

---

# The Unlikely Exodus

©2005-2024

Fiction By AZOutback

Visit: [theunlikelystories.com](http://theunlikelystories.com) for Character Guides, updates and more.

---

*The Unlikely Exodus* picks up where *The Unlikely Vacation* left off. Laura and Sophie leaving started an Unlikely Exodus as more of The Merlot Family and Friends followed, but not necessarily to the same place.

## Chapter 1: Christmas Play Time!

Christmas Eve afternoon once everyone had returned home we went to The Other Steakhouse for an early dinner. After we finished our main course and before dessert, I noticed Maya and Peaches chatting with the manager and then Maya sat down at their piano and start playing. Peaches joined her singing Christmas Carols. It had been a long time since I had heard Maya playing the piano and for that matter heard Peaches' singing voice. Later on we headed back to the barn and each opened a single gift each with rest being opened on Christmas morning. Laura and Sophie would be coming in during the afternoon on Christmas Day. Laura was going to make her Chicken Enchiladas for the Merlot Family Christmas dinner. After our gift exchange Sara asked everyone what would they want to try out or do in the loft. She told us she would use that feedback to plan for her Loft Mistress role tomorrow. We chatted in the Great Room for a couple hours when Wynn brought out ice cream and brandy.

Lindsay commented, "The Boutique Holstein has been a great success. Linda is happy and Laura is still loving it. We are going to have to hire another sale person soon between the increased demand and one of the others is going back to school in January."

I noticed Peaches was saying something to Maya about the situation with the Boutique Holstein, but couldn't quite make out what she was saying. I asked Lindsay, "What happened with your sister working with Laura?"

Lindsay explained, "She handles getting the grandkids to and from school then helps out at The Cheshire Cafe in between."

Given the two hour time difference and having worn themselves out from playing earlier in the day most everyone went to bed shortly thereafter. The next morning Lorena and Blanche came by for breakfast while Laura and Sophie wanted to spend some time together and would come out in the afternoon. After breakfast we opened the rest of our gifts. Everyone headed up to the play loft with the exception of Marc who spent most of the day in the sitting room *reading* some of my vintage Playboys. Sara had gone up earlier to change into a

dominatrix outfit and upon seeing us, "Good morning all! I am Sara and I will be your Loft Mistress today. Based on your feedback I have managed to get everyone accommodated. Wynn is going to assist me in getting y'all setup. So first we have Mrs Merlot on the fucking machine."

Lorena was excited as she never really got to use the fuck machine all that much, "Oh boy!"

Wynn asked, "Do you want a gag or blindfold?"

Lorena replied, "Both?"

Wynn laughed, "That can be arranged. Let me go fetch a combo trainer gag." Wynn returned shortly and told her, "Remove your skirt and panties."

Lorena replied, "Not wearing any, have an open bottom girdle on holding up my stockings." She removed her skirt revealing the black girdle.

Wynn whistled, "Nice! Okay then..." She pointed to a section of the cross and told Lorena, "Go ahead and sit on the raised leather cushion here so I can adjust the cross to fit you." Lorena did as she was told and Wynn adjusted the pegs for the ankle restraints. Wynn told her, "Okay, this looks good. Let me get your ankles bolted down." Wynn threaded the hex bolt through each of the metal ankle cuffs connect to pegs on the cross. She then told Lorena, "Okay, let me get the combo trainer gag on you."

Meanwhile Sara advised Lindsay and Martina, "You two can help me out with the next part. I need straitjackets, wand harnesses and wands for Blanche, Maya and Peaches. Put them into the jackets first then attach the wand harnesses and then put in the cage. Blanche should be in the middle. Martina and Lindsay went to fulfill their assignments while Sara got the magic power box setup.

Wynn finished getting the gag/blindfold in place on Lorena, "Okay, I am right next to you, go ahead and lay back." Lorena laid back and Wynn adjusted the leather wrapped pillow at the top of the cross to accommodate Lorena and then fastened the leather belt attached to the bottom of the cushion around Lorena's waist. Wynn told her, "We're almost there, just a couple more things. Let me get the wrist restraint in place Go ahead and put your arms out." Lorena spread her arms and Wynn attached and bolted the wrist cuffs. Wynn asked her, "Can you move?" Lorena tried to move, but found she was held in tightly. Wynn laughed, "Good! Okay, let me get the fucking dildo lubed and adjusted; then you can enjoy the ride. I am going to set this to 'Progression' it will start slow and then build up over time thereafter. Gives you a chance to get warmed up!" Wynn had finished getting everything setup and started the fucking machine.

She headed over towards Sara, Martina and Lindsay. They were attaching the wands when Sara saw her and asked, "Can you get Andy setup on the table? Ron can help you with the magnetic restraints and Venus, I've never used those before."

I was chatting with Andy when Wynn came over and told us, "Andy you are on the table. Ron, Sara says you can help me get the restraints and Venus setup?"

I told her, "Yes. One detail you should know when using those features, the subject is not placed in a straitjacket. We'll still use the collar and the other table restraints."

Wynn replied, "Ah interesting."

I added, "I mean technically we could put him in a jacket instead of using the magnetic restraints, but seeing as Sara is going to have her hands full, he can release himself once his milking session is completed." I handed Andy the collar and special wrist cuffs. Wynn came over and inserted a metal butt plug into Andy's ass then got him positioned on the table and instructed him to lay back. The clasp caught the ring on the collar holding his head in place. Wynn added a blindfold and gag then attached the rest of the straps. I attached the stand for the Venus and told Andy, "I am going to guide the metal catches on your wrist restraints into place. Try not move your arms much; the electromagnets have a five-minute run down before they activate." I inserted each of the metal catches into the receptacles and then turned the timer nob to 45-minutes.

Wynn pointed to his flaccid cock commented, "He doesn't seem to be too excited about this."

I commented, "Yeah, I noticed that too. Well, we need to lube up his cock anyway before we put the Venus on him." I grabbed some lube and slowly started massaging Andy's cock until he had a nice hard-on. I plugged in the air compressor for the Venus and placed the receiver on Andy's cock. I told him, "Everything should kick in shortly." Another minute the Venus came to life and Andy felt his wrists being pulled against the table.

Wynn told everyone, "I am going to be down in the kitchen. Need to take care of the breakfast dishes and then start early prep for dinner. Do we know when Laura and Sophie are coming?"

I told her, "Later this morning, that is about all I know." Wynn headed back downstairs leaving Sara in charge.

Sara came over and saw Andy restrained to the table with his cock being milked by The Venus, "Okay four down, four to go! Martina and Lindsay who wants to be

spanked first?"

Martina volunteered though she was hesitant, "I would...but are you spanking me?"

Sara wondered if Martina was still scared of her, "No, Lindsay will..."

Martina changed her tune, "Well in that case..."

Sara told them, "Once Andy is done with the table, you two can use it next. Meanwhile I am going to put Ron on Laura's cross and do such evil things to him!"

Lindsay got Martina strapped to the spanking bench. Before she blindfolded Martina she presented two paddles: a solid and a holey, "Which paddle should I use on you? My solid pledge paddle or the holey version?"

Martina told her, "The holey one."

Lindsay laughed, "Wow...okay then. Do let me know if I get too rough."

Martina informed Lindsay, "Don't worry honey you won't hurt me, I have a tough ass....well at least I've been called one!"

Meanwhile on the other end of the loft Sara lead me to Laura's cross. I commented, "Wow, been a long time since I've been on this. Think the last time was either Miss Kitty or Sophie was tormenting me."

Sara thought, "That was a long time ago, wasn't that right after she came to Arizona?"

I told her, "Very likely or even when they all were still in Henderson."

Sara replied, "Sure would not have expected her to move out here...hell wasn't expecting us to come out."

I added, "Or our mother and Blanche for that matter!"

Sara focused back on her task at hand, "Okay, remove your shorts and up against the cross..." In the distance we could hear Blanche screaming as an orgasm hit her, "Should I go check on her?"

I told her, "I don't know...suppose it wouldn't hurt."

Sara replied, "Okay, I'll be back." Sara was headed to the cage when suddenly

Peaches let out her banshee scream. Once Sara got over to the cage she commented, "Damn, you're loud!"

Maya joked, "Who Blanche or Peaches?"

Sara told her, "Well both actually! You all good?"

Maya assured her, "We're fine. Blanche here is doing great. Go back to tormenting Ron."

Sara returned to me on the cross and informed me, "Well, they are all good. Let's do this!" Sara knelt down to start sucking my cock, but found the floor a bit hard, "Hmm...let me go grab my knee pads!" Sara went over to the closet and found a set of volley ball knee pads.

When she returned I teased her, "Well, there's something you don't see everyday: a Dominatrix wearing knee pads." Sara ignored me and went to work on my cock.

Meanwhile over at the table, the timer reached zero, the Venus stopped and Andy was able to pull his wrists out. He remove the gag and blindfold and started feeling around behind his head to find the release for the collar. He saw Lindsay in the distance and called out to her, "Hey Lindsay, how do I get my head free?"

Lindsay had just wrapped up with Martina and told him, "There is a catch recessed down below, I'll be there in a moment just need to get Martina released."

Martina told her, "Just get my head and one of my wrists freed, I should be able to escape." Lindsay undid the straps holding Martina's head down as well as one of the wrist restraints.

Lindsay headed over to the table and reached under Andy's neck to disengage the catch from the ring on the collar. She asked Andy, "So are you nice and drained now?"

Andy laughed, "Don't think I've cummed so much in such a short time! That metal butt plug really intensified the orgasms." Andy was able to get the rest of the restraints undone and headed to the powder room to get cleaned up and changed.

Wynn knew when Andy would be done and headed back up the play loft. She saw Lindsay, "I'll get the table cleaned up for you two."

Lindsay replied, "I need to pee then I'll be back."

Martina told her, "I want to return the favor, so I'll do you on the table!"

Lindsay headed to the powder room only to find Andy was still in it. She banged on the door, "Hurry up! I need to pee!"

Andy opened the door gave Lindsay a look who in return gave him a look as she went in without either of them saying a word to each other. Andy headed downstairs to chat with Marc down in the sitting room. After Lindsay had emptied her bladder she returned to the table to see Wynn had it cleaned and had a fresh straitjacket and Lindsay's favorite gag sitting on top. Martina saw Lindsay and informed her, "So Wynn has given me a crash course on how to get you setup. Let me know when you are ready."

Lindsay removed her skirt and debated about removing her top, but being how cold it was up in the loft even with heaters going she figured she wouldn't overheat with her top on under the straitjacket. She told Martina, "I'm ready. Let me get up on the table so it will be easier for you to put the jacket on me. I suppose I should also put on my gag before you do that." A few minutes later Martina had Lindsay secured to the table. She saw the rigid ankle shackles attached at the base of the stool and closed those around her ankles upon sitting down on the stool. She then reached behind her and closed the attached rigid cuffs around her wrists. She then wondered where the keys were, but figured Sara or Wynn could release her later. She dove into Lindsay's wide open pussy.

Later in the afternoon Laura and Sophie arrived. Laura asked, "Where is everyone?"

Wynn told her, "Most everyone except for Andy and Marc are up in the loft."

Laura told her, "Well, I suppose I'll go up and join the in the fun."

Wynn warned her, "Sara is The Loft Mistress!"

Laura wasn't sure what that meant, but figured she'd take her chances. Sara had just wrapped up with me and was releasing me from the cross when Laura came up the stairs. She commented, "Nice! Glad to see you are getting some use out of my old cross. Sophie and I used to use it a lot." She looked around and saw most everything was occupied and asked, "Where can I play?"

Sara told her, "Need to get your mother off the fucking machine so if you want to use that you can."

I informed them, "I am going to be heading to my office soon, need to check on some job bids; then likely chat with Marc and Andy."

Laura told Sara, "Sure I haven't been on that in a long time."

Sara told her, "I will help you remove your mother." Sara and Laura removed the restraints securing Lorena to the cross.

Lorena remove the combo gag and commented to Sara, "After we get Laura setup on the machine, how about I put you on the spanking bench?"

Since Sara had been the 'Loft Mistress' all day she hadn't really had a chance to play other than when she was doing me on the cross. She told Lorena, "Okay, that'll work. Need to get the machine and cross cleaned up before I put your daughter on."

Laura noticed her mother's underwear, "Oh...nice girdle! I have a garter belt of a similar style."

Lorena told her, "Blanche bought it for me as a Christmas present. Of course, since it was custom made I already knew about it. Nothing quite like the feeling of a properly fitted girdle! You really should get yourself one, it helps with your posture and provides good back support."

Laura replied, "I may take you up on that offer. I am either on my feet or hunched over a desk most of the day."

Lorena suggested, "When you have a free day, we can go into town to the girdle maker. Well, I need to head over to the powder room before I start spanking my daughter-in-law." Lorena put her skirt back on and headed over to the powder room. Meanwhile Sara had returned to clean the cross and fucking machine. Laura was wearing a long skirt with stockings held up by a simple garter belt.

Sara told her, "Remove your skirt and panties, if you are wearing any." Laura did as Sara instructed removing her skirt revealing white stockings to which Sara commented, "You're not supposed to wear white after Labor Day...but then Peaches did show up in that white sweater dress and...nevermind. Okay go ahead and sit down on the leather cushion so I can get the restraints adjusted." In a couple minutes Sara had Laura secured to the x-cross and started the fucking machine. While she was waiting for Lorena to return she checked on Peaches, Maya and Blanche in the cage. She noticed the magic power box was no longer illuminated and did not hear the wands going. She also noticed all three of them appeared to be asleep. She opted to leave them in the cage for now. She went over to the table to see Lindsay in the receiving position attached to the table. She also noticed Martina had attached all the rigid shackles to herself keeping herself bound to the stool.

She walked up to Martina and placed her hand on Martina's shoulder. Martina jumped (as much as she could being shackled to the stool) and turned around, "Oh hi Sara! Did you want to change places with me?"

Sara told her, "I'd love to, but my mother-in-law is about to give me a spanking."

Martina giggled, "I warned you what would happen if you didn't keep Ron happy!"

Sara gave her '80's Valley Girl' reply, "Like whatever!" She started giggling and after regaining control of herself told Martina, "Was just coming over to check on you two. So nice to see Lindsay on the receiving end, she gives so much and rarely allows for others to return the favor to her. Thank you!"

Martina was choked up that she was getting respect from Sara, not that Sara didn't respect Martina...it was just Martina still felt bad for what her and my sister did to Sara so many years ago, "My pleasure Mrs. Merlot!"

Lorena had returned and asked Sara, "You ready?" Sara hiked up her dress before climbing up on to the spanking bench. Lorena strapped her down then gave her a firm spanking. They would have continued longer but Maya had woken up and wanted out of the cage, as did Blanche and Peaches. Lorena told Sara, "Guess we will need to continue this another time." She released Sara.

Sara told her, "I could use some assistance getting them out." The two of them went over to the cage and Sara told Lorena, "Remove their wands from the harnesses and then I can start getting them out of the cage and their jackets."

Lorena removed the wands and Sara started pulling them out one-by-one and removing the harness and straitjacket. Once Blanche was freed she told Lorena, "We really need to do this together sometime!"

Sara went about getting everyone else released as it was getting close to dinner time. Down in the kitchen Sophie was helping Wynn with the first half of dinner. Wynn told Sophie, "Thanks for your help in getting this part done. I am surprised you are not up with everyone else."

Sophie replied, "I am kind of tired of it, was even before we moved out here. The closest I come to do anything is spending time 'meditating' in my cage before Laura comes home."

Wynn recalled, "Oh yeah you did get a cage custom made by Sir Finley."

Sophie told her, "More of an end table which just happens to have a similar structure to a cage including a door with an electromagnetic timer lock! I usually get home around one, do a couple chores for an hour. Once I am done with those



then I get into my cage. Depending on how I am feeling I'll set the timer anywhere from 30-minutes up to an hour. I have an over-size leather blindfold I wear and cuff my hands behind my back. The keys for the cuffs are on the other end of the room. It gives me a chance to unwind before I have to deal with Laura when she comes up."

Wynn wasn't sure if Sophie was joking about Laura, "So she is still difficult to work with?"

Sophie replied while trying very hard not to laugh, "Yeah, she can be a real bitch at times...." She could no longer contain her laughter.

Laura had just come down to get her part of the dinner going and commented, "My Spidey Senses are tingling! Were you two talking about me?" Sophie and Wynn both played innocent and didn't say anything. Laura just played along, "Suppose not...could've been a draft...yeah you know these old barns are like that. Okay, let me get my part going."

An hour later everyone else had come down from the play loft and were gathered in the Great Room. The first batch of The Merlot's Chicken Enchiladas had finished. Laura pulled those out of the oven and put the second batch in. Given there were thirteen of us we had to divide dinner into two parts. Marc, Martina, Lindsay, Andy, Maya, Ana and Sophie would eat during the first half. The second half was Sara, Laura, Mother, Blanche and myself. During the second half of dinner Lorena commented to Sara and I, "You know far be it from me to tell you how to live your lives, but this having Christmas at a different house each year is getting a bit tiring!"

I laughed, "But, what's a little variety? But believe me, I had no desire to move again. This house is working for us and our lives seem to be working out well here. Besides, this move got you and Blanche to come out here too."

Laura added, "I am with Ron. I am enjoying myself out here. I love running the store instead of it running my life like the resort did."

I asked, "How has Sophie adjusted?"

Laura told us, "It has took her a while. But I do believe, she enjoys working at The Cheshire's Cafe and even more so with her Sunday's quilting group."

Blanche asked, "Neat, I'd be interested in being part of that. Do you know if they are taking new members. I do miss my underwater basket weaving classes from back in Arizona."

Laura told her, "From what Sophie says they are always welcoming new people. I

believe she found out about the group from Leslie. I'll let Sophie you know you are interested."

Later that evening Mother and Blanche headed back home. Before Laura and Sophie left Laura asked, "Are we doing the family dinner on Saturday?"

I told her, "Not sure. Marc and Martina will still be here, they are not leaving until Monday. Maya and Ana I believe are leaving tomorrow. Are y'all having your meeting on Sunday?"

Laura told me, "I am not sure. I don't think so. We'll do one after the new year. Yeah, I think we will pass this Saturday given we all were together tonight."

Laura and Sophie left. Maya and Ana were walking back to their room Maya came into my office, "Do you live in here? Seems like I always see you in here!"

I laughed, "No, just checking a couple things before we wrap up for the night. Want to spend some time with Sara...provided y'all didn't wear her out again!"

Maya joked, "I can neither confirm or deny we did such thing! Anyway Ana is going to take Cream out then we are headed to bed. This two hour time difference is hard."

I told her, "Yeah, been there done that. Spent a couple weeks out here when Laura opened her store and then when I got back to Arizona it took me a couple days to get used to being back on Arizona time."

After she left I shut down and headed upstairs to our suite. Sara was coming out of the bathroom when I came in. I asked, "Are you wiped out from them all?"

Sara laughed, "No, I am a bit more refreshed now after the soak."

I replied, "Okay then..."

Sara informed me, "I still do have one more 'Christmas Present' for you..."

## **Chapter 2: Sara's Gift and The Exodus Continues?**

Sara presented me with a small wrapped box. I opened to box to find a wireless remote controlled vibrating butt-plug. Sara told me, "I charged it this morning so it should be ready to go!"

I grabbed some lube and inserted the plug into my ass. I hadn't really done much with plugs; I was more into prostate massagers. I was quite surprised at the intensity of the vibrations on my prostate when Sara activated the plug. She

started sucking my cock and was surprised when I came so quickly and hard. She then pulled a Martina and impaled herself on my cock and started riding me Cowgirl style. Sara had her first orgasm and between her contractions and the vibrating plug in my ass, I cummed again. In the end we were both rather tired and after cleaning up we headed to bed for the evening.

The next morning Wynn and Martina were making a jumbo Spanish Omelet. Laura came by later and picked up Marc and Martina and took them into Nashville for the day. I had headed back to my office to check my job queue as well as my PayPal account with all the payments for the last minute service agreement renewals coming through. Sara, Andy and Lindsay had left for work. Maya saw that I had left for my office and asked Wynn, "Could you take Peaches and I over to The Other Steakhouse a little later we need to talk to the manager. Don't say anything to Ron or anyone else."

Wynn was not sure what was going on, but agreed, "Sure, just let me know when."

After lunch Wynn told me she was going to be gone for a couple hours was taking Maya and Peaches out. Wynn dropped Maya and Peaches off at The Other Steakhouse. Maya told her, "I'll give you a call when we are done. Shouldn't be more than an hour."

Wynn told her, "That's fine, I can go over to Taylor's and get me a treat!"

When they came in the manager greeted them, "Hello Maya and Ana! So you two have returned."

Peaches joked, "Against better judgments!"

Maya laughed, "Oh come on, this has to be a lot better than what you have been dealing with at Vinnie's. Now I understand why Dianne was so eager to go back to doing deliveries."

The manager told them, "Yes, our clientele is much more better behaved!"

Maya told the manager, "The funny thing is the locals and our regulars were great, it was the tourists who couldn't grasp the concept that since everything is made fresh and by hand it is going to take a while. They would also throw a fit when we tell them to put away their devices.."

The manager agreed, "Seems this generation are addicted to their devices and can't get their heads out of their apps! Maya, if you would like to play the piano while Ana and I talk business? When we are done, we'll discuss your arrangements."

Before Maya left Peaches mumbled, "It cold out here."

Maya teased her, "So, after a decade in Arizona your blood has thinned! Just so you know, Chugwater was far colder." She headed over to play the piano while the manager and Peaches disused more details.

Peaches and the manager worked out some details and the manager told them, "Let me know when you two are ready. Maya I am thinking we can have you playing from 5 to 9 a couple evenings a week, may be more if our other players have other commitments."

Maya told her, "Well, I'll talk to my brother in-law when we get back as we're staying with his family for the holidays. We were going to return to Arizona today, but thinking we are going to stay through the weekend. Once we get back to Arizona, we can find out when we will be available." They headed into the lobby and Maya called Wynn, "We are done come get us please." Wynn told them she'd be there in a few minutes. Maya turned to Peaches and asked, "You certain you want do this?"

Peaches hesitated, "No! Yes...we need this. Vinnie's is driving me batty and the hospital ain't do you much better."

Maya laughed, "You got that right! Sometimes at Vinnie's I feel like I am a bouncer rather than the piano player. We joke about Lizzie's 'job' and yet she spends more time in the condo and with Cream then we do. Now, just need to figure out our living situation out here. I hate to burden Ron with us moving back in yet again...though it appears they have a lot of rooms at this place that they don't use. Wonder if there will be room for my piano?"

Peaches asked, "Why bring piano? Just leave at Vinnie's."

Maya told her, "I'd rather just leave it there then drag it...well have it shipped...out here, but it is our mother's and Sara would never forgive me if I abandoned it."

Peaches did not understand, mainly because she did not have strong relationship with any of her family nor had anything attached to her family, "Why?"

Maya tried to explain, "Because it has been in the family for generations. It is a connection we still have with our late mother. When I was little she taught me to play and Sara would always sit next to me on the bench watching. It would be like if Sara had sold the Roadrunner when they left Arizona. I'd be very upset with her as all the time and money I put into finding and having that car restored for her. I know it is hard for you to understand, being you never had much of family or anything passed down to you." Wynn arrived in The Jeep but didn't say

anything to Maya or Peaches when they got in. Maya opted to test the waters with Wynn, "Question, should Peaches and I..."

Peaches added, "Cream too!"

Maya rolled her eyes and sighed, "...okay, fine! Should Peaches, *Cream* and I relocate out here, would Ron...and I suppose Sara too be okay with us moving in? Seems like you have the room."

Wynn didn't seem surprised, "We have the middle suite on the second level, plus two guestrooms in the old tack-room. Plus The McGrawl's have an office they never use. So to answer that part of your question, yes we have the room. As far as Ron goes, I don't think he'll have say given Sara would love to have you back. Dang Laura seems to have started a mass exodus from Arizona! If you like I can 'break the ice' with Ron...though I'd recommend you wait until Sara gets back. She should be coming home in the next hour."

The three of them returned to the house. After changing out of their boots and coats in the mudroom, Maya and Peaches headed into the Great Room to find Cream and Lucy asleep in the same bed. Wynn came in shortly thereafter and saw the girls looking at the dogs, she commented, "Well, good to see they get along with each other."

Maya joked, "May be it is fate?"

Wynn laughed, "Perhaps it is! Anyway, I'll grab you two when Sara gets back." Peaches and Maya headed over to their temporary room to discuss their next steps. Meanwhile Wynn headed over to my office and knocked on my open door, "I'm back. Got a minute?"

I was on a video conference call with Marty and looked up and motioned her to come in while pointing to my headset, "Okay, Marty glad you're on board. I'll get back to you when I know more about when Zac Acme wants to move forward with the ACME Deer Valley refresh. I thinking we will do the same out in Henderson when Cristina Spears and Gary Zinfandel do their refresh. Ideally, I like to do them both around the same time so we don't have to go across the country twice...but I can dream. Thanks." I closed out the video conference with Marty and told Wynn, "So, Lulu called me earlier and Zac wants to do a refresh at the Deer Valley location. I know Gary is going to want to at some point. I want to bring Marty out on those jobs so he can get familiar with their setups. He was kind of flying blind when he did the project for Linda out in Oro Valley last month. So, what's going on with Peaches and Maya?"

Wynn joked, "I am not at liberty to discuss that with you...at least not without your wife present."

I was not sure if she was being serious, "Um...okay.?"

Wynn told me, "When Sara comes home, they want to talk to both of you." Now I was really puzzle and yet intrigued. As she left Wynn teased me, "I'll say this: Laura has sure started something!"

Sara and Lindsay came home and once they came out the mudroom Wynn told them, "Sara, your sister and Ana are requesting an audience with you and Ron. I will let them know you are home."

Sara was surprised, "I thought they left back for Arizona this morning?"

Wynn told her, "They had planned on leaving, but then 'something came up'."

Wynn went to get Maya and Peaches and Sara came into my office and asked, "Any idea what they want?"

I told her, "Your guess as good as mine. All I know is that Wynn told me was Laura started something. Let's head into the sitting room, my office is much too small for four or five of us." Sara and I headed into the sitting room and saw Wynn coming back with Maya and Peaches. I told them, "Ladies, let's talk in here. My office here is much smaller than back in Arizona and would be rather cramped with all of us in there."

Maya joked, "Yes, this works; Peaches needs to thaw out anyways. Peaches take a seat on the chaise by the fireplace. So I'll ask both of you, but Wynn seems to be under the impression that Ron doesn't have much of a say."

I laughed and asked, "Have I ever?"

Sara gave me her Valley Girl response, "Like whatever!" She turned her attention to her sister asking, "So what do you want to ask me...I mean *us*?"

Maya asked, "Can we move in with you?"

I was surprised, "Why? Granted, I don't have any issues and at least at this house we have lots of extra rooms."

Peaches replied, "Vinnie's patrons suck!"

Maya clarified, "She means some of the non-regular, non-local patrons have caused issues. Hell, I am just the piano player yet at times I end up being the bouncer. It has gotten so bad, some of the Scottsdale cops in our beat know me on a first name basis! Now I know why Dianne was so thrilled to go back to doing

deliveries. Neither one of us have a life outside of work. Lizzie spends more time at the condo and with Cream than we do. I get why Laura left the resort."

Sara asked, "Okay, so what are you two going to do?"

Peaches explained, "Evening Manager at The Other Steak House. Could Maya work for Holstein?"

Sara was confused by the question, "Can she what?"

I recalled what I had witnessed last night, "I believe what she is asking is if Maya can work with you, Laura and Lindsay at the Boutique Holstein. I noticed you two were discussing something when Lindsay had mentioned last night about Laura needing more help."

Sara commented, "I suppose y'all need to talk to Laura about that when she gets back with Marc and Martina. It is her store after all. Could work as Lindsay is hardly there now, guess PC's and....hell what do they call themselves now?"

I replied, "McGrawl Innovation Systems."

Sara laughed, "Yeah, that....anyway...my understanding business is so busy Lindsay can not get away most afternoons."

I told her, "And I end up coming in on Saturdays to bail them out with repairs and/or custom builds."

Maya added, "I would also be playing piano a couple evenings a week at The Other Steak House. Speaking of the piano, is there room in the Great Room for our family's piano?"

I told her, "Should be, it is a very large room."

Wynn suggested, "We should be able to place it over by the fireplace, just need to play some musical furniture."

I agreed, "Yes, that should work well. Out of the way of Miranda when she does her yoga session on Thursday evenings. Now I understand what Wynn said about Laura starting something."

Sara joked, "Let's just hope Linda doesn't decide to come out here!"

I cringed, "Oh god no! It has been so nice not having to deal with her and her never ending crises every other month. Marty on the other hand has not been so thrilled, especially with Oro Valley. No, she told me Arizona is her home and she

has no intentions on leaving. So Sara, since it seems I don't have a say...what do you say?"

Sara assured me, "Even though she is my sister, you do have a say...though that doesn't mean I would accept what you say..."

I joked, "That's about as clear as mud and I am beginning to think our marriage might be in trouble. Wonder if Doctor Phil does video conference sessions. However, I have no issues with them moving back in...again. So that would make us the House of Merlot, McGrawl, Rae and Cruz."

Wynn joked, "If I answer the phone with that, we might get mistaken for a law firm!"

Sara told them, "We don't have any problems with you staying with us. Were you two planning on finding other living arrangements?"

Maya asked, "Do we need to? We planned on contributing where we can.' She joked, "Peaches cooks and I play the piano!"

I added "and Andy buys me exotic beers from Trader Joe's. We can work something out later once we know more. Suppose they can take up the middle suite when they get back. Glad I opted for the four bay garage building, though would only be adding one more car..."

Maya corrected me, "Two: Peaches has an old early 90's Ford Bronco she bought. Came from a former pro football player..think he played in his college years at the University of Spoiled Children."

Sara asked, "So I assume you all will be going back to Arizona for a bit."

Maya replied, "Yes, need to take care of matters there. Say did you want your bondage stand back?"

I told her, "Yes, we have the room. I would have assumed y'all would bring it anyways given Peaches loves to use it?"

Peaches complained, "No time!"

Maya commented, "By the way, we will leave with Marc and Martina at the end of the weekend. I thinking we will be back here by mid-January."

I advised them, "Ironic as I am thinking Andy and I are going to be out in Arizona during that time for the ACME Deer Valley refresh. Still need to talk to Cristina and Gary to find out when they want to do theirs out at The Las Vegas ACME of



Henderson. I am really hoping to do them back to back so I don't have to make two trips to the western US."

Wynn asked, "That is what Gary is calling his Vegas location now?"

I laughed, "Yeah, reminds me of the odd naming of a certain Major League Baseball team in Southern California."

Wynn offered, "I can come out with you two."

I thought for a moment, "Well, it would speed things up. Especially since I am going to have to be working with Marty getting him onboard with handling the ACME service contracts. Just need to wait and see what happens."

Cream and Lucy started barking and we heard Laura yell to Marc and Martina, "Don't let them get out!" Luckily Marc and Martina were able to each grab a dog before they tried to get outside. Marc and Martina removed their coats and boots, while Laura just removed her boots as she would be heading back home soon. They headed into the kitchen and Laura called out, "Wynn? Ron? Sara? Anyone here?"

Sara yelled back, "We all are in the sitting room. Laura come in here please my sister wants to talk to you."

Laura walked in stocking feet and told her, "Really hadn't planned on sticking around..."

Sara assured her, "This won't take long...Maya."

Maya asked Laura, "When Peaches and I relocate out here sometime in the next month or so, can I come work at your store?"

Laura wasn't sure what she just heard, "Wait you two are leaving Arizona too?"

Maya told her, "We're in the same boat you were with the resort. Long hours and dealing with crap."

Laura was curious, "So what is Peaches going to be doing?"

Peaches told her, "I'll be evening manager at The Other Steak House. Maya will play piano there some evenings."

Laura told her, "I fine with it, we need the help. Leslie is busy with her daughter and the grandkids. Plus, Trisha is leaving towards the end of next month when school starts again. Add in that we barely see Lindsay now as their business is

booming. Not that it matters, but when do you plan on being out here?"

Maya told her, "Not sure yet. Need to take care of things in Arizona."

A shiver ran down Laura's spine, "Oh god! You two aren't getting..."

Maya reminded her, "We never married."

Laura apologized, "Sorry, didn't mean to come off that way. Just when you said that brought flashbacks of all the crap I had deal with back in Arizona before I could get out here."

Maya assured her, "Understandable, we shouldn't have as much baggage to deal with. All we need to do is wrap up with our jobs. We lease the residence above Vinnie's...crap Lizzie...not sure where she will stay the six-months she is in Arizona."

Martina had come in and told her, "She can stay with us at Ron's old house. We've got plenty of room."

Laura told Maya and Peaches, "Like I said, I'm fine with it...just don't come crying to me when you and Sara get tired of being around each other all day!"

Sara once again gave her valley girl reply, "Like, whatever!"

### **Chapter 3: Mistress Frosh and The Unlikely Repeat Customer**

During dinner, Maya told the rest of the family of their plans to relocate with us. Also Martina announced, "Since most of the ladies are going to be here tomorrow, I am going to be your Loft Mistress!"

I laughed, "Well, that's unusual!"

The next morning after breakfast Andy and I headed over to The McGrawl's store to catch up on upgrades and repairs. Things were a little slow this week so Lindsay didn't need to be at the store and even Laura really didn't need her this week. In fact Laura wasn't even going to be down in her store today; Her and mother were going into Nashville to visit the girdle maker. Laura was going to have Miranda holding down the fort. Andy and I figured we might be able to make decent dent in the repairs and upgrades given how slow things would be. Marc took my Jeep into Nashville as he wanted to check out some of the resorts see if he could get some ideas on improvements and new activities for The Boulders. Meanwhile, back at the barn Martina had returned to the center suite to change. She put on the black sheer mesh maxi dress she had worn at Fleming's on our final night in Arizona. However, instead of the pink bodysuit she wore her

pink chastity belt and bra underneath along with black stockings and pink Ballet Boots. While Martina had become fairly proficient walking in ballet boots, stairs were still a challenge for her. She knew Wynn was in the kitchen and she yelled down the stairs, "Wynn! Can you come up her and assist me?"

Wynn heard Martina and as she was coming up the stairs, "What do you need Martina?..." She rounded the bend and saw Martina's outfit, "Oh wow! That's an exotic and different outfit...what did you need?" She then looked down and saw Martina's pink ballet boots, "Oh, you need help getting up the stairs to the loft?"

Martina admitted, "Yes. Still haven't mastered stairs yet."

Wynn told her, "Not something I recommend you try solo anyway no matter how well you get around normally. I still get nervous going up and down in them; mis-stepped once and ended sliding down the stairs. Least all I ended up with was a sore ass."

--

On New Year's Eve Marc and Martina along with Maya, Peaches and Cream returned back to Arizona. Maya made arrangements with an interstate piano mover to have their family's piano moved from Vinnie's to our place in Franklin. Peaches talk to Diane and as much as she really didn't want to resume management duties at Vinnie's again, she would until a new manager could be found. She also was fine with Maya taking her piano back and would let her know once it was picked up. Maya gave her two weeks at the hospital, though she opted to use up two-weeks of vacation instead of putting in shifts. Maya also made arrangements to have her Jeep shipped to our place. They packed their clothes, the bondage stand and a few other personal items into Peaches' Bronco. Peaches and Maya did a video call with the manager at the Other Steak House. Peaches would start the following Thursday and Maya could play that Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings. Maya called me at the end of the week they had returned back to Arizona, "We are going to be leaving tomorrow. Peaches is done with Vinnie's and I am going to use up two weeks vacation at the hospital. Marc and Martina are taking us out tonight. Oh and Martina said y'all can stay with them when you and Andy come out to do the ACME Deer Valley job."

I told her, "That's handy. Not sure what we will do in Henderson. Gary or Cristina will likely put us up in a hotel. We will see you in a couple days. Oh and I did get the emails for the piano and your Jeep. Sounds like your Jeep will arrive before you do. The piano hasn't been picked up yet."

Maya told me, "Yeah Dianne said she heard from the movers and they will be out to get it next week."

Monday afternoon Maya and Peaches arrived a few hours after Maya's Jeep had come in from the shipper. Wynn and I helped them get unloaded. I came across the disassembled bondage stand and brought the pieces up to the play loft. I hadn't yet found a designated place for it, something Wynn or myself would do at a later time. Peaches took a soak in the tub up in their new room, while Maya helped Wynn with dinner. During dinner Sara asked Maya, "Okay, so when do you want to start at The Boutique Holstein?"

Maya told her, "Anytime. Is there anything special I should wear?"

Sara was still in her 'uniform' which as long-sleeve Boutique Holstein shirt, a skirt, tights and heels, "Basically what I am wearing...any Boutique Holstein shirt, skirt, stockings/tights and shoes of your choice. I had Laura order you some shirts in red! Just keep in mind you might be modeling stuff from time to time. I'll text Miranda tonight and let her know I'll be bringing you in tomorrow."

A couple weeks later Maya was getting used to working at The Boutique Holstein and seemed to be enjoying herself. The customers were all very pleasant and many of them tipped her when she assisted them. One Friday afternoon a group of four walked in. Maya greeted them, "Welcome to The Boutique Holstein, let me know if you need anything."

The older lady in the group commented on her accent, "Oh my, you are not from around here are you dear?"

Maya commented, "No ma'am, Frisco, Texas."

The lady laughed, "Figured it was Texas! Mind you ain't anything wrong with that. Anyway, may be you can help us: We are looking for Sara Rae or Lindsay McGrawl."

Maya explained, "Lindsay is not here today, she only works Mondays and Tuesdays. Did you mean Sara Merlot?"

The lady apologized, "Sorry, yes Sara Rae-Merlot."

Maya told her, "Sure, she's my sister; let me go find her."

The lady was a bit surprised Maya and Sara were sisters and told her, "Interesting...sounds good. We'll start looking around, just have her find us. Oh my, y'all have lots of neat stuff here!"

Maya went back to the stock room to find Sara, "Hey Sara there is group of customers here asking for you."

Sara was surprised as she had some regulars here, but not 'a group',  
"Hmm...odd, where are they?"

Maya replied, "They went off to start looking around. Told me to have you come find them."

Sara was not sure if Maya was being serious, but she didn't have any reason to believe Maya would be pranking her. They made their way out to the sales floor and Sara saw the lady from the rear, "Wait, is that who I think it is?"

Maya was clueless, "Who?"

Sara ignored her sister and called out, "Miss Bordeaux?"

Miss Bordeaux turned around, "Sara! Good to see you again. You can call me Kendra, no reason to be so formal."

Sara was stunned, "Miss Bor...I mean Kendra, what are you doing out here? How did you even know I was out here?"

Kendra explained, "I wanted to take my daughters out for a shopping excursion like we used to do long ago. We were going to fly out to Arizona to see you out in Scottsdale. I called over there and talked to Kacie asking her when you and Lindsay would be working and she informed me you two had left a few months back and came out here. I wasn't even aware y'all had a store out this way."

Sara told her, "Yes, it is my sister-in-law's store. She opened it the Thanksgiving before last when she relocated out here. Anyway, as you can see we carry a lot of the same items here as we do in Scottsdale, with the addition of some more local and regional items. Maya and I can help you out."

Kendra asked, "Who's Maya?"

Sara pointed to her sister, "Maya Rae... Miss Bordeaux."

Kendra laughed, "Would have never expected you two to be sisters. By the way, just call me Kendra. Let me introduce you to my girls." She called out, "Kelsea, Kassy and Kami come over here for a moment. She introduced her daughters to Maya and told them, "Maya here can assist you three. Sara and I have some catching up to do."

Laura was curious as to what was going on and she came out to the sales floor and saw Sara, "Everything going okay Sara?"

Sara introduced Laura, "Yes, meet Kendra Bordeaux. Laura Merlot is my sister-in-

law and owner of this franchise of the Budget Holstein."

Kendra hugged Laura, "Nice to meet you. Really love the design and feel of this store, especially this here cash-wrap. This store is much smaller, but more intimate with a great selection. Sara is assisting me while Maya is helping my daughters."

Sara told Laura, "We are good. We might need some assistance later once they start finding items they like."

Kendra asked, "Oh Laura, is my account valid out here?"

Laura was not aware any of the customers had accounts, "I am not certain. Let me check with Miss Holstein or O'Neil." Laura went back to her office and frantically called Kacie.

Kacie was in her office and busy with paperwork, "Budget Holstein at Thirsty Cactus, Kacie."

Laura asked, "Um Kacie, do customers have accounts?"

Kacie told her, "Yes, some of the Arizona premier customers do. But, we won't do that at your location."

Laura explained, "Well Kendra Bordeaux and her daughters..."

Kacie caught the Bordeaux name, "Oh shit, I didn't know she was serious about going out there. YES! Her account is valid in Tennessee. Her terms are 15/60: 15% down with the balance due in 60-days. Normally she pays off her account off in a couple weeks. So, when y'all go to cash them out, message me the order number and I'll adjust everything."

Laura returned to the sale floor and found Sara and Kendra, "Kendra, spoke to Miss O'Neil and yes your account will be honored here as well."

Kendra smiled, "Great, my daughters will appreciate that as I am sure Sara and Maya will too."

Laura told Sara, "Let myself or Miranda know if you need us to pull anything."

Sara told her, "Will do."

Kendra was looking at the wide selections of boots, "Nice selection of boots. So how did you and Lindsay end up out here?"

Sara explained, "Well, it all started with Laura...well actually Lindsay. Her sister recently divorced her lawyer husband after he made senior partner at a firm in New York. He dragged her out to Boston when he made junior partner and she never saw him much. She had no desire to go with him to New York and for that matter she pretty much knew she likely wouldn't even see him if she did."

Kendra laughed, "Yeah that sounds about right. My ex-husband and I were partners in a corporate law firm. He still is and I do corporate law consulting from home. We both worked long hours and while we did see our kids couple times a week, we really didn't 'see' them. Sad part was, they saw more of their nanny and friends than they did of us. We were both in shock when we took a 'family vacation' one summer. The kids were out of school and we both managed to get the same couple weeks off. The first day of the vacation we all went out for breakfast and both my husband and I upon seeing our kids were like 'Wait these are our kids? When did they grow up?' It was about that time I decided I would start doing a consulting gig so I could spend time with the kids before they went out on their own."

Sara continued, "Sounds a lot like Laura. She was an IT Manager for major a resort outside of Tucson and while the money was great she was pulling 60+ hours a week. Even when she was off or on vacation if they could reach her by phone she would be called in. So, anyway Lindsay's sister ended up coming out here to be with her daughter and son-in-law. They run a small cafe and gift shop on the outskirts of town. Both my and Lindsay's husbands do independent IT work and frequently work projects together with Laura being part of the 'team'. The cafe needed an upgraded and since it was 'family' we did the project. Laura had been talking with Miss Holstein about opening another store, originally in Arizona. However, when she came out here for the project she just fell in love with the area. She ended up opening this store around Thanksgiving two-years ago. Ron and Lindsay's husband, Andy came out to help Laura get things setup. Ron decided since the majority of his work is remote we didn't need to stay in Arizona. We were just tired of it. Ron first came out to Arizona about 30-years ago when he was at The University which is how we met. He said had just grown so big and so fast."

Kendra agreed, "Almost 50-years for me so yeah, the 90's were insane. 2000's slowed down with the housing market crash, but started picking up again in mid 2010's. Kami got married and moved out to the Boston area couple years ago. When they were expecting their first child I decided since I can work from anywhere, why not come out and assist her and her husband. Kelsea and Kassy ended up getting a place together in upstate New York so it worked well for all of us."

Maya came over with her tablet, "Sara, quick question Kassy wants this dress, but we don't have her size here. Looks like we have some at the Superstition

Mountain store. What do we do in this case?"

Sara told her, "Tell Laura or Miranda and they will confirm with Sadie that they do have it. Then they can either ship it over here or more than likely given they are premier customers we can have it shipped directly to their home at no extra charge."

Kendra laughed, "That sounds like Kassy, always wanting something that is never in stock where ever we are. Doesn't help she is as big as your sister. Where is The Superstition Mountain store?"

Sara assured her, "If they have it they can ship it to her. Superstition Mountain is in Gold Canyon off of Highway 60 between Apache Junction and Florence Junction. Linda opened that store about 4-years ago."

A bit later Laura came over to Sara, "I am done for the day. Miranda will assist y'all with closing. Sophie and I will be out for the family food truck night events with everyone else."

Sara told her, "Okay, so I should just message Kacie with the order number when we wrap up."

Laura reminded her, "Or you could just have Miranda do it, she is the operations manager. Anyway, I am heading home...my 1-minute commute!"

Laura left and Sara told Kendra, "She lives in the residence above the store!"

Kendra laughed, "Ah hence the 1-minute commute. What this family food truck night she was talking about?"

Sara explained, "Every Friday they have food trucks and family events in this area. All the downtown merchants stay open later and some may do special events or sales during that time. If the four of you have time after you're done here all of us can get together. You can finally meet my and Lindsay's husbands."

Kendra told her, "Sounds like fun. Okay, I think I have enough for a while...though I do need a hat to go with this dress and boots."

Kendra and her daughters wrapped up right around closing time. Miranda confirmed, "Okay, so with your account terms 15% due now and the rest in 60-days. So, with that...your total due now is..."

Kendra handed Miranda her Black Amex card, "Sounds good. Charge it to this card."



Miranda wrapped up and told them, "Kassy's dress will be shipped out tomorrow morning, should come around Wednesday next week."

Kendra told her, "That works. We'll be leaving on Monday. Okay, Sara when and where should we meet you for the family night events."

Miranda told Sara, "You and Maya can go now if you want, I can wrap up here. It is almost closing time anyway. I'll join y'all in a bit."

Sara told Kendra, "Give Maya and I few minutes to wrap up and we can meet you outside of the store."

Right as they were getting ready to leave Lindsay came in and she did not notice Miss Bordeaux, but she notice Lindsay, "Hello Lindsay, nice to see you again!"

Lindsay was a bit puzzled at first as she didn't work with Kendra as much as Sara had. It took her a few seconds, "Oh Miss Bordeaux, likewise!"

Kendra told her, "As I told Sara and her sister, no need to be so formal. You can call me Kendra."

Sara and Maya came out. Sara saw Lindsay, "Good timing! We're done for the evening. Kendra and her daughters are going to join us for Family Food Truck Night."

Lindsay told Sara, "Andy is wrapping up with Ron so they will be out there shortly."

Everyone made their way over to the food truck court and Kendra looked around, "Oh my, great selection here. How should we handle this."

Sara was looking around for Wynn, Andy or myself, "Hmm...don't see them yet. Let's grab some food and we can all find an empty couple tables."

Wynn had parked over by The McGrawl's store and met up with Andy and I. We made our way over to the food trucks. Wynn told us, "I am going to see if I can find the girls, they may have already gotten us a table. I'll grab some food shortly." Wynn started walking around and saw Sara, Lindsay and Maya. She approached the table, "Ah there y'all are. Ron and Andy are getting some food and should be over shortly."

Sara introduced everyone to Wynn, "Wynn is Ron's assistant and our housekeeper/chef. Meet Kendra Bordeaux and her daughters; Kelsea, Kassy and Kami."

Wynn bowed, "Pleasure. Heard a lot about you, neat to get to meet you in person...though I would have expected us to have met in Scottsdale. Anyway, I am going to get some food and let Ron and Andy know where you are."

Wynn found and told us the girls' had a couple tables and Miss Bordeaux was with them. Andy and I came over to the table where Sara, Lindsay and Maya were. I saw Kendra and commented, "Ah, so you are the famous Miss Bordeaux. I'm Ron Merlot, Sara's husband." Pointing to Andy who was devouring a fish taco, "this skinny fellow over here feeding his tapeworm is Andy McGrawl, Lindsay's husband." Andy not to be rude, waived.

Kendra laughed, "Guess I do have a bit of reputation. Anyway, as I told your wife and everyone else, just call me Kendra."

We all chatted for the rest of the evening. Kendra asked Lindsay, "Maya mentioned you work Mondays and Tuesdays?"

Lindsay informed her, "Most of the time yes. Andy and I have a computer store on the other block. I really don't have a set schedule at the Boutique Holstein, just when I get away from the computer store."

Kendra understood, "Okay. I know you and Sara worked together at the Scottsdale location. When we come out again I didn't want to deprive you of commission with us coming on a day you are not here."

Lindsay told her, "That is fine. You are Sara's customer and if I am not there Maya can help you out."

Kendra reminded them, "Well, it would not be just me but Kelsea, Kassy and Kami as well. Perhaps, I'll call Sara a week before we come out and let you know what day we'd be in town. We likely be out here once a month..."

Kami asked, "Do they only do the food trucks on Friday?"

Sara confirmed, "Yes, for the family night events."

Kami told her mother, "Then we need to make sure we come out on a Friday!"

Kendra laughed, "Suppose so. A long girl's weekend. Have to see how this weekend vacation rental works out for us."

#### **Chapter 4: Modernizing a Relic and Time for a Refresh**

The following Monday morning after everyone had left for work Wynn informed me, "The piano movers are on the house line."

I picked up the house line and the movers informed me they were around 30-minutes out. After I wrapped up with them I informed Wynn and we moved some furniture away from the path they'd be bringing in the piano. The movers arrived and Wynn showed them where we wanted the piano. An hour or so later they had the piano reassembled and tuned ready for Maya when she returned home. After they left I helped Wynn move the furniture back. She commented, "Been a long time since I seen that piano. It seems to fit well here."

I agreed, "Yes it does. The Acme House was the last place we had it. Maya and Ana moved out and took the piano with them; only to end up in storage for a couple years until the new Vinnie's was built. Maya will be pleased when she comes home tonight."

Wynn joked referencing to how we surprised Maya at the Acme House, "Do we want another exploding Dr. Pepper incident?"

I laughed, "That was fictitious. However, the (fake) bottle of 'wine' you accidentally dropped was not. No, that wouldn't work so well here. Besides she knows the piano is coming, just not when. You could throw one of those Alaskan King flat sheets over it..."

Wynn informed me, "Those sheets stayed with the bed. Besides I think it would be rather obvious when she walked in."

I had gone back to my office when Victoria called me, "Hey Ron, I sure hope you can help us out."

I was not sure what they needed from me, "Well, what's going on?"

Victoria explained, "Remember that relic we were talking about when you were at our office with Andy and Lindsay?"

I did not understand what she was asking, "Not really."

Victoria told me, "We have one of those desktop computers that takes up an entire desktop."

It was coming back to me now, "Ah....okay...yes I recall that conversation now. Is it giving you issues?"

Victoria explained, "It will not turn on. We really hope you can fix it as it runs a somewhat critical piece of software that won't work on the newer computers."

I told her, "I see, well give me a couple hours; need to go through all our parts."

Andy and I have not unpacked those yet. Hopefully, it just the power supply. Once I can get it up and running I'll take a look and see what you are running. There are many ways now to run ancient and temperamental programs on a more modern piece of hardware and operating system."

Victoria told me, "Sounds good. See you in a couple hours...though I may be out the office, but my assistant Larry can help you."

I headed to the kitchen and told Wynn, "Got a service call for Victoria going to be heading to in an hour or so. Need to unpack my parts first and see what I have."

Wynn asked, "Want me to come along?"

I laughed, "Sure, I can give you a history lesson! It is a very old machine which I am sure has Molex Connectors...the predecessor to SATA."

Wynn commented, "I thought that was IDE or PATA?"

I told her, "On the data connection yes; for the power it was a four pin keyed connector. You've likely seen the pigtail adapters that come with the newer power supplies. Anyway, I am hoping the issue is just the power supply and not the system board."

Wynn asked, "If it is the system board then what?"

I joked, "Pray for a miracle that we can find a new old stock one on eBay in this country!" After unpacking and sorting our supplies Wynn and I found what I hoped would work. I explained to her, "Hopefully, this will fix the issue. Once I can get the system up and running then I can see what OS and software they are running. I am thinking we should be able to build them a more modern and smaller system running VM Ware to emulate whatever antiquated version of Windows it runs on."

Wynn and I loaded up everything into the Jeep. There was a light dusting of snow on the driveway, but the streets had been plowed earlier. We made our way into town to Victoria's office. We walked and Victoria's assistant saw us, "Hello Ron and Wynn. Victoria is out on a showing, but I can take you to the patient."

My reply confused Wynn who was not present when Victoria first introduced me to 'Larry', "Thanks Larry."

Wynn asked in confusion, "You're Larry?!"

Larry laughed as she lead us down the hall and explained, "Or Angie. Victoria calling me Larry started as a joke a while back and it has just stuck. So, the

computer runs an older, but in our opinion a simpler and ironically more robust version of the MLS software. Most the agents here including Victoria prefer using it as it quicker than the more current system..even if it is all text.”

I had a general idea what she was talking about, “A ‘legacy’ system. The problem with these newer graphical interfaces is they require more resources and thus can run much slower.”

Larry took us into another office, “I mean the newer system is great when we want fully detailed information on the listing including photos, but it takes so long to sort and run queries which is why we still use the older system. Well, here it is...the paper weight!”

Wynn was amazed, “They do exist in the wild! I’ve only ever seen them in your old magazines and catalogs.”

I laughed, “I had one these back in the early 90’s. The darn thing took up half my desktop. My father had taken a shelf from something else and added rubber feet which sat on top of the PC for my printer. The 15-inch CRT monitor took the other half of my desk. Well, let’s see what we are dealing with here.” I disconnected all the cables and noticed a parallel cable, “Wow, haven’t seen a parallel cable in years” I noticed the other end was connected to a wall mounted port, “Holly crap that’s something you don’t see every day! ”

Victoria’s assistant commented, “There is an old high-speed wide format dot matrix printer in the other room. We still use it about once a week to print the spreadsheet on the wide ‘blue bar’ paper.”

I laughed in amazement, “Every time I think I’ll never see ‘old school’ stuff in use anymore I am proven wrong.” I explained to Wynn, “So USB pretty much made parallel ports obsolete with the exception of dot matrix printers and I suppose some very old flatbed scanners. Though if I recall correctly, the flat bed scanners were the first to adopt USB connections.” I rotated the machine 180-degrees so the back was facing us, “Okay, let’s get this open and see what we are dealing with.”

After removing half dozen screws then prying the cover off, finally able to see inside. Wynn saw the mess of ribbon/IDE cables, “How can you even work in there with all those cables?”

I laughed, “Yeah, SATA was a major game changer. It was faster, smaller and supported more devices natively without having to add a controller card, plus provided better airflow within the case. Let me start disconnecting all the power connections then I’ll work on getting the power supply out.”

After a couple minutes I had the power supply removed. Wynn suggested, "Perhaps we should take this outside and blow it out."

I laughed, "Sure, it's heavy so don't hurt yourself...of course now that the power supply is out that was about a quarter of the weight. The bulk of the weight is from those old hard drives and the solid sheet metal case."

Wynn picked up the machine and was surprised by the weight, but it wasn't too heavy. She went outside to the Jeep and found a can of compressed air. She got the majority of the large clumps of dust out of the machine. She came back in placing the machine back on the desk and told me, "All clean and I think it is a little lighter now too!"

I thanked her and went about getting the new power supply connected. I plugged the machine and asked, "Shall we say a prayer?" I flipped the switch on side of the machine, "Wow, haven't done that in a long time! These modern machines are all push button on the front bezel! There's just something so satisfying about flipping a switch." The machine started to boot first into DOS, "Okay, so far so good..." then the Windows XP loading screen came up, "Oh boy...Windows XP...could've been worse could've been Windows ME!"

Wynn thought I was joking, "There was such a thing?"

I explained, "Yes, Windows Millennium Edition came out in fall of 2000. It was designed to replace Windows 95/98 Second Edition, but it was short lived. Windows XP came out less than a year later."

Larry asked, "Wasn't there a Windows 2000 or was that the same thing as ME?"

I told her, "Yes there was, but it was part of 'NT' series and was for running on servers not for the average home user. It was actually released in late 1999 before Microsoft wanted to stop branding their releases by 'year'. Which is funny because that series up until Windows 2000 (Server) had been branded as Windows NT. Then they re-branded the next version as Windows Server 2003, then 2008, 2012 and then 2016. Server 2019 has been out for a couple months now. So, after Windows XP was the overblown flop called Vista followed by the awesome Windows 7 and then another disaster with Windows 8. Though Microsoft fixed many of the shortcoming in Windows 8.1. The most current version is Windows 10, but I noticed y'all are still running Windows 7 which is still supported."

Wynn asked, "So, now what?"

I explained, "Well, now that I know it is running Windows XP, what we can do is build a newer and much smaller machine. Then install VM Ware and hope I still

have a valid retail license key for Windows XP. Even if I don't I am sure Andy has one he can recycle. It is a weird grey area with Microsoft as you can not reuse an OEM Windows XP key as it is tied to that specific machine...well you can, but it requires a phone call to Microsoft and since XP is defunct now that would not work. However, a retail Window XP key is not tied to a specific machine." I noticed the machine did not have an XP key, "Oh, this has been upgraded from Windows 98! Yeah, thought the hardware was a bit older for Windows XP though SATA didn't come out until 2003. Let me give him a call real quick and make sure. Wynn, why don't you confirm with Larry everything is working as she is expecting."

I stepped out the lobby and since no one was around I didn't need to go outside. I phoned Andy's cell and Lindsay answered, "Hey Ron, Andy is with a customer at this time. What's going on?"

I told her, "Just replaced a power supply on a very old computer at Victoria's office. The machine is running Windows XP...well originally 98...anyway the software they want to use doesn't work in Windows Vista or newer. So, I want to build a new machine and then install VM Ware to run Windows XP. I don't believe I have any more Windows XP retail licenses, hoping Andy does."

Lindsay told me, "He should...though doesn't mean he knows where they are! I'll ask him later. Even if he doesn't Max or Doyle should."

I returned to the office and asked, "Everything working as expected?"

Wynn told me, "Larry is in Victoria's office as apparently they don't access this machine from in here."

I explained, "Oh, okay they must remote desktop into the machine. That will still work on a virtual machine. Anyway, Andy was busy so I talked to Lindsay. She believes he still does have some retail Windows XP keys, though he may not know where. Worse case scenario she expects Max or Doyle should have one."

We went over to Victoria's office and Larry saw us, "Seems to be working. What do we owe you?"

I told her, "Give me a few minutes and I'll generate an invoice. What email address would you like the invoice sent to?"

Larry gave me her email and I sent the invoice. She told me, "Okay got it. Let me send you a payment via PayPal...you should get that shortly."

I received the payment notification email and recalled the days of having the printer in the PT Cruiser glove box and having to wait for the clients to write me a

paper check. Now everything is nearly instantaneous, "Got it. Let Victoria know that we are going to try and see we can you setup with a machine which will emulate Windows XP so you can still run the software. I assume you have the software on CD-ROMs?"

Larry told me, "No, hard floppy disks."

Wynn laughed, "Sounds like an oxymoron to me!"

I confirmed, "Yeah, never thought of it that way. Those 3½-inch disks were a lot more durable and are as not as 'floppy' as the old school 5¼" or the very old school 8-inch disks created by IBM. Those Double Sided/High Density 3½ inch disks held a whopping 1.44 *megabytes* of data. A box of 10 was usually around \$20, now I can get a 64 GB flash drive for that price. Of course this was during the time the average hard drive was in the 40-80 *megabyte* range. I know I have a USB floppy drive somewhere. Am going to need to order a USB To Parallel cable for your printer. If this works, y'all are going to need to figure out what to do with all the space you are going to save, by not having that paper weight in there. We'll even replace that ancient CRT monitor too. I still have some 17-inch flat panels...tried to sell them to Doyle, he wouldn't take them!"

Wynn laughed, "Wise man!"

I explained, "They are good for certain things. Use to have them in my lab until I hooked up one of the older Plasma TV's we had from the Fairy Duster house. Come to think of it, haven't used it yet out here...it will be nice this time of year, won't need to run the heater in the shop."

Wynn and I packed up and headed out. I checked my phone, "Wow, it is almost noon. How about we head over to the burger place for lunch?"

Wynn agreed and during lunch asked, "What kind of system would you build them?"

I told her, "I'll use on those HP mini's that Andy has a box full. Thought was going to get more use out of those for TV slide shows, but now with these flat-screen TV's having built-in USB slide show support most clients prefer that over a computer mounted on the back of the TV. Nonetheless, for running VM Ware instance of Windows XP it would perfect."

We wrapped up lunch and as I head out the door my phone started ringing, "AZOutback Consulting, Ron Merlot."

Much to my surprise it was Lulu, "Good morning Ron, Lulu over at ACME Deer Valley."



I joked, "It is afternoon over here! Anyway, what can I do for you?"

Lulu told me, "Just wanted to give you a heads up that I am going to be sending you Zac's 'shopping list' for his refresh."

I asked her, "Is that just for PC's and servers or does it include network equipment as well?"

Lulu informed me, "Just PC's. Did we need to replace the sever and/or network equipment?"

I thought for a moment, "I am not sure. I will need to take a look at the file when I get back and see what Gary had over there. I think a lot of it is original from when he first moved in there. But, I believe at one point Laura and I replaced the switches with newer models with faster throughput. The servers should likely be replaced as I am not sure Sever 2019 can run on those machines. Though, we still could run Sever 2012 for a while as Microsoft gives a minimum 10-year support on security updates and patches. I know Vegas/Henderson is going to be a nightmare as Abby does not want to continue supporting the Juniper network equipment that came with the building, mainly for Marty's sake. Like I said, once I get back to my office I can look up your file and see what we are dealing with."

Lulu understood, "Okay, that works. Zac wants to know if everything is good, when could y'all be out?"

I advised her, "I won't see Abby until Saturday. Trying to recall who's turn it is this week to host dinner. I think it our mother's so we won't have chance to go over this until after her Sunday Holstein meeting that afternoon. If everything meshes, we should be able to build a quote for Zac that day. Once y'all approve the quote then we will order the equipment...and suppose will have dropped shipped to Deer Valley via Roadrunner Freight. So if everything is in stock should take about a week for the equipment to ship. I'd say at least two weeks as Andy and Abby would need to make some arrangements to cover their stores while they are gone. Then there is Marty, he's a wild card as I am not certain when he will be in Arizona. I want him there when this refresh so he will be familiar with the equipment you have. I'll get back you to you later today or sometime tomorrow."

We arrived back at the house and I headed to my office to review Lulu and Zac's email. I reviewed their file and discovered we had done a network refresh not that long ago. I looked deeper into Zac's 'shopping list' and discovered it was mainly replacing older computers. He did not want the servers updated and there was no reason to as Sever 2012 was still being supported. Later that afternoon Maya came home with Sara while Wynn and I were in the kitchen. I told Maya, "Your piano came in this morning."

Maya looked over and saw it, "Oh wow, looks good in here. Glad we were able to get it to fit."

During dinner Andy and I chatted a bit about Zac's Deer Valley job. He informed me, "There is really no way I am going to be able to go out there with y'all. Way too much going on with the store right now. I am still trying to find a manager."

Lindsay added, "I sure as hell don't want to babysit the store while Andy is gone."

I told him, "Okay, well I think Wynn, Abby and I will be okay without you. However, when we do Henderson we are going to need you."

Andy asked, "Do you know when you are doing Henderson?"

I explained, "No. But, I am going to say at least not for another couple months due to complexity of that project. It is going to take lot of planning on our end and I don't want even start that until we get Deer Valley done."

Andy understood, "Yeah, if you are going to rebuild the network from the ground up..."

I reminded him, "Likely everything from the ground up."

Andy told me, "I should hope for my and Lindsay's sake we have a manager by then!"

## **Chapter 5: The Plan for ACME Deer Valley and Ballet Boot Training**

Sunday afternoon after The Boutique Holstein meeting Laura, Wynn and I meet in my office. Laura looked over Zac's list and told me, "Since they are not adding anymore workstations and the current network equipment will still work for their needs we don't need to do an upgrade on the network side. Honestly, I am not even sure if I need to be there. I almost think you and Wynn could handle it on your own."

I explained, "Well, couple reasons why I would prefer you come; one you can explain to Marty how the network is setup and second in the unlikely event something goes wrong on the network side you will be there to able to address it versus us doing a conference call."

Laura agreed, "Yeah, nothing ever goes as expected!"

Andy told her, "Oh you mean like Boots Frisco and Chugwater!"

Laura laughed, "Okay, I get the point! Keep forgetting about Marty, haven't seen him in ages. Do we know when he is going to be free?"

I told her, "You know Abby, that is very good question; let me look at his schedule..." I pulled up Marty's Google Calendar and saw he was going to be back in Arizona towards the end of the month, "Looks like in about three weeks."

Wynn was doing the math in her head, "So if we send Zac and/or Lulu a quote tomorrow...they approve it before the end of this week....we order the equipment....a week to week and half depending on when we order...that would give us a couple days breathing room."

Laura was looking at her calendar, "Nothing important going on during that time. Of course if there was, Miranda could easy handle it. I tell you having Maya and Sara working full time makes thing easier with Lindsay's unpredictable schedule."

Andy apologized, "Sorry about that, but our business is unpredictable."

Laura assured him, "Don't worry about it. That means your business is doing well. I have Miranda there too."

I asked, "What about Sophie?"

Laura told me, "Leslie and Charlotte are fine with her taking a couple days off. She really doesn't have a set schedule. How we would be doing this, flying in and out same day?"

I explained, "No, we'd fly in either the afternoon before or the day of and then leave the next day."

Wynn wondered, "You think between the four..."

I reminded her, "Five....Marty."

Wynn continued, "...okay....*five* of us we can get done in one day...especially with you having to give Marty an orientation."

I told her, "I would hope so...oh wait this at Deer Valley not Thirsty Cactus so that adds about 90-minutes to the travel time and this a refresh/upgrade not a fresh install...crap!"

Laura asked, "Where are we all staying?"

I thought I had told her, "At The Sagebrush House with Marc and Martina. Now, when we do Henderson, I have no clue. Assuming Cristina or Gary will be putting

us up at hotel. That is going to be a major project, which I am still not even prepared to think about yet. I think we are going to need a couple days for Deer Valley. Also need to find out what they want to do with the old equipment, I doubt it is anything we can use."

Andy looked over their file, "Not really. If it were only a couple years old may be. What did you do last time?"

I explained, "Donated it all to the Salt River Pima Maricopa StRUT program, they came to the house and picked it up. I am hoping there is room at Zac's warehouse for them to store the old equipment until it can be picked up, or else I could just Road Runner Freight it all over to them and bill Zac for 'equipment recycling' based on the freight charges. Yeah, that would be easier."

Wynn asked, "Okay, so how do we quote for the freight charges?"

I told her, "Each PC is about 12-pounds, add in mice and keyboards rounds up to 14-pounds each plus the standard weight for a shrink-wrapped pallet. Even if we somehow under-estimate the weight slightly, it really not going to cost us that much, the equipment mark-up will more than cover that."

Laura asked, "How are we handling labor?"

I told her, "That is specified in their service agreement that we will bill them a fixed amount per person per day. Oh...Wynn don't count Marty as he will be covered under the 'special services fee' and I will pay him for his time...per hour as he does not need to be there for the entire install."

Wynn confirmed, "So four people per day and we are not doing a barter exchange?"

I explained, "That is correct. We might in Henderson, something I will need to work out with Gary."

Wynn joked, "Like we have room for more toys in the loft."

I reminded her, "There's always room for Jello...I mean more toys! Of course Maya brought back the Bondage Stand. Remember, he does have clothing and gear. I've heard rumors he has a new line of chastity belts and accessories."

Wynn wondered, "Hmm...wonder what improvements he had made to the chastity corset armor..."

Laura laughed, "You still wear that?"

Wynn told her, "Of course, it is part of my 'uniform'. The only thing I've changed was switching to the knee boots since Lucy was shredding my pricey dancer's fishnets."

Laura commented, "We've been carrying a new line of fishnets which Lindsay absolutely loves. They are lot cheaper, but seem just as good quality as those dancer ones you are talking about."

Wynn commented, "Good to know will have to purchase a pair or two to try out. Anyway, I'll work out a quote for Zac and have it to you later in the day."

I told her, "That will work, I'll send it to them tomorrow."

Laura told Wynn, "I can get you a 'free sample' if you like."

Meanwhile up in the play loft Miranda and Peaches were chatting. Miranda asked, "How long did it take you for you to able to wear ballet boots?"

Peaches told her, "Started slow. Few minutes a day and worked up longer. Why?"

Miranda had been obsessed with the rigid bondage stand since she saw it at back at The Sagebrush house last year and now it was in our loft again since Maya and Peaches had returned, tempting Miranda. She pointed to the stand and told Peaches, "I so want to try this, but Lindsay told me I need to wear ballet boots and she didn't think I could handle wearing them for more then a couple minutes."

Maya came over and told her, "She's right. If you have never worn them before it is going to be a challenge."

Miranda was hoping there was a 'loop-hole', "But, I just need to stand in them, not walk right?"

Maya explained, "Standing in them is harder than walking."

Miranda was being to get discouraged, "Well shoot..I so want to try this though."

Maya suggested, "Talk to Ron and ask him to give you Jason's information. He's our 'shoe guy' out where I used to roam in Frisco, TX in my younger and rebellious years! He will ship anywhere in the country. It is better you have a pair made to your measurements to train in. Ballet boots are about the only piece of clothing we don't share. We each have our own pair since they are custom made to fit you."

Miranda appreciated the suggestion, "Thanks, I'll talk to him after dinner before I

leave. Now what do you suggest we do to pass the time until dinner?"

Peaches walked over to the powder room. Maya laughed and told her, "Peaches hasn't been in the cage in a while. She seems to have taken a liking to you, so perhaps the three of us can spend an hour or two in the cage."

Miranda was game, "Sounds like fun. Last time I was in there was with Leslie and she really didn't seem too into it."

Maya told her, "Let me go find Lindsay or Sara and have them get it setup for us. When Peaches returns keep her occupied...actually I know a way I could keep you two together while I wait for them to get the cage setup. I'll be back, just keep Peaches occupied if she heads back this way." Maya headed over to the toy closet and passed Peaches as she was coming out of the powder room, "Hey Miranda wants to talk to you..." Peaches was wondering what was going and was going to ask Maya, but she had already disappeared. Maya headed into to the toy closet and found the two person fiddle Laura had given me years ago when she was still in Nevada. She exited the closet and saw Miranda had Peaches occupied. Maya found Sara, "Hey dear, I am going to put Peaches and Miranda in this fiddle for a bit. Can you get the cage setup for Peaches, Miranda and myself?"

Sara laughed, "Ah want to make sure neither one of them runs off! Sure, I can do that." She looked around and saw Lindsay was getting Laura setup on the fuck machine, "Hey Lindsay, when you are done with her come help me please."

Meanwhile Maya came over to Peaches and Miranda with the fiddle, "I don't want you two running off and getting into trouble before everything is ready."

Peaches saw the two-person rigid fiddle and replied, "Oh fuck!"

Miranda had never seen a rigid fiddle much less a two-person model, "What in the world is that?"

Peaches whined, "Torture device!"

Maya laughed, "She is mistaken, is a 'discipline' device and not necessarily in a punishment way. I use to lock myself into a single person version...to discipline myself to sit down and watch my video lectures at Ron's old house...The Acme House. It keeps your hands locked out in front of you and really doesn't allow you to do much else. That combined with a ball gag and having the key on the other-side of the house was the only way I could sit through and watch those weekly 2-hour lecture videos. Anyway, this will keep you two together and out of trouble until Lindsay and Sara can get the cage setup for the three of us."

Maya opened the fiddle and told Peaches, "Show her how it is done!"

Peaches bowed in submission (or in defeat), "Yes Mistress!" Peaches took the two-person fiddle Maya and explained, "Not much to this...open, big loop go around neck. Put your arms out, wrists into the loops, close loops, push sides together. Locked!" She lifted the fiddle, putting the big loop around her neck then closed it slightly before putting her wrists into the loops. She tried closing it but was too gentle the first time, the second time she closed the two halves with more force and her end of the fiddle snapped shut.

Maya told Miranda, "You need to be a bit forceful to get it to close."

Miranda was intrigued, "Well, this looks...secure?" She repeated the process as she saw demonstrated by Peaches and quickly had herself secured in the fiddle. She observed, "Well, certainly can not get out on my own and for that matter really can not go very far."

Maya gave an evil laughed, "Goody! Now, I shall see how my sisters are coming along with getting the cage prepped for our session."

Miranda was confused, "You and Lindsay are related?"

Maya laughed, "No, no it is running joke that Lindsay is more of a sister to Sara than I am. Long story..." She had sudden flashbacks as to what drove them apart, which was Dirk and shivered, "...which I don't want to talk about...eh." She made her way over to the cage quickly to avoid having to discuss that matter anymore.

Miranda wasn't sure what just happened and asked Peaches, "Hey Peaches? What was that all about?"

Peaches replied, "A very, very bad part of her life...before we met."

Miranda didn't know the full details, but understood, "Oh...something that still haunts her today."

Peaches sighed, "Yes. I tell you another day. When she not here."

Miranda didn't mean to pry, "That's okay, I don't need to know the details."

Maya saw Lindsay, but not Sara and asked, "What have you left or what can I help?"

Lindsay told her, "You can put the wands inside and then hand me the cords so I can connect to the magic box. Sara is getting the jackets and gags."

Maya threaded the wands into the cage and then saw Sara returning with

straitjackets and gags. She asked, "Now that the wands are in the cage are we ready to go in?"

Sara replied, "Yes, the harnesses are on top."

Maya went to retrieve Miranda and Peaches when she approached she asked, "Which one you wants to go backwards."

Peaches figured it would be easier for her than Miranda, "I will."

Maya told them, "Very well. Miranda, follow me...actually let me grab your arm and guide you over."

They made there way to the cage and Lindsay saw them in the double fiddle, "Holly crap, didn't know we still had those. Though I prefer the solo fiddle myself. Especially when waiting for Sara while gagged with a vibrator locked in my pussy under my belt!"

Maya laughed referencing to Lindsay, "You're an odd one indeed!"

Lindsay just looked at Maya and stated, "This from the girl who had multiple padlocks going through the piercings in her pussy..."

Miranda was quite fascinated, "You had what?"

Sara added, "...not to mention the one who *told* Lindsay she could lock herself into to a fiddle without assistance!"

Maya was going to scold Sara and Lindsay for bring this up, but then realized she started it. She sighed and told Miranda, "Padlocks. This was before I had a belt commissioned. I was drunk one night when I was in Frisco and somehow thought it would be fun to get four sets of piercings in each of my labia...of course maybe that was after another fall out with Dirk...eh"

Sara asked, "Has she seen you in your super-max belt?"

Maya replied, "Don't think so, haven't been it wearing it much since we came out here." She told Miranda, "Another day, I'll show you. In the meantime, let me get you two out the fiddle and then Lindsay and Sara can help you with the wand harnesses and straitjackets." Maya opened the half of the fiddle with Miranda and Lindsay assisted her to get ready for the cage. Maya walked over and popped open the half with Peaches while Sara took her over to get prepped.

Lindsay asked, "Are all three of you being gagged?"



Maya laughed, "The Banshee and I for sure, not certain about Miranda."

Peaches objected, "I not that loud!"

Sara, Lindsay and Maya all replied at the same time, "Yes you are!"

Peaches made a face then muttered, "Whatever!"

Miranda was always up to trying something new, "I'll join them on the bandwagon and do a gag as well!"

Maya had already put on her harness and handed Miranda a ball gag with a chin strap. She assisted Miranda with the gag. Lindsay gagged Peaches and after getting the wand harness in place she put Peaches into the straitjacket. Before Maya put in her gag she told Lindsay and Sara, "Put me in first, then Miranda and then the Banshee." She placed a ball gag in her mouth and she pulled a straitjacket over head and put her arms inside. Lindsay came over and secured Maya into the straitjacket and then lead her inside the cage. Once inside, Maya made her way to the far side of the cage.

Once Lindsay was out of the cage Sara came over with Miranda and lead her in, "Get in towards the center. Once the three of you are in, you can stretch out." Sara came out the cage and Lindsay came over with The Banshee. Sara told her, "Once she is in, close and lock the door and I'll get their wands attached. Once we get them going, I want to do you on the table!"

Lindsay was getting giddy, "Oh...that sounds like fun! Okay." Lindsay placed The Banshee in the cage then closed and locked the door. She told them, "You can spread out now if you want...or stay together." Lindsay and Sara attached the wands into the harnesses.

Sara activated the magic box and then told Lindsay, "Need to get out of my armor and also let Wynn know what is going on up here."

Lindsay told her, "That works. I should pee anyway then I'll get ready."

Sara headed down to the kitchen and found Wynn assisting me with getting the fish prepped, "Hey Wynn! How long until dinner?"

I told her, "About another hour or so."

Sara replied, "Okay, that should be good enough time. Anyway, Laura is on the fuck machine, Maya, Miranda and The Banshee..."

I asked, "The Banshee?"

Wynn laughed, "I believe she means Peaches."

Sara confirmed, "Yeah...Peaches...um...oh they are in the cage. I am going to do Lindsay on table...hmm...may be I should take page out of Lindsay's 'How to torment yourself' playbook...need to get out of my armor anyway..." She headed up to our suite to get out the armor.

Wynn joked, "I am not one to judge, but could it be Lindsay is a bad influence on Sara!"

I laughed, "You know, I hadn't noticed; but now that you mentioned it..."

On her way back, Sara stopped at her and Lindsay's 'activities room' to get a wireless vibrating egg. She then headed into the main suite and then into her closet. She found the key for armor and removed it, setting it on top of the closet island for now. She opened one of the cabinets in the island and looked at her chastity belt collection. She picked up one of her medium duty belts which had both plugs attached, however this one did not need special tools to remove the plugs. She pushed in and turned the vaginal dildo counterclockwise to release it from the belt. She found a bottle of lube and applied a generous amount to the anal plug and her asshole. She inserted the vibrating egg into her pussy and then inserted the anal plug into her ass as she locked on the belt. She put her long-sleeve top and skirt back on; she was still wearing the thigh high stockings and heels from earlier.

Sara made her way back to the play loft and laughed to herself when she heard Peaches' Banshee scream, albeit muffled with the gag. Lindsay saw her and commented, "Dang, even when gagged she's loud! I am about ready, just need to put on my gag/blindfold combo and then you can help me into the jacket." Lindsay hopped up on to the table.

Sara told her, "Yeah, I can do that." After Lindsay had her combo blindfold and gag in place Sara told her, "Hold out your right hand." Lindsay was not sure why, but she did as she was told. Sara placed the remote for the vibrator into Lindsay's hand...something she would likely regret later. She explained, "I have a wireless vibrator egg in my pussy under my belt. Wait until I start doing you before you activate it."

Lindsay was getting excited that she could still dominate Sara while she herself was being dominated. Sara put Lindsay into the straitjacket and secured her arms. Lindsay had already put the collar around her neck. Sara told Lindsay, "I am going to put in you into position." Sara leaned Lindsay back and the collar connected to the cable. Sara then secured Lindsay's feet into the stirrups. Sara took a quick around the play loft and noticed Laura on the fuck machine, but she

appeared to be enjoying herself as did Peaches, Maya and Miranda in the cage. She sat on the stool then reached down and closed the rigid cuffs around her ankles. She put her hands behind her and closed the cuffs around her wrists. As she heard the snap of the cuffs she thought to herself, "What have I gotten myself into...oh well...it's Lindsay...how bad could it be?" She went to work on Lindsay's pussy and was beginning to wonder if Lindsay had lost her grip on the egg remote when suddenly she felt the egg come alive inside her pussy. Sara moaned and then suddenly the egg went to a higher speed, "Oh god!" Lindsay was going through the different cycles depending on how well Sara was 'servicing' her...payback for when Sara did the same thing to Lindsay at the Sagebrush House.

Sara was doing alright, but was getting tired and therefore wasn't doing that great of a job on Lindsay's pussy. Lindsay in an attempt to get Sara to perform better, put the egg on the highest speed. This combined with the anal plug in her belt and being more aroused from being locked on to the stool Sara had a massive orgasm, screamed, "Holy shit!" and passed out falling face first forward on to Lindsay's pussy. Lindsay quickly realized her error and slowed down the vibrator and putting it on a pattern in hopes of may be 'waking up' Sara. She knew Wynn would be up eventually...

I had placed the potatoes in the grill and told Wynn, "Should be ready in another 15-minutes or so. Best, you start releasing everyone up in the loft."

Wynn understood, "Okay, I'll do that." She made her way up to the loft not really sure what to expect when she entered. The first person she was Laura still secured to the cross on the fucking machine, but the machine's timer had run down and was no longer fucking Laura. She looked towards the corner where the table was and saw Sara slumped forward, but not doing anything otherwise. She walked over and pulled Sara off of Lindsay. She found the key for the stool and as we releasing Sara's wrists she called out, "Sara!"

Sara started to come to, albeit a bit confused, "What?! Hey, where am I? Oh shit...that was hell of an orgasm...haven't cummed that hard in a long time."

Wynn handed Sara the key, "Here go ahead and get your ankles freed, I need to get your sister-in-law off the fucking machine cross."

Sara took the key, "Okay, once I get Lindsay freed and out of the jacket, we'll take care of Maya, Peaches and Miranda in the cage."

Wynn went over to release Laura while Sara released herself from the stool and then got Lindsay off the table and out of the straitjacket. Lindsay removed her combo gag and blindfold and asked Sara, "You okay?"

Sara assured her, "Yeah I am fine. Just a little overwhelmed from that orgasm. How long was I out?"

Lindsay replied, "How the hell should I know, I was blindfolded!"

Sara laughed, "Good answer! Anyway lets get Maya, Peaches and Miranda out of the cage. Then we all need to get cleaned up for dinner."

As they walked by Wynn attending to Laura, Wynn told them, "Y'all can clean up in here after dinner. Just go down and get cleaned up once you release the hostages...I mean prisoners!"

As they made their way to the cage Sara told Lindsay, "Let me unplug the wands from the magic box, then you can start pulling them out. As you take them out, I'll remove the wand harness and gags while you get them out of the straitjackets." In a few minutes Sara and Lindsay had the three girls out of the cage and all the gear removed from them which they threw on top of the cage. Sara told them, "One of you can clean up in the powder room up here, one on the middle floor and one downstairs. Dinner is going to be very soon."

## **Chapter 6: An Explanation and an Outing to Arizona**

During her time in the cage Maya thought about what had occurred earlier that afternoon and felt she owed Miranda an explanation (and possibly an apology) for her earlier behavior. After dinner Sara and Lindsay went back up to the loft to finish cleaning up from the play session earlier. Maya, Peaches, Laura and Miranda were all in the sitting room. Maya decide this would be a good time as any to explain some things, "Hey Miranda, I believe I should explain about my comments and behavior earlier. Peaches knows all about this, I am not sure if Laura does."

Laura not really paying attention but heard her name and asked, "If I know what?"

Maya explained, "Why Lindsay is more of sister to Sara than I am..." She was starting to get emotional.

Miranda was feeling bad and reminded Maya, "It is not really any of my business, I don't want you to feel like..."

Maya took a deep breath, "...No...it will do me good. So a long time ago, Sara dated a guy and no, it was not Ron. This guy was an abusive loser named Dirk. Sara broke up with him and he took an interest in me. This was while we were in Frisco, Texas. Sara warned me not to get involved with him...I just thought she was jealous because I was getting along with him...well at least at the time I

was. She headed to Arizona to move in with Ron and Martina. She begged me to come with her instead of staying with Dirk. I refused and I ended up shutting her out for several years. In the meantime she met Lindsay and everyone always said they were like sisters. Ron didn't even know about me...until I finally had to beg Sara to let me come back after Dirk got abusive with me one too many times and I threw him through a window."

Miranda laughed, "Note to self: don't cross Maya!"

Maya sighed, "Good advise...I can get myself into trouble when angry, Bambi learned that the hard way...eh...."

Laura added, "...or drunk."

Maya agreed, "Oh yeah, that lovely night back at Corona de las Estrellas when we had just left Chugwater after our father's latest scheme. So that night back in Frisco was the first and (so far) only time I have been arrested...I wasn't charged since the idiot couldn't keep his mouth shut in court. Not only did he incriminated himself repeatedly, but he had threatened to finish what he had started. However, the landlord was not too happy with me throwing Dirk through a window, plus everything else that had been going on the prior months. Our lease was terminated as soon I returned from jail. While I was packing my stuff, I came across the card Sara had given me when we parted ways which had Ron's phone number...well the number for the Fairy Duster house."

Sara and Lindsay had returned. Sara had caught the last part of Maya's story, "Oh yeah, I remember that. I had never mentioned you to Ron and was shocked when he asked me about you. Think we were down in Tucson and he had called the house to check the machine and heard your message. The ironic thing was we were heading out your way in a couple weeks to do a job for Boots with Jason..."

Miranda heard the name 'Jason' and remember she wanted to talk to me, "Excuse me, I'll be back need to talk to Ron about a guy and his shoes." She went across the hall to my office and knocked on the door.

I wasn't really doing anything as I had just finished out the job bards. I looked up and saw Miranda, "Oh hello Miranda, what can I do for you?"

Miranda told me, "Maya told me you could give me Jason's info...for ballet boots."

I told her, "Ah, yes. Jason Jason, Boots Leather Creations in Frisco, Texas. So he's custom made all the ballet boots for most everyone here. I think Martina as well." I retrieved a blank business card and wrote down his information and explained to her, "So once you get in contact with him, he'll send you some foam

forms which you will step into and send back to him. With those he can make you a pair of any type of ballet boots you want which are custom fit to you. Just be prepared to wait as they will be custom made which takes time. Also should warn you, they are not cheap....however, given the quality they should last easily 30+ years."

Miranda took the card from me and told me, "Money is not an issue with me. My folks have so much money it is insane. They let my sister and I stay at their property rent free...of course they are only home a few weeks out of the year. So as long as we keep up the property they are fine with us being there. I think they're are somewhere up by Norway on a cruise for the next month. My sister stays in the main house and I live out in the old machine shop which I had Victor convert into a one bedroom loft apartment. I also work for The Cheshire's and your sister. When the weather gets warmer y'all should come out for a cook-out."

I had recalled her telling me she was nearby before, but wasn't sure, "May be. Where are y'all anyway?"

Miranda informed me, "We are located another couple miles north of here on Salt Creek by the county line. It's a lot more rural up that way."

I thought for a moment, "Well, I know Marc and Martina do want to come out for The Memorial Day weekend. So, I'll let you know when I have more info. I am going to be seeing them in a couple weeks when Wynn, Laura, Sophie and I are heading back to Arizona to do a project for Zac Acme."

Miranda was about to leave when she asked, "Say what is Maya and Peaches relationship?"

I looked at her and replied, "Not sure what you mean. But, I guess it is somewhere between that of Sara and Lindsay or Kayré and Kacie. Though, I don't think they are that serious, especially after their life events of the past couple years. Why you ask?"

Miranda told me, "Oh just something that Maya had mentioned earlier. She had said Peaches seems to have taken a liking to me. Not sure if that is good thing or bad thing."

I told her, "Well, seeing as Maya has beaten you to a pulp..."

Miranda turned white and nervously asked, "Are...are...you being serious?"

I laughed, "No, she is not a jealous type. In fact she encouraged Peaches to explore and spend time with Lindsay and Martina. Unfortunately, neither of those went very smoothly. Peaches first time alone with Lindsay, she was concerned

she would offend Maya. Then Martina, well Peaches has this odd obsession of pinching Martina's nipples, hence why Martina tends to wear the chastity bra whenever Peaches is around."

Miranda asked, "So then I shouldn't be worried?"

I assured her, "No. Besides Maya has mellowed out considerably after her stay at *The Moon Goddess*."

Monday morning I forwarded the quote to Lulu and she called me that afternoon to go over the details, including how the old equipment would be recycled. The next day she had paid our deposit and I ordered the parts and based on the supplier and Road Runner's timelines, plus Marty's availability I told her we'd could be out there in a couple weeks. I called Marc and setup transportation for Laura, Wynn and myself since Andy was not going to be part of this project. Marc reminded me we could stay at our old house and he would have rental SUV for us at the airport.

Later in the week when Miranda came over to do yoga she informed me, "Got the forms from Jason and sent them back. I have no idea what type of ballet boots I want though."

I suggested, "Talk to the girls, they can show you what they have and the pros/cons of each style." After yoga they all headed upstairs and ended up in the McGrawl's office for a Ballet Boot presentation.

Miranda saw the burgundy chaise lounge, "Oh I remember that from your other house. Didn't know you had brought it over with you."

Lindsay commented, "Yeah, it would kind of clashes with those downstairs. So Ron had recommended we put it in this room, our office. Least we are finally getting some use of this room as we really don't need an office here."

Over the next hour Lindsay, Sara and Wynn showed Miranda the various pairs of ballet boots they had and gave her an overview. I had come upstairs later on to see what had happened to everyone, figuring they had ended up in the loft. I was a bit surprised to see them all in The McGrawl's office, "Oh, so this where y'all disappeared."

Lindsay giggled, "Figure it would be easier to show her the boots in here instead of having to go up into the loft or bring them all downstairs. Besides you complain we never use this room."

I laughed, "Do not! I've just stated the facts." I turned to Miranda, "So did this help narrow down your choice or just get more overwhelmed?"

Miranda replied, "Not sure. I do have a better idea about the styles though. I'll have to look at their site again and see what I like and what he might be able to make in a reasonable period of time."

The following weekend during our Saturday night family dinner at our house I reminded everyone, "Wynn, Laura and I will not be here next weekend. We are heading back to Arizona to work on a project for Zac Acme, at Gary's old Deer Valley office." Laura had decided based on the scope of this project she didn't need Sophie there with her. She did plan on having Sophie come with us for the Henderson project in the coming months.

Lorena commented, "Oh that's right they moved out to Henderson. So Zac took over Gary's Arizona operations?"

I told her, "Yes. Apparently, Gary had a hard time doing business in Arizona compared to Nevada. However, Zac has a lot of contacts in Arizona plus he has been in Arizona much longer than we were."

The following Thursday Leslie came over in her truck and took Wynn, Laura and I to the airport. She told us, "Just give me a call before you depart on Sunday so I can make sure I am free."

I replied, "Sounds good. Thanks for the ride in."

After getting through security we still had about a half hour before our flight. Wynn was checking the status of the equipment and inform me, "Ah good. Road Runner says they have delivered the equipment to Gary...I mean Zac's office this morning."

I laughed at her slip, "Yeah, still trying to get used to it being Zac's office now. It has always been Gary's since he came out with Bunny and Bambi way back when. Remember him showing up the house on their own Harley's and when I opened the door there stood Gary with Bunny on one arm and Bambi on the other." Pointing to Laura, "I was still married to Martina and she was messing around with 'Anne Marie' over here!"

Laura laughed, "Hey we were young and naive!"

A few hours later we made it into Arizona and made our way to the rental car counter, something I had not done at Sky Harbor since my university days. We ended up with a Nissan Rogue which was a step down from the Murano, but for what we needed suited our needs just fine. Wynn joked, "Do you remember how to get back to our old house?"



I told her, "It's *only* been about 8-months. Of course, out here with the way things change out here nothing may be the same. Let me call Marc or Martina and make sure they are home." I phone Marc's cell, "Hey, we've made it into Phoenix. Just picked up the rental and about to hit the road."

Marc told me, "Yeah, we're home. I'd let the guard know you are coming and to issue you a pass. Oh by the way, road construction on Pima Highway down by The DC Ranch Area, might want to use Hayden or Scottsdale to avoid that mess. Should be done some time this fall or next spring or summer...or two years from now!"

I laughed, "Yep, that sounds about right. I still say the state motto should be 'Work Zone Ahead'. Dealt with that every time I came out here when going to The University. There's one particular interchange they seem to love to rebuild every couple years. Okay, we will see you in an hour then."

We arrived at The Desert Oasis community entrance and stopped at the guard shack. The guard on duty recognized me, "Mister Merlot good to see you again. The Frosh's did let us know you would be coming out here. Let me issue a pass and code."

I told him, "Good to see you too Mike. Yeah, were out here to work a job at Deer Valley." We arrived at our old house now the Frosh's. We parked by the far garage and then headed to the front door.

Martina greeted us, "Ron! Wynn! Anne Marie good to see you again."

Laura joked, "Wrong house, Marti!"

Martina giggled, "True, it was the other house on Fairy Duster." She asked, "Did Andy come with you?"

I told her, "No, he could not get away from the store. I think they are suppose to hire a manager at the end of the month. Okay, so where are we staying?"

Martina told us, "The only room we use is the primary. So Wynn can use her old room and then you and Laura can each use one of the guest suites or if you want the private room above the garage."

Wynn told Martina, "Yeah I am okay with being back in my old room."

I commented, "Since I spent a fortune having Dundee covert that FROG into livable space, I'll stay in there. Laura can take one of the guest rooms down here."

Martina told us, "Okay, that works. Marc should be home in a couple hours. Were y'all going back out?"

I explained, "No, we'll head over to Zac's office tomorrow. Thinking we will be done with the first phase by early afternoon. Saturday we will be there most of the day for the full install and testing." Adding to the current running joke with Martina and Laura. "Oh and Laura is going to be with us!"

Martina played along, "Well crap, there goes our plans...however, since she has no where to be tonight..."

I told her, "If you two want to play tonight, fine by me. Kind of curious as to what y'all bought from Gary."

Martina told us, "You can check it out later when we get back from dinner."

A couple hours later we had dinner at The Unlikely Cowboy and Martina wore her sheer mesh black maxi dress with her coordinating metal underwear underneath. We returned back to Sagebrush house and headed up to the loft. I was surprised to see quite an assortment of toys. I had forgotten how much stuff Gary had at his house, "Wow. Gary sure had a lot of stuff."

Marc explained, "He had more, but there was only so much space up here."

I recalled, "True, he did have the largest loft of us all...well except for the Acme House." Since I wanted to chat with Marc anyway plus allow Martina and Laura some time together, "Marc, how about we go chat out on the grand lawn, leave my sister and your wife to get into trouble!"

Marc laughed, "Ah, just like the old days when you and Martina were married. At least we know where they are."

We headed downstairs met up with Wynn and grabbed a couple beers then headed out to the Grand Lawn. I asked, "So how's the house treating you?"

Marc told me, "Not bad. Martina loves it, which is what matters. Zac has used the library a few times for demonstrations. It is still weird not having Gary and his girls around here anymore. Hell, it's weird not having you, Sara and The McGrawl's around here. Then Maya and Ana left too so it has been a little hard on Martina. Glad she can spend some time with Laura."

Wynn commented, "Lindsay does miss Martina as well."

I reminded him, "Y'all are welcome to come out to Franklin anytime you want to see us."

Marc replied, "We plan on it. Looks like around Memorial Day we should be able to head out your way. Hard for us to get away, more so Martina with all the programs she runs."

I remembered back when I first move to Fairy Duster, "To think you almost fired her, before I put her in a chastity belt."

Marc laughed, "Oh yeah, she has come a long ways since then."

The next morning the three of us headed over to Zac's office. I reminded Wynn and Laura, "Marty won't be joining us today. He has another project he is working on out by Anthem. Today should not be too bad. We'll do an assessment and then start removing the old equipment."

We arrived at the office and Lulu greeted us, "Ah....long time, no see." She noticed someone was missing, "One less this time."

Laura told her, "Yeah, Sophie stayed back in Tennessee, figured we didn't need her for this project. Gary's in Henderson though..."

Lulu told us, "Well, don't let me get in your way. We're closed today so have you have the entire building to yourselves. However, Zac is here and would like to talk to you Ron when you have a free moment."

I told her, "Okay. Let me get Wynn and Laura situated and then I'll talk to Zac. So at this point, Laura and Wynn check to make sure everything matches our topology map we have on file. After that is done, go through the pallet or pallets and make sure we have everything we ordered."

Laura asked, "If something doesn't match then what?"

I joked, "Then we're screwed in getting this job done in 36-hours! No, just make notes and we'll address it as needed."

Lulu took me to Gary...I mean Zac's office, "Zac, Ron Merlot is here."

Zac saw me, "Come on in Ron. Good to see you again. So, I just wanted to get an idea how things are going to be done over the next couple days."

I explained, "Today is an assessment which is what Laura and Wynn are doing right now. We want to make sure what we have on paper matches what actually is."

Zac told me, "Well everything should just be as it was when I bought out Gary."

I reminded him, "Yes, but that doesn't mean Gary hadn't made changes we were not aware of. Anyway, we'll do an inventory shortly and make sure we have everything we ordered. The rest of the day will be removing the old equipment and getting it prepped for recycling. Tomorrow, will be the new install. Marty will here tomorrow and I will go over your setup with him."

Zac upon hearing Marty's name asked, "So how does this work with him?"

I explained, "He will give you his card tomorrow. If you have an issue you can still call us or submit a ticket to see it is something we can fix remotely. If you have something you want done on site such as an upgrade, repair, replacement, etc, then contact him directly so he can let you know when he will be out." After I wrapped up with Zac I went to find Wynn and Laura. They were not in the main building and happened to pass Lulu and asked her, "Have you seen Laura or Wynn?"

Lulu told me, "I believe they are out in the warehouse going through the equipment."

I thanked her and headed over to that part of the building. Finally found them by one of the loading bays, "Hey you two how is everything looking?"

Wynn told me, "So far so good. Looks like we got everything we ordered."

Laura informed me, "There are a couple phantom workstations. They are on the topology, but nothing there now."

I had assumed they'd been relocated, "So then were there a couple workstations which did not appear on the topology?"

Wynn replied, "Oddly enough, no. So, we may have ended up with more equipment then we needed."

I asked them for their notes and told them, "Okay, let me go talk to Zac and Lulu. Try to figure out if this intentional or they planned on adding a couple new workstations." Laura handed me the topology map with their notes. I headed back into the main building and found Lulu, "Hey quick question: In our assessment we have found three workstations which no longer exist. Did y'all downsize or planned on adding them back?"

Lulu was thinking, "You know...geez that was a while back...yeah Gary eliminated couple people from a QA group whom we were having issues with them. Also, one of the production group members went to Vegas. So those spaces got assimilated by everyone else in the area. Far as I know, we don't plan on adding

any more people. In fact, we may be downsizing some more as a couple more have expressed interest in transferring to Vegas to be with Gary."

I informed her, "Hmm..okay...then we will need to make so some adjustments to the final price since we don't need those workstations. Already needed to since Sophie wasn't joining us this time."

Lulu asked, "Since everything has already been cleared by accounting and they are set to automatically pay you on Monday, can we keep those workstations as spares?"

I told her, "If you want to, you certainly may. Still need to adjust the final cost due to labor. Suppose you will ended up with a credit, which can be used for a future non-repair related service call. Wynn will work out the details when we return. Now, I better go assist them with getting the old equipment removed."

I made my way to the production area and found Wynn with Laura. Wynn asked, "So what did Zac or Lulu have to say?"

I told her, "During the past couple years a couple people were let go and another ended up going to Vegas. Lulu says they'd already paid us based on the contract, so she asked to keep the spare workstations."

Wynn reminded me, "But, the labor amount is off as were billing for having Sophie here."

I explained, "Yes, so they will end up with a credit which will cover all or part of a future non-repair related service call with Marty. How are we coming along?"

Laura told me, "Almost done over here, then the design area and finally offices."

I told them, "I'll take the offices since they are spread out and you two get the design section." By early afternoon we had wrapped up for they day. I went to find Lulu and Zac. Lulu was upfront and I asked, "Zac still around? We have finished for the day."

Lulu informed me, "No, he left about an hour ago. He'll be back tomorrow. When y'all coming in tomorrow?"

I told her, "Since it will be a Saturday, we should be able to get an earlier start. I am think around 9:00. Marty is supposed to in around 10:00, so at least we will be able to get started before I need to give the grand tour."

Lulu told me, "Okay, sounds good."

A half hour later we packed up and headed back to the old Sagebrush house. On the way back Laura commented, "Well, that wasn't too bad."

I reminded her, "Today was the easy part. Tomorrow is the actual install. I am thinking I should be able to help y'all out for the first hour before Marty arrives"

We arrived back at the house to find neither Marc or Martina were there. We headed out to the grand lawn to chat. A little bit later Martina came out, "Oh, you guys got done early! Marc should be back shortly then we can go dinner at that Baja Cantina place over by Fleming's."

I told her, "Yes there was not much we needed to do today. Tomorrow is the bulk of the project and we will be out there most of the day. Hopefully, we will be able to get it done tomorrow as really don't want be out there Sunday. Not to mention we are supposed to fly back Sunday afternoon."

Martina told us, "Well, Marc and I will treat you to breakfast tomorrow morning. I'll make the Spanish Omelet...though I am hoping Wynn can help me out."

Wynn told her, "Sure."

Marc came out to The Grand Lawn, "Ah nice, y'all are back already. Did Martina tell you about dinner tonight?"

Laura replied, "Something about a Baja Cantina place. Don't think I've been there before."

I told her, "Yeah, I don't think you've been. Gary had the Acme Christmas Party there a couple years ago. That was when Martina and Lindsay really bonded."

Martina recalled, "Oh yeah. I impressed her with my dancing."

Laura commented, "You are quite the dancer...singer on the other hand, not so much."

Martina objected, "Hey! Dang I miss Lindsay! I miss having all of you around. No Maya; No Peaches; No Zinfandel's, it is just so wrong!"

Marc told her, "Ron says we can come out for Memorial Day."

I added, "We might be doing a gathering over at Miranda's place. Apparently her folks are world travelers so they are rarely there. They are a couple miles up the road from where we are. She said her and her sister would do a cookout when the weather gets warmer."

Marc laughed, "Yeah, keep forgetting you are in place where you have four seasons! Well, let me change out of these work clothes and then we can head to dinner if you like."

I told him, "Sure, since we are still on Tennessee time it would be about dinner time now anyway."

After dinner Laura told me, "Why don't you come up with us tonight?"

I replied, "Don't think there is really anything for me. You and Martina can spend some more time together."

Martina told me, "Gary sold us his men's fucking/milking machine. I've used it a few times on Marc..."

Marc laughed, "Indeed she has! You'll love it Ron."

I told them, "Okay! Okay! Y'all twisted my arm."

Martina got me setup and then turned to Laura, "Should we manually get him primed first?"

I had no clue what that meant, but Laura did, "Why yes we should. Get back at him for putting us in chastity belts."

I reminded Laura, "I had nothing do with *Miss Kitty* putting you in a chastity belt. For that matter, while I did initially put Martina in a chastity belt after I caught on to your little affair, you were the one who choose to keep her belted when she stayed with you and Miss Kitty in Henderson before we divorced."

Laura laughed, "Minor details! Martina you work on his cock and I'll get his prostrate primed. Need to go find me a dildo and some lube..." Martina started sucking my cock and Laura returned a short time later with a well lubed dildo. After a few minutes Martina put the vacuum receiver on my cock and then lined up the fucking machine with my ass.

Martina started the machine. I moaned as the fuck machine dildo started rubbing against my prostate and could feel my cocking getting harder with the vacuum receiver sucking on my cock. Marc came over and observed, "Looks like he is enjoying himself. Martina, you should put the nipple massagers on him too."

Martina giggled, "Good idea dear!" She went over to the pump and pulled out a second line with attached nipple suckers and attached those to my nipples. It was not very long before I cummed the first time. Martina commented, "This first one is always takes the longest, we'll be back in a bit. We need to be spanked and

Wynn will get us setup on Gary's dual person spanking machine!" That was a product I was unaware of and would have to make a point later to observe it in action.

A short time later Wynn came over and released me from the fucking/milking machine. She commented, "I have Martina and Laura setup on the Dual Robo Spanker..."

I told her, "Yeah, I want to see that. Gary never told me he had that." We walked over to the other side of the loft and saw Martina and Laura were each secured to a platform with a Robo Spanker behind them. I was impressed, "Now, that's something you don't see every day...of course most of Gary's toys you don't see every day." I would later learn it was a prototype built by Zac a few years back that really never took off due to the amount of space needed.

## **Chapter 7: One Down, One to Go and 'Super-Max' Show and Tell**

The next morning Wynn was up early helping Martina make the Spanish Omelet for all of us. By the time Laura and I made it to the kitchen they were almost done. Martina saw us, "Great timing you two, breakfast is almost done. Wynn will wrap up, I need to give Marc a wake up call!"

After breakfast we headed back to Deer Valley and I explained, "Marty texted me this morning said he'd be there a little after ten. I really, really hope we can finish this today as I don't want to come back out tomorrow."

Laura asked, "When is our flight?"

Wynn told her, "Around 3:00 PM, but we need to arrive early to return the rental and go through security. So, ideally we need to be at the airport by 1:00 PM. Too bad Marc couldn't have gotten us into Deer Valley."

I replied, "Yeah, that would have made things easier, but we have to make do with what we got. Let's do this!"

We went to work getting the new PC's unboxed, setup, connected to the network and started to image. We were about halfway through and I hadn't really been paying attention to the time when my phone rang, "AZ Outback Ron."

"Hey Ron, Marty McPi here. Sorry, running a little behind, ADOT is working on I-17 around the Loop 303 interchange and the highway is closed. So making my way over to you all via surface streets until I can connect with the Loop 101. Should be there say about twenty minutes or thirty minutes."

I told him, "That is fine. We are about mid-way through getting the new PC's



installed and imaged." When I was done with him I found Laura and Wynn, "Marty got stuck in traffic up in north Phoenix. Says he should be here in about thirty minutes."

About a half later Lulu came in with Marty, "Here's Ron and the crew."

It had been a long time since I'd seen Marty, "Wow Marty, you've gotten old!"

Marty laughed, "So have you Ron! Damn, didn't we both have dark hair last time we saw each other...of course that was like 20-years ago!" He saw Laura, "Abigail, wow good to see you again!"

Laura politely correct Marty, "It's Laura or Abby...please."

Marty apologized, "Oh, yeah forgot about that...sorry. So, you want give me the grand tour?"

I told him, "Sure, let's head back up front." We headed to the reception area, "So you met Lulu's already, Gary's...I mean Zac's office manager....still trying to get use to this. Anyway, she can show you around the building, I need to finish getting the PC's going. We are really hoping to finish this today."

Lulu laughed, "Same here! I can do that, I'll bring him back over to you all when I am done." Lulu took Marty to the sever room and I headed back to work on the project.

I had returned and Wynn commented, "Got our first problem child." She pointed to a PC which appeared to be in a perpetual boot loop.

I told her, "Okay, might be a bad, disconnected or missing hard drive. I'll take a look." I unplugged the PC then popped of the cover to see that SATA data cable was not fully seated into the main board. I called her over and pointed at the SATA data cable, "Take a look at this, see how it is not all the way seated into the socket on the main board?"

Wynn took a closer look, "Oh, yes. Was that all it was?"

I told her as I pushed the cable firmly into the board, "Very likely, let's try to boot this again and see what happens." I closed up the PC and then reconnected the power cable. We watch was the machine booted and this time started the imaging process.

Wynn asked, "How would it become loose?"

I explained, "Likely whoever built the machine, just didn't push the cable in all

the way and then worked itself loose during transit and handling. Happens. That is usually the first thing I check when a PC won't boot correctly. First check the connection at the hard drive itself then to the board. You can do either direction first, but the cables are more likely to come loose at the drive."

An hour later Lulu returned with Marty, "Okay, he's been given the grand tour and appears to have taken notes about all the equipment."

Laura joked, "May be we should give him a pop-quiz about the sever room!"

Marty asked, "Open notes, other wise I am not going to recall."

Lulu told us, "I am going to head over to the local Barbecue joint and pick up us some food for lunch. Be back in about 45-minutes."

I checked my phone, "Almost 2:00 PM Tennessee time, but we were well feed from Martina's breakfast this morning. Yeah, that is fine."

Lulu returned a half hour later, "I'm back, they had it all ready for me when I got there."

We all gathered in the break room and ate lunch. I asked, "So how are we coming along?"

Wynn told us, "Think there maybe four or five left to get unboxed."

Laura added, "Still about a half dozen which were imaging."

While I did not want to declare an early victory it did seem as if things were moving smoothly, "Sounds like we are on track. So, Lulu...after lunch can you go over with Marty the software y'all are using?"

Lulu replied, "Best I can. I don't do much on the design side, mainly production and inventory. Come to think of it, we don't really have much design over here anymore. Most of them went with Gary to Henderson."

I commented, "Really surprised you stayed here given how long you've been working for Gary."

Lulu told me, "Gary, begged and pleaded for me to come with him, but my husband works for the Town of Carefree and doesn't want to leave. That and I really don't care for Vegas, though where Gary is seems to be nice."

Laura told her, "Before Miss Kitty, Sophie and I came to Arizona, we lived out in that area. It was nice, we were just far enough away from Vegas to be away from

the craziness, yet close enough that if we want to go to the strip for a show or somewhere nice to eat it wasn't too long of a drive. Plus we had almost everything we needed by us so there was no other reason to go into Vegas. Same as where we are now, there is plenty in town close by and if we need to go into Nashville, not that big of a deal."

We wrapped up around 6:00 that evening. I told Lulu, "Wynn will be in touch with you when she gets confirmation from Road Runner freight on picking up the old equipment. I need to call Bonnie on Monday and make sure her group is ready for the equipment."

Lulu hugged all of us as we left and asked, "Any chance I'll see y'all again? It is just weird going over to your old house for vendor presentations and seeing Martina living there now...not that there is anything wrong with that. She is my sister in pink!"

I laughed, "I know, that is where we've been staying. Unless, there is another major project, likely not. Like I said before, Marty here can take care of most anything."

As we were packing up Wynn asked, "What are we doing about dinner?"

I was about to tell her I was not sure when Lulu told us, "I have Zac's corporate AMEX card, we'll treat you to dinner. Pick some place over in Desert Ridge Marketplace and I'll let him know to meet us over there. We ended up at French themed cafe which I hadn't been to in years."

We walked around the marketplace and chatted for another hour or so. It was close to nine in the evening when we made it back to The Sagebrush House. Marc saw us coming in, "Was wondering what happened to y'all. Did you get everything done?"

I told him, "Yes, we wrapped earlier this evening. Then Zac and Lulu wanted to take us to dinner."

Martina walked in and told us, "Since you all have finished and you will have time tomorrow morning how about Marc and I take you all to brunch?"

No one seemed to have objected and I replied, "Sounds good. Now if you excuse us, we're all rather tired...been a long day and for us it is late."

I went up to The Burgundy Suite and took a long hot soak in the tub before heading to bed. Sunday morning Marc and Martina took us to brunch in Old Town Scottsdale.

--

Back in Tennessee on Sunday, Miranda came over for the Holstein meeting. She began the meeting, "Good morning Arizona. Miranda Morgan here in Franklin. Abby is in Arizona with her brother working on a project, so she won't be joining us today. Lindsay and Sara are here though."

Kayré joked, "They didn't even come over to say 'hi'."

Kacie added, "I know how rude! Anyway, what do you have Miranda?"

While they were in the meeting Maya and Peaches worked on making lunch for everyone. During lunch she asked, "Hey Sara and Lindsay, would it be okay if Miranda and I used your play room for a bit, I want to show her my Super-Max belt and all it entails?"

Sara told her, "Yeah that's fine or you could use Andy and Lindsay's office. We'll be up in the loft anyway. Curious as to why you can not do so in your room...not that we have a problem."

Maya explained, "Because Peaches will be napping before she goes to work."

Sara understood, "Oh yeah, forget she works nights. You playing piano tonight?"

Maya told her, "Not until the later evening." After Maya and Miranda were done with lunch they went into Sara and Lindsay's playroom.

Miranda commented, "Always wondered what secrets were behind this door, but it appears just to be another bedroom."

Maya explained, "Not just any bedroom, Lindsay and Sara's private sanctuary. A room where they can play and even spend the night together with privacy and away from their husbands." She removed her belt key and told Miranda, "So, last week Lindsay made the comment about my pussy piercings and how I used to have padlocks going through them."

Miranda giggled, "Kinky....odd, but still kinky!"

Maya laughed, "Well, it was kind of make do with what you have at the time type of situation. Anyway, I had gotten so into having my pussy inaccessible, when I had moved in with Ron and Sara the first time, I had Gray commission me a heavy duty chastity belt to take advantage of the piercings. The first one I had used a break-off locking screw...."

Miranda was not sure what she had just heard, "A what?"

Maya explained, "Break-off locking screw. So the lock core was threaded in the center. There was a special high-security 'washer' that attached in front of the core with either a regular screw or break-off screw. The washer prevented the circular key from being inserted into the lock. The head of the break-off screw would snap-off once fully inserted into the lock core and when torque was continued to be applied. The screw would prevent the high security washer from being removed, thus preventing access to the lock, which meant the belt could not be removed."

Miranda was intrigued but wondered, "How would you get it off...as I suppose at some point you would want it off?"

Maya told her, "The core would be drilled out, a very slow and uncomfortable process. However, Gary and given Ron a set of special of diamond tip cutters which would cut through the locking post, thus destroying the entire locking mechanism. Gary also did give Ron a replacement standard locking mechanism."

Miranda teased Maya, "So how long before you couldn't take it anymore and needed to Ron to remove it?"

Maya explained, "Actually, it was not my idea. It had been a few months and I was doing fine. But, Ron wanted me free for a holiday swingers party. Anyways, before you got so obsessed with the locking mechanism I was going to explain how my pussy piercings integrated into the belt. The belt I wear now, "The Super-Max"" is similar design to the original, just heavier duty and a lot more secure." She removed her skirt revealing the belt fully locked on.

Miranda noticed a thin wire with an attached tag going through the radial lock. She pointed to the tag, "Never seen one of those before."

Maya explained, "It is tamper evident tag. So the idea is Peaches could put me in the belt and still allow me to have access to the key in case of an emergency. However, in order to use the key the tag would need to be cut off and once it is cut, it can not be replaced...well it can with another one...but each tag has unique serial number."

Miranda saw Maya with a pair of wire snips and asked, "Does Peaches know what you are about to do?!"

Maya told her, "She doesn't even know I am in the belt, much less I attached a tamper-proof security tag. This is the first time I have worn the belt since we moved here and am doing so to show you." She cut off the tag and set it on table along with the snips. She inserted the key into the lock and removed the lock. As she removed the waist band she explained, "So I have five 'barbell' piercings

through my labia as well as a piercing on my clit hood. Attached to these piercings are 'buttons' which as you will see here slide into the shield. This prevents the shield from being moved horizontally and also ensure there is no way I can touch my pussy."

Miranda observed, "Wow, quite a bit of hardware you have down there! Now, couldn't you just reach under and unscrew the piercings?"

Maya explained, "The shield is concave and wide enough that the piercing are not exposed when it is fully in place. Let me put it back on so you can see." Maya carefully aligned the first button with the slot within the shield and then pulled the shield up inserting each button with the one on her clit hood being that last into the channel inside the shield. Maya added, "Similar principal to the way Peaches, Wynn and Sara's armor is held in place. In their case, the nipple piercings are inserted into channels in the bra cups." Maya out of habit once she had the shield in place put the waistband back on around her waist and locked the belt, sans the anti-tamper tag.

Miranda asked, "Would this or the armor be easier for me if I wanted to try one?"

Maya laughed, "I like you! Not afraid to try something new. As I recall you do have nipple piercing correct?"

Miranda lifted her top and bra show the barbells though her nipples, "Yes, I do."

Maya told her, "Well, you might need to get bigger sized ones. Need to talk to Gary about that. The armor would be a lot easier, but much more restrictive. You really are not able to bend at the waist. The armor does have a vaginal plug, which I have one as well attached to the middle of the five barbell piercings. If you are really interested in the armor you should talk to Wynn. I am going to head back to my room and get out this belt and all the piercings then head up the play loft and see what my sister is doing...likely something with Lindsay. Why don't you head up to see what Peaches is doing."

Miranda agreed then asked, "Okay, will do. So you are okay with me spending time with her?"

Maya laughed, "I'm not her keeper and we're not that serious! Besides, by now you know we are all swingers. While we have a semi-intimate relationship, she is more to keep me grounded. You remind me a lot of her, curious, willing to try new things and yet stubborn at times."

Miranda objected, "I am not! Okay, may be a little."

Maya laughed and went to her room across the hall while Miranda headed up to

the loft. She stood at the top of the stairs looking around to see who was where. Sara saw her and asked, "Looking for someone?"

Miranda was somewhat distracted and not paying attention, "What? Oh....yeah....um...Maya recommend I spend some time with Peaches. She's on her way up too, guess wants to play with you."

Sara got excited, "Oh fun! Peaches...let me see where is she?" Sara look around and saw her spanking Lindsay on the bench, "Oh there she is...with Lindsay. Come with me dear." Sara and Miranda walked over and Sara asked Peaches, "Just what do you think you are doing?"

Peaches was in mid paddling looked over at Sara confused, "Spanking The Angel?"

Sara laughed, "So you are...judging by the shade of crimson her ass is currently, doing a good job at it too! Go ahead and get her released then meet me at the table. I am going to have Miranda service you on the table." She told Lindsay, "Maya and I are going to be playing soon, likely having her spank me on the bench. I need to keep you out of trouble...let's see fuck machine, bondage stand or hogtie trainer?"

Lindsay commented, "I am not wearing ballet boots...I suppose I could meditate in the hogtie trainer."

Miranda laughed, "Meditate and hogtie trainer, two things that I would have never expected to hear in the same sentence!"

Sara told her, "At this point you really shouldn't be surprised!"

Peaches had released Lindsay from the table and Lindsay told Sara, "Well, I need to pee! Do with what you need with Peaches and Miranda and then you get me into the hogtie trainer. I need to change into a bodystocking too."

Sara told her, "Fair enough. Miranda and Peaches come with me." She led them over to the table and told Peaches, "You are on the table, you know what to do."

Peaches replied, "Yes Mistress Rae!" She went to the table and opened the cabinet beneath to retrieve the straitjacket and collar.

Sara remind her, "I am married to Ron....so that would be Mistress Merlot!"

Peaches brushed her off, "Potato...*Potatoe!*"

Sara turned to Miranda laughing, "She sets such a fine example of how *not* to

talk your mistress..."

Maya had come up and caught the last part. "She getting back into her old habits again...might be time to put her in the armor...oh wait she enjoys being in the armor. So what are we doing?"

Sara explained, "I'll have you spank me on the bench, once I get Lindsay into the hogtie trainer, but can't do that until I get Peaches on the table for Miranda."

Maya understood, "I see. Tell you what, get Peaches and Miranda taken care of and I'll put Lindsay in the hogtie trainer."

Sara told her, "Sounds like a plan...oh no...not good idea, I'll take care of her. You get Peaches onto the table and explain to Miranda about the stool." She left to go find Lindsay and get her setup on the hogtie trainer.

Maya stood there confused and asked, "What the hell just happened?"

Miranda didn't know either, "I do not know. She not trust you with Lindsay?"

Maya wondered the same, "Could be, though I don't know why. Things have been good between us for years now...oh well...best not to dwell on it. So anyway, let me get Peaches into the straitjacket and then secured to the table." Maya put the collar around Peaches neck and told Miranda, "The ring goes in the rear..." Miranda was about to ask 'why' but Maya continued, "...there is a latch recessed into the table that the ring will catch into keeping the participants head secured to the table. The stirrups have straps to secure the feet. So with the participant in the straitjacket, they can not touch themselves nor can they release the catch to free their head." She turned to Peaches and asked, "Do you want a gag?" Before Peaches could answer Maya told her, "Actually it would be best for the others in here if you were gagged. Let me go see what I can find. Miranda, if you are ready you can sit down on the stool and secure yourself."

Maya went to the toy closet while Miranda looked at the stool, "Hmm....interesting. So this forces me to only be able to service you with my mouth...suppose I need to learn somehow!" She sat down on the stool and bent down to close the rigid cuffs around her ankles. She decide to wait for Maya before doing her wrists.

Maya returned with a gag for Peaches. She told Miranda, "To release the collar, you reach underneath and feel for the catch...as such." She released the collar from the catch so Peaches could sit up for Maya to put her in a gag. After she gagged Peaches, Maya asked Miranda, "Any questions before I go spank my sister."



Miranda laughed, "Once I cuff my wrists, how do I get myself out?"

Maya replied, "You don't! Someone will need release you. When Sara and I switch places later, I'll check on you." Maya headed over to the spanking bench to see if Sara was ready.

Miranda told Peaches, "Well, here goes nothing!" She placed her arms behind her and closed the rigid cuffs around her wrists. Once the cuffs snapped closed around her wrists, she realized she was indeed trapped, "Wow, I ain't going anywhere. Now I see why this stool is so close to the table, I can barely lean forward. Sorry, I am not trying to torment you...just a bit new at all of this." Peaches really didn't mind, any stimulation felt good to her being her and Maya had not really been doing anything lately nor had she had any one-on-one time with anyone else.

Sara came over just as Maya approached the spanking bench she told her, "Okay, Lindsay is secured to a hogtie trainer." She glanced across the room, "Okay, so Peaches on the table and Miranda has locked herself on to the stool. So, it's you and me now. Let me get out of this dress and I'll get on the table. Oh, let me put in a gag." Sara removed her dress revealing she was wearing a low profile cable-thong sport style belt along with stockings.

Maya could see there were two plugs attached to the cable she joked, "Did Ron put you into a belt before he left!?" Sara laughed through the gag. Once Sara was on the table, Maya went through the process of getting her strapped down. As she was paddling her sister, Maya couldn't get the earlier interaction with her and Sara in regards to Lindsay out her head. Since it was getting the near the point they would be switching places anyway, Maya came over and removed Sara's gag. She asked point-blank, "Do you *still* not trust me with Lindsay?"

Sara was puzzled by the question, "Why you ask? What makes you think that?"

Maya told her, "I had offered to put Lindsay on the hogtie trainer, but you said it would be bad idea and you would do it instead. You do know, that what she thought happened never happened."

Sara was backed into a corner...or in this case strapped to a spanking bench and had no where to go to avoid answering Maya's questions. She sighed, "May be I am being overly protective of Lindsay. It is not you I am worried about, it is her. Yes, I know that what she thinks happened didn't really happen, but it still haunts Lindsay to this day...I have no idea why."

Maya felt guilty, "Suppose I am to blame for the way I lashed out at her that night at Corona de las Estrellas when Peaches and I had returned from Chugwater."

Sara didn't want Maya to feel like she was fully at fault, "I think what happened that night was only a small part. I think it is more all the events that lead up to what never happened. From the way she ghosted me after Andy's prank to Ron trying to get us to talk to each other while Wynn was in the wrong place at the wrong time. Plus, she spent a night in jail...though I doubt she remembers much about that night as she had drank way too much. Sorry, I shouldn't have reacted the way I did earlier. I know you have improved on containing your anger."

Maya told her, "Between Peaches and The Moon Goddess, I am a much better person now."

Sara agreed, "Very much so. Okay, you ready to switch places?"

Maya told her, "Sure. Suppose I should check on Miranda and Peaches. Did you want to check on Lindsay?"

Sara laughed, "Nah, Lindsay will be fine...for all I know she's asleep."

Maya wondered, "How the hell can she sleep in strange positions?"

Sara offered a theory, "Perhaps she was cat in her previous life?"

Maya joked, "That would explain a lot!" She released Sara from the spanking bench and headed over to the table to see how Miranda was holding up. Maya thought it had been fairly quiet, even with Peaches gagged. She just chopped it up to Miranda's inexperience. Just as she was nearing the table she heard Peaches' banshee scream, though only slightly muffled with the gag. Maya walked up to Miranda, "Impressive! How you holding up?"

Miranda laughed, "Not bad for my first time! I am getting a bit sore here."

Maya told her, "Yeah, that can happen. Let me get you out." Maya took the release key from the wall hook and popped open each of the wrist cuffs and then the ankle cuffs. She noticed Peaches wide open pussy and realized it had been months since they had done anything with her. She asked Miranda, "Would you mind being spanked by Sara?"

Miranda told her, "I suppose not. Weren't you going to?"

Maya pointed to Peaches, "We need to spend sometime together...if you know what I mean." Miranda nodded her head and went off to find Sara. Maya told Peaches, "Okay, now that Miranda has gotten you primed...let's see how long it will take me to get you to cum!"

She sat down on the stool, securing her ankles and wrists into place before diving in the Peaches' pussy. Meanwhile Miranda came over to the bench and told Sara, "Maya sent me in her place!"

Sara replied, "What the fuck! Why?"

Miranda told her, "She wanted to spend some girl time with Peaches."

Sara understood, "Ah, okay that does make sense. Well, then remove your skirt and get on the table!" After Miranda did as she was ordered, Sara went about getting her secured to the table. Since Sara did not know Miranda's limits she told her, "Let me know if I get too rough with you."

Miranda was trying to move around in the restraints and found she was very secured, "Oh wow, these straps are tight. I don't know myself what I can take, so I will let you know."

Sara informed her, "I will also use a solid paddle so it should not sting as bad."

## **Chapter 8: Simple Project at Home and The Greater of Two Evils!**

Back in Arizona, the five of us went to Subway for lunch before Wynn, Laura and I headed back to the airport. Martina told us, "If all goes well, we should be out for Memorial Day."

Marc confirmed, "I'll give you a call a couple weeks prior and let you know. I am hoping we can take the entire week off. With all the traveling they've been having me do this past year, it is the least they can do."

We made it to the airport, returned the rental car and made it through security with a half hour to spare. I gave Leslie a call, "Hey Leslie, we're still in Phoenix. Flight should be leaving in the next hour. So, I thinking about three-hours we should be in Nashville."

Leslie told us, "Sounds good. It has been snowing and raining most of the day, looks like a cold night ahead."

I joked, "Hmm...perhaps we should re-book our flight and stay out here enjoying this 70 degree weather. Except Abby has a store she needs to be at and I am sure I have projects waiting for me when I return. We'll call you when we arrive."

---

Back at The Barn, Miranda had enough of Sara spanking her and signaled she was done. Sara told her, "Let me get you released. What time is it anyway?" She

looked across the loft at the giant wall clock and noticed it was getting close to 5:00 PM. "Hmm, later than I thought. I think Ron, Laura and Wynn should be departing about now. Go ahead and get cleaned up. I'll attend to Lindsay then Maya and Peaches." Miranda went to the powder room while Sara went over to check on Lindsay. She found Lindsay asleep in the hogtie trainer and decided the best way to wake her up was to tickle the bottom of her stocking feet. Lindsay let out a confused yelp. Sara laughed, "Perhaps you were a cat in a previous life. Let me get you out of this."

Lindsay really had no idea what Sara was talking about, "What do you mean I was cat in a previous life?"

Sara laughed as she freed Lindsay, "Not important. Okay, Miranda might still be in the powder room."

Lindsay asked, "Is anyone else here?"

Sara told her, "Other than Miranda along with Peaches and Maya, no. Not sure if Andy came back yet he said earlier he was going to be at the store for awhile to check on inventory. Ron, Laura and Wynn should be on their flight back."

Lindsay replied, "In that case, I'll just go down to our suite to change and get cleaned up. When's dinner?"

Sara explained, "Not for a while. I am suppose to put the Lasagna in the oven when Ron calls from the airport. Suppose we can work on salad a little later. I need to go get Maya and Peaches released." Lindsay headed downstairs to her suite while Sara headed over to the table.

Maya saw her, "Oh goody you're here."

Sara released Maya and told her, "Go ahead and get Peaches freed. Miranda may or may not still be in the powder room up here. Lindsay went back down to her suite. I need to get changed and work on getting dinner going."

Maya replied, "I can help once we get cleaned up."

Sara told her, "That be good. It will still be another hour or so before I start. Once Ron calls me from the airport then I put the lasagna in the oven. Of course said oven needs to be preheated."

Maya advised her, "Peaches should take the dogs out as well." She stood up and told Peaches, "I'll have you out in a couple minutes. Once you get cleaned up and dressed take Lucy and Cream out."

Sara headed over to her suite to change into something warmer since the bottom level of the barn was a lot cooler than the loft. She removed her sport belt and put her armor back on along with a long sleeve dress and opaque stockings with ankle boots. When she exited the suite she met up with Lindsay in the hall. Lindsay joked, "Nice meeting you here! So what now?"

Sara told her, "Let's head downstairs." They headed downstairs into the kitchen and noticed the fireplace in the great room was going. Sara commented, "Andy must be home since the fireplace is lit. They made their way into the Great Room and saw Andy on one of the sofas watching golf. Sara joked, "Never thought of you as a golf fan."

Andy laughed, "There ain't a whole lot of sports on right now. Football just ended and baseball hasn't started yet. Not really into basketball or hockey. What you two up to, besides no good?"

Lindsay objected, "What makes you think we'd be getting into trouble..."

Before Andy had chance to answer Peaches came down the stairs with Cream and yelled out "Lucy! Come!" Lucy had been in the doggy bed by the kitchen stairs and started getting excited seeing Cream out. Peaches along with the two dogs headed into the mudroom and then outside to take care of their business. Peaches grumbled when she open the door, "Too cold! Should stayed in Arizona. You two be quick, it too cold out there."

Sara laughed, "I was wondering if she was going to be able to adjust to being back in a cold climate! In another hour I'll get the oven preheated and then when Ron calls from the airport I'll start the lasagna. Maya has offered to help me with the salad."

Lindsay offered her expert service, "I can help choose a wine!"

Miranda came down the stairs and commented as she walked in, "Not as cold down her as I thought it would be. Is it okay if I hang out here until dinner?"

Sara replied, "Of course. Since Andy is watching golf we can go over to the sitting room."

Andy told them, "If you want to stay in here you can. I am not all that into this tournament."

Maya came down the stairs in a long red dress and black tights paired with red heels and asked, "Has Peaches been down here yet?"

Sara told her, "Yes, she was cursing about how cold it was outside when she took

Lucy and Cream out.”

Maya laughed, “Yeah, she was not too happy about us coming out here because of that. So what are we doing?”

Sara explained, “Andy was watching a golf tournament he has no desire to watch and we’re on a holding pattern before we start on dinner. Miranda is going to hang out until dinner.”

Maya suggested, “Well, I could play some music on the piano to liven the mood. Seems as if neither Peaches or I are going to be working tonight. The owner decided not to open tonight because of the incoming storm. Hopefully Ron, Wynn and Laura make it back in time.”

Andy commented, “From what I saw on The Weather Channel®, the brunt of the storm will hit overnight tonight. They should be fine. Going into work tomorrow morning might be a bit of a challenge.”

Maya joked knowing Peaches was not in the room, “We can always have Peaches shovel the driveway!” Cream and Lucy came running into the Great Room and sniffed everyone before they settled down next to each other in the oversize dog bed near Maya’s piano. Maya pointed to them and laughed, “They know I am going to play!”

Peaches came in and complained, “You all had to move somewhere cold! Arizona is so nice this time of year.”

Miranda teased her, “You’ll get used to it...then you’ll complain Arizona is too warm!”

Peaches scowled at Miranda, “Whatever! I need to sit by fire and thaw!”

Maya joked, “You were outside for two or three minutes! Anyway, I am going to play some music.” Maya started playing the piano while Sara and Peaches chatted. Miranda did share a common interest with Andy and Lindsay with her working towards an IT degree or certification. The three of them chatted about computers.

In a while later Sara looked at the time and told everyone, “Be back shortly; need to get the oven preheated. Not going to do anything else until Ron calls.”

---

We landed in Nashville. Laura needed to use the restroom and Wynn went to get our bags. I called Leslie, “Hey we landed.”

Leslie told me, "Sounds good. I am near the airport. I'll text you when I get to the curb."

I replied, "That will work. Wynn is getting our bags. I need to call Sara and let her know we are on our way back." Once I was done with Leslie I called Sara. When she answered I joked, "Oh good, y'all haven't killed each other or gotten yourselves stuck. Oh wait, Andy was there to chaperoned. Anyway, we've landed and Leslie says she is near."

Sara told me, "We've stayed out of trouble. Okay, I'll get dinner going. See y'all soon." Sara headed over to the kitchen and placed the lasagna in the oven. She called out, "Maya want to give me hand with the salad?"

Miranda told Maya, "I'll assist Sara, you can keep playing that fine music." Miranda headed into the kitchen and told Sara, "I am substituting for Maya."

Sara laughed, "Again?! I don't care, as long as someone helps me with this salad. You can start by washing these vegetables."

Miranda started washing the vegetables while Sara cut and added them to the salad. About an hour later Leslie dropped us off at the house and then went to drop off Laura at her store. We walked into the mudroom and could smell the lasagna baking in the oven. Lucy and Cream came over to greet us. We left our bags in the mudroom then after dropping our boots and coats we headed into the kitchen to see Sara and Miranda getting the table setup. Miranda greeted us, "Welcome back! Dinner will be ready shortly."

Wynn joked, "Did she move in while we were gone?!"

Miranda playing along, "Someone needs to keep Sara and Lindsay in check while Wynn is gone."

I laughed, "Ah so that's how Sara and Lindsay managed not to get themselves stuck. I am going to head upstairs to change and get cleaned up for dinner."

Wynn replied, "Same here, but I have a shorter trip than you do!"

Once I returned Andy asked, "So how did it go?"

I replied, "Not too bad. We wrapped up yesterday. Tomorrow we shall see if there are any issues, which Marty should be able to take care of. We didn't make any changes to the network so things should be good there. Still going to have to go to Henderson at some point to do Gary and Cristina's branch. I don't think we will for at least another couple months."

Sara asked, "How was staying at the old house with Marc and Martina?"

I laughed, "Interesting. Wynn and Laura stayed in their old rooms while I stayed up in The Burgundy Suite. Martina has not taken to us leaving very well."

Maya asked, "How so?"

I explained, "Well, not just us. You and Peaches plus the Zinfandel's. She at least gets to see Lulu from time to time when her and Zac bring over vendors from demos. But, she is kind of lonely now. They do plan on coming out here around Memorial Day so that will do her some good."

Sara joked, "So, you couldn't talk them into coming out here!"

I laughed, "Nope, at least not yet. They are too attached to the resort. It has been a long standing goal of Marc to someday work at The Boulders, so he is not about to give that up. Even if they were to come out here, most of the resorts in Nashville would be like what they despised in Henderson, a theme park overrun by entitled patrons."

During dinner we chatted and Wynn asked, "So I am guessing everything went smoothly while we were gone?"

Maya replied, "Seems like it. Sara and Lindsay managed to stay out of trouble. Peaches and I got to spend some time together up in the loft. Miranda is really getting into our lifestyle."

Lindsay joked, "The quiet ones are the kinkiest!"

I laughed, "Oh god so true! Congratulations, in little over six-months y'all managed to corrupt her!"

Miranda added, "Took a bit longer than that; they started working on me when Leslie and I first came to see you in Arizona."

Lindsay laughed, "Oh yeah, the three of us were in the cage together at the other house."

The next morning was surprisingly quiet, which was concerning. I called Marty, "Hey Marty, Ron here. Say is everything okay at ACME Deer Valley?"

Marty asked, "Why, what have you heard?"

I laughed, "Nothing, that's why I am concerned."



Marty told me, "All is well. Couple minor hiccups, but we got those resolved quickly. Hey while I have you on the line I need to let you know in about three-weeks I am going to be heading to the east coast for a couple months."

I looked at my calendar, "Well then, I suppose we will need to get ACME Henderson knocked out before then as I don't think Gary is going to want to wait for three-months to do his refresh. Suppose Wynn and I should get to work on building a quote. Hopefully, we can get it done in the next couple days and Gary approves it quickly so we can schedule it for before you take off. I'll keep you posted."

I messaged Wynn to come to my office. She appeared a few minutes later in here purple spandex 'cleaning mode' unitard and joked, "Is there a crisis at ACME Deer Valley?"

I laughed, "No, quite the opposite. I ended up calling Marty to make sure everything was okay since it was so quiet. He said there were a couple minor hiccups but those were resolved. He did however, inform me he is going to be out on the east coast for a couple months in about three weeks. So, perhaps this afternoon once you are done cleaning and I have had a chance to go through all my administrative crap we can work on building out a quote for The ACME Henderson refresh."

Wynn replied, "Works for me. Now, if you don't need anything else there is a duster gag and fiddle waiting for me." She was about to step out the room when she commented, "Andy has suggested we bring Miranda along when we do ACME Henderson. No, he did not elaborate as to why."

I told her, "Okay. I'll try to remember to ask him about that when we have dinner. Be sure you come by this way later on so I can see what creative way you are motivating yourself today."

Wynn assured me, "I will....need to dust the sitting room and your office after all."

I returned to shoveling out my Inbox, once that was done then it was on to the job boards. There was really nothing I was overly interested in working on right now. However, it was the middle of the month and the more lucrative offers usually showed up towards the end of the month. I still had a couple active projects, but nothing that needed my attention today or the next couple days. There was also the simple project for Victoria I was going to try and get completed this week. Later in the day I found the email from Cristina with Gary's shopping list for ACME Henderson and forwarded it over to Max with a message to call me. A few minutes later Max called my office, "Morning Ron. Didn't you just do a project for ACME?"

I explained, 'Yes, that was Gary's old location at Deer Valley he sold back to now unretired Zac Acme. This one is the original Vegas...well now Henderson operations that his step daughter runs...I suppose he does too. Anyway, as we did last time let me know on pricing and availability/substitutions.'

Max asked, "How soon do you need this?"

I replied, "Wynn and I are going to start building a quote this afternoon. If you can get it done today great, if not tomorrow morning as we are on a tight schedule with Marty's availability."

Max told me, "If things stay quiet I should be able to take care of this for you this morning."

After I was done with Max I went over to my shop and found and imaged an HP Mini with Windows 10 for Victoria's office. Andy was able to get us a retail license key for Windows XP from Doyle for the VM image so we could run the ancient listing software Victoria wanted to continue to use on a more modern and much smaller machine. It took a good part of the morning to get everything setup on the virtual image from the floppies. I had forgotten how painfully slow installing software from multiple floppy disk was compared to a CD-ROM or in most cases now downloading the software from the Internet. I still was waiting on the parallel to USB converter which should be coming in the next day or so. Otherwise the machine was ready to go. I looked around and found a 17-inch flat panel still in box. I quickly unboxed the monitor and connected it to a test machine to be sure it worked as expected. Satisfied with the result I re-boxed the monitor. At this point there was nothing more I needed to do so headed back into main house.

## **Chapter 9: A New Edition to AZOutback Consulting and Ripping off The Band-Aide**

Upon returning I noticed Wynn in the sitting room. She was wearing her purple unitard and had locked herself into a single person rigid fiddle. She was also wearing a gag with an attached duster. I laughed as I saw her dusting the shelves. Here I was worried when I brought her on years ago she wouldn't fit in with our bizarre lifestyle, yet if anything she had amplified it. I looked out the window towards the road and saw the snow had melted. Decided I would head into town and grab some lunch. Went to the garage not quite sure what I was expecting to find as I did not check while I was in there earlier. Much to my surprise both the Murano and Jeep were in the garage. It appears everyone had gone in together this morning in Peaches' Bronco. Since the Jeep had a higher ground clearance and better tires for handling the slushy roads I took that. I returned a couple hours later and found Wynn in the kitchen doing some early

prep for dinner. She saw me coming in and after I changed out my coat and boots in the mudroom told me, "Max called for you earlier. Says he was about done with the quote, but had some questions about Abby's equipment list."

I told her, "Well, that is out my wheelhouse. I'll have Abby give him a call. Anyone else here?"

Wynn told me, "Leslie dropped Peaches off earlier. She took Cream and Lucy out when she got back. Oh and a package arrived while you were gone, I set it on your desk."

I headed to my office and noticed the package on my desk. I could tell by the size it was the parallel to USB adapter needed for Victoria's project. I set it aside on my side desk and called Laura, "Hey there Laura. So, everything is fine with ACME Deer Valley...couple minor issues which Marty was able to get resolved. However, he did inform me that he is heading to the east coast in about three weeks for a couple months. So, that means we need to do ACME Henderson in the next couple weeks. I am already working on getting a quote built for them. I had forward Cristina's email along with your list to Max and apparently he has some questions in regards to the equipment on your list. So, when you have a chance give him a call."

Laura told me, "I'll have Sophie take care of that, since that doesn't involve the Boutique Holstein. Thanks for the warning. Do let me know when we are to head out there."

I told her, "I shall. Oh and according to Wynn, Andy is suggesting we bring Miranda with us, don't know why. Have to wait until Andy gets home tonight for him to explain himself."

Laura replied, "Interesting. I suppose Maya, Lindsay and Sara can hold down the store while I am gone. Lindsay can handle operations while Miranda and I are gone. She did it in Scottsdale."

A couple hours later Wynn was getting dinner prepped. Maya had returned and was playing the piano. Before I went to sign-out I checked my email and saw Max had sent me a quote. I decided I would look over it after dinner with Wynn. I headed over to the Great Room. Andy and Lindsay arrived back with Sara. During dinner I ask Andy, "So Wynn tells me you recommend we bring Miranda along for the ACME Henderson job?"

Andy told me, "Yes she is working towards her IT certification and for her to see an installation from the ground up would be a good experience."

Maya advised me, "She has also expressed interest in getting an armor. I told her

to talk to Wynn."

Lindsay and Wynn were setting the table, Wynn commented, "Yes, she did chat with me. She already has the piercings, just needs to go up a size larger. She said she was going to look into getting larger barbells this week."

I told her, "Next time she is here, get her measurements and we can send those over to Gary. If she wants to have an armor made, it should be done by the time we get out there. Funny, never expected we'd have another kinky addition to our family. I'll blame Lindsay!"

Lindsay objected, "Hey! I didn't know her before we started our adventure last year."

I laughed, "Yeah well, you just have a way with people...much like my former quiet and shy maid...Sara."

Wynn announced, "Dinner is ready. Lindsay has already gotten the wine ready."

After dinner Peaches, Sara and Lindsay helped get the kitchen cleaned up. Wynn and I met in my office along with Andy to go over the quote for the ACME Henderson job. Andy was looking over what Max had sent back, "Glad to see we are still getting our wholesale discount even though Lindsay and I don't work there anymore. Wow, this is going to be a big project."

I reminded him, "Yes, it is a complete rebuild. Having Miranda there would be helpful too as the more people we have the quicker it will go and the sooner we can get back here."

Andy asked, "Any idea how long this going to take?"

Wynn had run some numbers "Based on my calculations I say we allocate five-days."

Andy asked, "Does that include travel time?"

Wynn told him, "No, with travel about a week. Now, if things go smoothly we should be able to shave a day or two off of that. However, I am being cautious here since there is a lot of moving parts and not just on our end but Abby's as well."

I told them, "She should be bringing Sophie with her this time around, so that is another person."

Wynn didn't know about Sophie, "Oh, that changes things as I was basing off

You, Andy, Abby and myself. So need to do bill the daily labor for five people not four. That is a quick adjustment."

That evening Wynn had completed the quote and I sent it over to Cristina and Gary the following morning. Cristina replied back in less than an hour with her approval so I ordered the equipment. Based on the info I receive from Max the equipment could be in Henderson by the end of the week. I called Laura, "Hey there. So Cristina already approved the bid. Equipment should be coming to Gary's facility by the end of the week. How are you and Sophie with leaving on Sunday afternoon?"

Laura told me, "Sophie has her project, but I suppose she can skip a week. So we'd start on Monday then?"

I explained, "Yes. Hopefully, be out by Friday...may be even as early as Thursday. Really depends on how smoothly everything goes."

Laura told me, "Suppose I better get working on their configs so that they'd be ready to go when we get the new equipment setup. I'll let Sophie know when I see her this afternoon."

I called Marty and informed him of the timeline for the project he told me to create a ticket so he could create a new profile for The ACME Henderson location. Next I called Gary, but got Cristina, "Oh hey Cristina, was hoping to talk to Gary."

Cristina told me, "He is out these next couple days at a convention in Vegas. Shall I leave him a message?"

I informed her, "We will start the refresh next Monday and hope to be done by Friday. We'll be getting into town Sunday afternoon, so he will need to make accommodations for the six of us."

Cristina told me, "Yeah, we can do that. I'll check our usual hotels and see if any have a Penthouse available, worse scenario y'all are in a couple suites. Any idea when on Sunday?"

I told her, "We'll likely leave around 2:00 PM our time which would be Noon your time. I still need to contact Marc Frosh to get the flight arrangements made...my next call."

Cristina replied, "I'll let Gary know and I'll also email you with the hotel info once we get that confirmed."

Once I was done with Cristina it was Marc I needed to call next, "Morning Marc. We're heading out to Henderson on Sunday and plan on coming back Friday or

Saturday.”

Marc asked, “How many are there? Will you also need hotel and car?”

I explained, “Six of us leaving early afternoon. So two cars unless you find something big enough for all of us. Gary or Cristina is taking care of the hotel arrangements.”

Marc confirmed, “Okay, so the six of you flying out sometime in the afternoon on Sunday; need a rental....likely a Tahoe...no hotel needed...what about ground transport from Franklin to Nashville and when you come back?”

I thought for a moment, “Hmm...yeah since there are more of us this time around that might be good idea.”

Marc advised me, “Give me a couple hours and I’ll get everything setup and send you the details.”

After I was done with Marc I called over to The Boutique Holstein and talked with Laura and Miranda. I told Miranda, “If you are wanting to get an armor, like Wynn, Sara and Peaches we can get you measured on Thursday night and I’ll forward that over to Gary. He’ll be in contact with you about finishes and accessories.” Next I called Victoria’s office and talked to Larry informing her the new computer was ready to install. She advised me I could come by Thursday afternoon if I was free. I checked my schedule and confirmed that would work. After I entered the install appointment on my calendar I noticed Cristina sent me the hotel info and did manage to find an over-size penthouse nearby. Marc forward me the details with a flight leaving around 4:00 PM our time with ground pickup around 1:00 PM. That evening once everyone arrived back I told them, “Andy, Wynn, Laura, Sophie, Miranda and myself will be leaving Sunday afternoon for Henderson. I expect us to be back by Saturday, may be sooner...hopefully not later. Cristina has set us up in a Penthouse suite out in Lake Las Vegas and Marc has arranged for ground transportation to/from Franklin and Nashville.”

Wynn asked, “How about once we get to Henderson?”

I told her, “I believe Marc reserved a Tahoe for us.”

Sara asked, “Are we staying here?”

I explained, “Yes, you have Maya and Peaches plus the guard dogs...”

Wynn joked, “I suppose Lucy can nibble on an intruder’s ankle. Cream will just bark a couple times then go lay down for a nap!”

Maya added, "But, she will expect a belly rub first!"

After dinner everyone had gone their own way. Before I returned to my office I informed Wynn, "Victoria's new computer is ready. Talked to Larry earlier and we decided Thursday afternoon would be good for the install. Since you were there for the initial triage call, do you want to come back to for the install?"

Wynn told me, "I think I should be free. Need to go the market and get a lasagna and hit the farmers market too. Should be able to rearrange my busy schedule to come out with you. At least this is close I am guessing won't take very long."

I teased her, "In theory in shouldn't...reality? Well, we shall see."

Thursday morning Wynn headed to the markets as soon as she had the breakfast dishes done. That afternoon after lunch I loaded the PC along with the 17-inch flat panel and the associated peripherals. We headed over to Victoria's office and Larry was waiting for us upfront when we came in, "Oh boy our new toy is here!" We headed back to the 'relic office' and disconnected the relic and removed it from the desk. Larry came in with a duster and quickly cleaned off the desk for us. Half an hour later Wynn and I had the new PC and 17-inch flat panel setup. I gave Larry a quick crash course how to startup the machine if it ever needs to be restarted. I setup the RDP account with the same username and password as the relic and made sure the host name and internal IP address were also kept the same. Larry was able to access the 'new' system' from Victoria's office and tested the printing functionality by printing a one page test report. Larry told me, "Everything seems to work. I'll show Victoria when she gets back. The other agents won't even know the difference as far as they are concerned they think they are still connecting to the boat anchor. Speaking of boat anchor, what should we do with it?"

I advised her, "I'd suggest you hold on to it for a couple weeks just in case something goes wrong. After that check with the town to see if they have some type of electronics recycling options."

Larry told me, "Yes, they have a partnership agreement with a company in Nashville and do recycling events about once a quarter. Okay, what do we owe you for this install?"

Wynn was filling in the final details on the job ticket and told her, "Give me a couple more minutes and I'll have an invoice generated for you." Wynn confirmed Larry's email and then closed out the ticket which auto magically generated an invoice which was sent to Larry's email.

Larry's phone dinged and she looked, "Okay that was quick! Let me go back to my desktop and submit a payment via PayPal. Too small on this device for me to

able to see what the heck I am doing. I get worried I'd accidentally submit a random payment to someone in Mumbai!" She went back to her terminal and processed the payment.

Wynn's tablet chimed and she informed me, "You've got mail...I mean money!"

I laughed and reminded her, "Larry is likely too young to understand the 'AOL' reference there."

Larry asked, "A-O what?"

I told her, "Way back in the dark ages of the Internet you bought a monthly or by the hour subscription to access the 'Internet' via a phone line. America Online or AOL was one of the big providers out there. These providers also included at least one email address with the service. Whenever you logged into your dashboard and had email you would get the announcement 'You've got mail!'. Look it up on Wikipedia if you want to know more. Okay, we are done here. Should anything come up let Wynn and/or I know and we will see what we can do."

Wynn and I headed back to the barn. She commented, "So I guess Victoria was our first install and repair since we've come out here?"

I replied, "Yeah as far as local goes. I do miss these small and simple projects. ACME Deer Valley wasn't too bad, but I am not looking forward to doing the Las Vegas of Henderson install coming up. I just know we are going to run into some type of major issue, even though we are already anticipating it being complicated being a complete rebuild. Oh well, nothing can be as bad as Boot's Chugwater!"

Thursday evening Miranda came by for Yoga with Leslie. After they were done with the Yoga session and before dinner Wynn took Miranda into the McGrawl's office to get her measurements. Funny how The McGrawl's office was being used as this house's presentation room rather than an office. I forwarded the measurements over to Gary with Miranda's contact info.

Miranda returned downstairs for dinner and told Maya, "Jason has advised me my ballet boots are being shipped. Suppose I can start trying to wear and walk in them when we return."

Maya warned her, "It ain't going to be easy at first. You will need a lot of practice and patience, but as time goes on you will get used to wearing them. Even once you get used to them, I'd would not recommend you spend more than maybe 10-15 minutes in the stand. Heck, Peaches can barely last 30-minutes and she has been wearing ballet boots for a long time."

Peaches explained, "Not being able to shift weight is hard. Take your time, you



will be able to do it.”

After dinner the girls went up to the lot to play while Miranda stuck around and helped Wynn with the kitchen. I was working on getting the last short-term jobs I had open completed before we left. Miranda came to my office, “Before I leave, when I should be here on Sunday?”

I told her, “We’re leaving around noon. However, give me your address and I’ll have our ground transport come get you first. As I mentioned plan on not being back until Friday. There is the possibility we might be back Thursday or not until Saturday. That is the hazards of this kind of a project is it can go smoothly or we run into multiple issues which delay the completion. Nonetheless, it will be a good ‘field experience’ for you....a real world example, not some ‘sterile’ lab environment where everything is already pre-set.”

Saturday afternoon we met at our Mother’s place for dinner. Laura asked me about Sunday, “Should we come over to your place?”

I told her, “If you two want to come out we can put Sophie’s truck in the garage building as we do have a free space. Otherwise, I’ll have our ground transport pick you up either before or after they get Miranda.”

Sophie advised, “Given your sister’s procrastination it might be best for the ground transport. Just let us know.”

Laura joked, “I know, I know, I keep meaning to address that...I’ll do it eventually!”

A little before noon on Sunday Marc’s ground transport service arrived at the barn. Miranda, Laura and Sophie were already in the van when Wynn, Andy and I got in. Laura told me, “For the most part we have their configs done, but there may be some final tweaking that we need to do.”

Wynn replied, “We likely won’t get that far until late Tuesday or mid-day Wednesday.”

Laura agreed, “Yeah, there is a lot of re-cabling we are going to need to do given the way this place was originally setup does not work well for the way it is setup now.” She turned to Miranda and joked, “Hope you are up to crawling through attic space!”

Andy laughed, “Ah the less glamorous side of IT. Ron and I know that part very well. The ‘Boots’ projects were both a whole lot bigger than Ron had thought.”

I told them, “Well in my defense, I had no idea just how big Jason’s new facility

in Frisco was. Chugwater, I swear the renderings they provided us when they met us in Arizona were not correct."

Laura commented, "Funny you mention that, Sophie came across those the other day when she was going through my old files. We were trying to find some documents related to other projects around the same time. I have some tax issues I am trying to resolve with my CPA."

I joked, "I warned you not to use Willie Nelson's accountant!"

Laura replied. "Well, this guy used to be with some former energy company called...Enron!"

We made it to the airport and grabbed our carry-on bags. The transport service would handle our checked bags. After going through security and finally boarding we took off around 2:30. I commented to Andy and Wynn, "At least we will be back in a warmer climate for the next few days."

--

As we were leaving Sara and Lindsay had started their Holstein meeting. Miranda had briefed them as to what was going on though since Sara was there full time and even with Lindsay being part time, they both knew what was happening. Lindsay led, "Good morning Arizona! So Miranda is on a special project with our husbands and Abby in Vegas this week. So I'll be representing the Franklin store!"

Jojo observed Lindsay's outfit a long sleeve white latex dress she had gotten from Celine shortly before we came out to Franklin, "Doing so fashionably too! I don't believe we carry that product!"

Lindsay laughed, "Nope. I got this from a vendor Ron had worked with shortly before we moved out here."

After they were done with the meeting they met with Maya and Peaches in the kitchen. Maya had made lunch for the four of them and she asked, "So what do you want to do? Peaches and I need to head to work in a couple hours."

Sara had some ideas, but those did not involve Maya and Peaches, "Well, you two can do whatever you want before you leave. Lindsay and I will spend some time together."

Maya understood, "Okay. Oh, will you two be staying together in the room across from us?"

Lindsay hadn't really thought about that since last time we were gone Andy had stayed behind in Tennessee, "Hmm, I suppose so since Andy won't be here this time. What do you think Sara?"

Sara agreed, "Good idea for the four of us to be close to each other."

Maya told her, "Well take Lucy in with us along with Cream. That way too if one needs to go out Peaches can take both of them out at once."

Peaches complained, "Why I have to take Lucy!"

Maya reminded her, "Wynn took care of Cream for us many times, we return the favor. It is the right thing to do."

Peaches muttered, "Still don't like it!"

Maya sighed and laughed, "See what I have to put up with! Now, it used to be I could threaten to put her in the armor and she would behave!"

Peaches smiled, "Me like Armor!" Maya threw up her hands in defeat and left the room.

## **Chapter 10: The ACME Henderson of Las Vegas Job and Miranda's Armor**

We landed in Vegas and took shifts using the restroom while we waited for our checked luggage to come out. Wynn had picked up a cart and was waiting at the carousel when we all made it to the baggage claim. I had stopped over at the rental car counter and checked in. We would take the shuttle over to the lot once we had our bags. What seemed like an hour later the carousel came to life and started spitting out bags. Naturally all our bags had become separated so it took some time for all six of us to find all our bags. At least the wait for the rental car shuttle was short and we left the Vegas airport in a black Chevy Tahoe. I joked, "Need a black suit and sunglasses to go with this government SUV. Okay, Wynn you have the directions to our hotel."

Wynn replied with a straight face, "Me? I thought out did!"

Thinking she was serious I replied, "Cristina emailed them to you."

Wynn laughed, "Yes she did. Okay, let me pull those up here. She actually just sent me a link to the Google Maps. Looks like around 30-minutes."

We arrived at the hotel which was a resort right on the lake. Laura commented, "Strange being back over here."

She had been in Arizona for so long now I had forgotten she had been out here, "Oh yeah, you and Sophie did live out in this area at one time."

Laura added, "That was the place Sophie stayed with me when she first arrived in Arizona."

Sophie joked, "Had to be better than the rat flat in Boston. Though your sister's 'initiation' was rather convincing."

Upon checking in we were given a large suite on the upper floor. I decided to call Gary to let him know we had made into town, "Hey Gary we've made it in and are at the resort."

Gary told us, "If you like we can meet in about an hour at the restaurant there for a dinner?"

I told him, "That should be fine, we'll see you then." An hour later we met with Bunny and Gary for dinner. I asked, "Bambi watching Bernie?"

Bunny told us, "Yes she is. Good to see y'all again."

We ate dinner and chatted about our adventures in Tennessee. As we wrapped up I told Gary, "We'll see you tomorrow. I think Marty is coming in late tomorrow and will be with us on Tuesday."

Gary turned to Miranda and told her, "Sometime tomorrow when y'all are at a low point we need to discuss the options for your armor so we can have it done before y'all leave...when are y'all leaving again?"

I told him, "Most likely Friday, could be earlier or could be later, depends on how your project goes."

--

Back at the Franklin barn Sara and Lindsay were in the sitting room trying to figure out what they wanted to do tonight. Maya and Peaches came down the stairs into the kitchen. Maya called out, "Sara, Lindsay we're leaving now. Do try to stay out of trouble while we are gone!"

After they left Lindsay asked, "Could we do the table?"

Sara reminded her, "If I am strapped down and you are secured to the stool, neither of us can get out..."

Lindsay realized her error, "Ah....okay....well...cage...no that wouldn't work. Not

really wanting to do the fuck machine or hogtie trainer...geez what can we do?"

Sara thought for a moment, "Spanking bench...or else we see what Wynn left for us to eat and then spend sometime together in our play room. Besides we both need to be at work tomorrow morning."

Lindsay agreed, "Yes, we do. Especially since both Laura and Miranda are not going to be there most of the week. Might as well see what Wynn left us."

They headed to the kitchen and looked in the refrigerator. Sara commented, "Seems most everything here is going to be for four people. Perhaps we should just order a pizza as I am sure Peaches and Maya will have dinner on their own."

Lindsay replied, "That works. I'll pay for tonight, need to spend some of my money."

Sara laughed, "Okay...this is a switch, but I am not about to complain." Sara ordered a pizza for the two of them which arrived an hour later. As they were eating she commented, "This is so weird."

Lindsay asked, "What that we are alone or that Cream and Lucy are circling us hoping we might accidentally drop something."

Sara told her, "That we are alone...though I hadn't noticed the dogs until you just mentioned it. Peaches already fed them before her and Maya left for work."

Lindsay told her, "Yeah, we haven't really had alone time in this house. We somewhat did a couple weeks ago, but Andy was here."

They finished their pizza and Sara disposed of the box outside so that the dogs would not try to get into the kitchen trash. Sara returned inside and went to the powder room to wash up. She came back to the kitchen and told Lindsay, "Let's finish off this bottle of wine and then we can head upstairs." They sat in the kitchen and chatted as they consumed the remainder of the wine. An hour later they had finished the bottle and both were very relaxed. They headed upstairs and Sara told Lindsay, "Since we are going to spending the night in the playroom and we need to be going to work tomorrow morning, best we bring what we are going to wear. Also, need to set the alarm too." Each girl went to their suite to get their outfit for the next day then returned to the room putting their outfit in the closet. Sara set the alarm and then reminded Lindsay, "There is not a bathroom in here. We can use the hall bath next room over or the one's in our suites."

Lindsay had forgotten about that detail, "Oh yeah, we don't have an attached bath....Ron is going to need to do something about that!"

Sara laughed, "Spoiled aren't you!"

Lindsay laughed, "Guess so! When Leslie and I grew up we only had a single bathroom in the house."

Sara replied, "Same here and we never really knew otherwise. Strange how times have changed." She glanced at the clock and commented, "Oh my, it is later than I thought it was. Perhaps we should just snuggle for the evening."

Lindsay let out a yawn, "Yeah....am kind of tired..."

-

The next morning we arrived at Gary and Cristina's office. I advised everyone, "Before we start ripping stuff out, let's do a quick consistency check as we did at Deer Valley to make sure what shows on paper matches reality." An hour later everything had been matched against our topology. "Well, that went better than Deer Valley!"

Laura asked, "Since we were not at the Deer Valley refresh what happened there?"

Wynn told her, "They had phantom workstations. Apparently they had let some people go or others transferred and they removed the workstations."

Laura replied, "Ah, yeah that can be a pain."

I told Andy and Miranda, "Why don't you two help Wynn check to make sure we got what we ordered. Sophie and Laura are going to be in the server room. I am going to do a quick inspection to make sure we are able to run cables to the new section."

A couple hours later Wynn, Andy and Miranda had finished the inventory with everything matching as we had ordered. Meanwhile in the sever room, Sophie carefully labeled each cable she disconnected from the old Juniper equipment so we could reuse those with the new Cisco equipment. Laura had come out of the sever room looking for me, "Hey Ron, what are we doing with the old equipment?"

I told her, "We will have a couple pallets which we can stack the equipment to be recycled. I believe Cristina has a contract in place with an eWaste company to buy and recycle the old equipment."

Cristina came into the section I was working, "Hey Ron, there is someone here to

see you. He's in the lobby"

I returned to the lobby to find Marty, "Howdy Stranger! Nice to see you made it."

Marty laughed, "Same! I've done a few projects out in this area. Always recall seeing this building and wonder what it was. So how are we coming along?"

I recapped, "All the inventory and checks are done. Laura and Sophie are nearly done gutting the server room."

Marty recalled, "Oh okay, yes I do remember that this is a complete rebuild. Though not sure why."

I explained, "When Cristina moved into this site a few years back she bought the building *and* its contents which included a bunch of Juniper network equipment. Think there was some Palo Alto at one time too, but we replaced those a couple years ago the last time were out here."

Laura had come out to the lobby and added, "I am not really wanting to continue to support the Juniper equipment, things get messy going between two manufacturers. Since this was going to be a major refresh anyway figured this would be the best time to consolidate."

Marty confessed, "Good, as I really don't know anything about Juniper...Palo Alto a little bit, but don't really see those as much as I used to."

Laura confirmed, "That is the primary reason I decided to rebuild the network. It is already a pain dealing with multiple vendors' equipment, but more so on the networking side especially when the other vendor's operating system is not that well known and does not always play nice with Cisco."

Miranda came over and asked, "Would this be an okay time to go to talk to Gary?"

I told her, "Sure. I think we are going to wrap up for the day anyway."

After she left Laura asked, "Why did she want to talk to Gary?"

I told her, "She is getting an armor like Sara, Wynn and Peaches."

Laura laughed, "Wow, would have never thought. Of course I would never thought Kacie would either. Funny, Kayré jokes that Kacie wears her armor at work so she is limited in what she can model."

I replied, "Wasn't aware she did any modeling or was even on the sales floor."

Figured she was either up in her office or in their residence.”

Miranda found Cristina, “Say, can you lead me to Gary? Suppose to discuss some options for my armor.”

Cristina was aware of what was going on and told Miranda, “He left earlier to take care of some other business. He did fill me in on what’s going on. Let me take you to one of the consultation rooms, I have some options and accessories laid out.”

Miranda followed Cristina to the room and saw on the table a couple different locks and a wide selection of vaginal plugs, “Oh my, lots of plugs to choose from!”

Cristina laughed, “Yes between my step father and Zac, they’ve come up with several options in varying degrees of torment. You have your basic smooth plug which provides mild simulation, then you have more of a realistic dildo style, the classic 3 or 5-ball plugs and then we have this one...” She picked up an over-sized plug with many nubs all over, “....this one here will really get you wet...if you know I mean!”

Miranda took the plug from Cristina and ran her fingers around it, “Yes, yes I do. Are these plugs interchangeable or can I only pick one?”

Cristina explained, “Yes, you can swap out the plugs. Once you have removed the armor all you need to do is press firmly down on the plug then twist counter-clockwise and it will pop out of the socket. To attach a new plug, insert into the socket and twist clockwise until you here it click into place. What are your thoughts?”

Miranda told her, “Not sure...let me come back to this. What else do you have to show me?”

Cristina showed her the different ratchet locks, “These all work the same, it just choose if you want chrome, polished silver, black, or standard stainless.”

Miranda looked at the choices but wondered, “Seeing as the lock is in the back and I would be wearing a something over the armor does it really make a difference?”

Cristina told her, “Some people wear a skirt and then just the armor so it looks like a fetish corset or under a sheer maxi dress.”

Miranda laughed, “Sounds like something Martina would do. She’s worn her pink chastity belt and bra under a sheer black maxi dress.” Miranda thought for a



moment, "Seeing as I am not going to be wearing this for clubbing what do you recommend?"

Cristina advised her, "Whatever strikes your fancy. Stainless would likely be the best as it won't show scratches as much and does not need to be polished."

Miranda replied, "Stainless would work then. Anything else?"

Cristina moved over to the end of table where there was small timer key safe, "How about a timer key safe?"

Miranda had not seen one of those before as Lindsay was the only one who used the one at the barn and that was when she was playing for Sara. She asked confused, "I am not sure why I would want one of those?"

Cristina explained, "It allows you to lock away your key for a preset amount of time you or some else determines. You need to wait for the timer to expire and the safe to unlock in order to get to key and out of the armor. You can use it for training, discipline or rewards purposes." Miranda still appeared confused, "Do you have anyone else you are with?" Miranda nodded 'no', "Okay. So let's say you want to get used to wearing the armor for an extended period of time. Maybe you have worn it for a couple hours in the past, but can't seem to do longer. You know you could if you had to, but you don't. So in this case you lock the armor on, deposit the key in the safe, put the lid on and set time timer for four hours or four days. Once the safe locks, you are not getting the key or out of the armor until the time expires."

Miranda confirmed, "Four days?"

Cristina told her, "You can do longer up to 99 days. When I get home on Fridays from work after 4:00 PM I remove and clean my belt. It remains off all weekend then Sunday night before I go to bed around 10:00 PM I lock on my belt, deposit the keys in the safe and set the timer for 4.5 days. Once it is locked, I can not get out of my belt until Friday afternoon."

Miranda was imagining having herself locked in the armor for multiple hours or even days at a time and was getting excited, she told Cristina, "Hmm....sounds quite erotic. I'll take one!"

Cristina warned her, "Or quite frustrating, which in of itself can be quite erotic. Okay, have you thought about the plugs?"

Miranda told her, "I could see myself getting into trouble with that was one and the dildo one as well."

Cristina advised, "Well, the ball plugs are a step up from the smooth."

Miranda recalled seeing Wynn having a 5-ball vaginal plug, "I believe Wynn has the 5-ball version. But, may be I should start simpler smooth or may be the 3-ball?"

Cristina informed her, "The 3-ball is actually more aggressive. While the 3-ball plug is the same length as the 5-ball, the girth and length of the balls are larger than the 5-ball version. Tell you what, I'll give you a bundle deal: the smooth and 5-ball plugs and then I'll throw in the 3-ball for free!"

Miranda smiled and laughed, "SOLD!"

Cristina told her, "Also, if you desire you can order other plugs at a later date. Okay, I'll forward this info to production and Gary will have it shipped to you in Franklin. Wynn and Sara will be able to help you get the final fitting just right and go over the operations."

Things had been moving rather smoothly until about two-days before we were suppose to be completing the project. We had wrapped up a little early that afternoon and it was really too late into the day to start the next phase. I advised everyone, "We will start testing connectivity tomorrow and hopefully get these machines imaged. Friday, we will take care of any problem children and should be able to get this project completed."

We headed back to the resort and were having dinner when everyone's phone went off with an emergency alert. Out of habit I silenced my phone without looking at the alert. Andy actually looked at his phone, "Tornado Warning?! Didn't know they got them out here."

I didn't give it much thought, "They can happen anywhere. Less common out here." The next morning while we were having breakfast my phone rang, "Hmm...odd...Cristina is calling, seems a bit early."

I answered and Cristina informed us, "Hey, the area near our office got hit pretty hard last night by the tornado. At this point we can not get to the office to inspect for damages. The roads are blocked with downed power poles. They are saying they hope to have limited road access restore by this afternoon, but could be a couple days before power is restored."

I realized we were not going to finish on time, "I see, well there goes the timeline. So what does Gary want to do?"

Cristina told me, "Gary says there is nothing we can do at this point until the roads are cleared. He suggested we all go into Vegas for the day."

I laughed, "I suppose we can do that. Not how I planned on spending our day, but it works."

Cristina agreed, "I know, but we might as well make lemonade with the lemons life has handed us. Anyway, we'll be out your way in about half an hour?"

I replied, "Okay that works. See you then." After I was done with Cristina I filled everyone else in, "So, Cristina has told me due to the storm last night the roads to the ACME office are inaccessible because of fallen power poles. They do not know if there was any damage to the offices as they can not get over there. Plus the area is still without power and may be for the next couple days."

Andy asked, "So, now what?"

I told him, "From what Cristina has told me, access may be restored later this afternoon on a limited basis. At that point, Gary and Cristina can check for damages and take it from there. In the meantime Gary wants us to spend the day in Vegas and they will be here in about half an hour. I have no idea when we will be finishing this project. I need to phone home and let the girls know we will be delayed." I checked the time and figure it was almost lunch time in Tennessee so Maya or Peaches should still be at the barn. I tried calling the barn but got no answer. I would try to call them later this afternoon Vegas time when Sara and Lindsay would be home as well. We spent most of the day in Vegas site seeing and doing some light gambling. As we were heading to dinner I called the house again and I got Peaches, "Hey, Sara or Lindsay around?"

Peaches told me, "They tied up...talk to Maya..."

As Peaches has done in the past, she handed the phone to Maya without telling her who was calling, "Hello...who is this?"

I told her, "Your landlord."

Maya laughed, "Never thought of you that way." Playing along she asked, "Are we behind on the rent?"

I explained, "No, but we are going to be behind at least a couple days with this project. Part of Henderson got hit by a tornado last night. We can not get to the ACME offices with the roads being blocked. We spent the day in Vegas while we wait for the roads to be cleared. Even then we don't know if there was any damage to the building and might still be a couple more days before they get power restored to the area. Hope to know more tomorrow, but we need to have power in order to continue the refresh."

Maya asked, "So, you guys going to stay out there longer or return home?"

I told her, "Suppose it depends on what happens with the building as well as when they plan on having power restored. If it is only a couple days then we will just stay out here. If it turns out to be much longer then we will come back to Franklin and then return once everything is restored and repaired...."

Gary came into the lobby and saw me, "Hey Ron, I've heard from our neighbors and the roads have been partially reopened. From what they can see from the outside, doesn't appear to be any major damage to the building. However, we really won't know until we can get inside. The power utility is expecting to have power restored by tomorrow evening."

Maya asked, "You still there?"

I replied, "Yeah, sorry Gary just came in and was filling me in on the latest updates. He was telling me limited access has been restored to the area and his neighbors are saying damage looks minimal and power should be restored tomorrow night. So if this is the case, we should be able to resume the project on Saturday and be done Sunday. We'll likely fly back on Monday, will need to talk to Marc about updating our return flight and the rental on the Tahoe."

Maya told me, "Okay, I'll let Sara and Lindsay know once Peaches is done *torturing* them."

I laughed and asked, "Do I even want to know?!"

Maya joked, "Some things are best left untold!"

I concurred, "Yeah...well Peaches is relatively harmless...well other than her banshee like screams!" When I finished with Maya I called Marc and informed him of our situation. He told me, "Just let me know when y'all are ready to come back and I'll get your return flight and the transportation in Tennessee taken care of. Your rental is open-ended so we don't need to notify the rental company unless it is more than 10-days."

--

Back at the barn Peaches had finished torturing Lindsay and Sara. After they freshened up they headed down to the Great Room where Maya was playing the piano for the dogs (no one else was down there). Maya saw Sara and Lindsay, "Hey, Ron called earlier. They've been delayed due to bad weather in the area. Sounds like they will be coming back on Monday now. Peaches and I are working tomorrow afternoon and will be done by the evening."

Sara told her, "Lindsay and I will do the family food trucks night afterwards. Maybe we can all 'relax' tomorrow night!"

Lindsay was getting giddy, "We haven't 'relaxed' in so long."

Sara confirmed, "Don't believe we've done that at this house."

Lindsay yawned and told everyone, "I've going to head up to our room. You coming Sara?"

Sara replied, "Yeah, I will shortly."

Peaches told us, "Need to take dogs out...damn it cold! So hate winter!"

After Lindsay had gone upstairs and Peaches was out with the dogs Sara told Maya, "Since we have the house to ourselves this weekend and you two are not working I am thinking you can spend some time with Lindsay and I'll take Peaches off your hands."

Maya was shocked, "Wow, you are actually going to trust me with Lindsay? Alone?"

Sara sighed, "Yeah...sorry I shouldn't have acted that way before....but I will be across the hall so..."

Maya asked, "What should I do with her?"

Sara's replied with a straight face, "Whatever you want, tie her to the bed for all I care!"

Maya was not sure about Sara's reply, "You being serious?"

Sara laughed, "This is Lindsay we are talking about, she loves to be dominated and especially made helpless."

Maya replied, "Hmm...have to think what I can do to her. Oh and you may want to get some earplugs"

Sara was confused, "Earplugs....oh The Banshee....yeah good idea!" Sara headed up to their private retreat and Maya started turning off all the lights downstairs except for the mudroom and kitchen.

Peaches came back into the house grumbling as Cream and Lucy shook snow off of themselves and on to Peaches. Maya laughed and told her, "Just leave your coat and boots in here. Don't worry about cleaning up the floor it will dry

overnight. Let's head upstairs."

--

Friday morning was supposed to be our last day at the Las Vegas ACME of Henderson, but due to the storm a couple nights ago we'd been delayed. I called Gary, "So what's going on at the office?"

Gary told me, "Cristina and I are on our way out. Neighbors said the power is still out and all the portable generators have all been rented out. My understanding is at this stage you need power to continue?"

I explained, "Yes, we need to test all the network equipment and computers which requires power."

Gary understood, "Yeah, figured as such. Hopefully, if things go as planned we can get power back tomorrow sometime. Y'all have a day to yourselves. I hate to ask, but how badly is this going to cost us?"

I reminded him, "You are the one who is paying for our Penthouse Suite which why the travel fee was so low. As far as the job goes, we are only billing you for the time we are actually working. Though we have incurred extra costs with meals and the rental of The Tahoe."

Gary told me, "Cristina and I will work something out with you. A barter exchange to cover the extra costs. Anything you can think of y'all would want?"

I told him, "Not that I am aware..." I then recalled the dual person automatic spanking machine Martina and Marc had at our old Sage Brush house, "...well actually may be. I have no idea if you even make this piece of equipment, the dual person spanker Marc and Martina have."

Gary knew what I was talking about, "Ah, yeah that was a prototype made by Zac a long, long time ago in a state...well Nevada. Anyway, that model is a one-of-one...however, technically I could easily make you one. It is nothing more than two spanking benches and machines with opposite mounted 'business ends' with both attached to each other. You've got room up in your loft for that?"

I told him, "I sure we can make room."

Gary told me, "Well in that case, once we get power back I'll have one fabricated for you and shipped to your place in Franklin. Give me a call when you are ready to assemble and I'll walk you through the process."

I reminded him about the location of our play loft, "You do know our play loft is

on the third level?"

Gary recalled me mentioning that to him in the past, "I believe you did tell me that when you were trying to get the gyno table up there. The benches are not that heavy, but I'll crate them individually along with the spankers. The rest of the hardware will be in its own crate as well. So you will be getting five crates."

I told him, "That shouldn't be too bad to manage. This will be a neat addition to the play loft."

## **Chapter 11: A Relaxing Evening in Franklin and more Troubles in Henderson**

Friday after work Lindsay and Sara headed over to the food trucks for dinner. Sara told Lindsay, "Maya and Ana should be home in a couple hours. The plan is we will relax tonight."

Lindsay once again was getting excited, "Yay! Been way too long."

Sara agreed, "I know. Anyway, when we get back we need to get their bed and our beds setup." Sara did not mention anything about Saturday night yet, just as Maya had not mentioned anything to Peaches either.

After they finished with their dinner, Sara and Lindsay returned to the house. Lindsay asked, "What do we need?"

Sara explained, "Well for starters, wands and harnesses plus restraints. Each room needs two timer padlocks. From there it is personal preference as in blindfold/gags or hoods."

Lindsay had not used the sensory deprivation hood mainly because in Arizona she was worried she would get overheated, "May be I'll try the hood this time around."

Sara told her, "It makes for quite an interesting and intense experience. I'd also recommend earplugs, and not just because of the banshee across the hall."

Lindsay trusted Sara, "Works for me. Let's get things ready then. When are they supposed to be back?"

Sara looked at the giant clock in the great room behind Maya's piano and told Lindsay, "Looks like in about half hour or so. You get the wands, harnesses and power boxes for both rooms. I'll get the restraints for both rooms and our accessories. Maya and Ana can choose their own accessories. Oh yeah, we also need to change into leotards and some type of legwear. Likely too cold for

pantyhose, we should do tights. Hopefully we won't be too cold atop of our beds."

Lindsay joked, "Yeah I don't want cold feet!"

Sara laughed, "Hate when that happens. Hmm...we could try just having a quilt on top of us, but I am worried we might get over heated and would be difficult for us to remove given our situation. Perhaps we should wear ballet flats, help prevent our feet from getting cold."

Lindsay commented, "Yeah, that can work. I have a silver pair I wear around the house anyway."

Both girls headed up to the play loft closet to get their assigned items. Sara told Lindsay, "Let's get Maya and Ana's room setup first." They headed back to the middle floor into Maya and Peaches' room where Sara attached the restraints to the foot and head of the bed, leaving a set of high security hand and ankle cuffs on the bed for them to attach to each other. Once they finished in there they went across the hall into their playroom and setup the bed in that room. Sara placed the hoods and two sets of earplugs on the bed along with a set of high security hand and ankle cuffs for themselves. Sara told Lindsay, "Let's head downstairs and get night caps ready."

The girls headed downstairs and Sara retrieved the brandy glasses while Lindsay got the ice cream cups. Maya and Peaches walked in shortly thereafter. Peaches commented upon walking in, "Ah, warm! Why Ron not get attached garage?"

Maya told her, "From what I recall there was no garage when Ron bought this place. This place was originally built in the early 1900's when there was not as many cars. Be glad there is a garage, you don't want our Bronco sitting outside during the winter." They walked into the kitchen and saw Sara and Lindsay, "You two are still up? Thought you would be relaxing by now!"

Sara informed her, "We just got home maybe 45-minutes ago. We've been getting the rooms prepped. Everything is ready to go, the wands are connected with a 10-minute delay once you press the green button on the magic box. Each one of you will connect your outer wrists with a timer padlock which are already set for 6-hours. All you two need to do is change into leotard and tights then add whatever 'accessories' you want. By the way both Lindsay and I will be wearing hoods with earplugs."

Maya laughed, "Good idea, thanks for the reminder! I need to find my red long sleeve leotard, I know I have it here...somewhere. Peaches will likely wear her long sleeve zenati catsuit."

Peaches told Maya, "I have one in red if you want too."



Maya laughed, "Given how cold it is and having no idea what I did with my leotard, may be I will!"

Lindsay reminded everyone, "We need to get relaxed before we can relax. Sit a spell and have some brandy and ice cream!"

Maya replied, "Yeah, will do that shortly. We need to take the dogs out so they can take care of their business."

Peaches yelled out, "CREAM!" Lucy came running in, Peaches looked at the dog and laughed, "You not Cream!" Cream came trotting in a few second later, "There my girl!"

Maya told Lindsay and Sara, "This shouldn't take long, especially since there will be two us to each wrangle a dog. Though they don't typically stay out long when it is cold out."

Sara was puzzled and told Maya, "You've only been here when it is cold out."

Maya reminded Sara, "We came out to visit not long after y'all moved in last summer. Wynn had just adopted Lucy at the time."

Sara recalled, "Oh yeah, forgot about that." Lindsay started pouring the brandy while Sara dished out the ice cream. Less than a minute later Maya and Peaches came back in each carrying a dog. Sara commented upon seeing them, "You were not kidding about them not taking long when it is cold out."

The four girls sat down and had their ice cream and brandy. Maya asked, "What should we do with the glasses and cups?"

Lindsay told them, "Just put them in the sink, I'll wash all that along with the breakfast dishes in the morning. I am going to head up, see you soon Sara."

Sara nodded. Peaches scooped up Cream and called out to Lucy to follow her, "I put them in Wynn's room." Peaches headed over to Wynn's room.

With Peaches and Lindsay gone Maya asked Sara, "Do you still want me to spend tomorrow night with Lindsay?"

Sara replied, "Of course. Plus, I'll take Peaches off your hands for the night. I trust you two will have fun and hopefully I will with Peaches."

Maya agreed, "Yes, you should. Well I am heading up and Peaches should be shortly too."

Maya had already gone upstairs when Peaches came back from depositing the dogs in Wynn's suite. She came into the kitchen and looked around asking, "Where everyone go?"

Sara pointed to the stairs, "They all went upstairs to get changed and ready. You should join them. I'll be there shortly, just need to check everything down here."

Peaches bowed, "Okay. Good night madam Rae."

Sara reminded her, "It's Merlot." Peaches just ignored Sara and went upstairs. Sara commented to herself, "Strange girl...oh well tomorrow night should be interesting." Sara turned off the exterior lights in the rear and then kitchen lights before heading upstairs. She entered her and Lindsay's playroom to find Lindsay already in her white leotard and tights with silver ballet flats.

Lindsay saw Sara, "Was wondering what happened to you."

Sara told her, "Just needed to wrap up downstairs, alright let me see what I have in here bodywear wise." She opened the armoire and looked around eventually finding a navy blue long sleeve leotard. She pulled out the garment and commented, "I don't recall this, but it looks as if it should fit. Just need to find some tights and my ballet flats....which I think are still in my room. Well, need to get out my armor anyway...be right back, don't go anywhere!"

Lindsay had already begun attaching herself to the bed and told Sara, "Not really going able to anyway."

Sara reminded her, "Don't fully strap yourself in, still need to put on a hood and earplugs."

Lindsay was still not understanding the ear plugs, "Why again are we doing earplugs?"

Sara explained, "Besides the fact the sensory deprivation enhances the experience, we have 'the banshee' across the hall and her screaming could distract us from our relaxation if you know what I mean!"

Lindsay understood, "Yeah that makes sense. Now hurry go find your slippers and tights, I want to relax!"

Sara laughed and exited into the hall carrying the leotard and went over to her suite to remove the armor and find a pair of tights and ballet flats to complete her outfit. She found what she needed and quickly changed then headed back to the playroom. Sara came back in and told Lindsay, "See, that didn't take long."

Okay, put in the earplugs and I'll help you with the hood."

Lindsay put the earplugs in her ears and Sara came over and loosely placed the hood over Lindsay's head. The smell of the leather hit her, "Oh....real leather....smells so good." Sara giggled and was going to make a comment about how the sensory deprivation enhances the experience, but since Lindsay wouldn't be able to hear she didn't bother. Sara finished lacing the hood and secured the collar around Lindsay's neck. While there was a locking buckle, Sara did not bother as their hands would be cuffed in such a way they couldn't undo the collar anyway. Sara then grabbed Lindsay's shoulder and pushed her back then grabbed Lindsay's left wrist attaching the chain to the bedpost with the timer padlock.

Across the hall Peaches was already in her long sleeve zenati catsuit and Maya opted to wear the red version. Both girls were still wearing tights underneath to add extra warmth. Sara had set the heater to a lower setting somewhere between not being too cold they freeze and too hot they'd become overheated. Still the room was cold. Maya figured though once they got worked up with the wands, they'd warm up. She finished getting Peaches setup and went to the foot of the bed and activated the magic box. She told Peaches, "Wands will be kicking in about 10-minutes. I should be able to get myself secured before then!" She inserted the earplugs and put on a combo blindfold/trainer gag. Peaches had an oversize blindfold on, but no gag. Maya finished getting herself secured and felt around between her and Peaches for the high-security handcuffs. She found them and placed one of the cuffs on Peaches' wrist. She was trying to get the other cuff to go around her wrist but was having troubles. While Peaches was blindfolded, she could hear and feel what Maya was trying to do. She reached over feeling for the empty cuff and found it securing it around Maya's wrist. As Peaches laid secured to the bed next to Maya waiting for the wands to kick in she hoped Maya setup everything correctly so they'd be able to get themselves out in the morning. Her mind was wandering when the wands kicked in redirecting her focus to her stimulated pussy.

Meanwhile Sara had just activated the Magic Box in their room and got on the bed placing a wand through her harness. She then attached her left ankle to the bed post and her right to Lindsay's left. She laid back and was able to connect her left wrist to the bedpost with the timer lock. The key for the high security cuffs was on a short chain around her neck which she would only be able to get to once her left wrist was free again. She felt around between herself and Lindsay trying to find the high security cuffs she had set between them. She finally found them and placed one cuff around Lindsay's wrist. Lindsay had 'relaxed' with Sara many times before she knew from the past she would need to cuff Sara's wrist. She attached the cuff around Sara's wrist then grabbed Sara's hand. The two girls laid on the bed securely attached to the bed and each other hand-in-hand waiting for the wands to kick-in.

--

Saturday morning in Henderson, Gary called us as we were heading into the restaurant, "Morning Ron. So Cristina and I had a chance to get back into the building late last night once power was restored. Looks like we have some moderate roof damage and a little bit of standing water towards the rear. Shouldn't affect what you guys need to do. Our neighbors were able to put a tarp over the damaged section of the roof, not that we are expecting any more storms for a while, but then trying to get a commercial roofer out...Anyway, the highway is open, but only one lane with one direction being let through at a time, so you may run into delays."

I advised him, "Good to know. We're just about to have breakfast so, give us a couple hours." I joined Andy, Laura, Sophie, Wynn plus Miranda and relayed the news.

Laura asked, "So, I have forgotten; where are we at right now in the project."

Miranda told her, "I believe we were at a point where we want to test connectivity and image the PCs?"

I was impressed, "Very good Miranda! Glad *someone* has been paying attention."

After breakfast we made our way to Gary and Cristina's office. As we neared the area we could see a detour ahead with eastbound traffic being diverted off the highway and then back on via the westbound exit ramp. There was only one westbound lane open with it being switched for one direction of travel at a time. We could see in the eastbound lanes multiple power company trucks parked along with piles of snapped poles and twisted wires. We finally made it to the office about an hour later than expected. Cristina saw us come in, "Ah you made it through the obstacle course!"

I laughed, "That's one way of putting it. How long until they get everything back to normal?"

Gary came in and told me, "They hope to get at least one eastbound lane reopened in time for the Monday morning rush hour. They did advise there may be rolling outages over the next couple days as they work to reroute everything. They said they'd send out a text-blast about an hour before. They were going to try to limit them to the evening hours if possible."

We went to work testing connectivity and were able to start imaging the PC's. As lunch time approached Gary came in and warned us, "Got a text from the utility company expect a 5-10 minutes outage at 12:30."

I checked my phone and saw that we had about 45-minutes until that happened. I advised Wynn and Miranda not to start anymore PC's imaging until we got back from lunch. Andy, Laura and Sophie were working on getting the WiFi setup. I warned them, "There will be a temporary planned power outage around 12:30."

Laura told me, "Won't really mess anything up as we finished configuring all the networking devices. Suppose it will be a good test for the rack mounted battery backups."

I laughed, "Yeah, suppose it will be."

--

Back in Tennessee, Lindsay had woken up with a full bladder. She tugged at her right wrist and it became free. However, she was still attached to Sara with the high security wrist and ankle shackles. She really hated to wake Sara, but it would be better than the alternative. Lindsay was able to reach behind her head with her free hand and release the collar and then laces on the hood, finally being able to pull it off her head. She waited for here eyes to adjust hoping may be Sara had left the key between them. Once Lindsay's eyes had adjusted she could see the key was around Sara's neck. Lindsay started shaking Sara to get her attention. Sara did eventually come to and was not too sure what was going on. As she tried to stretch her left wrist became free and then she discovered her right wrist was attached to Lindsay. With her left hand Sara reached behind her and undid then removed the hood along with earplugs. Once Sara's eyes adjusted she noticed Lindsay had already removed her hood. Lindsay told Sara, "I need to pee!"

Sara laughed, "Yeah, kind of figured as such. Okay, let me get this key off and open the cuffs."

Lindsay had forgotten she had earplugs in, "What?!" Sara pointed to her ear and Lindsay realized what was going on, "Oh, the earplugs!"

She removed her earplugs and Sara told Lindsay, "I'll get you free shortly. Think I'll go as well while I am up. Let's get the wands and harnesses off. Just toss them on the chair in the corner along with the hoods and cuffs." Sara removed the key from her neck and released the cuff around Lindsay's wrist. Lindsay went to jump out of bed, but Sara grabbed her arm, "Not so fast chica! Our ankles are still cuffed together." Sara moved down and release the ankle cuffs from Lindsay, "There you go. I'll use the bathroom in my room just as soon as I clear off the bed."

Lindsay was already halfway out the door before Sara could finish. Sara laughed

and removed the wrist and ankle cuffs from herself. She gathered everything else and tossed it all on the chair. She wasn't sure what she was going to do with Peaches in the evening so she just leave everything there until Sunday. Sara headed down the hall to her suite and used the bathroom. She was tempted to put herself back in her armor, but decided her and Lindsay might want to do more later on that morning. She returned to the playroom to find Lindsay had returned. Lindsay commented, "A bit cold in here!"

Sara had noticed, but didn't really pay attention, "Now that you mentioned it. I don't want to turn up the heat at risk of overheating Maya and Ana. We can put the down comforter back on the bed. I could also bring the dogs up, they can lay on top and keep us warm."

Lindsay asked Sara, "Do you need help wrangling the dogs?"

Sara laughed, "Yes, you can grab one and I'll grab the other."

They placed the comforter back on the bed then headed down to Wynn's suite to grab the dogs. Sara and Lindsay walked into the room which was cooler than they were expecting. Lindsay commented, "Geez it be really cold in here!"

Sara explained, "Bottom floor and mostly exterior walls." She turned on the lights and noticed both Cream and Lucy were curled up next to each other in Lucy's bed. She told Lindsay, "You grab the pug, I'll take the beagle."

Lindsay joked, "Speak softly, and carry a beagle!"

The two girls picked up their designated dogs and took them upstairs with them into their playroom. Sara told Lindsay, "Let's place them at the foot of the bed. Speaking of feet, since we will be 'in' bed we can ditch our ballet flats." Sara and Lindsay placed the dogs at the foot of the bed. Both dogs were still sleepy and quickly curled up next to each other. Lindsay had gotten into bed, but Sara went over to the desk and wrote a quick note to Maya and Ana, 'Dogs are with us. Sara + Lindsay'. She told Lindsay, "Be right back, need to slip this note under their door." Sara stepped out momentarily and slid the note under Maya's door before returning their playroom.

Unbeknownst to Sara, Peaches had woken up from hearing Sara and Lindsay going in and out of their playroom. Peaches was finally able to wake up Maya. Maya noticed the cold of the room, "Wow it is cold in here!"

Peaches grumbled, "I know! Me need to pee."

Maya understood, "Yeah, same here. Okay let's get ourselves freed. You can use the bathroom first and I'll get the bed cleared off." Maya retrieved the keys for

the high security cuffs handing one to Peaches, "I'll do our wrists, you get our ankles!" The girls quickly uncuffed themselves from each other. Maya reached over to turn on the bed side lamp while Peaches headed to the bathroom. As she was tidying up the bed she noticed the note on the floor.

Peaches had returned from the bathroom and told Maya, "You're turn!"

Maya pointing to the note told Peaches, "Sara and Lindsay have the dogs in their room."

Peaches commented, "I heard them outside in hall, woke me up."

Maya told her, "Well, we know where they are. I am going to use the bathroom and then we can snuggle under the covers and go back to sleep. We still have a couple more hours before time to get up." Maya headed to the bathroom and returned to the bed to find Peaches was already asleep. She laughed, "Well she is 'relaxed'!"

A few hours later Sara and Lindsay were awoken by Cream's whining. Lindsay didn't understand what was going on asking Sara, "Why she whining?"

Sara laughed, "She needs to go out. We should take both dogs out and then get changed."

Lindsay commented, "But I am quite comfortable in this leotard and tights!"

Sara suggested, "Then throw on a long skirt and your flats. That's what I'll do."

They headed out to the hall to find Maya and Peaches coming out of their suite. Maya commented, "Ah you two are up!"

Sara replied, "Yeah, Cream needing to go woke us up."

Maya informed them, "Well, since you kept them in your playroom most of the night we'll take them out." She turned to Peaches, "Grab Cream and I'll get Lucy."

Peaches complained, "Too cold!"

Maya was getting tired of Peaches' complaining, "Keep that up and I'll put you in a Super Max belt with 'punishment' plugs!"

Peaches was not buying Maya's bluff, "I don't think so sister!"

Maya admitted her defeat, "Well darn, saw through that. But really, I am getting

tired of your complaining about how cold it is...you choose to come out here."

Once again Peaches was a step ahead of Maya, "Because of you!"

Maya was now 0-2, "True! Oh well, another month and it should be warming up. Anyway, you are only going to be outside for a couple minutes."

Sara laughed, "You are never going to win with her! We will get breakfast going shortly, just need to add a layer."

Sara and Lindsay each went back to their suites to get a long skirt then headed downstairs to the kitchen to make breakfast. Maya and Peaches took the dogs out and came back in. They were both still wearing their long sleeve zenati catsuits. Maya asked Sara, "So, what's for breakfast?"

Sara was looking in fridge which was getting a bit empty. We were supposed to have been back the day before which would have given Wynn a chance to restock the kitchen. Sara concluded, "Looks like there are enough eggs and cheese to make an omelet for the four of us. There are still a couple bags of home fries in the freezer. Guess we will do a brunch tomorrow then pickup something on the way into work on Monday. Hopefully, they will get back early enough on Monday so Wynn will have a chance to restock."

Maya told her, "We can grab some food to tide us over after Brunch tomorrow. You and Lindsay get cracking on the eggs and I'll get the home fries going. Peaches will take care of getting the dogs fed."

## **Chapter 12: The ACME Henderson of Las Vegas Job: The (not so) Thrilling Conclusion and Fun Weekend in Franklin**

Over in Henderson we headed to lunch away from the areas which would be affected by the rolling outages. We returned an hour later and could hear a couple of the UPS units beeping in the sever room. I commented, "Sounds like we have some bad UPS units or at least the batteries. I should have spare batteries in the Tahoe. I don't think we have spare units though. Wynn, why don't you and Miranda go investigate. Andy, Laura, Sophie and I will start checking the PCs."

Wynn and Miranda reported back to me a few minutes later and told me a couple units were showing bad batteries and one was completely dead. I asked, "Did we order extras?"

Wynn checked her tablet, "Doesn't look like it."

I replied, "Well crap! Okay, let me think for a minute. Let me call Marty and find out how long before he leaves." I called Marty, "Hey Marty, Francis here. Say



when are you leaving for the east coast?"

Marty told me, "Not for another week, why what's up."

I explained the situation in Henderson then added, "So one of the UPS units is completely dead. We don't have spares here. So I'll order one from our supplier to have shipped here. Should come Monday or Tuesday."

Marty advised, "Okay, that works. Create a ticket and send the tracking information to me. I assume this is going to be a warranty claim?"

I replied, "Yeah, suppose so. Technically it is part of the install, but yeah warranty claim will work. Be sure you note your time in and out then when you close out the ticket it will go to Wynn and she will have you paid for the time."

Marty understood, "Okay, that works!"

Once I was done with Marty I found Wynn, "Let's go ahead and get a replacement unit ordered and shipped here. We'll take the failed unit back with us and deal with the warranty claim when we are done."

Wynn reminded me, "You do know we are flying back?"

I had forgotten where we were, "Oh...yeah. Okay, then I'll have Gary ship it back to us. Go ahead and setup a 'Warranty Claim' ticket with Marty for this site once you have ordered the replacement and get the shipping the notification. Once we have a tracking number put that in the comments field so Marty will know when to come back. When he closes out the ticket with his install time it will be bounced back to you and we can reimburse him for the time, plus a trip fee. Okay, now that is taken care of what do we have left?"

Miranda had a small notepad and shuffled through the pages, "Looks like we have a few more PC's left to image."

I was impressed with her attentiveness, "Thank you Miranda! Now, have y'all checked for problem children?"

Miranda was unfamiliar with the term, "Problem children?"

Laura laughed, "Yeah, it's what Ron calls equipment that doesn't behave as expected."

Andy joked, "Can also be a reference to Sara and Lindsay, but not in this context."

Wynn added, "Or Maya and Ana!"

Miranda asked, "Does she go by Ana or Peaches?"

Wynn replied, "Yes. Much like Laura goes by Abby at times."

I had to add, "or Ann-Marie!"

Laura sighed, "You won't let me live that one down!"

I told her, "Sorry, just had to say it! Okay, so back to my question..."

Andy told me, "No, we have not yet looked for problem children. Suppose, we should. Miranda come join Wynn and I as we search for 'problem children'."

The three of them swept the cluster of PC's they had recently images and surprisingly only found one 'problem child' which as stuck in a PXE boot loop. Andy decided this would be a good test for Miranda, "Miranda can you tell me what is wrong with this PC and what we should do about it?"

Miranda watched as the PC booted into the network and connected with the server, but would not image, "Well it is connecting to the network, but not imaging. Hard drive issue?"

Andy was impressed, "Very good. So what now?"

Miranda told Andy, "Power it off then open and check the drive connections?"

Andy told her, "Yes. So there could be three issues: no hard drive; loose connections; or bad drive."

Miranda unplugged they system and then opened the case to reveal there was not a hard drive. Pointing to the void which should have contained a hard drive, "Well, there's our problem!"

Andy laughed, "Indeed. Wynn, there should be some hard drives over in our supplies, if you could please grab one for Miranda."

Wynn went to get the drive and Miranda asked, "Why is the drive missing?"

Andy replied, "Poor quality control. I'll have a chat with Max or Doyle when we get back! Not that big of a deal, it happens occasionally. Especially when we order so many systems at once."

Wynn came back with a new in wrapper hard drive handing it to Miranda with

four mounting screws, "Here you go. You could use a Phillip's head driver to attach the mounting screws, but it is just easier to finger attach them."

Miranda took the drive and screws, "Oh so, they don't come with these attached?"

Andy explained, "No they do not come that way from the manufacture. Reason being this is not a universal mounting method. I mean it is for these small form-factor PC's but say we wanted to use they drives in server then they'd attach into a caddie."

--

Back at the barn the girls were having breakfast and Maya asked, "Since we are all off today, what should we do?"

Sara commented, "Well, Lindsay and I should do our laundry so we have clean clothes for Monday."

Maya laughed, "Not exactly what I had in mind...but if there is room we should add our clothes as well."

Sara suggested, "Perhaps after we are done we can go for lunch and a movie?"

Maya warned Sara, "Trying to find a movie all four of us can agree on...that's asking a lot!"

Sara sighed, "Have a little faith will you. Have I ever led you wrong before?"  
Maya stood their silent. Sara was confused, "Well?"

Maya told her, "I am thinking!"

Sara joked, "Don't hurt yourself now."

Maya replied, "Too late for that, I have a headache now! No, we should be fine. Let me go up and gather Peaches and my clothes and I'll bring them back down to the laundry room."

Lindsay and Sara went to their rooms, along with their playroom to gather all their dirty clothes. The two of them end up meeting Maya in the laundry room. A few hours later the breakfast dishes were done as was all of the girls' laundry. The four of them went to a local taco shop and then to the movies.

By the time the movie let out it was early evening. Maya asked, "Are we eating in or out tonight?"

Sara reminded her, "There is not much food left at the house, so out it is!"

The four of them did surf and turf for dinner. They decided to take a walk around the block before returning home, in hopes of not falling asleep when they got back. They returned to the barn around eight. After they had all deposited their coat and boots in the mudroom Sara announced, "We are going to do things a little different this evening!" Earlier in the day Maya and Sara discussed what Maya could do to Lindsay. It was suggested Maya secure Lindsay to the bed with the single person asylum restraint set and have a magic wand attached to Lindsay's pussy. Maya had told Sara to ask Peaches what she wanted to do as Peaches would be more willing to play with someone different that way. Maya had already setup the asylum system on the bed in her room earlier. Sara continued, "Lindsay, you will not be playing with me tonight. Instead Maya will do such evil things to you!"

Lindsay was excited and in shock, "Really?! I get to play with Maya? Thought that was forbidden."

Sara laughed, "You are making me to look like Cinderella's evil step mother. It will be fun!" She winked at Maya.

Maya commented, "and Peaches gets to have a night away from me!"

Peaches caught on, "*You* get the night away from me..."

Maya just brushed her off, "Whatever! It is all Sara's idea. Are we staying together the whole night?"

Sara confirmed, "Yes we are. Tomorrow morning we do brunch, let's do our Sunday best."

Lindsay joked, "We going to church afterwards?"

Sara told her, "Dear, I haven't set foot in a church since Ron and I married....oh wait, we did not get married in a church. Nonetheless I could only stand so many years at *Our Lady of Perpetual Schemes!*"

Maya recalled, "Ah yes that place, always wondered how they had such a lavish sanctuary and the rest of the building was stuck in the 1950's!"

Peaches was getting bored and also had no idea what Sara and Maya were talking about being she never got into Roman Catholicism while in Hungary, "Can we start already?!"

Sara regained her focus, "Sure! Do you need to take the dogs out?"

Peaches replied, "Done already they in Wynn's room."

Sara told her, "Well then if you are ready let's go to my playroom."

Maya asked Lindsay, "You ready to be helpless and dominated?"

Lindsay giggled, "Of course!"

The four girls headed up the stairs and then split off with Sara and Peaches in Sara and Lindsay's playroom along with Maya and Lindsay in Maya's suite. Lindsay walked in the room with Maya and noticed it was as suite, "Wait, you have a bathroom in here!"

Maya looked at her confused, "Yeah, why?"

Lindsay had not realized there were three suites on the middle level, "I forgot there were three suites up here. Haven't been in this room since the pre-construction walk-thru Ron and Victoria did with us. Always assumed it was like the playroom or Andy and I's office." She then noticed the bed with the Segufix restraints, "Oh boy this looks like fun!"

Maya told her, "But wait, there's more!" She pulled out a mini-magic wand. Lindsay's eye grew larger. Maya asked Lindsay, "Are you wearing a belt?"

Lindsay told her, "I was earlier, but removed it when we got home."

Maya instructed her, "Well in that case, remove your dress and get on the bed." Lindsay removed her dress revealing an open bottom body briefer which her stockings were attached to. Maya saw the undergarment, "Nice, they certainly don't make foundation garments like that anymore!"

Lindsay told Maya, "There is a shop in Nashville that sells these and the traditional girdles. Ron and Laura's mother told me about it." Lindsay climbed on to the bed and Maya began attaching the Segufix restraints securing Lindsay helplessly to the bed. Lindsay asked, "May I have something I can suck on?"

Maya told her, "Yeah, let me finish getting you attached to the bed and then I'll look through our stash. Maya attached the last of the restraints to Lindsay and went over to her and Peaches' toy closet to see what type of gags they had. She pulled out three penis gags, one small; one medium and one extra large. Maya showed them to Lindsay, "Take your pick!"

Lindsay surveyed the gags and told Maya her choice, "The extra large please; It

will be like I am sucking Andy's cock!"

Maya blushed and asked, "Andy is hung like a horse?"

Lindsay giggled, "Yes, yes he is!"

Maya was surprised, "Hmm...okay learn something new everyting day." Before she put the extra large gag into Lindsay's mouth she asked, "Any other requests?"

Lindsay paused for a moment and then replied, "Yes, a blindfold?"

Maya told her, "Well, we have plenty of those handy."

As Maya went to get the blindfold Lindsay asked, "What are you going to be doing? I don't want to be the only one having fun."

Maya told her, "Once I get you done I am going to put on a wand and harness then strap myself to that desk chair over there. Going to try not to orgasm to death!"

Lindsay asked, "Okay, but what is to stop you for shutting off the wand?"

Maya added, "Well, once I am strapped to the chair then I will get myself into a fiddle with a timer padlock. The desk is just the right height for me to pop in the locking pin."

Lindsay was getting turned on, "Oh fun! Hmm...may be I should pass on that blindfold then...that way I can watch you suffer."

Maya was learning some interesting things tonight about the McGrawl's, "Hmm...so you are saying that malicious joy is an aphrodisiac for you?"

Lindsay understood Maya's question and laughed, "I guess so. Never thought of it that way, but yes!"

Maya was getting excited at the thought she would be pleasing Lindsay through her own self torture, "Well, I am learning such interesting things about you two tonight...that I could use to blackmail y'all in the future"

Lindsay countered, "Don't think that will work, we ain't got nothing to hide..all our dirty laundry is out in the open! Well except for our little mishap in Pima County..."

She thought for a moment, "Pitty. Okay, let me see here...need to prop your

head up so you will have better view of me torturing myself. Let me grab those throw pillows Peaches always throws on the floor.”

Lindsay joked, “There is a reason they are called *throw pillows* you know!”

Maya laughed, “Yeah, but I’d preferred she’d put them in the gabled window seat. Cream usually ends up burrowing herself into one and I am the one that has to get all her hair off it.” Maya went over to the cedar storage chest built into the window gable and retrieved a few throw pillows then walked over to Lindsay and used the pillows to prop up Lindsay’s upper body after adjust the Segufix straps. “There that should give you a good view! I am going to put the gag in now and start the wand.”

Lindsay informed Maya, “Okay, sounds good!”

Maya told Lindsay, “Open wide!” Lindsay opened her mouth and Maya stuffed the extra large gag into Lindsay’s mouth. Lindsay accepted the gag without issues, “Wow, impressive! Now, time for the wand!” She turned on the wand, but a low speed to torment Lindsay. Maya told Lindsay, “Need to get my toys and the chair setup...” She went back to the closet and grabbed a large leather strap, ankle shackles, a wand harness and wand along with her fiddle and timer lock. She was about to close the door when she spotted her favorite red ball gag, “Ah, there you be my beauty!” Maya told Lindsay, “Need to change, be right back!” Lindsay was making due with the wand being on low while sucking on the extra large gag she was hoping seeing Maya in her predicament bondage would be enough to get her past the edge. Maya came out of the bathroom in a ruby red sequined catsuit. Maya saw Lindsay’s reaction, “Peaches got this for me. I have no idea where she found this.’ Kicking up one of her legs, “Does match my ‘Dorthy’ stilettos! Wore a similar catsuit last night when we relaxed and I was amazed how comfortable it was.”

Lindsay had her first orgasm and threw a shoe. Maya walked over and picked up the shoe, putting it back on Lindsay’s foot and scolding her, “Oh no! None of that young lady. I’ll make sure that won’t happen again! Hmm...I should do mine as well. Really wouldn’t want have to explain to Ron a hole in the wall in our room was caused by an airborne stiletto!” Lindsay really had no idea what Maya was going to do. She watched Maya go back to the toy closet and she pulled out two sets of leather straps and grabbed some small padlocks. Maya came over and wrapped the leather strap around Lindsay’s ankle and another strap under the shoe and locked the straps. Maya told her, “Peaches and I used these for our ballet boot training. No way either of us are going to throw our shoes with these locked on!” Maya attached a set to her shoes and then declared, “Okay! No more distractions now, let get myself setup.” She picked up the timer lock, “Hmm...how long do you think you can last? An hour, two, eight...no eight hours would be too much even for me. Let’s ‘meet in the middle’ as they say and do 90-

minutes!”

Lindsay grunted her approval through the gag. Maya laughed, “I am guessing that was a ‘yes?’” Lindsay raised her upper body slightly and nodded her head ‘yes’. Maya understood and set the timer lock to 90-minutes. After putting on the wand harness. Maya reached down and threaded the ankle cuffs through the wooden spindles of the chair and attached the cuffs around her ankles. Next she sat down in the chair and wrapped the leather strap through the spindles and then around her waist. She told Lindsay, “Once I am in the fiddle, I will not be able to undo the strap as my hands will be pointed in the wrong direction. Same reason I will not be able to shut off the wand. Speaking of the wand...” She turned on the wand on the highest setting then made sure she was in full view of Lindsay as she put on her favorite red gag. After Maya was satisfied with the gag and her restrains so far she grabbed the timer lock and then placed the fiddle around her wrists and neck closing the device. She had done this many times starting back at The Acme House when she was ‘motivating’ herself to get through the video lectures. As such she very quickly had the locking pin in place and attached the timer padlock through the hole in the pin and activated the lock. Maya heard the lock beep and saw Lindsay having an orgasm at the nearly the same time. She laughed to herself through the gag. It wasn’t long before she had her first of too many orgasms that evening.

Across the hall Peaches and Sara were sitting on the bed. Sara asked Peaches, “So what do you want to do?”

Peaches was unsure, “Not know. We never play one on one.”

Sara agreed, “Yeah, usually it is Lindsay and I. Why don’t we get undressed down to our bras and stocking and jump into bed?”

Peaches removed her dress revealing a white long-line bra and high waist shaper along with her white stockings. Sara was wearing very similar foundation garments, except in black. Peaches joked, “We Spy vs Spy!”

Sara understood the reference but was really surprised Peaches knew it, “Never thought of you as the Mad Magazine type.”

Peaches explained, “Ron has them in his ‘collection’ down in library.”

Sara had no idea, “Well I’ll be; I knew he had computer magazines along with vintage Playboy, Penthouse and Hustler magazines.” Both girls removed their pantygirdles. An idea popped into Sara’s head, something here and Lindsay usually did. She told Peaches, “Whoever cums first spends the night in the cage!” Sara was overly confident she would get Peaches to cum before herself and therefore have the entire bed to herself. She added, “No toys! We get into 69 use



our mouths and fingers!"

Peaches had gotten really good at making Maya cum...that is when she could get Maya to remove her Super Max chastity belt. Peaches told Sara, "Deal!"

Peaches and Sara climbed up atop of the bed in nothing but their stocking and bras. Since Sara didn't want to overwhelm Peaches with her size, she opted to be on the bottom. Peaches straddled herself above Sara. Sara asked, "You ready?" Peaches told her 'yes'. Sara replied, "Okay go!"

Sara went to work licking Peaches' clit and pussy. She was still overly confident she would have the upper hand on Peaches. Peaches started licking and sucking Sara's clit very aggressively and then started fingering Sara, first with one finger then two fingers. Sara was losing focus on pleasuring Peaches as she was getting lost in the pleasure Peaches was giving her. Sara regained her focus and went back to work on Peaches' clit. However, Sara suddenly felt an impending orgasm, "Oh shit!" She frantically was doing everything she could to get Peaches to cum and hold off her own orgasm, but Sara had reached the point of no return and let out a scream as the orgasm hit her. After she recovered she joked, "Best two out of three?"

Peaches got off the bed then laughed and told Sara, "No. Deal is a deal. Into the cage you go!"

Sara accepted her defeat, "Well darn, you are a lot better at that than I was expecting. Usually I can get Lindsay to cum before I do." A thought crossed Sara's mind, "Then again, it is *her* cage and she'll make any excuse to spend time in it...I wonder if she lets me win. Dang, she played me! Okay, let me use the bathroom then you can put me in the cage. I should put my pantygirdle and dress back on so I don't get too cold."

Peaches told her, "Don't matter to me what you wear in cage, just as long as you're in cage and I get this big bed all for me!"

Sara picked up her clothes and went to the bathroom to change. She came out back in her pantygirdle and dress, "Okay. I agree a deal is a deal so into the cage I will go." She unlocked the cage and removed the hasps then asked Peaches, "Do you know how to lock this cage or should I just give you the keys now and lock myself in?"

Peaches held out her hand, "I'll take keys...keep them in a safe place out of your reach!" Sara handed Peaches the keys to the two padlocks who placed them in the drawer next to the bed. Sara then crawled inside the cage closing and locking the doors behind her. Peaches walked over and inspected the cage, "No escape for you! I am going to get my dogs back shortly."

Sara commented, "They are going to get spoiled staying in this room!"

Peaches ignored Sara's comments and went about to get the dogs from Wynn's suite. Sara was grateful that Peaches hadn't cuffed and gagged her, though it was going to be a long night in the cage as it was. Peaches returned with the dogs, both of which were confused to see Sara in the cage. Peaches called, "Lucy! Cream! Come up here, keep mama warm!" Both dogs hopped up on to the bed and made themselves at home.

Across the hall Lindsay had lost count of how many orgasms she experienced and her jaw was getting sore from the gag. She hoped Maya would be able to free herself soon. Since Lindsay's wand was set to low she was able to relax herself enough she ended up falling asleep. She was awoken by a loud bang which was Maya dislodging the locking pin for the fiddle. Maya got the pin removed and was able to get the fiddle off. She removed her gag the shut off her wand. She noticed Lindsay was awake, "Sorry did I wake you?" Lindsay nodded 'yes'. Maya told her, "Well, let me get myself free from this chair and I'll be right with you." She remove the leather strap from her waist and was looking around for the keys for the ankle shackles, "Crap! Where did I put the keys for the ankle cuffs. May be I tossed them in a drawer?" She started opening desk drawers and found the keys in the top drawer, "Ah here we go." She took the keys then bent down and removed the cuffs from her ankles as well as taking off the wand harness. She walked over and turned off Lindsay's wand and also removed her gag.

Lindsay appreciated getting out the gag, "Oh god! Thank you. My jaw was getting sore. Had fun though! Oh and I need to pee!"

Maya laughed, "Same here dear. I'll release one of your wrists and give you the key. While you are getting yourself freed I am going to the bathroom. I figure by the time you get yourself out and remove the wand, I should be done." Maya undid Lindsay's left wrist and handed her the magnetic key then headed to the bathroom. After she finished her business she came out to see Lindsay was almost entirely freed. She told Lindsay, "I've done in the bathroom, it is all yours now. I'll get things cleaned up in here."

Lindsay remove the last of the Segufix restraints and then her wand harness, "I can help once I empty my bladder." She made a quick run to the bathroom. She returned and commented, "Y'all bathroom is smaller than ours."

Maya had nothing to compare having not seen the other two suites, "Wouldn't know. It works for the two of us. It is a lot bigger than the single bathroom Sara and I shared with the rest of the house when we grew up. If you want to gather the wands and harnesses, that would be great. I'll work on getting the Segufix spaghetti tamed!" Lindsay collected the wands, extension cords and harnesses. Maya told her, "Those go in the small closet." Lindsay looked at Maya confused.

She laughed and clarified, "Oh yeah, you wouldn't know. Left closet, that was or still is a linen closet, though we use most of it for our toys!"

Lindsay took the items and placed them in the linen/toy closet then commented, "We only have one closet in our playroom. Guess because it was a regular bedroom, much like Andy's office. Okay, now what?"

Maya looked at the bedside clock and noticed the time, "It is almost midnight. We are doing Brunch tomorrow morning. Let's try to get some sleep. Been rather quiet across the hall."

Lindsay suggested, "May be we couldn't hear her over the wands?"

Maya laughed, "I doubt that...maybe they just ended up going to sleep early."

--

Sunday morning we met for breakfast down in the lobby. It was more crowded than the previous mornings, but we were still able to get a table for all of us fairly quickly. After we ordered I informed everyone, "So we are back on schedule, albeit two later than we had planned. We should be able to get the last of the PC's imaged today and address any lingering issues."

Sophie commented, "Yeah we have a switch which keeps randomly shutting down ports. Abby thinks it is a configuration error. I'd suggested she just replace it."

Laura explained, "Yeah, think something went wrong with the configuration of switch port security settings. I'll dig into later once we get the new AP's setup. Miranda will be helping me with that!"

Miranda was a bit sore from all the physical activity she has been doing this past week, "Oh joy! I never knew this would be so physical!"

Andy laughed, "This was an easy job! Ron and I have done jobs where we had to run all new cabling. Both Boot's facilities for instance."

I added, "Plus I wired the Deer Valley ACME office entirely by myself when Gary's first moved into that location. It is even worse when you are having to deal with a rat's nest!"

Laura commented, "Oh you mean the time before last when we were at Gary's old Deer Valley office."

I explained, "No. Actually it was when I had to attempt to fix the creative cabling from the previous 'IT person' at Linda's Oro Valley store. This was long before she

acquired the rest of the building when we did a complete rewire. That was the first job I had to call in Andy for reinforcement. Luckily, him and Lindsay were still living and working in Tucson at the time."

Wynn, Andy and I worked on getting the 'problem child' PC's fixed. Sophie and Miranda worked on getting the new wireless AP hung and connected. Laura was pushing their images once they were connected to the network. Cristina came over and told me, "It is nearing lunch time. I am going to order Mexican take-out can you gather everyone so I can get their orders."

I called Laura's cell, "Hey can you, Sophie and Miranda come on over to the main part of the building please? Cristina wants to get your orders for lunch and I want to do a status check as well."

Laura replied, "Okay, let me get this AP going and I'll find those two and we'll be there shortly."

I found Wynn and Andy, "Cristina is ordering lunch so come on over and let her know what you want. Also, I am going to do a status check just as soon as Miranda, Laura and Sophie get over here."

Three of us gave our orders to Cristina. A few minutes later Laura, Sophie and Miranda came over and gave their orders to Cristina. Cristina advised us, "Food should be here in about 30-minutes."

After Cristina left to go place the order I asked, "How are things coming along?"

Wynn told me, "We still have a couple PC's giving us fits."

I felt their pain, "I know the feeling, I've got one that by the time I am done with it the entire innards are going to be replaced. Should've just swapped it for another unit. I fix one problem and discover something else that is not working." Laura had disappeared so I asked Sophie, "How goes things on your and Abby's end?"

Sophie explained, "We have most of the AP's up and running. Laura is really having major issues with the one switch..." I could sense some tension from Sophie which was very unusual, "...yet she still refuses to swap it out!"

Miranda giggled, "I learned some new cuss words today!"

Andy joked, "Oh boy keep her away from Lindsay...we wouldn't want her to be cussing in Mandarin."

Miranda giggled and told Andy, "Oh, I already know those! Remember, we work

together at The Holstein."

Andy shook his head, "She is such a fine influence. Oh well, I still love her!"

I laughed, "The same can be said about Abby! That is all I have for now, you may return to what y'all were working until lunch comes. I need to give Marty a call." I went to one of the conference rooms and called Marty, "Hey you still in town?"

Marty told me, "Sort of, I am over in Pahrump wrapping up on a ticket. Give me a couple hours and I can be there."

Cristina came over a little later and announced, "Food has arrived!"

During lunch I informed everyone, "Marty is over in Pahrump and said he can be over here in a couple hours. How goes the switch Abby?"

Laura asked me, "Got a sledge hammer or 12-gauge shotgun? I can not get it to accept the new configuration no matter how many times I wipe and copy the new config. So at this point, since I have an extra unit I am just going to swap out. Hopefully, that will take care of this. Spent way too much time on that unit this morning and yesterday."

Sophie mumbled in frustration, "Told you so!"

I laughed, "I know what you mean; spent the last couple hours completely rebuilding a PC."

Andy asked, "Was it a Dell?"

I replied, "As in the Ford of PC's? DELL: Doesn't Even Last Long! No, this was a Lenovo unit which normally don't give us trouble. Have you and Wynn gotten the other PC's fixed?"

Wynn replied, "Almost done. Couple have been fixed and just waiting to make sure they take the image."

That was good news at least. Turning my attention to Sophie and Miranda, "Are the access points done?"

Sophie told me, "Yes, they all are connected and imaged...sort of...there were a couple on ports that kept getting shutdown..."

Laura added, "...which should not have switch port security set on them to begin with. It is not like they are easily and physically accessible. Still don't understand what is happening, I suspect bad RAM or may be even a corrupted IOS image.

Like I said after lunch I am going to swap the entire thing and start from scratch."

I threw a theory out, "Power surges/dips might have messed up stuff to."

Laura agreed but then asked, "But shouldn't the UPS units 'clean up' the power?"

I told her, "Yes, but the UPS unit on the network rack was completely dead when we returned from lunch yesterday."

### **Chapter 13: All Crappy Things Must Come to an End and an Unexpected Visit with Old Friends**

I headed over to Gary's office to update him on the progress. Cristina was in there with him. I knocked on the door. Cristina turned around, "Oh Ron, you bring good news?"

Gary joked, "Does he ever bring bad news?"

Cristina was not sure how to respond and I told them, "I do have bad news, there were a couple of pieces of equipment which had major issues. However, we have been able to work around those issues and are almost done here. The bad equipment we will boxed up and I'll have Wynn send you a shipping label for you to ship it back to us in Tennessee. Marty is coming in from Pahrump; should be here in the next hour. Hopefully by then Laura and Wynn have exercised the demons out the possessed piece of network equipment....though the switch really needs a professional exorcist or at least sent back to Cisco. Hemingway, once I give Marty the overview we can be out of your hair."

Gary told me, "Good, good. Nothing ever goes as it should does it?"

I laughed, "That would be too easy! Still, not as bad as Boots Chugwater!"

Gary recalled our many tales of that job, "Oh yeah, that was a doozy when y'all set the client's building on fire during the first day!"

Cristina wasn't really paying attention until she heard 'set building on fire', "You did what?!"

I laughed, "Hey, it was the client's faulty equipment that caused the fires, not our doings! No injuries or damage to the structure, just a lot of smoke and mess of melted equipment and dry chemical extinguisher residue to clean up."

Gary told me, "Say, Cristina and I are going to be heading over to Arizona in a couple hours via Geoffrey's helicopter charter. If you want to come along there is

room for the six of you..."

I told him, "You know, it would be nice to stay somewhere quieter and warmer. Let me give Marc a call, need to talk to him anyway."

Gary replied, "Let me know. Costs me the same if it just Cristina and I or the eight of us."

I reminded him, "If we do this, don't think this gets you out of making that custom spanker for us."

Gary replied, "Well shoot, that plan didn't work!"

Cristina was curious, "What custom spanker?"

Gary told her, "It is a barter exchange for the extra expenses AZOutback incurred with the delays. I am going to have built a dual person auto-spanker sort like the one Marc and Martina have. It was a one-of-one prototype Zac built years ago. I am just going to take two spankers and two benches and add some custom fabrication to connect them."

Cristina told Gary, "Well, before you send it out Lydia and I will need to do a 'quality assurance check'...if you know what I mean!"

Gary laughed and assured her, "I'll make sure you two can get that done before it is dismantled and shipped."

I headed over to the lobby to call Marc. As his line kept ringing I was about expecting to get his voicemail, but he finally answered, "Oh hey Ron....what's going on?"

I told him, "We are about done with the ACME Henderson job."

Marc asked, "Oh so you need me to get your return transportation setup?"

I replied, "Well, yes and no. Gary and Cristina are going to be heading over to Arizona in a couple hours via his helicopter charter buddy. They asked if we wanted to come along and since it would be nice to spend a couple nights somewhere warmer and quieter...wondering if the six of us can stay with you and Martina tonight and tomorrow night?"

Marc without hesitation, "YES! Martina will be thrilled to have some guests."

I warned him, "Laura is with me and she is not in a belt."

Marc joked, "Hmm....well then might need to put Martina into her belt and 'misplace' the key until y'all leave!"

I added, "Knowing Laura, she'd find a way to get Martina out of the belt."

Marc asked, "So when are you guys coming in?"

I told him, "We are supposed to leave in a couple hours and I think it is about an hour and forty-five flight to Deer Valley. We just need to get back to the resort and load our bags into the Tahoe then head to the heliport."

Marc told me, "Give me a call when you are in the air and have an ETA. I'll have a shuttle come get you and bring you over to the house. Oh, do you think Laura could make her famous enchiladas tomorrow night?"

I remind him, "Actually they're our mother's but yes her and Wynn can make them. Any plans for tonight?"

Marc informed me, "Martina is not home right now. She went out along with Aimee and Lulu to catch a show somewhere. I don't know, how about Vinnie's?"

I replied, "Vinnie's works!" Once I wrapped up with Marc I headed back to Gary's office, "Okay, Marc will get everything taken care for us once we get to Deer Valley. We just need to wrap up here, head back to the resort to check out and then load up the Tahoe. So we can meet you at the heliport once we return the rental."

Gary told me, "Sounds good."

Cristina came into the office and saw me, "Oh good Ron you are here. Marty is back."

I headed to the lobby and met up with Marty, "You made it back!" Laura and I went over all the details with Marty including the failed equipment. After he left I announced, "Okay, we have officially completed this project! Two projects for ACME/Gary within a month. To show his appreciation he is going to charter us a helicopter flight back to Arizona."

Andy was puzzled, "But, we are not in Arizona anymore."

I told him, "True. But, we can spend the next couple days there where it is quiet and still warm."

Miranda reminded us, "True, it is still winter back in Franklin."



I explained the situation, "So Gary and Cristina are heading out later this afternoon via the helicopter charter with Geoffrey and Nora. He asked if we wanted to come along. Figured might as well, get out this crazy place."

Wynn asked, "Are we staying at the old house with Marc and Martina?"

I told her, "Yes. Oh and Marc is requesting that you and Laura make our mother's enchiladas tomorrow night for dinner. Tonight we are doing Vinnie's."

Laura told me, "If Wynn can help me, I have no problem making that tomorrow night. It will be nice to see Martina again."

I tried to pull a fast one on Laura, "Yeah about that. Seems Marc has misplaced the key to Martina's belt."

Laura laughed, "Good thing I've taken up lock picking! Now, would you like to sell me some of the ocean front property you have in Arizona as well?"

We packed up our tools and supplies then headed back to the resort. It took the girls about thirty minutes to get everything packed. I headed down to the front desk to check out while everyone else loaded the Tahoe. Just as we were leaving the resort Gary called, "Hey we leave in about an hour."

I advised him, "Leaving the resort now, then we need to turn in the Tahoe and get to the heliport."

Gary informed me, "Just come directly to the heliport. Their porter will take the Tahoe back to the rental lot for you. Anyway, we won't leave without you."

I replied, "Okay, that makes things easier."

--

The next morning in Franklin, Peaches and Sara were awakened by Cream and Lucy barking and dancing around trying to get someones attention so they could be taken out. Peaches grumbled, "You could set a clock by them! I'll take them out."

Sara asked, "You going to let me out?"

Peaches told her, "Maybe..." She left with the dogs and closed the door to the playroom loudly.

Between Peaches slamming the door and dogs yipping, Lindsay and Maya were awakened. Maya was not really aware of what was going on and mumbled,

"Peaches, Cream needs to go out!"

She was surprised when Lindsay replied, "Sounds like she is already taking them out."

Maya rolled over to find Lindsay in bed next to her, "Oh Lindsay! Forgot you were in here. Thanks for a fun night last night, we need to do this again sometime."

Lindsay kissed Maya and told her, "Indeed it was. Well, I better go across the hall and check on Sara then get dressed. We're supposed to dress nice today for brunch."

Maya recalled, "Oh yeah. Also need to stop at the market on the way back to pickup some food to tide us over until they all return tomorrow." As Lindsay was getting out of bed Maya grabbed her arm and pulled Lindsay towards her and gave Lindsay a deep kiss before letting her go.

Lindsay went across the hall and knocked on the door of their playroom. She didn't want to barge in so she yelled through the door, "May I come in?". Sara yelled out for her to do so. Lindsay walked and was surprised to see Sara in *her* cage, "Hey what are you doing in *my* cage?!"

Sara explained, "Lost a bet with Peaches and end up spending the night in here. She put the keys in the nightstand drawer."

Lindsay laughed, "Let me guess, you challenged her that you could make her cum before she made you!"

Sara sighed, "Yep."

Lindsay found the keys for the cage and come over to unlock the padlocks and told Sara, "You do realize I usually let you win..."

Sara had her suspicions, "You know, I have come to that conclusion after spending the night in here. Anyway, I believe we are supposed to be doing brunch this morning?"

Lindsay removed the locks and hasps then opened the cage helping Sara out, "Yes. We are supposed to dress nice too! I am going to go over to my room to find a long sleeve dress and corset." She left the room leaving Sara to straighten up the bed.

Peaches had come back inside from taking the dogs out. After removing her boots and coat the dogs followed her into the kitchen expecting to be fed. She opened a cabinet and retrieved a bag of food filling both Cream and Lucy's bowls.

After putting the food away she told the dogs, "You two stay down here." Both dogs were too busy eating to even pay attention to her or for that matter notice her leaving. She headed back upstairs to the playroom so she could release Sara. Peaches was confused to see Sara making the bed when she walked in, "How you out?"

Sara told her, "Magic! No, Lindsay came in after you woke her and Maya taking the dogs out."

Peaches realized Maya was not going to be happy, "Shoot, Maya going to be grumpy!" She left to deal with Maya and get dressed for brunch.

A little bit later the four girls met in the Great Room all dressed up to the nines. They took the Murano and headed into Nashville for brunch. On their way back into town they stopped off at the market and picked up food for the rest of the day as well Monday and just to be safe Tuesday as well. Once they returned Lindsay put the dishes that had been piling up in the sink into the dishwasher. Sara and Maya took care of the laundry they didn't get done the day before while Peaches used a Swifter on the floors to get up all the dog hair. Once they had finished all their chores they headed up to the playloft. Maya told them all, "You three can do whatever you want, I'll chaperon or very least be the loft Mistress. She brought a handset for the house line up with her in case we were to call.

---

An hour later we made it the heliport. Nora saw Laura and I, "Mister Merlot and Misses Myers..."

Laura kindly corrected her, "Ugh...I am back to Merlot now."

Nora understood, "It happens! Go ahead and get on board, our porters will take care of loading your bags and will also return the rental."

Before we departed I asked for an ETA and called Marc to let him know. He advised me he would have shuttle waiting for us at Deer Valley. A few minutes later Geoffrey announced, "We will be wheels up shortly, please fasten your seat belts and allow Nora to perform her pre-flight PSA!"

An hour and half later we made it to Deer Valley. We stepped out and were surprised, but pleased by the temperature. Wynn commented, "Always loved this time of year. Not too hot, not too cold."

As promised Marc had a shuttle van waiting for us at Deer Valley Airport. On our way to the Sage Brush house I called back to Franklin. I was expecting Peaches to answer but got Maya, "Hey Ron, what's going on?"

I told her, "We've made a side trip on our way home. We are in Arizona on our way over to Marc and Martina's. Gary and Cristina needed to come out to Deer Valley and Gary had room on his charter helicopter and offered for us to come along. So, we are going to spend a couple nights here then come back to Tennessee."

Maya didn't see bothered, "We can survive a couple more days on our own. We go back to work tomorrow anyway. Think we can manage to stay out of trouble for a couple more days. Oh by the way...and this was Sara's idea..."

I was thinking this may not be good, "Do I really want to know?"

Maya laughed, "Relax Ron, it's all good. Anyway, Lindsay and I had a fun night together just the two of us. Sara took Peaches off my hands for one night, but somehow ended up spending the night in Lindsay's cage. Something about a bet she lost to Peaches. We did the dishes, laundry and cleaned the floors when we came back from Brunch. Also stopped off at the market and picked up enough food to get us through another couple days. When y'all coming back?"

I was surprised, but pleased, "Well good. I knew you two could get along with each other. Sara lost a bet to Peaches, somehow I am not surprised. I need to talk to Marc when get to their place, but thinking sometime Tuesday afternoon. He said he will take care of the ground transportation from Nashville to Franklin, so y'all don't need to worry about picking us up. Oh and Gary is going to custom build us a new toy, a barter exchange for the extra dining, gas and car rental costs we incurred due to the storm delays. It will shipped to the Franklin house and then will need to assembled. At least it will be coming in five crates so it won't be such as pain the Aston Martin to get up there like the table was."

Maya was not with us when the table was brought up, "Yeah, how did you get the table up there?"

I joked, "Very carefully! Lindsay's sister brought over an appliance dolly and between her, Wynn, Andy and I we somehow managed to get up both flights of stairs without killing ourselves. If the original stairs to the second floor were still there, they would not been able to support the weight! Anyway, I'll give you a call later once I know more."

We arrived at the Sagebrush house. Marc answered the door, "Ah Ron, good to see you again. So, who wants what rooms?"

I told them, "Let Laura and Sophie have the FROG this time around. Miranda can bunk with Wynn in her old suite. Andy and I will each take one of the other guest suites." Everyone went about their way to deposit their bags in their rooms.

When I returned I chatted with Marc, "So how's The Boulders been treating you two?"

Marc told me, "Martina loves it, she has her ballet and yoga programs. I haven't been there much lately, they've had me back in Idaho again for staff training out there. I keep asking them to send me Nashville..."

I laughed, "Looking for a reason to visit us."

Marc confirmed, "Yeah. More so for Martina. She is still not adjusted well to y'all and the Zinfandel's leaving. Her and Aimee have been spending a lot of time together and occasionally she spends time with Lulu too so that helps. They all are suppose to back in about an hour. Thinking they will be joining us for dinner. I already placed a larger order with Vinnie's so it should be here about when they return."

I asked, "You and Martina still planning on coming out for Memorial Day?"

Marc replied, "Without a doubt. Martina has already blocked off her calendar for that week. We've already put in our vacation."

I told him, "Well that will a nice retreat for the two of you. Since you are not busy at the moment, what kind of arrangements can you make for our return to Franklin."

Marc imitating a used car salesman replied, "Come step into my office and we will see if we can work out a deal."

I joked, "I don't want buy a car, just have a car bring us home from the airport." We headed in the studio and I noticed it was rather empty, "Love what you done with the place! I have heard that minimalist style is all the rage now!"

Marc reminded me, "Well, I don't have a huge collection of 'dirty' magazines to display."

I told him, "I am sure you could buy some in bulk off of eBay."

Marc replied, "I've looked, they are not cheap. Martina would not be too happy if I spent a couple grand on 'dirty magazines'!"

I asked, "Call them an 'investment' besides, how much does she spend on clothes; specifically shoes?!"

Marc laughed, "About enough to feed a third world country for a year. Okay, let me see what I can do for y'all. Do you want morning, afternoon, evening or red

eye flight?"

I explained, "No red eye and morning might be bad too. Afternoon would likely be ideal as we'd get home in time for dinner. Also remember Laura with her 'no tin can with wings' request."

Marc searched his contacts to find us a charter, "How about a canoe with wings?!"

I laughed, "Well, while we all *could* fit in a Grumman Goose, however I doubt Laura would set foot in it. Plus, we need something with a bit more range than a puddle jumper!"

Marc teased me, "Picky! Picky! Okay, let's see here. Ah here we go. Gulf Stream G280 leaving Tuesday mid morning from Scottsdale and arriving in Franklin about 4-hours later."

I told him, "Laura doesn't mind Gulf Streams jets even a G280 should be fine since there are only six of us."

Marc made the reservation and went to setup the ground transportation from Nashville to Franklin, "So this is a little cheaper than your previous arrangement. I can either give you a credit for future use or upgrade you from a shuttle van to a limo for the transpiration from airport to your house."

I laughed, "Well, I suppose a limo wouldn't be a bad way to come home!"

Martina walked into the house with Lulu and Aimee, "Marc! Where are you?" Marc and I walked into the great room and Martina was a bit surprised, "Ron, what are you doing here?"

I told her, "Not just me, Wynn, Andy, Miranda along with Laura and Sophie. Gary offered us a free ride to Arizona so decided we'd spend a couple nights here before we returned to Franklin."

Martina stopped paying attention as soon as she heard 'Laura', "Oh Anne Marie is with you!"

Laura happened to come in and again reminded Martina, "Wrong house Marti!"

Marc told Martina, "I ordered from Vinnie's. There is plenty if Lulu and Aimee want to stick around."

Aimee politely declined, "Sorry, Zac and I have plans while the kids are away!"

Lulu however accepted, "I have no where to be right now, so I'll stay."

Though we have been gone for quite some time I still knew the sound of Drew's 'Big Foot' truck, "I think Drew is here!"

Martina looked out and confirmed, "Yep, I see his truck."

Marc told me, "Why don't you get the door."

I laughed, "Yeah, that should be interesting."

The door bell rang and I opened the door to see Drew reviewing the order, "Hello Mister Frosh, I have your order..." He looked up from his order to see me standing in the doorway. Drew asked, "What this, did you move back here Ron?!"

I told him, "Nope, just visiting. Let me give you a hand with that. Marc or Martina will pay you, how would you like to be paid?"

Drew was confused at first, "How would I like to be paid?..." Then he recalled Martina's reputation, "Well...if I had *my* way, I'd have Martina 'pay' me, but then I would have to answer to Diane. Guess I'd better have Marc pay me."

I called over, "Marc, pay the kid." While I was waiting for Marc to get the cash for Drew I asked, "On the subject of Diane, how's she doing now that Ana and Maya have left?"

Drew explained, "She's getting used to being at the front of the house again. Though she rather out be delivering."

Marc came over and handed Drew a large wad of cash, "Here you go."

Drew took the money, "Thank you Mister Frosh. Well, best I get going before Diane goes crazy...at least more than she already has!"

During dinner Marc told Martina, "Wynn and Laura are going to make their family chicken enchiladas tomorrow night."

Lulu joked, "Hmm....perhaps I should invite myself to dinner!"

Martina told her, "Nothing stopping you..."

Monday morning Wynn and Martina made a Spanish omelet and then after breakfast went to the market with Laura. Andy and I took Marc's Murano and went over to check on the ACME Deer Valley location. We all arrived back later that afternoon. Andy and I walked in to find Martina and Laura in the kitchen and

Wynn in the great room with Sophie. Miranda and Lulu were out on the Great Lawn chatting. Martina saw us, "Ah good, you two are back. Dinner will be out on the patio and will be ready shortly, go wash up!"

I replied, "Si Mamacita!"

After dinner I called back to the barn and spoke to Maya, "We should be back in time for dinner tomorrow. Marc has a charter coming around 4:00 PM Franklin time. He also has a limo taking us from the airport back to the house."

Maya joked, "Oh fancy a limo!"

I laughed, "Yeah, well it was either that or we end up with a credit one of us might forget about."

Maya warned me, "Well, I think there is a lasagna we can throw in the oven. Since I am off tomorrow anyway, Peaches and I will stop at the farmers market get some salad fixings."

I told her, "That works. Wynn can go to the market the next day and get what we need for the rest of the week." Once I was done with Maya, I went to find everyone else. The Great Room was empty. Wynn and Sophie were doing dishes. I asked, "What happened to everyone?"

Sophie told me, "Your sister, Martina and Miranda are up in the loft with her twin."

I observed, "Oh Lulu. So wait, Martina and Laura made dinner for all of us and you two are cleaning up after her?"

Wynn replied, "Seems that way."

I laughed, "So nothing has changed!" I went over to the studio and saw Marc was in his office. I knocked on the door and he motioned for me to come in. I commented, "Martina is getting back to her old habits again?"

Marc asked, "Who is she fucking behind my back now?"

Playing along, "Besides my sister? I was more referencing to the fact Sophie and Wynn are cleaning up from dinner while Martina and Laura are playing. I think Miranda and Lulu are up there as well."

Marc reminded me, "Well, you are the one who brought your sister with you."

I laughed, "Yeah, should've sent her back to Franklin. Oh well, let them have



their fun. Wynn and Sophie don't mind."

We chatted for a couple hours when Sophie came into the studio and told us, "Night caps are being served!"

We consumed our night caps and then headed to bed. The next morning Marc took us all to breakfast before taking us down to Scottsdale airport for our return charter flight. Marc told me, "Give me a call when you land and I'll make sure your limo is near when you get outside."

I thanked Marc, "Well, this has been nice. Laura and Martina got to spend some time together. Good way to unwind from that crazy job. Still nowhere as bad as Boots Chugwater."

Marc asked, "What happens if you have a job that tops Boots Chugwater?"

I joked, "I'll either retire or end up in jail! I sure as heck hope that never happens. So, we'll see you for Memorial Day unless for some odd reason we end up out here again between now and then."

Marc wondered, "Were you planing on being out this way soon?"

I reminded him, "Nope. Hadn't even plan on being here now, but it just happened."

A few hours later we all arrived back in Nashville and I gave Marc a call. He advised me the limo driver was about 10-minutes out. I called Sara to let her know we were on our way home. She told me she would get the lasagna going and would do the salads when we arrived back. We still needed to make our way out of the terminal so we wouldn't have to wait long or the limo might beat us out. We finally made our way back out of the terminal and saw our limo pulling up. An hour later we made it back to the barn. I told the driver to pull into the back. Wynn and Sophie would bring in our bags. The rest of us made our way inside and were met up by the welcoming committee, Cream and Lucy. Miranda and I both grabbed a dog before they had a chance to escape. I called out, "Peaches! Maya! Lindsay! Sara!"

Lindsay came in, "Peaches is at work. Maya is playing the piano."

I handed Lindsay the Pug, "Boy she can still move fast at times!"

We made our way into the kitchen and Maya came in. She saw Miranda carrying Lucy, "Miranda, let me take Lucy off your hands. We'll put the dogs in Wynn's suite until y'all are done going in and out."

Miranda handed Maya the dog and then told me, "I am going to call my sister and have her come get me."

I told her, "That is fine. Why don't you at least stay for dinner then you can go."

Miranda accepted my offer, "Anything I can help with." I told her to ask Sara.

Laura came in and asked, "Is it okay if Sophie and I stay the night? We can hitch a ride in the morning with Sara and Maya."

I advised her, "Should be fine. I am guessing at least one of the guest rooms is presentable. I'll go take a look." I went over to the old tack room addition and looked into the guest rooms and it appeared both would be ready for occupancy. I returned to the Great Room and told Laura, "You two can use both rooms."

Laura hugged me, "Thanks."

Wynn and Sophie came into the mudroom with the last of the bags. I told Wynn, "Miranda is staying for dinner. As are Laura and Sophie, who also will be staying the night."

Wynn told me, "Okay. I am not sure how the guest rooms are. No one has used them since Christmas so they should be fine."

I told her, "I checked and both rooms seemed to be in order."

Maya saw Wynn, "Y'all done going in and out?" Wynn told her she was. Maya advised her, "Both dogs are in your room."

Wynn observed Sara and Miranda getting dinner prepped. She asked, "Have the dogs been out recently?"

Maya replied, "Peaches took them out before she left for work a few hours ago."

Wynn told her, "Okay, I'll take them out while were waiting on dinner."

While we were gone Maya and Lindsay came up with a way to prank me. Maya called out, "LINDSAY!"

Lindsay came in, "Yes Mistress?"

I was taken aback at what had just occurred and had flashbacks to Maya and Bambi from a few year ago, "Oh shit! Not again...."

Lindsay and Maya stated laughing. Lindsay commented, "That went better than I

thought it would."

Sara was in on it too, "Didn't think we'd be able to play this on him so soon."

I stood there disbelief, "Good lordy! I just had flashbacks to Maya and Bambi a few years ago."

Maya assured me, "I am not her Mistress. Peaches' may be, but Lindsay's no." She turned to Lindsay, "Well played. Although, I really did want you to come in here...so you can get us some wine."

Lindsay tried to reply with a straight face, "Yes Mist..." she started laughing uncontrollably. After regaining herself she went over and picked a wine to pair with our dinner.

We ate dinner and recounted the tales of our adventures at The Las Vegas ACME of Henderson. After dinner Miranda called her sister and then told us, "My sister is on her way. I'll see most of you tomorrow at The Holstein, if not yoga in a couple nights!"

The next morning Andy and Lindsay departed for their store after breakfast. A short while later Laura and Sophie headed out with Sara and Maya after they all helped Wynn clean up. I told Wynn, "Guess, it is time for me to go shovel my inbox and then try to figure out what the heck I was working on before we left."

Wynn told me, "Have fun. As soon as I get the beds changed in the guest rooms, I am going to head to the markets to restock."

## **Chapter 14: The New Toy and We Meet Again**

Over the weekend Gary called me, "Hey Cristina and I got back yesterday. Your custom dual-person spanker has been fabricated. Cristina and Lydia spent a good hour 'testing' it out for 'quality assurance purposes'. We got it broken down into the five crates and Road Runner freight will pickup on Monday. You should have it by the end of the week. I'll email you the assembly instructions, shouldn't take more than 15-minutes to get assembled. Also, Miranda's armor is done and went out via regular Roadrunner this morning. She should have it mid-week. I told her to consult with Wynn and Sara for final fitting and operations."

I replied, "Neat. Hey can you send me the size of the footprint for our new toy. Need to make sure we have a space large enough to accommodated it. Wynn and I may need to shuffle some toys around." Gary assured me he'd get that info to me before the end of the day. When I checked my email on Sunday morning I saw Gary's email from the night before with the size of the footprint as well as the assembly instructions. Monday morning after everyone had gone to work I

found Wynn in the kitchen. I asked her, "When you have a free moment can you come up to the loft, may need your assistance." Wynn told me she could be up in a few minutes.

I made my way up the loft and started looking around. While there would be plenty of room for the new spanker, it was just a matter of making the space. I knew the gyno table was not going to move. Wynn came up and asked, "What did you need me for?"

I told her, "I had Gary commission us a new toy. It was a barter exchange to make up for *some* of our extra costs with the meals and the Tahoe rental. You know how Marc and Martina have that dual person spanker?"

Wynn recalled, "Oh yeah, Miranda and Lulu were using it. You had Gary give you one in exchange?"

I explained, "Not exactly. What Marc and Martina have is a one of one made by Zac Acme a long, long time ago in a galaxy...however, what Gary built is something similar. Two benches and spankers along with custom rigging. Should be arriving the end of this week via Roadrunner Freight."

Wynn asked, "How do you purpose we get it up the two flights of stairs?"

I told her, "Gary is having it shipped in five crates: one for each bench; spanker and one for the rigging."

Wynn was relieved, "Well that will make things easier." Pointing to the gyno table, "That's helpful, sure didn't want a repeat of this!"

I looked around the room and concluded, "So if we move the cage over to the other wall by the table and fuck machine, I think that will give us enough room. Gary sent me the dimensions along with assembly instructions."

Wynn joked, "Were those instructed translated from Chinese!"

I laughed, "Hope not. I know Gary and Zac are not outsourcing ACME's documentations! Anyway, lets measure the space and see." We measured the space and I checked Gary's dimensions, "Okay, that should work. Gives us a couple feet on each side to spare."

Wynn wondered, "Will the two of us be able to move the cage on our own?"

I reminded her, "The cage has wheels so we can just roll it the other side of the room. Might need to move the fucking machine for a bit." We did end up having to move the fucking machine out of the way which was a pain, but not as bad as

trying to move the gyno table. We had the cage moved to the other wall and put the fucking machine back in its place.

Thursday night I received an email from Roadrunner freight advising of the delivery of the dual spanker from Nevada would be on Friday afternoon. I figured to keep this a surprise, I'd have the crates placed in the garage building and then assemble it on Saturday while everyone was out. Family dinner this week was going to be at mother's and Blanche's house. Friday morning I told Wynn of my plans in case I was not around when the Roadrunner driver came. That afternoon I was working on a project and was not paying attention when the door bell rang. Wynn answered the door to find a Roadrunner driver and assistant she informed them to come around to the garage building on the side to unload. She came into my office, "Roadrunner Freight is here, told them to go over to the garage building and you'd meet them there."

I saved my progress and headed out the backdoor and over to the garage building. I opened the bay by the stairs and instructed them, "Go ahead and place the crates in here on this side of the dividing wall." it took a few minutes but they had the crates unloaded. I signed for the delivery and handed them a small tip, "Thanks." I headed back inside and told Wynn, "Okay the crates are not visible from the rest of the garage, as long as no one goes over to that side...not that anyone should. Just need to get everyone out of house tomorrow afternoon so you and I can get this assembled."

Wynn asked, "Who's week is it for dinner? Hell, I am still not even sure what day of the week it is!"

I laughed, "I know what you mean. Hopefully, we won't have anymore out of state jobs for a long, long time."

Wynn joked, "You better knock wood on that!"

I looked around, but there was not any wood to be found in here, "Dang metal building, there be no wood. Oh well, it is not like I am superstitious!"

The next morning during breakfast Sara informed us, "Maya, Lindsay, Ana and I are going to head over to Nashville for a festival. We'll meet you at your mother's place for dinner tonight."

I thought to myself, 'Well this went better than I expected'. I told them, "Okay, sounds good. What about you Andy?"

Andy was not paying attention as he was too busy consuming his second breakfast burrito, "Uh what? Oh, no I have no plans." This would actually work as Wynn and I could use his assistance getting the toy placed and built.

I told him, "Wynn and I could need your assistance later."

A couple hours later Maya came over and told me, "We are leaving and taking Peaches' Bronco."

After they left Andy came into my office and asked, "You mentioned something about needing my assistance?"

I replied, "Yes. Let me go find Wynn..."

Andy explained, "She's in the kitchen."

I told him, "Okay then, let's go to the kitchen." Andy wasn't really understanding, but followed me to the kitchen. I saw Wynn and asked her, "You ready? The girls are gone and Mister Tapeworm here can assist us."

Wynn replied, "Sure. How do we want to do this?"

I told her, "Well there are three of us and five crates...suppose we can bring them into the mudroom first then start lugging them up to the loft."

Andy seemed even more confused. Wynn saw his confusion and asked, "I take it you haven't told him what is going on?"

I realized in an attempt to keep the new toy a secret from the girls I hadn't told him what was going on, "Oh guess not. Okay, so as 'compensation' towards the extra expenses we incurred in Henderson, I had Gary make a new toy for us. It is a dual person spanker, similar but different from the one Marc and Martina have. That one was a prototype Zac built a decade or so ago. Gary fabricated two benches and two spanking machines together to create a dual person model. Since I did not want a repeat of the table, I told Gary to make sure it would be easier to get up to our loft."

Andy asked, "So five crates is easier?"

Wynn reminded him, "Better than when we were trying to get the table up the stairs."

Andy recalled, "Well, yeah. I was sore for a week after that. Okay, so we need to bring in the crates from I assuming the garage into the mudroom?"

Wynn joked, "Wow he was paying attention!"

Andy objected, "Hey!"

In a few minutes we had the five crates in the mudroom. I commented, "Well, that was relatively painless! Let's start taking them up the playloft."

Andy wondered, "Hate to ask a stupid question, but where are we putting this monstrosity?"

Wynn without missing a beat, "In the playloft of course!"

Andy sighed, "Walked right into that didn't I? Let me rephrase that where *in the playloft* are putting this monstrosity?"

I explained, "Where the cage used to be. Wynn and I moved the cage earlier in the week. And yes, we did measure the space so we are good...as long as Gary's figures were correct."

Andy laughed, "Well, we shall find out once we get this assembled. Any idea how long that will take?"

I replied, "Shouldn't take very long. Likely will take longer to get all the pieces unpacked. The benches and the machines are already assembled....well I think there is a stand for each bench, but that should be part of the rigging."

We got the crates up to the playloft. Wynn joked, "Well, don't need to go to the gym today!"

I added, "Gym? Seems as if you get plenty of workout keeping up after the girls and chasing Lucy!"

Wynn laughed, "Emphasis on chasing Lucy."

We opened up the crates and I realized the spanking machines needed to be mounted to their stands, "Okay, so the spanking machines need to be mounted to the stands...but it is not like we are having to put the entire machine together!"

Andy teased me, "Sure, whatever helps you sleep at night."

I asked, "What does Sara have to do with this?"

Andy was confused, "When did I mention Sara...." then he realized what I meant, "Oh...nevermind." Wanting to get off being the butt of Wynn and I's jokes, "Okay, lets get this put together."

It only took the three of us about 20-minutes to get everything built. I was

looking over the instructions from Gary and discovered a feature I was not aware of, "Oh so, these can be used for self-bondage as well. The timers connected to each power supply can be set for any time from 5 to 20 minutes. The wrist restraints are electromagnetic and are activated by the corded button. When the button is pressed the magnets engage and will remain engaged until the button is pressed again or the timer shuts off the power. They can either have someone else control the wrist cuffs or they can set the timer, get themselves strapped to the bench and then when they are ready push the button and drop it on the floor."

Andy laughed, "Oh Lindsay is going to love that! At least the longest they can do it is 20-minutes."

Wynn joked, "You know Maya has been looking for an alternative way to punish Peaches since she loves wearing the armor!"

Andy commented, "Best we make sure Maya is not punishing Lindsay."

I asked, "What is that supposed to mean?"

Andy was not sure how to answer, "Okay, may be I shouldn't have said that. After all, what she *thinks* happened never happened."

I explained, "Yes that is true. Also, while we were in Henderson, Lindsay and Maya played together by themselves and spent the night together. Lindsay had a grand time which is more than I can say about Sara and Peaches. Guess Sara made a bet with Peaches and lost resulting in Sara spending the night in Lindsay's cage."

Wynn laughed, "Yeah, that's Sara for you. Doesn't always think things all the way through."

Andy added, "Neither does Lindsay...they are in perfect company!"

Wynn and I decided we better test the setup and make sure everything work as expected. We were both surprised at how well the machines performed and how stable the entire setup was.

Sunday morning after breakfast I announced, "We have a new addition to the playloft."

Maya commented, "Oh yeah, I do recall you telling me that..."

I didn't recall, "I did?"



Maya reminded me, "When you 'phoned home' from Arizona. You said Gary was commission a new toy, but didn't tell me what."

Now I recalled, "Oh yeah, I did! Anyway, it is similar, but different to a toy Marc and Martina have in their loft...our former loft."

The girls scurried up the stairs to the playloft to checkout the new toy. Wynn and I gave them a crash course on how to work the toy. They all took turns getting spanked until it was time for lunch then The Holstein weekly status meeting.

The following Thursday's yoga night Miranda came with her armor. She asked Wynn, "After dinner, can you and Sara help me out with my new armor?"

Wynn assured her, "Yes, we can. How goes the ballet boot training?"

Miranda replied, "Not too bad. Been changing into them every night when I get home and seeing how long I can wear them. Went quite a while last night as my sister came up and we chatted for a good half hour. I was wearing them the entire time and even walked around a little bit too."

Wynn asked, "How did she react?"

Miranda laughed, "She really didn't say anything. She's use to my odd style and she is a bit eccentric herself."

Everyone arrived home and Miranda did her weekly yoga session. After dinner Sara and Wynn took Miranda up to the Presentation Room aka The McGrawl's office. Sara explained, "So some things you are going need to get used to. First, you are not going to be able to bend at the waist. Second, this is very tight, much like a corset so you may become winded much quicker. Third, you are going to have a dildo deep in you the entire time you are wearing the armor. Therefore, you need to be more careful when you go to sit down. It will take some practice, but you will quickly learn the 'proper' way to sit down."

Wynn saw Miranda had ordered a bundle of dildos, "For now, until you get used to the armor and the feeling of the plug inside of you, you should stick to the smooth plug. So, go ahead and remove all your clothing."

Once Miranda had undressed Wynn and Sara gave her a crash course on how to get into, closing and locking and then unlocking and removing the armor. Sara told her, "Like the ballet boots, it is going to take time to get used to wearing this. As with the boots, keep trying to go for a longer period each day. As you progress further, if you need 'motivation' I can hold you key."

Miranda told Sara, "Not sure I will need you to do that, Cristina sold me a timer

box.”

Sara laughed, “Even better! No way you are getting to your key until the timer has expired!”

--

It was now a few weeks after having completed the ACME Henderson job. Miranda was getting very used to wearing her ballet boots and would soon see if she could do the bondage stand. The armor was proving to be more of a challenge for her having not worn any type of chastity belt in the past, much less one with a vaginal dildo. She was not wearing the armor at work at least. Sara and Maya were working their usual Friday afternoon shift with Miranda and Abby at The Boutique Holstein when Kendra Bordeaux and her daughters came in. Miranda recognized them from before, “Welcome back Kendra!”

Kendra was surprised that Miranda remembered her and admitted, “Thanks. Sorry, I’ve seem to have forgotten which you are...is it Abby?”

Miranda explained, “No, that is our boss. I am Miranda. Let me see if I can round up Sara and Maya for y’all. They may be with other customers at the moment.”

Kendra told Miranda, “No hurry, we’re going to be here a while! Oh and Kassy wants to see about special ordering some dresses.”

Miranda replied, “I can certainly assist her after I have fetched Sara and Maya.”

Kassy confirmed, “Works for me!”

Miranda looked around and did not see Maya or Sara on the sales floor. She did however see Lindsay who she was not even aware was working that day, “Oh hey Lindsay, did not know you were here today. Anyway do you know where be Sara and/or Maya?”

Lindsay told her, “Things were slow at the computer store so I came in about an hour ago. Last I saw Sara was helping Maya getting the new arrivals ready to put out on the sales floor.”

Miranda remembered now, “Ah...okay...yes, I do recall Sara mentioning something about that earlier. Could you let them know Kendra Bordeaux and her daughters are requesting them? I am going to assist Kassy with her special orders.”

Lindsay looked towards the front of the store and saw Miss Bordeaux and company, “Sure, I’ll let them know.”

Miranda turned her attention back to Kassy, "If you will follow me dear, we'll go over to my corner counter and we'll see about those special order items." Miranda and Kassy walked over to what had been a previously unused corner of the store which Miranda had setup as her own area to assist with special orders and other customer service needs.

Lindsay headed towards the front of the store and informed Kendra, "Sara and Maya should be out shortly."

Kendra at least remembered Lindsay having seen her many times back in Scottsdale, "Thank you Lindsay!"

Lindsay headed into the stock room and found Sara and Maya, "Madams Rae, Lady Bordeaux and her entourage are here for you!"

Maya was confused, "Lady? I did not realize Kendra was married to a noble!"

Sara added, "Or British for that matter!"

Lindsay just ignored their silliness, "Whatever!"

Sara headed out to the front and saw Kendra along with Kami and Kelsea, "Ah we meet again. Hmm...did Kassy not come along this time?"

Kelsea explained, "She's here. She's talking to um...Miranda...about special ordering some dresses."

As they were being assisted Kendra asked Sara, "Your husband going to be at the family food truck night tonight?"

Sara replied, "Yes as will Andy and Wynn along with Laura and her assistant, Sophie."

Kendra asked, "Would this be the same Sophie that works at The Cheshire Farms Cafe?"

Sara explained, "Yes it is. Not sure if you know, but Lindsay's niece and her husband are the ones who own the cafe. Lindsay's sister as well as Sophie work there as well."

Kendra replied, "Oh did not know that...interesting. All I do know is my girls love that place!"

Sara recounted, "It was because of that project Laura decide to leave Arizona and

open a store out here. Then when Ron was working on getting her new store setup he decided to move all of us out here."

Maya joked, "And of course since Lindsay can not bear to be away from Sara, The McGrawl's came along too and opened their own computer store out here."

Sara reminded her, "Then you and Ana decided you had enough of Arizona and came out to join us."

Maya clarified, "It was more we had enough of Vinnie's. Peaches would have been thrilled to stay in Arizona!"

Kendra and her girls wrapped up their shopping excursion. Kendra told Sara, "Since it still early, we are going to head back to the rental first then come back out for the food truck night."

Lindsay asked, "Where are y'all staying?"

Kendra replied, "It's a barn converted into a short-term rental. Right by the Cheshire Farms Cafe..."

Kami told her mother, "I believe it *is* Cheshire Farms. Guessing it is the same people as the cafe?"

Lindsay explained, "Yes, they are; my niece and her husband. We stayed their when we did their cafe and again Abby's store."

Sara added, "The same architect and contractor remodeled the barn we bought couple miles up the road."

## **Chapter 15: Memorial Day Retreat and Beware of Holstein!**

The week before Memorial Day Marc called, "Hey Ron, would y'all mind if we came out a little earlier?"

While I didn't have a problem, I did need to make sure we would be ready to accommodate them, "What is a 'little earlier'?"

Marc told me, "We could be out next Wednesday."

I told him, "I don't see why not. Gives us a couple less days to get the house ready, but Wynn pretty much has everything in order. Martina can join the rest of the girls for Thursday night yoga. I'll ask Miranda next time she is here when she wants us over for the cookout. So, yeah next Wednesday is fine any idea when?"

Marc informed me, "We have a staff meeting earlier that morning, so I am hoping we can leave around 11:00 Arizona time."

I did the math in my head, "Hmm...assuming your flight not delayed means you arrive around 4:30 Tennessee time. You renting a car or arranging your own transportation?"

Marc told me, "I'll be using my guy who brought us out during Christmas."

I told him, "Sounds good. Just keep in mind most everyone will be working that week. Everyone should be off that weekend with may be the exception of Maya and Ana."

Marc joked, "Martina can keep herself occupied up in your loft and I haven't even made a dent in looking through your 'collection'! Anyway, I'll give you a call before we leave on Wednesday and once we have landed."

After I wrapped up with Marc, I went off to find and warn Wynn. I went over to the kitchen, but was not able to locate her. I called out, "Wynn, you here?"

Wynn called out, "In the laundry room; Giving Cream and Lucy a bath."

I walked into the laundry room and noticed Wynn appeared to be bit soaked, "Are you sure they are not giving *you* a bath?!"

Wynn laughed, "It does seems I am wetter than they are. What did you need?"

I informed her, "So Marc and Martina are coming in next Wednesday afternoon. Marc has ground transportation taken care of. He said he'll call before they take off and again once they land."

Wynn replied, "Okay, well I'll make sure their room is ready to go and best I make another trip next week to the market to get some extra food. Do you know which day we are going to Miranda's?"

I advised her, "I'll ask Miranda about that when she comes over on Thursday for yoga night. Now, I need to get back to my projects."

Wynn asked me, "Before you leave could you toss me a couple extra towels, need to dry myself off." Just started to handed her a couple towels Lucy shook herself off, further soaking Wynn. I laughed as I exited the room en-route to my office.

Thursday evening Miranda arrived and while her and Wynn were getting the room arranged for Yoga I told her, "Marc and Martina are coming in next Wednesday. So Martina will be judging...I mean joining you for yoga next Thursday."

Miranda joked, "Martina don't scare me; I am bigger than she is!"

I laughed, "I still think she is scared of Sara. Martina had no idea how big Sara was when she suggested the 5-inch heels for her uniform back when she was Martina's...I mean our maid. Martina was also caught off guard how well Sara defended herself when my sister and her tried to have their way with her."

Miranda commented, "I'd thought she would be more scared of Maya. Between her size and temper."

I told her, "Yeah, but her and Maya have never really interacted that much. Martina was already gone by the time Maya had moved in with us the first time around."

Wynn asked, "Have Martina and Maya ever played one-on-one with each other?"

I thought for a moment, "You know, I don't know. I don't think so, but may be they have. Doesn't much matter to me. No one is required to play with a particular person. They are free to choose who they play with or not." I figured this was just as good of time as any to change the subject, "Say, what day over the Memorial Day weekend are we doing the cookout at your place?"

Miranda told me, "Need to check with my sister, either that Sunday or Monday. Our parents are actually home this week, between cruises. They are heading down to Mexico for a couple weeks sometime next week. I swear, I see more of y'all than I do them or even my sister."

I don't think I had ever asked, "What does she do?"

Miranda laughed, "She's a bounty hunter/private investigator. Hence the reason I don't see her very often. Anyway, I'll let you know when I come back next week. She does want to meet y'all."

Wednesday in the early afternoon our time Martina called, "We are getting ready to board. See you in a few hours."

I reminded her, "Be sure you or Marc call once you are on the road. There should be someone here, but just to be safe."

Martina assured me, "Yeah, yeah, yeah. Marc will call you once his limo guy shows up to get us at the airport."

Later that afternoon Wynn came to my office and informed me, "Martina called, they are on their way out. I am heading to market to pickup some extra food. You said you are doing the fish on Saturday?"

I confirmed, "Yes. Maya and Ana are going to be here on Saturday night. Sunday night they both work. Miranda will tell me tomorrow night if we are going to their place on Sunday or Monday. Whichever night we are not there Laura will make the enchiladas."

Wynn asked, "Are mother and Blanche joining us whichever day we end up at Miranda's?"

I replied, "Yes, they will be there as well along with Laura and Sophie."

Wynn left for the market after she put both dogs in her room. About an hour later the door bell rang. Since no one else was home, I answered the door and greeted Marc and Martina, "Nice to see y'all again. Come on in."

Martina was a little surprised to see me answering the door and no dogs trying to escape, "What happened to Wynn and where is the welcoming committee?"

I explained, "Wynn left for the market to get more food. The dogs are in her room since Maya and Ana are both at work. Let me show you to your room."

Martina noticed the piano, "Was that there before? I don't recall you having a piano."

I told her, "No it was not. It is Maya's, was originally their mother's piano. We first had it when we were at The Acme House. Then when Maya and Ana moved out, it went into storage until Vinnie's relocated into Thirsty Cactus. Maya used to play the piano there."

Martina recalled, "Yeah, I knew she played the piano at Vinnie's. Don't remember much about The Acme House."

As I lead them through the great room into the former tack room I told her, "Yeah we didn't stay long after Maya and Ana left. The McGrawl's had their 'cottage' in the back. Anyway, when Maya and Ana came back here, Maya had the piano shipped from Arizona to this house. We approached the rooms and I asked, "Any preference as to which room you two want?"

Marc asked, "Does it make a difference?"

I told him, "Well the left room has a courtyard view while the right room has a street view along with the mountains in the distance."

Martina told Marc, "Don't see us spending much time in the room so either would be fine."

They ended up taking the right room. I reminded them, "No else is home yet."

Martina told us, "That is fine, I am sure I can find something to keep me occupied up in your loft!" She headed into the room with her pink bags.

Marc laughed, "See, she doesn't need much! I'll meet you in your office in a bit." After they settled in Martina headed up to the playloft and Marc came into my office, "Thanks for being able to accommodate us early."

I reminded him, "No problem, we don't get to see y'all often so it is a win-win for all of us."

Marc asked, "So when does everyone start coming home?"

I told him, "Lindsay and Sara should be home shortly. Andy is usually about 15-minutes later. Maya and Peaches won't be until later this evening. They usually get home a little after ten."

Marc seemed relieved, "Oh good, so Martina will have someone to play with shortly."

I explained, "Yes, we will be having dinner once Andy gets home. After that the girls usually end up staying down here and either hangout in the great room or sitting room. They really don't use the loft during the week since there is not much time from when they get home and have dinner to when they go to bed. Tomorrow night, Miranda will be over when the girls get off for yoga. Usually my mother and Blanche join them as well. I'll find out tomorrow from Miranda if we are going to be over at her place on Sunday or Monday. Friday is the family food truck night, which I don't think y'all have attended. Maya and Peaches are both off on Saturday so I suspect the girls will spend the better part of the day up in the loft. I'll be grilling fish that night. Whichever day we don't go to Miranda's, Laura will be making our mother's enchiladas."

Marc asked, "So tomorrow, can we borrow a car and head into Nashville? Martina wants to visit the girdle shop that your mother recommended and I need to check out a property outside of Nashville in Brentwood with a friend of mine."

I was wondering if Marc and Martina were considering to be the final part of the 'family exodus', "Yeah that is fine. Looking for a new business venture?"

Marc laughed, "Oh god, no. Got a friend of mine out here who is looking at buying a country club and wants to get to my take on it. One of those 'it looks good on paper...', but could be much worse in person."



Wynn yelled out from the kitchen, "Ron, I'm back." She came over to my office and told us, "Sara and Lindsay just pulled in too. I am going to get dinner started and Martina is going to help me."

I was surprised, "Thought Martina was up in the loft."

Wynn explained, "She was in the kitchen when I came in. Guess she didn't feel right being up there by herself. Anyway, dinner should be ready in about 30-minutes. Once Sara and Lindsay are in, I'll let the dogs out."

I suggested to Marc, "Guess we should head to the Great Room until dinner."

Marc agreed, "Suppose we should."

We entered into the great room and saw Sara and Lindsay were sitting at the kitchen table chatting with Martina. Wynn came out of her room with Cream and Lucy following close behind. Both dogs could smell 'new' people in the house and quickly ran ahead to investigate. Martina saw Cream lagging behind Lucy, "Poor girl, can't keep up with your puppy."

Wynn laughed, "Lucy ain't a puppy anymore. But, yeah Cream has a few years on Lucy. Maya and Ana are not really sure how old Cream is given the shelter didn't have much information about her. Lucy was about a year-old when I adopted her last year." Wynn and Martina went about getting the dinner prepared.

Andy came in a few minutes later. He noticed Marc and Martina, "Oh, forgot you two were coming in early." Turning to Wynn, "Do I have enough time for a shower before dinner?"

Wynn told him, "You should if you make it quick with no 'extra circular' activities!"

As Andy headed to go upstairs he told Wynn, "That is kind of difficult since Lindsay has my cock locked in the device for last three weeks...of course she is stuck in her belt too as she accidentally locked both our keys for 36-days instead of 36-hours..."

Andy returned twenty minutes later. Wynn saw him, "Good timing, the pasta is almost done."

Lindsay went over to the wine fridge and grabbed a couple bottles of red wine. Martina and Wynn started dishing out the spaghetti. A timer dinged and Wynn announced, "Garlic bread is done! Let me get that out of the oven."

Midway through dinner Maya came in and announced, "I'm home early. One of

the other pianists wanted to come in and play tonight." She noticed Marc and Martina, "Oh hello you two. Didn't realize y'all were going to be coming in today." She turned to Wynn, "Is there any left over food or did Andy eat it all?"

Andy objected, "Hey I am eating for two!"

Martina laughed, "Can't say I have ever heard a guy use that excuse before."

Wynn told Maya, "Yeah, there is plenty of food still. Let me grab you a plate." Wynn went to get a plate of food for Maya while Lindsay poured her a glass of wine.

Maya looked around the table and noticed an open seat next to Martina, "Martina, do you mind if I set next to you?"

Martina told her, "Dear, it is your house..." Maya didn't say anything, grabbed her plate and sat next to Martina. After dinner Martina helped Wynn get the kitchen cleaned up. Maya and her entourage headed to the piano. Martina noticed the dogs went for the pillow by the piano, "Seems they enjoy your music."

Maya laughed, "Soon as I start playing if they are in another part of the house or if they see me walking towards the piano they'll come over here."

I headed back to my office to wrap up a project I was nearly done with and to review the job boards. Wynn came in a couple hours later and told me, "Everyone is going to be heading to bed soon, after nightcaps."

I had finished the project and was finalizing the invoice, "Okay, should be done in here in a couple minutes." I had the invoice completed and scheduled to be sent the next morning. I shut down for the evening and joined everyone in the great room.

Marc advised me, "Martina, Maya and Lindsay are going to the girdle maker tomorrow. They'll drop me off at the country club on their way up and pick me up when they are done. So I won't need to borrow a car after all."

I told him, "If things change, just let me know and you can take the Murano."

The next morning after breakfast Marc along with Lindsay, Maya and Martina left for Brentwood then Nashville in a Jeep. Wynn advised me she was heading back to the market to pickup more meatloaf for tonight. Later that morning after Wynn had returned she came in to tell me Marc was holding for me. I answered the line and Marc informed me, "Well, the Country Club *was* a case of 'it is even worse in person' and not just in appearance. Anyway you can come and get me? I talked to Martina and she told me they won't be back down this way until later this

afternoon.”

I hadn't really started anything yet and looking at my calendar had nothing going on, "Yeah, I can do that. We can do lunch on our way back. Give me about 30-minutes.”

Marc told me, "Sounds good. I'll let Martina know.”

Before I headed out I left Wynn know, "Marc's meeting didn't go as planned so I am going to go pick him up from Brentwood and we'll grab lunch somewhere. He said Martina and the girls don't plan on being back until sometime this afternoon.”

Wynn understood, "That's fine. I still need to go to the farmer's market anyway. I'll stop at Taylor's on my way home.”

I wondered, "Hmm...so the girls took The Jeep and I am assuming you are going to use the Murano...”

Wynn told me, "The girls took Maya's Jeep, your Jeep is still the garage.”

I laughed, "The four of them crammed themselves in to Maya's Jeep, now I know why Marc doesn't want to wait for them.” I left and headed out to the Country Club in Brentwood. I arrived at the address Marc had given me and noticed the grounds look rather untamed and the club house was in need of some work as well. As Marc got in the Jeep I told him, "You're right, this place does look worse in person....though I never saw what it looked like in the brochure.”

Marc laughed, "The appearance is the least of the problems. Serious management issues and they are burning through cash faster than Martina at Needless Markup! We both had our suspicions that something major was wrong. They were looking for a bailout, likely because of all the liens levied against the property by the unpaid contractors.”

I commented, "Sounds like the place in Chugwater that Maya and Ana were staying at. Guess Jed stopped paying the contractors he had hired to convert it into a lodge. Of course the final nail was him defaulting on the hard money loan causing the property going into foreclosure.”

Marc asked, "What ever happened to him?”

I explained, "Last I heard he was still serving time in prison in New York for bank and wire fraud, racketeering and a bunch of various misdemeanors. Everything he was involved with was seized, including that property, The Boots Chugwater property. Not sure about the condo in Wheaton, think him and Tess were leasing

that place. Likely as a way to launder his dirty money.”

Marc wondered, “What happened with her? Isn’t she somehow involved with PC’s and Things?”

I told him, “My understanding was since she turned states evidence against Jed and her willingness to testify against Jed her sentence was suspended and charges would be dropped if she completed probation. As far as PC’s and Things, she is married to Dunn Brooks one of the managers at the Thirsty Cactus location.”

We stopped off for lunch at a greasy spoon before heading back to Franklin. When we came into the kitchen we saw Wynn washing produce. She saw and told us, “Martina called earlier, they are going to get some food in Nashville then head back here. Expect them back in about an hour.”

Marc and I headed towards my office. Marc went over to the bookshelves in the sitting room pulled out a magazine and found a chair he liked. Later on the girls returned and Marc noticed they didn’t have many boxes, “Wait, Martina didn’t buy out the entire store?”

Maya laughed and told him, “The limit on her card was not high enough. We did buy quite a bit, but most of it is going to made to order and shipped.”

Martina joked, “But, it is a business expense as the girdles will help me perform my job better.”

Marc just shook his head, “Sure! Tell that to the IRS when we get audited.”

Martina joked, “Or I could show them!”

Marc turned to me and warned me, “One day when you least expect it, you will get a phone call from me when we are in jail!”

I asked, “But who is going to make the travel arrangements for me to fly out to Arizona to bail y’all out?”

Later on Miranda came back with Sara. She headed to my office, “Hey Ron! My sister said Sunday or Monday would be good. So which ever y’all prefer.”

I told her, ‘Seeing as Maya and Ana are working Sunday evening, Monday might just work well. Which means Laura and Wynn can make our mother’s enchiladas on Sunday then.”

Miranda told me, “Sounds good. I’ll let her know when I get back tonight. So, am

I or Martina leading tonight's yoga session?"

I joked, "What happened to 'she doesn't scare me'? Go ask Martina what she wants to do."

Miranda left my office to talk to Martina. Martina told her she was only a participant tonight. Miranda was still a little nervous or intimidated by Martina's presence at first, but once she got into her usual session she was fine. Once they were done Martina came over and thanked Miranda. Wynn had just pulled the meatloaf out of the oven while I finished with the mashed potatoes. Martina and Miranda walked in and asked, "Anything we can do to help?"

Wynn told them, "One of you two can set the table and the other relieve Ron of KP duty! Lindsay should be in shortly to pick out the wine."

Miranda offered, "Since I almost live here part time, I'll set the table."

I laughed, "I recall when Wynn, Laura and I came back from the Arizona ACME Job you were here making dinner."

Friday afternoon Wynn and I left with Marc and Martina to meet up with everyone else for the Friday Family Food Truck night. Martina was surprised at the huge selection, "Wow, this is quite an event. They do this every Friday?"

I told her, "Yep. It is a great boost for the local businesses. People come out for the food trucks then go over to the local business afterwards."

Saturday the girls and Martina spent most of the day up in the play loft. Marc had picked out a few dirty magazines to 'read'. Wynn came into my office later in the afternoon and told me, "Going to head over to the markets to get some more potatoes and the fish. Also going to get the fixings for tomorrow night's dinner. Should be back in about an hour."

I checked the time, "Okay, sounds good. I take it all the girls and Martina are still up in the loft."

Wynn laughed, "Yes and Ana is the Loft Mistress today."

I laughed, "Well that's unusual!"

Sunday morning we all went to brunch up in Nashville. When we returned Maya and Peaches announced they were leaving for work. Miranda, Sara and Lindsay held their weekly Holstein meeting. Martina and Laura headed up the loft and stayed up there for a couple hours before Miranda, Sara and Lindsay joined them. Martina and Laura came back down later to help Wynn make the family

enchiladas.

Monday afternoon we headed up the road over to Miranda's place. We pulled into the drive and came up to a smaller barn with several out buildings. A tall, slender lady with black hair in a Mohawk style, wearing a black corset and a high-waisted bikini bottom paired with fishnets and combat boots greeted us, "You must be Ron! I'm Mina, Miranda's older sister."

Wynn commented to me, "Okay, so now I understand why Miranda described her sister as a bit 'eccentric' and why she wasn't phased by Miranda's ballet boot training!"

I introduced everyone and Mina led us toward the back of the property to a large flagstone patio. There was a large grill, smoker and pizza oven setup on one end of the patio and an outdoor bar on the other. She told us, "Miranda went to get more food, she should be back shortly. Meanwhile, let me give you a tour of our parent's place."

I commented to Maya, "Setup reminds me of the place we stayed out in Chugwater when you fell for Peaches."

Maya smiled and commented, "Wow, one of the few good memories I have of that place. So much crap happened there, but in the end it was where Peaches and I met."

I commented, "Yeah, that was an ugly job. But, the beautiful part was you and Peaches meeting."

Mina took us inside the barn. What looked like an old barn from the outside was very lavish and modern inside. I asked, "Did Victor do this place as well? I know Miranda had mentioned he had done her apartment."

Mina told us, "Yes, this was one of his earlier projects. Also, our parent's first cruise...they were looking for an excuse to take a 3-month cruise; so what better than have a major remodel done while you're gone. Miranda and I stayed in her 'apartment', except he hadn't converted it yet from the old machine shop. Least it was spring time, so it wasn't too cold in there! I'll have her show you her place when she gets back."

We returned to the patio and chatted while we waited for Miranda to return. Miranda came back a little later and saw us, "Hey, I can use some assistance unloading all the food." Wynn, Andy and I walked up back the hill to the front of the property and helped Miranda unload her truck. After all the food was unloaded Mina started up the grill. She had already put in a few racks of ribs earlier into the smoker.

Miranda led us over to one of the out buildings and explained, "So this used to be an old machine shop. Since my parents had no need for a machine shop, I had Victor convert it into my living quarters." We walked in and again were deceived by what we had seen on the outside. Miranda continued, "So it one really one giant open space, with the exception of the half bath downstairs which was original. Victor added the full bath up in the loft."

Andy looked around and commented to Lindsay, "Man, wish we had something like this when we were her age!"

Lindsay recalled, "Yeah well, we weren't exactly making much money so that shoe-box for an apartment was all we could afford with all our money being tied up in the computer store and club."

We returned to the patio and chatted for a couple more hours until the food was done. We were all very stuffed and Miranda suggested, "Why don't we walk off all this food. The stream is about ½ mile down the way here."

We followed Miranda and Mina down a dirt trail into the woods and soon came to a clearing along a small stream line by several varieties of Oak trees. Mina commented, "Shame, we don't come down here more often. We spent many summer days down here when growing up."

I commented, "Hadn't realized y'all had been here this long. Was under the impression the renovations were done recently."

Miranda explained, "There used to be a smaller house a few hundred yards north of the property. This was our neighbors and it was still a working farm when we were growing up. Chickens, goats, sheep and a few cows. The owners retired and sold my parents the barn and surrounding buildings. That was about what...10 years ago?"

Mina confirmed, "Yeah, sounds about right. It was a couple years later when Victor did the barn. You stayed in there for a few more years, but my parents wanted to give you your own space for your crafting hobbies. So they had Victor convert the machine shop into your studio. Far cry from what it used to be. I don't know how the two of us managed to live in the old shop for those three months while Victor did the barn."

Miranda laughed, "Because we didn't know any better!"

Mina agreed, "Sounds about right. We did have blast though and boy did we get ourselves into trouble during those three months. Man, I miss those days!"

Lindsay asked, "What crafting hobbies?"

Miranda explained, "I used to make leather belts."

Mina wondered, "Why did you stop?"

Miranda told her, "Not sure. Guess got busy with other things."

Laura had seen Miranda's belts as she wore them regularly with her skirts and dresses told her, "If you ever want to get back into it again, I'd love to sell at my store. Always looking for local crafter's."

Miranda thanked Laura and told her, "I'll keep that in mind. Been a long while, but it was something I enjoyed."

We made the hike back up to the main barn. Mina told us, "Well, nice finally getting to meet y'all. Anytime y'all want to come out here, just let us know."

I told her, "We will keep that in mind. The same applies to you too, you are welcome to come up on a Sunday to our place."

Mina laughed, "I've heard some interesting things about your place. I'll have to take y'all up on that offer some time."

Marc and Martina headed back to Arizona on Tuesday morning with plans on returning around Labor Day. After they had left I commented to Wynn, "Well, that was a nice visit, a bit longer than I expected. Well things should quiet down now until they come back around Labor Day."

This weekend was our turn to host the weekly Saturday 'family dinner'. Laura and Wynn were preparing our mother's enchiladas in the kitchen. The girls with the exception of Sophie were up in the loft while Andy was at his store. I was chatting with Sophie, mother and Blanche in the Great Room when Wynn came in, "Linda Holstein holding for you on your office line."

I replied, "Hmm....she's calling on a Saturday afternoon this cain't be good!"

Wynn commented, "Yeah, she or her assistants have been really good about creating tickets for Marty. She didn't say what she wanted, just asked to talk to you."

I replied, "Well, this could prove to be interesting." I turned to mother and Blanche, "Why don't y'all come into the kitchen with Wynn and Laura. I'll take this in my office." I came into my office and picked up the office extension, "AZOutback, Ron."



Linda greeted me, "Ron, so good to reach you. Now, from what I have read in our agreement..." I was shocked she had actually read her service agreement, "...you can do custom services for a fee?"

I nervously confirmed, "Yes..."

Linda continued, "Ah good. So does that include setting up a new location?"

## **Chapter 16: The Holstein Strikes Back!**

Okay, that was news to me given I had no idea she was going to open another store. Again, I confirmed, "Yes it does. Are you opening a new store?"

Linda replied, "Yes...well no....I mean yes, but no. It is an existing store owned by a friend of mine. She is retiring and wants to give the store to me."

I was having flashbacks to The McGrawl's demise in Pima County many years ago, "Um...you know it sounds like an eerily familiar situation that led to the McGrawl's getting banned from operating in Pima County...of course their 'under the radar' adult themed lounge didn't help matters."

Surprisingly Linda knew what I was referring to, "Oh yeah, well this is different. She didn't actually sell me the store. She gave it to her daughter who shall retain ownership, but wants to carry *The Holstein* product line. She will be owner, and we will be operator. Think of it as the same arrangement as your sister's store in Nashville."

I reminded her, "Franklin."

Linda replied, "Okay Franklin, but you knew what I was talking about."

I was relieved, "Okay that's good. So where is this store anyway and do you know how big or what they want to do?"

Linda explained, "I think it is smaller than your sister's...she wants to carry *The Holstein* products, so perhaps Lindsay can come out and help get it setup. Oh and it is in Paradise Valley, near Lincoln and Tatum. There is something else too..."

As if this wasn't bad enough, then she pulls 'but wait there's more!' on me, "I am almost afraid to asked, what is that?"

Linda laughed, "This is easy...well I think it is. Kacie is taking care of all the legal paperwork. We are re-branding to *The Holstein* can you update our websites?"

I told her, "Well I hope for your sake the domain name is available. Let me check over at Name Silo. Well I'll be, it is available. Okay, so if you are doing this I need to reserve all the common extensions as we did with BudgetHolstein. Let me see 10-years for all..."

Linda asked, "Why 10-years why not year to year?"

I explained, "For one you get a massive discount, two you have locked in that price for 10-years as most registries tend to increase their registration fees at least once if not twice a year; three, most of the time you don't get a discount on renewals and finally you don't need to worry about renewing every year. Speaking of which, I was about to send out a renewal offer for 5-years on your existing names once you reached 4-years and 11-months. I will note that we may not renew those. They will just forward over to your new domain, so if they use the old name it will still go to your site. Depends on how long you want people going to the old name to get bounced to the new site."

I was thinking this part was not going to be too bad, until Linda asked, "What about our email?"

I cringed when I realized I would need to change the domain associated with their accounts in Active Directory, plus create new emails and have their old emails forward to the new, "Oh boy, now that is going to be a project! It can be done, it is going to be a pain with a lot of time involved but it can be done."

Linda told me, "Just bill Kacie."

I laughed, "It's not that easy. We will need to re-setup everyone's email on all their devices. Well, if we are going to be out there...oh wait I can get Marty to do some of the stores. We can do your Scottsdale store and the new one. Marty can cover the other two and then Laura's once we get back...okay that's not so bad. Just will have to work out the timing. Speaking of which what is your time line for the new store?"

Linda told me, "Well Kat would like to be operational in about three weeks."

I told her, "I have no idea. Need to talk to Laura, Andy and Wynn. I not even sure if Marty is back yet. Let me look at his calendar." I pulled up Marty's Google Calendar, "Okay, he is coming back to Arizona in the middle of next week and appears to be staying in Arizona for a while. I'll give you a call Monday afternoon once we've had some time to figure things out. The website I can change over later tonight, but it will still be a bit before you can use the new emails"

Linda warned me, "Best you talk to Kacie about switching the website. Otherwise, I'll look forward to your call on Monday."

As I was wrapping up I happened to be looking out the window and saw The McGrawl's Lexus pulling into the drive. After I was done with Linda, I headed into the kitchen and asked Laura, "How much longer or are you at a point you can take a break?"

Laura told me, "I will be soon, but I can have Wynn take over..."

I explained, "No, I need you Andy AND Wynn..."

Lorena replied, "I can take over from here, after all it is my recipe."

I thanked her and told Laura, Andy and Wynn to come with me to my office. After we walked in I told Wynn, "Remember when we were in the garage couple months ago and I couldn't knock wood?" Wynn recalled but Andy and Laura were clueless. I continued, "Well, it has come to back bite me....well the entire crew in the ass."

Wynn laughed, "Hence the phone call from Linda?"

Andy muttered something inaudible and I could have sworn I heard Laura say, "Oh fuck!"

I explained, "So there are two things she wants to do. The first she is re-branding from Budget Holstein to The Holstein, so that is going to be a whole mess with changes in Windows Server/Active Directory. Then there is the matter of their emails as they will be using TheHolstein domain as their primary. Good news is I can get Marty to help me out with some of their stores in re-configuring the email clients. Least we can do Laura's store. However, I need to check with Kacie first before we make the changes. I did reserve the domain already."

Wynn wasn't fully understanding, "Doesn't seem that bad and wouldn't really involve the entire crew..."

I raised my hand and announced, "But wait there's more! She is opening a new store in Arizona and wants it operational in about three weeks. Well, let me back up. Technically, it is not *her* store...she is going to provide merchandise and operational support, much like she is doing with Laura's. From my understanding a friend of Linda's is passing the store on to their daughter who will take over ownership, but wants to carry The Holstein products."

Wynn was understanding now, "So it is an existing store. What do you know about it."

I laughed, "Not a whole hell of lot. It is in Paradise Valley and there is existing

setup, but Linda suggested Lindsay to come out and redo their layout. Oh and it is supposed to be smaller than Laura's store."

Laura commented, "Wow, she originally presented the idea of me running a store in Paradise Valley around the time when I was thinking about leaving the resort. I declined as I didn't think I could afford to live out there."

I reminded her, "You could have stayed with us."

She reminded, "You were already tight on space with the McGrawl's having moved back in."

Andy added, "Yet, you and Sophie ended staying with us until your divorce was finalized."

Laura laughed, "Oh yeah..."

Andy asked, "So are we going into this blind and just get what we need once we are out there or are you going out to do recon?"

I replied, "If we were still in Arizona, I'd do a recon. If we don't need to do anything lavish, we should be able to make due with what we can get from PC's and Things."

Wynn added, "Given the size, yes I would imagine they don't have much. What about Square?"

I reminded her, "They are a one week lead time regardless and they would be using the existing Budget Holstein....oh crap...The Holstein Image. One more thing that will need to change with the rebranding."

Laura told me, "That is fairly simple to do. I know my way around Square well having helped Leslie build the image for The Cheshire Cafe. Also, given the site's size I am thinking we can order a generic network package: A router, switch, firewall and couple AP's."

Andy asked, "Do we need to rewire or run new cabling?"

I cringed at the thought of having to rewire the site, though given the size it might not be so bad, "Don't know yet. One of those I would need to see it first."

Wynn suggested, "Can you send Marty over and have him do a video chat?"

I told him, "I could....may be. He won't be back to Arizona until middle of next week. That might work. Still gives us two weeks."

Andy was running the install through his head, "Given how small this project would be, we'd likely get it done in a day or two..."

Wynn added, "...or three if we need to rewire."

I informed them, "So, I'll open a custom ticket for Marty. I need to call Linda back on Monday, though I need to talk to Kacie first, but that is more about the timing of the name change."

Andy forgot about that, "Oh yeah that..."

I reminded him, "The back end is not so bad. Just will need to take everything offline for a few hours. A lot of hurry up and wait. Of course the email is going to be a pain in the Aston Martin! I'll let y'all know when I know more."

Andy and Wynn left leaving Laura in my office. She asked, "You have a minute? I need to discuss something with you."

I told her, "Of course, what's going on?"

Laura explained, "Wasn't sure when this would come up, so I haven't mentioned it to you yet. Anyway, Sophie does not want to do out-of-state projects anymore. She was not happy missing a couple quilting Sundays and Charlotte wasn't pleased with how long the Cafe was short-staffed."

I thought this was odd and asked her, "Did not know Sophie had a regular schedule at the Cafe?"

Laura clarified, "She does not, but I thinking Charlotte and Dave have gotten so used to her being there that when she was gone it caused issues."

I assured her, "That is fine. I think we can handle this without her. Sounds like a simple install, like we used to do long ago before everyone started growing."

Laura also commented, "I also think she was having issues with being around me for so long. She spent quite a few hours when we got back 'decompressing' in her cage..."

I laughed and reminded her, "Well, you are not easiest person to work with, better than Linda Holstein but not by much!" Laura ignored my comments and headed out of my office.

Sunday evening Wynn asked, "Would it be an imposition for me not to go out with y'all this time around? Things almost feel apart here while I was gone last

time.”

I laughed, “But they managed to keep your dog alive! Given how simple this project *should* be I don’t see it being that big of a deal if you don’t come along.”

Wynn laughed, “Ana is very responsible when it comes to Cream and Lucy...other things not so much.”

I laughed and recalled, “Yeah, I know what you mean. Maya used to be able to use the threat of ‘the armor’ as a punishment when she slacked off...until Ana found she liked it.”

Monday morning I called Kacie, “The Holstein...Kacie.”

I greeted her, “Morning Madam O’Neil.”

Kacie was surprised by my call, “Oh Ron, what do I owe this call?”

I laughed, “You failed to warn me ahead of time about Linda!”

Kacie thought she knew what I was talking about, “Well, I am trying to get the business licenses transferred before we switch names. Got Scottsdale and Oro Valley done. Gold Canyon...I mean Pinal County is giving me some push back and I have not started yet on Abigail’s location, though I don’t think we are going to re-brand that one given the operator/owner situation. I was going to tell you once everything was ready to go for the four stores.”

I asked, “What about the fifth store?”

Kacie was confused, “What fifth store? Unless, I miscounted somewhere: Oro Valley, Scottsdale, Gold Canyon and Franklin, that is four.”

I told her, “You forgot Paradise Valley.”

Kacie was silent for a bit then started cussing in what I assumed was her native language then told me, “I had no idea she was serious about a Paradise Valley store. I mean I knew she had discussed it with your sister couple years ago, but your sister had declined. I don’t even any...” she started cussing again.

I joked, “Good thing Miranda doesn’t hang out around you.”

Kacie had no clue what I was talking about, “What? Why?”

I explained, “She was with us in Henderson for a project last month. She was helping Laura with a device which they were having major difficulties with. Laura

being Laura was cussing up a storm and Miranda joked later on 'she learned some new cuss words'. Then Andy made a comment to keep her away from Lindsay when she cusses in Mandarin..."

Kacie replied, "Funny! First time Lindsay did that it freaked me out! Let me guess Miranda learned how to cuss in Mandarin? Hence, why you are wanting to keep her away from me. I can't make any promises, but she doesn't really spend much time with me anyway. Honestly Ron, I am clueless about this Paradise Valley store. What has Miss Holstein told you?"

I relayed the info, "Something about Kat taking over for her mother and wants to carry The Holstein products and have it under their operation, but she retains ownership. Guess it is the arrangement Laura has."

Kacie sort of knew what I was talking about, "Oh Kat Goddard. She's a dear friend of Kayré and Miss Holstein, long before I came into their lives....Hmm okay. I really wish Linda would talk to me about these things. After all I am the Operations Manager and she is..."

I answered, "...supposed to be retired."

Kacie laughed, "Well, we both knew that wouldn't last. I'll have a chat with her later." Kacie end up call me back that evening, "Okay, so now I am aware of what is going with the Paradise Valley store, how are y'all going to handle this?"

I told her, "Very carefully!"

Kacie agreed, "Which is how anything involving Miss Holstein needs to be handled."

I explained, "True! This is going to be odd as we are going into this blind. Plus, I won't have Wynn or Sophie, just Laura and Andy. Guess we will be out sometime next week. I am going to try to get Marty over there later this week when he is back in Arizona and have him give me a virtual consult. We *think* we can get away with doing simple equipment packages for the computers and the network stack. Not sure if we are going to need to rewire, hopefully I can find out more once Marty tours. I will need to order Square terminals and those are a week and half out regardless. Oh and Linda wanted Lindsay to come out to get the store setup."

Kacie was getting excited as she had not seen Lindsay in person since we left even though we'd been back in Arizona a couple times, "Oh wow! Haven't seen her in ages....well other than our video conferences each week. Seems like she is too busy to see us when she is out here. I need to come out to the store anyway, so hopefully we can have a chance to meet up. Where are y'all going to be

staying?"

I told her, "Very likely where we usually stay in Arizona: at The Sagebrush House with Marc and Martina. Anyway, send me the address for that store so I can setup a ticket for Marty. I hope to get you an estimate by the end of the week once I have Marty go through there. I still need to work out the name change as that is going to be very complicated mess as well."

Kacie understood, "Yeah, I had a feeling it wouldn't be simple on the email side. Are you billing us straight labor or we doing a barter exchange?"

I confessed, "Not really sure. There is going to be a lot of labor just setting up everyone's email on the new domain at each location. Hoping Marty can help me out with that...I thinking I can have him do Superstition Mountain and Oro Valley; then Wynn and I...oh crap she is not coming...could have Sophie do it...oh no, she is not coming either. Guess Laura and I will do the emails for Thirsty Cactus and the new Paradise Valley location. This is going to be a pain!"

Kacie understood my frustrations and tried to lighten the mood, "Welcome to my world! You've worked with her longer than I have..."

I laughed, "Unfortunately yes. Yet given how the first job went, it is amazing we've even made it to this point."

Kacie was unaware of the infamous *Unlikely Affair* that almost cost us losing Linda as a client, "I don't know about that, what happened?"

I really didn't have time to explain everything and told her, "Why don't you ask Abby when we are out next..."

Kacie was confused, "Um...okay..."

I decided the best way to get Marty looped into this project was to open a 'consult' ticket for the future store. I checked my email a little later and found Kacie had sent me the address as well as the contact information for Kat. I added the address to the ticket and assigned it to Marty. The next evening Marty called me, "Hey Ron! Say, I was looking through my Arizona tickets and came across the one you created...looks like yesterday. What the heck is this?"

I laughed, "A new project for Linda Holstein."

Marty muted himself and upon regaining his composure, "I see...would you mind filling me in on the details as I am still not understanding what I am going to be doing?"



I told him, "You and me both! Okay, so this going be The Holstein....oh and that's another thing, Linda is rebranding to 'The Holstein' which is going to be another headache in of itself. Anyway as I was saying it will be the fifth store, but not owned by The Holstein. It is going to be an arrangement similar to Abby's story where it is own by someone else but 'operated' by The Holstein. The lady who currently owns this store is a friend of Miss Holstein's daughter and unlike Linda, is retiring and passing the store on to her daughter. We are on a time crunch as we have about two weeks now before they want to open. The good news is Linda has told me the store is smaller than Abby's."

Marty informed me, "Having not seen Abby's store out your way, that doesn't tell me much."

I explained, "True. Abby's store is smaller than The Superstition Mountain store."

Marty understood, "Okay, so sounds like it won't be too much work."

I reminded him, "Yes, but we are going into this blind. Andy and Laura think we can get away with simple equipment packages for the computers and the network stack. So, the reason for the ticket is I would like you to go through the store while doing a video call with me so I can see what they have currently. It is going to Andy, Abby, Lindsay and myself coming out."

Marty did not understand why Lindsay was involved, "Lindsay? She doing installs now?"

I told him, "Not on the IT side. She does the layouts for the sales floor with Kacie. Think that started with the Superstition Mountain store then the new Thirsty Cactus store and finally Abby's store here in Franklin."

Marty advised me, "I am supposed to get back into Arizona tomorrow. Looks like I am going to be out in Pinetop; got a project out that way then stay the night at the nearby resort Indian casino. I am thinking Thursday afternoon I should be able to get over to that store....hmm...Paradise Valley, don't really do much out that way. Where about is this location?"

I told him, "It is near Tatum and Lincoln."

Marty laughed, "Oh, the ritzy part of Paradise Valley!"

I asked, "You implying there are not ritzy parts?"

Marty told me, "The area around the mall, not as much as this area."

I told him, "Well, I'll talk to Kacie later and let her know, so she can let Kat

Goddard the new owner know."

Once I was done with Marty I decided I better check-in with Marc and Martina. I called Marc's cell, "Oh Ron, long time no hear!" He joked, "Need travel arrangements to come back to Arizona."

I replied seriously, "Yes, how did you know?"

Marc was not sure I was being serious, "Um....lucky guess?"

I laughed, "Anyway, yes got a project for Linda Holstein involving her new super secret stealth store out in Paradise Valley."

Marc laughed, "How is it she keeps coming up with new ways to annoy you!"

I agreed, "Suppose it is her 'hobby'! Even after we left and set her up on the service agreement with Marty. The scary thing is though, she actually took it upon herself to read through the entire service agreement and found the clause about special projects. Of course, this was all news to Kacie when I started discussing it with her."

Marc asked, "So when are y'all coming out?"

I told him, "I think some time next week. I am waiting on Marty to get out there and do a virtual consult with me, so we can see what we are working with. He should be out there Thursday afternoon."

Marc told me, "Just let me know. I am assuming y'all want to stay with us again?"

I replied, "Yes, except it will be Andy and Lindsay along with Laura and myself. Wynn doesn't want to come as Ana and Maya were not very responsible about taking care of things other than the dogs while we were gone last. Sophie is busy with the cafe out here and her special projects. Plus I thinking Laura really got to her on the last project....anyway should know more by the end of the week."

Marc advised me, "Well just so you know, things are going to be a little tight over here. We're re-doing the west side of the house. Wynn's old suite is still usable as is the room above the garage. Someone could sleep in the studio."

I asked, "What exactly are y'all doing?"

Marc told me, "Pushing the north bedroom out to where the covered porch used to extend and creating a new bathroom. The south bedroom will have the existing bathroom sans the extra doors. Also assimilating that hallway between

the two bedrooms connecting the bathroom into the redesigned rooms. Later on we are going to eliminate that covered patio on the south and expand the gathering room into there."

I summarized, "Okay, so creating two guest suites on the west side instead of two bedrooms connected to a bathroom with a space wasting hallway. Correct so far?"

Marc agreed, "That sounds about right. As far as that patio goes, don't really use it since we have that huge covered dining area off the Grand Lawn."

I recalled, "Makes sense. The gathering room is a bit small so that will help open it up. I think it used to be bigger until the previous owner added the huge studio and over-sized storage closet I was using as my shop. Well, we will make things work. Worst case scenario we could always stay at The Boulders."

Marc laughed, "Normally I'd be all for that, but we are booked solid for the next month. There is a new Garden Inn over in the next section of Thirsty Cactus close to 84<sup>th</sup> Street near the Whisper Rock Golf Club."

I was completely clueless as to what he was referring to, "Where is that?"

Marc explained, "Oh that's right that section opened earlier this year. It is to the northwest of the existing Thirsty Cactus retail circle. There are several new houses and condos being built on the southern edge close to Lone Mountain."

I told him, "Yeah, I haven't been over there since we left. Last time we were out we just went down to Deer Valley for the ACME job. I'll let you know once I have more info."

Wednesday evening Marty called me, "Evening Ron. Wrapped up my project out here in Pinetop-Lakeside and got me a room at The Hon-Dah casino. I leave mid morning and stop over at my Arizona house..."

I asked, "How many houses do you have?"

Marty laughed, "Several, depends on the time of year. Though Arizona is year-round...well except for maybe May through September."

I joked, "So you are saying you are a snowbird?"

Marty told me, "Too young and I don't drive a big enough car! As I was saying I'll stop back at my Arizona house then head over to The Holstein Store. I think I can be out there between 2:00 PM and 4:00 PM."

I told him, "Sounds good, I'll let Kacie know so she can let Kat know."

I called Kacie, "The Holstein, Kacie."

I greeted her, "Evening Miss O'Neil!"

Kacie replied, "Crap it's evening already?"

I told her, "Well here in Tennessee it is, haven't done the math for what time it is out your way. Anyway, talked to Marty and he is back in Arizona and said he can be out to Kat's store tomorrow between 2:00 PM and 4:00 PM."

Kacie complained, "Geez, he is just like the cable guy...."

I reminded her, "No, the cable guy would've been an eight to ten hour window and might show up outside that window."

Kacie understood, "True. That's fine, I'll let Kayré know so she can tell Kat. Does Marty know where to store is, as I certainly don't."

I explained, "The address is on the consult ticket, so he should be able to find it. If not, he can call Kat directly."

## **Chapter 17: Nothing to See Here and Beware of Sara!**

Thursday afternoon around three Arizona time Marty called me, "Howdy Ron. I'll tell you what this place is sure hidden. So I'll make this easy on you: There is nothing to see here! Least as far as IT infrastructure goes. They have cable company issued broadband gateway and not a whole lot else. May be a couple laptops and an old school wireless printer/scanner/FAX. I should also mention this used to be a small residence which they converted into a store. This place is a lot smaller than the Superstition Mountain store. I am going to guess may be 800 square feet."

I was trying to figure out the best way to approach this in regards to wiring, "Is there an attic space?"

Marty told me, "Yes, but it really doesn't go very far. Looks like there is a furnace and air handler up there. The space is may be 10 feet by 5 feet. You really should be able to get away with a single access point. The attic area is fairly centrally located so you should be able to drop a line from the attic into the AP. Just need to figure out the best way to get a line from their intermediary device to the attic."

I asked him, "Where is the gateway?"

Marty replied, "In the front of the residence/store connected to a coaxial barrel outlet." I was about to ask Marty about the location when he told me, "It is an inside wall...which means it must be coming down from the attic. Let me go grab a ladder off my truck and climb up into the attic."

I told him, "At this point just take several photos and send them over. Andy, Abby and I will look them over and figure out what we want to do. Given what you are telling me we just need to reverse engineer the current setup...." Marty's comments earlier about this being a residence made me wonder, "say...by chance is there still a coat closet or may be linen closet in a hallway?"

Marty told me, "I am not certain, let me ask the client." He consulted with Kat for a moment and told me, "She says there is a 'store room' which used to be a bedroom which has a small closet. We are heading there now." Marty followed Kat and entered the bedroom/store room, "Okay we have a room around 12x12 with the same eight-foot ceilings. There is a 'wall closet' which has had the door removed along with shelving. They've since installed wire racks."

I asked, "Is there an HVAC register in the room?"

Marty was confused, "Yeah, in the ceiling...why....oh wait...then there should be attic space above. Give me a chance to get up into the attic and take a look around. Would they need any Ethernet ports?"

I told him, "We'd prefer to have the Square POS registers hard wired, but with how fast broadband speeds are getting now and being they likely won't need as much throughput we'd be able to get away going fully wireless."

Marty advised me, "That would make things easier. Okay, so I am going to go grab a ladder and get up into the attic. I'll send you the photos when I get back to my Arizona house...well after dinner with." Marty paused and wondered out loud, "Hmm...*who* am I having dinner with tonight?"

I laughed not only did Marty have houses all over the country, he also had ladies too. I teased him, "Don't stay up too late!"

Marty laughed, "Can't make any promises!"

I told him, "Don't worry we can wait until tomorrow. It is already evening over here anyway. Besides, this is the 'easy' part of the project."

Marty advised me, "I can help out on reconfiguring the devices for the new domain. Are we trying to do all the stores at once or split up?"

I recalled what Kacie had told me, "So far, Kacie was able to get the business license transferred for Thirsty Cactus and Oro Valley. She said she was getting push back from Pinal County for the Superstition Mountain location. They are not going to do a re-brand for Abby's store since it is *The Boutique Holstein*...hmm I need to talk to Kacie if Paradise Valley is going to be on The Holstein or *The Boutique Holstein* domain."

Marty wondered, "Is there a difference other than in the name?"

I told him, "Ownership and operations. Scottsdale, Oro Valley and Gold Canyon are all own by Linda and Kayré Holstein; operated by The Holstein, LLC. The Boutique Holstein in Franklin is owned by Abby, but is *operated by* The Holstein, LLC. Given Paradise Valley is going to be the same setup, I am thinking it might operate under the *The Boutique Holstein* banner. Doesn't really much matter in regards to the name change as that store is going to be created fresh anyway."

Marty agreed and added, "True, but it is helpful to know which domain they are to be a member of."

I made a note to call Kacie tomorrow, "Yeah. Anyway, I'll give Kacie a call tomorrow with a status update and then find out how we are handling this."

Later on I found Andy and told him of Marty's findings. Andy seemed relieved, "Well, then this doesn't sound like it is going to be that big of a project. Think you and Abby can handle it on your own?"

I knew what he was asking and teased him, "What you don't want to make another trip to Arizona?!"

Andy whined, "I have a business to run!"

He had a point and I joked, "I keep forgetting you have a job outside the house! You do realize Lindsay is going though?"

Andy reminded me, "All the more reason why I need to stay here in Franklin." He joked, "...and I'll be sure to lock her into a high security belt before she leaves!"

I laughed and then reminded him, "She is going to have a hard time getting through airport security!"

Andy laughed, "Oh drat! Sounded like a good idea. I suppose your sister will leave her alone!"

I told him, "Laura would be more interested in screwing around with Martina than Lindsay! But, then if Marc locks up Martina..."

Andy conceded, "Dang, this seems like a lose-lose situation here! Oh well, I am heading to bed, see you in the morning."

Andy left my office and I resumed working on a couple projects when Wynn came in about an hour later, "Good night Ron. Don't stay up too late!"

I looked at the time and where I was and decided it would be a good time to retire, "Yeah, looks like this is a good of a time as any to wrap up."

As she left my office Wynn told me, "Oh by the way, beware of Sara!"

Great, now what? I shut down and headed upstairs and carefully entered the main suite. Sara was not in bed or nearby. As I was heading towards the bathroom, Sara came out in her dominatrix/military bodysuit and fishnet pantyhose with combat boots. She saw me and smiled, "Ah the mental telepathy worked! When was the last time I milked you?"

I thought for a moment trying to recall, "Um not sure?...oh wait...Christmas."

Sara wondered, "Really? Been that long! Well, get cleaned up and tonight I will give you a *special* milking."

I was rather tired, but knew if Sara was frisky I wouldn't be able to sleep anyway. I told her, "Okay, give me a few minutes." I headed into the shower wondering what creative way she was going to milk me this time. After I dried off, I returned to the bedroom with nothing but my device on.

Sara told me, "Come sit on the bed and put your hands behind your back." I knew with that request she was going to be removing my device after cuffing my hands. But then she added, "Need to swap our your device." I looked over towards the bed and saw a pair of what appeared to be Lindsay's high security cuffs. Then I noticed a similar looking device to the one I was already wearing but saw it had a pigtail banana plug to connect to an eStim box. I also noticed an anal probe with the same pigtail banana plug.

I sat on the bed and asked, "Are those Lindsay's cuffs?"

Sara told me, "Yeah! Why?"

I joked, "Did she give you the right key for those cuffs?"

Sara laughed, "She should have...oh wait this *is* Lindsay were talking about. Well, I suppose I could test the key now, or just put these on you and hope she did give me the correct key!"

I advised, "Well, for your best interests I would recommend the former."

Sara pouted, "Well you're no fun! But I see your point. Let's make sure this key works." She closed one of the cuffs around her wrist and then attempted to open it with the key. Luckily for Sara, Lindsay had provided her the correct key. Sara told me, "Well, the key works."

I was looking at the cuffs and realized that Gary made a transport restraint box for those type of cuffs. I told Sara, "That's good. You know Gary carries a lock box for those kind of cuffs."

Sara was not sure what I was talking about, "A lock box?"

I explained, "For transport restraints; a metal box or cover that slides over the hinge and blocks the keyholes. There is an opening on the bottom which you loop a belly chain through and is padlocked at the prisoner's waist either in the rear or even on their side. So even with the key, they are unable to open the cuffs and since the lock for the chain is out of reach they can not remove the box."

Sara understood what I was talking about, "Yeah, I know what you are talking about now. Sounds like something Lindsay and I could have fun with. Need another set of these cuffs though. Oh well, hands behind your back."

Sara proceeded to cuff my wrists and I asked, "What happened to your sterling silver cuffs?"

Sara had put the cuffs around my wrists and started to remove my device, "I am not sure. Been searching high and low the last couple weeks for them. Thought I might have left them in our playroom or even in the loft, but haven't been able to find them. So in the mean time I am borrowing some of Lindsay's" She removed my device and put the new device on to my cock. She then told me, "Turn around, need to lube you up back there for the anal probe!"

As I rolled over I told her, "Well, when Laura, Lindsay and I go to Arizona next week I'll try to stop over at ACME and get us some more toys. Gary still owes me for the Henderson mess a couple months ago. The double robo-spanker made up for some of the mess, but three is still a lot of unpaid labor." I could feel Sara emptying the syringe into my asshole.

As she inserted the probe she asked, "Isn't Andy going with y'all?"

I told her, "No, he's too busy with his precious store! Plus, this sounds like it is going to be a super easy job...other than being in Arizona...and Linda Holstein." Unbeknownst to me Sara had connected the device and anal probe to the eStim



box and turned on the juice, "Oh boy! That's an interesting feeling!"

Sara having never done eStim herself other than her belt with the clit probe/zapper asked, "What does it feel like?"

As she turned up the intensity I attempted to explain "I...oh boy...a bit of tingle through my entire cock, but then I can feel my prostate being stimulated too....different from when you massage it with your finger or a toy." I looked down and noticed I was dribbling a steady stream of pre-cum. Sara quickly put a shot glass under my device to catch the escaping cum.

She turned up the intensity even more and told me, "Let me know if it gets to much for you." I was wondering how she found out about this and then added, "Martina did warn me it could get over-powering for you guys. Need to find that sweet spot where it makes you cum, but you are not in too much pain."

Well that explained things I started telling her, "I really need to make sure you and Martina don't.....oh.....wow.....holy!"

Sara asked, "Is this getting too much?" Then she noticed I had started ejaculating heavily.

As I regained myself I told her, "No....no....it's quite an experience. Slightly painful but in a good way...I haven't cummed this heavily in a long time!"

Sara laughed, "Well Martina did tell me when she is done with Marc he is almost completely drained! Looks like you are almost there. Let me turn it down a bit." A couple minutes later the cum had stopped flowing. Sara observed, "Look as if you are about empty..." she disconnected the power box from the device and probe. As she removed the anal probe she told me, "But, just to make sure let me see if I can squeeze anymore cum out of you with the milking dildo." She then proceeded to stuff a very large dildo into my ass and quickly found my prostate which caused me to start dribbling again. Sara teased, "Ah, so you do have more to give!" She massaged my prostate with the dildo for a few more minutes before she was convinced I was completely drained, "Okay, looks like you are empty now! How you feeling?"

I told her, "Like I need to pee!"

Sara pushed me on to my back and told me, "Well, before you can do that, you need to drink your milk!" She proceed to pour most of the contents of the shot glass into my mouth. It had been a long time since I drank my own cum, and it wasn't because I had issues with doing so. Sara stopped short of pouring the entire glass into my mouth, "Oh I should save some for myself!" She drank the remainder of the contents from the glass then licked it clean. "Okay, sit up and

I'll get these cuffs off of you." I sat up and Sara removed the cuffs and I made a beeline for the bathroom. When I returned she asked, "When are you leaving for Arizona again? I am guessing we are going to need to remove your device before you leave."

I told her, "Sometime next week. Have to see what Abby's and Lindsay's schedule looks like. Marty is back in Arizona for the next couple months, but we need to get this done fairly soon as Kat wants to open in a couple weeks."

Sara understood but wondered, "Remind me again why Lindsay is going with you?"

I told her, "Kacie wants her to do the sales floor layout, like they did at Superstition Mountain and the new Thirsty Cactus locations as well as Abby's store here."

Sara commented, "Funny how her and Kacie are BFF's now. A couple years ago they were at each other's throats."

I reminded her, "Well, I think Kayré and Kacie's *stay* at The Moon Goddess really helped things."

Sara added, "Sure did for Maya....that was really a rough patch for us all."

I continued, "Indeed it was. I am still more surprised her and Martina are such great friends. I also didn't know you were still talking to Martina on a regular basis...she's such a bad influence on you!"

Sara in her 'Valley Girl', "As if! She's a great influence on how I can spice up our sex life and marriage. Her suggestions might be a bit out there, but hey...but in all seriousness, if you don't want me talking to Martina I will respect that."

I explained, "No, I don't have a problem with you two talking to or being around each other...just worry at some point she is going to make a suggestion that does me in! Of course I swear one of these days Lindsay's hasty judgment is going do you two in!"

Sara understood about Lindsay, "Yes, she does tend to rush into things and I always try to make sure I know what I am getting myself into with her ahead of time. Of course the one time I let my guard down is when things went sideways...but that did not involve Lindsay. Rather Peaches and it was my own doing."

I had no idea what she was talking about and happened to glance over at the nightstand clock and saw it was nearly midnight, "I see. However, at this time it

is best we be heading to bed."

The next morning I woke up later than normal and Sara had already left for work. I made my way downstairs to the kitchen. Wynn saw me, "Oh good, was getting worried Sara might have over-done it with you last night."

I laughed, "I am well drained. I swear, one of these days one of Martina's suggestions is going to finally do me in!"

Wynn told me, "Yeah, she told me before I came into your office what she was planning on doing, hence my warning!"

I told her, "'You could have at least given me a bit more details!"

Wynn laughed, "But, that would have taken the surprise out it."

I laughed, "Surprise is one way of putting it." After breakfast I called Kacie, "Morning Kacie, Ron Merlot!"

Kacie replied, "Was hoping to hear back from you. How did the consult go yesterday with Marty at Kat's store?"

I explained, "Better than I expected. We are starting with a blank slate IT wise. Going to be a fairly simple job at least on that part. It is just going to Abby and I, plus Lindsay. Andy is not coming as too busy with his store and more so with Lindsay being gone."

Kacie asked, "Anything you need from me?"

I told her, "As a matter of fact yes. So for Kat's store is she going to be under The Boutique Holstein or The Holstein?"

Kacie told me, "Well, technically she would be The Holstein of Paradise Valley, but since Kat owns the store not our LLC, it would fall under The Boutique Holstein."

I had suspected as much, "Yeah, that is what I thought. Okay, so that store will be part of The Boutique Holstein domain. Also, what the status of the name change for Superstition Mountain?"

Kacie grumbled something in Irish and then told me, "It's complicated! I am having to jump through so many hoops it is insane. Scottsdale and Oro Valley I had no issues, yet Gold Canyon or more technically Pinal County since Gold Canyon is not incorporated, is being so difficult. Do we need to do all the changes at once?"

I explained, "No, we can do Scottsdale when I am out here next week. Should be able to send Marty down to Oro Valley to get that store done. When you finally get Superstition Mountain approved, I can send him over there, at least it is fairly small. Though, I think we might have to make a trip down to Oro Valley while we are out here as there are lot of employees there now, hence a lot of devices. Give Marty a practice run for Superstition Mountain when that come up. Hmm, guess I will need to consult with him."

Kacie apologized, "Sorry, this is becoming so complicated."

I reminded her, "I get it and besides Linda is willing to pay the extra 'special services fee'...still amazed she read the service agreement."

Kacie shared something about Linda I had not known, "Well her late mother was a lawyer, so it was ingrained into her at an early age to always read any type of contract or agreement. Funny thing is Miss Holstein had already passed the bar exam then she met Hal and then had Kayré..."

I was shocked, "Wow, that was unexpected. Anyway, I am sure Lindsay wouldn't mind going down to Oro Valley she wants to get some corset dresses that y'all only carry that location. Also gives Laura a chance to see Miss Kitty again. Oh and there ain't no way we would be able to get away with not having dinner at Corona de las Estrellas while we are out there. "

Kacie informed me, "You can stay at The Ranch, even with Dundee and Lizzy living there now still plenty of room."

I had forgotten about Lizzy stating there part time, "Oh yeah, forgot she was out there part of the time."

Kacie informed me, "I think she is staying out there full time now. Something about getting kicked out the condo she was staying at in Scottsdale?"

I told her, "Oh, yeah she was staying with Maya and Peaches...I mean Ana when they were still living in Scottsdale. They sold the condo and moved back with Sara and I plus The McGrawl's."

Kacie recalled, "Oh yeah, it is all coming back to me now. Anyway her and Olivia reside in the outbuilding. So plenty of room at The Ranch for you, your sister and Lindsay. Kayré and I might make a trip down there while y'all are there. Gives me the ability to keep Miss Holstein from springing anymore surprises on you while y'all are out here."

I laughed, "Yeah, good luck with that! Anyway, I'll give you a call either tonight or sometime tomorrow once I have a better idea how the hell we are going to do

this.”

I called Marty and explained, “Spoke to Kacie. Pinal County is giving her hassles on the renaming for the Gold Canyon store. Sounds like that one will be renamed later on. We can take care of Scottsdale while I am out next week. The Paradise Valley store will be under the Boutique Holstein domain. As far as Oro Valley goes, it sounds like Lindsay, Laura and I will head down there once we are done in Scottsdale and Paradise Valley.”

Marty asked, “Why? What’s so special about that store?”

I explained, “Besides being the store her and Kayré started from scratch way back when, it is their flagship store. That being said that store also has the most employees hence a lot of devices. But, also Lindsay wants to get some merchandise they only offer at that location. Abby would have a chance to see Miss Kitty again since their divorce and relocating to Tennessee. Plus it gives us a chance to have dinner at Corona de las Estrellas...not that we have choice about that as Linda always insists if we are anywhere near Oro Valley we have dinner there!”

Marty surprised me, “You know, I’ve never been there.”

I was shocked, “Wow, that’s unusual. Oh wait, Olivia never did a service contract with us. She’d usually have Miss Holstein call in a favor (and bribe us with a free dinner) whenever they had issues. Anyway, it would be good practice for you to assist use getting that store setup on the new domain. That way whenever Kacie can get the name change done at Gold Canyon, you will know what you are doing.”

Marty joked, “I always know what I am doing, even when I don’t!”

I laughed, “Sounds like something a politician would say. I will consult with Lindsay and Abby tonight and find out their schedules then let you know when we will be out. Andy is not coming out as he put’s it ‘he has a store to run!’”

Marty was unaware Andy had opened a store in Tennessee, “He has a store out there as well?”

I told Marty, “Yes, it is under their old trade name, McGrawl Innovation Systems as they did not own the rights to PC’s and Things. Doyle and Max bought the naming rights from the original owner when they shuttered the business in Ahwatukee a long time ago. That was around the time the McGrawl’s got kicked out Pima County and then moved in with us in Scottsdale. They had the Fountain Hills store at that time, then later opened the old Scottsdale location off of Scottsdale and Lone Mountain...”

Marty asked, "...didn't Miss Holstein have a store over there?"

I told him, "Yes they were both in the same center by Target. Then they both moved their Scottsdale stores to Thirsty Cactus. The McGraw's had sold off Fountain Hills as they had opened a store in Fort McDowell. However, the Fort McDowell store as a complete flop and somehow or another they were able to buy back Fountain Hills. Anyway, I'll give you a call tonight or tomorrow. Oh and did you send the photos yet?"

Marty confirmed, "I believe I did. Have you not received them?"

I told him, "Not sure, haven't been online yet. Got a late start this morning thanks to Sara!"

## **Chapter 18: Settling an ACME Debt and Wynn's Troubles**

After lunch I had a chance to log into my email client and found the email from Marty. I looked at the pictures and determined we could likely relocate the gateway into the store room then run a single POE CAT 5 into attic to connect to an access point we would hang in a more central location. Some of Marty's photos did include portions of the sales floor and it appeared Lindsay was going to have her work cut out for her. Later that afternoon Wynn came into my office to remind me, "In case you might have forgotten, today is Friday."

I looked over to my side desk and noticed my daily calendar was still on the day before. As I removed yesterday's page I told her, "Ah so it is. Dang, Sara's milking last night has me all discombobulated, plus dealing with the Paradise Valley Holstein."

Wynn asked, "How bad is it?"

I told her, "Not that bad, at least from the IT perspective. The sales floor looks like a chaotic mess, but I am sure Lindsay and Kacie can work their magic. Nonetheless, I should be fine with just Laura and Lindsay. On the plus side, I can have Lindsay help me get the device reconfigured when we are down in Oro Valley."

Wynn was unaware of the Oro Valley 'side trip', "Why are you going to Oro Valley?"

I explained, "Flagship store, with a lot of employees and devices. It would be too much for Marty to handle on his own. Besides it will be good practice for him so whenever Kacie can finally get the name change done at The Superstition Mountain store he should have no issue with their device re configurations."

Wynn also was unaware Andy had pulled out, "Least you will have Andy too."

I told her, "Nope, he's not coming. Operating his store is more important, especially with Lindsay being with Laura and I."

Wynn sighed, "Yeah, I understand. Things were so much simpler when we were in Arizona. Do you regret coming out here?"

Seemed like an odd question coming from Wynn given I thought she was happy being out here. Perhaps she felt torn between making sure everything at the house remained in order while out on special projects and being there to assist me on said special projects. "Sometimes. The bulk of our premier clients are there such The Holstein and ACME. Funny, when we had wrapped up ACME Henderson and Gary asked about us going with him to Arizona, I didn't really care....was more I just wanted to get out of the craziness we had been dealing with of the Vegas area. Yet, when we landed and went over to Marc and Martina's it was just very relaxing and familiar."

Wynn commented, "Yeah, it is a different vibe out here. Not saying it is any better or any worse it is just different. I like this place, but then again we seem further away from everything than when we were at Desert Oasis."

I understood where she was coming from, "I know what you mean. We had the market then Thirsty Cactus, which was still in the first phase when we left. It will be interesting to see how it has developed when Abby, Lindsay and I go back next week. Marc was telling me about what is over there now, including a Garden Inn. But, it is a more rural lifestyle here being away from all the hustle and bustle."

Wynn started to ask me, "Do you ever feel like...nevermind...you had your reasons. Anyway, we best get going to the food trucks." She hastily left my office.

I put my computer to sleep and headed to the Great Room to catch up with her. I told her, "Let's take The Jeep." As we left I asked, "What were you going to ask me? You've worked with me for a long time now, you should never feel like you can't ask me something."

Wynn sighed, "I know and understand. May be it just me but, do you ever feel like moving out here was a mistake, or may be just didn't go as planned?"

I laughed, "You know, asked me that question earlier in the year and I would've had a very different answer. However, after dealing with the ACME refreshes, plus everything now with Linda Holstein....though I haven't even started yet."

Wynn was expecting me to say something else but determined I had nothing more to say, "Well, that was an unhelpful answer!"

I was lost in thought, "Oh...well...sorry kind of thinking things over. Yes, I am kind of thinking that this is not what I had 'signed up' for. I wasn't expecting to deal with ACME...yet I was, just not as bad as it was in Henderson. Then to come back and have to deal with a major mess with Linda Holstein. I would have thought the 'special services' clause would have scared them off from wanting to do anything extreme. How was I to know Linda Holstein had planned on being a lawyer, until she met Hal and had Kayré."

Wynn was confused, "Wait, what she was going to be lawyer?"

I explained, "Yes, Kacie told me that the other night when I had joked about Linda having read her entire service agreement. Guess, her mother was a lawyer and taught her to read through everything. She has already passed the Arizona Bar Exam, but then went out to San Francisco and somehow fell head over heels for Hal and then had Kayré. Well, let's table this for now and let me think things over tonight. Who's weekend is it anyways?"

Wynn thought for a moment, "I do believe it is ours...yes we were at your Mother's last week."

After we had finished with Food Truck night we headed home I called Wynn into my office, "Hey. So may be I am over thinking things here. I know the last couple months have been crazy with the ACME jobs. More so with Henderson, which was not the fault of Gary. Yes, it would have been easier had we still been in Arizona as we could've simply gone back home until things stabilized instead of having to kill 3-days. Also, may be it wouldn't be so bad if Linda had waited a little longer before making the changes. Of course, even Kacie was unaware of the Paradise Valley store." I recalled our exchange, "It is funny Kacie was telling me that she is Operations Manager and Linda is....to which I responded 'supposed to be retired'"

Wynn laughed, "So true! What was her response?"

I told her, "Something to the effect that both of us knew that wouldn't last. Hopefully, when Abby and I are out there next week, we can rein in Linda."

Wynn informed me, "I am not trying to cause trouble here, but Marty emailed me the other day saying her Oro Valley location has had a very high number of tickets in the past year; Eleven to be exact...though two were yours..."

I was confused, "Two? Oh yeah...we have the name change which is on the back-



end and then the device reconfiguration. What were the other nine?"

Wynn told me, "Well one was created by Miss Kitty for something about moving outlets..."

I recalled, "Okay, they eliminated the front offices and converted the back conference room into offices for Miss Kitty and Aubrey. So that leaves eight tickets. Were they custom work?"

Wynn looked further, "No...equipment failures."

I thought for a moment, "Yikes! Let's see we did massive upgrade back when she had acquired the other half of the building which was...oh shit...when Lindsay charged you at the Fairy Duster house and then Maya had her meltdown when we were all in Oro Valley. That was about four years ago...what is the age of their equipment?"

Wynn checked her tablet, "Four and half to seven years."

That explained a lot, "Oh wow...that's not good. We try to do a refresh about every five years as that is usually the length of the warranty, plus technology changes. Have we ever done a full rebuild?"

Wynn advised me, "No, just the updates. I am concerned Marty is going to get overwhelmed and at some point we are going to need to step in, which is not easy being out here. Just as I am concerned about ACME."

I assured her, "No, ACME is done. Everything is new at both locations so they should be good for the next five-years. Furthermore, I know Gary nor Zac do not have any intentions of opening any other locations or doing any major expansions. As far as The Holstein goes the fifth store really is not that bad, other than being dropped on us at the last minute with a tight timeline. I am thinking Abby and I can knock it out in a day, likely Wednesday. Again, things wouldn't be so bad if it were not for the domain change. I blame myself for that, though both her and Kacie should have contacted me ahead of time asking what would be involved."

Wynn was surprised, "How is that your fault?"

I told her, "I should've have told them that something like that is major change, though in my defense I would never have expect them to change names. My understanding Linda will be in Oro Valley on Thursday when Abby, Lindsay and I will be down there. While Marty, Lindsay and Abby are working on the device reconfigs I'll sit them both down and go over some expectations, specifically they need to communicate with us for anything major."

Wynn laughed, "Or what they perceive as minor. Wondering if that is going to do any good though."

I reminded her, "Again, I think it is more we...I did not set the expectations with Kacie. Kacie admits she should have told me sooner about the name change, but was trying to be helpful in waiting until the business license transfers were done. Honestly, I don't see us having to do any major projects out-of-state again at least for a while. With that said though, we are likely going to have to go back out to Oro Valley and do a complete rebuild."

Wynn was starting to understand, "So, you are saying we need to be proactive with them not reactive? Hence the rebuild."

I replied, "Exactly. We should have done that *before* we decided to relocate out here, especially given the hodgepodge mess of that store. It has been that way well before you came on."

Wynn was not aware how long I had been servicing that store, "I was under the impression you only started shortly before I came on."

I reminded her, "Oh god no." I joked, "Weren't you paying attention when we talked about Laura and Martina's 'affair'....that happened when Linda first opened that store. Now yes, I didn't really start doing anything major until a couple years later when her server blew up. It was then that I had discovered she had hired someone with basic networking experience when she started growing. Geez, it took Andy and I a couple days just to clean up the 'network congestion' as Lindsay put it so well. Oh, where's that photo...let's see...well that won't be in the *Laura Blackmail Photos* folder.."

Wynn laughed, "The what!?"

I told her, "You didn't hear that...ah here we go Budget Holstein. Back when that was her *only* store. Okay, oh here's the exploded server...."

Wynn had seen that before, but didn't know the context, "Oh, I've seen that in Andy's collection...didn't realize that were it had come from there." I brought up the 'network congestion' photo, "Wow, that is a lot of cables....are those hubs?"

I laughed, "Yes!"

Wynn was loss for words, "How? That doesn't even..."

I was still laughing, "I know. Completely defies the laws of networking. How the hell they got anything done on the network was beyond me. That was about the

time Andy introduced you to us. I had called him in for reinforcement as I was way over my head and Laura was..."

Wynn joked, "Fucking Martina?"

I replied, "Normally, I'd say yes except for that fact that Laura was still in Vegas and Martina was belted for the first time. Really tormented her too, as I kept pushing back when I was going to come home. Anyway Abby and I will take a look when we are out there on Thursday and then make some recommendations. Doing that should drastically cut down on the tickets and again setting expectations with Linda and Kacie will hopefully help keep things from being a crisis."

Wynn seemed more relaxed, "May be I am over-reacting. I do like it here. Sure things are a little further, but not that bad and if anything the food is better at the farmers market. Plus everyone else seems to be happy here...well except Peaches."

I joked, "Hell, if it gets below 60 in Arizona she'll bitch it's too cold! Besides I don't think they want to go back to working at Vinnie's. They both seem happy with where they are now. It has done good for all of us, more so Laura. Plus, I really don't want to make another cross-country move again and even if we did, trying to find a place big enough for the seven of us and our 'hobbies' is a major challenge."

Wynn joked, "Wouldn't be so bad if we had 'vanilla' hobbies! Okay, let's drop this."

The next morning during breakfast I reminded everyone, "Before we get busy today, Abby, Lindsay and I will be in Arizona for most of next week."

Lindsay asked, "When do you expect us back?"

I told her, "Next Sunday or Monday. Kat is doing her grand opening on Friday, so I want to be there 'just in case' There is really nothing much that go wrong. Unless her Square terminals get delayed, but far as I know they shipped yesterday and will be there by the time we get over there on Tuesday. That is all, I will be grilling fish tonight. Try not get into trouble...oh wait one more thing...when you do y'all's meeting tomorrow, I need to talk to Kacie and Miss Kitty."

Lindsay informed me, "Miss Kitty doesn't normally attend those meeting. Aubrey does."

I told her, "That works."

Sara was getting impatient and joked, "Are we about done here, I have a bitchesuit I want to put Lindsay in...."

I laughed, "Fine! Wow, I had forgotten about those. Laura should be grateful Sophie didn't buy the one she put her in!"

Everyone left for the playloft leaving Wynn, Andy and I. Andy told us, "Going to be heading to the store soon. Business is booming, can't get over how busy we've been. Lindsay is spending more time at the computer store than Abby's store. She really likes it out here and I have to say I do too, mainly because I only have one store I need to deal with!"

After he left Wynn looked at me, "Okay, admit it...." I pretended like I didn't know what she was talking about, "so you are not going to say 'I told you so!'"

I stood up and told her, "I'm heading to my office now, need to call Gary and have him settle his debt. Let me know when it is time to grill the fish!"

Wynn just laughed, "Sure be that way!"

I headed to my office and rang up Gary, "Hey Gary, how's Henderson treating you?"

Gary joked, "Pretty well, now that we have recovered from that tornado while y'all were out here. What's going on?"

I explained, "Well, on the subject of that tornado...you still owe us for the delays. Yes, the custom spanker helped but...."

Gary didn't seem bothered, "I know, been thinking about that. I have some new electromagnetic restraints for your table I want to install. These are less bulky, plus they can be controlled by an electronic timer instead of the manual one you have now. Bunny and I have been talking about getting away for a while. May be we can come out around Labor Day?"

This was unexpected, "That would be neat. What about Bambi and Persephone?"

Gary informed me, "Oh they will stay at the grandparents in Wickenburg. Claudette has promised to be on her absolutely positively best behavior while they are there. She knows, Bambi will not put up with her crap."

I joked, "Doesn't it seem a bit evil to use her granddaughter as a bargaining chip!?"

Gary laughed, "I prefer the term motivational reinforcement...or something like that!"

I laughed, "Well, whatever works. It will be nice to see you again and not during sever weather! Anyway, I have a couple items I'd like to order from you. Hoping to pick them up from Zac or Lulu when I am out there next week."

Gary was wondering, "What is bring you out to Arizona?"

I replied, "Linda Holstein..."

Gary cringed, "Oh boy, that cain't be good! Yeah, I should be arrange that what do you need?"

I explained, "Sara seems to have misplaced her sterling silver handcuffs, we've looked in the loft, her and Lindsay's playroom, but she has no idea where they went. I only found out when she was using set of Lindsay's high security cuffs on me when she 'serviced me' earlier this week."

Surprisingly or not, Gary knew what I was talking about, "Oh she used the new eStim chastity cage and anal probe on you. How'd do you like that?"

I replied, "It was an *electrifying* experience; A definite *jolt* to our sex life and a bit *shocking* at how effective it was at draining me!"

Gary laughed, "Great another satisfied ACME customer. So including you and Marc that makes....well two!"

I informed him, "So I should deduct those from your tab then. Now where was I? Oh yes, want to get a couple more sets of those high security hinged handcuffs that Lindsay loves. Also want to get a couple transport restraint with the High Security Transport Box that go with those cuffs."

Gary asked, "Do you want the full transport restraints; leg irons, connecting chain along with the belly chain and box; or just the belly chain and box?"

I told him, "Do you have the full sets in stock?"

Gary replied, "Yes, I know we do. I am not sure about those sterling silver cuffs though. I don't normally carry those, but I have a couple suppliers who might be able to get me a set. When you going to be out there?"

I told him, "Lindsay, Abby and I are coming in on Monday. Abby and I will be in Scottsdale on Tuesday while Lindsay is going to working on getting the next Paradise Valley store setup that day and the next with Kacie. Abby and I will be

there Wednesday to do the IT setup. Then all of use including Kacie and Kayré will be in Oro Valley Thursday to switch that store over to the new name and do an evocation for a possible rebuild later this year. Should be back in the Valley on Friday for the Paradise Valley store grand opening and hope to leave either Sunday or Monday."

Gary told me, "Okay then that will be fine. They can second-day air the cuffs over to Lulu. She'll give you a call when everything is ready. As far as our visit goes, I'll give you a call couple weeks out to make arrangements. Thinking we might come in on Friday and leave Tuesday."

I was thinking that weekend would be a good time to have Miranda and Mina come over. Allow Miranda to meet the 'mad scientist' who designed most of our toys but then I realized they had met has Miranda had an armor made, "Yeah that sounds good. You did get a chance to meet Miranda when you did her armor?"

Gary replied, "Briefly, Cristina took care of getting her accessories and everything else as I had to leave before the tornado. Afterwards I was dealing with the insurance so I wasn't around much."

I wrapped up with Gary and got to thinking about dinner..mainly the fish...which I was not sure if Wynn knew she was suppose to get. I headed to the kitchen, but she was not there. I heard her and Peaches in the laundry room. I walked in to see them attempting to give both Cream and Lucy a bath. However, they appeared to be wetter than the dogs. I made my presence known, "So who's bathing who?"

Peaches grumbled, "She's slippery when wet!"

Wynn knew I came in for reason other than to observe them attempting to bathe the dogs, "Not that this is really a good time, but what did you need?"

I watched as Cream tried to jump out the doggy bath, but instead splashed Peaches, "Oh....um were you getting the fish or was I?"

Wynn was a little annoyed, "You did not say anything to me about getting the fish!"

I could sense this was not a good time and assured her, "Yeah. My bad. I'll get that taken care of, you have your hands full right now!"

Wynn let out a sarcastic remark against her better judgment, "Really Ron, you think!" I was already gone before she realized what she said, "Damn, should not have said that to him. Oh well, deal with the fallout later. Let's try to get Cream

out without her getting us anymore soaked. Once you have her out, should be easier for me to clean Lucy."

I headed outside to the garage and took The Jeep out to the market. As I was driving I couldn't help but think that Wynn seemed more stressed out than usual. Perhaps I had underestimated the effect the ACME Henderson job had on her; I know it sure took a heavy toll on Sophie, or may be it was having to deal with Laura. I got the fish and also picked up a bag of potatoes just to be safe. I arrived back home and noticed the laundry room was empty and Wynn was not in the kitchen. I dropped off the fish in the kitchen to be prepped shortly. When I was putting the bag of potatoes in the pantry notice two more. I headed out to get the grill warmed up then went back into the house and got the fish and potatoes prepped. Grabbed what appeared to be the oldest bag and headed back into the kitchen to scrub the potatoes. I had just finished wrapping the last of the potatoes in foil when she came into the kitchen from her suite. She saw the wrapped potatoes and the fish, "Sorry, I didn't know you were back."

I wasn't really paying attention as I was trying to determine how long it has been since I started the grill. I looked over and noticed Wynn was not in her uniform. She was wearing a t-shirt and booty shorts with her black dancer's fishnets and a pair of Converse. I was surprised, "Never knew you owned Converse. Anyway, no big deal...I am not as helpless as you might think I am." Before she had a chance to say anything I asked, "Can you bring out the basket of potatoes and I'll get the fish?"

Wynn grabbed the basket and followed me out to the patio and grill, "Ron, sorry about my snide comment earlier....and being out of uniform..."

I laughed, "Wynn, you really need to relax!" I set the potatoes on the top rack and then placed the fish on the main grill. I continued, "It's the weekend and I don't care if you are in uniform or not. Though am curious as to why you are out of uniform."

Wynn admitted in shame, "Because it was soaked. I hadn't planned on washing the dogs, but then Peaches came down with Cream and was worried she would make a big mess. I had forgotten Lucy was out and when she saw Cream in the bath she jumped in."

I made a suggestion, "In the future, may be you should consider changing *before* you try to give the dogs a bath."

Wynn laughed, "Yeah..I'll take that under consideration. In the end we ended up with a mess anyways because of Lucy."

I told her, "Happens. Least Cream wasn't able to jump out and run through the

house.”

Wynn told me, “Cream is having more troubles getting around; old age I suppose. Lucy could’ve easily jumped out of the tub, but she usually well behaved. Sorry Ron!”

I closed the lid on the grill and told her, “Stop apologizing, you haven’t done anything wrong. Let’s sit a bit.” We headed over the seating area Victoria and Victor built for us, “You know, since we got back from Henderson you seem to be more wound up lately. What’s bothering you?”

Wynn really didn’t want to talk about, “I don’t want to bother you.”

I reminded her, “You’ve been with this family for a long time now. You are not going to bother me by telling me your troubles.”

Wynn conceded, “Suppose it is trying to balance running the house, but also keeping up as your project manager. Henderson showed me I can’t really do both.”

I was still not understanding what happened, “Okay, so I know we went longer in Henderson than we planned, but it seemed like Maya and Peaches plus Sara and Lindsay had everything under control. The house didn’t burn down or look like the aftermath of a rage party...not that I know anything about those...” Wynn was about to make a comment and added, “Laura on the other hand...”

Wynn asked, “So she was always a wild one!”

I told her, “Oh god yes. Then she met Miss Kitty and settled down. So curious, what did they do or not do that was so bad?”

Wynn thought for a moment, “Well...the house was clean for the most part, the dogs were taken care of, they did their own laundry, but the fridge was nearly empty when we got back.”

I laughed, “Okay what you were expecting?”

Wynn told me, “For them to pull their weight and get more food!”

I asked, “For the entire family? I do believe they did get more food for themselves and if I am not mistaken they made sure we had enough food for breakfast the morning after we returned.”

Wynn admitted, “Yes, they did. May be I am being over critical of them. I don’t know.”



I wondered, "When is the last time you took time for yourself?"

Wynn told me, "Not since we moved here. But, I don't really have anyone to hang out with here or even know what to do."

I told her, "Let me check on a couple things while we are waiting for the fish to cook. We still have another 15-minutes or so." We headed back into the house and Wynn decided it would be a good time to take Lucy and Cream for a walk.

I headed to my office and called Leslie, "Hey Ron, haven't heard from you in a while. What's going on?"

I told her, "Hoping you can help me out. Wynn is going through a rough patch right now. Thinking she is getting burned out, we had a couple big back to back out-of-state projects that took their toll on her. She really doesn't have any friends out here or anywhere she can go to decompress..."

Leslie knew what I was talking about, "Ah! I get it. Tell you what Charlotte and I been meaning to have a 'girls day out' for a while it. We'll do one tomorrow and we'll take Wynn with us. Get her away from the madness of your house..."

I joked, "Madness? Our house...never! Good idea though."

Leslie laughed, "Well, it is not as bad as Dave and Charlotte's two kids and they have a couple dogs now too. Anyway, we'll stop by around 8:00 tomorrow morning. What time do you need her back?"

I told her, "No hurry. We can manage. Besides Laura and our mother are making dinner so Wynn doesn't need to be there. As long as she is home before midnight..."

Leslie reminded me, "Ron, I am lucky if I can stay up past nine!"

I looked at the clock and realized this fish was almost done, "Okay sounds good. I'd got get going before my fish burns..."

Leslie laughed, "Yeah, you wouldn't want well done fish."

I headed to the kitchen and found Lindsay along with Miranda (wasn't even aware she had come over) were getting everything setup. As I grabbed a clean platter for the fish I told them, "Can one of you come out with me to get the potatoes?"

Miranda volunteered, "I can, Lindsay is too busy trying to find the 'perfect wine'..."

Lindsay laughed, "As if! It's an art!"

Miranda and I headed out and I commented, "Didn't know you were here today?"

Miranda giggled, "Snuck in the backdoor and been hiding up in the loft all afternoon. Had to help Sara get Lindsay out that leather suit."

I commented, "Oh the bitchsuit. Think that was the first time she's used that since she bought it for Lindsay. We were still in Arizona, when one of Gary's vendors came by to do a demo. That's how Sara ended up with the cage for Lindsay in their 'sanctuary room'. Miss those days, was always neat to get a sneak peek at what ACME could be carrying next. Oh well..." I opened the lid and the fish looked perfect, "Oh good, was worried I might have left this on too long. Let me get these potatoes out here..." I loaded the baked potatoes into the bin and handed it over to Miranda, "Here you go. I'll be in shortly with the fish. Maybe by that time Lindsay will have found the 'perfect wine'."

Miranda laughed, "I wouldn't count on it!" We walked in and saw Lindsay was still trying to find the 'perfect wine'. Miranda teased her, "Dang it girl, just pick something already!"

Lindsay grabbed a couple bottles and played along, "Fine! Don't come crying to me if the other guests don't like this pairing!"

During dinner I informed everyone, "Chatted with Gary earlier. Him and Bunny plan on coming out to see us for the Labor Day weekend."

Miranda commented, "Didn't really get to talk to him much when we were in Nevada."

I told her, "True, he left early during the first part and then after the tornado he was at home dealing with insurance company. You should have plenty of time to chat with him when they are out here. Oh and he mentioned he was going to change out the magnetic locks on the table to something a little more low profile and with more options."

Andy commented, "Keep forgetting us guys could do self-bondage milking session on the table."

After dinner as she usually does Miranda helped Wynn get the kitchen cleaned up. Laura came over and asked to see me in my office with Lindsay. She asked, "So how are we doing Holstein?"

I explained, "Should be coming in on Monday, need to check with Marc to find out

when. We'll stay with Marc and Martina. Oh, they are remodeling the west side so they only have two guest rooms, the old maid's suite and then Lindsay and Sara's playroom above the garage. You two okay being together in that room?" Laura and Lindsay didn't have any issues. "Okay, then. So Tuesday Laura and I will work on getting Thirsty Cactus setup on the new domain."

Laura asked, "Will Marty be there?"

I explained, "Far as I know. Lindsay is going to be at the Paradise Valley store with Kacie. You two have your work cut out for you."

Lindsay didn't understand, "What is that suppose to mean?"

I realized she hadn't seen the photos, "Hmm...could have sworn I sent you the photos Marty took when he was out there."

Lindsay hadn't realized those were from that store, "Oh, *those* photos! Didn't know they were from that store. Shouldn't be too bad it is a small space after all."

I continued, "So assuming Laura, Marty and myself can get Thirsty Cactus taken care of on Tuesday, we will join you and Kacie at Paradise Valley on Wednesday. It will be a fresh install..."

Laura asked, "On which domain?"

I told her, "BoutiqueHolstein. I confirmed with that Kacie last week. Thursday we all head over to Oro Valley. There is a lot we need to do there. We will be moving them to the new domain and getting their few dozen devices setup on the new domain. Marty will be there with us and will be good practice for him so that when Kacie can finally make the change at Superstition Mountain he will be able to do their devices on his own. There a couple of other things that have come to light in regards to that store. Miss Holstein should be there that day. Laura, you and I need to sit her and Kacie down and go over some expectations."

Laura knew where I was going, "Oh like, not changing the name of your business and expect everything to magically change over!"

I laughed, "Yes and if she wants to open...well in this case acquire a new store we need more than two weeks notice. Hell, even Kacie didn't know about her plans with Paradise Valley."

Lindsay replied, "Doesn't surprise me, Linda doesn't communicate very well."

I sighed, "Yeah, but she is a premier client and we've gotten a lot of business..."

Lindsay added, "...and clothing!"

I continued, "Yeah that too. Anyway, we stay the night at The Holstein Ranch. I know since we will be out there Linda is going to want to treat us to Corona de las Estrellas that evening. Not sure what time we will get out there Friday morning, but we will head back up to Paradise Valley to assist wherever we need for their grand opening. Depending on how things go on Friday, we may head back on Saturday, though I am thinking Sunday. That is all I have." Lindsay and Laura went to head out, but I told Laura, "Hey sis, wait up need to discuss some things with you..."

Laura wasn't sure if she was in trouble and replied, "Okay?"

After Lindsay left I told her, "Wynn has informed me the Oro Valley store has a very high number of tickets in the past twelve months compared to her other stores. Eight tickets for equipment failures."

Laura agreed, "That does seem high. Why?"

I informed her, "Old equipment. We haven't done anything major with that store for quite some time. The last time we did was that faithful Easter weekend back when Lindsay and Wynn had their 'little' mishap at the *Fairy Duster* house."

Laura did recall that weekend, "Wasn't that when Maya got drunk as a skunk!"

I laughed, "Yep and Peaches had to carry her out to The Hummer. Not so fun times. So, while we are out there on Thursday, sometime between getting their devices reconfigured and us lecturing Linda, we need to figure out what we are going to do as far as a refresh...well more than likely a complete rebuild."

Laura freaked, "Eek! Another rebuild! ACME was bad enough."

I sympathized with her, "I know, but Marty is complaining about the number of tickets they are putting in..."

Laura asked me, "But isn't that his *job* and why we contracted him?!"

I confirmed, "Yes, but none of us expected this many tickets and it is more so that he has to keep shuffling around other clients across the country when a high priority ticket comes in from Linda, Miss Kitty or Aubrey. I know the timing sucks, but we need to do this sooner than later. They have equipment that is almost seven and half years old."

Laura was shocked, "Oh geez, didn't realize it has been *that* long. You sure we

haven't done anything there?"

I confirmed, "I thought so too, but the only things we have done recently was Superstition Mountain and then when she moved Scottsdale to Thirsty Cactus we did a full rebuild then there."

Laura told me, "As I told you before, I really don't think I am going to be able to get Sophie to come out. She is still rather unhappy with me about what happened at ACME Henderson."

I was curious, "What did happen there, besides a tornado that cost us three days of our life which we will never get back?"

Laura sighed, "That fucking switch! The sad part is she told me early on we should just replace it instead of spending so much time fucking around with it. I said something to her about that was not her job to decide. Looking back, she was right and I was wrong. I kept getting more annoyed with her the longer I kept fucking with it. May be, because I was trying to give a lesson to Miranda...which really turned into a lesson of what not to do. She hasn't talked to me much since we got back and has spent quite a bit of time in her cage. I am letting her have her space and hopefully things will get better soon."

I told her, "Time heals wounds. While on the subject of time I do not yet when we will do the refresh. Would like to give us some time after this project and also need to work around Marty's schedule."

Laura and I headed out of my office she told me, "Well, I should get going. I'll be back tomorrow afternoon to make the enchiladas." She headed back to her store/residence. I noticed no one was downstairs and assumed they were all still in the loft. I wanted to talk to Wynn before she retired for the night, though she'd usually let me know ahead of time. I decided I see if the girls were still up in the loft or had retired for the evening. As I came up to the second level Miranda was coming down the stairs from the playloft.

She saw me, "Oh hi Ron! I'm heading out, see you tomorrow!"

I told her, "Okay good night. Who all is up there?"

Miranda told me, "Just Sara and Lindsay. Maya and Peaches went to bed about an hour ago."

I asked, "You've seen Wynn?"

Miranda replied, "Not since after dinner." She head down to the main floor and left for her home.

I went back down stairs and headed to my office to shut down for the evening. Just as I was signing off Wynn came in. She told me, "Wasn't sure if you had wrapped up with Laura or not. Sara and Lindsay are still up in the loft and Miranda just left."

I told her, "Yeah ran into her a bit ago when I was heading up to see who all was where. Did want to let you know, Leslie and Charlotte are coming by around 8:00 tomorrow morning and the three of you going to spend the day together. No, I don't know what they have planned."

I could sense a change in Wynn, "Forgot about them! Don't see them that often...yoga once in a while. Well, that will be neat! Good idea Ron."

Sunday morning Charlotte and Leslie came for Wynn. The six of us had brunch in town. We returned shortly before the weekly Holstein meeting. I had returned to my office to call Marc to confirm our travel plans for the week. I had just wrapped up with Marc when Lindsay came in my office, "Ron, if you wanted to join on the conference now would be the time."

I headed to the sitting room and Lindsay handed me her tablet, I greeted everyone, "Howdy all. Just wanted to do a quick chat here. Abby, Lindsay and I will be in Arizona this coming week. We will be at Thirsty Cactus on Tuesday to get your store and devices switched to the new name. Wednesday, we will be over in Paradise Valley getting Kat's new store setup. My understanding is Lindsay and Kacie will be over there on Tuesday as well."

Kacie confirmed, "Ron is correct. Lindsay and I will be working on getting the sales floor setup."

I continued, "Thursday we will be in Oro Valley getting that store and devices setup on the name as well. Kacie, will Miss Holstein be there?"

Kacie advised me, "I am not sure. Aubrey, do you know if she will be there on Thursday?"

Aubrey advised us, "She should be."

I advised Kacie, "Abby and I have some items we need address with Kacie and Miss Holstein while we are out there on Thursday." Changing the subject I asked, "Is Kat in this conference?"

Kacie told me, "Yes, she is...let me put her on the primary window."

Kat appeared, "Ah Ron Merlot, we meet at last. Look forward to seeing you in

person on you said Wednesday?"

I confirmed, "Yes, Abby and I will be there Wednesday. We will be back there on Friday for your grand opening. We might stick around a bit on Saturday, depends on how things go Friday."

Kat was pleased to her this, "Oh good, so you will be there in case there are any gremlins."

I told Kacie, "Thank you Kacie, that is all I have. Abby and I will see you on Wednesday."

Laura came later in the afternoon to start on dinner. She was not aware Wynn was out for the day, "Where's Wynn?"

I explained, "Leslie and Charlotte took her out for a girls' day out. She's been getting a bit wound-up lately, especially after the ACME Henderson job."

Laura understood, "Yeah. I am not saying that job was as bad as Boots Chugwater, but it is a close second."

Miranda came down the stairs in one of Sara's dominatrix dresses, "Hey all. How long until dinner?"

Laura wasn't paying attention to her question as she was to the fact Miranda was in a dominatrix dress, "Whoa, you look quite intimidating in that dress! Oh...dinner, at least another hour or so. Hmm, I could use a helper since Wynn is not here."

Miranda told her, "I can send someone down...I'll have to see who is not tied up at the moment..."

She headed back up the stairs and Laura admitted, "Boy she looked hot in that dress and the black stockings...I don't recall her being that tall though."

I laughed, "Some things never changed!"

Laura was puzzled by my comment, "What is that suppose to mean?"

I told her, "Martina in a tight short dress, black stockings and nosebleed heels...of course by the time I found you two, she was already out the dress."

Maya came down the stairs and told us, "Mistress Morgan sent me down here."

I commented, "Mistress Morgan...okay...boy Lindsay sure did a number on her!"

Yes, Abby here needs some assistance with getting dinner prepped without Wynn here to help."

Maya didn't seem bothered, "Seeing as Lindsay and Sara are tied up at the moment and Peaches is clueless about cooking, makes sense why she sent me down. What do you need Laura?"

About an hour later Maya came into my office and advised me, "Laura says dinner is almost ready."

I advised her, "Okay, I'll head up to the loft and let the girls know. Andy should be coming in shortly." I made my way up to the loft and saw Lindsay on the spanking bench with Miranda still the dominatrix dress paddling her. I saw Peaches over in the corner in a hogtie trainer and Sara was on the fucking machine. I came over to the table, "Mistress Morgan, dinner will be served shortly, please see to it all your subs are released and have an opportunity to get themselves cleaned up before dinner."

Miranda laughed, "Yes master!" She released Lindsay and told her, "Once you get cleaned up, could you release your sister from the fucking machine. I'll take care of Ana."

Lindsay replied, "Will do after I pee! Then I suppose I should pick some wine!" She made a beeline for the restroom and I headed back down to the kitchen.

I walked in to see Andy had arrived. I asked, "How did *your* meeting go?"

Andy told me, "Not too bad. Seems as if business is really booming. Fountain Hills had their best month ever. So glad Zina and Dunn are over there. But, Max and Doyle are doing well with Scottsdale."

I was confused, "Thought Dunn worked at the Scottsdale location?"

Andy told me, "He did, but once I left he started going between the stores during the week."

I reminded him, "Amazing what competent managers can do for the business."

Miranda came down the stairs in ballet flats, black shorts and tank top along with black stockings. Her tank top was tight enough I could see she was wearing her armor underneath, "Oh, you do wear the armor Gary made you!"

Miranda laughed, "Once in a while. I am still experimenting with the plugs. Using the three-tiered plug now. I am getting used to it, though I have to be careful not to get too worked up. Was doing okay until the stairs!"



Laura joked, "Need to make sure she doesn't wear her armor with a plug at work!"

I recalled a long time ago when I found Linda used to wear a belt, "Well, Linda Holstein used to wear a belt with dual plugs while she was working...especially while doing measurements for fitting. Not sure if she does anymore."

Laura was shocked, "I had no idea she wore a belt...yet I am not surprised."

Lindsay came down the stairs into the kitchen and asked Laura, "Shall I pick a wine?"

Laura told her yes and Miranda joked, "Hopefully, it won't take her a half hour like it did last night!"

Lindsay objected, "Hey! Fine, let me grab the first ones I see..."

After dinner Miranda and Maya helped Laura get the kitchen cleaned. Maya and Peaches headed into work at The Other Steakhouse. Laura was about to leave, but asked, "What time tomorrow?"

I didn't see Lindsay around so I yelled out for her, "LINDSAY!"

Unbeknownst to me she was right behind me and replied, "RON!"

I turned around, "Oh there you are. So, tomorrow our shuttle is suppose to arrive around 10:00 AM. We should be in Arizona by about 3:00 PM Arizona time."

Laura asked, "Still a two hour time difference?"

I told her, "Yes, until the first Sunday in November when the rest of the country goes back an hour...one of the few things I do miss about Arizona was not having to deal with this time change crap twice a year."

Miranda left shortly after Laura did. Sara and Lindsay headed to bed. Andy came into my office, "You sure y'all are going to be okay with out me there?"

I laughed, "You're the one that said you're too busy to come out. Besides, there wouldn't be anywhere for you to sleep, well may be the studio. Martina and Marc are redoing the west side of the house. So there is only one guest room, besides the room above the garage." I decided to 'test the waters' in regards to a possible rebuild at the Oro Valley Holstein, "By the way when Abby and I are at Oro Valley on Thursday, we are going to be doing an assessment for a possible rebuild later this year."

Andy was surprised, "Didn't well already do that...yeah that Easter that Lindsay and Wynn had their 'little' mishap."

It had become a running joke that incident was a 'little mishap'. I remind him, "Yes, but that was almost five years ago when we were still in the Fairy Duster house, before we moved into the Acme House, which was before Sagebrush, before we moved here."

Andy had lost track of time, "No, that can't be right...oh yes it is! Wow, what the hell happened to the last few years? How long we've been out here now?"

I reminded him, "A little over a year."

Andy was still in denial, "Sure doesn't seem like it. Well, when did you plan on doing this?"

I explained, "Don't know yet. Need to discuss it with Miss Holstein and Kacie when we are out there on Wednesday. Need to work with Marty's schedule too. I would like a break before we do this."

Andy advised me, "Well, let me know when you know more and I'll see if I can get away. Should only be a couple days right?"

I reminded him, "Should is the operative work, but then don't forget a day each way for travel."

A bit after eleven Wynn came to my office. She knocked on the door and commented, "Well, looks like things went well without me here. I am exhausted, but relaxed and am going to bed."

I told her, "Sounds good. Just a reminder Abby, Lindsay and I leave tomorrow around ten."

Much as Andy did she asked, "You sure you three are okay without me?"

As I told Andy, "You were the one said that you did not want to come. We should be fine. Besides there wouldn't be enough room for all of us at Marc and Martina's with the remodel."

Wynn understood, "Oh yeah, you mentioned that to me already. So y'all back Sunday?"

I confirmed, "Yes, unless things go bad at Paradise Valley then might be later...or if they go really good, we might be back Saturday."

## Chapter 19: Back to Arizona Again and Going Down Wabbit Holes!

The next morning our Town Car arrived a little before ten. The porter put our bags in the trunk then took us up to Nashville. Couple hours later we were in the air. We landed in Phoenix a little after two Arizona time. I called Marc, "Hey our flight got in early."

Marc told me, "Dang, hate when that happens! I'll let my driver know and they'll text you when they gets there. I'm still at the resort but Martina is at the house supervising the construction."

I joked, "By 'supervising' you mean fucking the contractors!"

Marc laughed, "No, she is locked in her pink underwear and the keys are in a timer safe to keep her out of trouble. Don't worry, she can get herself out her pink underwear this evening when she screws...I plays with your sister!"

I added, "Or Lindsay."

Marc forgotten about them, "True, keep forgetting she had taking a liking to Lindsay. Anyway, I'll let Martina know you are on your way."

A few minutes later I received a text from Marc's driver advising us to come to the white Yukon at the curb. We walked out and saw the Yukon and Marc's driver. She introduced herself, "Hello, I'm Tanya and I'll be chauffeur today. Let me get those bags loaded into the rear, go ahead and take any seats inside." She loaded the bags and the informed us, "Looks like it will be a little over an hour until we get to Marc's residence."

I asked, "So you know Marc?"

Tanya explained, "Yes. We've known each other from the Valley Shadows. I used to be a porter there and then after they shutdown Marc encouraged me to get my chauffeur's license. He contracts me out from time to time for VIP transports." As promised we made it to Marc and Martina's residence. After we retrieved our bags I tipped Tanya before she left. As we made our way up the driveway I noticed the porch along the driveway on the west corner of the house had been framed in.

We made our way to the front door which was open. As we walked in I called out, "Martina!"

Martina came out of the study wearing a pink dress and heels. While her dress was not tight, I could tell she was wearing her pink underwear. She came over,

"Greetings. Marc did warn me you were early. Sorry for the mess, it was Marc's idea to redo that part of the house."

I laughed, "Yeah, that was always oddly laid out. So, Laura and Lindsay will take the FROG and I'll take Wynn's old room."

Martina understood, "That works y'all know where the rooms are so you can go ahead freshen up now. I'll be back need to check on the workers."

I went into Wynn's old room and set my bags in the corner. Laura told Lindsay, "I don't quite recall how to get to the room we're staying in. I know it is upstairs, but not from the stairs to the loft?"

Lindsay explained, "Yeah, there are stairs on the other side from when we came in down that hall which leads to the garage. Follow me."

Lindsay led her to the other section of the house and Laura commented, "Oh yeah, this is a bit hidden." They made their way up the stairs into the sitting room, "Wow this is big!"

Lindsay giggled, "This is only the sitting room. The suite itself good size too. This is built atop of the extended three-car garage."

Laura followed Lindsay into the main suite, "Oh okay, King size bed in here!"

Lindsay commented, "That's new...oh yeah we took the queen that was in here to Tennessee. I wonder if there are any toys still in the closet here?" She opened to discover it was empty of toys (and the cage they took with them to Tennessee), "Well, pity no toys in here. Well I suppose it is supposed to be a vanilla guestroom. Do you have a preference as to which side of the bed you want?"

Laura told her, "Doesn't matter to me."

Lindsay replied, "Well, since you are on that side of the bed you can have that half and take this half. After I pee, I am going to find Martina and see if she can take me over to The Holstein so I can chat with Kacie about this week. Did you want to come along?"

Laura politely declined, "No, thanks. I am going to try to give Sophie a call; let her know we made it in."

Lindsay told her, "Okay, see you later then." Lindsay headed downstairs to find Martina while Laura called back to Tennessee to talk to Sophie." Marc was coming in from the garage when Lindsay came down the stairs. She saw him, "Hey Marc, thanks for letting us stay here."

Marc replied, "Thanks for choosing to stay here. Martina is so excited to have you and Abby here. More so after four!"

Lindsay didn't understand, "Why after four?"

Marc explained, "Oh guess Ron didn't tell you. That is when she can get the keys for her pink underwear out of the timer box. She's locked up from after breakfast until after the construction crews leave around four."

Lindsay laughed, "Sounds about right! Anyway can you or her take my over to The Holstein, need to meet up with Kacie."

Marc told her, "Martina should be able to now that I am back. Where's Abby and Ron?"

Lindsay replied, "She's up in the room...she wanted to talk to Sophie. Ron, I am not sure."

They made their way into the gathering room where Martina and I were chatting. Marc saw us, "Oh there you are Ron. Martina dear, Lindsay needs a ride over to the Budget Holstein."

Martina replied, "I can do that! The workers got a lot done today!"

Marc joked, "Amazing how much work they get done when you are locked in your pink underwear!"

Martina responded, "Whatever!"

After they left Marc told me, "Come with me, let's see how things are coming along shall we!" I followed Marc to the west side of the house and saw plastic sheeting over the entrance to the hall. Marc opened a zipper, "This makes it a lot easier to get into this area and still keep the house clean." I saw another plastic sheeting with a zipper in front of us. Marc zipped the first and then unzipped the next as we walked into the hallway. "As you can see, everything over here is down to the studs."

I commented, "Wow, didn't realize how big this area was."

Marc reminded me, "We gained almost sixty square feet by enclosing the old porch on the north side. So the new bathrooms will be back-to-back but staggered. The north room will have the bathroom on the west side with a closet on the east. The south side the orientation will be reversed. So we will end up with two nearly equal size guest suites instead of two bedrooms connected to a

single bathroom with a silly hallway.”

Martina called Marc a little later and told us her and Lindsay would pick-up dinner from Vinnie’s on the way back. Laura made her way to the gathering room and joked, “Well fuck, I should have left a trail of bread crumbs to find my way back!”

I laughed, “Lindsay will be back later. She can show you the way!”

Laura told me, “Well, Sophie and I had a long talk. I have come to an understanding the way I treated her in Henderson must never happen again if I expect her to continue to assist me. She reminded me that one of the reasons I have her assisting me to keep me from going down a rabbit hole as I did in Henderson. Yes, I should have listened to her as I had specifically told her in the past to warn me when I was heading down a rabbit hole. The problem was I trying to teach Miranda...anyway she is willing to join me in Oro Valley if we do a rebuild for The Budget Holstein....or whatever the fuck they are calling themselves now. However, this is also provided there is a better expectation on how long it will take.”

I understood, but reminded her, “True, but the delays in Henderson were unexpected. Looking back I should have told Gary, we’d come back when everything settled down...which wouldn’t have been so bad if were still in Arizona. Gee, seems like I had this conversation with Wynn over the weekend.”

Laura commented, “However, they would have been without a working network or IT infrastructure until we got back.”

I explained, “True, but he did not end up reopening until about a week after we left due to the damages to the building and the limited access to the area. If we do a rebuild in Oro Valley, I would hope it will go smooth.”

Laura laughed, “HA! This be Linda Holstein we are talking about, anything hardly every goes smooth!”

I had to remind her, “Well, if you and Martina weren’t having your little rendezvous behind my back when you should’ve been doing her install way back when...”

Laura blew off my comment, “That’s old news, water on the bridge. Everything worked out in the end.”

She had me there, “Which sometimes I wonder if that was a good thing or a bad thing.”

Martina and Lindsay came in with Vinnie’s. After dinner I told Lindsay, “Abby may

not be able to find her way back to where you two are staying.”

Lindsay understood, “I’ll make sure she finds her way back, even if I have to cuff her too me...” She realized she didn’t have her cuffs being that we had flown, “...well figuratively speaking since I don’t have my cuffs with me!” Lindsay’s comments reminded me I should be expecting to hear from Lulu sometime this week in regards to the toys I had ordered from ACME.

The following morning after breakfast Marc told us, “I am going to take Martina’s Jag to work. Y’all can use the Murano this week.”

I reminded him, “We are going to be down in Oro Valley on Thursday, coming back sometime Friday. Well, I am guessing we will be back here Friday night after we wrap up at Paradise Valley earlier that day.”

Marc assured us, “That is fine. Needs some miles put on it. Do you know when you are going to be leaving?”

I told him, “Really depends on what happens at Paradise Valley on Friday. Today is only Tuesday and we have a couple other project for The Holstein we need to take care of....”

My phone was ringing: Marty, “Hey Ron, I am at The Budget Holstein here at Thirsty Cactus, y’all almost here?”

I told him, “Yes we are across the highway over in Desert Oasis. Give us a few minutes and we will be over there. While you are waiting make sure everyone is offline. I will contact Wynn once we get there and have confirmed no one is logged in. She will do the domain change remotely and then it is hurry up and wait as Windows Sever reboots.”

Marty told me, “Okay, sounds good. See y’all soon.” Laura, Lindsay and I made our way over to Thirsty Cactus Budget Holstein. We walked in and saw Kacie chatting with Marty. Marty saw us and replied, “Well that was quick! Okay, Miss O’Neil has confirmed no one is logged in currently.”

I told them, “Okay let me message Wynn and have her start the domain change. She created an Outlook script which is suppose to automatically rebuild their profile under the new email address the first time they log in. Essentially it will clone their existing profile, so they will retain all their contacts, appointments, events, folders and existing emails. It may take a couple minutes to half an hour or more depending on how big their profile is. Kacie and Kayré’s may take a while. Linda Holstein, may not be that bad...”

Kacie joked, “She hasn’t checked her email since the last presidential election!

Anyway, Lindsay and I are going to head down to Kat's store. We will be back this afternoon. Just to confirm, y'all plan on being down there tomorrow?"

I reminded her, "As long as everything here goes smoothly..." Laura laughed and I continued, "...then yes. Then Oro Valley on Thursday. Curious what's the word on Superstition Mountain?"

Kacie gave me a look and replied, "Don't ask!"

I told her, "I won't!"

An hour later the domain change had been completed. Kayré was our guinea pig or first victim. We setup her tablet with the new email address. She logged in and only had the default folders for a new profile. I told her, "Might take a couple minutes for the script to kick in before it starts importing your existing profile." We waited and short time later Outlook started importing her existing folders, calendar and everything else related to her profile. The process only took a few minutes, "Wow, that went quicker than I expected. Everything look correct?"

Kayré stared navigating around on her tablet, "So far, everything appears to here. So, what happens if someone send me an email to the budgetholstein address?"

I explained, "I will automatically forward to the new email. You will want to remind people to start using the new domain."

Kayré understood then asked, "For how long?"

I told her, "At this point around five years. Now, if Linda or Kacie decide they want to keep the old domain active past that point the messages will still forward."

Kayré joked, "That's better than the USPS, only lasts a year!"

As the day progressed Abby, Marty and I got most everyone at Thirsty Cactus switched over to the new domain. We ended up wrapping shortly before lunch. I told Marty, "Well that went fairly smooth. So we are done here for the day. Tomorrow will be the new store in Paradise Valley."

Marty corrected me, "You mean house!"

I laughed, "Sure. So there we will be doing a new install. There are only two people, Kat and her assistant, and neither one have an existing Outlook profile, so getting their email setup will be quick. I will log into Active Directory later tonight and make sure their profiles have been created. Still will need to create



objects for that store, but can't do that until we get said devices online."

Marty told me, "Install should not take very long based on what you have purposed."

I agreed, "Yes, there is very little setup. Just need to reroute the main incoming line into the back room and setup their min-stack in there along with their ISP broadband gateway. One wireless AP in the center should work fine. Their square terminal came in yesterday. I just need to have Wynn add the MAC address to their profile under the Boutique Holstein domain. Same goes for their iPads."

Marty had forgotten about that detail, "Oh yeah, they are going to be Boutique Holstein."

I reminded him, "Yes, because this store is not owned by The Holstein, LLC. Just like Abby's store in Franklin."

Lindsay called me, "Hey how's it going over there?"

I told her, "We are done here. The name change is done and everyone is on the new domain. How's it going on your end?"

Lindsay told me, "Kacie and I have the floor cleared out. Think we are going to wait until tomorrow to do the setup. Did need to confirm what we are doing on the network side."

I explained, "The existing ISP broadband gateway will be moved into the storage room. We are going to reroute the incoming line from the front area into the store room. We will have a wireless AP in the front area. We are going to run Square wirelessly so you don't need to worry where to put their cash wrap. Far as I know their printer is already wireless."

Lindsay was excited to here this, "Oh goody. It is in such a horrible location right now...messes up the whole feng shui for the entire store! Anyway, we are going to be heading back shortly. Should be there in about half hour."

That evening the five of us went to the Baja Cantina place for dinner. While we were waiting for our food to come Martina yelled over the blasting Mexican music to Lindsay, "Shall we dance, like old times?"

Lindsay wasn't really paying attention then realized what Martina was referencing to. She stood up and walked over grabbing Martina's hand and lead her to the dance floor, "Oh yes!"

Laura teased Martina, "Hey now, don't be making me jealous!"

After dinner and desert, we got back Laura asked Martina, "Got anything I can use to tie Lindsay to the bed?"

Martina was getting excited, "Oh boy so this is what happens when someone makes you jealous! I do have some bondage rope you can use."

Laura told her, "This has nothing to do with tonight...besides if I were the jealous type, it would be *you* I'd be tying *you* to the bed!"

Martina laughed, "I'd like to see you try!"

Laura playing along, "I would, but I have my hands full with Lindsay."

I reminded them, "Just remember Lindsay, Abby and I have a job down in Paradise Valley tomorrow morning, so don't stay up too late!"

The next morning Laura and Lindsay were present (and awake for breakfast). Lindsay told me, "Kacie texted me asking if we can pickup her up on the way."

I replied, "No problem we can do that." I noticed she still had tell-tail rope marks. I asked, "You have fun last night?"

Lindsay giggled, "Sure did. Your sister is fun!"

Laura blushed, "Thanks...I think. Tonight, Martina and I have something special planned for you..."

Lindsay was getting excited, "Oh wow!"

Part of me was worried, but then I knew both Martina and Laura would respect Lindsay's limits and if anything what they had planned would be nowhere close to Lindsay's limits. We arrived at the new Paradise Valley location and saw Marty's truck was already there. I commented, "Dang two days in a-row he has beat us to the site!" We walked into an empty area up front.

Kacie asked, "When are you going to be working out in this section?"

I informed her, "At this point we need to move the ISP broadband gateway and setup a wireless AP, we can do this later on." I noticed the gateway was no longer in the room, "Guessing Marty has already relocated the gateway." I called out, "Yo! Marty where are you?"

Marty called out from the back, "In the rear store room. Waiting for you to get here before venturing up into the attic."

I told Kacie and Lindsay, "Carry on what y'all need to do. Laura and I will be in the back." We made our way to the store room and saw Marty had a ladder propped up against the attic access, "Morning Marty. I take it you already removed the gateway?"

Marty told me, "Someone already did, it was on that pile of boxes over there when I came in here this morning."

I replied, "Okay then Lindsay or Kacie likely remove it yesterday when they cleared out the retail floor space. So what do need to do up here besides drop a new CAT5 line for the wireless AP?"

Marty told me, "In theory I should be able to take the main incoming line, remove it from the outlet out front and connect it to a new outlet I will install in this room. Any preference as to where you want the outlet?"

I turned to Laura, "This is more of your wheelhouse."

Laura asked, "Do we know if the client is here yet? They might want to have the stack in a specific place, though ideally we should keep it by an interior wall."

I told her, "I'll ask Kacie." I headed back to front and asked Kacie, "Is Kat here? Need to find out if she has a preference as to where we put the equipment."

Lindsay told me, "I talked to her yesterday about that. She said if you can, do it in the closet as they may use that room for other purpose, perhaps an office or a presentation area in the future."

I told her, "Okay that works. May be we should put a wireless AP in their as well."

Lindsay asked, "How about an Ethernet outlet?"

I explained, "We could, but then that would require us to cut into the Sheetrock to run the new outlet. I don't have a drywall patch kit on me. Marty might, I'll check." I headed back to the store room and informed Laura and Marty, "So according to Lindsay, Kat might end up using this space as an office or presentation space in the future so asked we setup the stack in the closet."

Marty looked around, "Hmm, would need tap in for a new electrical outlet. Can be done, going to be extra then what I quoted."

I added, "Also asking about adding an Ethernet outlet in the room as well. Do you have a drywall patch kit on you?"

Marty confirmed, "Yes, I do. So adding a new electrical and Ethernet outlets are outside of the original scope. Let me go chat with Kacie real quick and make sure she is okay with this." Marty went out and told Kacie that these new additions would be extra and she told him there were no issues with that. Marty returned, "Figured wouldn't be an issue, but wanted to make sure first. Well, let me go take a look at the electrical panel and see what I want to do." Marty headed out to inspect the electrical panel and determine being how close this room was to the panel, he could easily add a new dedicated circuit.

Kacie came in asked, "I should've asked this earlier, but he is a licensed electrician?"

I confirmed, "Yes, he is. Marty had an electrician's apprenticeship out of college, earned his license, then moved into IT. So, if you ever need any electrical work done..."

Kacie laughed, "Good to know. Might need him to do some electrical work at Oro Valley if you guys do a rebuild."

Odd I hadn't discussed that with Kacie yet, "We haven't discussed that yet."

Kacie told me, "I know, Lindsay mentioned it yesterday."

I advised her, "I was going to wait until tomorrow when Linda present as well."

Kacie reminded me, "I am the Operations Manager, therefore I have the final say. Besides, Miss Holstein is going to have no idea what would be involved and would end up telling me to handle this anyway. Far as she is concerned she thinks everything is running smoothly."

I laughed, "I suppose just as she was when I discovered the creative network expansion she had done when I was out there to replace the blown up sever. I still have no idea how the heck the network functioned with all those hubs."

Kacie sort of knew what I was talking about, "Hmm...that was before I became involved with the company. When she took over where the Tax Block was in the suite to the east she did hire someone to expand her network."

I wasn't familiar with that expansion, "I am confused. I thought the only expansion she did was when she bought the back half, now the front of the building with her settlement money from El Padre Gas."

Kacie explained, "Oh no that was expansion number two, she had done a small expansion prior to that. May be about a year after she leased the original suite. From what Kayré told me, the sever blew up a couple years after that. So, about

three-years after Ann-Marie and Martina's affair...."

I laughed, "Oh so you did ask Laura!"

Kacie laughed, "I had to, you really had me wondering how you could possibly lose Miss Holstein as a client. Just beware if Ann-Marie pulls shit like that again, I not afraid to drop you as a contractor."

I understood replied, "So noted..."

Kacie laughed and then added, "Actually, I would be very afraid to drop you. I don't think anyone else could stand to put with shit Miss Holstein has put y'all through these last seven or so years! Plus, I'd likely would have to call you all out to fix what the other contractor did!"

Marty came in and advised us, "Gong to shut off power to the outlets. Shouldn't be more than 20-minutes."

I told him, "You better warn Ann-Marie."

Marty looked at me confused while Lindsay and Kacie both started laughing, "Who?"

I hadn't realized what I had said, "Oh sorry, Laura....long story about Ann-Marie."

Marty laughed, "Knowing her I am sure there is. Okay, I'll let her know."

A little later Kat came in and saw the empty floor, "Wow, you two really cleared things out yesterday."

Lindsay told her, "Yes we did. I have new feng shui friendly layout ready to go. We are paused at the moment while Marty runs a new electrical circuit to the closet for your network stack."

I came over to Kat, "Kat, Ron Merlot."

Kat commented, "Oh you're so much cuter in person."

Lindsay giggled and teased me, "Oh Sara is going to love that!"

Giving her a taste of her and Sara's own medicine, "Whatever!" I turned my attention back to Kat, "Okay, so Marty is running a new electrical outlet to the closet, which having the stack in there will make things such much easier. We are also going to have a wireless AP in that room along with an Ethernet port near the closet. That way if you do want to use the space as an office or for

presentations you will have connectivity.”

Marty came into the room, “New circuit and receptacle are in. Going to turn the power back on to the rest of the receptacles. I already rerouted the incoming broadband line while I was up there. Suppose we should run a new coaxial outlet into the closet as well. Hmm...maybe I should just install a gateway box to keep things tidy. However, would need to add another electrical receptacle for the box...simple enough just tap into the new one I created or visa versa..”

I laughed, “Um Marty...”

Marty was lost in thought, “Yeah Ron?”

I warned him, “Me thinks you might be going down a wabbit hole! Might want to talk to Kacie before you go any further.”

Marty explained, “May be I am. I won’t bill anything extra for the gateway box. Like I said, it will make things tidier, especially if you ever want to sell this place as a house. Give me another half-hour.” Marty ran off to make the changes.

I figured while we were waiting I asked Lindsay, “So where did you plan on putting the cash wrap.”

Lindsay pointed to a wall opposite of where the gateway was connected, but still an interior wall, “Over here, why?”

I told her, “Well, since we are already going down a wabbit hole with improvements. This is an interior wall and Marty does have a dry wall repair kit with him..”

Laura knew where I was heading, “Oh so you are thinking about having an Ethernet port over there for the Square?”

I confirmed, “Yep. Especially, now I see the cash wrap is an l-shape, we can hide the CAT5 cable within the wrap. Might need to drill a hole for the cable to go through...if that is okay with Kat...”

Kat told me, “Shouldn’t much matter to me...might replace this someday, but at least I know what to expect should I do.”

I advised her, “Marty has a drill, so later on I’ll have him drill the hole for the cable. I suppose in the mean time I should work on getting an Ethernet port setup. Except I didn’t bring a kit with me. Let me go to talk to Marty.” I headed outside and found Marty at the main panel, “Hey, while you are working on that I need a network port kit and if I could borrow your drill with an inch-and-half bit.”

Marty told me, "Let's go over to my truck and see what I have." Marty looked through his stock and asked, "Four port or two port network outlet?"

I asked, "Was hoping for a single?"

Marty told me, "Don't have any of those! Might as well install a double then prewire it for VoIP. Did you want to run the network cabling while I am working on the electrical and rerouting the ISP incoming line?"

I told him, "Not a bad idea as we need to get the network up to start configuration and we're suppose to be in Oro Valley tomorrow."

An hour later we had all the upgrades done including running a CAT5 through the cash wrap. I brought Kacie and Kat into the room, "Okay, so I think we are finally done with the infrastructure. You have this gateway box or cabinet which your ISP modem/router/switch or simply gateway lives. We re-routed the incoming coaxial line from your ISP into the gateway box. One CAT5 from the gateway to the Ethernet outlet next to your network stack. ASA Firewall, Router and an eight port PoE switch. You will still have two PoE ports free if you want to add a VoIP phone or network accessible camera..."

Marty advised me, "Actually there are no more free PoE ports. We are using two for the wireless AP's and then the other two are prewired for the outlet in the store room as well the other one in the front. Those ports are ready to go if you want to add VoIP phones in the future. Abby might need to do some special configuration depending on the provider you use. So in the end you have one free port on the switch..."

Kacie had been keeping count, "Wait how? Four PoE ports plus two regular ports should mean there are two ports left."

I told her, "Yes, but the incoming line from the router to the switch uses a regular port as well."

Kacie understood, "Ah okay that makes sense. What could we do with the remaining port?"

I told her, "Could be used for another computer or even a network printer, anything that already has its own power source."

Kat asked Kacie, "Could we get them to replace that Cannon printer with something more reliable?"

Kacie turned to us, "Can that be done?"

I told her, "Anything can be done with money and time...the latter which we don't have much of."

Lindsay told me, "I can call Max and see what kind of network printers they have up at Thirsty Cactus or Fountain Hills."

I had forgotten where we were, "Oh, yeah that works. Wouldn't be too bad to go up there and pick it up."

Lindsay joked, "I am sure I could sweet talk Max or Dunn into delivering it to us!" She called over to the Thirsty Cactus store and talked to Dunn. She put him on speaker advised her what he had in stock and he could bring it down to us later today. She muted Dunn and asked Kacie, "What do you want to do?"

Kacie told Lindsay, "Y'all know better than I do. Besides, it's Miss Holstein's money and if it is for the greater good of the business she is fine...not that she is going to have a clue anyway."

Both Lindsay and I replied, "The HP..."

Kat laughed, "Guess we'll take the HP."

Lindsay told Dunn our verdict and gave him the address. She asked me, "Ron, do you want to have him to charge that to your Plutonium card?"

I replied, "Hmm...yes! I am getting quintuple points this month at Bowling Alleys, Computer Stores and Car Washes."

Kacie commented, "That's an odd grouping."

I told her, "I know ain't it! Sometimes I think they just have multiple balloons with a piece of paper with the category inside taped to a wall and they throw three darts at for each month. Okay, so then we need to redo the port up front and run another line."

Marty told us, "Not too difficult. At least I don't need to cut out for the box this time, a four port wall plate takes the same amount of space as a two."

Lindsay told Marty, "Get me a four port wall plate and I'll take care of that. I take it then one of the ports won't be in use?"

Marty advised her, "Yes. There will be a plug there, but nothing on the inside. I'd suggest you use the top-right for the Square Terminal; lower-right for the printer; top left can be used if they add a VoIP phone; then the bottom left would



be a dummy.”

Lindsay agreed, “Works for me! Oh and Dunn said he’d be out here in the next couple hours.” She then asked Marty, Laura and I, “Y’all done in here otherwise? Kacie and I need to get the floor setup. We need to get this done today as she opens on Friday.”

Kat asked, “Can’t you finish up tomorrow?”

Kacie explained, “We’re down at the Oro Valley location tomorrow. We have a lot to do there with the name change. Plus, Ron and Abby need to do an assessment for a future rebuild.”

Laura was not aware Kacie knew, “I didn’t know you had already discussed that with her Ron.”

I pointed to Lindsay, “Not I, Lindsay did. So, I guess we *will* be doing a rebuild down there at some point. Hopefully, not for a while.” I turned to Marty and asked, “Since, I don’t where I left my tablet and you’re here, when will you be in Arizona?”

Marty told me, “I leave next week...think I’ll be back mid-September.”

Kacie told us, “That works! The store usually has the ‘Back to School’ rush in August and then it usually pretty dead until late September when the winter tourist come back.”

I noted, “That could work for us too. Give us a break from all this craziness. Plus, the Zinfandel’s, well Gary and Bunny are coming out to see us around Labor Day. Anyway, Abby, Marty and I will get out of here and work in the rear.”

Laura was working on getting the network stack setup when Kacie came in, “I am ordering County Chicken Take-out, what do y’all want? Here’s a take-out menu.”

She handed me a paper menu, “Wow, a paper take-out menu, how novel! Digital menus are nice, but there are times an old fashion analog paper menu works so much better!” We gave her our orders and she told us the food should be ready in about an hour.

A little later Kat came in, “Ron, there is a gentleman here to see you.”

I was a little confused as to who would be coming to see me at this store. I walked into lobby and almost didn’t recognized Dunn Brooks, “Dunn? You shaved your beard!”

Lindsay commented, "I knew he looked different."

Dunn laughed, "Wow, I shaved it off around this time last year. Keep forgetting y'all haven't been back here in a while!"

I laughed, "Oh we've been back, just haven't been over to PC's and Things. Nice of you to deliver the printer for us."

Dunn joked, "A tip would be nice also."

Lindsay beat me to it, "Sorry, Martina is not around!"

Dunn playing along, "Well, I'll take cash which is just as good as money! Anyway, since I am here let unbox and get this setup."

I warned him, "We don't have full network connectivity yet. My sister is still getting that setup. Let me check and see how she is coming along." I headed back to the store room and told Laura, "Dunn is here with the printer and wants to get it setup. When will we have network connectivity?"

She told me, "We should shortly. Great, if he is going to setup the printer that will make things easier. You or Wynn will need to add it as an object in Active Directory and give access as needed."

Kacie came back with lunch, "Hey all chicken is here!" She saw Dunn and asked, "I know you from somewhere?"

Dunn told her, "I am a manager over at PC's and Things."

Kacie recalled now, "Ah okay yes. Your wife comes to The Holstein once in a while and I've seen you pick her up." She then noticed the printer, "Oh, shiny new toy! Miss Holstein doesn't need to know about this!"

I joked, "But what happens when she comes to visit this store?"

Kacie told me, "She has no clue what this store had or did not have. Especially, in that back room."

After lunch Laura wrapped up the network configuration and then worked with Dunn and Wynn getting the printer online. Meanwhile Kacie and Lindsay stared getting the sales floor setup. Lindsay commented, "Goes much quicker once everything is cleared out and getting the cash wrap repositioned. We should be done in a couple more hours."

I went back to the store room to check on Marty and Laura. I asked, "Everything

going okay in here?"

Laura told me, "Yes, just giving a Marty a quick run-down of everything. We are about done."

Marty told me, "So, I'll see y'all tomorrow at Oro Valley. What time do you plan on being there?"

I replied, "No clue. Have to consult with Kacie on that one."

Marty understood, "Okay, I'll be out there around 9:00 or 10:00 depending on how things go. If you need me earlier or later just send me text."

Marty cleaned up and packed up his gear then left leaving Laura and I. Laura asked, "So now what?"

I laughed, "Now we wait for Lindsay and Kacie to finish what they are doing. Curious, what are you and Martina going to be doing to Lindsay tonight?"

Laura wasn't sure if I was going to object, "Well...you know how Martina and I tried to have our way with Sara that night..."

I knew what she was talking about that, "Ah, okay. Lindsay is going to love that! I have no issues, just respect her limits...which I doubt you would come anywhere close."

Laura understood, "Believe me I will make sure we do. I know there are still some things which still haunt and might trigger her. I'll make sure Martina doesn't go too far either."

I thanked her, "I appreciate that. Well, why don't we see if there is anything we can do to help out Kacie and Lindsay. The sooner they are done, the sooner we can get back."

We walked out the main floor and asked Lindsay, "Anything I can do to help? Also, can Abby start getting your Square setup."

Kacie handed me a box cutter, "Start opening boxes and handing me stuff. Abby, check with Lindsay..I do believe we are done in that section."

Between the three of us we were able to get everything wrapped up in about an hour which included getting Square Terminal initially setup; just in time for Kat to come back with her assistant, "Wow! What a huge difference. This looks great." She motioned for assistant to come forwards, "This Jessie, my assistant. I am guessing you will need to set her up with access and devices."

Laura and I looked at each other as we both realized we only had a phone, laptop and iPad for Kat. I told her, "Yeah...um let me call back to Tennessee and talk to Wynn. I don't have any devices for her yet. Should be able to get those dropped shipped UPS Next Day. We can get everything activated and setup for her on Friday morning."

While I went to call Wynn, Laura advised them, "The Square Terminal will be downloading and installing updates over the next several hours. It may occasionally reboot, so don't be alarmed if it randomly makes funky noises."

I called Wynn, "Hey um, we need another laptop, phone and iPad for Kat's Assistant, Jessie. As long as those arrive sometime tomorrow we can get them activated and setup when we are back here on Friday."

Wynn checked, "Well, too late for UPS, let me look at FedEx...okay yes FedEx can have those devices out there tomorrow. How did everything else come along?"

I laughed, "Marty and Laura ended up going down a wabbit hole. We ended up doing a lot more than we had expected!"

Wynn was aware, "I knew about the printer. What else did you do?"

I told her, "Marty ran a couple new electrical receptacles as well Ethernet ports and a gateway box. We already maxed out the 8-port switch. Two wireless AP's; One port each for the printer and square; plus a port for future VoIP phone; and then two in the store room which could be a future office or presentation area."

Wynn was not aware of the two wireless AP's, "Where is the second AP?"

I explained, "In that...um 'flex space'."

Wynn understood, "Ah okay. Anything else I should know about?"

I told her, "Well, yes. Come to find out Lindsay talked to Kacie yesterday about doing a refresh/rebuild at Oro Valley and Kacie has already told us to do it. The good news is, Marty will be gone until mid-September, so at least we will have a break. I also understand Sophie might be willing to come out as well. Guess her and Abby had a long talk and Abby apologized for what happened in Henderson."

Wynn commented, "Don't the Cheshire's usually shut down the cafe sometime in September anyway?"

I told her, "Thought it was August, but may it is September. I'll find out when I get back. Better get back and let them all know about Jessie's devices. Tomorrow

is Oro Valley...hopefully Laura and I will be able to rein in the Holstein!"

Wynn still had her doubts, "I'll believe it when I see it!"

I headed back to the front and told everyone, "Okay. Jessie's devices will come in tomorrow afternoon via FedEx. When we are back here on Friday, we will get them active. I need to have Wynn create a profile for Jessie in Active Directory. Nothing is ever simple."

Laura reminded me, "Still a hell of a lot better than Boot's Chugwater..."

I laughed, "True! Okay, are we done here Lindsay and Kacie?"

Kacie told me, "Yes. We can head back to Scottsdale now and drop me off. Can y'all pick up Kayré and I tomorrow morning?"

I told her, "Yes. Marty was asking what time we are going to be down there tomorrow. He told me he should be out there sometime between 9 and 10. No clue where he is coming from. I know he has at least three houses in Arizona...well places he stays at least."

Laura asked, "I've heard he has 'friends' all over the country."

I laughed, "I can neither confirm nor deny that, but let's just say knowing Marty I wouldn't be surprised."

After dropping off Kacie, we arrived back at the Sage Brush house at the same time as Marc. He saw us, "Well, that's timing! I do believe Martina is cooking tonight." Lindsay and Laura had gone into the house, "Also heard she has something special planned with your sister for Lindsay...you okay with that?"

I reminded him, "Lindsay's a big girl, she can take care of herself! Laura told me what they are going to do and they would also be sure to respect Lindsay's limits and stop if she gets uncomfortable, not that I think that would happen."

Martina made a very spicy meatloaf, not sure if it was intentional to give them all an excuse to drink a lot of wine. After dinner Martina and Laura took Lindsay up to the loft and explained what they wanted to do. Lindsay was fine and excited too. Since I had a very busy day and was tired I headed to bed early. The next morning everyone was in the kitchen other than Marc who had left early for a meeting. Martina made her Spanish Omelet. Based on that fact Lindsay was conversing normally with Martina and Laura, I assumed everything went fine the previous night. However, I had to ask, "So how'd it go last night!"

Lindsay smiled, "Your sister is even more fun with Martina!"

I laughed, "Oh dear!" I looked at the time and told them, "We have about 40-minutes until we are suppose to get Kayré and Kacie then head down to Oro Valley."

Martina asked, "You mentioned y'all are staying down there tonight?"

I confirmed, "Yes. We a have a lot to do and I am sure Linda is going to want to treat us to dinner at Corona de las Estrellas."

Martina understood, "Okay, so see you tomorrow evening then."

## **Chapter 20: To Rebuild or Not To Rebuild and Trying to Rein in The Holstein!**

We picked up Kayré and Kacie and made our way down to the Oro Valley store. Once again, Marty's truck was in the parking lot already. I joked, "Dang it, three days in a row he has beat us to the site!" I was wondering if Linda was there or not, but that quickly was confirmed when we walked in and saw Marty talking to her. I wasn't sure when Laura and I were going to able to do our 'intervention' with Linda.

Linda saw us, "Ron, Lindsay and Abigail..." Out of reflex Laura cringed but restrained herself from saying anything, "...how nice to see y'all again. I heard y'all got Kat's store done yesterday."

I replied, "Yes we did. Say, how long are you going to be here today?"

Linda wasn't sure what I was asking, "At the store or in the area? I'll be here at the store for a couple more hours then Dundee and I are going to meet a friend for lunch. We will back late this afternoon. Y'all are staying at The Ranch tonight correct?" I confirm and she told us, "Great. I'll let Olivia know. We will treat you to dinner at Corona de las Estrellas tonight!"

I turned to Laura, "Shall we rip of the band-aid now or wait a bit?" Laura advised me we should just get this done and over with as we still had a lot to do today. I asked, "Kacie, Linda? Can Laura and I talk to you please, somewhere quiet."

Kacie was not sure what was going on, "Um...yes. Aubrey won't be in for a while so we can use her office. Did you need to talk to Miss Meyers as well?"

Laura told her, "No, just you and Miss Holstein."

Kacie was really getting nervous and had that sickening feeling of being called to the 'principal's office', "Um...okay." Linda wasn't paying attention as she was still

chatting with Marty, "Linda....Ron and Laura need to talk to us...um...let's head over to Aubrey's office."

We sat down in Aubrey's office and told them, "Both of you need to start communicating with us and for that matter each other better. Kacie, I know you thought it would make things easier on us by not telling us about the name change until you all the business licenses transferred. However, something such as this and for the matter the opening of a new store is something you need to communicate with us as early as possible."

Kacie objected, "I didn't know about the Paradise Valley store unit *you* told me."

Laura told her, "We understand what, which why we are saying *both* of you need to communicate with each other."

I continued, "May be y'all thought the name change wasn't that big of a deal, but as you are seeing now it is. Now, fortunately you lucked out with the new name's domain being available."

Kacie asked, "Curious what would have happened if it was not? I mean we do own the trademark to both The Budget Holstein and The Holstein."

I explained, "Several things could have happened. First we would have contacted the domain owner and let them know the trademark holder is requesting ownership of the domain. They could simply transfer the ownership, they could've asked for compensation or flat out refused to transfer. In the case of the latter then we would've involved our legal counsel sending a Cease and Desist notice. 95% of the time they usually comply. The other 5% our legal council has to begin the process of legal action for trademark infringement. Once they have been sent a formal complaint they usually comply as they know they do not have anything to stand on, plus the legal costs and time is not worth it to them."

Laura added, "This would not have been so bad, but since y'all decided to make the new domain your primary domain. Not that there is anything wrong with doing so, other than there is a tremendous amount of work that needs to happen on the back-end, then getting everyone's email accounts converted."

I clarified, "By letting us know sooner, we could have explained the process and set expectations, especially with the amount of time involved in this process. The same apply for opening a new store or expanding an existing store. You need to let us know as soon as you get the idea. This way we can make sure we are ready to make the needed changes and again we can explain what is involved and set the expectations. Two-weeks is not enough time, more so should we need to order equipment. Now, again y'all got lucky with this store only needing very basic equipment we had on hand. Also remember, Laura and I are not in

Arizona anymore so there is travel time involved and we are not able to easily scope out the job before hand. In this case, Paradise Valley being a small store and we were able to have Marty come out and do a virtual assessment.”

Kacie was visibly upset, but not with Laura or I, “Linda, this is the reason I am operations manager, besides the fact you are supposed to be retired. Yes, I dropped the ball on the name change, that is my fault. I should have contact y’all as soon as she presented the idea. As far as the Paradise Valley store goes, that is on you Linda. You should have told me a lot sooner...”

I reminded her, “Actually she *never* told you, I was the one who told you. Don’t get us wrong. we are not saying we don’t appreciate your business, but you need to understand that we can’t meet your expectations in getting these projects done when we don’t know about them until the last minute.”

Laura told them, “All we that ask is in the future any changes you should run by us first, no matter how trivial you think they may be.”

Linda admitted, “I understand where y’all are coming from. I had no idea it would be so complicated just to change our business website and emails. I also know I messed up with Kat’s store with not telling you and Ron about it when Kat and I first discussed the conversion about three months ago.”

Kacie was very annoyed, “Why didn’t you approach me then?”

Linda laughed, “I didn’t want to bother you...”

Kacie was getting very close to starting to say something she would regret, “Linda...that makes no sense. I am the Operations Manager for The Holstein LLC. I am the one who needs to take care of all the legal paperwork, with the Town of Paradise Valley and the State of Arizona. Which by the way normally takes four to six weeks to get processed and approved. Luckily, I know some people and was able to get Kat’s permits and license transfers expedited. I’m sorry Ron and Laura; Linda and I do need to do a better job working and communicating with each other and you two.”

Well, that went as well as expected. We shifted gears, “With that behind us we need to address something else with this site specifically. Marty has informed me this site has had a very high number of tickets compared to your other sites...”

Kacie objected, “But, you told us to submit tickets when stuff breaks!”

Laura attempted to explain, “Yes we did. Y’all are not in trouble. We specifically asked for you to submit tickets so we can track potential issues.”



Before Kacie could object again I added, "In this case the issues we are seeing with the high number of tickets is caused by the fact the average age of your equipment here is almost 7-years."

Laura added, "This was something we are not fully aware of until Marty brought up about the tickets and we had chance to see the root-cause."

Kacie understood, "So that's the reason y'all want to do a refresh?"

I told her, "Very likely a rebuild."

Kacie asked, "What's the difference?"

Laura told her, "A refresh is something we typically do every 5-years as that is usually equipment's warranty period and technology changes quite a lot during that time. With a refresh we just swap out the older equipment with newer models and leave the existing infrastructure as-is."

I explained, "A rebuild is a refresh, plus we end up removing the existing infrastructure and rebuilding to better suit the way the site is being utilized currently. Over the past what almost 10-years now you have under gone a couple expansions and a couple reconfigurations. Even when we were out here last when you only had us doing the new section of the building and Corona de las Estrellas at the same time. So we just added on into the new areas and not really doing anything in the existing areas. You may have ended up with redundant equipment or setups that are no longer optimal. Laura and I are going to do a through inspection a little later today and determine how we can make things more efficient."

Linda gave a nervous laugh and Kacie had a look of panic our face as she likely foresaw what Linda was about to ask us, "On the subject of Corona de las Estrellas..."

Laura and I just looked at each other and realized that we may have just opened up a can of worms. Kacie, Laura and I all waited for Linda to finish her question. Finally Laura asked, "What about it?"

Linda again laughed nervously, "Would it be possible for y'all to do the same over there? Olivia says she been having issues."

Laura wondered, "How come we haven't seen tickets from them?"

I replied, "Because they don't have a service contract like ACME or The Holstein."

Kacie asked, "Why not?"

I told her, "Because no one ever asked to set one up for them."

Linda told us, "I had just assumed Kacie would have taken care of that?"

Kacie reminded her, "I am only operations manager for The Holstein stores. Corona de las Estrellas is the responsibility of you, your daughter and Olivia. I have nothing to do with that venture so you need to deal with Ron and Laura on your own with that."

Linda realized she may have goofed, "Hmm...yeah that makes sense. So...what are my options?"

Laura and I looked at each other and I opted to 'phone a friend' or in the case Wynn. "Howdy Wynn. FYI I do have you on speaker. Seems we've stumbled into another wabbit hole. Do you have your tablet near you?"

Wynn told me, "I could...give me a moment to go get it. What's going on?"

I explained, "A communications break down between Linda and Kacie in regards to who's responsible for Corona de las Estrellas. Anyway, when you can let us know the age of the equipment and the last time we serviced that property?"

Wynn had found her tablet, "Okay, average age is about 4-years old with the oldest being 8-years. Last service was looks like about 3-years ago...replaced several wireless AP's and upgraded the switches."

Laura recalled, "Oh yeah, that was before we left for Tennessee...but something doesn't make sense."

I was wondering the same thing too, "Yeah...so when we did the last rebuild was that Easter weekend. Which was what about six years ago?"

Wynn confirmed, "That is correct. What is the issue?"

I told her, "When we did rebuild...actually it wasn't even a rebuild, Olivia didn't have much of anything at that time and *everything* installed new as of then. So, how do we have eight-year old equipment?"

Laura theorized, "Likely some of her legacy equipment we decommissioned and never got removed from the manifest. Though if I recall correctly that was the first time we ever did work there."

Wynn again confirmed, "That is correct, there were no other jobs done there prior. I agree with Laura's theory and likely what happened was when we started

we scanned in the existing equipment, but it did not get removed when we did the upgrade. I can sort the equipment by age...okay here we are. So there are a couple 3600 series switches that are still in the manifest. Let me remove those and see what that does. Okay, average age 3.5 years oldest 5.75 years. By the way, you and Laura are aware they do not have an active service contract?"

Laura laughed, "Yes, we know; hence the communications break down between Linda and Kacie over responsibility."

I told Wynn, "When you have a chance can you generate a quote for a service contract based on what they have now? It sounds as if we are going to end up doing a refresh over there the same time we do the rebuild for The Holstein. Neither of which are going to happen until around mid-September when Marty returns and they are willing to shut down for 2-3 days for the rebuild. The good news, is we are already out here and know you had planned on treating us to dinner tonight at Corona de las Estrellas...the bad news is I don't know we are going to have time to do a through evaluation today. We need to be back in Paradise Valley tomorrow..."

Wynn added, "...oh on the subject of Paradise Valley, FedEx is set to deliver the new devices later today."

I replied, "Good to know. I suppose at this point we should see how Lindsay and Marty are coming along with the email switch over. Wynn, Laura or I may or may not be in contact with you later today."

Wynn joked, "Okay, then I may or may not expect a call from y'all later."

After I wrapped up with Wynn I told Linda and Kacie, "Give Abby and I a few minutes to figure things out. Could y'all send Marty in if you can find him."

Kacie and Linda left and I told Laura, "Well, didn't see that coming..."

Laura finished my statement, "...but yet not surprised."

I laughed, "You got that right!" Marty knocked on the door and I told him, "Come on in!" Marty took a seat and I asked, "How is it going?"

Marty told me, "Slow, but steady. Lindsay and I should be done later this afternoon. If you and Abby can start doing some of the devices, we could wrap up earlier."

Laura laughed, "Oh hell no, I'm an administrator!....no we can help you out. However, Francis here has some news for you."

I asked Laura, "Why are you trying to make me look like the bad guy here?! It is Linda that is the root of all evils....I mean these problems. Not that any of that is important...except that Linda wants us to do a refresh at Corona de las Estrellas when we do the rebuild here. Which means, hopefully we can wrap up everything here in the next couple hours and do an evaluation of that site."

Marty asked, "Where is it from here?"

I told him, "Just on the other side of the marketplace along State Route 989 aka Tangerine Road. Keep in mind they do not have a service contract currently, so you can bill them for this consult."

Marty laughed, "I could, but that's more paperwork than I really want to deal with for such a small portion of my time."

Laura also added, "Besides, your dinner tonight is compliments of The Holstein."

Marty joked, "Well that makes things easier!"

I told them, "Well we better get out there and help Lindsay out." By early afternoon we had all the employees' devices switched over to the email. This gave a couple hours for us to do a review of the current infrastructure setup of The Oro Valley store.

As we were doing our review Marty asked, "Why are there two network stacks here? I am guessing there is a logical reason."

Laura told him, "Logical? This is Miss Holstein we're talking about."

Marty laughed, "Okay, you may have a point there."

Laura continued, "When she bought the other half of this building, we just built a whole new network within here. Not really sure why..."

I added, "This portion of the building was still being remodeled so we had easy access to run cabling and build a new wiring closet. Plus, she was uncertain what she was going to do with the old section."

Marty understood, "Okay, I recall my first ticket here was to relocate some Ethernet ports and that was when I noticed the divided setup."

Laura explained, "Hence the reason we are going to do a full rebuild here....say Ron has Marty seen the photos of Hubtopia?"

Marty asked, "Hubtopia?"

I laughed, "No he has not! So when Linda did her first expansion she took over I believe it is the corner of the building, she hired what I guess was a college kid with very limited networking experience. This only came to light when I got called out to fix...or rather replace her server which had blown up. Anyway, after replacing the server I noticed things were running at a sloth's pace which didn't make sense. In an attempt to locate the bottleneck I found this..." I pulled up a photo of what we now call Hubtopia.

Marty let out gasp, "Oh dear God, how in the hell?!"

Laura added, "I wasn't here for that either. Luckily Ron was able to get Andy to help him and I walked them through what they needed to do to get everything operational on the most basic configuration. It was not until we were out here almost six years ago for the expansion that I was able to add a better configuration to the switches."

I told them, "Okay, I've taken plenty of photos so Abby and I can take a better look at this when we get back to Tennessee..."

My phone started ringing with Phoenix number, "Odd, who would be calling me from Phoenix?"

I answered, "Ron this is Lulu over at ACME Deer Valley. Your 'toys' came in today. Did you want to pick them up or should I just drop them off with Marc and Martina?"

I had forgotten about the ACME order, "Oh, great. Um...well we are down in Tuscon today. Will be back tomorrow into the valley. Grand Opening of The Holstein Paradise Valley store, so not sure when we might be up. Go ahead and leave them with Marc and Martina. Thanks Lulu."

We headed over to Corona de las Estrellas and met up with Olivia and Lizzie. Olivia was excited to see us, "Wow, haven't see y'all in a very long time. Linda did mention something about you being in town and wanted to reserve tables for tonight. She also mentioned something about doing an inspection?"

I explained, "Yes, Linda Holstein as asked us to do an IT refresh here when we do The Holstein towards the end of next month."

Laura asked, "Anything giving you issues, not working, etc.?" Olivia explained that some of the wireless AP's had stopped working. "Okay, can you show me which ones?"

I told her, "Marty and I will catch up with you later." I gave Marty a basic run

down of their setup.

Marty was impressed, "So they were early adopters to the whole iPads in restaurants, seems to have worked well for them."

I agreed, "What Olivia has told me the upfront costs have been far offset by the increased efficiency. Oh and I should give you a Cliff's Notes History lesson about this establishment. Linda's late husband, Hal Holstein and Olivia's mother Maria de las Esmeralda started this place many, many, many years ago. I believe it was the Oro Valley Cafe or Cantina back then? Anyway, about 15-years ago, they both died in a freak accident involving a gas leak. After their death Linda, Kayré and Olivia took over and changed the name to Corona de las Estrellas to honor her husband and Olivia's mother. Linda did take legal action against El Padre Gas which dragged out for almost a decade. The major upgrade here and the expansion of The Budget Holstein were done at the same time with the settlement money she received from El Padre. If you have the time, take look around in the lobby. Maya, Sara's sister did a lot of research and put together quite a tribute."

Marty commented, "I'll make sure I do that before I leave. Always fascinated with the local history. So you guys did do a network refresh not long ago?"

I told him, "Sort of. It was more replacing failed Wireless AP's and replaced an older model switch with greater throughput. The rest of the network stack hasn't been touched. Olivia has a service contract with Square for their equipment in the kitchen and the Square terminals. They are responsible for their iPads and anything else not Square."

We headed to the back by Olivia's office and over to the wiring closet. Marty took a quick glance at the equipment and joked, "If there is one thing about a Cisco setup, you can tell how old the equipment is by the color!"

I laughed, "Kind of the same with PC's. We had white cases, beige, gray and the now have moved to black. That's how I figured out that the 'computer' as Kayré put it that blew up was here server when I was told it had a white case...and the letters I-B-M."

Again I took several photos for Laura and I to review later with Wynn and Andy. Marty and I met up with Laura and Olivia in the dining room. Laura saw us and commented, "Seems like about a quarter of their Wireless AP's have failed."

I told Laura, "Sounds like last time we were here."

Laura told Olivia, "This time around we will replace them all."

Linda came in with Aubrey and Miss Kitty, "Ah there y'all are. Olivia has an oversize booth reserved for us."

As we went to sit down Laura was a bit anxious and asked, "Did you already get pictures of everything, as I doubt we will be able to anytime soon!"

I told her, "Yes, both here and The Holstein. When we get back to Tennessee we can look them over with Wynn and Andy to come up with a plan. At least we have a month or so."

Laura seemed to become calmer, "That is good, gives me time to beg and plead for Sophie to come with us!"

I laughed as I was in the same boat, "Same, got try to get Andy and Wynn to come out with us when we do this..."

***To Be Continued...***