



Amber
Skyze

Adrift

Loose Id

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Chapter One

“I expect everyone to be there.” Mr. Carlton stood up and continued talking to the small group in the conference room. “My wife looks forward to this every year, so I don’t want to disappoint her. There will be boats at the dock to take people back and forth to Carlton Island.”

Kari cringed just thinking about getting into a boat and being escorted over to her boss’s island. The last thing she wanted to do over her weekend was spend it with him and fellow coworkers. Kari enjoyed the peace and serenity of her apartment. She didn’t have to make small talk except with Pepper, her cat.

Last year she’d been able to get out of the company picnic, but something told her this time she wouldn’t be so lucky.

“This is bullshit.”

Kari swiveled her chair to see who else felt like she did, but was brave enough to voice his opinion. She was met with the most amazing blue eyes.

Ben.

Her heart caught in her throat. *Was he speaking to me?*

Ben Eckhart hadn’t uttered a word to her in the three years he’d worked at Carlton Technologies. Kari had admired him from afar, knowing he’d never be interested in someone like her. She wasn’t a size 2 pinup model like Ben probably dated.

“Does he think we don’t have a life outside of work?”

He *was* talking to her.

Hanging out on her deck with a book wasn’t in the cards for her this weekend.

“Have you ever been?” he asked.

“Once. I’ve managed to escape all the other yearly get-togethers, but I don’t see that happening this weekend.”

“I heard people have gotten let go for not attending.”

She’d heard that too, but thankfully it hadn’t happened to her. With the economy in dire straits, she wasn’t risking it this year. “That’s what they say. I can’t afford to take any chances. I’ll be going.”

“Me too, I guess.”

Kari groaned inwardly. She didn’t want to spend the weekend lusting over Ben. At work she could cover up her scars, but on Carlton Island she’d be expected to dress more casually.

Maybe she could think of a way out of this.

“Spouses and significant others are more than welcome too,” Mr. Carlton continued.

Kari turned her attention back to her boss. Right about now, she wished she had someone in her life she could bring along to ease the pain of watching Ben. Fortunately he wasn’t aware of her feelings for him.

He leaned closer to her chair and whispered in her ear. “You bringing someone?” Heat from his breath trickled down her neck, straight to her core. Images of Ben wearing only swim trunks filled her mind. She pictured a hard, smooth chest and abs of steel she could run her fingers along.

“No,” she snapped.

“Sorry. I didn’t mean to offend you.”

She swiveled her chair slightly and glanced over her shoulder. His lips were close. Close enough that if she leaned just a little bit, she could graze them with her own. “I didn’t mean to snap. I’m just really frustrated about having to go this weekend. I’m going alone.”

“Hmmm. I guess I’ll see you there.”

“Guess so.”

Mr. Carlton ended the meeting. Kari gathered her notebook, pen, and coffee mug before heading back to her office. She wondered if Ben would be coming alone or if he would be bringing some lucky lady.

She prayed he came alone. He’d broken the ice by talking to her in the meeting. Maybe they could get to know each other better over the weekend.

As she sat in her chair, she realized she was fooling herself. Ben would never be interested in a size 12 disfigured woman. Even if he did show an interest, Kari couldn't take her clothes off for him. Her scars were a reminder that she'd never have a love life again. It was bad enough that the memories of that horrible night still haunted her; visible scars stared back from the mirror. They screamed at her, taunting that she'd be lonely the rest of her life.

* * *

Try as she might, Kari couldn't find a way out of the weekend. She packed enough clothes for the overnight excursion. Maybe she could feign sickness later in the evening. Surely Mr. Carlton would understand her leaving if she was sick.

Kari parked her car in the parking lot just above the boat launch. Grabbing her overnight bag from the trunk, she made her way to the dock. There wasn't anyone waiting, and the boat ferrying people to the island was nowhere in sight.

She set her bag down and leaned against a wooden pole, waiting for the boat to return. The warm sun cascaded its rays down on her. Sweat beaded on her forehead. She'd have to remove the sweater she'd worn over her tank top soon.

"Hey, are you waiting for the boat?"

Wariness crept into her body. Kari was certain she knew that voice but prayed it wasn't him.

"Kari!"

She used her hand to shade the sun from her eyes; even with sunglasses, the brightness was blinding. She looked toward the voice calling her name. Sure enough, it was Ben. He wasn't alone; he was with another guy, who appeared to be around five-ten, Ben's height. He had jet-black hair, a contrast to Ben's sandy blond.

They dressed like twins in khaki cargo shorts and tight T-shirts. Ben's was hunter green, and his friend's an orange color. As they drew nearer, she noticed they moved in sync. Were they lovers? Their motions were as familiar as a couple. She dismissed the idea. Ben had seemed interested in her during the conference. He couldn't be gay. They each carried backpacks in one hand and a cooler in the other, swinging it as they walked.

She hadn't thought about bringing anything to drink. She had assumed Mr. Carlton would provide all the food and drinks they needed.

“Hey, Ben,” she said as they drew nearer.

“This is Adam. Adam, this is Kari. We work on the project management team together.”

“Nice to meet you, Kari.”

He placed the cooler on the ground and offered her a hand. She accepted. Tingling sensations filled her body. She pulled her hand back quickly, afraid he’d sense her arousal at his touch.

“The boat’s not here right now,” she said, looking out at the water.

“We’re not taking Mr. Carlton’s boat,” Ben said. “I have my own. Want to join us?”

Absolutely not!

She was not getting into a boat with these two gorgeous guys.

“Thanks for the offer, but I’ll wait for the boat.”

“Are you sure? There’s no one else here. At least you can talk to us on the ride over.”

Ben had a point, but Kari couldn’t get her mind off him. Being on a boat making small talk should produce warm, fuzzy emotions, but she was nervous. She didn’t know what to talk about with either of them.

“Come on,” Adam urged. “We won’t bite.”

Too bad.

What the hell was she thinking? Neither of them would be interested in her.

“Please.”

Kari swung her head toward Ben. He’d moved to her side and whispered softly. Was she imagining it, or was there desire in his eyes? He looked like he was undressing her with those crystal blue eyes. For a moment she allowed herself to be mesmerized.

She swallowed the moan that threatened to escape and said, “Yes, please.”

Adam touched her arm, and Kari felt faint. How could she resist when they were practically begging?

“Okay, you’ve convinced me. I’ll go with you guys.” She took a step back, regaining some of her personal space. She couldn’t help but wonder if she’d made the right decision.

Getting into a boat all alone with two men who made her skin prickle with desire was not a good idea. Warning bells went off in the back of her mind, but Kari ignored them. At this point she had nothing to lose. What could go wrong? It was a simple boat ride with Ben and Adam to Carlton Island. A twenty-minute ride making idle chitchat. She could survive it.

“Wonderful.” Ben placed a hand on the small of her back. “Let’s get to this party.”

“You’ll be happy you joined us.” Adam laid a hand just above Ben’s.

Weak in the knees, Kari placed one foot in front of the other, trying to keep from falling. If they knew how they were affecting her, they didn’t show it.

They led her down the dock to Ben’s boat. It was large speedboat. The name *Lady Luck* was stenciled on the side.

Hmmm, would she have luck? Would she finally get to know Ben on a deeper level, or would he forever remain part of her fantasies?

Adam offered her a hand, guiding her off the dock into the rocking vessel. Once inside, Kari immediately took a seat at the rear. She’d taken a pill to keep the queasiness at bay, and with any luck, it would work. It would be very embarrassing if she was to get sick on Ben’s boat.

Ben disappeared below the deck for a few minutes. When he returned, he was wearing sunglasses and a Red Sox baseball cap. A true New Englander. Even in the hat, he was sexy.

Apparently Adam thought so too, because he leaned over and kissed Ben full on the lips. Kari’s mouth hung open. So much for wanting them or worrying about having an oversize body.

Her mouth was still open when they turned to ask her if she was ready.

“Something wrong?” Ben asked.

“Uh...umm...I...” What the hell could she say? *Sorry I didn’t realize you guys were gay.* That didn’t seem appropriate. “I’m fine,” she said. She averted her gaze. Any ideas of being with either of them were dashed by that kiss.

“Shall we get this show on the road?” Ben clapped his hands and rubbed them together.

“I’m ready.” Kari felt some of the nervousness wash away. If nothing else, she could be friends with both men. It was easier than lusting over Ben. When they returned to work on Monday, she’d have a different perspective on her attraction to him.

The boat roared to life under Ben’s touch. Kari settled in for the ride to Carlton Island.

Adam joined her on the cushioned seat. “So how long have you been with Carlton Technologies?”

“Seven years.”

“Wow. I didn’t think people lasted that long at a company anymore.”

She laughed. He was right. Most people didn’t. She wasn’t sure if it was luck or the fact that Mr. Carlton took pity on her after the accident. She had spent almost a month in the hospital and then suffered through a few more months in physical therapy before returning to work. She’d cheated death; Walter hadn’t been as fortunate.

“I’ve been blessed.” She avoided his stare so that he couldn’t see the pain in her eyes. Whenever she thought about that dreadful night, images came crashing to the forefront.

“Ben hasn’t been there that long, maybe three years.”

“Yup, three years next month.” Shit, that had slipped out too quickly.

Adam chuckled.

“Wow. He has an anniversary coming up.”

Kari shrugged. “I’m not really sure. I could be wrong.”

God, she hoped she brushed that off. The last thing she needed was Adam realizing she’d lusted over Ben since he joined the company.

“No problem.”

They made idle chitchat. It seemed to be taking forever to get to the island.

“Is everything okay?” Adam asked Ben.

Ben slowed the boat until it idled in the choppy water. “I’m not sure where we are. I thought we’d be there by now.”

“Are you serious?” Kari panicked. This was not funny. She knew she should’ve stayed on the dock and waited for the transportation Mr. Carlton was providing.

“I’m afraid I am. And there’s another tiny little issue.”

Kari’s pulse rate increased. The pounding in her chest ran straight up to her ear. It sounded like a drum beating right next to her.

“What’s wrong?” Adam asked.

Kari was thankful he had asked, because she didn't have the nerve.

"I think we're running low on gas. None of the gauges seem to be working."

"Unbelievable. Are you telling me we're stuck out here in the middle of nowhere?"

"No. I'm saying, I think we're running low on gas and should find a place to dock the boat."

Kari looked around. There was land in the distance, but she wasn't sure if it was Mr. Carlton's or even if they had the fuel to make it that far.

"Is that the island we're looking for?" She pointed in the direction of the land.

"Let's find out." Ben quickly returned to the wheel, gunned the engine, and sped off.

"Should I be worried?" Kari demanded from Adam.

"Nah. He's terrific. He'll find the way. I have faith in him."

Kari wished she felt the same, but right about now she was losing all hope of making it to Carlton Island. She just prayed she'd have a job come Monday.

Ben noticed the worried look on Kari's beautiful face. He hadn't meant to cause her concern, and he certainly hadn't anticipated getting lost. He wanted to gather her in his arms and promise her things would be all right, but he wasn't sure how comfortable she'd be with that. And in all honesty, he wasn't sure they would be all right.

As he headed for land, he prayed the Coast Guard would find them.

Adam seemed to be hitting it off with Kari, and that was a good thing.

Ben had always sensed she had an attraction to him, and he'd hoped this weekend would find them able to get to know one another better—with Adam of course. Ben didn't do anything without Adam.

When he'd told Adam about Kari and how he thought she'd be a perfect fit for their relationship, Adam was hesitant. He didn't like to share. But when Ben explained the benefits of adding a beautiful woman to the mix, he couldn't argue. So in the end they had decided they'd explore the possibility of having Kari with them.

Now the only question was, could she handle being with bisexual men?

"Dude, she's freaking out," Adam whispered.

Lost in his thoughts, Ben hadn't heard Adam sneak up. "Why? What's she saying?"

"It's not what she's saying, it's the way she's acting all fidgety and stuff. She's wringing her hands and tapping her foot. It's a classic case of fear."

"Well, reassure her," he said through clenched teeth. "Show her she has nothing to worry about."

"Fine, but I'd feel more comfortable if I wasn't worried too."

"Everything will work out perfectly. You'll see."

Ben watched Adam reclaim his seat next to Kari. One of them had to make sure she kept it together. They couldn't afford her being upset.

Relief washed over him as land grew closer. If they ran out of gas at this point, they could coast to land.

Why aren't there any boats in sight, and how the fuck did I get us lost?

He had thought for sure he knew how to get there. He'd traveled Lake Schoonover many times in the past. Christ, he and Adam lived on the boat in the summer. Ben always prepared the boat for times like this. So why hadn't he been prepared this time? Where was his mind?

On Kari.

Once Adam had agreed to see if she was indeed a perfect fit, Ben couldn't think of anything else. He wanted to hold her, love her, and cherish her body. In the grand scheme of things, this might not be too bad if someone found them. The only other issue Ben feared was the repercussions of not showing up to Mr. Carlton's party.

Come Monday, he and Kari could both be out of a job.

A few hundred yards from the shore, the boat ran out of gas.

"Fuck." He pounded the steering wheel.

"Hey at least we're close," Adam offered.

"Yeah. I could jump in and see how deep the water is. Maybe we could drop the anchor and swim to shore."

"Not gonna happen," Kari said.

Both men turned to her.

"What? I can't swim."

“Well that certainly changes things,” Ben said. Now what the fuck were they going to do? “I guess we’ll just wait this one out. I’m sure the boat will float closer to the shore. If not, Adam and I could try to push it closer. We’re both good swimmers.” He knew it was a long shot, but if it made Kari feel better that’s all that mattered.

He turned on his heel and disappeared downstairs. Covering his face with his hands, he fought the urge to scream. He had to remain calm. This really wasn’t as bad as it looked. They weren’t that far away. They’d get to a point where she could easily get in the water without having to swim. Once on the shore, he or Adam could get a fire going. They had hot dogs in their cooler, along with drinks. There was some fruit, and there were plenty of blankets.

“Okay,” he said to the empty cabin. Feeling better, he went back up to talk to Adam and Kari. “Things aren’t as bleak as they seem.”

“Oh really? Did you send out a distress signal or something?” Kari asked.

“No, but we have enough food and blankets to get through the night if we have to, which I don’t think we will. I’m sure we’ll be rescued in the next few hours.”

“Ben’s right. They comb these waters looking for stranded boaters. We’ll be fine.” Adam took Kari’s hand and squeezed.

Ben reached for the other one, but she retreated. Hurt filled him.

“Like I was saying, we should be okay.”

This weekend was supposed to be about them both getting to know Kari better. Ben was the one who’d found her. He was the one who wanted to feast on her body. Adam was making the connection Ben wanted. When he attempted to make a connection of his own, she pulled away as if the mere touch of his skin burned her or something.

But Ben wouldn’t give up. He wanted Kari, and he’d show her just how much. Before the weekend was over, she wouldn’t pull away. No, Kari would be begging for more—hopefully.

Chapter Two

Kari felt relieved when the boat finally grated on the sand. Ben dropped the anchor and unloaded a few blankets.

She watched from the boat as they laid out the blankets. She smiled. They weren't letting the situation deter them. They were being very protective of her, and she was thankful. When Ben had announced they were running out of gas, she'd wanted to wrap every life preserver around her body and tie it with a rope. Not that it'd make a difference. Those damn things around her neck made her feel claustrophobic. She wasn't a swimmer or boater. She preferred to keep her feet on dry land. It was much safer.

"Do you need help getting out?" Ben asked.

Kari felt terrible that he looked so sad. She'd been bitchy to him when all he'd tried to do was comfort her. If she refused, he'd probably be offended. "Yes, I could use some help." God, she hated sounding like a damsel in distress. She was far from needing the help of a man. She'd been taking care of herself for a long time.

Ben jumped to his feet and splashed through the shallow water. He climbed up the small ladder and held out a hand. "Follow me and you'll be fine."

She accepted his hand. The heat exchanged between their skins didn't go undetected. She wanted to curse. They couldn't be together. Ben was with Adam. They were a happy couple. That was obvious.

Her panties grew wet from more than saltwater as she stepped off the boat. With her sandals in one hand and Ben's fingers wrapped around the other, she made her way to the shore.

"Any beer in that cooler?" She plopped down on the blanket. Kari hadn't touched alcohol since the accident, but she needed a drink.

"Sure." Adam flipped the cooler lid off and retrieved a bottle of beer. He twisted the cap before handing it to her.

“Thanks.” She swigged the cold, bitter brew. She wasn’t much for beer. She was more of a fruity drink person. Right now it didn’t matter. She’d make do with the beer. She drank half the liquid down before speaking again. “Now what are we going to do?”

“Wait. Someone will find us,” Ben said.

Temptation to scream at Ben filled her, so she drank more of her beer. She wanted to blame him for getting them lost and running out of gas. It was an honest mistake, though. Anyone could’ve gotten lost...and the gas thing—well, shit happens.

“Do you believe that, or are you trying to make me feel better?” The alcohol helped loosen her lips.

“Kari, I wouldn’t do anything to hurt you. I’m certain we’ll be found. It’s just a matter of time.” He leaned forward and took her hand. “Please believe me; I never meant for this to happen. While I didn’t want to go to Carlton’s party, I didn’t want to miss it either. I need my job.”

His blue eyes captivated her. She believed him. The need to reach out and kiss those lips fueled her. Desire to run her fingers through his hair consumed her. She wanted to trace her fingernails over his chest.

Kari downed the rest of her beer. “Do you have another one?” She handed Adam the empty bottle.

Adam laughed. “You sure you don’t want to slow down a bit? We just got here.”

If she slowed down she couldn’t hide behind the beer or the fact that any of this was happening. She couldn’t believe she was stranded on an island with two gorgeous *gay* men. Two men who charged her dormant body to life. She wouldn’t mind having sex with either of them. She finally felt ready to explore sex again and had ended up with not one but two guys who weren’t attracted to her. Now that was something to laugh about.

“I’m positive.” Kari held out an expectant hand.

Adam obliged and handed her another beer. She drank half before she decided to slow down. Adam was right she didn’t need to get drunk. She was masking the tension in her body with alcohol. Sexual tension mixed with stress was not a great combination. She willed herself to relax. Kari decided she’d make do with the circumstances. They were stranded, no two ways

about it. She'd get to know the couple better. And talking would also take her mind off the fact that they were on an island and who knew what lurked deep in the woods.

"Do you think there're wild animals who'll want to eat us for dinner?"

"No, there are no wild animals." Ben chuckled.

"Are you making fun of me?" She wouldn't be mocked by the likes of Ben Eckhart.

"Kari, relax. Please?" This time Adam took her hand and rubbed it between his. "Neither of us would make fun of you. We're all a little on edge. This wasn't in the plans for today. Ben is looking for a promotion. The last thing he needed was to piss off Mr. Carlton. He wouldn't do this intentionally."

Feeling a little loose from the alcohol, Kari leaned in and rested her head on Adam's shoulder. She was embarrassed by her outburst. Normally the reserved one, she wasn't used to feeling this way. But as Adam pointed out, they were all on edge.

"I'm sorry. I really am." She didn't know what else to say. Her words sounded weak and lame, but she truly did feel bad about her sudden anger.

Adam slung an arm around her shoulder and pulled her closer. He placed a kiss on the top of her head.

"It'll be all right. I promise."

While Adam was being all big brotherly, her nipples grew hard against her bra. Her pussy tingled with desire, and her stomach filled with butterflies. She had to push these feelings aside. Neither man belonged to her.

"So how long have you two been together?"

"Almost five years," Adam answered.

"That's a long time." The longest she'd spent in a relationship was two years. If things had been different, she might have lasted longer, but fate had had other plans in store and she'd never got to know if she and Walter would've stayed together for the long haul.

"Are you dating anyone?" Ben asked.

"No." She removed herself from Adam's embrace. "I'm very single."

"How come?" Ben tilted his head sideways.

Now that was a loaded question. Did she answer it honestly or give him the made-up version she frequently used? It was highly unlikely he'd believe the made-up story; he worked with her.

"It's a long complicated story."

"As you can see, we have nothing but time." Ben waved a hand at their surroundings.

Another reminder they were on a deserted island.

She gulped more of the heady liquid. "I killed the love of my life."

"Hand me a beer, please." Ben kept his eyes on Kari, but he was speaking to Adam.

Kari watched as Adam pulled out two bottles. He handed Ben one and opened the other for himself. She certainly had their attention now.

"Do you mind me asking how you killed him?"

"Don't worry, guys, you're not on an island with an ax murderer. You're with a drunk driver."

"Oh," Ben said.

Yeah, she knew how to make a lasting impression.

"What happened?" Adam prodded. "If you don't mind us asking."

She shrugged. She only spoke about the incident with her therapist. She didn't like to tell others about it. But Ben and Adam made her feel safe. If she wanted to get to know them better, she'd have to share something from her life too.

"It happened a few years back. Walter and I were at a party. We both had a few drinks, and I got behind the wheel. I thought I was fine to drive. I didn't feel drunk."

She couldn't look at them. She was afraid of what she'd see. Disappointment. Regret. Disgust.

"It's okay," Adam said. "We'd never judge you."

It was as if he'd read her mind. He knew her fears and wanted to reassure her.

"We were driving, and I turned to get on the highway. Well, I inadvertently went up the off ramp. As we rounded the bend to get on the highway, another car was coming off. I didn't have much time to react. The car hit us head-on." Her voice started cracking, and she fought back tears.

The image of Walter's bloody and lifeless body next to her in the front seat would haunt her for the rest of her life.

"Oh Kari, how awful." Ben moved to her other side, and the two wrapped their arms around her. Both kissed her hair. Nestled in the warmth of their embrace, she found the strength to go on with her story.

"Walter wasn't wearing a seat belt. He didn't believe in them. He hit the windshield. The impact killed him instantly." She looked up and stared at the water. "If only I hadn't got behind the wheel that night."

"You didn't mean to go up the wrong ramp."

"No, but I was drinking. I knew better than to drive."

"That's a heavy burden to carry all these years," Ben said.

An understatement, to say the least. Kari had the scars to remind her of that horrible day.

"Were you hurt?" Adam asked.

She continued staring straight ahead. Hurt. Oh she had been hurt.

"Yes. My leg got pinned from the impact. They had to use the Jaws of Life to remove us. The air bag burst, and the powder burned me. The steering wheel was close to my chest. Somehow glass lodged in my side, cutting me. My spleen ruptured. I needed over forty stitches in my side. I have a pin in my leg. When rain is coming, my leg hurts something awful. Sometimes I have to walk with a cane."

"I'm so sorry." Adam rocked them back and forth. Ben moved with them.

She let the tears flow. Walter deserved more from her.

"Are you crying, sweetie?" Adam stopped, and the two wiped the tears from her eyes. "We're here for you. Please don't cry."

Kari couldn't get over how caring they were. They barely knew her, and yet they showed compassion. Something she hadn't felt in a very long time. Probably not since Walter had died. Yes, family and friends had been there with consolations, and even though she'd been drinking, they had stood behind her. Back then she hadn't wanted consolation. She'd wanted someone to scream at her and tell her she was a jerk for killing Walter. But nobody had. No one had had the guts to stand up to her and call her the killer she was.

“What happened after the accident?” Ben asked. “Were you charged with manslaughter or anything?”

“Funny, I got off scot-free.”

“Really? Then why do you continue to beat yourself up over it?”

She turned to Ben. “I killed a man. No matter what the judge said, I killed Walter. That feels like a death sentence to me.”

“What did the judge say?”

“They said there wasn’t sufficient signage to guide drivers onto the highway properly. Oh and my blood level content was under the legal limit. They said I wasn’t driving drunk.”

“I don’t understand. It doesn’t sound like you’re to blame, yet you blame yourself.”

“Yes. The evidence says I’m not guilty, but you sit in a car next to a dead man for hours and see how you feel. I was driving the car. I’m the one who went up the wrong ramp. I killed Walter.”

“Fate killed him, Kari. For whatever reason, you were put in that place at that exact moment. It sucks; I can understand that, but you aren’t to blame.”

“Fate?” What kind of bullshit was Adam trying to feed her? She didn’t believe in fate. That accident was God’s cruel way of taking away her happiness. She’d loved Walter. They might’ve married by now. No, she didn’t believe it was fate.

“You can’t continue to beat yourself up over it. The judge found you not guilty. I can understand the pain it must have caused you to sit in the car like that, but you have to move on with your life. You deserve to be loved.”

“Ha!” Love wasn’t in the cards for Kari. This trip proved it. She’d lusted over Ben for quite some time now, and it turned out he was in love with Adam. If she learned one thing from this whole situation, it was to forget about love and ever finding it. Her *fate*, as Adam liked to call it, was to grow old and die alone.

“What’s so funny?” Adam sounded offended.

“I’m not in the market for love, and even if I were, there’s no one knocking on my door.”

Adam and Ben exchanged looks of concern.

“Now what did I say wrong?” She was getting tired of them looking worried every time she spoke. They’d wanted to know what had happened, and she’d told them.

“Nothing,” Adam said reassuringly.

“Good. Why don’t you two tell me about yourselves? I’m tired of talking about me.” She removed her body from their grip and stood up. She walked to the water’s edge and finished off her beer.

“Round three?”

Ben’s heart ached for Kari. She was in more pain than he’d realized. He’d thought she was attracted to him; had he been wrong? She stated she had no room for love in her life. Maybe she wasn’t open to being with them. This whole weekend might be a waste of his and Adam’s time.

Ben turned to Adam and motioned for him to get her another beer. They’d let her drown her sorrows for now. When she was done, they’d see if she wanted to explore a relationship with them. But first he wanted to make sure she was comfortable and not in a dark place.

For the life of him, he couldn’t get his cock to stop twitching. It pressed against his boxers, making him very uncomfortable. He’d have to find some relief with Adam if Kari didn’t decide to be part of the equation.

The warm sun felt good on the back of his neck. At least it wasn’t raining. If worse came to worse, they could build a fire. If the temps dropped when the sun went down, they could sleep in the boat. The bed could fit three, but then again, he wasn’t sure Kari would want to share it with them. This wasn’t as easy as he’d hoped.

When he had approached Adam with his idea to invite Kari, he had done so with a clear conscience. He believed in his heart Kari was attracted to him. He thought he’d seen a spark of interest. Was she looking for a sexual relationship? Did she only want friendship with benefits? The idea brought a renewed fear. Ben and Adam weren’t looking for a casual fling. They wanted a woman they could share their life with, someone who might be a wife to one of them and the mother of their children.

Shit, had he chosen the wrong person?

No! He felt it in his gut. Kari was the person they wanted and needed in their lives.

“Feeling better?” he asked when she returned to her seat between them.

She nodded.

He watched her sip her beer. No longer was she chugging it.

“I didn’t mean to pry. We just wondered what made you tick. We’re interested in you, Kari.”

“Interested? What’s that supposed to mean?” Her words slurred from her mouth. He detected a hint of sarcasm.

“I’ve worked with you for a few years now. I’ve been curious who you are as a person, outside of work.”

“What would a gay guy want with me?”

Ah, so that was her issue.

“Us ‘gay guys,’ as you put it, have female friends too.” He wanted to tell her they were bisexual, not 100 percent homosexual, but that could wait.

“Oh.” She played with the sand in front of her. “I didn’t mean anything by...”

“No worries. We understand.”

“Right, we understand.” Adam’s voice dripped with irritation.

Ben’s gaze met Adam’s. He could tell Adam wasn’t feeling it. He looked concerned. Ben questioned him with his eyes.

Adam shook his head.

“Anyone hungry? It is almost lunchtime.” Ben figured he’d leave the conversation alone for a bit. Obviously something was bothering Adam. He’d find out what before moving forward. He didn’t need his lover pissed off at him.

“Nah. I’m tired from the motion sickness medicine I took. Would you mind if I laid down for a bit in the boat?”

“Not at all,” Adam and Ben said in unison.

“Do you need help?”

“I should be fine.”

Kari headed to the boat and managed to get inside without their assistance. Once he was certain she was out of earshot, he turned to Adam.

“Spill it.”

“Look,” he whispered. “She’s not interested in us. You could hear the disgust in her voice when she said ‘gay guys.’”

“What—you think she has a dislike for gays?” Ben had never considered this.

“I’m not sure what to think. She’s got a bad taste in her mouth; I’m not sure what it is.”

“I need some relief. Wanna go play in the woods?” He winked at Adam, and Adam’s face lit up.

“I thought you’d never ask.”

They walked into the woods, looking for a spot where they could be alone and work off some of their frustrations. Ben’s cock ached with desire for Kari, but she didn’t seem interested. He longed to be in his lover’s arms too. Adam would hold him and ease some of his worries.

They found a clearing, where Adam spread out the blanket he’d brought. They fell onto it and immediately embraced. Ben felt the hunger in Adam’s kisses.

“I need you,” Ben whispered.

“I need you too.”

Ben slid his hand inside Adam’s shorts and stroked his hard dick. His cock throbbed under Ben’s touch. When Adam’s fingers encased his cock, Ben thought he’d explode. He hadn’t realized how close to bursting he was.

“I want to be inside you.” Ben nipped Adam’s neck. “Get these shorts off and bend over.”

“Oh, I love when you take charge,” Adam said.

Ben shucked his clothes off in record time and quickly sheathed himself with a condom while waiting for Adam to finish. When Adam was undressed, he got on all fours, sticking his ass in the air for Ben.

“Give it to me hard, Ben.”

Ben had every intention of unleashing his desires for Kari on Adam. He would fuck him so hard. Ben moved closer to Adam’s opening; he spit in his hand and covered the condom with his saliva. Holding on to Adam’s hips, he nudged his throbbing dick through Adam’s barrier.

“That’s it, Ben.”

Fueled by Adam’s urging, Ben pushed in deeper.

“Don’t stop. I want you to fuck me. I’m so hard right now.”

Ben thrust forward until he was fully seated in Adam’s ass.

“That’s it. Now ride me.”

Ben did exactly that. He pumped into his lover, full of force and pent-up need. He held on to Adam’s hips for dear life. He pounded into him blindly.

“I’m going to suck that cock later,” Adam said. “I’m going to make you come with my mouth.

Ben closed his eyes as his climax grew in his balls. He felt the tingling, and his cum surged into the waiting condom.

He growled as he poured his seed into his lover.

Kari couldn’t sleep, so she exited the boat, only to find the beach empty. “Where could they have gone?”

She called their names, but no one answered. That’s when she went searching for them. She walked into the woods, calling their names occasionally. They didn’t respond. As she went deeper, she thought she heard noises to the left. She headed in the direction of the noise, silently praying it wasn’t a wild animal or something.

Then she spotted them. Adam and Ben. They were having sex. Adam was bent over, and Ben was driving into him. Kari stood rooted to her spot, watching in amazement. She couldn’t help but wonder what they were feeling in that moment. Kari wanted to reach down and rub her clit. It filled with an aching arousal.

She took a step closer, and a branch broke.

They must not have heard, because they continued what they were doing. Kari’s nipples hardened under her shirt. She couldn’t resist the urge to slide her hand down her capris and rub her swollen bud. The whole scene had her totally turned on. She wanted to rub Adam’s cock and bring him some satisfaction.

Her juices wet her panties as she rolled her clit between her thumb and finger. It didn't take long for the orgasm to fill her. She'd pleased herself many times over the years. She knew all the right places to touch and how to do it quickly. As the climax washed over her body, she bit back the scream that filled her throat. She burst into orgasmic waves as Ben cried out his own release.

Kari leaned against a tree, catching her breath. She was partially hidden from their view. When she regained her normal breathing, she took another peek. They were getting dressed. Disappointed, she gave them a minute to finish. She wished they'd remained naked. She wouldn't mind joining them. *Wow, where had that come from?* She wanted to be with them—sexually?

Once they were covered, she walked out from behind the tree and called to them. This time they heard.

"Hey, what are you doing out in the woods?" Ben asked.

"Looking for you guys. I've been calling you for some time now. What are *you* doing in the woods?" She looked pointedly at the blanket and used condom they hadn't disposed of yet.

"Sorry; we needed a little time together."

She wanted to reach out and touch Ben. She wanted to reassure him it was all right. She understood. Deep down, she needed that kind of time too.

"Anyone come by?" Adam asked.

She shook her head.

"I haven't seen any signs of life." Gone was her fear of being stranded on the island with them. Now that she'd witnessed them making love, she wanted to be part of them. She wondered if they would be interested in sharing. Though how could she possibly fit in?

With the realization that she couldn't, she let the brief thought go.

"Do you have any flares on the boat?" The reality was they needed to get off this island and either to Mr. Carlton's party or back to the shore, where she could get in her car and drive back to the safety of her home. Far away from Ben and Adam and her crazy thoughts of having sex with them.

"I do. They work better at night when people can see them glowing. The sun might fade them out right now."

Ben had a point, but they should at least try.

"I say give it a chance. What do we have to lose?" Adam offered.

Kari gave Adam a smile of relief. She was no longer afraid of being stranded; she feared the awakening desires running rampant through her body. Every ounce of her craved their touch, and that scared her more than anything.

Ben shrugged. "Whatever you guys want, but I feel it will be wasted in the daylight."

Kari waited while they folded the blanket and gathered their garbage. She followed them back to shore in awkward silence. She wondered if they knew she had watched them. Thankfully they hadn't seen her masturbating. That would have been embarrassing.

Ben went straight for the boat when they returned to the beach. Adam stayed behind with Kari. "He's really bent out of shape about what happened. He only wanted to make a good impression on you."

"Huh?" She was confused. "Why would Ben want to make a good impression on me?"

"Because he likes you. He likes you more than he should."

"As in *likes*?" She dragged the word out. There was no way Ben was interested in her, was there? And what did Adam think about all this? He seemed nonchalant talking about it.

"Yes. He'd kill me if he knew I was telling you this, but he's interested in being more than friends."

Now she was floored and more than confused.

"Hey, guys, I've got some bad news."

Ben couldn't have picked a worse time to return. Kari had Adam telling her things she needed to know. Adam quickly walked away from her.

"What's the bad news?"

"No flares. I thought we had some, but the kit is empty."

Kari groaned. Now they had to rely on someone motoring by and seeing them. Then they had to flag them down, because, with no flares, rescuers might not think they're in distress. They could be seen as a group just hanging out.

"I'm sorry, Ben. Thanks for trying," Adam said.

“I’m the one who’s sorry. I feel like a complete idiot. I convince Kari to join us on the boat ride to Carlton Island, and look where we end up. Stranded on some deserted island. No flares.”

“Don’t beat yourself up, Ben.” He took his lover in his arms. “You never meant for any of this to happen. I’m sure Kari knows that.”

He turned to her for support.

“Adam’s right. I know you didn’t intentionally strand us here, even if you didn’t want to go to Carlton’s party.”

He laughed. “No, I didn’t. But right about now, it would be better than not knowing how long we’ll be here.”

Kari agreed but kept her thoughts to herself. Maybe being alone with them could have some benefits in the end.

Ben wanted to kick himself in the ass for screwing things up. They should be at the company picnic getting to know each other better, not stuck here. His frustration stemmed more from his need to be with Kari than from being stranded. His time with Adam hadn’t eased the ache; his cock remained hard.

He didn’t understand any of his feelings toward her. She was the first woman he remembered feeling this strongly about. She beckoned him with her come-hither looks and her tempting body. She was uncomfortable in her own skin, but that didn’t make him feel any differently. He liked the idea that there was more to love.

Ben dreamed of having her between them or Adam fucking him while he fucked her. The options were endless. Another option was her giving them something they longed for: a child. They would make the perfect family.

He had to figure out a way to brooch the subject with Kari. He couldn’t stand the thought of wasting any more time. He wanted to be with her. Adam was on board, if Kari was. Adam wanted to be certain she wasn’t against gay relationships. So now they had to see how she felt.

He moved to the blanket and took a seat. “Anyone hungry?” He might as well get that out of the way before moving on to his next subject.

“Nah,” Kari said.

“Me either,” Adam countered.

“Good; then why don’t you both sit with me? There’s something I’d like to talk about.” He could tell by the looks on their faces they were wary.

Adam shrugged before sitting next to Ben. Kari fell to her knees, the sand grinding against her skin. Ben couldn’t help but wonder if it caused her any pain. She appeared to be just fine.

“Why do you suddenly sound all doom and gloom?” Kari asked.

“Because there’s a lot on my mind. First, I’m terribly sorry for getting you into this mess.”

“You’ve apologized enough. We’re here, and there’s nothing we can do about it at this moment, so please, stop apologizing.”

“Fair enough. There’s another reason I wanted to talk to both of you.” He knew his voice was ominous.

“Go ahead,” she urged.

Ben noticed Adam remained quiet. Didn’t he want Ben to discuss his feelings? He took Adam’s hand in his.

“Kari, Adam and I have talked about you in great detail before today. We had hoped to get to know you better at the company picnic.”

“I’d say we’re getting to know each other better.” Her nervous laugh didn’t go undetected.

“When I say better, I mean in a relationship way.”

“You mean sexually?” She looked shocked and confused.

Adam and Ben both reached out a reassuring hand to her.

“Well, not right away,” Ben said. “But eventually. Yes. We want to explore my feelings for you.”

“Feelings? I didn’t think you knew I existed.”

“I’ve known. I’ve watched you in meetings and from afar. I think you’re a special woman. From what I’ve seen at work you’ve always acted with kindness, consideration, and, I can imagine, you’d be very loving.”

“Wow, you’ve noticed all that from the office?” She stood and paced in front of them.

Ben felt panic creep inside. She was going to tell him he was nuts. He was surprised by his fear of rejection. Ben had a loving partner, but adding Kari to the mix could strengthen their bond. Call it a gut feeling—Ben knew Kari needed to be part of their lives.

Kari remained silent for what seemed an eternity. Ben wanted to prompt her and then decided against it. She had to make a decision on her own. If he pushed, he could push her away. Something he definitely didn't want to do.

When Kari finally spoke, she took Adam and Ben by surprise. "I'll admit being confused."

"Confused about what?" Adam asked.

Ben was relieved Adam had finally found his voice.

"Why me? Why now? And why would two male lovers want to be with a woman?"

Ben chuckled. "We're not totally gay. We're bisexual. I've been with women."

"Me too, on occasion. Now I'm committed to Ben." He reached over and patted Ben's hand.

"As far as the why you, I told you, I've been admiring you from afar. I believe you've been doing the same with me."

She looked away, toward the water, as if searching for answers. Kari turned back to them. "I'll admit I've had a secret crush on you, but that was before. I hadn't realized you were in an obviously loving relationship with a man."

"Bi. You have to understand; we love women too."

She seemed to be considering their offer. She hadn't been repulsed at the idea, so that was a good sign. "Whatever you want to call yourself. You're in a relationship together. I don't understand how I'd fit in."

"We both want to love you, Kari," Adam said.

Oh thank God for Adam. Ben was afraid to come right out and say it, but Adam had the frankness. He told it like it was, and he had a difficult time lying. Not that Ben prided himself on lying, but he could keep a secret if he had to, where Adam could not. He was surprised Adam hadn't confessed all this to Kari already.

"You want me to join in on your happiness. You want me to be part of you?"

"We want to make love to you," Ben said.

“I’ll be the first to admit I had hoped to get to know you better this weekend, Ben. I was so shocked when you spoke to me at the meeting. It was the first time you acknowledged I was alive.”

Her words were like knives slicing into him. He hadn’t intended to ignore her all this time. He just hadn’t known how to approach her.

“I’m sorry if I offended you.”

“Not offended. I could understand why you wouldn’t want to be seen talking to me. Look at me. I’m not what most would call attractive. I’m overweight—”

“Stop right there!” Ben flew to his feet and walked over to her. “I don’t want to hear you degrade yourself another moment. You’re a beautiful woman, Kari. Stunning.”

Adam joined in. “Ben’s right. You’re amazing.”

A tear fell from Kari’s eye. Ben reached out and brushed it away. “Shhh. Don’t cry. We aren’t trying to make you sad.”

“I’m not sad. I’m excited. I’ve never wanted to be loved more than I do right now.”

Chapter Three

The tears running down her face weren't sadness. They were tears of joy. Two men wanted her.

Kari didn't want to wait another minute. Her body filled with a desire to pull them down on the blanket and let them ravish her. She wanted them to touch her in places that hadn't felt a man's hand in a very long time. She longed to feel their tongues licking her body, but only them. It was only her attraction to Ben and Adam making her feel giddy with excitement.

"Are you saying you want us?" Ben asked.

"Yes. If you want me, I'm all yours." She held up her arms. "Be forewarned; you may not like what you see underneath all this clothing."

"Your scars?" Adam whispered.

She nodded.

"Don't worry, Kari. We'll cherish your body."

Too choked up to speak, she continued nodding. They didn't care about her scars. They only cared about being with her. They didn't see her as fat. They saw beyond her exterior to deep inside. She couldn't remember ever feeling like this before. Not even with Walter.

"Come back here and sit with us." Ben walked over and sat on the blanket. He patted the spot next to him.

Her hands shook and her legs grew wobbly, but she somehow managed to sit on the blanket, nestling herself between them. Her stomach churned with excitement, at the thought of being with these two special men. She couldn't believe she was about to be loved by them. It was a page out of one of those dirty books she read, but it wasn't just sex. It was being cherished by Adam and Ben.

She smiled.

“You happy?” Ben ran a finger down her cheek.

“I am. Nervous but happy.”

“Don’t be nervous. We aren’t going to do anything to hurt you. We want to explore you and your body.” He nudged her so that she leaned back into a reclining position.

Fear crept into her mind. What if they didn’t like her? What if, after all this, she didn’t please them? What would happen then?

She bolted upright.

“What’s wrong?” Adam asked.

“I-I... What if you don’t like me, sexually? What if I can’t satisfy you guys?”

“Oh sweetie, don’t worry. We’re certain you’ll be perfect.” Ben coaxed her back down.

“But...”

He silenced her with a kiss. He slipped his tongue into her mouth. She opened, accepting his advances. She wrapped an arm around his neck and pulled him closer.

They continued kissing while Adam covered her breast with his hand. The heat between her legs became unbearable. She needed one or both of them to put out the flames burning her skin.

Ben removed his mouth and placed tiny kisses on the tip of her nose. He moved to her forehead and back down. When he reached her neck, he nibbled; she shivered.

Chills ran rampant through her body. He took her earlobe in his mouth and gently sucked. “Oh. My. God.” The stirrings of an orgasm filled her channel. How was that possible? They weren’t touching her there. Yes, Adam had his hand on her breast, but that alone didn’t normally send her railing into a climax. Though these weren’t normal circumstances.

“Go ahead,” Ben whispered. “Let the orgasm out. Soak those panties with your sweet juices.”

The overpowering feeling of his mouth sucking her lobe and Adam massaging her tit was too much. The orgasm slammed into her, and she shook uncontrollably as it riddled her body. She couldn’t remember a time when she’d experienced such an explosive sensation. Hopefully this was just the beginning.

Ben released her ear and leaned back on his heels. “How was that?”

“Crazy,” she admitted. “I’ve never had an orgasm like that before.”

“I’m glad we were the ones to do that for you.”

“Me too.” Reality hit her like a brick. She’d climaxed right there in the open, on the beach. What if someone had driven by and saw them?

Then we probably would’ve heard them and called for help.

Something felt right about being here with them. She couldn’t explain it, but Kari knew she was where she was supposed to be.

“We have more in store where that came from,” Adam said.

She turned to him. She longed to know what his lips tasted like. She wanted to hold him in her arms. He had such a loving quality about him. She’d liked him instantaneously when they met. Not that she hadn’t liked Ben, because she’d lusted over him for far too long. There was just something about Adam. Throwing caution to the wind, she reached out her hand and touched his face. He smiled against her palm. His skin was so soft.

“Kiss me,” she whispered.

Adam didn’t hesitate. He lifted her head and took her lips with his, buttery soft like his skin. When he opened his mouth, Kari slid her tongue over his threshold and explored him. He paused momentarily and then relaxed.

After a few moments, he pulled away and gazed down into her eyes. “You are incredible.”

She felt herself blushing. It was hard to believe this was her—Kari Kirkland—being appreciated by two men. She leaned back to enjoy the experience, blocking out her fear of another boat approaching. Her libido was in overdrive. She wanted to experience more of what they offered.

“What now?” The question was innocent. She wasn’t sure how to proceed. Did she just take her clothes off and let them have their way with her? Or should she wait for them to remove them? What would they think of her scars? She feared they’d balk and change their minds.

“We’ll take this slow. We’ll only go as far as you want,” Adam said.

Then maybe it was time for her to rip off her clothes. She wanted sex. She needed another orgasm. “Do you guys have more condoms?”

“Yes,” Ben said. “We always carry them.”

So they practiced safe sex. That was important.

“Anything else you’d like to know?” Ben asked.

She ran her finger along Ben’s thigh. “No.”

He shivered under her touch. She wondered what it would feel like having his cock buried inside her. When she’d witnessed them having sex, she had longed to know what Adam was feeling. Now she might find out firsthand.

Her other hand caressed Adam’s leg. He was the one she had wanted to please.

Adam covered her hand with his and gently squeezed. “Are you nervous?”

She shook her head. “No. Funny; I know I should be, but I’m not.”

“Good. We don’t want you to be.” Adam lifted her hand to his mouth and kissed. “If it’s meant to be, it will come naturally.”

Adam made a great point. If she was nervous and jerky, it wasn’t meant to be.

She felt Ben’s hand on her thigh before she saw it. She was so engrossed in Adam that Ben’s touch startled her. Ben removed his hand like she’d burned him. “I’m sorry. I didn’t mean to frighten you.”

“You didn’t.” God, she felt like a fool. Without giving it a second thought, she grabbed his hand and placed it back in the same spot. “I want you to touch me.”

She wasn’t sure which man to concentrate on first. She wanted to give them equal attention, but that was impossible.

She laughed. How the hell did one make a threesome work?

“Kari?”

“Sorry, Ben. I’m so confused on how this will all work. I want to make sure both of you are happy.”

“Don’t worry about us. We’re here to make you happy. That will bring us all the joy we need.”

She couldn’t help but smile at Ben. So thoughtful. “Shouldn’t...”

Ben covered her lips with his finger. “No more worrying. Just accept us at our word. We’re happy.”

She shrugged. "Okay." She couldn't argue that. If they said they were happy, she'd have to believe them.

Ben removed his finger and replaced it with his lips. Kari could never grow tired of this. He slid his tongue into her mouth. He massaged her breast through the fabric. Her nipples hardened.

Fervent kisses heated her mouth. Someone pulled on her capris. She wrapped her arms around Ben's neck and allowed Adam to untie and unzip her pants. He wiggled them over her hips, leaving her underwear intact.

When Adam's finger grazed along her folds, she silently cursed the barrier her panties caused. Ben swallowed her moan.

The sound of water lapping against the shore filled her ears. The smell of sun, sand, and sweat wafted across her nostrils. She tried to block everything out and concentrate on Ben kissing her, but Adam's persistent nudging made her aware of her arousal. She was going to orgasm again.

Rocking her hips, she pressed her heat against his finger. He rubbed up and down her swollen lips. Ben pinched her nipple while Adam moved his finger in sync with her movements.

She released Ben's mouth. She couldn't continue kissing him when she wanted to cry out from the glorious feelings taking over her body.

"That's it, Kari. Ride it out. Succumb to the feelings," Ben whispered before descending on her breast.

Even through the fabric, the heat from his mouth burned her skin. It felt delicious. She grasped the blanket as the climax tearing through her body, zapping her with the most decadent sensations.

"Oh!" Her panties had already been soaked from the earlier orgasm; now they were drenched.

"I love watching your face when you come," Ben said. "You get this cute little smile and a dimple right here." He pointed to her upper left cheek.

She blushed as she realized he had watched her while she climaxed. She'd thought he was busy with her nipple. Obviously not.

“Ben, I think our little lady is more than ready. She’s dripping wet.” Adam ran his finger along her panties again. “I can’t wait to taste her sweet honey.”

“Mmmm, I want her juices all over my tongue and cock,” Ben said.

Chills raged throughout her body. They wanted her. Kari wanted to pinch herself to see if this was all a dream. She closed her eyes and counted to ten. When she opened them, Adam and Ben were still there. In fact, they were shedding their clothes and rolling condoms over their hard cocks.

Her eyes bulged at the sight of two rather large penises. Seeing them up close and personal was different than witnessing them from a distance. She’d known they were impressive when she had spied them in the woods, but now she had to wonder if she could handle them inside her.

She wondered who it would be. What about the one who wasn’t? What would he be doing? She was torn about who she wanted to fuck her. Part of her wanted Adam because he hadn’t found relief in the woods, but the other part of her wanted to taste him. She wanted him to fill her mouth with his penis and allow her to suck him.

Deciding it was best to let things flow naturally, she cleared her mind and waited to see what they had in store. She found herself growing horny again just thinking about being fucked. It amazed her because most of the time she was a one-orgasm woman. Yet Ben and Adam were recharging her body in mere minutes.

Adam knelt beside her legs and hooked his fingers around the trim of her panties. He eased them down, exposing her wetness. She felt vulnerable even though they were undressed too. She hadn’t gotten naked in front of any man in a very long time, and especially not in broad daylight. They knew about her scars, but how would they feel when they saw them? She prayed they wouldn’t insist on her putting her clothes back on.

Maybe she should just leave her tank top on. That way they didn’t have to look at her hideous body. She couldn’t stand the sight of it; why should they?

Adam placed her undies next to her pants. When he tried to lift her tank top, her hand clamped over his.

“Kari?”

Her heart broke looking at his hurt and confused face. “I think it’s best if we leave my shirt on. I can’t subject you to my mangled body.”

“Honey, we told you we want to see every inch of you. Your scars aren’t going to scare us away, if that’s what you’re thinking.”

It was the only thing she could think about. Yes, they were saying all the right things, but they’d yet to actually see the damage the accident had done. One look and they might not be able to hide their reactions.

“Adam’s right, Kari. I knew something had happened when I inquired about your cane. I’m prepared for whatever is hidden under your shirt. We both are.”

“You asked about me?” She bolted upright and placed a hand over her exposed body.

“I was curious. I already told you I was attracted to you. I wanted to know all there was to know about you. Don’t worry; I didn’t ask too much. I didn’t want people to run back to you, but they told me there was some kind of accident. No one knows the whole story.”

She bit back tears. She couldn’t believe he’d been asking around about her. It touched her to know that using the cane hadn’t deterred him.

“I only need it when the weather’s bad. If a storm is coming, my leg throbs like a son of a bitch and it hurts to walk.”

“Understandable,” Ben said.

“See? We know, and we still want to be with you. It’s not what’s under the clothes. It’s what’s in here.” Adam pointed to her heart. “Ben felt you were special, and he’s right.”

Her heart and head played tug-of-war.

“Whatever makes you more comfortable,” Ben said. “If you want to leave it on, then leave it on. We just want to be able to kiss you everywhere.”

“We’ll adjust, though,” Adam added.

“Let’s leave it on for now,” she said. “If I feel more comfortable later, I’ll remove it.”

“Fair enough,” Ben said.

She lay back on the blanket, satisfied with her decision.

It would take encouragement from him and Adam to bring her out of her shell. They could do it; she meant enough to him to try. When they finished cherishing her body, he wanted her to

feel comfortable in her skin. She deserved to get her life back to the way it was before the accident.

“Can I be the one to make your pussy purr?” Ben asked. He didn’t want to push her, but God, he was dying to sink his dick into her.

“Yes, but what about Adam?”

He smiled. It amazed him that she worried. Her concern was touching.

“I will enjoy watching Ben make love to you.”

Ben wanted Adam to sink his dick into him and fuck him while he fucked Kari, but that would wait. He didn’t want to rush things. What if they were rescued soon? He didn’t want this day to end. He wanted to stay here exploring this relationship and all its potential.

Kari interrupted his thoughts. “I could give him pleasure.”

“You could,” Ben said, “*if* that’s what you want.”

“I’d like to. I think it’s only fair he have satisfaction too.”

She was right. Adam did deserve an orgasm. He’d wanted to give Adam relief in the woods, but they were afraid to stay away from the beach for too long.

“If that’s what you want. We want to do whatever you want.”

“I don’t need for you to please me, Kari. I’ll get more than enough watching.”

She shook her head. “I want to give you oral pleasure.”

Her voice rang with determination. Ben wanted to laugh. She was shy and timid one minute and feisty the next. Yes, Kari Kirkland was exactly what they needed in their lives.

Ben lifted his hands in defeat. “It’s your call. You’ll have to turn over and get on your knees though.”

“Whatever it takes to make sure Adam is taken care of,” Kari said. She quickly rolled over and knelt down. She rested on her heels, her back to Ben. “You coming over here, Adam?”

Ben should’ve felt jealous in that moment, but he didn’t. Instead he admired her for sticking to her guns and demanding Adam play a role in their lovemaking. Adam would be thrilled too. It was a win-win situation for everyone.

“You bet.” Adam moved like a flash of lightning. Before Ben had a chance to utter a word, Adam knelt in the sand in front of Kari.

Ben watched as she touched Adam's penis. She wrapped her fingers around him and stroked. Adam closed his eyes; he let out a deep breath. Ben wanted to bury his cock in her immediately. He sought her pussy lips with his fingers. Her juices pooled at her opening, making her ready and wet. He fought the urge to slam into her and ride her hard. He had to take things nice and slow. He didn't want to scare her off.

"That feels good," she told him.

"We're going to follow your lead," Ben said. "Whenever you're ready."

"I'm more than ready." She leaned over and removed Adam's condom. She took the head of his cock into her mouth.

Adam gasped.

Ben sat, awed by the way she moved her mouth up and down Adam's penis. Again his cock throbbed, begging to be nestled inside her. He couldn't wait any longer. He inched closer, holding her hips for support. He edged to her opening and nudged his way in. Kari continued sucking on Adam.

The walls of her channel enveloped him, welcoming with their warmth. She was slick from her orgasms, making it easy for him to maneuver in and out. It felt right to be buried in her pussy. They blended together perfectly.

Fascinated by her sucking on his lover's cock, Ben continued watching. He fell into a steady rhythm, gliding in and out. Adam was lost in ecstasy. His mouth hung open; his eyes were closed tight. His fingers were wrapped in Kari's hair.

Ben pushed away the twinge of yearning. He wanted her mouth on his dick, but there would be many times in the future if they were going to be a trio. She would eventually wrap those luscious lips around his cock too. Shaking the crazy notions from his mind, he removed one hand from her hip and traced his finger down her spine.

She shivered.

Ben smiled as the walls of her pussy convulsed around his cock. He was so close to unleashing his pent-up lust for her. Every muscle in his body strained against the need to ram into her harder and harder, releasing the demons that had haunted him since he'd first laid eyes on Kari.

Unable to stand it any longer, he did just that. Holding on to her hips, he pushed and pumped, filling the condom with his seed. He cried out as his climax drained from him. In what seemed like the distance, he heard Adam grunting and swearing to sweet Jesus.

Kari leaned up so that she was sitting on Ben's thighs. He wrapped his arms around her and hugged her. Sweat mingled, and he felt her breasts heaving up and down with her rapid breathing. Pieces of her rich almond hair clung to his cheek. Adam fell into a heap next to them.

"Did you come?" Ben whispered.

"Yes," she breathed.

Satisfaction filled him. He found serenity in knowing she had come too.

Slowly she lifted herself off him and rested next to Adam. She placed a hand on his hip. "You tasted delightful."

"I don't know what to say." Adam touched her cheek, and Ben's heart filled. This was what he'd wanted. They were getting close. Maybe, if he was lucky, they'd be a family in the future.

Adam continued gazing into Kari's beautiful green eyes. He couldn't get over how this beauty had come into their lives and captured his heart so quickly. He hadn't believed Ben when he'd said there was something about her, but now that he'd gotten to know her, he understood.

Adam wasn't the sharing type, one of the reasons he was with Ben. Ben believed in monogamous relationships. He hadn't taken a handful of lovers. Adam wanted security and love. Ben provided both for him.

For months Ben had tried convincing Adam that some girl at work named Kari was exactly what they were looking for. She was quiet, sweet, hardworking, and beautiful. Ben had cautioned him that Kari hid behind her clothing. He'd warned they'd have to go slow with her.

Adam knew that when Ben was pounding into him, deep in the woods, his thoughts were with Kari. Under normal circumstances, he'd be pissed, but today he understood, because he couldn't shake Kari from his thoughts either.

Now that they were here and alone, exploring each other's bodies, he knew Ben had been right all along. Kari was meant for them.

“How do you feel?” Adam asked her.

Her smile widened. “Alive. For the first time in a very long time, I feel alive.”

“Good. We want you to be happy.”

Ben sidled up next to her. “Adam’s right. Your happiness is important.”

“Thank you.”

Adam noticed the lust in her eyes when she looked at Ben. She’d been in love with him for some time now. Joy washed over him because she had looked at him the same way moments before.

“Are you hungry?” Adam asked.

“I’m starved.”

“Adam knows his way around a campfire, so he’ll get us started and we’ll cook some hot dogs for you.”

“Sounds perfect.”

Adam wasn’t in a big hurry to get up and gather wood. He was enjoying resting after the amazing blowjob she’d given him. There hadn’t been a woman who could do that for him. Ben, yes, but never a woman. He could grow used to her.

He watched as Ben left to dispose of the condom in a bag they’d brought. He longed to be buried in his lover’s ass, but that would have to wait. First on the list was food for Kari. She needed to keep her strength up if they were going to continue having fun.

Climbing off the blanket, he tossed on his boxers and shorts before he announced he was getting firewood. “Anyone want to come along?”

“I’ll go,” Kari offered.

Adam watched as she quickly threw on her clothes.

“I’ll stay here in case a boat happens by.”

Reality crept back in. Adam had forgotten they were stranded. They could easily sleep on the boat tonight and keep warm cuddled together. They’d have the fire, and there was enough food for tomorrow if they needed it. Hopefully by then someone would come to their rescue. As much as he loved spending time with Kari, they had to get back to the real world eventually.

Kari picked up twigs while Adam grabbed the heavier stuff.

“So, are you sorry you missed the boss’s picnic?”

“No.” She laughed. “I tried to come up with a good excuse to blow it off but couldn’t think of anything. I’m sure he’s pissed that Ben and I aren’t there.”

“He’ll understand once he finds out why. He can’t remain mad forever.”

“That’s just it; he will. He’ll give us hell on Monday.”

“He can’t fire you for not coming to a company picnic on a weekend.”

“I know that and you know that, but Mr. Carlton doesn’t care. He’ll find a reason.”

“Then you’ll both sue. Ben and I have a friend who’s an attorney. He’ll represent you.”

“Thanks. I’m not sure I want to do something drastic. I probably should’ve waited for one of Mr. Carlton’s boats instead of hitching a ride with you guys.”

Adam stopped searching and walked over to her. “Do you regret what happened today?”

“Oh no, not at all. I mean. This was wonderful. I wouldn’t change what took place.”

“Oh, thank God. We both had a great time. I know we don’t want it to end. Don’t get me wrong; we have to go back to the real world, but we’d like to see you outside of here.”

When she touched his arm, heat radiated under his skin. She had a hold on him, and he had to figure out why.

“I’d like that too. I’ve secretly crushed on Ben for a long time.”

While Adam had realized that himself, her confession floored him. “Why haven’t you acted on it?”

“Look at me. I’m not what you’d call Ben’s type. At least that’s what I thought before I found out about you two.”

“Why do you think you weren’t his type? Because of your scars and the cane? Do you really think he’s that shallow?”

“No. I-I...okay, I guess I did. I didn’t believe *any* guy would want me, especially someone as sexy as Ben. He could have his pick of women or men. Why would he want a blob like me?”

“Because he’s loving and caring. He has a big heart and sees beyond scars and appearances. He sees into your soul.” Adam was talking more about himself than he was Kari. When he’d met Ben, he was a lost soul. He was just putting his life back together after being strung out on drugs from doing the party scene. He had hidden behind the drugs to mask his pain

of being rejected by his family. They hadn't wanted to hear a word about his sexual orientation. If he didn't like girls, he wasn't welcome in their home. So at the tender age of sixteen, he had hit the streets. He'd got hooked up with the wrong people, and life went downhill from there.

A near-death experience was his wake-up call. He had stumbled into a recovery center and begged to be treated. He had been barely twenty-one at the time. It was the most awful experience of his life, but he'd had to detox. He'd known it was worth it. He'd been clean for over five years and never looked back.

Ben had accepted and loved him for who he was. Adam would love him for as long as he lived.

"I know that now," Kari said. "I just assumed." She hung her head.

"Don't be ashamed." He lifted her chin with his finger. "It's water under the bridge. We're here and we're together."

She nodded; a single tear slid down her cheek. Adam dumped the wood he'd been holding in his hand and gathered her in his arms. "Shhh, it's okay."

Her single tear turned into sobs. Adam rocked her back and forth and let her cry. He'd wait until she was ready to tell him why she was crying.

They stayed in the embrace for several minutes. Kari continued crying. She repeatedly said she was sorry.

Finally when she pulled out of his arms and wiped her tears, he asked, "Sorry for what?"

"For being foolish. I never dreamed I could have one guy, let alone two."

He took her face and crushed his lips against hers. She tasted of salty tears. He kissed her with all the passion he had inside, showing her she deserved them and much more. Her arms snaked around his neck, and she rubbed her body against his. He wanted to drag her down to the ground and have his way with her, but he didn't have a condom on him. His cock sprang to life as it pressed against her.

He hadn't expected to grow hard so quickly after Kari had worked her magic, but he now sported a painful erection. He released her lips and held her at arm's length.

"We have to stop. I want you, but I don't have any condoms."

She looked down at his hard-on. "I could suck away your problems."

She wore a wicked grin that had him contemplating her offer.

“We can’t. Let’s finish collecting the wood and return to the beach. Ben’s probably wondering where we are by now.”

“Fine.”

Adam detected a hint of frustration. What Kari didn’t realize was he was just as frustrated, if not more. He wanted to fuck her. He needed to know what it felt like having his cock planted inside her tender folds. He knew before the day was over, he’d experience those pleasures just as Ben had.

Chapter Four

Ben paced the beach waiting for them to return. He considered searching but thought better of it. If someone drove by in a boat, he wanted to flag them down. He prayed they weren't lost. That was all he needed on top of running out of gas.

He'd have a lot of explaining to do when he returned to work on Monday. Mr. Carlton would demand to know why they hadn't taken one of the boats he'd offered.

Still, the wrath of his boss would be worth it all if they wound up a happy family in the end. Kari would be theirs, and maybe, just maybe, she'd want to make their family complete by marrying one of them. Deep down, Ben knew it was a lot to ask, but his instincts were correct with her. She was meant to be with them and only them.

When the duo stumbled out of the brush, Ben had never felt so relieved. "I thought you guys got lost."

"No, just a little distracted," Adam said.

Ben noticed the stiff dick Adam sported and couldn't help but wonder what they had been doing hidden in the trees. Obviously not sex if Adam still had a hard-on.

"I kinda had a meltdown," Kari said. "Adam was kind enough to talk me off the ledge."

Ben let out a breath he hadn't realized he was holding. His initial instinct was to scoop her in his arms and promise her everything would be okay, but it seemed Adam had taken care of that already.

"Are you okay?" He moved closer, removing the branches from her arms.

"I am now, thanks."

"I'm glad Adam was able to help." He threw Adam a look that said, *what the hell*. Adam shrugged and dropped his logs on the sand.

They'd talk about it later, when they were alone. Right now Ben was glad they were safe.

Adam had the fire up and going in no time at all. They roasted the hot dogs over the open flame. Ben suddenly wanted more of Kari. He wanted to slide his cock between her boobs and fuck them until his seed covered her. He also wanted Adam to fuck her. His massive erection wouldn't go away without some sort of sex. Besides, Adam deserved to experiment with Kari.

He was just about to broach the subject when a motor sounded in the distance.

"Do you hear that?" he asked.

"I do!" Adam jumped to his feet and gathered his shorts. Ben watched as he ran along the beach in search of the sound.

Ben followed suit, as did Kari.

"Do you think we'll be saved?" she asked, coming up behind Ben.

"I knew we would. I just wasn't sure when."

Sure enough, in the distance, a boat hummed across the water.

Adam jumped up and down, waving his arms frantically. "Help! Help! Over here."

Ben did the same thing; it wasn't long before Kari joined them. They must have looked like three lunatics bouncing up and down on the shore, but the occupants of the boat noticed them and headed in their direction.

Within a few minutes, the boat pulled close to the shore. "Everything all right over here?" the driver asked.

"We ran out of gas. Any possible way you could get us to a dock where I can fill up my canister?"

"Sure thing. Climb aboard."

"Shouldn't one of us stay with the boat?" Kari asked.

Ben hadn't considered this, but she was right. Someone had to stay behind, and he wasn't about to leave Kari all alone on the island.

"You two stay, and I'll go with him. I'll come back once I get the gas."

"Are you sure? I could go and you could stay," Adam offered.

"No, I'll go. You stay with Kari."

Adam and Kari exchanged knowing looks.

“We’ll be waiting.”

Kari watched as the boat pulled away, taking Ben and the empty gas container with it. She prayed they wouldn’t be long. The sun was high in the sky and beating its hot rays down, scorching her body. She fanned herself to try and cool her skin.

“Let’s swim,” Adam suggested.

“Yeah right.” She’d sooner die than go in the water.

“Okay, so we don’t swim. We can sit in the shallow water and cool off. It’s better than baking in the sun.”

He had a point. Wading wouldn’t hurt. She needed to cool off, and it seemed the only way to do it.

“I’ll keep you safe. I promise.”

When he held out his hand, she accepted it. She trusted him to keep her out of harm’s way. Together they walked into the water that lapped around her feet, immediately bringing her temperature down.

“I’m good.” She attempted to pull out of his grip and go back on shore.

“Not so fast. You’ve only gotten your ankles wet.”

“So?” She was satisfied with that. No need to go any deeper.

“You went to the boat alone and came back to the shore. We can go farther. You’ll be safe.”

“Fine,” she relented. “We’ll go deeper. First I need to get out of these pants.” She released his hand and removed her pants. Adam removed his shorts and boxers too.

He offered his hand once again and she accepted.

Relaxing her arm, she let him guide her into the water. They went until they were waist-deep. Adam stopped.

“This will be far enough.”

Thank God. She’d reached her limit.

Adam pulled her closer and wrapped his arms around her.

“I wouldn’t let anything happen to you. I feel a connection. A bond. I want to discover all there is to know about you, Kari.”

Kari rested her head on his chest. The sound of *thump, thump* lulled her into a cocoon of safety. What did they want from her? Would they want to see her when they got off this island? Would it all be a distant memory?

She took a step back. “Can I ask you a question?”

His eyes radiated with excitement. “Anything.”

“This whole day—it wasn’t a setup, was it?”

He laughed. “No. Ben isn’t that good. He did want us to get to know you better, but getting lost in the process wasn’t in the plan.”

“Outside of all this, what do you guys want from me?” She couldn’t imagine them wanting her for more than sex. She still had a hard time accepting they wanted to have sex with her deformed body. Though they really hadn’t seen it yet.

He diverted his gaze.

Shit! They don’t want more than sex from me.

She tried to mask the pain that riddled her body. She was developing feelings for them. She wasn’t sure why or how, but they were affecting her in ways she’d never dreamed imaginable. Learning they only wanted sex felt like a slap in the face.

“No need to answer. I get it.” She turned to leave. She wanted to be alone to digest the enormity of what had taken place and why.

“Wait!”

The urgency in his voice caused her to freeze.

“It’s not what you’re thinking. I’m not supposed to talk to you about it alone. It was something Ben and I wanted to discuss with you *after* we got to know you better.”

Now she was confused.

“Look, if you’re thinking we only want you to experiment with a woman, you’re wrong. We want so much more from you.”

“Like?”

He was talking; maybe she could get him to open up and explain all this to her.

He rubbed his face with his hands and raked his fingers through his hair a few times. "Damn it! Ben should've never left me alone with you."

"Why?"

"Because I don't know how to be anything but honest."

Adam might as well have stuck his hands in her chest and squeezed her heart like a vise because that's the kind of pain she felt. His words were the confession she hadn't wanted to hear. This was strictly sex.

"That's nice to know." She walked to the shore. "No need to say another word. I don't want you to get in trouble with Ben. I get it."

He wrapped his hands around her waist and pulled her against him. His hard cock poked into her back. "No, you don't get it. Ben has unexplained feelings for you. I thought he was crazy until I met you. Now I understand. You have this power over men. I know you don't see it or realize it, but you do."

She held her breath. He was crazy. She didn't have any holds on men. Men looked the other way when they saw her. They didn't find her attractive. And what was all this nonsense about Ben having feelings?

"Don't start lying now, Adam."

He moved in front of her. "Look at me. Look me in the eyes and tell me I'm lying."

She searched his face for a sign, a tiny hint. Nothing. He appeared as sincere as a three-year-old. Damn. Now what?

He took her face in his hands and kissed her tenderly. She fell into the kiss. Hugging his waist, she whimpered when his erection ground against her.

"Take me," she whispered. She wasn't sure if it was the right thing to say or do, but she didn't care. Her only thoughts were of having Adam's cock inside her.

Silently they returned to the blanket. Adam guided her down. He reached for the string of condoms. Kari watched as he tore one off. He pulled her panties off, but left her sweater and tank. She was torn whether or not she wanted to leave them on. If they had feelings for her, they should see her scars. That way they still had time to leave without her getting too hurt.

Oh, who was she trying to fool? If they were to leave her, she'd be hurt and rejected. No, now wasn't the time to show them her body.

After he opened the foil wrapper, Kari sat up and held out a hand for the condom. "Can I?"

"Sure."

Adam handed it over, and Kari rolled it down the length of him. His purple head twitched as her fingers touched it. Her body pebbled with goose pimples. She'd never sheathed anyone before. It was erotic.

Once she finished, she lay back down. Adam nudged her legs apart with his knee. He towered over her, blocking the sun from her face. "You're beautiful, Kari."

She blushed. Being complimented wasn't something she was used to, but these two did it frequently. She reached down and took his penis in her hand. She guided him to her opening. When the tip of his head touched her door, she removed her hand. With one gentle push, he was over the threshold.

She gasped. He pushed a little deeper. "You're so fucking wet. My dick is slick with your juices."

She'd never been so aroused. Her body felt on fire every time they touched her. She couldn't explain it, and she didn't want to. Her only desires were to come again and again and again.

Adam bent and covered her nipple with his mouth. Even through the fabric, searing jolts of electricity shot down her stomach to her core. Her body was alive. It craved more of Adam. She wrapped her legs around his waist, pulling him in deeper. He pushed until he filled her completely. Her channel enveloped him, accepting his fullness.

"Harder!" she cried.

Adam rammed into her. She matched his tempo with her own. Over and over he continued slamming into her. She couldn't get enough. She wanted it faster and harder.

Grabbing on to his ass, she rocked her hips and tightened her legs around him. He understood what she needed. With every ounce of strength, he pumped.

The orgasm stirred in her stomach and worked its way down to her nub. The walls of her pussy pulsed against his cock. As she burst into a climax, her muscles squeezed him, milking him for all he had.

Adam howled as his seed emptied into the waiting condom. Having sex with Kari was just as sweet as fucking Ben. He was screwed—literally. Kari had a hold on him, and he too was falling for her.

He collapsed next to her and gathered her in his arms. He kissed her cheek. “You are so amazing. Next time, Ben will be with us and we will take off that shirt of yours.”

She stiffened in his arms. He ignored it and continued placing tiny kisses on her cheeks and hair.

“It will be fine. You have nothing to worry about.”

It would take a lot of convincing to get her to remove all her clothing, but he also knew he was determined. *They* were determined. They wanted to cherish every inch of her body, and that meant removing all her clothes.

“I haven’t taken off my clothes for any man since the accident.”

Adam didn’t speak. If she was willing to talk, he’d let her. While he listened, he caressed her arm and his kisses feathered her hair.

“I want to. Take them off. If I was going to do it for anyone, it would be you and Ben, but I’m not joking when I say it will make you sick. I want to hurl every time I look at myself in the mirror. Which isn’t too often. I can’t stand the sight of my body.”

It pained him to hear her talk like that.

“You never told me what it was you guys want from me once we leave here.”

It was Adam’s turn to stiffen. What could he say? Ben would be pissed at him for telling her, but he had no other choice. She’d asked him straight-out. Not once but twice.

Fuck it; he had nothing to lose at this point. If Ben got mad, so what? He’d get over it. Adam didn’t want Kari thinking they were using her for sex or something stupid like that. He wanted her to understand they wanted more. A whole lot more.

He eased her face toward his and looked her deep in the eyes. “We want you to be part of a family with us. We hoped that some day we might even have a child or two.”

Chapter Five

Holy shit! Holy shit! Holy shit! Kari couldn't breathe. She felt like she was hyperventilating. Had he just said they wanted to have kids with her? That couldn't be. She wasn't going to have children. Having children meant committing to someone. In this case, it meant committing to two someones.

"Are you fucking joking?" The words spewed from her mouth. She quickly sat up and pulled her clothes back on. She rushed away from him as if he were plagued.

"Please, Kari, come back and sit with me. Talk to me about this."

"I will not discuss this. You can't be serious. You guys want to be a family, like husband and wife—kids included?"

Bile rose to her throat. Kari thought she would be sick. She was better off thinking they only wanted her for sex. It was much safer that way.

Kari knew firsthand about loving and losing. She would not get into a full-blown relationship with them. She refused to consider being married to one of them and giving either of them children. It was preposterous.

"Why are you so against being a family with us? Is it because we're bisexual?"

"It has nothing to do with your sexuality."

"Then is it because of the accident?"

"I'm not discussing this with you. Now or ever."

In the distance, she heard the light *hum* of a motor. Using her hand to shield the sun from her eyes, she peered out across the water, looking for any signs of a boat. Sure enough, she saw the boat that had taken Ben away. "They're returning," she said matter-of-factly.

Adam was dressed and by her side. "Please don't bring this up with Ben. Let me explain to him that I told you. He'll be upset when he realizes I had this conversation without him."

Kari looked at Adam and saw nothing but sadness. “I won’t say anything.” Besides, exactly what could she say? *Oh by the way, Adam told me all about your crazy plan and you can forget about it. I’m not interested?* No, it might be best to keep her mouth shut.

“He will bring it up at some point. He’s very serious about it.”

“I’ll deal with it when the time comes.”

Her stomach flip-flopped as she pushed away her fear. She didn’t want to discuss this with Ben. Having the conversation once with Adam was enough.

The buzzing of the boat grew louder as it charged closer.

It pulled in next to Ben’s boat. He jumped out and climbed into his with the gas container. The occupants of the boat waited while he put the gas in and started the engine. When it roared to life, Ben thanked them for their help, and they left.

“Remember, not a word, please,” Adam whispered in her ear while Ben was still aboard the boat.

“I’m not stupid.” She knew she sounded irritated. She wouldn’t discuss a topic she had no interest in.

“My intentions aren’t to insult you, Kari. I’m...” He turned away.

She placed her hand on his arm. “I won’t say a word.” He hadn’t called her dumb; she had lashed out because of her frustrations. “I promise.”

Some color returned to his face.

“Hey, you two, what were you up to while I was gone?”

Oh if you only knew. “Not much.”

“We were getting to know each other better.”

Ben looked pointedly at them. “How much better?”

“We were physical, if that’s what you’re asking.” Kari couldn’t believe her boldness. She’d never spoken so freely about sex before, but the circumstances were different now. Much different. The situation called for directness.

Ben walked over and kissed her on the cheek. “I’m thrilled. I had hoped you’d take advantage of your time alone.”

Why, so we could make babies? she wanted to yell. Instead she followed him back to the blanket, where he made himself comfortable.

“Shouldn’t we be headed out now?”

They had gas. What were they waiting for? Kari wanted to hightail it off the island and back to the safety of her apartment. Pepper would be waiting; he’d listen intently as she poured her heart out to him.

Her head spun in a million different directions. She felt something for Ben and Adam, but she didn’t want to admit it. The whole baby thing threw her for a loop. She’d never considered kids. Hell, since Walter’s death, she’d stopped considering relationships. Love, family, and relationships only ended in heartbreak. Kari knew better than anyone the hurt divorce caused. Her parents had separated months shy of her twelfth birthday. If her mother hadn’t moved her to a new school, things might have been tolerable. Instead she’d moved them three cities away. The torture of being the new kid was unbearable. She was laughed at and ridiculed. She hadn’t made friends until the following year. Kari had sworn she’d never do that to a child. And the accident only proved there was no such thing as happily ever after.

She needed to get as far away from Ben and Adam as possible. They were breaking all her rules.

“You don’t want to stay and enjoy our time out here? It’s beautiful.” Ben swept his hand toward the view.

“Don’t get me wrong; it’s gorgeous. I just think it’s time we headed back.”

Ben looked to Adam. Adam shrugged.

“He didn’t do anything wrong, if that’s what you’re worried about,” she blurted. Why hadn’t she just confessed after that?

“What is going on? What did I miss? When I left, everything was hunky-dory. I returned, and you both look like you’re in a nightmare.”

He spoke to Adam more than her. She waited to see what he’d say. He closed his eyes and shook his head.

“You didn’t.” Ben slapped the sand. “Oh Adam, why couldn’t you just wait?”

Kari's eyes were riveted between the two men. They obviously knew each other well. Ben had seen right through his facade.

Suddenly Kari felt the urge to protect Adam. Not that Ben was going to hurt him or anything, but Adam appeared sullen. He hadn't wanted to let Ben down. "It's not his fault. I pestered him to tell me what you wanted from me. I badgered him until he did. He didn't want to."

"I appreciate your honesty. You're much like Adam, who can't keep a secret to save his life."

His blue eyes softened around the edges and he added, "It's what I love the most about him."

Kari wanted to gather them both in her arms and never let go. They loved each other deeply.

"Will you sit and talk with us. Both of us?" Ben asked.

"I've heard all I wanted to hear. I'm not interested."

"Is it really that cut-and-dried for you, Kari?" Ben's face turned sad. "I'm not trying to pressure you into anything you don't want. I just want a chance to discuss it. If you go home and think about it and decide it's not for you, we'll accept your decision. I'd just like you to hear us out."

She could listen and see what else he could possibly say. Probably not much that would make a difference, but if it made him happy, she would listen. They'd given her the most amazing day of her life. She felt alive after so many years of lying dormant. As much as she wanted to run back to her place, she also wanted to spend more time with them.

"Kari, please. This is important to Ben and me."

How could she resist two men pleading with her?

"Fine. I'll listen, but just so we're clear. I'm not really interested in babies." The idea of being a mother scared the shit out of her.

She sat on the blanket and waited for Ben to speak. He drew circles in the sand and chewed his lower lip. He seemed uncertain about talking now that the moment of truth had arrived.

“Ben, I’m here with an open mind. Say what you need to say.” She touched his arm, and electricity zapped from his skin into hers. She immediately became aroused. This couldn’t be happening. He had a power over her body she couldn’t explain. Resisting the urge to act on her desires, she added the word *please* to her request.

He stopped drawing circles and took a deep breath. “This isn’t easy for me.”

Adam moved behind Ben and wrapped his arms around him protectively. “It’s okay, Ben. She understands. Just tell her everything.”

That sounded ominous. Now she really wanted to know.

He stared down at the blanket as he began to talk. “When I was a little boy, my father left my mother. One day he announced he wasn’t cut out for the whole family thing and that he had never wanted children or a wife.”

She gasped. “He told you this?” She couldn’t believe someone could be that cruel to their child.

“He sure did. He told us during dinner. I remember feeling like the food I’d eaten would come back up.”

“Oh Ben, I’m so sorry.” She rested her hand on his knee.

“He moved a few miles away. He acted like we had never existed in his life. He never called, didn’t stop by. He never acknowledged my birthdays or holidays. My mother pretended she was fine, but I saw through her bravado. She loved my father with all her heart. She stayed single until I left for college. Once I moved out, she started dating. She’s in a better place now, and we heard my father died a few years ago.”

Her heart broke for him. How awful to be rejected by your parent. “You never saw him after that night.”

“Nope. He was gone. He had no intention of ever returning.”

Kari inched closer and pulled him into a hug. She shed tears for the little boy who was crushed by the man he’d called dad. She felt him sobbing softly in her embrace. Adam had moved his hands to her waist. He was hugging both of them.

When Ben’s tears subsided, she pulled back and placed a small kiss on his lips. “It’s totally unfair for a child to be dealt such a blow.”

“That’s why children are so important to me. To us. I want a family. A real family with parents who adore their children.”

“I’ll think about it.” Kari couldn’t believe the words flowed from her mouth.

Ben felt like a shithead. He hadn’t wanted to guilt her into considering their idea. Adam had prompted him to be honest, and he had. Now he wished he hadn’t. Opening old wounds felt like ripping a bandage off your skin after a few days. It hurt like a son of a bitch.

“I’m sorry for telling you this. I know you said you didn’t want children. The last thing you needed was my sob story.”

Ben pushed out of their embrace. He attempted to stand, but neither would allow him to.

“You’re not running away,” Adam said. “I won’t let you go hide in the woods. I know better than anyone how painful it is for you to tell that story. Kari isn’t agreeing because she feels sorry for you. She’s agreeing because she’s a warm, caring person.”

Adam was right. Ben had known that about her from the moment he set eyes on her. She had a soft, loving quality that drew him to her.

“Please, if you really are considering it, do it because it’s what you want, not because of what I said.”

“I won’t do anything out of guilt.”

“I love you.” Adam pulled Ben back and kissed his neck. “I love you so much.”

Ben fell back into the safety of Adam’s arms. “I love you too, Adam.”

“When I was little, I didn’t dream about growing up and being in love with a man,” Adam said. “I thought I’d find a wife and have a family. We could have a child, just not in the conventional way.”

“Conventional is overrated,” Kari said.

They all shared a laugh, easing the tension that had grown.

“I understand where both of you are coming from. You both know my past and my issues. Let’s just take this one day at a time and see where it brings us. I’m not saying I’m on board with your baby or family plans, but I’m not saying no either.”

It was all Ben could ask for.

“We have the gas. Do you think we should try to make it to Carlton Island?” Ben asked, changing the subject. He didn’t want to go to the company picnic after everything they’d been through that day, but it was the least he could do for getting them stranded. And if they did show up, maybe it would soften the anger Mr. Carlton was surely feeling.

“Maybe we should try. Not that I’m up for his party, but he did say it was mandatory.”

“What if we get lost again?” Adam asked.

“Don’t even say that,” Kari said.

“We’ll give it a shot. If we find it, great; if not, oh well. Nothing we can do.” Ben stood up and dusted sand off himself.

“We should put the fire out,” Kari suggested.

“Definitely.”

“Here, we’ll use this.” Adam carried the cooler over to the fire and dumped the ice and water on it. Within minutes, the small flames were reduced to smoldering wood.

Together they covered it with sand to guarantee it wouldn’t rekindle. They settled into the boat in an eerie silence, each lost in their own thoughts.

Chapter Six

“I’m so glad you made it.” Mr. Carlton slapped Ben’s hand and pulled him into a bear hug.

Kari winced. She prayed he wouldn’t hug her. The smell of sex lingered on her body. The last thing she needed was her boss smelling that all over her.

“Sorry, we kinda got lost,” Ben confessed.

After the confession Ben had made earlier, Kari looked at him in a different light. She hadn’t been sure how she’d react to them and being in a relationship. Now she found herself considering giving them a baby. A longing deep inside wanted to give him something he’d missed out on all his life. But having a child meant trusting them with her heart and her scars. Something Kari wasn’t prepared to do.

They mingled for an hour, Adam and Ben going their way and she hers. Kari found herself seeking Ben out. No matter who she spoke with, her gaze returned to him. Everyone at the party would think he was happy-go-lucky, but Kari had seen into his soul. He was a master at hiding things—much like her. She could pretend to be the happiest person in the world, but on the inside there was still a lot of pain.

“Do you wanna blow this party?” Adam had worked his way over to her. He told her he’d grown tired of mingling with Ben. “I hate these work functions.”

“I do too. I’m beat. It’s been quite the day.”

“That’s an understatement. Listen”—he took her hand and looked pointedly at her—“don’t make any decisions in haste. I want you to really think about it, but don’t make a decision based on guilt. Ben is a strong person. Yes, he’s been hurt, but if this isn’t for you, we’ll get through it together.”

Biting her lower lip, she fought back the tears that threatened. She’d cried enough today, more than she had in a very long time. She would not cry in front of her boss or coworkers.

“I won’t, Adam. Believe me, I want to scream, ‘I’ll do it, I’ll do it.’ But I know it’s the wrong way to go about this. I need time.” Getting involved with a bisexual couple, possibly marrying one of them and carrying a child, was not something one decided in a few hours.

Ben joined them shortly after. “I’m ready if you are. We’ve made our appearances.”

More than anything, Kari wanted to run for the boat. Her clothes were disheveled, and her hair had to be the same. Did people know she had been off having glorious sex with Ben and Adam? No one seemed to be paying special attention. That was a plus.

“I’m ready to be home in my bed.” *With Pepper cuddled at my head.* Pepper would bring her peace. “Besides, I have a lot to think about, right?”

Adam winced. “We should say our good-byes to Mr. Carlton.”

She shook her head. “It’s better if we sneak out when he’s not around. This way he won’t know how long we stayed.”

“She’s right, Ben. Let him believe you were here longer than you were. He might not take too kindly to you leaving after an hour.”

“Okay, okay. You guys win. We’ll slowly make our way to the dock.”

Looking like three conspirators, they nonchalantly made their way to the boat, boarded, and drove off into the expansive waters. Kari settled in her position at the back of the boat. Adam didn’t sit with her and offer her words of advice. This time he sat next to Ben. They exchanged a few smiles, and Adam blew him a kiss.

They really were very happy together. Her mind began to contemplate all they offered. They were asking her to join their happiness and become a family. They wanted to take her into their fold and love her. Most people would jump at the chance to be involved in that way, but Kari wasn’t most people. She knew what happened when people got too happy—it was ripped away.

* * *

A week later, Kari lay in bed petting Pepper’s soft fur. He purred his contentment, then rolled over, looking for her to rub his belly. When she ignored his pleas, he reached out a paw and ever so slightly put his claws on her. He wouldn’t hurt her, but he made it known she wasn’t following his process. He demanded a belly rub.

Kari gave in to him, and he returned to purring.

Her mood all week had been as foul as the weather. The rain and dreariness brought pain and stiffness to her leg. She'd used the cane more times than she liked to this week. Today was the first sunny day. She prayed the pain would ease.

Her mind wandered to the past week. Ben and Adam had left her at her car when they returned to the dock. Both had kissed her on the cheek. They'd invited her to spend the night at their house, but she'd declined. The whole day had been overwhelming. She'd needed space and time to digest all that had occurred.

At work, she'd avoided Ben.

They stopped calling after two days. At first Kari feared they'd given up, but when Ben tried to corner her at work, she knew better. He wasn't looking for an answer, but he'd wanted her to come to their place for a cookout and "*whatever happens after that*," as he'd put it.

"I don't know what to do, Pepper." Her body ached to be touched by them. She craved their mouths and hands on her. She wanted to be filled with their fullness.

Bored, Pepper rolled over and sauntered off. Obviously Kari wasn't living up to his expectations. She glanced at the alarm clock on the nightstand. It was nearly noon. Ben had told her they'd be cooking around two. He told her she didn't need to bring anything but her bathing suit and an overnight bag—if she wanted to spend the night. In a follow-up e-mail, he'd informed her they had a spare bedroom where she could sleep if she didn't feel comfortable sharing a bed with them, but that they'd love to have her nestled between them.

Her libido soared into overdrive thinking about his words. She had come home and used her vibrator to ease the ache. It hadn't worked. Having Adam and Ben made her trusty pink friend seem, well...lifeless.

The rotating beads left her empty, where two weeks ago she'd been breathless. It couldn't hold her in its arms. It didn't cover her neck, face, and lips with kisses. In the end, she'd realized she wanted to go today. She missed them and wanted to spend time with them.

The only problem was she hadn't come to a decision. If they were asking her to be a surrogate, it might make the decision easier. She could carry their child and hand it over to them to love and cherish, because she knew they would. Hmmm, maybe that was the approach she should use. This way she kept her heart safe from hurt.

That wasn't what they were asking though. They wanted the whole package: mother, father, father, and child. While it wasn't conventional, it was appealing. She wondered who she'd marry if she decided to go along with them. Would it be Adam or Ben? And who would father their child?

Kari shook her head, erasing the thoughts. She placed a hand on her stomach. Pulling up the thin fabric of her nightie, she peered down at the scars. The thick pink lines stood out like a sore thumb. They screamed *look at me*. Her ass felt as wide as a Mack truck. Her body was mangled. She couldn't image stretching it for a baby. No, the bottom line was she couldn't accept their offer. They could never see these scars.

She reached for the phone next to the alarm clock. The piece of paper she'd left there all week had their phone number written on it, just in case she wanted to call. She picked it up and pressed the Talk button. She started to dial the number and pressed the End button. This wasn't a conversation for over the phone. It deserved a face-to-face. She owed them that much.

Tossing the phone and paper down, she knew what she had to do. She climbed out of bed and stumbled into the bathroom to run water for the shower. She didn't rush to get ready. Breaking their hearts wouldn't be easy, but it was for the best for everyone concerned.

* * *

The driving directions brought her to their house with ease. In some ways, she wished it had gotten her lost so that she had an excuse for not showing up. Fate had other ideas. She had to face them and tell them, thanks but no thanks.

Standing on their front porch, she admired the floral wreath hanging on the door. They had potted plants on both sides of the door, and their lawn was meticulous. When she'd driven up, she had been surprised at the enormity of the place. It was a large brick Victorian home. Sitting on a corner lot, it had a horseshoe driveway. Large arborvitae stood like sentinels lining either side of the outer limits of the house, guarding their home from the neighbors.

They were right on the bay. She could only imagine the view they had from the back of their house.

Taking a deep breath, she rang the bell. A full minute went by, and no one appeared. She thought about ringing it one more time and then decided to just leave. They weren't home, or maybe they'd changed their minds. Kari let out a breath of relief. She was off the hook. She

walked off the stoop and headed to her car. She'd opened the door and was ready to climb in when Adam came to the door.

"Hey, where are you going?"

Shit! They were home.

"I didn't think you were here."

"Our cars are in the garage." He pointed to the garage off the left side of the home. She hadn't looked to see if their cars were here. Her nerves were on edge. She couldn't think straight.

"We'd hoped you show."

Would they feel the same once she told them her decision? Highly unlikely. It didn't matter. She needed to get this over with and return to her quiet, boring life—one that didn't include men.

Walking with a slight limp, she made her way back to the door. Adam pulled her into a tight hug. "I've missed you."

Her heart swelled. She hadn't realized just how much she'd missed him until that moment.

"Thanks," she said. Longing for him made the decision that much more difficult. She wanted to give them everything they'd always wanted, but she wouldn't. Unless they agreed to the surrogacy idea.

"Come in," he said, releasing her. "Ben's out on the deck."

She followed him through the hallway. The living room was very contemporary—a few leather couches, a leather recliner. Everything was decorated in dark browns with black accent pieces.

They entered the kitchen, and Kari immediately fell in love. The granite countertops were stunning. The maple cabinets were plenty. She was jealous of the island with bar stools surrounding it. An image of her cooking in this kitchen filled her mind. How much fun she'd have baking cookies or cakes in one of the double ovens. She easily saw herself cooking Thanksgiving dinner.

Pain tore through her heart. She had to forget these crazy thoughts.

When they walked out of the French doors and onto the deck, she was in awe yet again. The wraparound deck was large enough to fit twenty people comfortably. They had an hourglass

shaped pool, but it was the view that held her attention. The deck overlooked the bay. Miles and miles of water. Boats sailed past; it was all so peaceful. This was one view she'd never grow tired of.

"Kari! I'm so glad you made it." Ben jumped out of his chair and rushed over. He quickly wrapped his arms around her. "How are you?"

"I'm good." She patted his back, hoping he'd let go quickly.

When he kissed her cheek, she wanted to move her lips and capture his. She longed for the tenderness of his kiss.

"Come, sit. Did you bring your bathing suit?"

She shook her head. She didn't plan on sticking around. She would give them the news and hurry out of there. "Sorry," she offered.

"No worries. We can figure something out if you want to take a dip." Ben smiled. His carefree outlook tugged at her heartstrings. He seemed content having her there.

To the right, Adam was beaming. They were both so joyful with her presence. Maybe it was a mistake coming here to tell them. Maybe she should've just told them over the phone. It would've been easier than to face the looks she was bound to get.

Kari took a seat on the cushioned chair facing the water. How spectacular it must be in the morning, sitting here with a cup of freshly brewed coffee. Or Sunday breakfast out at the glass-top table.

She longed for this life. She wanted to be there, with them. Her heart screamed for her to throw caution to the wind and agree to anything they wanted, but her head warned her not to. It was a battle of wills. In the end, her head would win. She had to think smart. There was a reason she didn't get involved. She didn't want her heart broken.

"You have a lovely home," she said, breaking the silence. "The view is incredible."

"We fell in love the moment we stepped foot in the door. It was like the house was made for us," Adam said.

Funny, she'd felt drawn to it when she walked in also. Like it was calling her name, willing her to make herself at home here. "I could sit here all day long," she said.

"Some days we do." Ben pulled his chair closer to hers. "It's so relaxing."

Serene.

“Did Adam give you a tour?”

“No. I did get a quick look at the living room and kitchen. It’s a cook’s dream in there.”

“That would be my doing,” Adam said. “I do a lot of the cooking in the kitchen. Ben handles the grilling.”

Kari closed her eyes and pictured her and Adam standing side by side, whipping up a fabulous meal for them all to enjoy.

“What are you thinking?” Ben covered her hand with his. She shivered with desire. She could deny it all she wanted, but her body didn’t lie. Her panties were growing wet just from his touch.

“Honestly, I was thinking how nice it would be to cook with Adam in that kitchen.” She regretted the words immediately. She was giving them false hope.

“We’ve thought that too,” Adam admitted.

She locked gazes with him. He looked hopeful yet guarded. He must have sensed her true reason for being there today.

“How about a tour of the house?”

Kari jumped at Ben’s offer. “I’d love that.” She jumped up from her chair and waited.

Ben led the way back inside. Adam followed closely behind. He took her back the same way she’d entered. When they reached the foyer, he headed up the stairs. Kari took her time, soaking in the feel of the plush carpeting under her feet. At the top of the staircase, there were four doors. Ben walked to the right. The last door was a den. There were floor-to-ceiling bookcases. Books filled shelves, but so did trophies. Lots of trophies.

She walked over to examine them. They were Ben’s.

“You were a basketball player.”

“Yes, all through high school and college. I was good but not good enough for the big leagues.”

“That’s his opinion.” Adam walked up behind her. “He was named MVP most of the games. He scored more points than the other players.”

“So why didn’t you move up?”

“The NBA called. Ben turned them down.”

“What? Why?” She spun around, shocked. Who turned down the NBA?

“I had to be home to care for my mother. I was an only child; she was sick.”

Wow, he had given up his dreams to care for his mother. What a son! What a terrific person. Not many people would be that selfless. Now it all made sense when he said she was in a better place. He hadn’t meant relationshipwise. He’d meant her illness.

“Ben Carter, you’re an amazing person.” She meant what she said. He continued to astonish her.

“I’ve been saying that for years.”

Kari loved how Adam praised Ben every chance he got. They were a dynamic duo, filled with love and admiration.

“Let’s move on, shall we?”

Obviously Ben wasn’t comfortable with the way the conversation was headed, so she followed him out of the room. He showed her the full bathroom and another bedroom. The guest bedroom had a view of the bay.

He stopped outside the last door. “This is our room.” He swung the door open and waited for her to step over the threshold.

She did; the sight took her breath away. There was a king-size four-poster bed with a solid beige comforter and various shaped accent pillows. The dark wood was very masculine. Another set of French doors opened to the back of the house.

Drawn to them, she walked out onto another deck. There were three chairs and a small table. From the well-worn cushions, she knew they used this deck a lot.

She ran a finger over the railing. They were two lucky men. “You have a beautiful home.”

“It just needs a beautiful woman to add the finishing touch.” Adam twirled a strand of her hair.

Her body turned to mush whenever either was this close. “Maybe we should go back downstairs and talk.” She had to get out of the bedroom. Too many temptations stood in her way here.

“I think talk is overrated.” Ben took her hand. He guided her back into the bedroom and over to the large bed. “I think it’s time for a little less talking.”

“And a lot more loving.” Adam rubbed against her back, his hard cock pressing into her.

Her body stirred to life yet again. She moaned. She couldn’t do this. It wouldn’t be fair to allow them to love her and then break their hearts.

Ben stood in front of her sporting a massive hard-on. He touched her breast; she gave a small whimper.

Adam pushed her hair away from her neck and began kissing her hot skin. Her nipples hardened to little peaks, which Ben’s other hand took full advantage of as he massaged both.

Her mind swarmed with resistance. It pounded with thoughts to refuse them, tell them to stop, but her body overruled her mind and succumbed to the feelings that possessed her.

“Make love to me,” she cried.

No more words were spoken as they guided her to the bed. Together they reached for the hem on her sundress and began lifting it over her body. Again her head insisted she fight them, but she ignored it. She allowed them to remove the dress and expose her scars.

She waited with baited breath for the surprised gasps or grunts. Nothing. Only silence. Adam brought the dress over to the chair and placed it neatly over the back.

Ben reached around and unhooked her bra, freeing her breasts from their tight confines. Adam returned and gently guided her panties down over her hips. When they pooled at her feet, he lifted a sandal and removed it, kissing her toe. He did the same for the other. With her panties in one hand and sandals in the other, he walked across and set them with her dress.

She couldn’t believe she was standing there naked, baring her soul to them.

Adam began stripping out of his clothes, throwing them haphazardly around the room. Ben eased her down on the bed. She inched her way back until she was planted in the center.

Now in the buff, Adam joined her on her left. Ben quickly shed his clothes and took up residence on her right. Normally she’d fear the silence, but the looks of love radiating from both their eyes said it all. The scars didn’t matter. They loved her.

Ben was the first to bend to her stomach and kiss her. Her belly fluttered with butterflies. Instinctively she put her hand on his head, and she played with his hair. She'd been dying to weave her fingers in the soft and curly locks for as long as she'd been aware of him.

Adam took a nipple in his mouth. How long had it been since a man had sucked on her? Too long to remember. She cried out as sensations soared through her body.

Ben moved south. He lingered at her belly button for a few seconds before moving closer to her pussy. "Ah, your arousal smells delightful."

She closed her eyes.

Adam traced a finger around one areola. His teeth grazed one. Tingling sensations coursed downward. Unbelievably, an orgasm was near.

Adam released her hardened bud, leaving her feeling lonely. As he explored her mouth, Ben latched on to her clit, causing her to squirm.

Ben steadied her with his hand. When she finally settled down, he toyed with her swollen rosebud. Kari tried focusing on Adam and his delicious mouth, but her pussy swelled with desire. Blood rushed to her clit; she would erupt in climax before long.

Ben must have radar where her orgasms were concerned. He spread her pussy lips open and slid a digit into her wet channel. She bucked her hips, needing to feel him deeper. She was going to come. Hard.

Adam left her mouth and returned to her nipple. He nipped at the bud. Sharp jolts zinged from her breasts to her cunt. Filling her with another finger, Ben spread them into a V shape. He widened her channel, enticing her. Hands and mouths were all over her body. She felt like she'd died and gone to heaven.

Ben sucked and flicked. Flicked and sucked. Teased her slow and steady, then quick. Her mind swirled. She couldn't hold back any longer. The orgasm rolled through her body. She shuddered as it paraded over her skin, swarming in her veins until it zapped her clitoris. The delicate walls contracted around his fingers. He kept up the slow, steady movements until her convulsions slowed, yet her breathing remained heavy.

God, it was good to climax again.

Ben noticed the smile of satisfaction covering her face. She was happy and content. When she'd first arrived, he had seen the pained look deep in her eyes. He could tell she was struggling with her decision the entire time they gave her a tour. He also noticed her longing for this house. It called to her and she to it. She could see herself living here, and that scared the shit out of her.

It was his job to show her she belonged here. Along with Adam, they'd give her that little nudge to prove she could have it all. Loving her was the first of many steps.

Ben watched as Adam cupped her face in his hands. He whispered something Ben couldn't make out. Hopefully words of encouragement. Letting her know she was home.

Ben eased to her other side. He waited as Adam placed soft kisses on the tip of her nose, her eyes, and her forehead. Her eyes were closed, but she still had a smile.

Adam released her face, and she opened her eyes. "I'm not in Kansas anymore."

Ben chuckled. "Definitely not in Kansas."

"And you're definitely not Dorothy," Adam quipped.

"Thank goodness for that. I wouldn't look good in ruby slippers."

They all shared a hearty laugh.

Ben turned serious. "No, but you look good in this bed." He hadn't planned on saying it, but the words just slipped out.

She squinted at him. Something sat on her tongue, but she just shook her head. "I..."

"Don't say anything," Ben pleaded. "Just go with the flow for now. We'll talk later." Much later, if he had his way. He didn't want her making decisions until she'd fully thought about things. He knew deep down she was afraid of being hurt.

But what was love without the risks? They weren't about to hurt her. They had more than enough love to share; she needed to be shown that.

She nodded.

"Good, because we want to continue loving you."

Chapter Seven

Kari felt as though she'd died and gone to heaven. They played her body like a fiddle, both knowing the right places to touch at exactly the right time. If she didn't know better, she'd think they'd choreographed the scenario.

Her feelings were in overdrive. She was falling for them and falling hard. When she looked at them and saw the love, it made her want to cry. This could all be hers. They were offering all this and more. God, how she wanted to say yes. She wanted to wake up to this every morning. To them.

To do that meant giving them her heart, body, and soul. It also meant giving them a child, because they really wanted a family. At one time in her life, Kari had wanted that too. The white picket fence, 2.5 children, even a dog and cat. That dream had died with Walter.

But Walter had been gone a long time. An accident like that wasn't likely to happen again. Should she let go of her concerns and fears? Could she allow herself to be loved and love them back completely?

She wasn't sure.

Ben lifted her hand and kissed her palm. "What's going on in that pretty head of yours?"

"Nothing." She didn't want to discuss her thoughts. Not yet.

"I want to make love to you." Ben kissed her wrist.

"While I make love to Ben."

"How?" The word rushed from her mouth before she had time to think about it. They wanted to make love as a trio.

"Ben would make love to your pussy while I'm loving him from behind. It makes me hard just thinking about it."

Kari's peered at his dick. Yeah, he was definitely aroused. She glanced to Ben, who also sported an erection.

They were asking her to make love, to share in an experience she'd never had before. What would it feel like to have Ben inside her while Adam was inside him? The idea thrilled and tantalized her. Three bodies becoming one.

"Yes," she whispered.

"Seriously?"

She saw the doubt in Ben's blue eyes. He wanted to believe her but was afraid. "I'm sure."

"I'll grab some condoms." Adam climbed off the bed and retrieved a box. He removed the strip and tore two off. He handed one to Ben. "I'll get some gel too."

When Adam returned, they both covered themselves with condoms. Kari licked her bottom lip as she watched them. This was it. They were going to be connected in ways she'd never dreamed of.

Her skin prickled, and butterflies danced playfully in her stomach. Juices pooled at her opening, anticipating the arrival of Ben's hard cock. Gone was the fear of their reactions to her scars, replaced by a feeling of relief and...love. Kari had never thought she'd use the word again, but she couldn't help herself. She was falling in love with them. Head over heels in love. They were kind and compassionate. They both had issues of their own they had to overcome. They both survived and thrived together. Kari knew in that moment she wanted to be part of them. She wanted to share in the joys of being in a relationship. While she couldn't forget the past, it was time to move forward with Adam and Ben.

"We've waited a long time to be here with you." Ben's smile filled her with renewed warmth.

"I've wanted you for a long time." She paused. "I never dreamed I'd be your type. I'd watch you and fantasize about you."

Ben leaned over and kissed her lips. "I'm so glad we found each other."

"Me too, and Adam is the cherry on top." She couldn't forget to recognize Adam. He was an important piece to this puzzle.

“I had mixed feelings about you when Ben spoke of you, but once I met you, I knew he was right. You’re perfect for us.”

Kari reached out and rubbed Ben’s rigid cock. “I’m ready to complete this union.”

“Don’t keep the woman waiting, Ben.”

“Our beautiful Kari, I hope you realize how much we love you,” Ben said before descending on her. He nudged the tip of his head slowly through her barrier. Her whole body rejoiced as he inched his way in. She’d missed being filled by them. Whether it was Adam’s dick or Ben’s, it didn’t matter. They were both gorgeous and generous lovers.

It still astounded her that they would all be one. She’d never pictured her life being shared with two men. Life was full of possibilities now that she had opened herself up to them.

She closed her eyes and allowed her mind to drift to Ben’s penis buried inside her. He filled her to the brink, stretching her taut. The smell of her arousal hung heavily in the room.

Ben began a steady rocking. In and out. He wouldn’t leave her fully, stopping at the edge of her opening and gliding back in. Slow and steady, he kept the pace. She wanted to wrap her legs around him and pull him deeper into her channel.

Instead she snaked her arms around his neck and dragged his mouth to hers. She licked his bottom lip. He groaned.

“I’m going to come,” she whispered before pulling his lip into her mouth. She bucked her hips, taking him fully. She released his lip, and moved her hands around to his ass. Gripping his cheeks in her hands, she helped him pick up the pace. Slow wasn’t working for her. Her body craved it fast and hard.

Ben took her lead and slammed into her over and over. As he pumped his cock harder into her wetness, her body shook with the orgasm that blasted through her. The walls of her pussy contracted and pulsed around him.

“You feel so perfect,” he whispered.

She wanted to say something but couldn’t speak. Her body convulsed into a magnitude of multiple orgasms. She careened headfirst into wave after wave.

Ben lifted his body off hers but never left her. Kari placed a hand on her chest, waiting for her breathing to resume to normal.

“A girl could get used to this.”

“That’s the plan,” Adam said from his position standing behind Ben. “I could get used to watching you both. I’ve never been so turned on in my life.”

“I know what you mean,” she said matter-of-factly.

“Huh?” Ben looked confused.

“I watched you both in the woods. It was an incredible sight. I’ve never witnessed two men loving each other. I wanted to join you then. I wanted to be part of that kind of love.”

“You are.” Ben touched her cheek. “You are.”

A small tear coursed down the side of her face. She truly was part of them. She was blessed to have them.

“I can’t hold on much longer,” Adam cried. “Can I get some of this love?”

For the moment, the seriousness was broken.

“I think we owe it to him. He’s been very patient,” Kari said.

“We’re ready whenever you are, Adam,” Ben said.

Ben had both hands resting on the bed, waiting for Adam to fill him. The sound of Adam squeezing the bottle of gel filled the room. Within mere seconds, they would be connected. Three becoming one.

She felt Ben push in deeper while Adam pushed his way into Ben’s waiting ass.

Ben sucked in a breath. “Oh God, I never knew this could be so fucking erotic. My cock is throbbing inside you. Adam, you feel so fucking perfect.”

“Your ass is so tight. I might explode too soon,” Adam said.

Kari felt Adam’s hands as he wrapped them around Ben and held on to her arms. They quickly found a tempo that worked for all of them. Bumping, grinding.

Sweat beaded on Ben’s forehead. The tortured look on his face clued her in to the fact that he was fighting the pending orgasm. He was trying to hold on for as long as possible.

The thickness of Ben’s cock mixed with her juices made a slippery, sloshing noise. Other than heavy breathing coming from Adam and Ben, it was the only sound in the room. Kari felt like they could hear her heart pounding in her chest.

Kari's heart filled with love for her two men. They belonged to her and she to them. This final act of love marked a new beginning. This was the start of a lifetime of making love.

Ben's breathing grew heavier, and he slowed his pace. Adam's pumping quickened as he raced toward the finish line. As if unable to control himself, Ben suddenly picked up his speed.

Kari closed her eyes and held on for dear life. His cock ramming into her over and over was the most glorious feeling. Yet another climax was building.

Adam was the first to howl as he came. Ben followed suit right after. As Ben's penis spasmed and released his seed, Kari's pussy contracted. She fell fast and hard into a mind-numbing orgasm. Wave after wave, her muscles clutched onto Ben's dick, milking him.

Their bodies became a tangled mess as they collapsed onto the bed, all out of breath. In that moment, Kari knew without a doubt she was where she wanted to be. She belonged with Adam and Ben. They loved her.

When she felt she could speak audibly, she blurted out. "I love you guys."

With baited breath, she waited for their reactions. At first no one moved. You could hear a pin drop with the silence. Even the heavy breathing had stopped. It was like time stood still.

Finally Adam broke the silence. "Are you sure? Don't get me wrong, I'm thrilled you feel that way. I...we...just want to be certain you feel love and not lust."

Ben sat up and took her hand. "Sex is great and an important part of our lives, but Adam's right. We want you to love us for what's in here." He pointed to her heart.

Yes, the sex was amazing, incredible, and every other word she could think of, but it wasn't just the sex. It was the fact that they were three lost souls who'd found their way back to happiness. They understood her and loved her for who she was. They saw the scars but didn't *see* them. They didn't judge her for killing someone, and they didn't expect a size 2 model. They accepted her bustier figure.

Had anyone told her a few weeks ago that she would find her future with two bisexual men, she'd laugh. She had thought being with Ben was impossible.

"I won't deny the sex is out of this world, but that's not why I love you guys. I love you for your personalities and your good looks. I love you because you're kind and considerate. You make me laugh. You make me cry. You make me feel alive. Something I haven't felt in a very long time."

They settled down next to her and held her tight.

“You do the same for us,” Ben said. “I’ve known for months you were meant to be with us. I’m so glad I worked up the courage to speak to you at that meeting.”

“I almost fainted when I realized it was you.” She remembered feeling shocked that Ben was talking to her. Now she lay in his bed. How crazy.

“To think I was against all this in the beginning.”

“Yeah, well, you’re forgiven, Adam.”

“Thanks, Ben.”

“So who wants to make a baby?” Kari asked. For the second time in a matter of minutes, she silenced the room. She rolled her eyes, waiting for someone to say something. “Well?”

Ben leaned on an elbow. “Are you saying you’d be willing to start a family with us?”

She couldn’t believe she was saying it, but she was. She was definitely interested in giving them children. “I believe I am.”

“You’ve made us incredibly happy today,” Adam said. “I love you, Kari.”

“I love you too,” Ben said.

“I love you both.” She placed a hand in each of theirs. “We’re going to be one big happy family.”

 THE END 