who you are. I want to know everything about you. I don’t want to make any mistakes with you,” Jake answered honestly, which surprised Heath.

“Oh, well, I prefer dogs over cats although I have never had either.”

“Why not?”

“My parents died when I was four years old. I grew up in different foster homes until I turned eighteen, then I was on my own. None of my foster parents ever let me have a pet.”

“I’m sorry. Didn’t you have any other relatives that could take care of you?”

“No, not really. I had an uncle that cared for me for a time but he got too old so eventually they placed me in foster care. He died a couple of years later.”

“I’m sorry, Heath. That must have been hard on you.”

“I guess. My uncle was pretty cool but he never knew quite what to do with me. I had a few good foster homes over the years and a few that weren’t so good. All in all, I think I did pretty well.”

“Do you ever see any of your foster parents now?”

“No, most of the foster parents I had were in it strictly for the money. I know that most foster parents aren’t like that. The few that I had seemed to be that way. It could have been worse, I guess. None of them beat me or anything. They just basically didn’t care about me. I represented a paycheck to them. By the time I turned eighteen, I had a scholarship to college and I left. I’ve never been back.”

“You got a scholarship to college? That’s cool. What did you study?”

“Promise you won’t laugh?” Heath asked, afraid that Jake might think less of him because he was basically a nerd with a nice body.

“I promise.”

“I’m an accountant,” Heath murmured under his breath.

“An accountant? Heath, that’s fabulous!” Jake seemed so excited that Heath thought he was joking. Then Heath saw the eager look on his face.

“Really? Why?” Heath asked.

“It’s perfect. Has Cami told you anything about the shit Sam and Sky are going through right now?”

“Not totally. She said that they had some sort of problem with their father. Why? How does my being an accountant have anything to do with that?” he asked. He felt totally confused by now.

“Sam’s father is some sort of bigwig millionaire in Boston. Apparently from what we have been able to piece together, all that money, or at least most of it, was supposed to belong to Sam and his

brother Sky. Their father stole it. Maybe you could help us get an accounting of where all that money is.”

“Sure, I’d be happy to help. But are you sure?”

“Yeah, you’d be a great help. There’s a lot of money involved and his father has it tied up in several different corporations and such. You might be better at tracking the money than any of us are. Maybe we can discuss it with Sam tomorrow.”

Heath nodded. “Yeah, okay, sure. So, what else do you want to know about me?”

Jake smiled. “Whatever you feel comfortable telling me,” he replied.

“Well, I have a small apartment in Spokane. I have a home office where I work. After becoming an accountant I decided I didn’t want to go into the tax area of things. I much more prefer making money. So, that’s what I do. I handle the portfolios of several personal accounts plus my own. That way, I can work from home and set my own hours.”

“Hmmm, a self-made man. I like that. So, if I put you in charge of my money. Are you saying you could make me more?”

“Well, you need to understand that most of what I do is keep track of people’s money. I am not a professional stockbroker or anything. However, I have been known to dabble here and there. Why? How much money are we talking here?” Heath said, looking back at Jake.

“I don’t know,” Jake shrugged. “Jax handles most of that for us. I just know that there is money in my account every month when I need it. Living out here on the ranch my wants aren’t much. I travel occasionally and there always seems to be money for that. Guess you’ll have to ask her.”

“Another mission for morning then. What else do you want to know?”

“How old were you when you lost your virginity?” Jake laughed.

“That one’s easy, seventeen. You?”

“Nineteen. Who did you lose your virginity to?”

“Max Johnson, one of the other foster kids. You?”

“Margery Hansen, my mother’s best friend,” Jake chuckled.

“You lost your virginity to a woman?” Heath asked astounded, “What was that like?”

“Sloppy, I guess. To tell you the truth, it wasn’t what I thought it would be like.”

“What did you think it would be like?” Heath asked curiously.

“I don’t know exactly. I had read all the hype, done all the teenage bragging. It just wasn’t *all that*, if you know what I mean. It wasn’t too long after that that I discovered men.”

“Oh yeah? And what was that like? Better?”

“Much better,” Jake laughed as he leaned down and kissing the top of Heath’s head. “What about you? Ever been with a woman?”

“No, I’ve always known I was gay. Never even been attracted to women. Just men.”

“Oh, and how many men have you been with?” Jake asked. Before Heath could answer, Jake spoke again. “Not that it matters, mind you. They are all in your past. If you don’t want to answer you don’t have to.”

“No, no, it’s okay,” Heath replied. He patted Jake on the leg to reassure him. “I don’t have anything to hide from you. I had a couple of one-night stands when I was younger. Max being one of them. But I’ve only been in a couple of relationships. I was with Robert for six whole months. I thought it was true love, right up until I found him in bed with Max and some redheaded woman. Then I got involved with Carl. We were together for a couple of months. It didn’t end well, either.”

“How do you mean?”

“Carl got upset when he caught me flirting,” Heath continued, trying to explain the situation without seeming like a slut. “It wasn’t like I planned on sleeping with the guy. I didn’t even kiss him or anything. We just danced together. Carl went nuts. Put me in the hospital for a week.”

“He beat you up?” Jake asked, his voice filled with anger. “Did you press charges?”

Heath glanced up at Jake in surprise. He could feel Jake’s hands clenched into fists against his skin. He seemed to be really upset that Carl had beaten him up.

“No, I figured I probably had it coming to me. I *was* flirting with another man,” Heath explained.

“No, that’s wrong. No one has the right to put their hands on you no matter what you’ve done. If he was upset with you, he should have left or something. It’s never okay for someone to hurt you like that,” Jake replied fiercely.

While what Jake said made Heath feel good, it also surprised him. Jake seemed to be truly concerned for Heath’s safety. Most guys he told about why Carl had beaten him up agreed with Carl’s reasoning. Jake, on the other hand, seemed pissed at Carl’s actions.

“You have to understand,” Heath tried to clarify, “I flirted with another man. I knew it was wrong and I did it anyway. Sometimes I can be a bit too...friendly. I’m sure Carl didn’t mean to hurt me.”

“It doesn’t matter. Even if he had caught you in bed with another man, fucking his brains out, that’s still no reason to beat you up,” Jake stated.

“Are you saying you wouldn’t beat me up if you caught me in bed with another man?” Heath asked dubiously.

“No. I wouldn’t touch a hair on your head. I will never lift a finger against you. If I caught you in bed with another man, I wouldn’t hurt you. However, I would immediately leave and you would never see me again.”

Heath shivered at the firmness of Jake’s statement. He meant it. Jake would leave and never see him again and nothing Heath said would change it.

“What about flirting? Or dancing? Would you leave me for flirting or dancing with another man?” Heath asked, wanting to know his boundaries.

“Do you plan on kissing other men or having sex with them?”

“No, I don’t want to be with anyone but you. I just like to have fun. I like to dance. That doesn’t mean that I want to have sex with anyone else. I swear, as long as we are together I will never be unfaithful. I’m just not wired that way,” Heath promised.

“Then no. You’re a natural born flirt. I don’t think you can help it. As for dancing, if you want to dance, dance. Hell, I’d love to see you dance. That’s got to be hot.” Jake pumped his hips a couple of times up against Heath.

“I think I’ll reserve judgment until you see me dance. You may not like it. Please, just remember that I don’t mean anything by it. When I’m with someone, I’m with *only* them. If I’m attracted to another man, I’ll tell you. I will never hide anything from you, not even that. But don’t get me wrong. Just because I may be attracted to someone doesn’t mean I will do anything about it.”

“Well, as long as you are always truthful with me, I don’t see a problem.” Jake tried to reassure him.

“So,” Heath murmured, “tell me about your love life.”

“Not much to tell really. As I said earlier, my first experience was with a woman. After that, I had a short relationship that lasted about ten months. We both learned what it was to be gay. He found someone else he wanted more. End of story.”

“You must have been pretty young.”

“Yeah, I was only twenty. Tim wasn’t much older, just a couple of years. We were both so young and stupid. After that, Mickey and I were together for a couple of two years. It ended okay. We both wanted different things out of life. We parted friends so I guess I have that. I’ve had a couple of one-night stands since then but I really don’t like those. I haven’t been with anyone else in a couple of years. So, I guess that’s it, the entire history of my love life.”

“Guess we’re both a couple of sham artists, aren’t we?” Heath laughed. “Kind of sad that we don’t fit the world’s idea of the typical gay man, isn’t it?”

"I don't know. I don't think we are any different than heterosexual men. We're all looking for someone to love us in the end. We just have to go through a few bad apples to find the right one."

"Do you think it's really that easy?"

"Sure it is. Do you think it's any easier because I'm in the military? Have you ever heard of the *don't ask, don't tell* rule? We're not supposed to be gay, we're military men. Before I joined Alpha Squad, I can't count the number of times I've been interested in someone, and they've been interested in me, but we couldn't do anything about it because if anyone found out we would lose our careers in the military. After awhile I just stopped trying."

"I, for one, am grateful for that. It kept you free until I came along. Could you imagine how horrible it would have been for us to meet and be involved already?" Heath's body gave a shiver at the thought.

"Yeah, as sexy as you are, that would have been bad, real bad. Let's just be thankful things turned out the way they did." Jake kissed the top of Heath's head again. "Come on, baby, scoot down. It's time for us to get some shuteye. We have an appointment with Doc in the morning then we need you to take a look at those accounts for Sam."

Jake and Heath scooted down in the bed and curled up together, holding each other until they both faded off to sleep.

Chapter 4

“Heath?”

Heath turned away from the papers he looked over to see Sam walk into the room. The intense look on Sam’s face told Heath he wasn’t going to like what Sam had to say even before Sam said it.

His heart suddenly pounded in his chest. Jake. It had to be Jake. He had been gone on a mission for the last several days. It was the first one he had gone on since they had gotten together.

“Tell me,” Heath demanded when Sam just stared at him.

“Nick just called in,” Sam said.

“And?”

“Jake’s mission is going to take a little longer than anticipated.”

Heath stared at Sam trying to gauge what he said. It didn’t make sense. Jake had already told him he didn’t know how long he would be gone.

“What aren’t you telling me?” Heath asked as he climbed to his feet.

Sam seemed to look everywhere in the room except at Heath. That alone told Heath what he needed to know. He just needed the particulars.

“Tell me, Sam. I have a right to know. Is he hurt?” Heath asked. He could feel his palms sweat even as he twisted them together.

“He’s not hurt bad, if that’s what you mean. Probably won’t need more than a couple of stitches,” Sam replied.

“Then what has you so worried? Jake could get stitches in his sleep.”

When Sam once again would answer him, Heath got angry. “Look, Sam, I know we don’t know each other very well but Jake is my life. We may have only known each other a couple of weeks but I love him. How would you feel if Doc was hurt and no one would tell you?”

Sam nodded. “He’s going to kill me when he finds out I said anything. You know that, don’t you?”

Heath rolled his eyes. “Do you think I give a fuck? He can be as mad at me as he wants to be once he’s home safe. Now tell me what in the hell is going on.”

“He’s missing.”

“He’s...” Heath whispered as all of the air left his lungs in a whoosh. The room suddenly started to sway, Heath’s head getting dizzy. He quickly sat back down on the couch.

Jake, his Jake, was missing? Was he hurt? Had someone captured him? Had the mission he went on gone bad? Just the thought of Jake missing, be out in the world all alone sent Heath’s heart plummeting to his feet.

“Wha—what happened?”

“I can’t tell you the details of his mission, Heath. You know that. It’s top secret and you don’t have clearance.”

“I don’t care about any fucking clearance and I don’t care about any fucking mission,” Heath shouted. He jumped to his feet again. “I want to know what happened to Jake.”

“Okay, calm down. I’ll tell you what I can.” Sam gestured to the couch. Heath sat down and faced Sam, bracing himself for the worst. Sam sat down across from him.

“We’re not exactly sure what happened. He’s missed his last two check-ins. In our line of work, that never means anything good.”

“That’s it? He hasn’t checked in?” Heath asked in astonishment.

When Sam nodded, Heath rubbed a hand over his face. When he dropped his hand and looked over at Sam, he could tell from the tense look on his face that there was more.

“What else?”

“During the last check in, Jake said that he had been hurt. Nothing major, just some cuts and abrasions,” Sam said. “And now we haven’t heard from him in eight hours.”

“He’s supposed to check in every four hours?”

Sam nodded. “It’s routine. We have secured line for check in just in case something goes wrong. Usually Doc just tracks us down if we don’t check in. Every member of our team has a GPS chip imbedded under our skin.”

“So, why doesn’t Doc just track him down, then?” Heath asked in confusion. If there was some way to track Jake down, why hadn’t it been done already?

“We already tried that. The tracking chip isn’t working. Either Jake disabled it or it’s been compromised. Doc isn’t real sure. It just isn’t showing up.”

“S—so, what now?”

“Unfortunately, now we wait. This is always the hardest part, especially for those left behind.”

“Is there any way that you and the guys can go in after him?” Heath asked, hoping and praying. But he could see from the negative shake of Sam’s head that his hopes and prayers were in vain.

“Why not?”

“Without the tracking device, we don’t know where he is. Oh, we’ve put out feelers already and Cole and Bear have contacted everyone we know. But, until we have a lead, all we can do is wait and hope.”

“Do you think there is hope?” Heath whispered, voicing his biggest fear.

“There’s always hope, Heath. Jake has someone to come home to now. That makes all of the difference in the world to men like us. Believe me, I know.”

Heath didn’t have a reply. What could he say? Thanks for the pep talk? He’d sound like an idiot. He just wanted Jake to come home in

one piece. Hell, he just wanted Jake to come home alive. He didn't care if some pieces were missing.

"I'll let you know the minute we hear something, okay?" Sam asked as he got to his feet.

Heath nodded absently, his mind already wandering to thoughts of Jake. He knew he was being morose when he considered that Jake might be hurt or worse.

He needed to believe that Jake was going to be okay, that Jake was coming home to him. He needed to have positive thoughts.

He also needed to come to terms with something he hadn't considered before. He was in love with a military man. One that went on secret missions that endangered his life on a consistent basis.

Heath grabbed the papers he had been going over and stacked them into a neat little pile. There was no way he could concentrate on paperwork when his man was missing. Just wasn't going to happen.

Shoving his hands in his pockets, Heath left the study and walked towards the dining room. It had surprised Heath when he first got here when he continuously found everyone gathered around the dining room. They were always here unless they were on a mission.

That fact was made even clearer to Heath when he didn't see Jake sitting in his customary seat on the left side of the table. Heath ambled over and sat down in Jake's chair.

"Hey Heath, you doing okay?"

Heath nodded to Cole. He felt grateful to the other man that he was being included in their little family vigil as they all waited for word on Jake.

Everyone had been very accepting of Heath, even Nick, who Heath knew resented the hell out of him. Heath knew that Nick was interested in Cami.

Even though Heath and Cami had both tried to explain to Nick that they were just friends, Nick was still dubious. Heath figured it had to do with Cami being pregnant with his child, even if it was by artificial means.

“It’s okay, man. We’ll find him and bring him home to you.”

Heath shook himself out of his thoughts and turned to look over at Cole, nodding his head. “I’d greatly appreciate that.”

“Hey Heath?” Bear asked. “Did Jake ever explain to you about the government experiment we were involved with?”

Heath shook his head. “No, not really. I mean, he told me about it but not the details.”

“All of us were in the same unit before the experiment. When we volunteered, they kept us in the same unit. We did all of training together, the medical experiments, everything,” Bear said.

“Medical experiments?”

Bear nodded. “Yep. Took a group of rough and tough Navy SEALs and did medical experiments on us to enhance our natural abilities. Then they trained us to use our enhancements.”

“What sort of natural enhancements?”

“Now, that is the fun part,” Bear chuckled. “All of us, every member of our unit excelled at whatever the Navy threw at us. These scientists took what we had naturally and enhanced them.”

“For example?” Heath asked feeling like Bear was hedging.

“We’re stronger, faster, more able to endure almost any environment we’re in,” Cole said.

“It does have its drawbacks though,” Bear added.

“The aggression thing?” Heath asked.

Cole and Bear both nodded. “I’m sure Jake explained to you that we don’t do well in crowds.”

Heath nodded.

“Well, we *really* don’t do well in crowds. We need to be the top dog in whatever room we’re in. It’s like a territorial thing.” Cole chuckled. “Hell, I’m surprised we don’t pee all over the place.”

“Then how can you all live in the same house?”

Cole shrugged. “No idea. Doc says it’s because we were in the same unit before the experiments. We had already established a pecking order between us all.”

“What we’re trying to say here,” Bear said, “is that Jake is better equipped to handle whatever situation he’s in than any other soldier out there. He will be coming home.”

Heath suddenly realized that he felt much better. Talking to Cole and Bear had relieved his tension and now he knew that he could wait for Jake to come home.

He would be worried until he actually had Jake in his arms but he knew that Jake was coming home to him. For now, that was enough. He’d deal with whatever happened when it happened and not before.

“Thanks, guys,” Heath said, smiling when Cole and Bear both nodded to him.

“Don’t mention it,” Cole said.

Bear opened his mouth to add something but the phone on his hip started ringing. He quickly picked it up and flipped it open, listening to the person on the other end.

Heath held his breath as he watched Bear. His heart beat faster and faster as a slow smile began to work its way across Bear’s lips. When Bear looked over at Heath and gave him the thumbs up sign, Heath thought he might pass out.

Jake was okay. Heath didn’t know where he was or what condition he was in, but Jake was alive. Heath covered his eyes with his hand as he tried to hide the tears that formed in them.

“Heath?”

Heath quickly lifted his head to see Bear holding the cell phone out to him. He grabbed it, holding it up to his ear. “Jake?” he whispered.

“Hey, baby, I hope I didn’t worry you too much.”

“Oh my god, Jake, are you okay? Are you hurt? Where are you?” Heath said in a rush. “Wait, never mind. I didn’t ask that. Just tell me you’re okay?”

“I’m okay, Heath. A little banged up but nothing a good hot meal and a shower won’t fix,” Jake said. “How are you?”

“Better now,” Heath laughed. “Can you come home?”

"I'll be home as soon as I can catch a flight out of here."

"Good. I miss you. I need to see you, Jake," Heath whispered. "I need to know that you're okay."

"I promise I'm fine. I was scouting around and fell down an abandoned mineshaft. I landed on some rocks and it disabled the tracking device Doc gave me. Took me hours to find my way out of the damn mine."

"But, you're okay?" Heath asked again.

"Just a few cuts and bruises. Didn't even break anything."

"Okay, then you'd better get your ass home because I'm going dancing and you don't want to miss it. I can assure you, I put on quite the show on the dance floor."

"I'll be there, baby, I promise," Jake chuckled. "Just save a dance for me."

* * * *

Twenty-four hours later, Jake dropped his duffel bag down on the floor inside the door of his room. He chuckled as he looked around the room. Heath's stuff littered the room. It was a damn good thing he wasn't in love with the man for his cleaning skills. Heath was a slob.

He had been gone on a mission for several days, several very long days. It had seemed more like a hundred days. Jake wanted hold his lover in his arms again. If only he could find him. He obviously wasn't in the bedroom, unless he hid under a pile of his clothes.

Jake walked through the house trying to find him. He spotted Sam and Doc sitting in the dining room talking. "Hey guys, you seen Heath?"

"Yeah, he went into town to check out that new dance club that opened last week. Said he needed to keep his mind off his troubles," Sam chuckled. "So, *Trouble*, want a lift into town? Daniel and I are thinking about going in ourselves."

Jake laughed. "Yeah, give me fifteen to shit, shower, and shave."

“Hey, Jake,” Doc said. “You might be wanting these.” Dr. Daniel Evens handed Jake two envelopes with a lecherous grin.

Jake grabbed the envelopes tightly in his hands. Yes! The results of their tests had come in. “Is everything okay?” Jake asked.

“Yeah, you’re good to go. Although Heath could use a little more iron in his diet.”

“Yes!” He whooped as he ran back to his bedroom to clean up. After taking a quick shower and shaving, Jake decided his baby deserved an extra special surprise. He pulled on a pair of tight black jeans and his black cowboy boots. Pulling on a white silk dress shirt, he left the top several buttons undone and rolled up the sleeves. Running a quick hand through his hair he figured he looked about as sexy as he was going to get.

On the way out the door he grabbed the two envelopes that Doc had handed him and shoved them into his back pocket. Sam, Doc, and another man stood waiting for him in the living room when he came out.

“Are you ready?” he asked eagerly. He couldn’t get to Heath fast enough.

“Yep. Jake, this is Ethane Thomas, my lawyer. Ethane, this is Jake Logan, one of my team mates.”

Jake reached over and shook Ethane’s hand, wondering at the sexy looks of the man. He took good looking to a whole new level. It didn’t surprise Jake that he felt attracted to the man. He was breathing. But he already had someone he cared about, a lot, so he tried to tuck those feelings away.

“It’s nice to meet you, Ethane. You going to join us tonight?”

Ethane nodded. “Yeah, these two decided I needed to get out more,” he said as he gestured towards Sam and Doc. “Refused to take no for an answer.”

“Cool. So, can we go?” Jake asked eagerly.

Sam laughed at Jake’s excitement. “Come on, lover boy. Let’s get you down to the dance hall.”

Sam and Doc climbed in the front seat of the truck leaving the back cab for Ethane and Jake. They slid in, their thighs nearly touching, as Sam started the truck up and drove them into town.

Jake looked out the corner of his eye, watching the sexy man sitting next to him. Jake felt flushed, his cock aching. Ethane was pretty sexy. If he hadn't been involved with Heath he would have made a play for the mouth-watering lawyer.

When Ethane's leg brushed against his, Jake quickly jerked away. He had reacted without thinking, quickly pulling his leg back. Not because he felt embarrassed or not interested, but because he was interested. He had liked the feeling of the man's strong leg against his. And that worried him.

Jake turned to watch out the window wishing they would hurry up and get to town. He suddenly felt the need to get to Heath in a hurry. He was embarrassed by his body's response to Ethane. He was supposed to be interested in Heath, not some stranger.

He owed his loyalty to Heath. They may not have been together long but they had made a promise to each other. Jake had every intention of holding true to that promise, no matter how gorgeous Ethane looked.

Jake watched out the window, half-listening to Sam and Doc talking in the front seat, half trying to keep his attention off the sexy man sitting next to him. The drive into town looked longer and longer.

* * * *

Twenty minutes later they pulled into the parking lot of GG's Roadhouse Bar and Grill. Jake nearly jumped out of the car and quickly walked inside, followed by the other three men. They found a place to sit a few tables back from the congested dance floor. Jake took a seat facing the dance floor where he could watch the dancers.

It only took Jake only a moment to find Heath in the throng of dancers. He wore faded blue jeans that hung low on his hips and a tight nearly transparent white short-sleeved shirt.

Heath danced his heart out. His hand held his shirt half way up his stomach showing off his tightly sculpted muscles, his tattoo, and the small bellybutton piercing that Jake had discovered last week.

Jake could barely contain his moan as he watched Heath's hips move back and forth. Damn! His man was hot! No wonder he had been concerned that Jake would be upset when he danced. He was a walking advertisement for sex.

Jake believed that Heath would never act on any propositions he might receive. To tell the truth, it kind of turned him on that nearly every man in the bar drooled over what belonged to him. He had no worries that Heath would be going home with anyone but him.

Jake quickly turned to Ethane when he swore out loud.

"Holy fuck! Would you look at that?"

Jake followed Ethane's stunned expression back to Heath. Yep, he had captivated another one.

"Have you ever seen anything like that?" Ethane groaned. "That's so hot!"

Jake laughed. "If you think that's hot, watch this." He put his fingers to his mouth and whistled. He watched as Heath's head immediately came up and a big grin broke out over his face as he danced his way across the room towards Jake.

Heath stopped in front of Jake and lifted one leg over him so that he straddled him as he sat down in Jake's lap. Wrapping his arms around Jake's neck he leaned in to kiss him, telling him without words how much he had missed him during the last several days.

"Missed you," Heath whispered a few minutes later when he came up for air. "Glad you're home finally, and in one piece."

"I missed you too, baby." Jake licked Heath's lips, wanting another taste. "I was away from you way too long."

“I was lonely without you,” Heath complained as he nuzzled the side of Jake’s neck. “Our *bed* was lonely without you in it.”

“I know, gorgeous, but I’m here now,” Jake rubbed his hands up and down Heath’s back as he looked over at Ethane, whose mouth hung open in shock.

“Hey, baby, I want you to meet a friend of Sam and Doc’s.” He gestured towards Ethane, who stared at them with a desperate look on his face.

Heath lifted his head and drew in a swift breath when he spotted Ethane. Jake watched as Heath drew in Ethane’s sexy appearance. Ethane had a refined beauty, someone that turned you on simply by walking into the room.

Ethane stood maybe six foot one, just a few inches shorter than Jake and weighed maybe one hundred and ninety pounds or so. His muscled athletic body showed that he took care of himself. His straight dark black hair and tanned skin showed off his Native American heritage. In a word, he was gorgeous.

“Hello,” Heath replied clearing his throat first. “It’s nice to meet you.”

“Name’s Ethane. It’s nice to meet you too,” Ethane drawled in a deep raspy voice.

Heath turned and smiled at Jake, sending Jake’s blood pressure soaring from the sheer beauty of his smile. Heath leaned down and whispered into Jake’s ear. “I have to be honest with you. I think he’s really sexy.”

Jake laughed and patted Heath on the back. “I understand, baby. Me too.” he laughed.

“Really?” Heath asked surprised, glancing back at Ethane under his eyelashes. “Cool!”

“Hey, Heath, guess what I have in my back pocket.” Jake said.

“What? Tell me, tell me, tell me!” Heath whined impatiently as he looked back at Jake, bouncing up and down on his lap.

“A little present from Doc.” Jake said “Are you about done dancing? I want to go home and get me some of this.” He laughed as he swatted Heath on the ass, leaving Heath no doubt as to the results of their tests.

“Let me get in one more dance and then we can go,” Heath nearly yelled as he kissed Jake quickly and jumped off his lap to hurry back to the dance floor. Jake watched him go, concentrating on his jean-clad ass all the way.

Jake chuckled as he glanced over at Ethane. “Close your mouth, Ethane, you’re drooling.”

Ethane snapped his mouth closed, trying to casually wipe away the drool as Sam, Doc, and Jake laughed. His eyes widened as he glanced over at Jake.

“He’s yours?” he asked in wonder. “You’re gay?”

“Yes to both questions,” Jake replied as he licked his lips. His eyes firmly on Heath out on the dance floor. Heath seemed to be dancing just for him. Heath’s eyes never left Jake’s as he moved his body around. “He’s mine, every last inch of his luscious body.”

Jake nearly swallowed his tongue when Heath licked his own lips and slowly rubbed his own hands down his chest to his stomach and then over his hips. When Heath’s hands moved to softly caress the growing bulge in his pants Jake thought his heart would stop. All the blood seemed to rush out of his head and straight to his rock hard cock.

“Fuck!” Ethane growled as he watched.

Jake smirked. He doubted Ethane had ever seen anything like it. Heath made love to Jake from across the room. It was hot, erotic, and had Jake more turned on than he could ever remember being in his life.

“How long have you two been together?” he asked Jake curiously.

“A few weeks, but we both knew from the minute we met that we meant for each other.” He glanced over at Ethane. “There’s just this

connection, you know? I knew the second I saw him that I wanted him. The more I got to know him, the more I fell for him. He's not just a pretty face. He's like one of the smartest men I have ever met. And he makes me laugh more than anyone I've ever known."

"Doesn't it bother you when he dances like that?" Ethane asked as he gestured towards the dance floor. Heath still did his sexy moves for Jake, oblivious to the numerous men surrounding him, lusting after him.

"No, I think it's sexier than hell. Look at him," Jake replied as he waved his hand towards Heath. "He's the poster boy for sex. But it's not just his looks. It's his vitality, his spirit, his love of life. You take that away and he's just a pretty face, admittedly a very gorgeous face, but still just a pretty shell. That's part of his charm. And I love it."

"Aren't you worried he'll go home with someone else?"

"Hell no, I know he's coming home with me. He loves me. Of that, I have no doubt. Besides, it's kind of a turn-on to know that everyone in the room is lusting over him and I'm the only one who gets to have him."

"You're really okay with this? The way he's dancing? Flirting? You know he's been doing this before you even got here. How can you be so sure that he hasn't gotten too friendly with someone?" Ethane asked skeptically.

"I trust him. If he's attracted to someone, he'll tell me."

"Seriously?" he inquired skeptically. "He'd actually tell you if he's attracted to someone else?"

"Sure. We don't hide things from each other. That's how problems start. In fact, he told me he thinks you're sexy as hell." Jake watched the flush fill Ethane's face and laughed. Not many people understood the honest relationship that he and Heath had.

But they had both promised from the very beginning to be honest with each other and talk about everything. And if he couldn't trust Heath, he didn't need to be in a relationship with him.

"And that doesn't bother you either?" Ethane looked astonished.

“Why should it? One, you *are* sexier than hell,” Jake said as he held up one finger, then two. “Two, just because Heath finds you attractive doesn’t mean he’s going to go off and have sex with you. But just because he’s on a diet doesn’t mean he can’t look at the menu. He just can’t buy anything off the menu.” Jake swept Ethane’s body with a long sensual look. “Besides, he’d have to be dead not to find you attractive.”

Heath had just about finished his dance when one of the men on the dance floor started getting too frisky with him. He spent several moments trying to fend off the man’s roaming hands. The guy just wasn’t taking no for an answer and his hands were everywhere. He was like an over stimulated octopus.

Heath got ready to kick the man in the groin when a strong arm wrapped around his waist and lifted him a good four inches off the floor. He immediately knew Jake held him. Jake’s other hand wrapped around the other man’s throat, lifting him off the floor also.

“Mine!” Jake growled roughly as he held the man by the throat causing him to turn purple from the pressure.

Heath crossed his arms over his chest and rolled his eyes. Jake had gone into full protective mode. This guy would be lucky to walk away with his head still attached. Heath had tried to warn Jake that situations like this would come up. He just hoped Jake wouldn’t be mad at him.

“Man, I’m sorry,” the guy said through a strangled voice. “I didn’t know he belonged to anyone. With the way he danced and all—”

“It doesn’t matter how he danced or who he belongs to. If he had wanted you to put your grubby little hands on him he would have said yes. He said no! No means no, asshole!” With a twist of his hand Jake sent the man flying across the dance floor to land in a heap at the base of a table.

He carefully set Heath down on the floor, running his hands over him. “Are you okay, Heath? He didn’t hurt you, did he?”

Heath rolled his eyes, secretly pleased at Jake's protectiveness. And a little shocked that Jake wasn't mad at him for the whole situation. Heath had always been the one blamed for these types of situations in the past. Now here Jake stood, mad at the guy who had started it and only concerned that he was okay.

"I'm fine. He didn't hurt me." Heath plastered himself up against Jake. "Dance with me," he whispered when a slow song began to play over the speakers. He put his arms around Jake's shoulders and laid his head down on his wide chest, feeling content when Jake wrapped him up in his arms and began slowly dancing him around the room.

"Are you sure you're not angry with me?" he questioned quietly.

"Heath, you were just dancing. Did you ask that man to put his hands on you?" Jake asked.

"No," Heath replied sadly. "I swear I didn't, Jake." He was anxious that Jake would think he had invited the other man's attentions.

"Then I have nothing to be upset with you about. You didn't do anything wrong."

Heath raised his head to look up at Jake. "You mean that? You're really not mad at me?" This was almost too good to be true. Heath hesitated to believe him.

"No, Heath, I'm not mad at you," Jake promised him, kissing him lightly on the lips.

"Oh god, Jake, I love you so much," he whispered as he buried his face in Jake's neck. Jake was telling him that he could be who he was, dance the way he wanted, and he wouldn't be mad at him. Heath had never felt so free, so accepted, so much in love with someone.

"I love you too, Heath, with all my heart," Jake whispered back.

Heath was overjoyed at Jake's words. While they both had known that they cared deeply for each other, this is the first time they had put their feelings into words.

“Come on, big guy, let’s go home,” Heath said excitedly as he pushed Jake off the dance floor towards the exit. “We have some celebrating to do.”

Heath laughed as he followed Jake towards the door. Life was perfect...almost. He spared one last look at Ethane. He felt a little confused about his feelings towards the man, especially since he felt like he left something important behind as he left.

Once in the truck, Jake reached over from the driver’s seat and grabbed Heath’s hand in his. “Hey, baby, you know what I have planned for you when we get home?”

Heath squirmed in his seat, the bulge in his pants growing to massive proportions. “God, I hope it’s the same thing I have planned for you,” Heath replied, his voice filled with longing. “I’ve been waiting for you for days. We have a lot of time to make up for.”

“As much as I want you, you’re probably not going to be able to sit down comfortably for a week.”

“Hmmm, do tell.” Heath smirked.

“Well, once I get you into our bedroom, I’m going to take off all of your clothes. Then, I’m going to lay you down on the bed and lick you from head to toe. Once I have you sufficiently heated up, I’m going to take that long hard cock of yours and suck it till I get every last drop of cum out of you. Then, if you’re real good, I might rim that sexy little ass of yours and give you a good pounding.”

“Oh god! You don’t have to wait until we get home. I think I’m going to come right now,” Heath groaned as he unbuttoned his pants and pulled his hard cock out.

Heath laughed as Jake nearly drove off the road when he looked over to see him pleasuring himself right there in the front seat. “Damn, that’s hot,” Jake muttered.

Heath’s hand moved up and down his cock, occasionally caressing the top. He could see Jake trying to watch him and the road at the same time.

“Do it, baby, come for me,” Jake demanded as he licked his lips.

Seeing Jake's burning gaze, Heath pushed his jeans off his legs and turned so that his back leaned against the truck door, spreading his legs to give Jake an unobstructed view. He pumped his cock several times before leaning over to stick his fingers in Jake's eager mouth.

Drawing back his wet fingers he reached down and pushed one finger, then two, into his ass and began pumping it in and out of his hole while continuing to stroke his throbbing cock.

He had just inserted a third finger in his ass when Jake suddenly swerved off the road, turned off the truck, and in one fluid movement engulfed Heath's cock in his mouth. Seconds later Heath cried out as he exploded deep within Jake's mouth, filling him with cum.

Heath didn't have time to draw in a breath before Jake scooted to the middle of the bench seat and pushed his jeans down.

He grabbed Heath and pulled him over to straddle his legs so that Heath knelt on the seat over the top of him. Jake quickly grabbed some lube out of the glove compartment and liberally coated his cock before directing the tip of it to Heath's waiting hole.

"I'm sorry, Heath, I can't wait," he groaned as he slowly began pushing past the first ring of muscles, slowly driving in until his balls rested against Heath's ass. "Oh god, you're so tight...not gonna last long, Heath," Jake whispered as he thrust into Heath's body.

Heath leaned back so that his shoulders supported his body against the dashboard. Using his upper arm strength he began moving his body up and down on Jake's huge cock. As big as Jake was, he created a deep ache in Heath's ass. It was a good ache. It let him know that he was alive.

"Oh, yeah," Heath moaned when Jake pushed his shirt up under his arms and tweaked his nipples, pulling softly on the silver ring in one nipple. "Harder, baby, need you harder."

Jake reached down and grabbed Heath's hips and began frantically pounding up into him, nearly mindless in his desire. With every thrust, the head of Jake's massive cock rubbed against Heath's

prostate, sending jolt after jolt of burning hunger coursing through his body until Heath whimpered with need.

Heath grabbed his own cock, once again hard, and stroked himself to the beat of Jake's thrusts.

"Here I come, baby," Jake roared as he filled Heath with his release, seating himself to the hilt inside of Heath.

Heath cried out Jake's name and climaxed, sending streams of cum covering them both as his inner muscles contracted around Jake's cock.

Heath's shuddering body slumped against Jake, his head buried in Jake's neck as both men drew in rapid breaths. Jake's hands trembled as he slowly stroked Heath's back. It took both men several moments to regain control enough to get up and fix their clothing.

Jake climbed back into the driver's seat and pulled Heath over next to him before starting the truck up again. He laced his fingers with Heath's as he kissed him softly on the lips.

"I love you, Jake." Heath smiled contently as he snuggled into Jake's side.

"I love you too, little man."

Heath looked up and gave Jake one of his beautiful wide grins. "Then take me home. You have some more pounding to do, big guy," he stated.

Jake let out a sudden bark of laughter as he started the truck and began driving home. "Are you sure you can take more? I just gave your ass a pretty good pounding."

"You promised me I wouldn't be able to sit comfortably for a week. I'm holding you to that promise."

"Your wish is my command, my love."

Chapter 5

Heath lazily stroked his fingers across Jake's chest, enjoying the feel of the hair coursing through his fingers. That first night, and every night in the weeks since, had been the most exciting of his life. Being loved by Jake was unlike anything he had ever experienced. Jake seemed to know just what to do to get him really riled up.

But it wasn't just the way Jake made love to him. It showed in the caring that went along with it. Jake made Heath feel loved, cherished, like he considered Heath special. Jake didn't seem to want him just for his body or a quick roll in the hay. He actually wanted to know what he thought, how he felt about things, what he thought at any given moment.

That was something truly special and Heath wasn't going to jeopardize it for anything on earth, which is why his attraction for Ethane gave him such worry. He knew he felt attracted to Ethane. The deeper feelings Heath had every time he saw the man had him really upset, though.

In the time since he had met Ethane he had spent a great deal of time with him going over Sam's accounts and tracking the money. He enjoyed the man's company, his sense of humor, and even the tingle he got every time Ethane inadvertently touched him.

Yesterday was a perfect example. He and Ethane had been hard at work going over one particular set of records, trying to track the origins of a company that Sam's father owned and where the money had come from to purchase the company.

"Hey, Heath, I'm going to get some ice tea. You want any?"

Heath glanced up briefly from the papers he had been reading over and smiled. "Yeah, that would be great. Thanks."

Heath felt his heart rate speed up at the soft smile on Ethane's face as he walked out of the office. Damn! It got harder and harder to be around the man and not make a pass at him. He tried to be good, really he did. But Ethane was just so damn sexy. Heath felt like he had lost his mind.

A moment later, Ethane strolled back into the room, the same small smile on his face. He sat down in his chair and handed a glass of ice tea to Heath.

"Hey, Heath, what are you doing here? I mean at the ranch and all," Ethane asked after a moment.

Heath pulled the glasses off his face and set them down on the desk before taking a long drink of his ice tea. Setting the glass back down on the desk he glanced over at Ethane. "Well, it's kind of a long drawn out story, actually."

Waving his hands around at all the papers they still had to go through, Ethane laughed, "Looks like I've got plenty time."

"Yeah, okay. You know who Mari is, right?" Heath asked as he looked over at Ethane through his long lashes.

Ethane shook his head. "No, not really."

"Mari is engaged to Cole and Bear. And no, I have no idea what the story is there. I'm a little late on the scene for that. Anyway, Mari was got sick. Cole and Bear decided to contact her sister, Cami, just to make sure that she didn't have any medical issues that could explain her being sick. This was before they knew for sure that she had been poisoned. Not too long after that, Mari disappeared. She's been missing ever since."

Ethane set his glass down on the desk with a thud, "Damn, you mean someone tried to kill her? Do they know who did it?"

"No." Heath shook his head. "And they still don't know where she is. It's like she fell off the face of the earth. Anyway, initially they couldn't find Cami so they sent Jake's brother, Nick, to find her."

There's a story there too, but Cami's not talking to me about it and Nick's not talking to Cami."

"How does Cami fit into all of this? I mean your being here and all?" Ethane asked.

"Cami is my best friend. She has been for as long as I can remember. You know that baby she's carrying? It's mine."

The shock showed clear on Ethan's face, "But wait, I thought you were gay."

"Oh, I am most definitely gay. Never even been with a woman or had the desire to be. I'm just the sperm donor. Cami wanted a child. She wasn't involved with anyone at the time, had no prospects, if you know what I mean, so she asked me to help out. I said yes, end of story."

"So let me see if I get this right. Cami asked you to father her child and you just said yes? What about the child? What are you going to do when the baby gets here? Do you plan on being a father to it?"

"Cami and I talked about it before we did this. I know she will never keep me from the baby. Cami is just not like that. If someone comes into her life and wants to be a fulltime father to the baby, I'm okay with that too. I just want her to be happy."

"And what about you?" Ethane just couldn't believe this.

"Well, sure I care about the baby. And I'll be there for him, or her. It is my child. But to be honest, I am not full-time father material. I think maybe that's why she asked me. It's hard to be a father to a child when I can't grow up myself. I guess I'll be kind of an uncle to the baby, or something. Besides, unless I am mistaken about it, and I very rarely am, by the time that baby gets here, Cami will have someone to be a father. Assuming Nick gets his head out of his ass by then."

"Nick? What does Nick have to do with all of this?"

"I think there's something going on between them but neither of them are talking, to me or anyone else, about it. Something definitely happened between them when Nick went to find her though."

"And you're okay with all of this? I mean fathering a child that you will never be a real father too? Cami being involved with Nick? All of it?" Ethane asked skeptically.

"I'll always be the father to that child. And yes, it will be an unusual relationship. But that baby will always know that I love him, or her. I just won't be involved with the mother in the usual manner. There's no rule out there that says we have to have the traditional nuclear family relationship. As long as we all love the baby, and each other, and we do what is best for everyone, I don't see the problem."

"No, I guess not. But you have to admit that it is a bit unorthodox."

"Sure it is, but whoever said we had to do things in the usual way? Certainly no one around here. I'm not sure if you noticed but there are no usual relationships around here. Hell, you need a damn score card just to keep track of who's with who around here."

"Yeah." Ethane laughed. "I kind of got that."

"Well, Cole, Bear, and Mari are a perfect example. Mari's engaged to Cole and engaged to Bear, separately. She's engaged to both of them at the same time. The three of them are in a relationship together."

"Really? And that works for them?" Ethane asked curiously.

Heath could understand his confusion. He had never actually seen a three-way relationship that worked okay, where everyone was okay with it. A unique idea, to be sure.

"Yeah. I mean, I've never actually met Mari. She disappeared before I got here, but Cole and Bear seem to be okay with it. From what I understand, they share Mari... at the same time, if you get my drift."

"Yeah, I do, but that just seems so weird. I've heard of relationships where three people became involved but usually it's just

one person being with two different people at the different times, never together. Unless it's one night stand type of thing or bringing someone in to add to the fun. But never long term."

"I think it could work. If all the people involved loved each other and had a commitment, then yes, I think it would work. There'd have to be complete honesty between them though."

"Do you ever think you and Jake could do something like that?" Ethane inquired quietly.

Heath thought Ethane seemed very interested in his answer. Heath knew he certainly had a lot of fantasies in that direction as of late. All of them involved him, Jake, and Ethane.

"Sure, if we all cared for each other. But the thing you have to really understand is that neither Jake nor I are into one-night stands. We'd have to be truly involved with another person for something like that to work. Why? Interested?" Heath wiggled his eyebrows at Ethane, laughing at the soft blush that filled his cheeks. Oh yeah, he was interested all right.

"I don't think I'm the relationship type," Ethane replied sadly.

"Why not?" Heath asked. He was suddenly just as interested in Ethane's answer.

"Just never really had one that worked. I've been involved a few times but it never lasted. I'm not sure they do last."

"Sure they do. Doc's parents were married for years, right up until they died."

"Well yeah, but they were married," Ethane reasoned.

"What does that have to do with anything? So they had a piece of paper that said they had made a commitment to each other. So what?" Heath asked. "Is a commitment between anyone else any different, any less real because they don't have a piece of paper? Either you're committed or you're not. A piece of paper isn't going to change that. The divorce rate should show you that."

"I guess," Ethane replied as he took another drink of his ice tea. Heath had given him a lot to think about. "So you really think your

relationship with Jake will work for the long term? That he won't find someone else that he's more attracted to and be unfaithful? Someone cuter than you?"

"Pleeeaaassee! Like there's anyone cuter than me!" Heath replied, sweeping his hair over his shoulder and pursing his lips in a sexy pose.

"Okay." Ethane laughed. "You got me there. I'm not sure there is anyone cuter on the planet than you."

Heath laughed as he reached for his glasses and pushed them onto his face. "Come on, we need to get this done. I have a hot date later tonight."

"Wish it was with me," Heath thought he heard Ethane say under his breath. Yeah, Ethane wanted him.

* * * *

After that Heath had tried to ignore the subtle hints that Ethane made. But with each passing day it got harder and harder. He truly loved Jake and didn't want to mess that up.

It wasn't that he felt afraid he would succumb to Ethane's allure rather that he would have to hurt Ethane's feelings when he put his foot down. He didn't want to hurt him that way. He really seemed like a nice guy.

"What are you thinking so hard about, little man," Jake asked as he rubbed his hand down Heath's arm.

"Ethane," Heath replied truthfully.

"Hmmm, and what about Ethane?"

Heath knew Jake had to have seen the subtle glances and *accidental* touching from Ethane. He knew that Ethane wanted him.

"I like him."

"I like him, too."

"No, I mean I *really* like him," Heath answered quietly afraid that he had been too truthful when he felt Jake's body stiffen.

“Do you love him?” Jake asked quietly.

Heath felt tears sting his eyes as he thought about it. He just knew he would say the wrong thing if he opened up his mouth so he said nothing. He couldn’t lose Jake. And if he told him what he really felt, Heath knew he would.

“Heath?” Jake asked when Heath didn’t answer him. “Heath, what’s wrong? Come on, honey, talk to me.”

“I’m afraid of losing you,” Heath cried softly.

“Heath, you will never lose me, never.” Jake rolled over on top of Heath and framed his head with his hands. “I love you, Heath. I’ve never said that to anyone. That means something to me.”

Heath opened his tear filled eyes to look up at Jake. “You’re gonna hate me.”

“No, I won’t. Just talk to me, Heath, please.”

Heath’s gaze flicked around the room as he tried to put into words what he felt. He knew he loved Jake beyond words. But he cared for Ethane, too. He wasn’t sure if he loved him but he did care for him.

“I know without a doubt that I love you. But I have feelings for Ethane, too. He makes me feel good when I’m around him. He’s great to talk to, and with his voice, I could listen to him talk for hours.”

Jake gave a strained laugh. “Yeah, I know what you mean about his voice. Very sexy.” Jake was silent for a few moments. “Do you love me any less because of your feelings for Ethane?”

“Of course not!” Heath replied loudly. “I love you, I told you that. Don’t you believe me?”

“Calm down, Heath. I believe you.” Jake took a deep breath before continuing. “Now you listen to me, I will not give you up under any circumstances. I told you in the very beginning that if I made you mine I would never let you go. And I meant it.”

Heath felt his heart start to plummet at Jake’s words. He ached, knowing what came next. No one wanted to share their partner with someone else. Life just didn’t work that way, which is why Heath felt dumbfounded at Jake’s next words.

"I like Ethane, too. I'm not saying that I love him or anything like that. But I am attracted to him more than most men. There's a deeper connection between the three of us. I don't know what it is, but it's there. But, nothing will ever change the way I feel about you."

"What are you saying, Jake?" Heath asked bewildered.

"I don't know exactly. What I do know is that I will not give you up. You are my life, my reason for getting up in the morning. I will not do anything to jeopardize what we have. But, if we are truly honest with each other, and ourselves, we both know that we have an attraction to Ethane. As long as you understand that what we have doesn't change, I don't see why we couldn't see where things could go with him, too."

"You mean that?" Heath asked. He was astonished, shocked by what Jake said.

"Yeah, I guess I do." Jake shrugged his shoulders. "But this is something we have to do together, no hiding and no secrets. Total honesty with everything we do. And we have to do this as a team. Agreed?"

"Are you sure, Jake? That's a pretty big stretch. Are you absolutely sure you're okay with this? I don't want to do anything that might cause problems between us. What we have is too important to me. We don't even know if Ethane would be receptive to something with both of us."

Jake laughed. "Honey, we both know Ethane is attracted to us. I've seen the looks he gives us. Although I'm not sure he's ready for both of us going after him. We'll just have to give him a little extra temptation and see how he reacts to it. That should tell us if he is interested."

"Temptation, huh? And what exactly does that entail?" Heath wrapped his legs around Jake's hips pushing their cocks together, causing Jake to hiss deep in his throat.

"Hmmm, I don't know. I think we need to really get him going. Maybe a good make out session in front of him. You without your

shirt will surely raise his temperature. Some *accidental* bumping, stuff like he's been doing to us."

"Only we'll be doing it to him, right?"

"Yeah, that's the idea. Just remember, if anything is going to happen, it has to be with both of us. This is a package deal here. No you without me, and vice versa. I'm also not interested in having Ethane join us for a fling. He has to be interested in doing some hard time with us, something for the long term. Agreed?"

Heath nodded, quickly agreeing to Jake's conditions. He couldn't believe Jake actually considered letting Ethane into their relationship. It was a dream come true for him. It was a special gift that Jake gave him. One that he would not forget.

Deciding to reward Jake for his love and understanding Heath rolled them until Jake lie on his back with Heath straddling him, his legs on either side of Jake's.

"You know I love you, right?"

"Yeah, I do," Jake replied with a deep grin.

"Do you trust me? Completely?"

"Of course, why?" He asked.

"Then I want you to close your eyes. Don't open then until I say it's okay, no matter what. Okay?" Heath asked eagerly, formulating a plan of attack in his mind.

"Okay." Jake closed his eyes.

Heath climbed off the bed and walked to his dresser and pulled out some scarves he had tucked away in the top drawer. Climbing back on the bed he pushed Jake over onto his stomach then lifted Jake's arms and tied each one to the corners of the bed. Thank god for four poster beds.

"Heath...what..." Jake began when Heath stretched his arms above his head. Heath felt Jake jump when he smacked him on the ass.

Jake laughed at Heath's demanding "Sshh, no talking unless I say so."

Heath tapped him on the hip. "On your knees, big boy."

Jake pulled his knees up under his body. Heath pushed Jake's thighs farther apart then scooted himself between Jake's legs.

Jake yelped in surprise when Heath grabbed his cock and licked the top before he swallowed it, relaxing his throat muscles so he could take the whole thing down.

"Oh fuck... baby..." Jake moaned as thrust into Heath's eager, sucking mouth.

Heath licked and sucked until Jake's body tightened and he shot thick white fluid down Heath's throat. Heath scooted out from under Jake, smiling when he spotted Jake's head buried in the pillow.

Heath enjoyed watching Jake's reactions to what he did. He had always had a suspicion that Jake wanted to be taken by a lover but never had been. Most people saw Jake as the dominant one in a relationship. In the short time they had been together Jake had always been on top, always giving and never receiving.

Now it was time for Jake to receive. Heath pushed a lubed finger into Jake's ass and worked it around. He knew he had found Jake's sweet spot almost immediately when Jake's back arched and he let out a loud groan. Oh yeah, he'd found it all right.

"Oh my god! That's...that's...oh fuck!" Jake whispered pushing his hips back towards Heath.

Working a second finger in he continued to massage Jake's prostate. Heath was careful when he worked in a third finger. While he continued to rim Jake's hole he squirted a bit of lube on his hard cock and spread it over the entire length.

Kneeling behind him, Heath removed his fingers, lined himself up, and slowly began pushing his cock into Jake. Getting past the first ring, he felt himself nearly pulled in. It felt like he was made to be there.

"Oh yeah, give it to me, baby," Jake cried out as he pushed his hips back until he felt Heath buried to the root.

Heath moaned and thrust in and out just a little, not wanting to hurt Jake.

“Oh, fuck... Heath...that feels so good.”

Hearing Jake's words Heath knew he wasn't hurting him. He began a slow steady rhythm until Jake begged for more. Grabbing Jake's hips he began ramming into him, giving him everything he had.

It wasn't long before he felt himself getting close. He wanted Jake to come with him. Changing the angle of his thrusts he tried to find Jake's prostate with his cock. Jake started whimpering with each thrust that Heath made.

“Heath... I can't...” Jake started yanking on the scarves tying him down.

“No, I'll stop!” Heath threatened as he smacked Jake on the ass.

“Oh god, no. Don't stop,” Jake begged. “Please don't stop.” Jake stopped pulling on his ties immediately and pushed his ass back towards Heath, trying to get him moving again.

Heath gave him an evil little laugh as he smacked him on the ass again. “Stop that. I'm in charge here. You're not to move. Just lay there and enjoy. Understood?”

“Yes, yes, anything.” Jake held himself perfectly still

Heath began moving again. From this angle he hit Jake's sweet spot with every thrust. The tightening of Jake's muscles around Heath's cock was beyond anything he had ever felt. Heath couldn't contain his moans of delight with each jab he gave Jake.

“Oh god, Heath...it's too much... I can't...” Jake suddenly cried out as began to come. “Gonna come...*Heath!*” Jake yelled as he came so hard that his entire body trembled.

Heath pulled out and slammed back in. Feeling his balls draw up before he roared out his release as he pumped his seed into Jake's ass. Before collapsing on Jake's sweat dripped body Heath reached up and quickly untied his hands.

Jake rolled over and grabbed Heath by the arms and pulled him on top of his chest. "I love you, baby."

Heath leaned down to kiss him passionately on the lips, "Love you too, big guy."

"I've never... No one's ever... oh hell, Heath, why didn't we try that before? I had no idea that it could be so good. No wonder you like being on the bottom. That was unbelievable."

Heath chuckled at the astonished look on Jake's face. "Like that, did you?"

"Heath, there are no words. I've never done that, you know. You're the first."

"Never done—you've never bottomed before?" Heath asked in shock. Jake had never been on the bottom before? While he was surprised, Heath also felt delighted. Not only did Jake trust him enough to be that vulnerable, it also opened up a whole new list of possibilities for sexual play.

"It means a lot to me you trusted me enough that you let me be the first," Heath said softly as he kissed Jake again.

Jake wrapped his arms around Heath as he slid down to cuddle against him, laying his head on Heath's chest. He absently ran his tongue over Heath's nipple.

"Everyone I've ever been with automatically assumes that I want to be the top. I get it that I tend to be dominant and I'm okay with that most of the time. But once in awhile it's nice for someone else to take charge, you know?"

"Sure, you don't want to have to be in charge all the time? I like being on the bottom. I like feeling cared for, safe and protected. Maybe that's why I tend to be interested in big guys like you. But that doesn't mean I want to be dominated all the time. Sometimes I like to take charge, to be the one that sets the rules."

"Well, that's good. I like making you feel safe and protected. And I don't mind sharing either position with you. Top, bottom, in-between, whatever we feel like."

“Good to know, especially now that I know you aren’t adverse to that position. I have a lot of different things to show you.”

“Oh really?” Jake couldn’t contain his curiosity. “Like what?”

Heath laughed at the eager look on Jake’s face. “You’ll have to wait and see. But you’ll like them, I promise.” He couldn’t wait to try some of them out on Jake. Having been a bottom most of his sexual life, he knew quite a bit about what felt good and what didn’t. He grinned, thinking about the bag of tricks he had up his sleeve.

“Hey, Heath, do you think Ethane prefers top or bottom?” Jake asked suddenly.

“God, I don’t know. Hopefully he likes both.”

“If not, I’m sure we can convert him.” Jake chuckled as he rolled over on top of Heath. “Now, about some of those other positions you mentioned?”

Chapter 6

The next few days were immensely enjoyable, although somewhat frustrating for Jake and Heath. They tried everything they could think of to get Ethane's motor running without coming right out and saying to his face that they wanted him.

They knew they had gotten to him. Ethane kept leaving the room at odd times, nearly running out sometimes. Jake had actually heard him several times jacking off in the bathroom. It had made him so horny he had dragged Heath back to their bedroom and made love to him like his life depended on it.

Jake and Heath both knew that things had to come to a head pretty soon before their balls fell off. They were so turned on that they had been going at it like rabbits. Something had to give before they attacked Ethane and tied *him* down to the bed.

A bunch of the guys had gone into town to visit GG's Roadhouse one evening when things came to a head, but not quite like they thought they would. Sam and Doc danced while Jake, Heath, and Ethane sat at their table drinking a beer.

Heath crawled all over Jake and it was more than Ethane could take at this point. The two of them had been driving him crazy for days. He felt like his cock had been hard since he had spotted Heath on the dance floor.

He didn't think he could take any more. Watching Heath suck on Jake's neck as he palmed the growing bulge in Jake's pants was the last straw. With a deep groan Ethane guzzled down the last of his beer and slammed the bottle on the table. Grabbing his jacket he headed outside. Maybe he just needed some fresh air.

Once outside, Ethane walked around the side of the building. He jumped when he was suddenly grabbed from behind and thrown against the side of the building with a thud. Before Ethane could climb to his feet he was pummeled with punches in his ribs and face.

Ethane heard someone yelling, "You filthy freak!" in between punches. He knew why they were beating him. Someone had a beef with him because he was gay. God, he was so tired of people thinking they could beat him up because they thought he was a freak. As he began to lose consciousness he wondered if the *good people* beating him up would brag about this at church.

* * * *

The next time Ethane opened his eyes he was lying on an exam table in the infirmary. He groaned painfully as he tried to sit up. Oh man, he hurt over every inch of his body. He tried to remember what happened.

As he moved his toes and fingers it slowly came back to him. He had been beat up. He didn't even know who had done it or if they had been caught. Probably not, they never were.

God, he hated this. It wasn't the first time he had been beat up and it probably wouldn't be the last. All thanks to good god-fearing people with a moral cause. Well, fuck them! He wasn't hurting anyone by liking men instead of women.

"Hey, you're awake. How are you feeling?"

Ethane looked up to see Sam walk into the room.

"I'm okay. What's the damage?" he asked referring to his injuries. He knew he had several bruises and sore muscles already.

"It's not too bad. You have a few scraps and scratches. Your face has taken on a real pretty shade of purple. Other than that, you're in pretty good shape. Much better than Heath."

"Heath? What happened to Heath?" he asked alarmed.

“He came outside while those assholes were handing you your head. In his infinite wisdom, he jumped into the fray instead of coming to find one of us. Jake heard the ruckus and called us and we put a stop to it. But not before Heath had his ass handed to him.”

“Is he okay?” he asked worried about the little man he had come to care for over the last few days. “How badly is he hurt?”

“He has a concussion and some serious bruising on his ribs, but other than that Daniel says he’s going to be fine. He’s sleeping in the room next door.”

Ethane blinked several times. “He jumped into the fight? Why would he do that?” He slowly sat up in the bed and swung his legs over the side. “I have to go see him.” He instantly felt dizzy. His head swam.

“Whoa, there, Ethane, you’re not going to make it on your own. Let me help you.”

Ethane gave Sam a thankful smile as he wrapped his arms around him and helped into the other room. Heath lay on the table covered in a hospital gown. Except for the colorful bruises covering his face, Heath could have been sleeping.

“Oh my god, look at his beautiful face,” Ethane cried. He stood next to Heath’s bed, grabbing his hand. Tears streamed down his face as he gazed at the injured and unconscious man.

“Why would you do this? I could have protected myself. Why did you have to come running in?” he asked as he cried.

“He loves you,” said a deep raspy voice behind him.

Ethane swung around to see Jake walk into the room. He walked to the opposite side of Heath’s bed and leaned down to kiss him softly on the forehead.

“Hey, baby, how are you doing?” Jake brushed some stray hair out of Heath’s eyes before looking up at Ethane.

“What do you mean he loves me? I thought he loved you.”

“He does. But he loves you too.” Jake ran a trembling hand through his hair. “You have to understand. Heath is not like everyone else. He believes that the more love you give, the more you get back.”

“That doesn’t bother you? That he has feelings for me?” Ethane asked skeptically.

Jake nodded. “To a point. I’m afraid I’ll lose him to you. But he’s been honest with me from the beginning. He told me as soon as he started having feelings for you.”

“Just like that? *Hi, honey, how was your day? Oh, by the way I think I’m in love with someone else.* And you’re still with him?”

“First off, you need to understand that as long as he and I are together, Heath will never act on those feelings unless I agree to it. He is almost fanatical about not cheating. We also both agreed from the very beginning of our relationship to be totally honest with each other, no matter what. So, yeah, I’m still here. Because I know he won’t be unfaithful to me no matter what his feelings are towards you. Not unless I tell him it’s okay. And I’ve told him it’s okay.”

Ethane slumped next to the bed. Jake had given him a lot to think about and even more questions. He looked up to see Jake staring intently at him. “Can I ask you a couple of questions?”

Jake nodded. “Of course.”

“And you’ll be totally honest with me?”

“As much as I can,” Jake replied with a shrug. “What would you like to know?”

“What happens now?” he asked hesitantly.

“I’m not real sure. Heath obviously has some serious feelings for you, just as I do, but I will not give him up. I also don’t want him to suffer.”

“What do you mean suffer?” Ethane nearly yelled alarmed that Heath could be hurting.

“Try to look at it this way. Heath has feelings for both you and me, right? So, unless you and I come to some sort of understanding, he’s going to be without someone he cares about. He’s also going to

be feeling guilty for wanting you while he's with me. What do you think that is going to do to someone who loves the way he does?"

"My god! What are we going to do?" Ethane asked, desperate for an answer. It would eventually destroy Heath.

"Do you care for him?"

"Yeah, I do, but what does that have to do with anything?"

"I love Heath, with everything in me. He is the best thing that has ever happened to me. He has given me more happiness and joy in the little time I have known him than anyone ever has. He loves me unconditionally. Do you know how rare that is?"

Ethane had tears in his eyes as he sadly nodded his head. He knew from Jake's words that he would have to give Heath up, as well as Jake. He couldn't take that kind of love away from anyone. No matter how much he wanted it for himself.

"Let me ask you something now, and you have to be totally honest with me."

Ethane nodded his head, unsure of what Jake would ask him but willing to answer any question he had.

"What about me? How do you feel about me?" he asked quietly. "Are you attracted to me?"

Ethane blushed as he answered. "Of course, who wouldn't be? You're gorgeous."

"But what are your feelings towards me?"

"I'm not sure. I know I'm attracted to you," Ethane replied slightly embarrassed at how truthful they were being. He wasn't used to laying all his feelings out on the table like this.

"Is that it?" Jake asked sadly.

"No, it's more than that. I just don't know what *that* is though. Heath is like a breath of fresh air. He's so...vivid. You...you're a little harder to get to know. I'm not sure you've said more than a handful of sentences to me since we met. But I do know that I'd like to get to know you better."

"Then kiss me," Jake whispered.

Ethane's eyebrows rose nearly to the top of his head at Jake's request. "You want me to kiss you? Here? Now?"

"Yeah. Look, I know it sounds weird, but—" Jake couldn't finish his words because Ethane had leaned over Heath's body and began kissing him.

It was hot! Ethane could feel electrical shocks shoot straight from where his mouth met Jake's right down to his cock.

Jake tasted great. Heath tasted like a new spring day after the rain, like joy personified. Jake tasted all musty and sensual. He tasted as good as Heath only different.

"God, that's hot!" muttered a rough voice. Both Jake and Ethane jumped back and stared down at Heath's half opened eyes.

Jake quickly jumped out of the stupor caused by Ethane's kiss and leaned over Heath. "Heath, you're awake. How do you feel? Are you okay?" He started gently caressing Heath's face in any spot that wasn't covered with bruises.

Ethane stood just there still dazed from the thrill of kissing Jake. Damn, he was a great kisser. He envied Heath. He watched the love and adoration Jake gave to Heath, and he could easily see that the love returned by the glow in Heath's eyes as he gazed up at Jake.

Damn! How could he come between them? When he had first seen Heath he had fascinated him. Knowing that they had only been together for a small amount of time, he had thought to take Heath away from Jake or to take Jake away from Heath. But now, seeing the love they both had for each other, he knew he couldn't do it. They really did love each other.

Ethane's heart sank as he slowly turned and began walking out of the room. He felt miserable knowing that he cared enough to not interfere in their growing relationship. It was a new experience for him.

"Hey, where are you going?" Heath asked from his bed.

Ethane turned to look back at the stunning couple. "I think I need to go."

“Why?” Jake asked.

Ethane closed his eyes briefly, trying to contain his tears. He rubbed his hand over his face to wipe away his tears before he looked back up at the two. He felt like his heart was bleeding, from where it lay, shattered at his feet.

“Look, it’s obvious that the two of you care about each other, and as much as I care too, I can’t come between you. I thought I could and it wouldn’t matter but I was wrong. So, I’m just going to go now. I won’t bother you again.”

He opened the door to leave only to have it slammed shut. He looked behind him to see Jake standing there, his hand holding the door shut, his face filled with anger.

“You’re going to leave? Just like that? What about caring for Heath? What about me? What about the kiss we just shared? Doesn’t any of that mean anything to you?”

Yep, Jake was pissed. Ethane bowed his head as he tried to formulate an answer. He knew he would have to explain his feelings and why he felt the need to leave. However, he didn’t even want to consider how he had felt when Jake had kissed him. He wasn’t ready to deal with that yet.

He felt Jake grab his chin, turning his face up to his. Taking a deep breath he opened his eyes, surprised at the look of desire and longing on Jake’s face. Shock flooded Ethane when Jake leaned down to place another kiss on his lips.

He couldn’t suppress the deep moan that came from his throat when Jake’s tongue gently caressed his. It felt like heaven. He never wanted it to end.

When Jake leaned back and looked into his eyes Ethane shuddered at the deep need and want in his eyes. “Stay, please,” Jake whispered. Another emotion flashed in Jake’s eyes that he couldn’t quite define. It made Ethane’s heart beat faster.

Ethane closed his eyes again. He knew he was headed towards heartache but he couldn’t seem to stop himself. Jumping feet first he

opened his eyes, nodded his head, and walked back towards Heath's bed.

Heath grabbed Ethane's hand as soon as he reached the bed and brought it to his lips, placing a small kiss on the underside before looking over towards Jake. Ethane smiled when he saw the look of wonder on Jake's face.

"So, what now? How do we do this?" Ethane asked softly.

Heath grabbed Jake's hand with his free one and gave him the same kiss on the palm that he had given Ethane. He gave both men a devilish little grin. "Well, I wouldn't mind seeing that kiss again. Never seen anything so hot!"

Heath cast both Ethane and Jake a lecherous glance, making them laugh. He had set them up and Ethane knew it. Turn about was fair play. Ethane gave Jake a slow wink.

"What do you think, Jake? Do you think he's been a good enough for that?" Ethane asked playfully.

"Well, I don't know. He did get himself beaten up pretty bad. I don't know if he could handle it in his present condition. What if the strain is too much for him?" Jake drawled.

"Yeah, maybe you're right. We wouldn't want to impede his recovery any."

"Oh, come on, guys, I'm begging here," Heath whined.

Jake sent Ethane a quick grin before looking down at Heath's impatient face. "Okay, but just one little kiss. We don't want you exerting yourself in any way. Understand?"

Heath nodded his head eagerly.

Jake looked up at Ethane expectantly. "Well?"

Ethane leaned over to him and slowly swept his tongue over Jake's lips. He made sure that Heath could see his every movement. Ethane did this several times before Jake growled and grabbed his face with both hands, attacking his mouth.

The strong hardness of Jake's lips sent the pit of Ethane's stomach into a wild swirl of sensation. His tongue sent shivers of desire racing through him as he explored the recesses of Heath's mouth.

A low moan broke them apart. Looking down Ethane saw Heath's head thrown back, his eyes closed in ecstasy. Glancing down Heath's body he saw that Heath's hand was under his hospital gown, wrapped around his hard cock.

"Fuck me." Ethane groaned as Jake pulled back Heath's hospital gown just in time to see stream after stream of white cream erupt from Heath's cock as he climaxed.

He drew in an unsteady breath at the sheer beauty of Heath's cock. It was glorious. Long with a really thick mushroom-shaped head, just like he dreamed about.

"Damn, baby, you still come at the drop of a hat!" Jake laughed as glanced over at Ethane. "You have to be careful with this one. Blow in his direction and he's hard a rock. Blow again and he's erupting all over the place. Still, it is a dead giveaway when he's horny."

Unable to help himself Ethane leaned down and licked the dripping cream off the top of Heath's cock, making Heath jump. Even the taste of Heath's seed was wonderful, tangy and slightly sweet. In that small moment of time Ethane knew he had just become addicted.

"Good, isn't he?" Jake asked as he gestured towards Heath's cock.

Ethane nodded, still transfixed by the sight of Heath lying there on the bed looking totally satisfied. "Damn! No wonder you keep a tight leash on him. He's deadly." He gave Jake a dazed look. "Are you out of your ever-loving mind?"

"Ethane, Heath is mine and he always will be. I'll kill anyone who tries to take him away from me," he growled. "However, I love him and I want him to be happy. Having you will make him happy. Having you will make *me* happy."

"What are you saying here, then?"

"I'm saying I'm willing to share him with you."

“Share him? What, he spends half the week in my bed and half the week in your bed?” Ethane asked, his voice rising in timber.

“No!” Jake growled back at Ethane. “What I am saying is that you and I need to get to know each other a lot better because we are going to be spending a lot of time together, assuming you want to be in our lives. Because you don’t get him without me, too.”

That stunned him. “Both of you?” Ethane ran a hand through his hair. “Okay, let’s see if I get this right. You’re saying that I can join both of you.” He looked over at Jake to see if he agreed. At his nod he continued. “I can be with both of you? And you’re okay with this?”

“Well, duh! I think that question has already been answered,” he said sarcastically.

“We come as a package deal,” Jake continued. “If you want to be part of our relationship, I’m willing to see where it goes. But don’t say yes yet. You need to understand that neither Heath nor I are into one-night stands. This is for the long haul.”

Ethane watched Jake for several moments, contemplating what he had said. It was a big decision. Sure, he had been in a ménage-à-trois before but that had been a one-time thing. He had never been in a three-way relationship before and wasn’t sure what they expected from him.

“How would this work exactly? I mean, do I get to be with you only when the three of us are together or what? Can I be with you one at a time? Do I need to ask your permission before being with Heath, or vice versa? What are the boundaries here?”

“We do what feels right. And if you are going to be an equal partner in this relationship, you never have to ask permission for anything. The most important thing is to just love us. If you want to kiss Heath, kiss him. If you want to fuck Heath, fuck him. The same goes for me. If you want to kiss me, kiss me. If you want to fuck me, fuck me.”

“Just like that? If I walk into a room and want to kiss you, just kiss you?” Ethane asked doubtfully.

“Yeah, just like that. But the same would go for us too. If I walk into a room and want you, I’m gonna take you. I’m not going to check and make sure that Heath’s okay with it first. You will belong to me just as much as Heath does. Just as much as we each will belong to you.”

“I need to think about this for awhile,” he whispered quietly. He had a lot to take in. Jake and Heath offered themselves to him on a silver platter. All he had to agree to take both of them.

Ethane needed to think. Leaning down he placed a small kiss on Heath’s lips before leaning over to kiss Jake the same. Without another word he turned and left the room.

Chapter 7

“Hello, my love, how are you doing?” Heath asked Jake as he walked into the bedroom. Jake sat in a chair looking out the window, seemingly staring at nothing. He wrapped his arms around Jake’s neck and leaned down to kiss him softly on the neck.

Jake patted Heath’s arms with his hands. “I’m doing okay, baby. You?”

Heath moved around to sit on Jake’s lap, keeping his arms around Jake’s neck, lying his head down on his chest. “Worried, the same as you.”

Jake chuckled lightly. “We’re a pair aren’t we? Both of us pinning over the same man and worried that what we are asking of him will be too much.” He kissed the top of Heath’s head where he had it tucked under Jake’s chin.

“I’m more worried about Ethane. At least we have each other. He has no one. What’s going to happen to him if he doesn’t accept us?”

“Honey, he has to come to that decision on his own. We can’t force it from him or hurry him along. No matter how much we desire it, we can’t make him want to be with us.”

“Wanting to be with you isn’t my problem,” replied a somber voice from behind them. Jake and Heath both swung their heads around to see a despondent looking Ethane standing in the doorway. “I want to be with you more than I’ve ever wanted anything in my life. But, I’m scared.”

“Of what?” Heath asked softly as he stood up to stand beside Jake’s chair, his hand resting softly on his shoulder.

Ethane shrugged his shoulders. “Not measuring up, not being able to share, not having enough love for both of you, this not lasting. Take your pick.”

“Come here, Ethane,” Jake pleaded as he patted his lap. Ethane raised a questioning eyebrow at Heath, who nodded, before walking into the room to sit down on Jake’s lap. Heath sat on the floor at their feet, his head resting on Ethane’s legs.

“We’re going to address each of your fears one at a time, okay? If you have any questions or if you think of any other fears, just say something. But you must be completely honest with us, understood?” Jake said as he wrapped one arm around Ethane and placed the other one on Heath’s shoulder.

Once Ethane had nodded his head in agreement Jake began. “Okay, fear number one, you’re afraid that you will not measure up. How do you think you won’t measure up?”

“You each seem to have your place in your relationship. Jake, you’re strong and powerful, protective of those you care about. Heath, you’re the caretaker. You always make everyone feel so good, just being around you. Where do I fit in? It’s like being the middle child in a three child family.”

“Have you ever thought that you might be the one that holds us together?” Heath asked as he looked up at Ethane’s sad confused face. “Yes, Jake is protective, sometimes too much so. And yes, I tend to be the *caretaker* as you call it. Again, some times too much. I can get myself into a lot of trouble, which sends the big guy into automatic caveman mode. Have you ever thought that you might be the voice of reason between us?”

“You also have to remember that none of us are strong or loving all the time. There are times when Heath is the stronger of the two of us, times when I need to depend on him. Other times I need his outrageous ways to make me feel better,” Jake added.

“It’s the same with me. There are times when I need Jake to be the dominant male that he is, and he does that so very well, I might add.

Other times I feel the need for him to just love me. It's like sex, there are times when you just want to be bent over the bed and fucked, other times you want to be slowly loved and cuddled."

"So that's it?" Ethane asked skeptically.

"Sure, we don't want you to be anything but who you are. If you feel the need to be loving, be loving. If you need to dominate, dominate. Hell, the other day Heath tied me down to the bed and pounded my ass into the mattress. I didn't have to be the big tough alpha male. I just had to let him do whatever he wanted to me. It felt great."

Ethane's eyes grew big at the thought of tying Jake down to the bed and having the bigger man at his mercy. Wow! Just the thought of it made his cock harden. Ethane looked down when he heard Heath quietly chuckle. Heath stared at the rising bugle in his pants.

Ethane felt himself blush as Heath chuckled. "Like that idea, do you?"

"Be nice, Heath!" Jake admonished as he also laughed. "Okay, fear number two. You're afraid that you can't share. Why?"

Ethane shrugged his shoulders. He felt a little weird having this discussion. He found it hard to put his fears into words but he wanted to try.

"How do I keep from being jealous?" Ethane asked, glancing over at Jake again. "I don't know exactly how to explain it. If you're with Heath more than me, do I have the right to say something? Be upset? What? I'm coming into this after the two of you have already established a relationship."

"I guess that will come up from time to time. That's natural when there is more than one person in a relationship. The only way we can keep that from happening is to be open and honest with each other." Jake patted Ethane's hand. "If you're feeling neglected, say something to us. Honest communication is very important in any relationship, especially one like ours."

“Ethane,” Heath added, “there are times when Jake’s job takes him away for days, even weeks, at a time. It drives me crazy. Granted we’ve only been separated once, but he’s warned me that there will be other missions. If you’re here, we can console each other. And when Jake gets home, we can both welcome him home.”

“I’m sure there will be times when things like this will come up. We just have to work them out,” Jake said.

“Personally, I think we should make it a policy to just tie Jake up and have our way with him every time he comes home. Might help remind him what he’s missing,” Heath stated with a twinkle in his eyes.

Ethane laughed when Jake growled down at Heath. Seemed he liked that idea too. “Okay, what about not having enough love for both of you? How are you going to explain that one away?”

“Ethane, we can’t. Unfortunately, that’s one you have to figure out on your own. I wish I could make it easier for you but I can’t. I know that for me, I care about you and Heath both. Just as he cares for both of us. I can tell you that the reasons that I care about Heath are not the same reasons I care about you. You’re two different people.”

“What do you mean?” Ethane asked confused by what Jake tried to explain. He just didn’t understand how someone could love two people at the same time. He was also deeply afraid that Jake wouldn’t love him as much as Jake loved Heath.

“Answer me this, do you have brothers and sisters?” Jake asked.

Ethane nodded. “Yeah, I have two brothers and a sister. Why?”

“Do you love them?”

“Of course I do!” Ethane answered ardently.

“Equally? Or do you love one less than the others? Do you love your sister because she’s your sister and your brothers because they are your brothers? Or do you love them each individually for themselves, for the way they are separately?”

“I think I see what you’re saying. I love my sister because she’s adorable and funny. I love my older brother because he’s always protected me, my younger brother because he is the baby of the family and always makes us laugh. Like that?”

Jake nodded. “Exactly like that. I love Heath because of who he is. He’s loving, outrageous, and he makes me laugh. I love you because you’re honest...truthful...dependable. Doesn’t hurt that you have the sexiest voice on the planet and you’re hot!”

“You love me?” Ethane asked with a gasp, astounded at Jake’s words.

“Yeah, I do. What do you think this is all about, Ethane? Neither Heath nor I would ask you to be in a relationship with us if we didn’t love you. We don’t want a simple fuck between friends. We want a lover for life.”

“And you?” Ethane asked as he looked down at Heath’s earnest face. “How do you feel about me?”

“I love you and think you’re hot too,” Heath said as he wiggled his eyebrows suggestively at Ethane causing him to laugh at his antics.

“Okay, so you’re saying that all I need to do is just love you both and the rest will just happen?” Ethane asked incredulously, “It’s as easy as that?”

“Yeah, basically. I wish that we could have this settled right now so that Heath and I could take you to bed but you need to think about this really hard before you make a decision. I’ll tell you the same thing that I told Heath. Once I have you, you’re mine. I will never be unfaithful to either of you. However, if you feel the need to be with someone other than Heath or myself, or if you’re truly unhappy, I will let you go. But you will never be with Heath or me again, ever.”

Ethane sat up straight. “This is a lot to take in. I think I will take some time to think about this like you suggested, if that’s okay with you two?”

Jake and Ethane both nodded their heads. "Take as much time as you need. We'll wait."

"Can I kiss you before I go?" Ethane asked uncertainly.

Jake smiled. "Please do. And in the future, you never have to ask to kiss either of us."

"Don't forget me," Heath whined as Ethane stood up after kissing Jake.

"Never, sweetheart," Ethane replied as he pulled Heath up into his arms. While he had had a couple of seriously passionate kisses with Jake, he had only pecked Heath on the lips. Ethane figured he deserved a really good make-up kiss.

Ethane wrapped his arms around Heath and pulled him up against his body before leaning down to place his lips on his. Heath opened his mouth, letting in Ethane's burning hungry tongue. He tasted better than he could have ever imagined. He moaned deep in his throat when Ethane nipped his lip softly before letting him go.

"Okay," Ethane began, drawing in a deep unsteady breath. "I'm gonna go think about this now. I have a lot of things to consider. Please wait for me?" He asked before walking out of the room and shutting the door behind him.

Heath didn't say anything as he walked into Jake's waiting arms. "I love you, Jake. You know that right?" Heath asked quietly against Jake's chest.

"Yeah, baby, I know. I love you too," Jake replied, kissing the top of Heath's golden blond head. "I always will."

Heath tilted his head back to look up into Jake's eyes. "Make love to me?" he pleaded.

"Always." Jake picked Heath up in his arms and carried him over to the bed. Letting him slide down his body he began unbuttoning his shirt, pulling it from his body and dropping it on the floor. Next he unbuttoned his jeans and pushed them down his legs, pushing them off his legs along with his boots.

Once Heath was naked Jake lifted him up and laid him down on the bed before standing to take his own clothes off. Climbing onto the bed he covered Heath's body with his own.

"I know it's not *manly* to be pretty but you are without a doubt one of the prettiest men I have ever seen in my life," Jake whispered as he pushed a fallen lock of golden blond hair out of Heath's face.

He rubbed his hand down the side of Heath's cheek, memorizing the beautiful lines of his face. He leaned down and softly kissed his eyelids, the tip of his straight nose, his lips.

"I love you, Heath." Jake felt tears prickle his eyes as he murmured softly, looking deeply into his lover's blue eyes. "You are my soul. You can never leave me. I wouldn't survive it. The last few weeks with you have been the best of my life."

"I'm not going anywhere, Jake. All you have to do to keep me is love me."

"I think I can handle that," Jake chuckled. He flipped them over so that Heath lay on top of him, his legs resting on either side of his. Jake pumped his hips a couple of times, rubbing their hard cocks together.

"I'll just bet you can. Care to demonstrate?" Heath invited mischievously as he wrapped his knees around Jake's hips.

"I'd like to join the demonstration, if you'll allow me to," said an uncertain voice from the doorway.

Jake shoved Heath protectively behind him as he looked towards the door. His head dropped forward in relief when he saw Ethane standing there, looking worried and uncertain of his welcome.

"Ethane... fuck...you scared the hell out of me," he whispered as he tried to still his rapidly beating heart. Running a shaking hand through his hair he looked back up at Ethane.

"Does that mean that you want me to leave?" Ethane asked hesitantly.

Jake could see the uncertainty and fear of rejection in Ethane's eyes. He wanted more than anything to tell Ethane he was welcome but he had to be sure that Ethane was here for the right reasons.

"No, but I need to be sure of why you're here."

"I'm only here for one reason, because I love you both and want to be with you," Ethane replied fervently.

Jake smiled. "That's good enough for me. Heath?" Jake asked as he looked over his shoulder to where Heath knelt behind him. "What about you?"

"Yeah, it works for me too." He also grinned.

Jake looked back over at Ethane, seeing the hope begin to ignite in his eyes. "Well, are you going to join us or what?"

The smile on Ethane's face was wider than Jake had ever seen on him as he shifted away from the door to close it behind him. He started for the bed only to be stopped by Jake's deep chuckle.

"Oh, Ethane, I have to let you know we have one very important rule around here. No clothes are allowed in our bed. So either you're going to have to strip those clothes off or watch from that chair over there." Jake chuckled as he pointed to the chair he had been sitting in earlier.

Jake saw Ethane's mouth twisted back and forth as if he couldn't decide. "Hmmm, making love with you two or watching you two make love from the chair? I have to tell you, Jake, that's a hard one."

"No, Ethane, this is a hard one." Heath giggled as he leaned over Jake's shoulder and grabbed his cock causing Jake to groan at his tight grip.

"Well, I do believe you are right, Heath. Guess I'll have to lose the clothes and join you on the bed. I can always watch another day," Ethane chuckled as he started slowly pulling his clothes off. The two men on the bed watched intently.

By the time Ethane had dropped the rest of his clothes and sauntered over to the bed, Jake was nearly panting. Ethane knew how much swing to put into his hips to give off just a bit of a sexy sashay.

When Ethane hesitated, stopping at the end of the bed. He suddenly looked uncertain.

“Ethane!” Jake said loudly as he tried to get his attention. “You’re thinking too hard. Just come join us and let the rest take care of itself.”

Ethane chuckled as he climbed onto the bed. “Probably.” He moved over to the spot Jake patted on the bed between Heath and himself. Lying back against the pillows he looked up at the two eager faces before him.

“So, you said something about a demonstration?” he reminded Jake as he started stroking his own cock. “Need a prop?”

Jake chuckled as he leaned over to lick the pre-cum off the top of Ethane’s hard cock. He leaned up and kissed Heath, sharing the unique taste of Ethane with him.

“Hmmm, yummy.” Heath giggled as he leaned in for another quick taste from Jake’s lips. “I want some more of that.”

“There’s plenty more where that came from,” Ethane groaned through clenched teeth.

Jake laughed at the desperate but eager look on Ethane’s face. Jake wondered how long it had been since he had been with someone or if he had been tested.

“Ethane, before we go any further I need to know if you’ve been tested. I know it’s not very delicate to ask when you’re lying naked between us but I need to know. I guess I was just too caught up in everything else to ask before now.”

“Oh yeah,” Ethane panted as Heath began stroking his cock. “I had Doc test me when I became interested in being with you. I wanted to make sure that we would be cleared to go if the situation came up. The papers are in the back pocket of my pants if you want to see them.”

“Thank you, Ethane,” Jake replied. He was touched by Ethane’s thoughtful gesture. “It means a lot to me that you took the initiative to

get tested. That's one of the reasons we love you. You may not realize that you are doing it but that's one of the ways you show that you care about us."

"You want me to get them?" Ethane started to move in the direction of his pants but loath to move away from the attention Heath gave his cock.

"No, baby, I trust you. It means enough to me that you did it. Now just lay back and enjoy yourself."

The hitch in Ethane's voice as he groaned told him that Heath had taken things into his own hands...uh...mouth.

"Oh my god, do that again...that thing with your tongue...oh god!" Ethane growled as Heath ran his tongue around the rim on the head of his cock before sucking on it as hard as he could.

As Heath sucked he repeatedly ran his tongue over the slit in the top as fast as he could, pressing in as he did, then around the edge of the mushroomed head.

"He's pretty good at that, isn't he?" Jake asked with a laugh. He had been on the receiving end of Heath's tongue on numerous occasions and knew exactly what Ethane felt right now. Heath could win an award for cock sucking.

"Fuck! I've never felt anything like it," Ethane whispered, his head whipping back and forth on the pillow.

"Just wait. He gets better," Jake assured him as he began licking Ethane's beaded nipples.

"Better?" Ethane croaked. "He's gonna kill me."

"I may have said that a time or two myself." Jake laughed again, hearing Ethane groan again when the little laugh Heath gave out vibrated through his throbbing cock.

Deciding that Heath had Ethane well in hand Jake crawled to the bottom of the bed and scooted Heath's body to sit between Ethane's legs, his ass in the air. He pushed his cheeks apart baring his beautiful puckered hole to his hungry gaze.

Sitting up he grabbed some lube from the nightstand and squeezed some onto his fingers. Dropping the bottle on the bed he began coating the outside of Heath's hole before slipping in one finger. He ran it around the rim several times, pushing against the soft tissue until he could comfortably insert a second, then third finger. As he stretched Heath he used his other hand to lube up his rock hard cock.

"Are you ready for me, baby?" he asked as he pumped his fingers in and out of Heath's ass. Heath moved his legs farther apart giving his consent to continue. Jake pulled his fingers out and wiped them on a nearby washcloth before scooting up behind Heath.

"Brace yourself, Ethane. Heath really likes this part." He chuckled as he began slowly easing his cock inside of Heath's warm channel. He knew Ethane wouldn't be prepared for the vibrations Heath created when he began to moan at Jake's possession. It would make his entire cock quiver.

Jake knew he was correct a moment later when Ethane's hands fisted in the blankets beside him. Ethane lifted his hips and thrust into Heath's mouth.

"Oh god...fuck...gonna...!" Ethane erupted, shooting ropes of pearly white cream down Heath's throat. Heath lapped down as much as he could, not letting up until he had cleaned up every last drop.

Before Ethane could catch his breath Heath licked down past his balls, leaving sloppy drops of spit around his hole. Leaning back he pushed a finger in and began stretching Ethane, adding a second finger as soon as he felt he could take it, then a third.

Jake watched Heath ready Ethane for his cock, trying to hold still when everything in him urged him to pound himself into Heath's ass. The feeling of his tight muscles gripping his cock felt like paradise but Jake wanted to wait for Heath to take Ethane. He wanted the three of them to come together as one.

"Hurry, Heath. I don't know how much longer I can wait," he urged as he pushed in once, twice, before holding himself still again.

He ran his hands over Heath's ass, gently massaging the round globes. "Fuck...Heath... You've got to hurry!"

Jake held on as Heath grabbed Ethane's legs in his arms and pulled them up over his shoulders, bringing Ethane's ass up to the right angle.

"Ethane, guide me in," Heath demanded as he gripped his thighs.

Ethane's eyes nearly glazed over as he grabbed Heath's cock and guided it to his hole. Finding just the right spot he urged Heath in, "Now, Heath, take me... Make me yours!"

All three men groaned when Heath was finally seated up to the root inside of Ethane and Jake was in Heath. No one wanted to move, to give up the delicious feeling of being connected, of being one.

Finally Jake reached down and grabbed Ethane's hands and entwined his fingers with his then reached up and laid them over the top of Heath's where he gripped Ethane's thighs. He started slowly pushing in and out of Heath until Heath found the same rhythm.

Once Heath moved with him, he started moving faster, his grip on Ethane's thighs getting stronger as he held on for leverage, until he hammered into Heath. Heath matched his thrusts into Ethane.

"I don't... I can't... oh god!" Ethane bellowed as his cock erupted all over his chest. Heath howled out his gratification as he filled Ethane's ass moments later.

Jake, not to be left behind, rammed himself into Heath until his balls hit Heath's ass and he erupted with a loud roar that nearly shook the windows. Once, twice more he rammed into Heath again, until his legs gave out and he collapsed with his head buried in Heath's back. His breath was rapid, trying to draw air back into his lungs.

"Hey guys," Ethane groaned from the bottom of the dog pile. "This is great and all but I can't breathe."

Jake laughed as he pulled out and rolled off of Heath. Rolling off the bed he went to the bathroom and grabbed a couple of wet washcloths and came back to the bed. Handing one to Heath he

cleaned himself off before leaning over the bed and wiping Ethane clean.

Once everyone was sufficiently cleaned up, Jake grabbed the dirty washcloth Heath held out he dropped them in the laundry hamper before coming back to the bed and crawling in under the covers.

Jake held out his arms and beckoned his lovers to join him. Heath climbed in and spooned himself back against Jake's warm body. Heath held out his arms, waiting until Ethane climbed in, before wrapping his arms around him.

Jake reached over, his bigger body enabling him to reach over the top of Heath's smaller body to grasp Ethane. He settled down into the bed, a smile on his face as he held the two men that held his heart.

"Is this the part where I ask if you're gonna respect me in the morning?" Ethane asked casually a few moments later, breaking the silence in the room.

"Who said we respected you before we fucked you?" Heath asked playfully, a devilish grin appearing on his face.

Ethane tried to look outraged by Heath's words as he glanced back over his shoulder at Heath but the impish look on Heath's face had him laughing instead. He looked over at Jake desperately. "Is there any way to control him?"

Jake shrugged. "Not really. You just have to kind of accept the fact that he's going to drive you crazy. It's part of his charm."

Ethane rolled over until his chest pressed flush against Heath's. "Really? While he is terribly charming, I'm not sure he should be allowed to get away with being disrespectful like this."

Jake smiled down at Ethane. "What do you have in mind?"

"I think he needs a little punishment to curb his disrespectful ways."

"Punishment?" Heath asked gleefully, "I like punishment."

"Yeah, punishment." Ethane replied as he winked at Jake.

Before Heath could yelp both laughing men had him pinned to the bed and began tickling every inch of naked flesh they could get their

hands on. And between the three of them, there was a lot of naked flesh.

Several minutes later Heath screamed for mercy as Jake and Ethane tickled him. “I give...I swear...I won’t be disrespectful again...uncle!” He yelled through his laughter.

All three men froze as the bedroom door flew open. They looked up to see Cole standing in the doorway, Bear right behind him. Both men had guns in their hands, their posture ready for battle.

Cole rolled his eyes when he saw the three naked men in the bed, tucking his gun in the waistband of his jeans. “Hell, with the way you screamed we thought someone was being killed in here. At the very least, I expected to see blood everywhere.”

Jake, Ethane, and Heath laughed all over again at the reproach on Cole’s face. They laughed until tears rolled down their faces.

Jake sat up and wiped the tears from his eyes. “Sorry, Cole, we were just administering a little punishment to Heath for being disrespectful. We didn’t mean to disturb you.”

“Right...” Cole drawled as he tried to hide a grin. “Like all that hollering earlier didn’t disturb us.”

All three men gave Cole slightly embarrassed grins, unconcerned that they sat in bed totally naked. Cole just shook his head. Besides being totally naked, they looked like a bunch of little boys caught looking at naked pictures.

“Goodnight, boys,” Cole smirked as he shut the door. He could hear them break out in laughter again as he walked away.

Chapter 8

Jake watched Heath walk down the driveway, kicking stray stones with his boot. He had his hands buried deep in his pockets, his head bent low. Jake worried about him. Heath had been like this for the last couple of days, getting worse with each passing day.

He knew what it was. Heath missed Ethane. Ethane had left with Sam to go back to Boston last week. Heath had been okay the first couple of days. But as more time went by Jake had noticed him becoming quieter, less animated.

He was still loving and caring but he seemed to laugh less. Jake had even caught him curled up in bed yesterday, crying under the covers. He knew Ethane would be back soon but he didn't know if it would be soon enough for Heath.

Jake caught up with Heath and wrapped an arm around his shoulder, pulling him into the curve of his arm. They walked together in silence for a few moments until Jake noticed the tears on Heath's face.

"Oh, baby, I know you miss him. I do, too," he crooned as he stopped to wrap Heath up in his arms. "But he's gonna be home soon."

"What if he decides he wants to stay in Boston?" Heath cried as he buried his face in Jake's chest. "Or if he decides he doesn't love us enough to come back? I know I can cause a lot of trouble. What if he decides I'm too much trouble?"

"Heath, Ethane loves you just as much as I do. He's going to come back. He just has to get this job done and then he will come

back to us, I promise. He's in this for the long haul, just like us. Remember?"

Heath ripped himself from Jake's arms to glare up at him. "How can you promise that? What does he have to come home to? Home... Now there's a funny word. We live in a house with a bunch of other guys. We don't have a home. We have a frat house!"

Jake could see that there was a lot more going on in Heath's head than just missing Ethane. His little man really seemed upset. He wasn't sure how to calm Heath down. He had never seen him this distressed before.

"We don't have a home for Ethane to come back to. Why would he give up his home in Boston, his work, his career? For what? Us? What do we have to offer him? We don't even have a bed big enough for the three of us to sleep in."

"Heath, we'll get it worked out."

"When? After Ethane decides he doesn't want to come back? His life, his work, is in Boston, not here. I can work anywhere so moving here isn't a problem. But you haven't even asked me to do that. Everything I own is still in Spokane. Am I supposed to keep my apartment there and live out of a bag while I wait until you both have time for me?"

Jake tried to take him back into his arms but Heath pushed him away and walked rapidly down the driveway again. Jake walked after him, grabbing his arm to stop him.

"No! Leave me alone," Heath yelled as he pulled away from Jake and ran.

"Heath!" Jake yelled after him. "Damn it, Heath!"

Jake watched until Heath ran out of sight, his heart in his feet. "Oh, hell!" He ran a hand roughly through his hair. Turning he began walking back towards the house. Well, this wasn't good. Heath was clearly upset about several different things and Jake had to figure out how to make his little man happy again. He needed to talk to Ethane.

Walking into the house he headed to the office. Closing the door behind him he poured himself a glass of whiskey and sat down behind the desk. Taking a large drink of the cool dark liquid he set the glass back on the desk and reached for the phone. Jake dialed Ethane's cell phone and waited for him to answer.

"Hey, sweetheart, what's up?" Ethane asked.

"Heath just blew a gasket," Jake answered as he grabbed the glass of whiskey and leaned back in his chair.

"Is he okay?" Ethane asked quickly, the worry clear in his voice.

"I'm not sure. The last I saw of him he was running down the driveway yelling at me to leave him alone."

"Why? What happened? Did you two have a fight?"

"Hell, I don't know what happened. He was fine for the first couple of days after you left but after awhile I could see it was hard for him. He hates being away from you. I hate being away from you."

"Honey, you know I'd be there if I could. As soon as I get things wrapped up here I'll be home," Ethane replied.

"That's another thing Heath yelled about, our lack of a home. He's afraid that you won't want to come back here. You have your life, your work, everything all set up in Boston. He's afraid your life in Boston will be more important than him, than us."

"Oh hell, Jake, you know that's not true. You both are far more important to me than anything I have here. I just have to take care of this last thing and then I will be home."

"He has a point though, Ethane. You have a home in Boston, friends, a career. Is it right for me to ask you to give all of that and move here? We never did discuss where we're all going to live, or even if we're going to live together. It just never really came up."

"I don't know how Heath feels about it but moving out to Oregon isn't a problem for me. Yes, I'll be giving up my practice here but I've always wanted to have more of a connection with my clients anyway. I hate working for big time corporations and rich people that

think their money can buy them anything they want. I'd be happy getting paid in chickens by someone who was honest."

"And giving up your home, your friends? How do you feel about that?" Jake asked feeling a little better.

"Jake, I work so much I don't have many friends. The ones that I do have will still be my friends even if I am living out in Oregon. As for giving up my home, wherever you and Heath are *is* my home. What am I giving up," Ethane laughed, "a cold lonely apartment that I come home to alone every night? I'd much rather come home to you two every night."

"You're sure you're okay with this, giving up your life there and moving out here to the ranch? You know it's not going to be easy living here with all of my teammates running around under foot."

"Yes, Jake, I want to be wherever you and Heath are. I love you both. You do know that, right?" Ethane asked softly.

"Yeah, I know. I love you too. It's just hard being away from you. I guess it's been as hard on me as it has been on Heath. I just didn't realize it until now." Jake sighed deeply. "I really do miss you."

"I know, sweetheart. I miss you too. I promise I will be home as fast as I can. I just have to finish wrapping up this stuff with Sam, get my office packed up, arrange for my belongings to be shipped out there, and I'll be home."

"Sounds good, Ethane." Jake smiled, feeling better now that he had gotten an assurance from Ethane that he did indeed want to be out in Oregon with them. "I can't wait to see you. I didn't know it would be this hard having you gone. When I'm out on a mission, I'm in another mind set. My total attention is on my mission. It has to be. I never thought about what the ones I leave behind might be going through. It's not a good feeling, Ethane."

"Jake, neither Heath nor I have an issue with what you do. It's part of who you are. While I haven't yet experienced you being on a mission, I imagine it is hard on the ones that love you. But we'll get through it. We'll deal with it. What you need to do for us is make sure

that you *do* come home. If anything ever happened to you, I don't know how we would survive it."

"I swear I will be as careful as I possibly can. I *will* come home to you both. I don't make stupid mistakes. I've been doing this for a long time. All of us have. We're very careful and we do not take chances, ever."

"I know, sweetheart, and that's why I know that Heath and I will find a way to deal with what you do. Now, is our baby upset about anything else?"

"Well, he wasn't too pleased that our bed is so small." Jake chuckled. "I think we need to consider getting a bigger bed."

"Yeah, that's not a bad idea but I'm not sure that they actually make beds in size enormous." Ethane laughed. "Maybe we can find someone to custom make one that will fit the three of us comfortably."

"I didn't think of that," Jake chuckled. "I'll have to call around and do some checking. You'd think that someone has to make them. Where else would basketball players get their beds?"

"Just make sure they make them in *jumbo*, with sheets and blankets included. I'd hate to have a great bed and no sheets big enough to cover it." Ethane laughed again.

"I'll see what I can do but I'm not making any promises. That's a pretty big order."

"I have faith in you." Ethane laughed. "Oh hey, Jake, I have to go. Sam just walked in. I'll call tonight. In the meantime, go find our baby and make sure he's okay. I'm worried about him."

"Okay, babe, I'll talk to you tonight. Love you."

"I love you, too, Jake. Talk at you later."

Jake smiled as he hung up the phone. He should have talked to Ethane about this before it became an issue, like before he left to go back to Boston. Maybe then Heath wouldn't have gotten so upset. Sometimes he could be so absentminded he wondered if his head was attached to his body.

As he drank down the last of the whiskey in his glass Jake had another thought. While Ethane had assured him that he would come back, and Jake was pretty sure that Heath would stick around, no matter how upset he became, they still lived in a house with a bunch of other men.

When Cole and Bear found Mari, they were sure to want their home to themselves. They couldn't continue to live with Cole and Bear for the rest of their lives. Jake realized that they really did need their own home. But he didn't want to contemplate leaving the ranch.

Jake stood up and left the office to go in search of Cole and Bear. Maybe they would have a solution to his housing issue. He hoped to solve this before he went and found Heath. Then he would have something to give him to get him out of the depression he had sunk into.

"How is it that we all live on a working ranch but I always find everyone sitting in the dining room?" Jake asked when he spotted Cole and Bear sitting at the dining table talking to Cami.

"We're soldiers, not ranchers. We pay people to take care of that stuff," Cole replied sarcastically.

"Hmmm, that's probably a good thing considering that not a single one of us knows our ass from a hay bale," Bear quietly added.

"Hey, man, I need your advice on something," Jake said to Cole as he sat down across from him and Bear.

"Sure, what can I help with?" Cole asked as he sat his soda down on the table.

"Well, earlier Heath and I had a little... tiff, I guess you could call it. Hell, I don't know what you'd call it but suffice to say we had words. Or maybe it's that he had words and I just kind of listened."

"Dude, you're rambling. Get to the point," Cole interrupted

"Sorry. I guess it's a little hard to talk about. Heath was upset about several things. We kind of had it out. Most of them I worked out talking to Ethane. However, one still has me racking my brain for

a solution. I thought maybe you or Bear might have an idea of what I should do.”

“Okay, so what seems to be Heath’s problem?”

“Basically, we have no where to live. I know both of you will say that we can continue to live here, but as Heath has pointed out to me so eloquently, we basically live in a frat house. That’s going to change once Mari comes home. You all are going to want your own home. And it’s only right that you should have a home to yourselves. So, I’m not real sure what to do.”

“Why don’t you build your own house here on the ranch? I know there’s money for it. We all make more than enough money. Besides, this ranch is yours as much as ours. We all bought it together. In fact, I think that’s a pretty good idea for everyone. Maybe we should bring it up with Sam and Doc and a few of the others too?”

“Really? You think we should build our own house?” Jake asked never having thought of building his own house on the ranch. It would solve all of his problems.

“Sure, it’s the prefect solution. If everyone agrees, Cole and I will stay in the main house and all of you can build your own homes somewhere on the ranch,” Bear added. “That way we are still all here but each of us has our own space. I don’t know why we didn’t come up with this idea before now.”

“That would be great. Not only could we have our own space, we can customize each house to fit our needs. Thanks, Cole. I knew you would know what to do.” Jake jumped to his feet and started out of the dining room only to be stopped by Cole.

“Where are you going now? Don’t you want to discuss where you’re going to build and everything?”

“Nope, I need to make a couple of phone calls. Then I need find Heath and tell him that we are going to have a home of our own, just the three of us. Oh hey, that reminds me, Ethane is going to be moving in with Heath and I, so if you know of anyone that needs a really good lawyer, let me know.”

“Yeah, I figured as much when I saw the three of you in bed together, naked. But, no problem, I’m sure we can always use a good lawyer around here. Whatever it takes to make our little family happy.”

“Hey, Bear,” Jake heard Cole say as he left the dining room, “Is it me or does it seem like our little family is getting bigger and bigger every time we turn around?”

* * * *

Jake had just hung up the phone after talking to Ethane and telling him their good news when the office door opened and Heath walked in, closing the door behind him. He stood in front of the door, his shoulders hunched.

Jake didn’t know what to say so he didn’t say anything at first. He waited to find out what Heath had to say, hoping to avoid their earlier argumentative conversation and discuss things more calmly.

“Come here, baby,” Jake said finally.

Heath walked around the desk and sat down on Jake’s lap, laying his head down on his shoulder. Jake wrapped his arms around Heath and placed a soft kiss on his forehead.

“I’m sorry,” Heath whispered as he looked up at Jake through his eyelashes. “I didn’t mean it.”

“I know, Heath. You’re upset and you have a right to be. But we should talk about your worries before they became such big issues for you. That’s what communication means. I can’t help you with things if you don’t discuss them with me.”

“I know. I screwed up. I just can’t stand Ethane being in Boston. I want him with us. And as for the rest of it, I guess I just felt insecure. Sometimes it’s hard for me to realize that you both love me, that I’ve been that lucky. It doesn’t seem real somehow. I keep waiting for someone to tell me that this has all been a joke or something.”

“Well, it’s no joke, baby. We do love you, both of us. You are the heart of our little family. Without you, we never would have found Ethane. Then where would I be? All alone, watching those around me find their loved ones and no one to love me.”

“No, you would have found someone eventually,” Heath responded.

“But I don’t want *someone*. I want you and Ethane. You’ve given me that. You’ve given me a family of my own. Something I always wanted but never thought I’d have. Now I have a special surprise for you, something you’ve always wanted but never thought you’d have.”

“What? You’ve already given me so much. What else is there?” Heath asked curiously.

“A home. I talked with Cole and Bear and a few of the other guys. We’ve all agreed that Ethane, you, and I need a home of our own. So, as soon as we find a contractor and design our house, we are going to build one, right here on the ranch, just for the three of us.”

“A home of our own? Really?” Heath whispered. “I’ve never really had a home of my own. Sure, I have my apartment in Spokane, but it’s not really a home. It’s just a place to keep my stuff.”

“Yes, but that’s not all. I talked with Ethane earlier. In fact, I just got off the phone with him when you came in. He’s packing up all of his stuff, lock, stock, and barrel, and moving out here. He plans on opening a practice here in town. When he comes home, he’s coming home for good.”

Jake waited for Heath to say something, to reply to his words. When he didn’t Jake looked down to see tears in Heath’s eyes. Lifting his head he gently wiped the tears away.

“What’s wrong, Heath? I thought you’d be happy with this? Wasn’t this what you wanted? All of us here in our own house?” Jake asked, concerned that he might have misunderstood Heath earlier.

“I am happy. I just can’t believe that this is all happening. I always had to be with people that either didn’t care about me or

ignored me. That's not a home. A home is where you live with your loved ones, people who care about you."

"That's what we're going to have. It may take a little while to build, but we will be in our own home soon enough. Just think, we can design it any way we want. You and Ethane can have your own offices to work. I can have my own gym. We can build a bathroom that has a shower and a tub big enough to hold the three of us at the same time."

Heath sniffled. "And a big river rock fireplace in the living room and the bedroom so we can cuddle when it's cold outside."

"Yep, but we're going to have to be sure to build a bedroom big enough for the custom made bed I just ordered. It will be big enough for the three of us to have plenty of room so that we never have to sleep apart again."

"Really? You found a bed that big?" Heath asked surprised.

"Well, I found a company that custom makes beds for basketball players. I told them what we needed and they said that they could make it. It will take a couple of months but by the time we have the house under way our bed should be ready. Then all you have to is decorate the house."

"You want me to decorate the house? What if I pick something out that you don't like? Or Ethane? How am I supposed to know what you like?" Heath asked anxiously, starting to worry again.

"Honey, you'll do fine. You have much better taste than either Ethane or myself. But please, no wild colors. I'm not sure I could handle that. Other than that, I have no doubt that you will make our house into something wonderful. Neither did Ethane when he suggested it."

"Ethane suggested I decorate our house?"

"Yeah, it's all his idea. His only request, besides being able to add a few of his own touches here and there, was that he be able to help you pick out the items he will need for his office. Apparently he needs special bookshelves or something for his law books. And of course, I

will need to pick out the equipment for the home gym. Other than that, it's up to you."

"I can't wait to get started. I have so many ideas I want to share with you guys."

Jake couldn't help laughing. Heath practically bounced up and down on his lap. Jake had been on many missions, had rescued countless people from harm. But he never felt prouder of himself than he did watching Heath in his excitement and knowing that he had been able to help make him happy.

"Oh, Jake, can we call Ethane?" Heath asked eagerly.

"Sure, I'll even put him on speaker phone so that we can both talk to him." Jake picked up the phone and dialed Ethane's cell phone, hitting the speaker button as the phone rang.

"Hello?" Ethane said.

"Hey, Ethane, I've got our baby here. I just gave him our good news and he couldn't wait for us to call you so that he could begin discussing his decorating ideas with us. I've already pleaded with him for no wild colors."

"Hey, little man, feeling better?" Ethane asked.

"Yeah. I didn't really need Jake to call you so I could talk about decorating. I can wait until you get home for that. I just needed to hear your voice. To tell you and Jake how much I love you both."

"We love you too, Heath. Never forget that. We all agreed that from the very beginning that once we had each other that was it. You're stuck with us now." Ethane laughed.

"Yeah, I think I can handle that," replied Heath, laughing through his tears.

"Just remember, sweetheart, we're in this together. Each of us has been searching for that special someone and we were each lucky enough to find not one but two people to love us. If you have an issue or you're upset about something, you have to talk to us about it. That's the only way we can help each other."

Jake added squeezing Heath in his arms. "We've all been looking for something, and I think that what we have found in each other makes what we have extra special. I don't know if we would have found this with anyone else."

"Yeah, there's not many of us out there." Heath laughed, "The three of us are opinionated, egotistical, sloppy, and horny as hell."

'At least you have Jake there to help you relieve some tension. I'm all alone here in Boston, no one to suck me, to fuck me. I'm telling you, its hell." Ethane complained.

"Ah, are you missing us?" Heath asked. "Hurry home and I'll suck your cock as much as you want. I'm sure Jake will too."

Jake laughed when Ethane growled into the phone, "You're a cruel man, Heath Bentley!"

"But you still love me."

"I'd love you more if you took that damn speaker phone into the bedroom and fucked Jake so that I could at least live vicariously through the two of you."

"We may be able to manage that." Jake chuckled as he handed the phone to Heath and picked him up in his arms to carry him into the bedroom. Once in the bedroom he switched to the bedroom phone and hit the speaker button.

"You still with us, Ethane?"

"Yeah, I'm right here. My hard cock is right here, too, in my hand, so you two better get some action going because I could use a little help here."

"Your wish is our command," Jake replied as he looked over at Heath. "Now, didn't you mention something about sucking someone's cock?"

Chapter 9

Ethane walked into GG's Roadhouse and looked around the dimly lit room. He spotted Jake sitting at a table across the room, his gaze fixated on the dance floor. *And for good reason*, thought Ethane as he watched Heath doing his little sexy dance. That man looked so damn hot!

He walked across the room to stand next to Jake. He chuckled when Jake didn't even notice him standing there, his attention firmly transfixed on the sexy man moving on the dance floor.

"Fuck! Would you look at that? Have you ever seen anything like it?" Ethane asked as he watched Heath swinging around the dance floor.

Jake whipped his head up to see Ethane standing next to him. A wide grin broke out on his face when he saw his lover.

"A time or two," Jake replied as he swept Ethane's body with a sly gaze. He reached out and grabbed Ethane's hand and pulled him down for a long passionate kiss.

"Hey, babe, when did you get back?" Jake asked once Ethane sat down in the chair beside him.

"A little while ago. I see you're keeping yourself busy." He chuckled as he gestured towards Heath on the dance floor. "That is so hot!"

Jake laughed, "If you think that's hot, watch this." Jake smiled mischievously at Ethane before putting his fingers to his lips and whistling. "Brace yourself," he said as Heath's head came up and the wide grin that covered his face when he spotted Ethane sitting next to him.

This time Heath didn't dance across the floor. He ran. "Ethane!" he yelled as he jumped into Ethane's waiting arms, plastering his face with kisses. "I missed you."

"I missed you too, sweetheart," Ethane chuckled as he wrapped his arms around Heath and pulled him close. "And I'm home for good this time."

"Really? Can we go home then? I think we have some serious make-up sex to get to," Heath said eagerly.

Ethane anticipated getting Ethane and Jake into bed just as much. It had been awhile since the three of them had been together all at the same time, besides the occasional phone sex session.

"In a minute. First, I want to dance with you and Jake. You are positively lethal on the dance floor and I need to hold you both in my arms right now."

Heath laughed as he stood up and dragged Ethane and Jake to the dance floor. He wrapped his arms around Ethane's neck and began grinding against him, feeling Jake come up behind him, his tall sexy body pressing against his.

Heath raised his hands above his head, swinging his hips from side to side as Ethane grabbed his hips and pressed their hardening cocks against each other. He tilted his head back to rest against Jake's chest when he felt him also grab his hips, his hands covering Ethane's, and push his jean-covered cock against Heath's ass.

Jake leaned over Heath's shoulder and kissed Ethane's eager lips, pressing Heath's smaller body between them. Heath wrapped one arm around Jake's neck behind him and the other around Ethane's neck in front of him.

The music pounded loudly, the tempo beating fast, but the three lovers moved slowly from side to side. Their hips moved back and forth as they held each other, pressed against each other, and gloried in the feeling of each other's bodies.

Jake and Ethane took turns kissing each other and nipping at Heath's neck as they moved until Heath was a pile of lust-filled goo

between them. They both knew that they could have stripped Heath naked right there on the dance floor and had their way with him and he would have offered no resistance. He probably would have helped.

They didn't realize they had put on such a show until they heard Sam's laughing voice next to them.

"Hey, guys, I'm not sure what kind of fire insurance Gypsy has but you might want to tone it down a bit before you make this place go up in flames."

Ethane and Jake turned slightly red with embarrassment. Heath just chuckled and cuddled deeper into their arms, not embarrassed in the least. Heath wasn't afraid to show his affection for them to anyone.

"Guess we're being a little too *outgoing*," Jake laughed as he started to drag Ethane and Heath off the dance floor.

"Don't get me wrong, it's hotter than hell watching the three of you have sex on the dance floor, but I'm not sure everyone is quite ready to see your lily white asses," Sam replied.

"We don't mind," added a man standing with two other men a few feet from them. Their lecherous gazes watched the three of them. "Please, don't stop on our account."

Ethane laughed sheepishly as he directed Jake and Heath from the dance floor. "Thanks, but I think we'll take this little show home."

"Want some company?" one of the men asked. "We'd love to join you." He gestured towards the two men walking behind him as they followed them out the front door.

"I'm sure we could help direct the show," one of the other men said as he winked at Heath and tried to pat him on the ass. Heath flushed red.

Ethane quickly pulled Heath out of the man's reach. "Hands off!" he growled deeply in his throat. "We don't share!"

"Oh, come on, sexy, you have plenty to go around. Why not share the wealth?" He gave Heath a long look from his head to his toes,

lingering over the swiftly deflating bulge in Heath's pants. "He's a hot little piece. I'm sure there's enough of him to go around."

"It's not nice to be so greedy. We just want a little taste. We won't hurt him...much," laughed the third man. He reached into his pocket and flipped out a switchblade knife, swinging it back in forth in front of them.

"Touch him and lose a limb!" Ethane snarled through clenched teeth. He pushed Heath behind him and took a stance next to Jake, his hands clenching at his sides.

"Maybe he wants to come with us. Maybe you're not enough for him," laughed the man with the knife in his hand. "Yeah, he's a hot little thing. I'll bet you have to tap that sweet little ass constantly just to keep him happy."

One of the men gestured to the ground beside him. "Come on, sweet thing, come over here to me and I won't hurt your friends. We just want to have a little fun with you. I promise you'll enjoy it. We're gonna take real good care of you."

"Jake? Ethane?" Heath whispered fearfully. "Maybe I should just..."

"No, Heath, they're not going to touch a hair on your head," Ethane assured Heath as he watched the three men step towards them. "They just need to learn a little lesson in manners."

"Just give us the filthy little freak and no one will get hurt!" demanded the first guy.

Ethane's head cocked to one side as the man's words sank into his head. They sounded very familiar. For a moment he couldn't remember where he had heard those words but as the first man lunged at Jake it came back to him. Ethane felt rage fill him as he realized that these were the guys that had attacked Heath and him earlier.

Heath was frightened as he watched Ethane and Jake begin fighting with the three men. He didn't know how this had all happened. He hadn't flirted with anyone, hadn't invited anyone to be forward with him, nothing. How had this happened?

Seeing the punches that Jake and Ethane sustained, he decided to get help. He ran past the fighting men and into the bar, yelling for Sam and Doc as he went. They both came running when they heard Heath yelling.

“Outside... three guys... fighting,” he panted as he started back out the door only to be stopped by Doc’s grasp on his arm.

“Hold on, Heath, let them take care of this. They know what they are doing and they have a better chance of winning if we just stay out of the way.” Doc pulled out his cell phone and hit speed dial.

“Cole? Doc here... Code red... GG’s Roadhouse...right!” Doc hung up and dropped his phone back into his pocket. He had a death grip on Heath’s arm as he followed him back outside.

By the time they got around the side of the building where the fight had gone, Cole and Bear had pulled up in their big black truck. Rune, Nick, and Sky arrived in the blue truck right behind them.

Heath was grateful when they all jumped in to assist their teammates. Even though Jake and Ethane seemed to be holding their own, Heath wanted the extra help for them.

Within moments, it was over. The three men who had accosted Ethane, Heath, and Jake lay bleeding and unconscious on the ground. Ethane and Jake wiped their bloody and bruised hands on their jeans as Doc checked them over for any serious injuries.

Heath ran over to them, running his hands over Jake, then Ethan, checking for injuries before throwing himself into their arms, sighing with relief. They seemed okay. He had been so scared that they would be hurt.

By this time, most of the bar had piled outside and milled about and the sheriff was stepping out of his car.

“Cole, Bear.” Sheriff Jones nodded to them. “What seems to be going on here?” He glanced briefly at the three men lying on the ground, just starting to come around.

“Not real sure, Sheriff, I just got here myself. You’ll have to ask Jake,” Cole replied.

“Jake?” Sheriff Jones asked as he looked over at the big man, watching him hug Ethane and Heath close to his side, pressing kisses against their heads and reassuring them that everything would be okay.

“I don’t know exactly what happened, Sheriff. We had just started to leave the bar to go home when these three shit heads followed us outside and propositioned us. When we said no, they pulled a knife on us and demanded that we turn Heath over to them to play with.” Jake nearly spit out the last part, feeling angry all over again.

“I can tell you what’s going on, Sheriff,” Ethane broke in. “These are the guys that jumped Heath and me a couple of weeks ago.”

“Are you sure?” Sheriff Jones glanced over at the three men on the ground. “I remember you two getting jumped. I’ve been pretty upset that I couldn’t figure out who did it. I don’t like that sort of thing in my town.”

“Oh yeah, I’m sure. They have the same foul mouths. I’d swear to it. And I’m sure if you ask around, I’m not the first guy they’ve attacked.” He looked at Sheriff Jones closely. “It’s hard for a gay man to come forward when he gets attacked. People have a tendency to think it’s his fault. I’m sure these three depended on that.”

“Will you swear out a complaint?” the sheriff asked. “Look, my own son is gay and I know how hard this can be. Not everyone is accepting of gay people, including law enforcement officials. But I can promise you that I will give you my full support if you testify. Hell, even if you don’t testify, I’ll still support you. But it sure would help if you did.”

“Definitely. You get the papers written up and I’ll sign them,” Ethane agreed. “I think you have a good case for assault, violation of civil rights, and a few hate crime charges. I’ll do whatever I can to help you put these three away for as long as possible. I’d be real happy if they never saw the light of day again.”

“I’ll sign a complaint also,” a red headed man said as he stepped forward. “They attacked me last week.”

“Me too,” said another guy as he stepped up to the sheriff. “They assaulted me last month. And he’s right,” he gestured to Ethane, “we haven’t come forward because we were afraid that no one would pay any attention to us because we’re gay. We’ve seen it happen before.”

“I know of at least two other guys that these three have attacked that I think would be willing to come forward,” said the redhead as he smiled at Ethane.

“Well, Martha’s not going to be happy that I won’t be home for dinner on time tonight but I guess she’ll get over it. Let’s get these three loaded and locked up. I’ll expect all of you in my office at 8:00 am sharp tomorrow morning to swear out your complaints. Understood?” Sheriff Jones asked as he glanced around at everyone, nodding when he received the agreement.

Ethane watched the sheriff and his deputies load the three men and drive away. He was glad to finally find out who had attacked Heath and him. After the sheriff left he looked over at the two men that had come forward.

“I know it’s hard to come forward in cases like this but the sheriff is a good man. He’ll do right by us. And if you’re interested, I’m a lawyer. I plan on filing a civil suit against these guys. I’m going to take them for everything they’ve got. I’m tired of people thinking they can get away with shit like this just because we’re gay. It’s time for it to stop!”

Both men nodded their heads and agreed to meet with Ethane after swearing out their complaint at the sheriff’s office. Ethane and Jake shook their hands and waved to their friends as they walked away to get into their trucks.

Ethan kissed Heath quickly on the lips before doing the same with Jake. “Are you both okay?” he asked.

“Nothing a few kisses and an ice pack won’t cure,” replied Jake with a wink. “You?”

“I’m fine, more angry than anything. When those three assholes beat me up, and after I found out that they had hurt Heath too, I felt

more concerned with him than I was in catching these guys. To tell you the truth, I barely spared them a thought. I had too many other things on my mind, like you two.”

“Yeah, but in a weird sort of way, if they hadn’t attacked you two, we might never have gotten our feelings out on the table. We may have them to thank for bringing us together.”

“Bite your tongue!” growled Heath.

Ethan and Jake both laughed at Heath’s fierce denial. “Oh, so you think we would have found our way to each other without their help?” Ethan asked.

“Hell yes. I’m too cute to be ignored. Ethan wouldn’t have been able to resist me for long.” Heath chortled as he snuggled between his two lovers. “Either that or I would have attacked him within the week.”

Ethan and Jake laughed as they gazed lovingly down at their little man. Heath was right. He was too cute to be ignored. “Come on, baby, let’s go home.”

Chapter 10

Heath felt so excited. Today they would be moving into their new home. It had taken a few months to get it just right but he knew that their new home would be great. He couldn't wait to show Ethane and Jake everything he had done to make it perfect.

It had taken them only a few days to decide on a place to build their home. They had chosen a spot within walking distance of the main house, right on the edge of the lake. Heath had been particularly excited over the deck they had included that went right up to the edge of the lake. He foresaw numerous days and nights sitting on the deck with his lovers and watching the sun set.

Ethane and Jake had both laughed numerous times over Heath's enthusiastic efforts on their behalf. Once the house, a beautiful three-bedroom log cabin, had been built, Heath had made Ethane and Jake promise to stay out while he had decorated it. Today would be their first time seeing the inside since the house had been completed. Heath couldn't wait.

Moving into a new home with his lovers meant a lot of changes. But change was good. Heath had seen that over the last several months. There had been a lot of changes, most, if not all of them, good.

Ethane had indeed filed a civil suit against the three men that had attacked them all, along with several other gay men. The case was still pending in court but the outcome looked pretty good.

The little town of Graves Creek was fast becoming known as a *zero tolerance* community. People began to feel safe walking down

the street with their loved ones, no matter what their sexual orientation.

Not everyone felt comfortable with the new direction the small community took. There had been some protesters, some mild vandalism, and a few civil disturbances around the area, but nothing that Sheriff Jones hadn't been able to handle.

All in all, the community had been pretty accepting. Several of their neighbors had even shown up to help put up the walls of their new cabin in an old fashioned barn raising type party. GG's Roadhouse became known as the local hot spot for both gay and straight people. And several of the newest members of their little community lived open gay lives.

Ethane had gone ahead as planned and opened a small law practice in town. He had soon become one of the most popular lawyers in town. So much so that he had to get a partner in his little practice so that he would have time to spend with his loved ones. He even had a few chickens.

Heath had taken on the accounts of all the team members as well as a few of the friends they had made in the community, including Gypsy, the owner of GG's Roadhouse. He got quite the reputation as a man who could not only keep track of a person's money but also add to it. He still worked from home though.

Jake had gone on several missions over the months but Heath felt it had only brought the three of them closer together. Ethane and Heath had learned to deal with their separation from Jake and to appreciate the time they did have with him. Jake had learned that he had a warm loving family to come home to. Nothing that he had ever had before.

Life had been a good learning experience for all three of them over the last several months, one that they treasured. There had been good times and bad times, arguments and make-ups, but through it all their love and commitment to each other had only grown with each passing day.

Ethane and Heath held hands as they gazed out the front window of the main house, watching their little family. Caleb and Rune took turns joking and punching each other in the arm. Sam and Sky were deep in some sort of discussion as they walked with Jake and Nick. All of them laughed at some stupid joke Caleb told.

Heath wrapped an arm around Ethane's waist as they followed Doc out the front door. The three of them had been looking for exactly the same thing, a love in their lives, a real home, a family.

As Ethane and Heath stepped into Jake's welcoming embrace, Heath realized that the three of them had found exactly what they had been looking for in each other. They were three of a kind.

THE END

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Stormy Glenn believes the only thing sexier than a man in cowboy boots is two, or three, men in cowboy boots. She also believes in love at first sight, soul mates, true love, and happy endings.

When she's not being a mother to her six teenagers or cleaning up after her two 70 pound lap puppies, you can usually find her cuddled in bed with a book in her hand or her laptop, creating the next sexy character for her stories.

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