

The Unlikely Friendship

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Fiction By AZOutback

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The Unlikely Friendship is a 'sub story' in *The Unlikely Stories Series*. A look back at The Unlikely Friendship over the past couple decades with the Merlot and Zinfandel families.

Chapter 1: Looking Back

It was our final week here in Arizona soon we would be making the journey to our new homestead in Tennessee this weekend. Gary had been helping me most of the week to get the shipping crates packed with all our toys; big and small. Bambi and Bunny had taken Bernie out Wickenburg to visit the grandparents so Gary came over for lunch. After lunch we went over to my office and chatted. I asked him something I had been wondering for a long time, "How did you find me when I was doing the fetish photography while I was at The University out here?"

Gary replied, "Sara."

I was surprised, "Sara, how?"

Gary explained, "The first model Zac and I used, was a friend of Sara's. I believe they both did some of the same gigs together. Our first model ended up getting a long term gig out in New York. She told me Sara did fetish modeling for this really professional guy: Francis Merlot *and* he had a 'digital camera'!"

I laughed, "Oh yeah, I was going by Francis back then! That digital camera ain't nothing now, but it was state-of-the-art at the time. So, yeah when I was at The University I had been doing a lot of simple IT jobs for the various fetish vendors out here. This was about the time when the Internet and eCommerce were just starting to take off. So many of them wanted to have higher quality pictures on their websites. Many of them were still scanning film photos and using those on their websites. Digital cameras were just starting to become somewhat affordable too. I was getting a lot of requests for photography, but they didn't provide a model. So, I ended up putting an ad in the school paper for a model. Ironically, that is how Martina and I first met."

Gary commented, "Martina definitely had the body for a model, she still does."

I agreed, "Oh yes! However, she has the attention span of a goldfish and never stayed in one place for very long. Still to this day not exactly sure what the details of her 'Club Connoisseur' job were and how she landed that. She told me

one time she was a 'ghost clubber' hired by the owners for quality checks on the staff and the facilities. I do believe she was going to The University with her daddy's money. She dropped out when she landed that 'Connoisseur of Clubs' gig. The gig must have paid quite well, considering she bought that Pink Monster after we got married. Luckily Sara, replied to the ad as well and I was able to make a lot money myself doing those website jobs and her modeling their products."

Gary started laughing, "Had forgotten about her pink Hummer H2. What the heck was the story behind that?"

I told him, "There are two theories, one or both may be true. The story I have heard was she wanted something high end for clubbing and she had the money to burn. Guess her daddy's Jag just wasn't good enough for her friends. So she went to the Hummer dealer and found the most expensive Hummer on the lot which had every bell and whistle you could imagine. However, she wasn't happy with the color, I think it was white. Since that was the only thing preventing the deal from going through the sales manager opted to repaint whatever color she wanted at no cost: Pink. The second theory which I am more inclined to believe is she fucked both the sales person and his manager to get the paint change for free."

Gary agreed, "Sounds like Martina! She is certainly a wild one. Curious, why did you marry her?"

I told him, "So she would shut up about us getting married! No, I ain't kidding and yes I was sober."

Gary exclaimed, "Touche!"

I explained, "When I went back to Nevada before our father's death I had heard from Marc she was asking about me. After our father passed, Laura and I decided since we already had clients in both Arizona and Nevada, it would be a good idea for one of us to be in each market. Laura was well established in Nevada and myself having spent a lot more time out here, felt more comfortable out here than Nevada. Mainly, I just wanted to get out that condo we shared with the cheerleader squad. Weekends and breaks had most of the squad staying there with at least two or three in her room with her..more during the colder months."

Gary commented, "Always wondered how you ended up out here."

I explained, "So, yeah I was desperate to get out the 'sorority house' we called a condo. Marc knew I was looking for a house and kept telling me about Martina. He alerted me one day about the house on Fairy Duster. I talked to Martina about it and again she kept pushing to get married. I came back out here to look at the

house and wasn't even sure if Martina would show up. She looked around and told me the kitchen would need to be redone and she wanted a pool. Apparently Marc had convinced her to buy into the Google IPO and after we bought the house she sold her stock for a hefty profit. Of course Sara was the one who ended up giving me a wad of cash to buy the house. She was wanting to get away from an abusive boyfriend that ended up hooking up and abusing her sister out in Frisco. Martina, didn't have much money until after she sold her Google Stock, which she sunk all of that into the house with the pool, pool house and cabana, plus the Pink Monster. That was why she ended up working at Valley Shadows to pay for the maintenance and mainly gas for the Hummer. Soon as the Realtor stepped outside, Martina immediately pounced on me and we did the wild thing in the kitchen! Again, she asked about getting married and I finally told her, come back to Vegas with me and we will do it. We ended up going to this Area 51 themed drive-through chapel and were married by an ordained Alien."

Gary laughed, "We had that rent-a-preacher Marc had commission. Bunny and I were concerned he going to keel over before we could complete the ceremony."

I reminded him, "Hey, Sara and I were there too...getting married at the same time. Speaking of Bunny, how did you two meet?"

Gary explained, "Oddly enough it was because of Zac. One of the business philosophies Zac encouraged with GZ Fetishes and now Acme was supporting independent makers in the US and more so locally. Bunny had been making her harnesses for quite some time and most of her clients were not buying them necessarily for the adult 'fetish' aspect. I think the popularity was more in the clubbing scene. One of Zac's daughters had been to a club and told him about the harnesses she had seen. He had her reach out to Bunny and eventually Bunny hooked up with Zac and I. As corny as it sounds, it was love at first sight for us! Then I met her sister..."

I laughed, "I remember when you three showed up at The Fairy Duster house the first time...each on your own Harley" I was thinking about the earlier events with Bambi sending their mother home, "I get the impression Bambi calls the shots..."

Gary confirmed, "You can certainly say that! Yes, she manages both my and Bunny's business as well as the household."

I added, "Yeah, got that impression when you told me she sent Claudette back to Wickenburg."

Gary told me, "Yes, she was getting tired of Claudette being a helicopter grandparent. So, you and Martina had married, but then you two divorced; and then you married Sara. What happened? I mean I know some of the details, after all you did have me commission a chastity belt for Martina..."

Chapter 2: The Unlikely Affair and The McGrawl's

I thought for a moment, "Well...there are a lot of little parts that ended up becoming something much bigger."

Gary joked, "Isn't that called synergy?"

I laughed, "That's one way of putting it. So, right after Martina and I moved in I had the first project for Linda Holstein. I believe she had just moved into new location out in Oro Valley and needed to add some more computers. At that time, Laura and I did our parts separately, not like now where we usually work the entire project together. I was down in Oro Valley getting the workstations setup and while I was away Laura or Ann Marie as she was calling herself, came out and slept with Martina...well that was after the two of them got drunk and tried to have their way with Sara..."

Gary recalled, "Oh yeah...I remember Sara showing up at my shop saying she wanted a chastity belt and it had nothing to do with you."

I confirmed, "Guess Laura had a sore ass for a couple days when Sara pushed her away from her and on to the tile floor. I knew nothing about what happened at first. All I know was Laura was suppose to show up the next afternoon in Oro Valley and she didn't because she was too hung over from being with Martina all night. I thinking Martina must have stashed Laura away at local resort that night as she had not gone back to Vegas. Sara told me she was going to go to Vegas to visit her grandmother. I wish she had told me what was going on as it would have confirmed my suspicions about Martina much earlier. Fast forward a month or so later I was going to do some work for you at your old Vegas location you had shared with Zac. I had left that afternoon hoping to get into Vegas that evening just after your closing, but only made out as far as Tonopah before traffic came to a halt on I-10. There was massive dust storm and a big pile-up for miles in both directions on I-10. ADOT's electronic sign a couple miles up the road displayed a message the highway was closed and to tune into one of the three AM News/Talk stations for details. Well, the detour was via the Salome Highway out through Wintersburg and then either reconnect with I-10 or go the long way over Hoover Dam. I knew that would add at least two-hours to the trip so once I could get off the highway, I called you."

Gary added, "Oh yeah. They were showing that mess on the local news in Vegas."

I continued, "We agreed to re-group a little later in the week. I phoned Laura's cell, but she wasn't answering and didn't bother to leave a message at the time. I tried the house line and also got no answer which I thought was strange as Sara

should've been there. So I get home and Martina's Jag along with The Pink Monster were out in the driveway as was a gold rental Cadillac. I parked The Jeep and went inside. The downstairs was completely dark and Sara was no where to be found. Turns out Martina had Marc take Sara out to dinner so Martina and Laura could have some time alone. I was about to check the machine when I heard Martina's 'being fucked' screaming. I had a feeling she had been screwing around behind my back, just never had proof. The upstairs hall lights were on and I headed to my office to get my camera. That was before Dundee converted the library, think my old office eventually became Maya's room. I headed over to what would become The Presentation Room, at that time we were just using it for storage. Oh and apparently Martina was using it as a place to be fucked while I was away on business! The door was cracked open slightly so I peaked in and saw Laura doing Martina with a large strap-on. I snapped a couple pictures..."

Gary wondered, "They didn't see the flashes?"

I laughed, "No, they were so into what they were doing and drunk they didn't even notice. Let me see if I can find that 'Kodak moment'. Let's see where did I file my 'Laura Blackmail Photos'?" I showed Gary the pictures of Laura and Martina. I explained, "Funny, I wasn't that upset about Martina and Laura fucking. Better Laura than some strange guy. I was more upset Laura had lied to me and potentially cost us a very valuable client with Linda Holstein. Anyway, I went over to my office to process what was going on and decide to call Laura's cell. This time I left a message explaining I was on my way home due to the incident out on I-10. I watched as she came out of the room to retrieve her phone and listen to the message. She was still wearing the strap-on (and nothing else) then freaked out when she realized I was on my way back. She had no idea, I was already home, much less had caught them together. I made a quick exit and drove over to the gas station. When I got back home, the Jag was in the garage the Caddy was gone and so was the Pink Monster. I think I had called you back to let you know I had made it home when Martina finally returned. I didn't mention anything to her about what had happened. The next morning she had left for work early. This was about the time you and Zac formed the Acme BDSM partnership and wanted AZOutback Consulting to do more upgrades."

Gary was remembering, "That's right. Not only did you have me commission a belt for Martina, but you order a lot of gear...including the table...which reminds me I installed some 'upgrades' on the stool. You will find out what those are when y'all unpack it at your new place."

I reminded him, "That table as well as the fucking machine have seen a lot of use. Along with that cage and beautiful spanking bench. A day or two later Sara starts telling me bits and pieces about what happened that evening and the first time. Since I needed an assistant for your project and I wanted to get her away from Martina (and Laura) I ended up bring her with me when I came out again.

The first thing you did when we got there was upgrade her belt with the conducting plugs and the clit probe.”

Gary laughed, ‘And she liked it!’”

I agreed, ‘That she did...and from what Wynn has told me so does Lulu! So we kept Sara ‘occupied’ up in your loft while I worked on getting the computers setup. We ended up leaving her up there all night too.”

Gary recalled, “Oh shit yeah, I remember that! Kept expecting to get a call from the Vegas Police Department about them finding a nude female tied up in my building’s loft.”

I reminded him, “Besides the fact Sara trusts me and knew I would be back, she was in her ‘natural environment’ anyway. Plus we wore her out so she likely slept the entire night. We wrapped up with your job and headed back to Arizona. Now, of course Sara insisted on wearing her ‘new toy’ home. We made back into Arizona and Sara needed to use the bathroom. At the first rest stop we both took care of nature, however given Sara’s situation with her belt it took her much longer to take care of things. Mainly because she had to walk very slowly and carefully enough to avoid getting herself too worked up in public. So, while I was waiting for her to get back I had retrieved my phone and was checking my messages. There was a message from Linda Holstein that she was having troubles with one of her computers and wanted me to come out and take a look. I figured it wasn’t anything serious and could wait a few days, after all I had just driven to Vegas the night before and now on my way back home. Boy was I wrong.”

Gary joked, “A case of when it rains, it pours?”

I laughed, “Yeah something like that. Never a dull moment when it comes to Linda Holstein. I called her back and she tells me she had been meaning to call me about the computer; it had been giving her troubles for the past days and then she tells me it blew up!”

Gary laughed, “Blew up. She being over-dramatic again?”

I laughed, “Linda overly dramatic? Never! Actually no, it got so hot inside the case that the processor expanded so much it blew out the heat sink through the case. Cain’t say I had ever seen that happen before or likely would ever again. However, I didn’t know at that time which computer it was. I asked her to describe it to me and she tells me it is ‘white’.”

Gary joked, “Well, that narrows it down!”

I told him, "Actually it did: any PC's AZOutback installed have a grey case. So then I asked if there was any writing on the case and she tells me 'I-B-M' in blue letters. That was when I realized it was her network sever...that and she finally mentions her network was down. Since Sara was *still* in the bathroom, I called over to my supplier the old PC's and Things out in Ahwatukee. They told me they could get me everything I needed and since I was still three-hours out it would be ready by the time I got down there. Sara had returned by the time I was back on the phone with Linda. I told Sara we were heading down to Tucson and of course she complained about the belt. I reminded her that she was the one who wanted to wear it home. I ended up bargaining with her that if we go out to The Budget Holstein, I'd buy her a dominatrix dress. Of course, by 'buy' I meant barter with Linda for the labor."

Gary added, "Funny how that works!"

I laughed, "Indeed. Okay, stopped off at my supplier got the parts and headed out to Linda's shop. We get there and I ask Linda to have one of her sales ladies/models keep Sara occupied so I could access the carnage. I told Linda, Sara was to get whatever dominatrix dress she wanted. Kind of worked out in a way as I was going to have Sara dominate Martina upon our return to get back for what her and Laura had done. Then again, she was already quite dominatrix looking in her uniform that Martina had picked out."

As seemed to be common Gary had no idea, "Wait, what....her uniform was Martina's idea?"

I told him, "Yeah. However, Martina had never seen Sara and had no idea how big she was without the six-inch heels. I still think Martina is a little fearful of Sara, even to this day. From what Sara told me of that infamous night Martina told Laura not to go chasing after Sara after she had 'dismounted' both of them. It was about ten minutes later and I still trying to figure out what I could salvage from Linda's old server and for that matter what the heck had happened. Suddenly I heard the distinctive crack of a bullwhip. I look over and Sara is using a bullwhip on one of Linda's models. Linda was impressed and told me Sara 'knew her way with a bullwhip'. The next day when we wrapped up Linda offered to give me a bullwhip...I politely declined as I was concerned Sara could hurt Martina with one."

Gary commented, "Must have learned that from her sister."

I thought back, "You know, to this day I have never asked her how she became proficient with a bullwhip. There are just some things that are better left unexplained. It was almost closing time and Linda really had no where for me to work in her store. I asked Linda about a hotel, after all she is the Gurvis of anything lodging. She informs she is friends with manager at The Holiday Inn

Express, just up the road from her store and she would get us accommodated. We packed up and I took the carcass that was her sever with us and headed to the hotel. Oh, this was also the first time we got to eat at Corona de las Estrellas...which at that time I didn't know about the family history. After we got to the hotel, I finally let poor Sara out of her belt and she take a long soak in the Anozira Tub. Both of us were exhausted from being on the road so much in the past 24-hours. The next morning I put her back in her belt and we head down to the lounge for the Continental Breakfast. We had just sat down when this other couple came over and asked if they could join us."

Gary guessed, "Andy and Lindsay?"

I replied, "Yep. Guess Lindsay saw Sara and somehow knew they would hit it off immediately. Some awkward small talk at first. I told them I did independent IT work, mostly hardware upgrades, repairs, installs, etc. Andy informs me they own a chain of computer stores out in the Tucson area. They asked if we from the area. I explained we lived in Scottsdale and then they asked what we were doing out here and I explained the situation with Linda's sever. Andy starts geeking out that he had never seen a PC that had exploded before. I told him I still had it up in the room and could use a hand in trying to rebuilt it. We ended up leaving Sara and Lindsay down in the lounge..."

Gary joked, "That might have been a mistake!"

I laughed, "Sara was belted at the time...as was Lindsay. Yeah well, guess it worked out in the end. Andy and I had been working on the sever for the past couple hours. The girls were kicked out of the lounge so the staff could get ready for lunch. The two of them ended up coming back up the room and neither Andy nor I were really paying attention to them. We were focused on getting Linda's sever back up and running as without it she couldn't do much business. The next we know we hear Lindsay proclaim, 'Hey Andy, they are just as kinky as we are!' We both look up to see they had lifted their skirts revealing their belted crotches."

Gary added, 'Lead it to Lindsay!'

I added, "Yeah...to get Sara out of her shell."

Chapter 3: The Friends + Family Discount and Papa Merlot

I realized that Gary/ACME had made most if not all our family and friend's chastity belts. I asked Gary, "Did you or Zac make Lindsay's belt?"

Gary told me, "Not until they moved in with you. She had a premium belt from China..."

I laughed, "Wait...what? Premium and China don't belong in the same sentence. That's an oxymoron!"

Gary explained, "Well, in your defense most of the 'crap' you find on eBay or Amazon from China is just that...crap. There are a couple high end makers though and they don't sell on eBay or Amazon. Not sure how she managed to hook up with one those though."

I recalled what Andy had told me when Lindsay had cussed in Mandarin that it was bad habit she had learned from being at the club. I explained, "When they still had their club/lounge in Tucson, they used to get a lot of clients from China as that was how Lindsay learned Mandarin...well at least the cuss words! So, I am thinking they must have had some connections to get her one of those high-end belts."

Gary agreed with my theory, "Yeah, that would make sense."

I told Gary, "We've had you and Zac make all our belts. Heck you even did one for my mother after she moved down to Tubac."

Gary informed me, "Um...actually no. She was still in Vegas and still married. Guess your father was getting a bit too pushy with her. She didn't want anymore kids and reached out to me. She told me she had found me via a 'friend'."

I was curious as to this 'friend' was, "Who was that?"

Gary honestly told me, "I have no clue. She would never tell me who referred her. I wish she would have as I would have sent them an ACME gift card. Think this was about the time Laura left with Miss Kitty. She was upset your father for the way he treated Laura. He said some not so pleasant things to Laura."

I had flashbacks to that day, "I was there for part of it. Laura didn't know at the time I was in the den when her and Miss Kitty came in and she introduced her. I made my way out of the house before any of them saw me as the last thing I wanted to be was in the middle of them and my father. He would have just added more fuel to fire by calling me 'the good son'...how I always went to church and read my bible...at least so he thought. You know, last fall when you had your 'rat incident' at the Deer Valley location, Laura was having a difficult morning. She was fighting her inner demons. The divorce was still dragging on and she was having reservations about leaving the resort and other things. I was worried we were going to have her admitted to The Moon Goddess. She was rambling on about her certs, the resort, Miss Kitty, Tennessee and then suddenly blurted out 'what if our father was right?'; I never got a chance to ask her what she meant by that as she had finally calmed down."

Gary explained, "From what Lorena told me about that day with her and Lynnette: he went on his sermon how homosexuality is wrong and evil; God would punish her for her sins and she would never find happiness or be successful in life."

I replied, "Oh shit! Yeah that makes sense. He was a piece of work! Claimed to be a Christian, but instead of accepting Laura for who she was, he ridiculed her. Heck he got our mother knocked up with Laura before they were married. Never did figure out that life insurance he had as mother swears she knew nothing about it and neither did Laura or I, until after his mysterious death. Guessing he may have gotten it from the job he had for several decades."

Gary asked, "What did he do?"

I explained, "He was an Air Cargo Logistics Specialist. Worked for the company for almost 40-years. They specialized in high end cargo transport via aircraft to and from Vegas. They had a big contract with some company out in Atlanta which would have the product transported via truck from the Port of Los Angeles out to Vegas then flown out to Atlanta. No idea what it was or what country it was coming in from, but apparently that method was cheaper than flying the product directly from Los Angeles to Atlanta. The company in Atlanta would fly my father and his boss, the co-owner out to Atlanta about once a month. They'd leave on Friday afternoon, get wined and dined then play poker the rest of the night. Saturdays they take in a major sporting event of whatever was in season or the big ticket fight or wrestling match or a concert. Whatever they wanted to do, he would get them VIP event tickets. They usually end up coming back Sunday evening. Mother was always thrilled when he took his trips to Atlanta."

Gary understood, "Makes sense from what your mother had said about him. Now, I did eventually commission another belt for her as well as Blanche once they moved out to Tubac."

I recalled the conversation the first time, "I really don't recall how the hell we got on the subject of chastity belts...I know Sara was with me...may be Lindsay or was it Maya? I remember we were at Loews Ventana Canyon resort, so Linda must have been involved somehow. Was thinking that this had to be a hell of a conversation for the people dining around us to over-hear, but then realized we were at resort so might not have been that unusual. Didn't you make a belt for Kayré?"

Gary told me, "No, can't say I did prior to this past Christmas when Kacie had me make her a belt and bra set."

I told him, "Odd, I knew she had one...oh wait...I think Sara gave her one of her

old belts as they are nearly identical in size. Anyway, I am try to describe a chastity belt to mother and Blanche in the most simplest ways and then come to find out they both were wearing with 'accessories'. I do know you made at least a couple belts for Maya."

Gary laughed, "Yeah, the first time she came to me and showed me her piercings down there I was rather surprised. But, it gave me an inspiration to create very unique and (almost) permanent belt for her. We worked out the flaws from that one and created The SuperMax belt she currently has. I did one for Peaches as well, nothing as extreme."

I told him, "Yeah Maya did put her in a belt for a while when she was neglecting her chores at the condo. Guess she was too busy playing Hearthstone and Maya got pissed when she came home from work and found the condo was still not cleaned. You made her an armor as well which backfired on Maya."

Gary replied, "As well as for Sara and our original design Wynn wore. How did the armor backfire on Maya?"

I explained, "She kept threatening to put Peaches in the armor as punishment. At one point Peaches did something so bad that Maya kept her end of the bargain. However, Peaches found she loved wearing it. As she put it made her feel like a 'Super Hero'. You also commissioned a pink chastity bra and belt set for Martina."

Gary told me, "Yes I did. Was really surprised when she asked me to make one for her. I think it was more for Marc..."

I added, "Well, for a while it was to protect herself from Peaches who had a habit of pinching Martina's nipples. I have no idea why she was doing that, all I know is she was."

Gary joked, "Rebelling against Maya? Of course Maya wasn't a saint herself..."

Chapter 4: Things Got Out Hand

I wasn't quite sure what he meant by that, "How so?"

Gary reminded me, "There was the play date with her and Bambi that got out of hand. We still to this day, don't know what happened. Bambi won't tell us the full details. All we know is Maya did not respect Bambi's limits."

I understood, "Yeah. Kind in the same boat here. She confessed one day to Sara and I...think after she came back from Frisco about how she had gotten a 'little rough' with Bambi and not abiding by her safe word or signal."

Gary added, "She seems to have 'calmed down' since then."

Memories of what happened that Easter at Corona de las Estrellas came back to me, "Oh shit...there was the incidents with Lindsay...oh boy!"

Gary was shocked, "Lindsay? Whatever did she do?"

I explained, "Well it was Maya, but Lindsay started it all....well actually it was Andy. So recall, how you ended up helping Andy and I out at the Fairy Duster House with the French Door between the Library and my office?"

Gary recalled, "Yes, something about a mishap between Wynn and Lindsay?"

I confirmed, "Yes. Let me from start for the beginning as this spanned several days, if not a couple weeks. It all started with Andy and Sara pranking or getting back at Lindsay as Andy was getting jealous or annoyed with how much time Lindsay was spending with Sara. Now, let me explain a couple rules that our 'family' understands and respects about what happens under our roof. First, we all agree that as long as consensual between all parties they can 'play/sleep' with whomever they want, even if it is another's spouse."

Gary clarified, "So basically you are saying that they agree that 'swinging' is allowed as long those directly involved consent?"

I told him, "Yes. More importantly is rule number 2 which is in the course of 'playing' with whomever you will not maliciously or intentionally hurt them...now there is a 'gray area' if you would as both Lindsay and Martina are both masochists, however there should not be a point where they end up with long term bruising or damage."

Gary agreed, "Yeah, you can play rough, but then there is a limit. Which I guess Maya crossed with Bambi."

I reiterated, "Again, I don't know the details of what happened between her and Maya that day. Now, Andy and Sara did the wild thing to get Lindsay's attention. However, while it did get Lindsay's attention, it didn't go as planned for Andy. For whatever reason, Lindsay took it the wrong way and got mad at Sara. So much so, she withheld Sara's belt key and would not speak to her. I had a major project coming up for Linda."

Gary laughed, "Of course, it is always something with her!"

I reminded him, "Hey, you are not much better; Bambi has called you 'our pain in the rear client'! So, this was one of Linda's larger projects. Her expansion into the other half of The Budget Holstein building as well as the complete remodel and IT

upgrade of Corona de las Estrellas. This was after Linda and Olivia had gotten the settlement money from El Padre Gas for Hal and Maria's deaths. We were also up against a timeline at least with Corona de las Estrellas as Linda and Olivia wanted to reopen on specific date for a major community event. In this case I need 'all hands on deck' and could not have Lindsay and Sara not willing to work together or refusing to come along. I wanted to get whatever silly spat they had between each other resolved before we left for the project. I had Wynn bring them into my office and both of them sat as far as possible from each other."

Gary was shocked, "Whoa...not seems so like them..."

I continued, "Exactly! I gave them an opportunity to explain themselves. Meanwhile, Wynn had closed the doors to my office was standing by the doors. I don't think she was trying to 'stand guard', simply she was just there to observe and maybe meditate if it came to that. So I finally asked them what was going on. Sara was visibly upset and it did not help matters that Lindsay had lot of wine that night. Sara told Lindsay 'it was not what it looked like' to which Lindsay screamed at Sara 'you were sleeping with my husband!'. My first response was 'So what?'. Sara was in shock from being screamed at by Lindsay as was I. Next thing I know I see Lindsay take off toward the doors. I don't really think Wynn had time to react, she was rather caught off guard by Lindsay. May be her reflexes kicked in to try and stop Lindsay from hurting herself. However, given Lindsay's size and momentum plus the position Wynn was in, both of them went through the door. Wynn was knocked out and Lindsay got cut up pretty bad between the splinters and the glass...not to mention the impact with Wynn's armor."

Gary sat there shocked, "Oh wow...all that because of a 'prank'!"

I concurred, "I know. Lindsay got up off of Wynn, I think between her being so intoxicated and the shock, she didn't really understand what was happening. Sara caught the final moments of Wynn and Lindsay going through the door and was in shock. Andy was upstairs and heard the crash and as he was coming down the stairs he could see someone running towards the powder room leaving a trail of blood behind them. At that point he had no idea what had happened, much less who he saw was Lindsay. Nor was he was expecting to find Wynn unconscious on the floor atop of broken door in the library. Wynn was starting to come to so Andy and I went over to assist her. Meanwhile I told Sara to call EMS. She called and told them what happened and since it was a 'domestic disturbance' EMS was not the only ones dispatched. A few minutes later the doorbell rang and told her to get the door was likely EMS. She answers the door and informs me the police are here. Once they gave an all clear EMS came in and treated Wynn. Wynn went to the hospital, but not before telling the officers 'yes' to filling charges against Lindsay."

Gary was surprised, "Wait she had Lindsay arrested?"

I explained, "Yes, but she dropped the charges the next day once she got out of the hospital. It was more to give Lindsay a chance to sober up and understand the consequences of her actions. Now, Lindsay on the other hand the EMS just evaluated her and cleaned her up a bit getting the glass and splinters out of her legs and arms. That would cause issues a couple days later. Later that evening after we had returned from the hospital Andy and I started getting the library cleaned up. Sara was able to get the blood cleaned up too, at least we didn't have carpeting down there. Andy also told me he would pay for the door and begging me not to kick them out. That was when I finally called you, mainly so we could use the Acme Truck to bring the door home."

Gary recalled, "Okay, now it is coming back to me. You did have the area cleaned up fairly well as I recall. We ended up just replacing the whole unit."

I continued, "So, some of us headed down to Oro Valley the following day which is when I get a call from Maya telling me things went south with her father and Tess; to sum it up they caught on to his latest scheme. They also were kicked out of The Ranch in Chugwater when the bank foreclosed. I told her while we had room, were all down in Oro Valley for a project and special event for Linda. They ended up meeting us out in Oro Valley that Sunday evening. Initially upon seeing Lindsay and Wynn she asked if they 'had been in a cat fight'. Andy explained the situation, taking responsibility for what had happened saying Lindsay nor Wynn were to blame. By this point Maya had already downed a couple Martinis and out of nowhere starts ripping into Lindsay for the way she had treated Sara. Reminding Lindsay of the conversation they had when Maya and Peaches went back to Chugwater. Maya had seen the strong bond between Sara and Lindsay, knowing Sara was going to have issues with her sister leaving again. Thing was it was not just us 'family' there, Linda, Olivia, Kayré, Kacie, Laura...in chastity belt with thigh-bands, Miss Kitty as well our mother and Blanche were all there. I really didn't want Maya airing our dirty laundry. Also, Lindsay had already been through enough physically and emotionally in the past couple days. I finally took Maya aside out to the lounge and told her to knock it off and if she kept it up, I might not let her and Peaches stay with us. The two of them ended spending the rest of the evening in the lounge and by time the night was over Maya was out. Peaches ended up carrying her to the Pink Monster..."

Gary asked, "How did Maya end up with the Pink Monster?"

I reminded him, "When we divorced and before she went to Vegas with Marc, Martina gave it to Maya and kept the Jag. Maya used it for doing deliveries with Vinnie's plus going to school." I was surprised Gary didn't remember that detail...

Gary understood, "Oh okay, so they drove the Pink Monster to and from

Chugwater?"

I told him, "Yes they did. So we returned back to Scottsdale and things went from bad to worse with Lindsay. Again, she had been through a lot those last few days and had not been sleeping well. She told us she was going to lay down for a nap. She then had a very vivid dream. So in this dream it starts out with Andy and Wynn coming into my office and telling me Lindsay needed to be punished for what she did. I reminded them, she spent a night in jail, but was told this was about Sara..."

Gary was very confused, "What?"

I continued, "...I know. A lot of it doesn't make sense and I would have never had gone along with their plan based on rule #2. They tell me Lindsay needs to be caned....by Maya."

Gary reacted shocked, "Shit that ain't good!"

I concurred, "Yeah, I know. Lindsay was brought to my office, things were explained and Andy led her down to the playroom, put her in a hood and then secured her to the platform. He told Maya he didn't want to be a witness to this and he would leave before she started. Maya never said anything, but Lindsay had figured out it must have been Maya as no one else would have gone forward with the plan. So according to Lindsay, Maya started off slow, but then her resentment towards her father and what Lindsay had done to both Sara and Wynn; caused her to lose control and not realize what she was doing. The sounds of Lindsay howling in pain brought Maya back to reality and then she saw what she had done and fled the playroom. Maya had come to my office in tears saying she had hurt Lindsay and didn't mean to. She was going on about how sorry she was and I had every right to kick her Peaches out. Andy and I head down to the playroom to find Lindsay sobbing, shaking and with a bloodied behind. Andy upon seeing Lindsay makes the comment 'Dear god, what did she do to Lindsay?!' At that point Lindsay wakes up in her suite screaming."

Gary confirmed, "So it was all a dream?"

I nodded 'Yes', "It was and the ironic part was Maya wasn't even home. She had gone over to Vinnie's to talk to Dianne about getting her old job back. Sara came in to her room and tried to comfort her. She had Andy and I come in there too. After she explained what happened I reminded her I would have never have allowed something like that to occur. Andy told her as well he wouldn't have allowed it either. So after Lindsay had calmed down a bit with Sara staying with her until dinner; Andy and I talked and agreed the caning platform needed to go. So naturally I called you and then come find out you didn't want it..."

Gary clarified, "It was more Bunny in response to what happened between Maya and Bambi. Curious, does Maya know what happened that afternoon?"

I thought for a bit, "Not sure, she knows is Lindsay had a bad dream which involved her. To this day, I don't believe Maya knows the full details and it is for the best she never does. I know it was a bit rough for the two of them for a while. It didn't help that Peaches was so skittish around Lindsay the first time they played together solo. Peaches was so worried about offending Maya she refused to allow Lindsay touch her. Of course, Lindsay had thought Maya had told Peaches bad things about her. The next night Maya spent the night with Lindsay and Peaches and the three of them end up playing together that night. I know the three of them spent time together all in the big cage, so I think things had improved with them."

Chapter 5: One Day in Scottsdale and Martina's Long Lost Twin Sister

Thinking back to earlier when Gary had asked about the Hummer, "So you asked earlier about Maya and The Pink Monster. You were there when Sara and I were discussing the divorce settlement. From what Sara told me you had come over to talk to me and I was down in the playroom. She sent you to the library and was going to go get me when the process server showed up. In the confusion she had forgotten about you, until you came into the kitchen as we were discussing the settlement. You asked about us 'splitting property', then made a comment Sara and I should get married and then left saying you needed to be somewhere."

Gary was a bit fuzzy, "Sounds about right, don't recall those events though."

I wondered, "Well, what were you even doing in town? As far as I know you were still in Vegas or may be out in Wickenburg with Bunny and Bambi. Your house wasn't completed yet and your office wasn't ready yet either."

Gary tried to recall, "Damn good question Ron. Why was I there? Oh...wait..the office, I think I recall now. Yeah, so there was some issues with the office I needed to address. Mainly the building I ended up in was not the one I had originally selected. There was a mix-up with the paperwork and the building I had selected was already leased. They ended up giving me the other building which was a little large and lot more, for the same amount. Once I wrapped up with them, I decided to go see how the house was coming along and maybe you and I would do lunch. I get to your place and was shocked when Sara answers the door in her uniform as the time before was the party and she was dressed for that."

I laughed, "Ah yes the party where you showed up with Bunny on one arm and Bambi on the other! As I recall y'all each rode your own Harley's out there...sounded like we were being invaded!"

Gary continued, "After Sara let me in she mentioned you were downstairs and she'd would go get you. She told to wait in the library and while I was waiting I found your stash..."

I corrected him, "Collection."

Gary laughed, "All right 'collection' of Penthouse magazines and became engrossed in those. I did recall hearing the door bell and Sara talking to someone and her telling them to wait in the Great Room while she went to get you. I didn't pay much attention as I was quite occupied at the moment. Once the process sever left I heard you two in the kitchen and went that way. I do recall now you two were discussing the divorce settlement and the comment I made about you and Sara was kind in a joking manner as to ease the tension. I really wasn't expecting you two to take it seriously."

I told him, "Even before Martina had filed for divorce she had already pretty much washed her hands of me. She kept telling me to 'fuck the maid' as she was too busy being fucked by Marc (and my sister). So Sara and I had already been spending a lot of time together. Again, we've known each other quite some time, so it shouldn't have come as big surprise. You did seem like you were spooked that day though..."

Gary explained, "Well, yes. Bunny and I were about to get married and then to find out things were not working out between you and Martina had me nervous. I was taking a major risk relocating out here, having the house built and even marrying Bunny. I didn't want a repeat of Britney from the year before. Looking back now, I should have never been worried. Bunny and I had known each other much longer and her parents were thrilled that we would be getting married. Even more so, when they found out I was having a house built and Bambi would be living with us too. Claudette even asked when I told them my intentions of Bunny and I marrying, if Bunny was pregnant."

I laughed, "I somehow could picture Randy with a shotgun..."

Gary told me, "Oh yes, he had a double barrel Winchester mounted in his den. God, Claudette would ask us every couple months or so if Bunny was pregnant yet. I kept telling her, when we are ready. We both had so much going on, I was trying to setup the ACME operations out here, then I eventually took over the business once Zac retired."

I asked, "What's the story with Lulu? I mean the first time I saw her I thought I was looking at Martina. We had talked on the phone quite a bit prior, but never in person. I'd call your office trying to reach you or she would call me to relay a message from you."

Gary laughed, "Oh yeah, I remember that. She really stuck her foot in her mouth when you told her she looked like Martina!"

I didn't realized he had heard that, "Oh, I didn't know you heard that! She didn't know who I was, I don't think I was wearing one my AZOutback polo's that day. I just kept staring at her in disbelief thinking this was a prank...no way Martina would be working for you. Of course as soon as she spoke I knew she was not Martina. I made the comment about her reminding me of Martina and that was when she asked if I needed something other than comparing her to my 'bimbo ex-wife'!"

Gary apologized, "Yeah, sorry about that. Not a very professional moment. That was when I commented that you two finally got to meet in person. Oh man, the look on her face!"

I assured Gary, "No offense taken and she was right about Martina...at least then..."

Gary asked, "What changed?"

I laughed, "Oddly enough it was Laura. Remember during our 'cooling off' period was right about the time Valley Shadows shut down and Marc and Martina ended up transferring to the 'theme park' as Marc called it in Henderson. He so hated that place, it was nothing like Valley Shadows was. Got understand too, Valley Shadows was in Paradise Valley so it was much higher end resort and clientele. Maya actually saved their asses by insisting they have a contingency added that either or both of them good quit within 90-days and would not hold the resort liable nor could they be held liable for breach of contract. So during that time though, Martina was staying with Laura and Miss Kitty. Miss Kitty wouldn't put up with Martina's crap and kept Martina belted most of the time. Marc had rented a studio condo nearby and was staying there"

Gary wondered, "How did they end up at The Boulders?"

I told him, "In an indirect way, Linda Holstein."

Gary laughed, "Geez Ron, is there any part of your life that she hasn't influenced?!"

Without missing a beat I told him, "Martina. So, one of the times we were out in Oro Valley she had put us up at Loews. I checked in and was informed the manager wanted to see me. They were having an issue with their network, which was a really simple fix: replacing the hub with a switch. Which I am guessing is how we ended up being sent there. So, a couple weeks later back in Scottsdale I get a call from the manger at The Boulders. She explained she was friends with

the manager down at Loews who had recommend me to help with her computer issues. There main computer kept shutting down or restarting due to overheating and power overload. We were chatting and she explained she had worked at Valley Shadows a while back, but was let go due to the events of 9-11. I explained that Marc and Martina had worked there until it has shut down and they had relocated to Henderson. She went on to explain she wished she known he was out of work as she would to love have him. She was in dire need of a Concierge Manager and Activities Director. I let her know if anything changed with their situation I'd let them know. This was before I found out how miserable both of them were in Henderson. In fact it has been a good month or so since I had heard anything from either one of them. Apparently, it was peak time and they were both working insane hours. Marc finally called me out of frustration and I told him about the offer from Boulders. He was on a plane to Arizona the next day. This was also about the time our divorced was finalized. Him and Martina ended up getting married in Vegas and then came out here a week later to start at The Boulders."

Gary joked, "and she hasn't been fired yet!"

I told him, "True. However, she found her passion. She became a certified Yoga instructor and also does children's ballet classes...without the 'boots' though!"

Gary laughed, "That would be a bit awkward."

I informed him, "She's gotten pretty good at wearing ballet boots, but yes that would not go over very well in the class. You never did answer my question?"

Gary confessed, "Sorry, I am getting old you know...which question was that?"

I reminded him, "Lulu."

Gary remembered, "Oh, yeah. She was...well is friends with Aimee, Zac's wife. I was going to have Bambi be my office manager, but she wanted to continue working with her sister's business; The Harnesses."

Chapter 6: The Fate of ACME and Farewell Dinner with The Zinfandel's

Gary asked, "So remember how I was saying I was going to talk to Zac about taking over the Arizona side of ACME BDSM and I would do Vegas with Cristina?"

I recalled, "Yeah, that was during Christmas when I finally told the extended family about our intent to move out to Tennessee. You had mentioned Zac was considering coming out of retirement."

Gary confirmed, "Indeed. He's getting tired of playing golf and apparently him

being home so much is wearing on Aimee. Honestly, I don't know how he does it; how he can run the company out here and generate leads. I found it to be so hard, seemed like in Vegas I had no issues. There was always some sort of fetish convention going on, out here it seems like the lifestyle is taboo."

I explained, "Well, I think a lot has to do with *The (LDS) Church* being so prevalent out here. But too, Vegas is a lot different and is much more of an 'adult oriented' theme. So are you three going to be going back to Vegas?"

Gary told me, "We will let you know tomorrow night, assuming you all are free for dinner?"

I asked, "By, 'you all' do you mean Sara and I or the entire 'family'?"

Gary clarified, "Everyone. Wynn, Lindsay, Andy, Maya, Peaches plus Marc and Martina."

I told him, "Far as I know we are free. Still getting things packed up and will be leaving later this weekend."

Gary realized the time, "Oh my, been here a while. Anyway, tomorrow night around 5:00 at Fleming's."

I joked, "What no The Unlikely Cowboy? That's fine, hopefully the ladies haven't packed all their formal clothes yet"

As I walked Gary out of the house Wynn saw us, "Gary you not staying for dinner?"

Gary told her, "No, Bunny and Bambi are due back from Wickenburg and then we are going to have a nice quiet dinner somewhere. Bernie is going to spend the weekend with the grandparents!"

After Gary left Wynn commented, "I don't think I ever seen you two spend so much time together."

I laughed, "I know just catching up on old times. I've known Gary for about as long as Martina and Sara. We'd all worked together...though indirectly in Vegas. Anyway, we've been invited to dinner tomorrow night at Fleming's. Guess we are going to find out what is going to happen with the business and Zac Acme. From what Gary was telling me: sounds like Zac is going to come out of retirement and possibly take over the Arizona ACME operations."

Wynn laughed, "Good thing I didn't pack my little black dress!"

I told her, "Yeah, I still have my dress slacks, shirt and boots too. Hopefully, everyone else hasn't either. How long until dinner, I still need to call Maya/Peaches and Marc/Martina, apparently he wants them there too....though I don't know why."

Wynn informed me, "About half hour. Lindsay and Sara came back early and are up in the loft. Just waiting on Andy and he told me when he'd be back."

I headed to my office and called Maya, "Hey, hope you and Peaches are free tomorrow night and have something nice to wear. Gary wants all of us to have dinner tomorrow night at Fleming's."

Maya told me, "I think Peaches is suppose to work tomorrow night, but then she is the manager so she could always come in a little later. What time?"

I told her, "I believe he said around 5:00 PM. Marc and Martina are supposed to be there too, need to call them next."

Maya told me, "Don't bother, Martina is here now. She had been doggy sitting Cream as Peaches had to go in this afternoon. I'll let her know and we will see you over there."

During dinner I informed everyone, "So, tomorrow night is our last night here...Gary wants us all to have dinner at Fleming's. This also includes Marc, Martina as well Maya and Ana. He is also going to tell us what is going to happen with the Arizona operations of ACME. Dinner is at 5:00 PM tomorrow. I am assuming y'all are working tomorrow?"

Lindsay told me, "I am going in late morning for Miss Womack, but well be done by lunch. We need to finish packing."

The next afternoon we all met in the great room. Wynn was wearing a little black dress with black fishnets. Both Lindsay and Sara were wearing the 'formal' black with gold hardware over-bust corsets, their high-cut long skirts and black stockings with black ankle boots. Luckily I had not packed my dress slacks, which I paired with a AZ Outback Polo and boots, plus my cowboy hat. Andy was also wearing dress slacks and had on a 'McGrawl Innovation Systems' polo. I commented, "Did you get that shirt made recently?"

Andy laughed, "No, actually I came across them when we moved back in and was going to donate them, but decided not to. Good thing I didn't as we will be using the McGrawl Innovation Systems name in Tennessee."

Lindsay still didn't understand, "Why couldn't we just keep PC's and Things?"

Andy reminded her, "Because we don't own the rights to that name. Max and Doyle do. Though I am sure they would have let us use the name if I wanted to. However, if we are going to start over we might as well go with our old brand. We would have continued using that name at Fountain Hills had it not been for Max and Doyle resurrecting PC's and Things."

Wynn asked, "Are we all going together?"

I told her, "Yes, we can all go in the Murano. Best we get going."

A little bit later we arrived at Fleming's and saw Maya's Daisy Duke Jeep, but not Marc's Murano. I was a bit surprised to see Laura's Caddie, but then I remembered she had sold it to Gary. We walked inside and found Marc, Martina, Maya and Ana in the lobby with Bambi and Bunny. Bambi saw me, "Oh good, y'all have arrived. Gary and Zac are wrapping up on somethings. We are just waiting on Aimee and their daughter to arrive."

I was looking around and saw Martina was wearing a sheer mesh black dress with a pink bodysuit underneath. She was wearing pink ballet heels with black fishnets I commented, "Quite the outfit, love it!"

Martina giggled, "Marc insisted I wear something under the dress...and not just a thong."

Lindsay came over and told her, "Could've worn your chastity belt and bra...especially with Peaches being here!"

Martina laughed, "I don't think he would have let me leave the house dressed like that!"

I added, "True, now if we were at The Unlikely Cowboy, he surely would have let you."

Martina informed me, "Maya told me she'd keep Peaches in line."

Maya walked over in a red corset dress, black tights and red knee boots and told me, "I am going to try anyhow. I don't have much leverage anymore now that she loves wearing the armor. But, then I could have Gary commission her a super-max belt that she would not enjoy wearing. I'd was tempted to cuff her hands in front of her at the waist, but that might not go over so well here."

Peaches heard us talking about her and came over wearing a white sleeveless sweater dress with sheer black tights and white knee boots. "I can behave! We don't go out often, so not going to spoil this night for any of us."

Aimee and Lisa arrived. Aimee saw Sara and I, "Ron and Sara good to see you again. Y'all remember Lisa?"

Lisa walked over wearing Lindsay's 'Angel' outfit. I commented, "Yes, I do. I see you have raided Lindsay's closet!"

Lisa laughed, "I always loved that look on her...though what she is wearing tonight wow!"

Lindsay walked over and hugged Lisa, "It was Christmas present from Miss Holstein...of course she wants me to wear it at the store once in a while to model."

Aimee told us, "Well we are all here now Gary and Zac are ready for us."

Lisa saw Martina, "Well, that's a neat look!" She noticed the ballet boots, "How the hell can you walk in those bloody boots!?"

Martina giggled, "Years of practice."

Lisa asked, "Did you get those from my father or Gary?"

Martina told her, "Not directly, the Boot's vendor out in Frisco, Texas. I don't recall his name, sure Ron knows."

I headed the last part of Martina's statement and asked, "What do I know?"

Martina explained, "The Boot's vendor out in Frisco."

I replied, "Oh yeah, Jason Jason. He was out here for The Zinfandel and Sara and I's wedding."

We headed to the banquet room and noticed there was food and beverages already prepared. Gary advised us, "Take whatever you want, this on me...and Marc."

Marc laughed, "Why do I feel like I being used?"

Bambi replied, "Because you are! Don't worry we still love you."

After everyone had gathered their food and beverages Gary raised his glass, "A toast to the Merlot-McGrawl Family!"

Andy was next me and joked, "Didn't know we merged!"

I added, "Or at least became hyphenated..."

Gary continued, "I am going to make this quick as I am sure you want to eat and then give your farewells to the Merlot-McGrawl Family. After much debate, Zac has decided to come out of retirement and take over operations of the ACME BDSM Phoenix office. Bunny, Bambi and I will be returning to Nevada where I will take over operations with Cristina at the Henderson office. Now Ron, I understand that the service agreement renewal we signed back in April is valid through the end of the year?"

I confirmed, "Yes and that applies to both Phoenix and Henderson locations. If you want to cancel those before the end of the year you can get a prorated refund. Your next renewals are in October for January 1st."

Gary explained, "Since it is going to take us sometime to reorganize as well for the three of us to even get out there, we likely won't fully switch over until close to the end of the year."

Bambi asked for clarification, "I want to confirm that if your 'pain in the rear client' decides he wants to do a refresh at the Henderson location, y'all can come out for an extra fee besides what would normally be charged for said refresh?"

I confirmed, "Yes. That would also apply to Zac if he choose to keep AZOutback as his IT Services Provider."

Zac told me, "I want to continue using your services. We'll have Lulu get in contact with you to make arrangements."

Peaches did keep her promise to behave herself, leaving Martina and the rest of the ladies alone. Martina and Lisa chatted quite a bit. Gary commented to Martina, "You know with Ron, Sara, Lindsay and Wynn being gone, we are going to need a new model. I understand y'all are moving into Ron's place behind us. Even once Zac takes over, he'd likely have vendors out as well and could use a model. Something to keep in mind."

It was getting late and really wanted to get a decent night sleep before we headed out on the road. I told them, "Hate to break up this event, but we really need to get going. Want to get a decent start tomorrow, so we need to get home to wrap up the packing and get some sleep."

Zac came over and shook my hand, "Good seeing you again Ron. Best of luck with your family's new ventures in Tennessee. Hopefully, see y'all out here again sometime after the new year when we get things refreshed at my office."

Gary also came over, "Same here, expect likely you won't see us out here

anymore...likely next time will be in Henderson."

As we were headed home I commented to Sara, "What an Unlikely Friendship we've had with The Zinfandel's for all these years!"