

## The Unlikely Holidays 2013 Edition

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Fiction By AZOutback

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### A Guide to the Characters

**Ron Merlot:** Owner and operator of AZOutback Consulting, a computer and network services company. Ron builds and installs computer networks and systems for BDSM Suppliers in the Phoenix and Las Vegas markets. Ron also builds an occasional website on the side.

**Laura (Merlot) Myers:** Ron's older sister and business partner. Laura lives on the eastern outskirts of Las Vegas. Her job is to insure the computers talk to each other and the main server. When it comes to hardware she is clueless, she wouldn't know a USB Port from a ZIP Disk. Gets quite sexually crazy when drunk.

**Lynette Myers aka 'Miss Kitty':** Laura's high school sweetheart and works as a performer and sometimes waitress at various Vegas area clubs.

**Martina Frosh:** Ron's first wife. Martina is a couple French Fries short of Happy Meal but has a killer body, which she devotes all of her free time to maintaining. Of course that is when she is not having a wild night out with her girl friends at the local clubs.

**Sara Rae:** Ron's current wife. Sara was the former maid/salve for the Merlot's until Martina's Unlikely Affair with Ron's sister.

**Maya Rae:** Sara's younger *big* sister. Used to live in Frisco, Texas. She moved in with the Merlot's while she works on getting her Masters

**Marc Frosh:** Ron's best friend and Martina's boss and now husband. Conciser Manager for a local resort near the Merlot's and has very close circle of clients. Marc can get you a good deal on almost everything, as he always "knows someone, who knows someone" or else they owe him a favor.

**Gary Zinfandel:** Ron's best client and owner of ACME BDSM. Based out of Las Vegas, but with a "satellite office" in Phoenix, ACME BDSM specializes in high quality, custom-made bondage supplies and equipment at low price and fast. He has built and provided equipment and "toys" for both Ron and Laura's playrooms. Gary also has a close circle of clients in the BDSM community and is constantly giving Ron new client referrals.

**Bunny Zinfandel-Gris:** Gary's wife, a craftswoman of custom-made leather body harnesses. They met at a convention in Henderson a few years back.

**Bambi Gris:** Bunny's sister and business partner. While she does make some of the harnesses herself, Bambi is more a model than a craftswoman.

**Andy McGrawl:** Former owner of a chain of computer stores in the Tucson metro area, recently opened stores in Fountain Hills and North Scottsdale.

**Lindsay McGrawl-Sauvignon:** Andy's bi-sexual wife. Model/sales associated Budget Holstein North.

**Jed Rae:** Sara & Maya's father.

**Tess Rae-Whitewater:** Jed's wife.

**Anna Adela aka 'Peaches':** Whitewater Ranch caretaker.

**Linda Holstein:** Owner of Budget Holstein Leather Works, better known as Budget Holstein and co-owner of Corona de las Estrella's. She was Ron & Laura's very first client, specializing in leather S&M outfits, shoes and specialty items such as high end corsets and lingerie.

**Olivia Esmeraldes** – Kayré's best friend from high school and co-owner of Corona de las Estrella's.

**Kayré Holstein:** Linda's daughter and business partner.

**Kacie O'Neill:** Kayré's girl-friend.

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The Unlikely Holidays is the next part of The *Unlikely Stories* series by AZOutback and picks up where *the Unlikely Opportunity* ended. The Merlot Family get ready to celebrate The Holidays. One thing leads to another which leads to yet another and leads into what would be come The Unlikely Holidays.

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## **Chapter 1: Wild, Wild West Halloween Party**

After a couple hours of making out with each other in the cell Sara and Maya realized that they were locked in the cell. I had returned a few hours later from Andy's store to find Wynn in the kitchen getting dinner prepped. Out of curiosity I asked, "Are those two still down there?"

Wynn cracked an evil smile, "Yes, they are."

I laughed, "Okay, how long until dinner?" Wynn informed me about another hour or so. I replied, "Okay, I'll leave them down there."

Maya looked at Sara and asked, "So, how do you purpose we break out of here."

Sara asked Maya, "Got a hair pin?"

Maya looked at Sara rather confused, "Now why would I have a hair pin?"

Sara shrugged, "Just as well, I wouldn't know how to pick a lock anyway." Maya looked worried. Sara assured her, "They will notice us missing come dinner time. Someone will come down and let us out."

Maya sighed, "Okay, if you say so."

About an hour later I cam down into the playroom and opened the cell door, "Okay, you two have done your time. Now go get cleaned up for dinner."

A few days ago Gary suggested we do a Halloween costume party. We had discussed doing an Alice in Wonderland or Peter Pan theme, but with so many women it just didn't seem practical. Someway or other the conversation had turned to Wynn when she was dressed up as Fife. We both had the epiphany at the same time to do a Wild, Wild West theme. Gary would be a old west lawman Andy an old west banker and I would be the wanted gunslinger. The girls would be dressed in a Burlesque theme as Saloon Girls. During dinner I announced, "Okay, we will be having a Halloween costume party this year. Since you girls already have the corsets and fishnet pantyhose, y'all will be Saloon Girls in a Burlesque theme. Gary is going to be an old west lawman, Andy the robber baron banker. Myself, I will be a gunslinger hired to take care of the banker while avoiding the lawman."

Wynn laughed, "Oh this going to be fun! Great idea Ron!"

I told her, "Well I can't take all the credit, it was Gary who came up with the idea for the theme."

Sara asked, "Are we doing to decorate as well?"

I explained, "We will be converting the Great Room into a Saloon. Gary has a guy who can get us all the props. We will have the full bar, poker tables and of course no Saloon is complete without a piano. By the way, does anyone know how to play the piano?"

Maya replied, "Been a while, but I should be able to."

I told her, "Good and Gary will be playing a banjo as well. Now, Wynn is going to be the madame in charge of the girls which in this case will be Sara, Maya and Lindsay. Bambi and Bunny are going to be waitresses."

Wynn asked, "Who all is going to be here?"

I explained, "Gary has invited the Chan's from Lot 15. Andy has invited Zina from PC's and Things, along with her husband. Also, Max and Doyle will be here as well. Plus I am pretty sure Marc and Martina are going to be here as well."

A couple days before Halloween, Anozira Party Depot went to work transforming the Great Room into a wild west saloon. We had the full bar with stools along with a couple poker tables. The piano was set off to the corner and they were even able to incorporate the plasma tv using special software and a web cam to turn into a mirror on the back wall of the bar. Maya sat down at the piano and banged on it for a bit then she started playing the typical saloon music. She commented, "I knew I could remember how to play one of these. You know, if we had a little more room in here I would love to have a baby grand in here!"

Sara asked, "Oh wow, that brings back memories of mom playing the piano as a kid. However, I don't think it was baby grand though. Hey, what happened to our piano anyway?"

Maya replied, "No, I think it was Petite Grand, which I am guessing our father sold it after we moved out. Oh well, a girl can dream!"

Sara commented, "Yeah, sort like my '71 Plymouth Roadrunner. That was an awesome car."

Halloween night all the girls were in corsets, each a different color as well as black fishnets. As I came down the stairs Maya joked, "Hey, where did you park your horse?"

I told her, "He's tied up by the backdoor." Gary walked in, "Oh no, the lawman is here, I better go hide."

The guests started showing up around 5:00 PM. Marc walked in with Martina who was also dressed in a wild west saloon girl, although I don't think the girls wore Pink in the 1800's, but hey this is Martina after all. I grabbed Marc and told him, "Hey come join me and the Robber Barron, Andy over at the poker table."

Marc commented, "I think I saw him with an ace or two up his sleeve!"

I was rather surprised by the number of trick-or-treaters we had show up, but Lindsay made sure we had enough candy to hand out to everyone."

Later in the night the poker game got heated as I had a full house with 3 Aces and 2 Kings only to discover so did Andy. I stood up and pulled out my gun, "Hey wait a minute?! How do we both have three aces? I think you're cheating!" The room went quiet.

Lawman Gary set down his banjo and came over, "Problem gentlemen?"

I replied pointing my gun at Andy, "He is a cheating."

Gary laughed at the scene and replied, "Is that so?" As I was waiving my gun around an ace fell out my sleeve as well. Gary looked the extra Ace that was now on the table "Seems like you are cheating too..."

I acted all confused, "Hey, where did this come from?" I made a hasty retreat for the saloon doors, which actually lead into the kitchen.

The party finally wound down around midnight. We agreed we would have to do this again next year. The next day Anzoira Party Depot came and removed all the props, returning the Great Room back to the way it was before.

## **Chapter 2: So What's The Plan?**

The week leading up to Veteran's Day weekend was fairly quiet, although work on the McGrawl house had finally begun. Over the long weekend, Maya was out with friends from school working on yet another group project. Andy and Lindsay spent the long weekend down in Tucson visiting family and friends. It was just Sara, Wynn and I in the house. Sara and I were out on the Cabana kinda bored with the lack of activity at the house recently. Wynn brought us some drinks and asked, "So anything special planned for Thanksgiving?"

Sara and I looked at each other and I replied, "Hadn't given it much thought, been such a crazy year. I am not sure, guess I'll need to think about that."

Sara replied, "Well we have Andy and Lindsay, what about Gary and the girls?"

I told her, "Nope, Gary mentioned they will be heading to Wickenburg to be with the girls' parents. How about Marc and Martina?"

Sara informed me, "They will likely be working at least part of the day. What about Linda and Kayré?"

I responded, "Hmm, they don't have any family other than Olivia."

Wynn added, "Could always invite her as well, may be help out with the feast."

I told them, "Well, let me give them a call and see." I left the Cabana and headed back into the house to my office. I found Linda's number at the Ranch and gave her a ring, "Hey Linda, Ron! Say what are you and Kayré doing for Thanksgiving?"

Linda laughed, "Funny, was going to call you next week about that. We just

finished the renovations adding the fifth bedroom and pushing out the garage. Hoping you and Sara can come down here?"

I commented, "Sure but what about Wynn and Maya, not to mention Andy and Lindsay?"

Linda clarified, "Sorry, I meant the six of you could come out. Olivia is going to be here as well. Can y'all come down say the Wednesday before?"

I told Linda, "Not sure, have to see what Maya's school schedule is looking like that week. I do know she won't be going back until that Monday. She already took that weekend off at Vinnie's. I'll get back to you, but sounds like a plan."

I returned to the Cabana and found Sara and Wynn just talking, "What's going on here?!"

Wynn looked at me innocently batting her eyes, "Nothing, we are just talking!"

I joked, "I know that's what's odd. Anyway a slight change of plans for Thanksgiving."

Sara asked, "The Holstein's weren't able to make it?"

I informed them, "No, they have invited the six of us to come down to the Ranch and spend the long weekend down there."

Sara was thrilled, but commented, "Um they only have four bedrooms though."

I corrected her, "They have five now that the renovations are done. Olivia is going to be there as well. Just need to find out what Maya's school schedule is like that week."

Sara informed me, "She only has her morning class Tuesday. Her Wednesday night class won't meet that week, the professor is going to be away."

Okay that solved that, "Well then we will be heading down there on the Wednesday and come back that Sunday." I called Linda back and informed her of our plans.

Later than evening Andy and Lindsay returned along with Maya. During dinner I mentioned, "Okay guys, we will be doing Thanksgiving weekend down at the Holstein Ranch. Andy and Lindsay did you two need to be back in town that Friday?"

Lindsay replied, "Not really, the sales manager can handle the Fountain Hills store."

Andy added, "Plus, we won't be opening Far North Scottsdale until after Thanksgiving. Rio Verde won't be until after the first of the year so no hurry there either."

I asked, "So you found a site for Rio Verde?"

Lindsay answered, "Well, not exactly. But if we do open a Rio Verde store it won't be until after the first of the year."

### **Chapter 3: Four More For Dinner Please and Car Service with Style!**

It was Sunday of the week of Thanksgiving and I was trying to get some minor web jobs done before we left for the long weekend. I was in the kitchen getting a Dr. Pepper when I noticed a giant strawberry sitting on the counter next to the fridge. I asked Wynn, "What's with the giant strawberry?"

She picked it up and show it to me, "It is an alarm clock plus it can hold candies and incense."

She opened it up to reveal there were peppermint candies inside as I took one I commented, "So it is a Strawberry Alarm Clock with Incense and Peppermints....how interesting."

While we were in the kitchen the house line rang, Wynn answered and informed me, "Ron, your sister."

I told her I'd get it in my office. I took my peppermint candy and Dr. Pepper and headed into my office. I very carefully picked up the house line, "Howdy Laura, what do I owe this call to?"

Laura replied, "I know this is short notice, but did y'all have plans for Thanksgiving? Miss Kitty and I really don't want to spend it alone...again."

I explained, "Hmm...well...the six of us were going to spend Thanksgiving at the Holstein Ranch. I am sure you could come out for dinner but they won't have any room for you to stay."

Laura came up with an idea, "May be Miss Kitty and I can stay with mom and Blanche."

I told her, "Good idea, but what about Miss Kitty's work?"

Laura responded, "Oh she is going to a different club starting in January so she is not working as of now."

I told Laura, "Well, let me conference in mom and Blanche, see what they are up to." I rang up my mother down in Tubac, "Hey mom, Ron here...let me conference in Laura."

Lorena asked, "Why Laura and Ron what a surprise. What's going on?"

I explained, "Well, what were you and Blanche planning on doing for Thanksgiving?"

Lorena laughed, "Gosh nothing special. We'll throw a couple turkey TV dinners in the microwave and may be watch some football. Why?"

Laura asked, "How about joining us for dinner?"

Lorena was surprised but concerned, "We'd love to but Blanche has class that Friday and it is a long drive to Scottsdale."

I clarified, "Actually the six of us along with Laura and Miss Kitty would be having dinner at The Holstein Ranch in Oro Valley."

Lorena was confused, "What is The Holstein Ranch and what did you mean by the 'six of us'?"

I told her, "Linda Holstein owner of the Budget Holstein, where Sara and I were working on our honeymoon."

Lorena understood but asked, "Okay, but the 'six of us'?"

I explained, "Long story as to the circumstances but Andy and Lindsay are staying with us for a while."

It was all making sense to Lorena now, "Oh Andy and Lindsay such a wonderful couple. Much like you and Sara."

Laura asked, "Hey mom, can Miss Kitty and I stay with you over that weekend? Ron and company are going to be staying at The Holstein Ranch."

Lorena was thrilled, "Sure. You two are always welcomed...as are you Ron and Sara."

I decided I better check with Linda before we made any final plans, "If y'all hold on a bit, I need to call Linda and make sure this is alright." I put the house line on a locked-hold so Wynn wouldn't accidentally pick it up and called Linda on the business line.

I was hoping someone would answer when Kayré picked-up...I asked, "Kayré, is

your mother around?"

Kayré yelled, "Mother! Phone!"

Linda came on the line and I asked, "Hey I know this is short notice but is it possible to add four more to dinner?"

Linda was puzzled, "Sure, but who and you know we are tight on space?"

I explained, "Yes I know you are tight on space. That is why Laura and Miss Kitty will be staying with my mother and Blanche down in Tubac."

Linda told me, "Wow, we will have the entire Merlot Family here! Your timing is good we are about to go shopping a little later. See you Wednesday."

I got back on the house line and informed, "Linda is fine with this and would be thrilled to have the entire Merlot family for dinner. Now Laura, are you driving or flying?"

Laura replied, "Bit of a short notice to catch a flight."

I told her, "Well, if you could hold again I'll see if I can get a hold of Marc." I placed them on hold again and called Marc at home.

Martina answered, "Hey Ron what's up?"

I told her, "Not much need to talk to your husband see if he can get a last minute flight for my sister and Miss Kitty for Thanksgiving."

I wasn't sure how this was going to go over with Martina being this would be our first Thanksgiving since the divorce. She was fine, "That's good that all of you will be getting together. Marc and I are working but it is going to be a fun day with lots of food. Let me go grab him."

Marc had already been briefed, "Geez Ron, what is with you and these last minute flights? Okay so when and where?"

I told him, "She called me today how was I to know?! Anyway, Henderson to either Deer Valley or Tucson."

Marc checked, "You are in luck we can do a Vegas to Tucson via Econo Airlines tomorrow or Henderson to Deer Valley on Desert West on Tuesday."

I explained, "There is no way Laura is going to set foot on one of those Econo Airlines' tin cans so Desert West to Deer Valley it is."

Marc asked, "Can you have her call me so I can get her info and have the tickets sent via Road Runner?"

I told him, "She is on the other line right now with my mother, but I'll have her give you a call." I switched back to Laura, "Okay, Marc can go ahead and get you two on Desert West flight for Tuesday. You two can spend the night here Tuesday. Now, you will need to give Marc a call so he can get your info and get the tickets out. Give me call when you have the times and someone will come get you."

After I was off the phone with them I paged Sara and Wynn to my office. Sara came in followed by Wynn. I asked Wynn, "Remember how I said that some times things can get a little hectic?" Wynn nodded 'yes' and I continued, "Laura and Miss Kitty are flying in on Tuesday. They will spend the night here Tuesday and then come down with us to the Holstein Ranch on Wednesday. From there they will be staying with my mother and Blanche. The four of them will join the six of us along with Linda, Kayré and Olivia for Thanksgiving Dinner."

Sara asked, "Do you know when they are coming in on Tuesday?"

I explained, "Not yet, she was going to call Marc and make all the arrangements then call me back."

Sara laughed, "Wow the entire family together again!"

An hour or so later Laura called to inform me, "Miss Kitty and I will be in around noon on Tuesday and will fly back next Tuesday around the same time. Hope you don't mind us staying Tuesday and then Monday next week?"

I told her, "No problem, we have room. Sorry to cut y'all short but I have some work I need to get done before we leave. See you Tuesday."

By Monday night I was able to get all the small web jobs completed. There was still one large job I was nearly done with. Tuesday morning I got up early and headed back down to my office in hopes of finishing up the last job. The problem I was running into was getting their databases imported and setup correctly, that was going to take a couple hours, or so I thought. Wynn came into my office around 11:00 AM, "Ron your sister is due in, in an hour."

I looked up, "Oh crap, I've been trying to get these databases imported for the last 3 hours. Ah, I think I got it now...can you go get them for me?"

Wynn walked up to my desk and asked, "Sure where do I go?" As she approached I noticed she was in a purple corset with black shorts and stockings.

I handed Wynn a map of the Deer Valley Airport/Park and told her, "The Desert West Airlines terminal is in the far building. Nice outfit by the way!" Wynn left and

I was back at work getting the databases installed again. Right after Wynn had left I got the content imported correctly into the database. Finally! This project was done. Bit of a pain but still worth the \$750 I had billed them. I did a quick check of my e-mail, nothing exciting so I shut down.

Meanwhile Wynn had arrived at the airport terminal and was in search of Laura and Miss Kitty. Wynn spotted Miss Kitty and called out, "Lynnette!" Miss Kitty looked around trying to see who was calling her name, but she wasn't expecting it to be Wynn. A bit closer this time again Wynn called out, "Lynette!"

Miss Kitty looked around some more this time and saw Wynn, "Oh Wynn, sorry we weren't expecting you." She noticed Wynn's stylish outfit and commented, "Wow, nice looking outfit you got on. Love the black and purple."

Wynn explained, "Well, I provide Car Service with Style! Anyways, Ron was trying to wrap up a web job, so he sent me over to get y'all."

Miss Kitty explained, "Laura is in the ladies room, but should be out shortly." No sooner had Miss Kitty said this then Laura come out of the ladies room. "Laura over here!"

Laura greeted Wynn and joked, "Morning Wynn! Ron too much of a big shot now to pick-up his own sister?"

Wynn laughed, "That is why he pays me the big bucks so I can buy these stylish outfits. Anyway he was trying to get one last job done before we leave tomorrow. Now, let's see if I can find my way out here."

Wynn, Laura and Miss Kitty did eventually make their way out of the airport. They arrived back at the mansion a little after 1:00.

After a quick lunch Wynn, Laura and Miss Kitty disappeared into the playroom. Since Wynn did not feel like cooking we ordered in KFC. Now, Drew has seen Lindsay, Maya and Sara in there full glamor before. However he had never seen Laura until tonight. Laura was wearing a black bustier along with short black skirt and stockings. I was going to wait in the hall and watch his reaction when Laura opened the door. The doorbell rang and Laura opened the door. For a moment Drew was too busy checking over the order to notice Laura. He was just getting out, "Good evening..." when he caught site of Laura. He stuttered slightly, "Hello...oh I must have the wrong house...but wait this *has* to be the right place."

I stepped up to the front door, "Oh hey Drew how's it going?"

Drew composed himself, "Evening Mister Merlot. Friend of yours?"

Laura introduced herself, "No, I'm his sex crazed lesbian sister...Laura."

Drew being a gentleman, "Well good evening Miss Merlot."

Miss Kitty walked in and Laura giggled and what she said next really surprised me, "Actually, it Myers. This is my girl-friend Miss Kitty or Lynette Myers."

Drew didn't seem all that surprised and went about his normal business. As he was leaving he told us, "Have a nice Thanksgiving."

Andy and Lindsay had just come up from the garage so I didn't have time to ask Laura about her name change. We made the usual small talk during dinner. I was going to help Wynn Sara with the dishes but Sara shooed both of us out. It seemed her and Lindsay need to have some girl talk. Laura and Maya disappeared into the library to talk about Maya's Pharmacy Tech program. Wynn had headed back to her suite to get packed for the weekend. It was just Miss Kitty and I. For some odd reason she seemed really nervous around me and did her best to remain calm, "Hey thanks for inviting us. I know we didn't get off that good of a start earlier this year. I mean with Sara and Martina and all." She was almost in tears which really shocked me.

I thought fast, "Um Lynette, I hold no grudges against you or my sister and neither does Sara. So you two had a bit much to drink that night, stuff happens. As far as Martina goes, like I told Laura, Martina brought it upon herself. Still never figured out how those two met each other but that is neither here nor there. Now, what's this I hear about you going to a new club?"

Miss Kitty was a bit more relaxed now, "Well, my contract with MGM Grand is up and I am just tired of that place. I will be going over to Paris in January and not really a club either. I am going to be a cocktail waitress there."

I asked, "Kinda of an odd career change"

Miss Kitty explained, "Well, kinda getting tired of all this performing. Besides the money I make from tips will be more than enough to cover the cut in pay."

I joked, "You get to wear that hot uniform too."

Miss Kitty just started laughing, "I tried it on the other day just to see how I looked and it drove your sister wild!"

I joked back, "Hmm, Sara has one that Gary was able to get for her. Have to make sure she doesn't wear it when Laura is around!"

Miss Kitty replied, "Oh yea, I would not be responsible for anything Laura did to her then."

It was getting late so I bid Miss Kitty a good night and headed up to my suite. Sara was wrapping up in the shower when I came in. I changed in to my bed clothes and Sara soon joined me. Sara asked, "I suppose you are wondering why Lindsay wanted to talk to me?"

Honestly, I had forgotten all about that. I told Sara, "Not really, but I am sure you will tell me anyway."

#### **Chapter 4: You sure this is the right place and *this* is why you invited us?**

Sara explained that while Lindsay was happy to be here with us she missed the club. Not the entertaining part, but more the modeling that she use to do. She enjoyed working with Andy, but computers weren't really her thing. Sara did mention something odd, she said Andy had told her there would be some changes coming and that she wouldn't be so bored. Wednesday morning we loaded up Maya's Hummer with all the luggage. After lunch we set out bound for the Holstein Ranch. We worked it out so that Lorena and Blanche would come and pick-up Laura and Miss Kitty after dinner. We arrived at the ranch a just in time for supper. Lindsay noticed something out-of-place and asked, "Sure this is the right place Ron?"

I told her, "Yes, why you ask?"

Lindsay explained, "That there 'For Sale' sign over yonder."

I looked over and sure enough next to the main driveway was a 'FSBO' For Sale sign. I was going to ask Linda about that, but we got so lost in the large 'cowboy' dinner. Later on that evening and everyone was doing their own thing. Sara and Lindsay were 'playing' as were Kayré and Maya. Andy was out back on the deck talking with Laura. Miss Kitty, Olivia and Wynn were in the living room watching football and discussing culinary stuff. I was in the kitchen getting some more wine when Linda came in, "Ron can we talk for a bit?"

I replied, "Yea sure, what's up?"

Linda replied, "Well...You've been a great contractor to work with and have gone out of your way to help us. Don't get me wrong, I really appreciate the work AZOutback Consulting has done over the past couple years."

Now, I was wondering what the heck is this leading to? I asked, "Are you trying to say you no longer require our services? Is that why you invited us out here?!"

Linda was a bit nervous, "Um no, sorry that didn't come out right. Follow me I have something to show you." I followed Linda to the huge master bedroom which also doubled as a home office. She handed me an official looking paper, "I told you a while back about my husband and Olivia's mother...well it took nearly

10-years of legal fights but..."

I looked at the paper and it was stub for a settlement check from El Padre Gas in the amount of \$1,750,000. "Wow, I had no idea you had taken legal actions against them."

Linda admitted, "To be honest, never thought it would amount to anything. Anyway this is part of the reason why we haven't been operating the store. Also the reason Corona de la Estrella's has been closed. We are going to use this money to modernize the restaurant. Remember a couple months when we were at the festival in Cave Creek?" I nodded yes. Linda continued, "Well, we got so much business from that and we still are. I was able to purchase the other half of the Budget Holstein building. Can you get your 'crew' together and meet me out back I would like to discuss a few things."

I checked my phone, still a couple hours before Lorena and Blanche were suppose to pickup Laura and Miss Kitty, "Okay we still have an hour or so, I'll see if I can find everyone."

Linda replied, "Good and I have more news but it will wait until after dinner tomorrow."

As she left I wondered if the 'more news' involved her selling the ranch. I returned to the living room and saw Wynn and asked, "You've seen my wife, sister and Andy."

Wynn replied, "Sara is with Lindsay and I think Andy and Laura are outside."

Olivia happened to be walking in and I asked her, "Olivia, you've seen Sara?"

Olivia informed us, "Yes, she's with Lindsay in one of the guest rooms. Want me to fetch them?"

I told her, "Yes and send them out back please."

I headed outside to find Andy and Laura along with Maya on the deck enjoying the warm evening. I gathered Andy and Laura, "Linda wants to talk to us. Just waiting on Sara and Lindsay." Out came Sara and Lindsay, hand-in-hand giggling. Linda wasn't back yet, but I went ahead and explained, "I do believe you all know about Linda's husband and Olivia's mother."

Laura looked at me blankly and replied, "No, I don't."

I explained, "Oh, okay. Well then let me explain real quick. About 10 years ago, the two of them were working one morning at the then Oro Valley Cantina, now Corona de las Estrella's. There was an accident and Linda's husband along with

Olivia's mother died as a result of a gas leak. Anyway for the past many years Linda and Olivia have been fighting the City of Tucson and El Padre Gas over a faulty service connection which they believed had lead to their deaths..."

Linda walked out and picked-up where I left off, "...yes as Ron said we had always believed that the service connection was at fault. The City of Tucson kept saying it wasn't their problem since El Padre Gas did the connection, but El Padre kept saying Tuscon inspectors certified off on the installation. Right after the incident, we had an independent inspector review the service connection and determine it was in fact to blame. This had been tied up in the courts for the past few years. Likely it would have continued too had the last judge not order us to go through arbitration. We didn't think much would happen with that until suddenly a former El Padre Gas worker came forward with documentations showing that while the manufacture had issued several recalls on those connection valves, El Padre felt it was not necessary. Therefore they went ahead and continued to install these valves all over the Oro Valley and Tucson area. After the incident El Padre in attempt to cover their mess, suddenly complied with the recall and replaced all these valves. Anyway, El Padre and City of Tucson didn't really want to go to court over this new evidence so they offered us a settlement."

Laura asked, "So, how does this affect us?"

Linda laughed, "Well, it means you will be getting a lot of business from me. As I had told Ron earlier, prior to this settlement I had already purchased the other half of the building that the Budget Holstein occupies. We are in the process of undergoing a massive remodel. We knew that we were going to need a new network anyway since the other one could not accommodate our growth. I know Ron and Andy have replaced most of the computers as well as rebuilt the server..."

I added, "...Twice, the latest being on our Honeymoon!"

Linda continued, "Which I am sure was a bit of a sacrifice for you. But that is one of the reasons why I want to continue using AZOutback." Laura, Sara, Andy, Lindsay and I all looked at each other in shock. Linda continued, "I also want to pay y'all for the labor, we have the money."

Laura protested, "Linda our labor ranges from \$75 to \$150 per hour. Andy how long do you think it would take to rewire the entire Budget Holstein?"

Andy asked Linda, "How big is the place?"

Linda replied, "About 2500 square feet."

Andy thought, "Well 2500 depending on the number of computers and other factors, I would say 10-15 hours."

Laura continued, "You are looking at \$1500 to \$2250 in labor cost just for the wiring. I know y'all have the money but we don't want to break the bank. I normally charge \$100 per hour for my service, I'll cut that to \$75 because of the massive size of this job. What about you Andy?"

Andy and Lindsay talked amongst themselves for a few seconds and Lindsay announced, "Normally we charge \$150 an hour for the wiring, but since Laura will cut her rates, your a 'premier' client and also the massive size of this job we are willing to drop to \$100 an hour."

Andy added, "Since we are operating the stores now Ron can get the equipment at cost instead of retail. Just kinda wished you had told us *this* before we moved the Catalina Foothills store."

Lindsay in attempt to defend The Holsteins brought up the fact, "But they will be wanting very high end stuff we would have needed to special order anyway. Wonder if Doyle still has his contact at AMD? What about you Ron?"

The labor really didn't matter that much since I usually made up for it in parts mark-up. However if Andy was going to get me everything at cost, I could still do the usual mark-up and even do a labor discount. I told them, "For install and setup I will only charge \$50 an hour."

Linda told us, "That would be great. We can review the plans tomorrow night after dinner and then go over to the sites on Friday so you can take a look. We are going to be moving very fast on this construction and plan on having the store and the restaurant done by late March."

We went back inside to catch some football. Blanche called Laura's cell and told her they were a few minutes away. Laura asked Linda, "What time would be good tomorrow? Do you need help with dinner?"

Linda replied, "Anytime in the afternoon is fine, between Kayré, Olivia, Wynn and myself we should be alright with dinner prep. Thanks for the offer though."

Laura and Miss Kitty bided us a good night and left.

Sara and I were a bit tired so we retired early that evening. As we were lying in bed Sara asked, "Did you know Linda was expanding?"

I told her, "Nope, but I had a feeling she was up to something, suddenly taking all this time away from the store. These should be interesting jobs."

Sara asked, "How so?"

I explained, "I don't know. But there is something else she is not telling us."

Sara puzzled, "What?"

I replied, "Besides why she is selling the ranch, I'm not sure. She said she'll tell us after dinner tomorrow. I have an odd feeling Andy is involved somehow."

We kissed and fondled each other a bit before going to sleep.

## **Chapter 5: What We Are Most Thankful For & More So...**

We woke up the next morning to Lindsay knocking on our door, "You two awake in there?"

Sara mumbled something, "We are now."

Lindsay walked in, "Sorry, but if you want breakfast you better get up now before Andy eats it all."

Sara got up and headed down the hall into the bathroom. I quickly dressed and went to the kitchen. Andy was finishing up his second plate of bacon and eggs. I sat down and Olivia set a plate piled high with eggs and bacon in front of me. I was midway through my breakfast when Sara emerged in green tank top and green overall shorts with tan stockings. I just continued eating my breakfast but noticed Lindsay and Olivia couldn't take their eyes off of her.

We spent the rest of the morning watching the Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade. Later on the girls all gathered in the kitchen to work on dinner. Andy and I spent most of the afternoon watching football. Laura, Miss Kitty, Lorena and Blanche arrived about an hour before dinner. We watched some football but mostly talked about various things. Linda came out and announced, "Olivia, Kayré and Wynn have dinner almost ready to be served shortly. In the mean time let's go around and tell everyone what we are 'Most Thankful For'. I'll begin. I am thankful to have such a wonderful daughter. She has kept me going and motivated even when things we're at their worst. Thank you Kayré! Now, your turn Ron"

I thought for a moment, "Well, it has been quite a year, but I am thankful for Sara. She has been a wonderful assistant, maid, lover and now wife. Your turn Sara."

Sara replied, "I am thankful to Ron for helping me get reunited with my sister. Maya."

Maya in her thick Texas accent, "I'm am thankful for y'all's hospitality. You've not only helped me out a bad situation but y'all have been more than accommodating to me." Maya looked around, "I suppose Laura should be next?"

Laura was caught off guard, "Um...oh...Hmm...Okay, thanks Maya. Gosh this is a tough one. I would have to say I am most thankful that Ron has entrusted me to stay on the team. Even if I did sleep with his wife!" Everyone in the room laughed. Laura corrected herself, "I guess I should say ex-wife. Your turn Lynette..."

Miss Kitty stood up, "I am thankful to Ron and Lorena for accepting me in as part of the family. I was very scared after what happened a few years ago..."

Since not everyone knew the full story I interrupted, "...allow me to explain quickly. When Laura and I were in high school, Laura brought Miss Kitty...er...Lynette home and told my folks they were sweethearts. My father, god rest his soul, wanted nothing of this and basically threw her out of the house..."

Lorena added, "...I on the other hand was thrilled for my daughter but knew her father would never approve. I am thankful for Blanche as she came into my life at the most perfect time. But I am also thankful to Laura for opening my mind to having a lady in my life. Your turn dear."

Blanche was lost for words, "Gosh I don't know what to say. I suppose I am like Lynette in that you all have welcomed me as part of the family."

I turned my attention over to Andy and Lindsay, "Your guy's turns now."

Lindsay was almost in tears but she found the strength to hold back the tears and announce, "I speak for both us when I say we are so thankful to Ron, his family and our friends for everything they have done to take us in and help us these past couple months. I don't know where we would be now without you. Thank you so much!" Lindsay couldn't hold back the tears anymore. Andy and Sara comforted her until the food arrived.

After dinner Linda called the 'crew' out again to the back patio, this time with Kayré. Linda started out, "Okay now that I know y'all are willing to take on this project but, we have another for you."

We all looked at each other in confusion, but Andy was smiling trying hard not to laugh. Lindsay was getting suspicious, "Andy what is going on?"

Andy looked at Linda who told him, "Go ahead, you tell them."

Andy replied, "Well, as Linda has mentioned before she is getting tons of business because of the festival in Cave Creek this past summer. When we were moving out of the Catalina Foothills store, she was asking me about the Far North Scottsdale shopping center."

I joked, "What you going to relocate to Scottsdale?! That would explain why you are selling the ranch."

Kayré responded, "Sort of. Not relocate we are going to open a store out there."

We all looked at each other in amazement. But I wondered, "Okay, but it would seem to me that it is a bit difficult to operate another store halfway across the state. I mean just look at poor Andy and Lindsay with their Fountain Hills store."

Andy explained, "Well, I have plan."

Lindsay laughed, "*You* have a plan?! *This* I have got to hear!"

Andy playing along, "Okay Miss Negativity, *Linda*, *Kayré* and I have a plan. We've talked about this over the past few weeks. Now of course Ron kinda needs to give us his approval as it does involve Sara."

Sara and I both at once, "Huh?"

Andy laughed, "You'll understand in a bit...here's the plan. Linda has already purchased a building on the northern end of the center by the wash. It is going to be The Budget Holstein North. Linda has her team out here in Oro Valley and plans on staying here. Kayré on the other hand will over see operations at the new store."

I was confused, "Okay so if she is going to be running the store, how does this involve Sara?"

Kayré explained, "I am not going to be doing this alone, I am wanting to hire Lindsay and I am hoping to hire Sara as well."

Lindsay and Sara just looked at each other in sheer joy. Sara asked, "Well can I Ron?"

This was all a bit sudden for me, but I knew Sara as did Lindsay really enjoyed the modeling. Still, "I guess, I just never saw Sara as much of a sales person."

Linda laughed, "Well, I don't think Lindsay is either, but our products kinda sell themselves, especially when these two model them. You would not believe the number of calls I have had asking if we have a store in the Phoenix area."

I asked, "So what is the time line and where will Kayré live?"

Andy commented, "You know those new condos they are building to the south of us? The soft Grand Opening is this Monday."

Kayré commented, "My girlfriend Kacie O'Neil and I have been talking about getting a condo so this would be perfect. She works for Wal Mart out in Tucson, but she can easily transfer to the Scottsdale location. Since I will be moving out, mom doesn't need this huge house."

Linda explained, "I've already bought a condo along the El Conquistador golf course and I am sure you have noticed, put the ranch up for sale." Then she answered the first part of my question, "I would like to get going as soon as possible and this will be the first project. Just need a basic network and one high end-computer for Kayré. Ideally I would like to get the store opened by next weekend."

I nearly dropped my glass of wine when I heard Linda say, 'next weekend' I turned to Andy, "Is that even possible?"

Andy laughed, "I think so, we have everything in your garage for this project."

I agreed but wondered, "True, but wasn't that going to be used for the Rio Verde store?"

Lindsay not knowing any better, "Yeah wasn't that going to be use for the Rio Verde store?"

Andy joked, "Is there an echo in here? Given that Lindsay is going to be working with Kayré and Sara at the Budget Holstein North...and I want to get the two stores we have now operating smoothly I think we will wait on Rio Verde."

I joked, "Especially with all the troubles you have had with Fountain Hills."

Andy continued, "Like I said, getting them operating smoothly."

Linda then mentioned, "Let me take back what I said last night about the expansion of the current Budget Holstein. Right now, getting the northern location up and running is the most important. Further it is important for everyone to understand that the northern store is *not* going to be my project. I have complete faith in Kayré, Lindsay and Sara. This is going to be their project, their store."

Andy and I joked, "Awfully trusting isn't she?"

Linda replied, "Kayré knows her stuff well. What she doesn't know she will learn and asked me. At least she will have Sara and Lindsay's modeling to buy her some time!"

Kayré asked, "Will it be okay if Kacie and I stay at your place until we can get a condo?"

Sara asked, "Do we even have room for more guests?"

I thought for a moment, "Well, they will have to sleep on the sofa bed in the Presentation Room until Laura and Miss Kitty leave Tuesday. I don't plan on using the room anyway until after the first of the year."

## **Chapter 6: It's The Most Wonderful Crazy Time of the Year!**

As is tradition on the Friday after Thanksgiving, we went shopping. The girls took off for the boutiques while Andy and I hit the electronics stores. Andy picked up a few items for his new house. I picked up some Flash Drives that were on sale for an insanely low price. We met up the girls later on that afternoon at The Foothills Mall for a late lunch. Sara and Lindsay showed off the jewelry they had picked up earlier that day. Kayré joined us and introduced us to Kacie who looked very similar to Gary's step daughter Cristina. She then told Kacie, "Ron and Sara are going to let us stay with them until we get our Condo."

Kacie spoke with an Irish accent, "Thank you Ron and Sara, that is so nice of you. I've already had my transfer approved, helps I've been with the company for 7-years. I start next weekend at the store at the Loop 101 and Northsight."

I told Kacie, "That is a really nice store, and there is plenty of business around there too. Depending on the condition of Pima should take you about 20-30 minutes to get there from our place."

Kacie laughed, "Beats the hour I am doing now. Well, I need to get back. Nice meeting y'all. I'll see you Sunday evening."

The rest of the weekend was fairly uneventful. Kayré was gone most of Sunday to help Kacie get her stuff packed up. Gary called that afternoon, "Hey Ron, sorry I didn't call you sooner. We had so much fun out in Wickenburg, totally lost track of time. Anything new with you?"

I explained, "Hmm...where to begin. Linda is selling The Ranch, Kayré is moving out. She and her girl friend will be staying with us until they can get one of the new condos..."

Gary had to ask, "Kayré has a girl friend? Go figure."

I wasn't sure to make of that last statement, "What is that suppose to mean?"

Gary laughed, "Oh nothing, it just means Bambi was right, that's all. Hey why are they getting a condo up here? They want to get as far away from mom as possible?"

I had to laugh, "No, not exactly." I went on to explain, "Recall when Linda and

Kayré were up there during the summer for a festival in Caver Creek? Well, she has gotten and continues to get so much business she has decided to expand her store in Oro Valley."

Gary was puzzled, "Okay, but what does that have to do with Kayré?"

I continued, "In a minute. Now, I have told you about Linda's husband and Olivia's mother?"

Gary thought for a moment, "Olivia, she was the girl from the catering company right?"

I replied, "Yes and Kayré's best friend. Any way her mother and Linda's husband died in a freak accident some 10 years ago. Thanks to a troublesome former employee of El Padre Gas, Linda received a massive settlement from the City of Tuscon and El Padre Gas."

Gary responded, "Yeah, I recall reading about that, had no idea they were involved. Yikes it took 10 years! But again what does this have to with Kayré?"

I told Gary, "Okay, so as I said because of the festival in Cave Creek, they've got so many customers out in the Phoenix area that they are going to open a store in the same center as Andy's store. Kayré is going to run that store along with Lindsay and Sara."

Gary was worried, "Oh no, Bunny and Bambi are going to drive me to the poor house now! Anyway, I'm happy for Lindsay and Sara I know those two enjoy modeling. I know Lindsay had been a little depressed lately about selling the club."

I told him, "That poor girl has been through so much in the past couple months. Both of them have. But they really appreciated your support. I know things are looking up for them now. They'll be a lot happier too once their house is done."

Gary agreed, "Yep, I know the three of us sure where when we finally got to move into ours. Hey, when are your sister and Miss Kitty leaving?"

I replied, "Tuesday morning why?"

Gary had an idea, "How about we have a grand ole shin dig down at the Unlikely Cowboy? We can invite Marc and Martina too."

I had to laugh Gary loved that place and would look for any excuse to have a party there, "Hmm may be we should make reservations since there will be 14 of us!"

Gary told me he would have it taken care of and to be there around 7:00 PM. Later that evening Kayré and Kacie arrived and they spent the rest of the evening getting Kayré packed. Before we went to bed Linda gathered us all in the kitchen and announced, "Well, this is the last evening we will be spending in this house. It has been an amazing 27 years, but the time has come for us to move on. I'm going to miss this place, but I won't miss all the work and up keep!"

Maya asked, "Was Kayré born here?"

Linda laughed, "Practically, I almost delivered her right in the living room! Yep, she has spent her entire life in this house. My late husband built it back in 1980. Gosh I can remember when there was nothing out here. The golf course didn't open until 1984. I started the Budget Holstein in 1985 and almost abandoned it in 1997 when he died. Thankfully Kayré talked some sense into me, or else we wouldn't all be here right now. "

Kayré was in tears, "That was a sad day for Olivia and I, but we got through it together and we have become stronger. When we reopen Corona de las Estrella's, Olivia is going to place a plaque at the main entrance, 'Dedicated to the memory of Howard 'Hal' Holstein & Maria de la Esmeralda'. Thanks Ron and Sara, you two have done so much for us!"

Sara and I were speechless. Linda finally broke the silence, "Well, we really need to get some rest. I know y'all will be taking off early so good luck! Remember, Kayré if you need anything I am a phone call away. I'll be up the week of Christmas to check on you....er visit" Linda came over and gave me a giant bear hug, "Thanks Ron!" She did the same to Sara. Before we went to bed Linda told us, "By the way since I selling this place, if any of you want any of the furniture, let me know. It yours for the taking, just pay me for the shipping costs."

Andy replied, "Lindsay and I love the cowboy room we've been in. We would love to have our master bed room in this theme."

I added, "The old west theme is cool too. Since our bed is a king I can't use it in the master bedroom. But could use it in the Queen Suite. Just bill both the sets to my Road Runner account."

Linda was happy, "Sold! Great less stuff for me to have to sell/consign now! I'll get them out in the next week couple weeks. Well good night everyone."

Sara and I were very tired, more emotionally than anything else. We both fell asleep in each others arms fairly quickly. What only seemed like a few minutes later was 4:00 AM and Kayré knocking on our door, "Time to get up Ron and Sara. Maya and Wynn are already up and are helping Andy and Lindsay. Leave your bags outside the door and we will get them loaded for you." Sara and I quickly retrieved what we were going to wear that day and put our night clothes in the

laundry sack. I placed our bags outside the door and a few minutes later Kayré picked them up. Once Sara and I were dressed, we joined everyone else outside. We were going to do things a little differently this time around. Since Kayré wasn't comfortable driving such a long distance Andy and Lindsay would take her Hummer. Laura and Miss Kitty rode with Andy and Lindsay while Kayré, Kacie, Wynn and Maya rode with Sara and I. As what has seem to become tradition when going to or from The Budget Holstein we stopped off for breakfast at the truck stop in Florence.

Andy and I were careful not to eat too much as to not fall asleep on the way home. A couple hours later we stopped for gas and to allow the girls to use the restroom. Sara wanted to be with Lindsay, as if she hadn't spent enough time with her already so Kacie moved up to the front seat, while Maya and Wynn stayed in the back. Kacie had fallen asleep again and woke up as we got on the San Tan Freeway, "Ah back on the interstate again."

I explained, "Actually, more of a metro freeway. To be more technical, one of the three 'Loop' freeways. We are heading west at the moment and will be going north in a few minutes on another Loop."

Kacie looked around in amazement, "Sure a lot more developed out here than in Tucson."

I told her, "Yes it is, but most of this development only been in the past few years. This area use to be nothing but corn and cotton fields along with cows. Put in a freeway and the area explodes with growth. The area where we live is not this overly developed but not exactly rural either. We have a full service grocery store, bank, gas station and a couple restaurants near by. The main development is only 22 home sites and I have heard there are only going to have 40 condos."

Kacie gave sighed of relief, "I guess I won't have to worry too much about becoming a city girl."

I told her, "Well your Wal Mart store is in a heavily developed area along the Pima Freeway, but you will only need to travel about 10 minutes before you are out of the area. I'll point it out when we go by." About 20 minutes later we were approaching Raintree, "Kacie over to your left is the Wal Mart."

Kacie looked and shrugged, "Well, that ain't so bad. Lot like The Foothills area of Tucson. So how much longer?"

I informed her, "We will be exiting the freeway soon and connecting with the Pima Highway. Depending on traffic and road destruction...I mean construction, we should be there in about 20 minutes." As we passed Lone Mountain Road I noticed it was now paved and opened to the east. There were signs for the Foothills Condos, but they were still showing as 'coming soon'. I merged over to

exit at Desert Foothills Oasis Parkway and informed Kacie, "Here we are. This is the Market Place I was talking about. Maya delivers for Vinnie's Pizza/KFC and only within the community which is still another 1/2 miles up ahead."

Kacie looked in awe as we climbed up into the foothills and then came to the pass. Since Andy was behind me I moved into the left lane to let the guard know that he was with us. The guard shack is situated at the highest point of the community and overlooks the mini-valley of Desert Foothills Oasis. When we came to the end of the main entry road I noticed new sign 'The Foothills Condos 2/3 Miles --->' and also noticed that Foothills Parkway had been resurfaced and was paved and open past the southern edge of the community. I really couldn't see where it went as it winded thru the hills before coming into another valley. As I turned into the driveway and passed through the Porte Cochere, I announced, "We are here."

Laura came up to and told me, "Miss Kitty and I will go ahead and move over to the Presentation Room so Kayré and Kacie don't have to switch rooms tomorrow."

I was about to tell Wynn, but she heard the news, "I'll get the Queen Suite fixed up for them."

Kacie just looked around in amazement, "Wow and here I thought Kayré was joking this place is like a resort!"

I told her, "If you think this is impressive, wait until you see the inside."

Kayré came up to her and said, "See I told you so. Since we are going to be in the Queen Suite you will have to see the view in the evening. Now, let's go inside and get freshened up. I want to take a look at those condos."

Miss Kitty and Laura quickly moved their stuff over to the Presentation Room while Kacie and Kayré put their stuff in the Queen Suite. Maya had some studying she wanted to get done. Andy and Lindsay along with Laura and Miss Kitty headed down to the playroom. Hadn't really given it much thought, but I wondered if Kacie knew about our lifestyle. While she was in the bathroom I grabbed Kayré and asked, "While this may not be any of my business, how much of our lifestyle does Kacie know about?"

Kayré laughed and pulled out a silver chastity belt key from her skirt pocket, "This should answer that question!"

I laughed, "That certainly does."

## **Chapter 7: We'll Take It!**

Kacie returned from the restroom and we headed downstairs while Sara was

waiting for us in the kitchen. We headed into the garage and took the Jeep. I wasn't too sure how to get to the condos from here. I had thought about going back out to Pima Highway, but since the Foothills Parkway was now open I would give it a shot. They had changed the alignment a bit since we had returned from our honeymoon, shifting it more to the west. As we came into the Foothills Condos development I notice to the east a building and row of garages which were already completed. There appeared to be another set as well to the southwest. The pool & cabana were already completed as well. I was looking for the sales office but not having much luck. As I neared the exit and noticed a guard shack so I stopped. The guard came out, "Odd I don't recall seeing you come in..." She noticed the community sticker on the windshield, "...Oh you're a Desert Foothills Oasis Resident. You can use this exit if you like, just beware of the construction traffic."

I informed her, "Okay thanks, but my friends here are looking to buy. Can you point us in the direction of the Sales Office?"

The guard laughed a bit, "So sorry, first day we are open. Go out here and hang a left on Lone Mountain and that will take you to the sales office. By the way when you come back your remote will open these gates."

I exited on to Lone Mountain and sure enough to the left was the sales office. As we walked in we were greeted by a lady in her mid 30's in black sleeveless top, skirt, stockings and sandals. "Welcome! What can we help you with today?"

I explained, "Well my wife and I are residents in the Oasis already. Her business partner and 'friend' here want to purchase a condo."

The lady introduced herself as Jes and asked, "How soon are you looking to buy?"

With a straight face Kayré replied, "Once we find a plan and location we like. Today would be preferable."

Jes was ecstatic but did let us know, "Well great. If you do purchase today it will still be about another couple weeks or so before they will be ready for occupancy. Have you given any thoughts about financing?"

Again with a straight face Kayré replied, "No need for that."

Jes was confused, "Um...Okay....Pre-qualified?"

Kayré smiled, "Nope, we will pay cash."

Jes was at a loss...her first customer of the day and she was about to get a sale. She thought fast, "Oh hey, what lot are y'all from?" This bought her some time to get all the paperwork.

I replied, "Lot 13 over off of Fairy Duster Court."

Jes looked up in surprise, "Oh so you must be the Mister Merlot they were talking about. You use to own quite a chunk of land over there."

I wasn't sure what to make of this, "Yep, I'm Ron Merlot. I did just sell off lots 12 & 14 to a couple good friends of mine." In an attempt to get Jes to focus on Kayré and Kacie I said, "and I am hoping to help out these friends today too."

Jes caught on, "Oh yes. Now we have three plans and we do have models of all three The main difference between the 'A' and 'B' plans are that the 'B' plans have two full baths and a laundry closet. The 'A' plans have a 1/2 bath and a laundry room. The bedrooms are the same size in both. The 'C' Plan has three bedrooms. The first two are the same size as those in the 'A' & 'B' plans while the third is a little smaller. The 'C' Plan also has two full baths plus a laundry room."

We toured the models, I was quite impressed with the 'A' Plan as it would be perfect for a home office, where a full size second bath would not be needed. The 'B' Plan would have been good for those who have guests and need another full size bathroom. The 'C' plan was huge. Even though the third bedroom was a bit smaller than the other two, it was still a good size. Jes explained, "Right now we are finishing up on buildings 1 and 6. Building 6 has the 'A' plan on the western half while the 'B' plan is on the eastern half. With Building 1, all eight units are the 'C' plan and is one of two our most scenic buildings. Building 2 will be directly north of there, but it is about 10 feet lower grade than that of Building 1."

Kayré and Kacie talked for a bit while studying the map. Kayré asked, "I noticed there is some parking along the north end of this building, is that for residents or our guests?"

Jes explained, "It is first-come first-serve. There are no reserved spaces since each unit is assigned a garage. Also that parking is about 3 feet below grade of the building as well."

Kayré and Kacie talked some more and Kayré asked, "What are the premiums on these units?"

Jes explained, "That depends on location. However, since you were referred by a Desert Oasis resident and as part of the pre-grand opening special we will waive the premiums." Once again Kayré and Kacie talked amongst themselves. Sara and I weren't really sure which direction they were heading in. Jes asked, "Trying to figure out what to do with the third bedroom?"

Kayré replied, "Um...Yea. We will share the master and the secondary we will use as kinda of a home office for my work. Just don't know what to do with that third

though. The 'A' plan is nice, but we like this location." She studied the site map, "What is the time frame on Building 2?"

Jes replied, "Not too sure at this point. Rumor has it, that will be the last since it is across from the models. Do any of you have family nearby?"

Kayré explained, "My mother is in Oro Valley. Kacie's family are out-of-state but do visit a couple times a year..." The light bulb went off in Kayré's head, "Of course, we could use the third as a guest room. What do you think Kacie?"

Kacie didn't really pay much attention as she thought Kayré was going to make all the decisions for them, "Huh? Oh you mean I get to have a choice in the matter?"

Kayré frowned, "Hmm, guess I been kind of dominating..."

Kacie replied, "In more ways than one." I had to keep from laughing as I didn't want to draw attention to them. Sara was a bit puzzled, but knew well enough to keep quiet. Kacie let her opinions be known, "Well, I liked the 'B' Plan because of the full bath, but don't like the laundry closet either. I am not that thrilled with the location of Building 6 being right on Lone Mountain. If we are going to be premium free no matter which location we might as well go with Building 1. We will have a guest room from when your mother comes up here 'to check up on you'."

I could tell Kayré had been hanging around Sara, "Whatever! *Visit*, she will visit. So are you saying Building 1? And if so, which unit?"

Kacie gave her final answer, "Yes mis...er...ma'am. Building 1, Unit 202."

Kayré agreed and they went to work on the mountain of paperwork. Meanwhile I took Sara outside so I could explain the significance of Kacie's comment and the near Freudian Slip a moment ago. I told Sara, "Um, I know you were a bit puzzled by Kacie's response about Kayré being dominating. I think you started something too."

Sara was even more confused, "What do I have to do with Kayré being dominating? Oh wait you mean....Kacie is...."

I finished her sentence, "Belted? Yes she is."

Sara blushed, "Okay I then I get the comment Kayré just made! Geez, we sure do have some kinky friends don't we?"

I interjected, "Well you had to show Kayré the belt....oh wait I suggested that. Never mind." Luckily my cell phone interrupted the awkwardness.

Much to my surprise it was Martina, "Hey Ron. Marc wants to know what time we are suppose to be at The Unlikely Cowboy tonight?"

With everything that has been going on, I totally forget about Gary's shin-dig, "Oh crap, forgot about that. I think Gary said he wanted us up there around 7:00 PM. Hopefully we will be done by then. Kayré and Kacie are buying one of the new condos over here."

Martina asked, "Who's Kacie and for that matter what condos?"

I explained, "Kacie is Kayré's girlfriend. The Foothills Condos is the new expansion of the community off of Lone Mountain Road."

Martina replied, "Ah okay. Hey be sure to mention that to Marc. Gotta run."

Sara was confused, "Where are we suppose to be at 7:00 PM tonight?"

I told her, "Well yesterday afternoon Gary called and I filled him in on what was going on. Anyway since Laura and Miss Kitty are still in town he invited us to dinner over at The Unlikely Cowboy."

Sara was excited, "Cool...now what to wear. I don't suppose you can drop me off at the house?"

I told Sara, "Let me check on Kayré and Kacie." I went back inside and found Jes in her office with Kayré and Kacie. I popped my head in, "Sorry to interrupt, but if y'all are going to be a while I am going to drop Sara off at home."

Kayré looked up, "That's fine we will be a couple hour still. We'll call the house when we are ready."

I was about to leave when I recalled, "Oh and Gary has invited us to dinner over at The *Unlikely Cowboy* tonight." I left the office and was just about to leave the sales office when I saw an info packet on the table and picked one up for Marc. I left the office and found Sara, "Okay, Kayré will ring the house when they are done. I got an info packet for Marc."

Sara asked, "What? Is he wanting to get a condo over here?"

I replied, "Not sure, I know he has mentioned on a couple occasions the one they have now is a bit small for them. I think it is only a one-bedroom. All I know is Martina told me to mention the condos to Marc tonight."

Sara shrugged, "How odd."

While the guard did say my remote would work on these entrance gates, I wasn't

sure. Much to my surprise the gates opened. We did stop off over at Building 1 and took a look around. Jes was not kidding about the view, especially from the second floor. I am still in shock over what has happen in the past couple months. Never expected to have Andy and Lindsay with us, much less Kayré and Kacie. Sara and I returned home and she went off to find Lindsay and Maya.

## **Chapter 8: Interesting Announcements and Actions**

A little after 6:00 that evening Kayré call the house to say her and Kacie were done and to come get them. I was going to take my Jeep but discovered Maya had taken it when she went over to Vinnie's to get her check. Since I had the keys for The Cruiser on the same ring, so I took it instead. At least this time of day the construction had stopped so it made a bit easier to get through. Kayré and Kacie were waiting at the sales office and didn't even know it was me. Kayré asked, "How many different cars do you have?"

I explained, "Well, the Jeep and the Cruiser are mine. The Hummer is Maya's...actually it use to be Martina's but as part of the divorce settlement, I got the Hummer and she kept the Jag. "

We returned to the house, Kayré and Kacie went upstairs to get ready. By a quarter to 7:00 everyone was dressed and ready. Maya was wearing the red corset dress Sara had picked up for her in Lake Havasu. Wynn was in her purple corset dress and Sara in hers as well. All three girls were wearing black stockings and sandals. Lindsay came down the stairs looking like an Angle in a white corset dress, stockings and sandals. Kayré was wearing a green corset with a very short black leather skirt and black stockings and very high-heeled knee length boots. Kacie was wearing the same thing except a blue corset. Laura was wearing a red shirt underneath a black under bust corset and full length black skirt. She was however wearing black stockings with her sandals. Miss Kitty was dressed similar to Kayré & Kassie with a white corset, skirt, stockings. Except the skirt like Laura's was full length and she was also wearing sandals. The doorbell rang, Bambi and Bunny were waiting dressed like twins in all black. I asked, "Where's Gary?"

Bunny explained, "He is coming from the office, so he will met us there."

The twelve of us piled into to the two Hummers and headed down to The Unlikely Cowboy. Marc was waiting in the 'chick magnet'. I commented to Kayré and Kacie, "Check out Marc's plates". I noticed Martina was in an all pink ensemble tonight including pink boots.

Kayré saw the 'CHKMGNT' plate and died laughing, "Martina let him get that?"

I explained, "I don't think he was expecting to get it approved by the MVD." The familiar rumble of Gary's Harley broke the silence, "Gary's here."

After we ordered our drinks and food everyone started talking amongst themselves. Given the size of our party they had reserved the patio for us. I found Marc with Martina attached to him. "Hey, Martina wanted to make sure I told you about the new Foothills Condos."

Marc was intrigued, "Yeah, Martina mentioned something about Kayré getting a condo. The one we are in right now is a bit small and we are renting it too." I happened to have the info packet with me so I showed him what they had to offer.

Martina commented, "I like the Plan A, having the half-bath would be handy when we have visitors and Marc could use the second bedroom as an office."

Marc reviewed the plans as well and asked, "Are they modeling this plan and when could we see them?"

I explained, "Yes, they have all three models. Well, this week they are not advertising that they're open yet. They are also waiving the premiums if you are referred by a Desert Oasis resident...."

Kacie came over and added, "Plus \$2500 in free upgrades. Hi, I'm Kacie, Kayré's girlfriend. So you are the Marc everyone is talking about. Hey can I talk to you in private for a bit?"

Kacie and Marc disappeared off to one corner of the patio. Martina came over, "Hey Ron. What's that all about?"

I told her, "Haven't a clue, I think she is inquiring about his services. But then again, your guess is as good as mine." Trying to get her off this subject I commented, "Wow you are looking really good. Been working out?"

Martina smiled, "Yes, a couple hours here and there a day. Thanks."

Marc came over and asked, "When would you be able to take Martina and I to see these condos?"

I explained, "Well I am supposed to start work on The Budget Holstein North project tomorrow. I know the sales office is open until 9:00 PM so I suppose when you two are done at work."

We agreed that Marc and Martina would meet me over at The Budget Holstein North when they got off work around 7:00 the next evening. Marc took off but said he would be right back. Meanwhile I had to go talk to Kayré, provided I could find her.

I found Kayré and Kacie at the far end of the bar exchanging a kiss. This was the first time I had seen those two display any affection towards each other. I waited until they were done before I approached, "Hey Kayré been looking for you."

Kacie giggled, "Sorry Ron, I didn't mean for us to be hiding. If you excuse me I need to visit the loo."

I asked Kayré, "So how long you two been together?"

I wasn't sure if Kayré was going to answer the question but she did with a laugh, "We've been friends for about 7 years but nothing more up until around the time my Mom and I came up to your place the first time. You know when Sara and I had our fun. It was then I discovered how much pleasure there was being with another woman. Kacie was a bit hesitant at first, but once I got her relaxed she really got into it."

I laughed, "As usual Sara manages to bring out the kinky side in everyone. Hemingway, Marc and Martina are going to stop by the store after work tomorrow night and then go over and look at the condos. Now, you and Lindsay need to come with me and Sara when we leave here."

Kayré asked, "What about Kacie?"

I replied, "If you want to bring her along that is fine. We will be heading over to the store as I need to get an idea as to what you want to do."

Kayré replied, "Oh, well I guess I should tell you that Kacie is going to be working for us."

I was surprised, "Okay..."

Kayré explained, "Well I need someone to run the store, ring-up customers answer phones and e-mail. Lindsay and Sara are going to be doing modeling/sales and I won't be at the store much since I will be out working with vendors or busy with store related stuff. Plus she is tired of Wal Mart."

I complimented Kayré, "Good plan, you really know what is going on." We chatted another few minutes and notice Marc had just returned as did Kacie.

Kacie beckoned us over, "Ron? Kayré? Come over here please." We returned to the center of the patio (we were the only ones there as we had it reserved) and Kacie announced, "Can I have your attention please?!" We all looked towards her and saw she was holding Kayré's hand. Kacie continued, "Kayré and I have taken a big step today in our relationship! We've just purchased our first home together." She pulled out a diamond ring and got down on her knee in front of Kayré, "Kayré you and I have known each other for many of years. These last

couple months we have been together have been incredible. Will you be my partner?"

Kayré was almost in tears of joy, "Oh my gosh. Kacie you shouldn't have...but then again that is one heck of a rock you got me! Oh come here." She pulled Kacie off balance and cradled her in her arms and planted a long hard kiss on her lips. I swear I thought I saw a camera flash, but must have been imaging things as no one had a camera with them.

Once Kacie had recovered, "I'll take it that was a yes!"

Kayré laughed, "Yes it was. Now I hate to break up this precious moment, but we do need to get over to the store. We need to get a rough idea what we are going to do so Ron and his 'crew' can get started. For that matter we need to get started as well."

Kacie responded, "I've got us hooked up with some display racks and cases thanks to Marc."

Why was I not surprised. Marc came walking in from the far end of the patio and explained, "I have a buddy of mine that buys displays cases and racks from store that are or have gone out of business. He gets most of this stuff dirt cheap, sometimes even for free. He's got a warehouse out near Buckeye full of this stuff. The only catch is it cash-and-carry."

Bambi reminded us, "Hey you can use the ACME truck it should be big enough to hold everything. I am sure I can get Maya to help me."

Maya was kinda lost in the moment of Kayré & Kacie not paying attention, "Huh?"

Bambi told her, "You can help us with the display racks and cases for Kayré and Kacie's store. We'll take the ACME truck."

Maya was still kinda lost but replied, "Oh okay...sure." and then headed towards the ladies room hastily.

Bunny asked, "Is she alright?"

Kacie commented, "Sorry, I think she was a bit turned-off by my announcement."

I informed her, "I don't think that is it. She's been going through a tough time and recently had a run-in with her ex-boyfriend. Bambi you wanna go check on her please." Once Bambi left I explained to Kacie, "I am not all for sure, but I think she has a crush on Bambi. They spent a lot of time together when Sara and I were on our honeymoon. Don't worry you didn't do anything wrong. Go ahead and get in Kayré's Hummer, we need to head over to the store."

Andy, Lindsay, Kayré and Sara all headed out to Kayré's hummer. I grabbed Wynn and told her, "You'll be taking Maya, Laura and Miss Kitty home. We'll be back in about an hour or so."

Wynn replied, "Okay."

## **Chapter 9: The Anatomy of Budget Holstein North & Girls Just Wanna Have Fun**

I wasn't too worried about Maya as I figured Bambi would calm her down. The store was less than 10 minutes from DC Ranch. I was expecting a small suite, but instead walked into a full size store. I was surprised to see dressing rooms and a large I-shaped display case. Kayré explained, "This use to be a clothing store but as do many out here, it went under. They did leave us this front display case here, which appears to be bolted down. I am thinking we will be using this for belts, gloves and stockings. Now over on this east wall we are going to display shoes, but not many. In the front windows we will have a couple displays of corsets and dresses. Throughout the floor depending on what type of display racks we get, we'll have other clothing featured. Now next to the dressing rooms, I want to setup a couple computers so they can browser the inventory and check on availability. Of course we will also need a couple more computer at front checkout as well."

Kayré lead us to the rear of the store to the stockroom and her office. She explained, "Okay in my office I need a couple computers. I want one on a dedicated connection to the Internet and not connected into the network. This will need to be the high-end system so I can do my design work. Then just a normal terminal connected into the network. Now to the stockroom. I would like to have two computers in here as well."

Kacie asked, "How much space do you need for the server?"

Lindsay advised her, "No more than a few cubic feet, if even that much."

Andy joked, "So did you get all that Ron?"

I told him, "Sure did. One server, one eight-port switch, seven terminal systems with monitors and one specialty system with monitor." Turning my attention to Kayré, "How many printers do you need?"

Kayré thought for a moment, "Well, we need one at the front checkout, one for the special-order area, one for my office and one in the stock room. So I guess that works out to four."

Lindsay asked, "Are you placing most of these computers along walls?"

Kayré replied but confused, "Yes, why?"

Lindsay explained, "Normally when we do these networks, the walls aren't solid yet. In those cases we are able to run the wiring internally and setup the ports. In this case since the wall are already in we will have to do this a little differently. Suggestions Andy."

Andy told us, "Well, I was thinking to keep this looking nice in the main showroom we can add faux baseboards. The wiring will run behind the boards and we can put in ports too. Need to take some measurements then special order. Shouldn't take more than a couple days. Now, I don't suppose you have your wheel Ron?"

I told Andy, "Should be in the back of the Hummer along with my toolbox." Andy exited then came back with my measuring wheel. In a couple minutes he had measured the showroom and wrote down the info he needed. He also measured the distance from the stockroom to the far point of the showroom to get a ballpark figure of how much cable we would need.

Andy took some more measurements and then we discussed what we would be doing. I informed them, "Well Kayré, Kacie, Maya, Bambi and I will be heading out to the supplier tomorrow. You and Lindsay are going to be working on getting the wiring done then?"

Lindsay falling sleeping, "Yes...we should be able to get the wiring done...and may be even get the server setup."

We headed back to the house and while Lindsay, Sara, Kayré and Kacie went to bed Andy and I stayed up loading The Cruiser with everything we would need for the job. I told Andy, "We should be back up in the afternoon with all the displays. What time do you two plan on starting?"

Andy replied, "Well, we have a lot of work ahead of us and really would like to get the server going. Plus I still need to build Kayré's computer. I am wondering since we will have the ACME truck if we should get the stuff for our store as well?"

I told Andy, "Good idea, as that will make it a little easier for Kayré to get to her stuff. I can help you out with Kayré's computer." I suddenly realized with the Budget Holstein and The McGrawl's stuff gone, "Wow I am going to get my garage back!"

Andy had to bring me back to reality, "Oh good, I won't have to be parking the Lexus outside any more."

Joking I said, "Gee thanks for ruining the moment!"

Andy kidded back, "Anytime Ron. Okay, I have everything we need for tomorrow and we will start around 8:00."

From outside I heard Maya, "Hey Ron? Gary is here to see you."

I was a bit surprised and wonder what's up, "Gary what you doing here?"

Gary informed me, "Um Ron I hate to impose but, Bunny and I need to head over to Vegas very early and we may be gone a while. I can't really go into details, but is it okay if Bambi stays with y'all?"

I knew it was important if Gary *and* Bunny were having to go and I didn't have any problems with this, "Sure, why not. I've still got....the presentation room....oh crap!" That is when it dawned on me that Laura and Miss Kitty were in the presentation room.

Gary asked, "What?"

I explained, "Hmm...my sister and Miss Kitty are in The Presentation Room, Andy & Lindsay in the King Suite and Kayré and Kacie in the Queen Suite. I've got no more rooms, I suppose she could sleep on one of the sofas in the library..."

Maya informed us, "That won't be necessary, she can sleep with me. Problem solved." Maya smiled headed back to the house.

Gary had a confused look on his face, "Umm...what just happened?" I just laughed. Gary asked, "What's so funny Ron?"

I tried to explain, "Do you ever feel like our lives are an extra long episode of Jerry Springer?"

Gary even more confused, but started catching on, "You don't mean that Bambi...and Maya?"

I was still laughing, "I don't know for sure but I think my sister-in-law has a crush on your sister-in-law."

I had forgotten about Andy, "Well that makes sense."

Gary and I turned around in surprise, both us laughing. Gary asked, "How so?"

Andy explained, "Well, when Kacie 'purposed' to Kayré, it seemed to struck a nerve with Maya. I think she is trying to forget about Dirk and Bambi helps her do that."

Gary commented, "You know Bambi she does seem a lot happier around Maya." Gary reached into his pocket and handed me the key for Bambi's belt, "You can go ahead and let her out tonight if you let Maya out. I'll send her over shortly with The ACME truck."

I was at loss as to what just happened but knew it would be an interesting few days. I headed back to the house and found Wynn in the kitchen. I informed her, "Um...Bambi is going to be with us for a few days."

Wynn didn't seem bothered, "Okay fine, when is she coming?"

I told her, "Right now and she is going to be sleeping with Maya."

Wynn replied, "Okay, odd arrangements. Who's idea?"

I laughed, "Maya's. Now, I am going to bed. Wake me up around 7:00." I headed upstairs and found Sara was already in bed wearing one of her older belts instead of her full armor. I asked, "What's with the old belt?"

Sara replied, "Felt like a change and the armor needed a good cleaning. So what's on the agenda tomorrow?"

I explained, "Well you, Lindsay and Andy are going to be working up at the store. Kayré, Kacie, Bambi and I are going to be seeing that dealer out on Buckeye. We should be back at the store in mid afternoon. Then Andy wants to get their stuff out of the garage as well. Not sure when we are going to that, of course with Bambi here all week it can be any time."

I would have thought that Maya would have told her sister about the arrangements, but apparently not as Sara asked, "When is Bambi coming?"

I told Sara, "I think she is already here. She's going to stay with your sister tonight since The Presentation Room is occupied."

Sara asked, "Hey do you think they have...um...something for each other?"

I joked, "Andy sure thinks so. Gary just found out. I've had my suspicions. Hemingway, I am really tired and need to get up early."

As I tried to fall asleep Sara rolled over and started rubbing her bare breasts on my arm. Then she came up with an idea, "How about we do something special tomorrow night? Me and Lindsay, Maya and Bunny, Kayré and Kacie?"

I informed her, "Okay, good idea but what about Wynn?"

Sara giggle, "Oh I forgot about her, well I am sure Maya and Bambi wouldn't mind

having her to themselves."

I laughed, "Why not. You know that would work well. Give Andy and I chance to build Kayré's computer without interruptions or distractions. Now please Sara, I really need to get some sleep."

Sara rolled on top of me and kissed me, "Yes dear!" and then rolled over and went to sleep.

Next thing I knew Wynn was knocking on the door, "Time to get up sir!"

I got up stumbled into the shower and finally woke up. It was 7:45 when I finally made into the kitchen and much to my surprise it was only Kacie and Wynn in the kitchen. I asked, "Hey what happened to everyone else?"

Wynn placed a stack of apple cinnamon pancakes in front of me and explained, "Well, Maya and Bambi are still in their room. Maya asked for them to have breakfast in bed."

Kacie sighed, "Oh how romantic!"

Wynn continued, "Kayré left with Andy and Lindsay. Your sister and Miss Kitty already ate and are packing. Their shuttle should be arriving in another hour."

With everything that had been happening I had totally forgotten about Laura and Miss Kitty, "Okay, I'll go up and see them before they leave. Um Kacie, I thought Kayré was coming with us?"

Kacie explained, "No, she loaded several boxes into her Hummer this morning."

I told Kacie, "Okay. By the way do you have the address for this vendor?"

Kacie told me, "Yes, but it is upstairs. Want me to go get it?"

I replied, "Sure, I am heading up that way anyway." Before I went to bid farewell to my sister and Miss Kitty, Kacie returned with the address. I took a look at it and was shocked, "Oh geez, I thought Marc meant they were *on* Buckeye, not *in* Buckeye. Oh well, you gotta get the deals where you can find them."

I knocked on the door to the presentation room. Laura opened the door slightly, "Oh hi Ron. We are kinda in the middle of something here. We'll come down to your office before we leave." She closed the door.

I headed down to my office, I needed to do a Google look-up of the address anyways. I was printing a map of the area when Laura and Miss Kitty walked in. Miss Kitty informed me, "Do love what you had done with this place. Cain't

believe this all use to be the library."

I told her, "Yep, the library was huge. It is still a decent size now."

Laura came over and hugged me, "Thanks for inviting us out. It is always a pleasure. When do you think we will be coming out again?"

I informed her, "Well as far as I know we are going to be doing Christmas here. So you can come out then."

Laura seemed a little unsure, but Miss Kitty said, "WE will be home for Christmas. By 'home' we mean here. I already stipulated in my contract with Paris I would be off the week before Christmas through the week after New Years."

Wynn advised over the intercom their shuttle was here. We hugged some more and then they left. Bambi, Maya and Kayré came down to the office and informed me they were ready to go. I informed them I would be out shortly, just needed to talk to Wynn. I caught Wynn as she was heading upstairs, "Hey Wynn hold up."

Wynn came back down the stairs, "Yes Ron?"

I told her, "Hey I'm going to be gone the rest of the day. Tonight after dinner you girls are going to have some fun."

Wynn asked, "How about you and Andy?"

I joked, "Wynn! I am not that type of guy! No, Andy and I will be building Kayré's computer. Go ahead and setup the bed restraints in the King, Queen and Master suites."

Wynn inquired, "Another game?"

I explained, "Sort of...not really...I already have everyone figured out. Kayré and Kacie, Sara and Lindsay then you, Maya and Bambi." Before Wynn had a chance to answer the air horn on the ACME Truck blew, "Gotta go."

## **Chapter 10: Such a deal!**

It would take us two hours to get out to Buckeye and we spent another two hours looking at all the displays. It was almost 2:00 in the afternoon once we were done and all us were hungry. After a late lunch at an Arbys we headed up to the store. A little before 5:00 that evening we made it back to the store. I knew if we had some extra hands, unloading would go a lot quicker. I walked in and was amazed at what I saw. Andy and Lindsay had already gotten most of the wiring done and the ports in place. Lindsay saw me and explained, "Once we get the faux baseboards in later this week, you won't even be able to tell there is network

cable here. We had some left over from another job so we did the area by the dressing rooms."

I walked over to the dressing rooms and saw what the finished product would look like. I was amazed what a difference the 3-inch baseboards made. It did not appear that this was an 'after market' install, more like our other installs where the wall board is added at the end. I told her, "Impressive, this really looks great. Come over here Kacie, you've got to see Lindsay's handy work."

Kacie came over and was shocked, "Wow! That looks really good. Now come out and help us unload. Kayré!"

Kayré came out of the office, "Yes dear?"

Kacie asked shyly, "Could you come out and help us unload, please?"

Kayré, Andy and Lindsay all came out to help us unload. Kayré looked over the displays, "Wow, you got a lot more than I was expecting with what money we had budgeted."

Bambi laughed, "That's because he was begging us to take a lot of this off his hands!"

After we had all the displays unloaded, I asked "So how's the server coming?"

Lindsay frowned, "We haven't had a chance to work on it yet. May be tomorrow afternoon we can come by and work on it. In the morning we are going to work on our own store."

Once again I had forgotten about the plans I had made for the evening until I heard Martina, "Ron? Andy? Any one here?"

I replied back, "Over by the dressing rooms."

Marc came in, "Ah I see you really cleaned up with my guy out in Buckeye! Anyway, we wrapped up a little early tonight. Hope y'all don't mind."

Kacie looked around, "We really can't do much more else tonight anyways."

Since Andy was going to be heading back in that direction anyway later in the evening Marc and Martina left the 'Chick Magnet' at the store and got into the ACME Truck. The ACME Truck is a converted six-seater firetruck which Gary had bought at a surplus auction. We arrived at The Foothills Condos and Marc was already impressed, "Wow! These look so much nicer than those over at DC Ranch."

I laughed, "Well, they are a few years newer!"

Andy and Lindsay along with Maya, Sara and Bambi left in the ACME truck to head back up the house. They would load up everything for their store out my garage. Meanwhile, Kayré, Kacie, Marc, Martina and I went into the sales office. Jes saw us and walked out, "Good evening Ladies and Ron. What can I do for you this evening?"

I introduced Marc and Martina, "This is Marc Frosh, a good friend of mine. He works up at the Boulders along with his wife/my ex-wife Martina. They are currently renting a condo down at DC Ranch, but would like to purchase over here."

Jes was thrilled, "Wow! Okay then have you decided which plan?"

Martina explained, "We are thinking the 'A' but would like to see all three."

Jes nodded, "Good idea, let's be sure you make an informed choice. Are you going to come with them Ron?"

I informed Jes, "No, I've already been through them. Besides, I need to make a couple phone calls."

Once they left I rang Gary's cell, "Oh hey Ron, I was expecting you would call."

I asked, "What's going on?"

Gary explained, "Cristina's mother passed away yesterday. She had to fly out to Portland to make arrangements"

I told Gary, "So sorry. Had no idea her mother was in Oregon."

Gary laughed, "No, not Portland, Oregon...Portland, Maine."

I replied, "Oh good lordy!"

He informed me, "We should be back in about three weeks. Thanks for letting Bambi stay with you, you know how I don't like her being in the house by herself. Besides I think her and Maya need to spend some time together."

Much to my surprised, Jes and her entourage returned, "Gotta run, they got back early..."

I looked up and said, "That was quick."

Marc explained, "We looked at the 'A' plan and found it suited are needs quite

well. We did take a look at the 'B' plan, but only for couple minutes and the 'C' was out of our budget." Over the course of the next couple hours Marc and Martina completed all the paperwork and did a down-payment. Marc came out of the office and announced, "We will be in Building 2, Unit 207."

Kacie, laughed, "Gee we will almost be neighbors. We are up in building 1!"

Jes came out of her office, "Oh Miss Holstein, I have a date for when your building will be ready for occupancy. Looks like in about two weeks. Mister Frosh yours will be ready the following week."

Andy came by with the ACME truck to pick-up Marc & Martina, "It should take me an hour or so to get all this unloaded. May be sooner if I can get these two to help me. Anyway when I get back we can get stated on Kayré's system."

Andy left with Marc and Martina heading back to his store. Meanwhile, Kayré, Kacie and I headed back to the house. I wasn't really paying attention as we passed through the Porte Cochere. Kacie asked, "Who's Big Foot Truck?"

I replied, "Big Foot? Oh it must be Drew The Delivery Dude and Maya's co-worker from Vinnie's." Sure enough Drew was walking into the dining room with about four party pizzas and Maya was bringing in a bunch of drinks. I asked, "Okay, who's bright idea?"

Wynn came forward, "Um mine. Sorry I didn't ask you first..."

I informed her, "You don't need to ask me. This was a good idea less for you to clean up and more time for you girls to have fun."

Kacie asked, "Fun?"

I waited for Drew to leave before I explained, "Yes fun. You'll find out after dinner!"

Much to my amazement the four party pizzas were gone within 10 minutes. Either the girls were really hungry or they just wanted to finish quickly and have their fun. The girls quickly got the dinning room cleaned up and returned awaiting the details of that evening festivities. I laid out the details, "I know things have been a bit hectic for the past week or so, but tonight is a night to have some fun. Wynn..." Wynn walked in with four sets of handcuffs and Kacie's eyes grew wide, but she didn't say anything. "Okay, Kayré you will have Kacie in the Queen suite." Wynn handed Kayré a set of cuffs.

Kayré walked over to Kacie and instructed her, "Turn around and hands behind your back." Kacie didn't say a word as her hands were cuffed behind her back by her Mistress.

I continued, "Sara you will have Lindsay in the King suite." Wynn handed Sara a set of cuffs. Lindsay did not even have to be told what to do. Sara cuffed Lindsay's hands. I finished, "Now, Wynn you got your hands full tonight. You have both Maya and Bambi over in your suite. Hope you can handle those two!"

Wynn replied with a grin, "Oh don't worry Ron, I can handle these two!" Not only did she cuff their hands behind their back but then also connected the two girls with leg irons.

I laughed, "Well they certainly cain't run away. Okay, in the rooms you will find a full restraint system equipped on the beds as well as your belt keys and a full assortment of toys. The rules are simple, once you are the room you will stay there until morning. That means no switching partners during the night. I will do a wake up call around 8:00 AM in the morning. Now go have some fun!"

Sara asked, "What about you Ron?"

I told her, "Andy should be back soon and then we will likely head down to Sacred Ground for a bite to eat. When we return we are going to be building Kayré's system."

Finally, I had sometime to myself, which turned out to only be a few minutes as Andy arrived back from the store. He walked in to my office with a few boxes, "Okay, here all the parts we need to build Kayré's system. Figured we should build it in here since it is a bit cool out tonight." After coming back from some drinks at Sacred Ground, we spend the next several hours building and getting Kayré's system setup to her specifications. Meanwhile the girl's were having their fun.

While Sara did have Lindsay fully restrained to the bed, she had her on her side. Sara was giving Lindsay a full body massage, trying to get her to relax, "Lindsay! Why are you so tense?"

Lindsay laughed, "Sorry, just a little nervous about everything. So much has been happening, I haven't had a chance to relax or even have some fun. Oh that feels so good!"

Sara commented, "I do know how to make you feel good! It was nice of Ron to give us this time together."

Lindsay asked, "I hope he doesn't mind us spending so much time together. I mean I don't want to seem like I am keeping you two away from each other. After all, you two are the ones that are married and I..."

Sara interrupted frustrated, "Lindsay!"

Lindsay response was, "What?"

As Sara shoved a gag in Lindsay's mouth, "Sush! You need to be quiet and enjoy what I am doing. But I can't do it with your constant yakking! Now where was I...oh yeah."

Meanwhile over in the Queen Suite, Kayré had just gotten Kacie stripped down to her stockings and her restrained to the bed. Kayré asked, "You okay with this dear?"

Kacie answered with a mix of emotions, "I am really nervous, scared but yet excited at the same time."

Kayré couldn't help but recall her first time, "It wasn't so long ago I was in your place and it was Sara who was dominating me. I was going through the same feelings as I am sure you are now. I'll take it slow and easy at first. If it should become too much for you tell me. First thing I am going to do is blindfold you, this will add some mystery, excitement and best of all heighten the pleasure you are about to experience. Trust me, you will enjoy this!" Kayré placed a blindfold over Kacie's eyes and started running her nails gently along Kacie's inner thighs. Kacie moaned with pleasure of the sensations she was experiencing. Kayré asked, "Doing all right?" Kacie nodded in agreement. Kayré removed all her clothes except her stocking and climbed atop of Kacie. She began rubbing Kacie's tits and then leaned over and kissed her.

Kacie was taken by surprise at what just occurred as the first orgasm hit her, "Oh my, wow! Oh my gosh that was intense."

Kayré just smiled, "See I told you the blindfold makes a difference! Now just wait it is going to get better!"

Kacie was wondering how it could get any better than this when she felt Kayré's tongue in her pussy. Kayré was very careful as to avoid Kacie's clit for as long as possible. She could feel Kacie's body tensing up, just needing something to put her over. Kayré went to work on Kacie's clit and she would have the second of at least a half dozen orgasms that night.

Wynn had Maya and Bambi restrained naked together, but in such a way that they could not touch each other or themselves. Much the same way Bambi had restrained Maya and Sara a couple months ago. She had also blindfolded and gagged the two of them. Wynn had become quite proficient with her 'assault with a deadly feather' and went about tormenting the two girls with her peacock feather.

## **Chapter 11: Opening Soon & New Role**

Wednesday morning a little before 8:00 AM everyone was awoken by the rooster followed by Ty Pennington's, "Good morning Merlot Mansion Guests!"

During breakfast I asked Andy, "So how are things progressing?"

Andy asked, "On which? Our store or Kayré's?"

I laughed, "I suppose both."

Lindsay filled us in on Kayré's. "Well we still got to build their server and then get it connected. The baseboards should be coming in tomorrow. Did you two get Kayré's system built last night?"

Andy answered, "Yes, we got it done. Our store is almost done, just a matter of getting all the inventory setup. Max and Doyle are suppose to be coming in today to get the tech area setup."

Kayré added, "Today Sara, Kacie and I need to get our inventory organized and presented as well."

Kacie replied, "Yes, get that done today and do the final clean up Thursday and I do believe we will be ready for our Grand Opening on Friday. Our sign should be arriving either today or tomorrow and I have picked up a couple opening soon and grand opening banners as well."

Lindsay laughed, "Wow we are going to be having our grand openings on the same day. We've had our name on the building for a couple days now and have been getting a few people each day asking when we are going to be opening. I've been collecting e-mail addresses all week. Guess I should send out an announcement to them along with our Fountain Hills customers."

Kacie commented, "Need to do the same here. Ron can you update the website to include our Scottsdale/Cave Creek location?"

I told her, "Sure, I can certainly do that for you."

In the next few minutes everyone took off leaving just Wynn, Maya and I. But that didn't last long as Maya announced, "See you tonight, going to met up with some of group mates to wrap up our project. Oh and I am taking Bambi with me."

Wynn and I looked at each other and she finally replied, "Well, I've got a couple suites to clean. Let me know if you need anything." She headed upstairs and I went to my office to update the Budget Holstein's website. As I was working on the website the office line rang.

I answered the phone, "Hey Ron, Lulu here from ACME Deer Valley. Gary e-mailed me earlier and ask you call him at the Vegas office when you can. The number is 702-555-ACME."

I thanked Lulu and called up Gary, "Okay, what's up?"

Gary asked, "I did tell you why I am here?"

I replied, "Well you mentioned Cristina's mother passing away and her having to go to Portland for arrangements. But no, you never really explained why you are in Vegas. I am guessing you are running the location in her absences?"

Gary replied, "That's pretty much sums it up. How's Bambi doing?"

Honestly, I had no idea, "Good question. She spent sometime last night with Maya and Wynn. Her and Maya left a little bit ago."

Gary added, "Well sounds like she is doing alright. Thanks for calling gotta run."

Wynn walked into the office, "Oh I thought you were on the phone."

I told her, "I was, what's up?"

Wynn replied, "Not much your sister called, just wanted to let you know her and Miss Kitty made it back safely. She also said they really enjoyed the visit and look forward to coming back around Christmas."

I commented, "Good, I know Laura doesn't do well flying."

Wynn was about to leave when she asked, "Anything else you needed from me?"

I was about to dismiss her when I suddenly thought of something, "As a matter of fact yes. Since you worked with Andy and Lindsay in the past, how much do you know about computers?"

Wynn explained, "During my free time when Lindsay wasn't sneaking me into the club I spent a lot of time working with Andy. So I know quite a bit why?"

I told her, "Well since Sara is going to working at the Budget Holstein North now, I am not going to have an assistant any more. I really don't need you to do any on-site work more administrative than anything else. Order parts, check inventory level and answer general questions. Think you are up to that?"

Wynn replied, "Sure."

I sent her on her way, "Okay groovy. You can get back to what you were doing."

Since I didn't have much of anything to do I decided I would head up to the stores to see if anyone needed assistance. Just as I was about to leave Lindsay called on the cell phone, "Hey Ron, do you have any Ethernet cards?"

I was puzzled by her question, "Yes I am sure I do. Shouldn't you be asking your husband the computer parts salesman?"

Lindsay laughed, "I did, but he cain't find them right now. I need one for Kayré's server."

I told Lindsay, "Okay, I was going to head up that way anyway, I'll bring a couple just to be safe."

After getting the Ethernet cards I met up with Lindsay and Kacie over at the Budget Holstein North. The girls had been quite busy, the store was almost presentable. I found them in Kayré's office. Kacie was the first to notice me, "Ron, what are you doing here?"

I replied, "Bringing an Ethernet card for your partner's computer." Looking around the office I did not see Lindsay, "Any way, where's Lindsay?"

Kacie explained, "I think she went across the way to her husband's store. The two of them have been bouncing back-and-forth all day. Go ahead and leave the cards here, I'm sure she will be back later on."

I placed the cards on Kayré's desk and head across the wash to Andy's store. Sure enough Lindsay was over there along with Max and Doyle. I walked in and made my presence know, "Hey y'all!"

Lindsay walked over and asked, "Did you bring the cards?"

I explained, "Yes they are over in Kayré's office. Kacie said I could find you over here. Anyway, where's Sara?"

Andy walked in, "She went over to Rubio's to grab some lunch. She should be back shortly. Can you believe we are going to be opening in a couple days?"

I looked around Doyle and Max had completed the majority of the tech area. The sales floor however was still a maze of boxes littered with polar bear poop and shrink wrap. I asked, "Need any help getting the rest of those boxed unpacked?"

Andy laughed, "Sure why not. It is sorta like Christmas here, have no idea what is inside. Max and Doyle just threw everything in boxes. They didn't even label them, of course we were in a bit of a hurry to get out of there."

I grabbed a box cutter and picked a box at random. After removing the top layer of polar bear poop, I called Lindsay and Andy over, "Hey y'all take a look at what I just found!"

Lindsay followed by Andy came over and looked in the box to discover it was full of Ethernet cards. Lindsay laughed, "Naturally now that we don't need them, you find a case full of them!"

We spent the rest of the afternoon unpacking boxes. By evening there was not a box that hadn't been opened. Unfortunately, all these open boxes were still sitting in what was to be the sales floor. We headed home around seven the evening and pretty much retired for the night once we had dinner. The next morning was more of the same, except Lindsay spent quite a bit of time at the Budget Holstein installing the faux baseboards. By lunch time, Max, Andy, Doyle along with myself had gotten all the boxes unpacked and broken down. As it turns out Kacie & Kayré would be using them when they moved out of the house into their condo in the coming weeks.

After lunch I walked over to the Budget Holstein and was amazed at the transformation. The faux baseboards did a wonderful job of hiding the network wires that otherwise would have visible. The girls had done an incredible job of getting the store setup and adapting to the fixture that were already there or they had picked up in Buckeye. By that evening both stores were ready to go for the grand opening the next morning. We all headed for home to try and get some sleep as the next few days were going to be very long and tiring. Much to everyone's surprise were awakened at 6:00 am by the rooster followed by Wynn's announcement, "Good morning everyone. Big day today! Maya, Bambi and I will have breakfast ready in about 30 minutes."

Sara wandered into the shower. Since I had already showered before going to bed I got dressed and headed downstairs to find Andy already dressed in the kitchen. Andy saw me entered and asked, "If you are not too busy, we could use you over at the store."

I told him, "Sure, do you really think it will be that busy?"

At that moment the home phone rang and Wynn answered. She called out, "Ron, it's Martina for you."

Andy and I looked at each other puzzled, why would Martina be calling me? I answered, "What's up Martina?"

Martina was laughing, "I don't know how y'all did it, but you've got quite a crowd waiting at both stores! Looks like something out of Black Friday! Thought I warn y'all. Gotta go, at work now."

After hanging up the phone Lindsay, Kacie, Kayré along with Sara came down the stairs. After they sat down I relayed the news, "Martina just called, on her way to work with Marc. They just passed by the stores..."

They were all looking at me just waiting. Kayré asked, "and?"

I replied, "Well quoting Martina, 'I don't know how y'all did it, but you've got quite a crowd waiting at both stores!'"

They all sat stunned and silenced. Andy broke the silence, "To think we have barley done any advertising."

Kayré laughed, "All we did was a brief e-mail campaign and had Ron update the website."

As we hastily ate breakfast, Wynn asked, "Do y'all need any help? I'm free and Maya and Bambi are free today as well."

Kayré was excited, "We can use all the help we can get, sounds like it is going to be crazy."

## **Chapter 12: Grand Opening and I Was Told To See You**

Now keep in mind we had *planned* on opening the stores at 9:00 AM, but given what Martina had told us we decided we should open earlier. Kacie suggested, "Since we have all these people waiting outside in the cold, how about we offer them some coffee, hot coco and donuts?"

I replied, "Great idea but how are we going to serve the coffee?"

Kayré answered, "If I recall correctly, Olivia left several carafes from the wedding a couple months back."

Wynn disappeared into the pantry and emerged shortly with four carafes, "Funny thing is I just came across these the other day sitting in the crate. I'll get these filled up and packed in a couple minutes."

Kacie added, "We can stop over at Safeway on the way up and get some donuts."

A few minutes later Wynn had the carafes filled with hot water and mixed in the coffee. I knew I had a couple portable tables in one of the garages that I had used time to time on jobs, it was just a matter of finding them. Just so happens they were in the same garage as Maya's Hummer. We loaded everything up in the Hummer and picked up a dozen boxes of dozen donuts and some plastic cups. In about 10 minutes we were up at the stores and as Martina had reported there

was already a large crowd of people. We stopped over at PC & Things first at the back door just in time to see Doyle and Max arrive. While Andy, Doyle and Max were getting things situated I setup a table with the coffee and donuts near the front door. The three of them all agreed they were ready to go and officially opened at 8:30. I told them I would be back later was going to help the girls at the Budget Holstein North.

Maya & I drove to the other side of the center and we saw an equally impressive line of people outside the Budget Holstein. The girls were for the most part ready and were just waiting on us to get the coffee and donuts ready. They opened their doors at 8:45 AM. With these grand openings you are never sure what people are going to do. Most of the time people just come to see what all the excitement is all about and don't really buy anything. This was not the case here, they were selling merchandise and taking orders big time. Doyle called on my cell, "Ron if you can, we need help on the sales floor."

In a matter of minutes I was over at PC's and Things and saw that there had not been much of change in the crowd of the people. Doyle came over with a tablet and gave a very brief lesson on how to enter a custom order. Andy came over as Doyle was wrapping up his 'training' and asked, "Hey I need a huge favor?"

I asked, "Sure, what ya need?"

Andy explained, "Well, so far we have taken about a dozen custom orders and I know there are more people wanting orders which why Doyle called you over here. Anyway, I'll give you 33% of any order you sell in return can you help us build them. We are telling people we get these done in 72-hours and at this rate..."

I reassured Andy, "Don't worry I don't have any plans for a while I can certainly help you build."

Andy commented, "You can always get Wynn to help you as well."

I told him, "Yes, I know she has taken Sara's place in my business."

Andy was a bit taken aback by my response as he replied, "Ah okay. Hey where is she anyway? Could use her help."

I told Andy, "She's over at the Budget Holstein. I can call over and see if they can send her over."

Andy responded, "Yes, please do!"

I rang over to the Budget Holstein and Lindsay answered, "Hey Lindsay, Ron! Andy is wondering if y'all can send Wynn over to help out over here?"

Lindsay was practically yelling, "Sure! It may not sound like it, but things are getting quieter over here. She'll be there shortly."

Wynn's arrival was marked with a sudden hush amongst the crowd. Andy and I made our way to the front to see what was with the sudden silence, there stood Wynn in a purple corset, black skirt, fishnet stockings and boots. She made her way over to us, "Sorry, didn't have a chance to change what do you need?"

Doyle doing his best to keep himself focused gave her a tablet and the same training to Wynn. Andy made a quick announcement pointing to us, "Those of you wishing to place custom orders please see Ron or Wynn."

By lunch time I had completed four custom orders. Wynn only had a couple but she was getting more business for the Budget Holstein. Thankfully by lunch time the crowds had thinned out a bit. Lindsay came over dressed like Wynn except in all white and asked, "How's it going?"

Andy trying to catch his breath, "Good, we about a couple dozen or so custom orders."

Lindsay was thrilled, "Wow that's impressive. We've been doing fairly good as well. Been getting several people coming over saying they saw Wynn. You guys going to have enough time to build all those orders?"

Andy replied, "Most of the orders are for economy Windows or Mint systems, with a few upgrades here and there. Those should take about 30 minutes a piece to complete. Did get a couple orders for the Deluxe and may be six or seven for the Ultimate systems. Shouldn't be too difficult."

I informed her, "Besides he has Wynn and I to help him out. Of course at this rate, we may just let Wynn continue to sell."

Lindsay laughed, "She had asked me if she should change before going over and I told her she was fine."

An older lady walked in and asked, "I'm looking for a Ron Merlot or Andy McGrawl?"

Andy and I walked out the the sales floor and introduced ourselves and asked how we could be of assistance. The lady introduced herself as Mel and went on to explain, "I was sent over here by a Sara?"

I replied, "That would be my wife."

Mel continued, "She told me you and Andy had done all the computers for the

Budget Holstein. I am opening a store very soon in the next suite to the Budget Holstein, a southwestern decor and gifts store. Anyway, I was wondering if I could contract y'all to do up my store?"

Andy replied, "Well, I am a bit busy here and technically, Ron is the one you really need to talk to about that."

I asked Mel, "When did you plan on opening?"

Mel replied, "In a about a week or so before Christmas."

I inquired, "Do you have an idea of what you are needing?"

Much to my surprise Mel knew exactly what she needed, "Not much really. I need a terminal in the back room for inventory and couple POS systems up front. Now, I did see over at the Budget Holstein a couple terminals by the dressing rooms, what are those for?"

I explained, "Those are connected directly to the Budget Holstein's website and allows the customer to have items special ordered."

Mel smiled, "What a brilliant idea. I don't suppose you know anyone who can do me a website?"

I laughed and pulled out my card, "Here,"

Mel looked at card, "AZOutback Consulting. Hmm are they any good?", Mel then saw the name on the card, "Oh this you. Wow you do it all?"

I replied, "Just about."

Mel asked, "If you have a free moment could you come by store and give me an estimate?"

I explained, "Well, I am kinda on call right now between this store and the Budget Holstein but let me check in with Andy." I found Andy talking with Max, "Hey Andy think you can do okay without Wynn and I for a bit?"

Andy looked at the sales floor, "Sure, it has thinned out considerably I should be okay in a couple hours. New job?"

I told him, "Yep. Small one at that but it is a job."

I walked back to Mel and told her, "We should be free around five."

Mel explained, "That is fine I need to go down to Mexico...er...Guadalupe and

pickup some merchandise."

Around four Mel returned and the crowds had thinned out greatly. I told her, "Okay now is good. Now let me go find my assistant. Wynn!"

Wynn looked my direction, "Yes sir...err I mean Ron?!"

Introducing Mel, "Wynn this is Mel, she is occupying the suite to the east of the Budget Holstein. She has a small job for us."

The three of us got into the Hummer. Mel asked, "Sorry, but I have to ask, what's with the Pink Hummer?"

I laughed, "Funny story about that. It use to belong to my ex-wife. My sister-in-law usually drives it but we've been using it today for the openings."

Mel was fascinated, "So y'all now each other?"

Wynn explained, "Yes, I use to work for the McGrawl's when they lived in Tucson. I came up to Phoenix a few months ago and started working for Ron. Of course at that time, none of us had any idea that the McGrawl's would end up coming up here."

Mel asked, "How do you mean?"

I explained, "Well, they use to operate a chain of stores down in the Tucson metro area but after a business deal gone bad, they sold off those stores and came up here. They already had a store over in Fountain Hills."

We arrived at Mel's store and she showed us around. Unlike the other two jobs everything was already pre-wired. Wynn looked around, "Hmm, this is going to be a lot simpler than we thought. You already have all your outlets wired."

Mel explained, "I had that done while the suite was being built. Everything goes into this hub." She showed us the built-in hub in her back room. "However, I like the idea of having a couple computers with the catalog for special orders."

Wynn looked at the port, "Hmm, only a 4-port."

Mel asked, "Is that a problem?"

I was busy taking notes and heard Wynn's comment, "What? Let me see." I took a look and sure enough it was a 4-port hub, "Wow, I didn't even those were still made, thought they went the way of the telephone booth. No Mel, this is not a problem we'll just swap that out for an 8-port switch."

Wynn asked, "Ron do you think we should do a wall fish or do like we did at the Budget Holstein?"

I asked Mel, "Where were you going to setup the order terminals?"

Mel took us over the main floor to the section where she was going to setup the terminals. The wall was next to that which had the hub in it. I asked, "What do you plan on doing with this wall?"

Mel explained, "We will be using these display cabinets." I looked at the cabinets and saw they were designed with a two-cubic inch notch to allow wires to be ran behind and into them.

I replied, "Well, we will need to a partial wall fish from the hub down to about 2 inches from the floor. From there we will do a dual-outlet then just run the cables over to the computers. One 25-foot spool should do. Add that to the inventory list and a dual-outlet kit. Also we will need four 10-foot patch cables. Now, what kinda of computers?"

Mel explained, "Well, I already have the POS systems, just need monitors. But I need full systems for the inventory computer at the counter here and back room. Then the two special order terminals as well."

Wynn replied, "Okay so two economy systems and four monitors. Sounds simple enough."

Mel asked, "I will need some custom software setup. Can you do that?"

I replied, "No, I can not...but my sister can. Her and her...um..partner will be in town right before y'all are to open."

Mel was relived, "Okay that is fine, cutting a bit close but fine."

I told her, "Let me call and check." I got on my cell, "Hey Laura, Ron. The grand openings are going very well. Got me a small job at one of the other suites in the same plaza. They are going to need a custom software install. When were you and Miss Kitty going to be in town?"

Laura explained, "We will be coming in around the 15th and will leave around the 4th. So I can do it on the 16th."

I explained, "Okay let me ask Mel if the 16th is okay?" Mel nodded in approval and informed Laura, "Okay the 16th it is then. Give me call when we get closer so I can make arrangements to pick you up."

It was a little before six when we wrapped up. Lindsay called on my cell, "Hey we

are getting ready to wrap up here and Andy has already closed shop for the day. We are all going to meet for dinner at Rubio's. Care to join us?"

I replied, "Sure Wynn and I are almost done here." After I hung up with Lindsay I asked Mel, "Want to join us for dinner at Rubio's?"

Mel accepted our invitation and when we arrived we found Kacie, Kayré and Sara were already there. I introduced them to Mel, who asked, "So what is the story behind the name, Budget Holstein?"

Kayré explained, "It is my family name. My mother found the company in 1985 down in Oro Valley. She is still operating the original store down there."

Mel asked, "So why open up a store here?"

Kayré continued, "We we're up this way during the summer at the festival in Cave Creek. We had such a huge response and so many inquires if we had a store out this way. So we decided to expand and we choose this plaza because Andy and Lindsay have their store here as well. We are essentially one giant family."

I laughed, "I had thought I lost y'all on the first job, because of Laura."

Kayré asked, "Didn't she eat something that didn't agree with her?"

I replied, "I guess you could say that, I think she was out partying with her girl friends and Martina that night. At least now that she is with Miss Kitty she has calmed down considerably. That was a bit of an unlikely surprise and y'all becoming my best client."

Kayré pouted, "What we're not your largest?"

I explained, "No, that honour is currently be held by Jason Jason with Boots out in Frisco. That was a monster of a project and the first time we did one outside of Arizona/Nevada. But it worked out well as we are able to pick-up Sara's sister. "

Mel inquired, "Which one is her sister, is it Lindsay?"

Maya just happened to come out on to patio when she heard Mel's question and just about died laughing and told me, "Okay Ron, you were right about that one!"

Mel was a bit confused, "What?"

I explained, "Lindsay is Andy's wife, Sara and I met them down in Tucson earlier this year on a project for the Budget Holstein. Maya here is from Frisco, Texas and is Sara's *little* sister. I suppose you could say Sara is the sister Lindsay never had. They are practically inseparable."

Andy along with Sara and Lindsay came out with the rest of the food. Everyone chatted amongst themselves for a bit after dinner. Andy announced, "Lindsay and I are going to take off, a bit tired from today. Maya will take us home and I think her *twin* wants to come along as well."

I told them, "Not a problem, see you back at the house. Wynn and I need to wrap up a few details with Mel here. Hey where are Kayré and Kacie?"

Lindsay informed me, "They went back to the store to take a quick assessment of just how well they did tonight. They said they'll meet you back here when they are ready." She gave Wynn and I each a hug before she took off and told us, "Thanks for everything y'all have done."

Once again Wynn pointed out, "Her mood has sure improved from the past few weeks."

I agreed, "Thank god. Between that Fountain Hills store and the mess with Catalina Foothills store she has been through so much. Anyway, we need to schedule a time that is good with Mel that we can do the wiring and get the basic network going. This week and next week both Wynn and I are going to be busy with the grand openings and building systems for PC's & Things. So...", I pulled out my phone and took a look at my calendar, "...how about the second week of December?"

Mel pulled out a Samsung BlackJack and looked at her calendar, "Hmm...well...I will be down in Mexico the beginning of that week but should be back out that Wednesday the 10th. You said your sister will be out on the 16<sup>th</sup>?"

I confirmed sorta, "In theory...no she has gotten a lot better lately. Besides she will be staying with me...", turning to Wynn, "When are Kayré and Kacie suppose to move into their condo?"

Wynn replied, "If all goes as planned, they should be in a couple days before Laura and Miss Kitty come out. But where did you plan on putting Lorena and Blanche?"

I told her, "They will be where Kacie and Kayré are now in the Queen Suite. I'll have Laura and Miss Kitty over in the Presentation Room.' Once again turning my attention back to Mel, "Sorry about that, sometimes I think I am running a hotel! So the 11<sup>th</sup> will work?"

Mel entered the date on her BlackJack, "Yes it will, I'll give you a call before I head down to Algodones just to confirm."

We bided each other a good night and headed home. Upon arriving I notice several large boxes under the Porte Cochere. Odd I don't recall ordering anything

and the return address was Oro Valley. It was then it dawned on me this was the bedroom sets from the Holstein Ranch. Wynn and I spent the next 1/2 hour getting these boxes into the garage.

The rest of the week was much of the same, Wynn and I bouncing between the two stores during the day and building computers in the evenings. Thanks to Wynn's help we were able to get all the systems ordered on Monday built, tested, and shipped by Friday. Finally Saturday came around which brought even bigger crowds to both stores. However on Saturdays we had decided the stores would open and close earlier than during the week. Saturday evening we all ended up at Rubio's and had the first chance to relax since the openings.

Andy commented, "Well, things are looking very good both here and Fountain Hills. While we did have more people come in today the sales weren't as big as they were earlier in the week. But, Doyle mentioned he noticed we are getting more repair and upgrade orders now. We'll see how it goes Monday, without Ron and Wynn. How's things going with the Budget Holstein?"

Kacie replied, "Going very well. We had one of our best days today. We too have slowed down as well which is good, we are very low on everything right now. Kayré is going to pick-up a large order next week down in Tucson."

I asked, "Couldn't you find a supplier closer?"

Kayré explained, "They are the same supplier we've been using for years. In the future I'll just have the orders shipped up here, but we need to get this inventory in very soon. Although, I did find a couple jewelry suppliers up in the Cave Creek area that are willing to work with us."

Lindsay finally joined us, "Sorry, had a few things to wrap up. What a week! When we get home, I'm gone to take nice long hot soak in the tub. A little bubble bath, wine and may be some Sara."

### **Chapter 13: The Secret is Out and Another Trip Down Yonder.**

After dinner we headed home. The girls spent a couple hours down in the playroom. Andy and I spent the next couple hours unpacking the bedroom sets from The Holstein Ranch. Kayré came into the garage and asked, "Would be okay it Kacie and I store some stuff down here?"

I asked, "What else do you have?"

Kayré explained, "Well the rest of our stuff is sitting in storage along with some of mom's down in Oro Valley. My king size bed and Kacie's queen which we will use in the guest room and the rest of our bedroom furniture. Also mom was going to give us the dining set and a sofa as well."

I told her, "Sure. You going to need assistance getting all that up here?"

Kayré replied, "I suppose so. Would Maya be able to help?"

I informed Kayré, "Not sure what her school and work schedule is like right now. I'll check with her when she gets home tonight." Later that evening when Maya came home I called her along with Kayré and Kacie into my office.

For once Maya didn't act like she was in trouble or so I thought, "You wanted to see me..." then she noticed Kacie and Kayré, "Oh great, you have witnesses this is not good!"

I laughed, "Actually, Kacie and Kayré need your assistance with some of their furniture they have in storage in Tucson."

Kayré explained, "We have our bedroom sets plus some other furniture my mom was giving us. I have to make a trip down that way anyway next week to pick-up an order from one our suppliers. Ron said he was not sure of your schedule, but hoping you would be able to help us."

Maya replied, "Sure I can help y'all. I just have class on Mondays and Tuesdays for the rest of the semester. Then I work at Vinnie's on Friday and Saturdays so I am open Wednesday and Thursdays. Now, judging by what you have told me sounds like you will need to use the ACME Truck?"

Kacie who had been fairly quiet the whole evening responded, "Yes, that would help greatly."

Maya smiled, "Well then...", she got up and headed towards the door but stopped and yelled out, "BAMBI!"

As if that wasn't shock enough Bambi appeared very shortly and replied, "You bellowed dear?"

Acting like nothing had happened Maya replied, "Yes, come sit please. Ron...er...Kacie and Kayré need our assistance and your truck."

Bambi replied with a giggle, "Ah I see."

Maya turned to me with a grin which would make the Cheshire Cat jealous, "Now what day do you want to do this?"

Trying not to laugh at the obvious show her and Bambi were putting on I told her, "Ask Kayré."

Maya frowned, "Yeah I guess that would make more sense. Okay then Kayré what day will work for you?"

Kayré replied, "Wednesday would work if it is okay with you two."

Maya looked at Bambi who nodded yes and replied, "Wednesday it is then. Anything else?"

I looked at Kayré and Kacie who didn't say anything and told her, "Not at this time."

Maya got up and snapped her fingers at Bambi, "Come dear."

Bambi replied as she got up as if it were no big deal, "Yes Mistress."

After they left and were out of ear shot, Kacie asked, "What the heck was *that*?"

Kayré laughed, "Oh good, I thought I was the only one who found that odd, but yet strangely erotic. Ron?"

I was lost in thoughts at that moment, "Oh um...You know just when I think I know what is going on around here someone starts pitching from left field. Um, oh, ah, well geez I don't know what to say. I wonder how serious they are or aren't. Oh well time will tell."

Sometimes I wonder if Gary has psychic powers, or just a keen sense of timing. Wynn walked in, "Sorry to interrupt, but Gary is holding on the house line. Do you want to speak to him or have him leave a message?"

Kayré and Kacie got up and left and I explained, "I'll go ahead and take the call." I picked up the house line, "Hey Gary, good timing."

Gary asked, "How so?"

I told him, "Well...let's just say the plot thickens with Maya and Bambi."

Gary laughed, "Told ya! So, who's dominating who?"

I told him, "As near I can tell, it is Maya who is doing the dominating. Should I be worried?"

Gary still laughing, "Why you asking me, she is your sister-in-law?"

I explained, "But Bambi is yours and I am kinda responsible for her while she is here. Hell, I know more about Bambi than I do Maya."

Gary told me to hold on and he put Bunny on the line, "Okay Ron I still haven't forgiven you for that little 'suggestion' you gave my husband during our honeymoon...anyway what's going on with my sister?" I explained everything that had happened over the past few days including the night *The Unlikely Cowboy* up to the events of this evening. Bunny laughed, "She was always the submissive one of the family. Don't worry about it, let them have their fun. If it turns into something more then let it."

I tried to object, "But what if..."

Bunny interrupted, "What if what? Put yourself in her place and Sara in Maya's place. Don't try to stop fate, just let whatever happens, happen. Just remember about you and Sara. Here's Gary."

Gary got back on the line and explained, "The reason I called was to let you know I should be back the week after next. The family services are on Sunday and then the public service will be on Monday. Cristina still got a few things need to take care of in Portland before she can come back to Vegas. Anyway, if Bambi wants to be Maya's slave, pet or whatever, it don't bother us. That is unless Maya starts hurting her, but I doubt that would happen."

While I agreed that Maya would not hurt Bambi in the back of my mind I worried that she may take her aggressions with Dirk out on Bambi. In a fake but convincing manner I told Gary, "No, she wouldn't hurt Bambi."

Gary told me, "Then you have nothing to worry about. Anyway, just wanted to fill you in on what is going on. Have a good night."

I just sat there for a few minutes wondering when Andy knocking on the office door brought me back to reality. I motioned for Andy to enter and he asked, "You okay Ron?"

Not sure what to tell him, I just replied, "Yes, a bit tired that's all. What's up?"

Andy replied, "Not much just letting you I am heading up to bed."

I bided him a good night and ask, "Have you seen Sara?"

Andy looked at me oddly, "Um no. Funny thing too, Lindsay was looking for her earlier. Seems kinda odd they are not together. Oh well good night Ron."

Andy left my office and I wrapped up a couple things on the computer before heading upstairs. Upon entering the bedroom I noticed the French door to the balcony was open. I walked out onto the balcony to find Sara sitting on our 3-seater swing and sipping a glass of wine. I joked, "Been looking all over for you, as has Lindsay."

Sara looked up from her wine and replied, "Oh sorry, needed some time alone to think."

I was almost afraid to ask, "About what?"

Sara kinda laughed, "You are going to find this silly but I'll tell you anyway...Maya." I was about to say something when Sara continued, "but not just Maya...no Maya and Bambi...I know it seems silly doesn't it?"

I inquired, "May be not..."

Sara gave me a puzzled look, "What it is that suppose to mean?"

I replied, "Well, let me ask you this. How much do you know about Maya?"

Sara was a bit defensive at first, "Ron she is my sister..." then reality of the past few years set in and her tone change, "...who I hadn't spoken to in many of years and then suddenly came back into my life a few short months ago. I guess I know about as much as you do. Still doesn't answer my question."

I sat down with her and she grabbed my hand. I explained, "Have you gotten the impression that Maya has something for Bambi? Think about the night Kacie purposed to Kayré at the *Unlikely Cowboy*."

Sara tried to shrug that off, "She was just caught up in the moment. I mean you don't really think they have anything else going do you?"

I had to tell her about tonight, "Um, earlier this evening when I had called Maya in to my office to find out when she could help out Kayré and Kacie something odd happened. She asked them if they needed to use the ACME truck..."

Sara asked, "So?"

I continued, "Well, when they told her yes she bellowed for Bambi."

Again Sara trying to justify the behavior, "Not unusual she did live several years in Texas after all."

Sara had a good point there, but I presented my final piece of 'evidence', "Okay, I'll give you that. However when they went to leave, Maya snapped her fingers at Bambi and told her to 'come'. To which Bambi replied, "Yes Mistress!"

Sara just looked at me, "Shit she is serious. What if Gary finds out?"

I explained, "Gary already knows. Actually he and Bunny have suspected

something was up between them. They are fine with this. In fact Bunny kept telling me to let it be and not to mess with fate. She said let things fall as they will, like you and I."

Sara sighed a sigh of relief, "Well, that is good...isn't it?"

I hesitated to say what I was about to say, but did so anyway, "That is unless Maya were to hurt Bambi."

Sara almost yelling and nearly crushing my hand, "Maya would never do such, what in the hell would give you that idea!?!"

Calmly but in pain I replied, "Dirk Mandrake."

Sara immediately, released her death grip from my hand and replied, "Oh crap, never thought about that. Sorry."

I leaned over and kissed Sara and told her, "No problem. I didn't say anything to Bunny or Gary, but the thought has crossed my mind."

Sara thought long and hard, "Gosh, I don't think she would hurt anyone without intent. But then again you don't ever want to cross her when she is angry, I learned that when we were growing up. Now you've got me worried."

As fate or luck would have it Maya walked out on the balcony. Smiling nervously she said, "Sorry to interrupt, but I really would like to talk to you two."

Sara and I looked at each other, wondering how much if anything of the conversation she had heard.

Maya still nervous asked, "May I join you two?"

Sara accepted, "Of course hop on."

Maya had a look of guilt when she sat down, "I heard part of what you two were discussing. Am I in the way?"

Sara and I looked at each other and she reassured her sister, "No, not at all...right Ron?"

I explained, "You are more than welcome to stay here. I have a lot of respect for you, going to school and working same time. Plus you have helped out quite a bit with the businesses."

Maya was a little more relaxed but still nervous and asked, "But what about my relationship with Bambi?"

Neither Sara nor I said anything for a moment but I did ask, "What *is* your relationship with Bambi?"

Sara looked at me stunned but before she could say anything Maya answered, "Good friends and playmates. I guess you could say much like Sara and Lindsay."

I couldn't resist, "Geez Sara, she is here a couple months, yet you and Lindsay have already manage to corrupt her."

Sara slugged me in the arm and in her valley girl accent, "As if!"

Maya was laughing, "You two are so cute together, who would have thought! Anyway, you don't have to worry Bambi and I are not in relationship like Kayré and Kacie. So, I don't think there is danger of me emotionally hurting Bambi."

Sara replied softly, "That is not what we meant."

Before Maya could ask, I explained, "We were worried that you may try to take your aggressions with Dirk out on Bambi and possibly *physically* hurt her."

Maya was trying not to cry, "I shouldn't feel angry that you two would think that. It is a genuine concern and I understand. I am not a hostile person normally..."

Sara interrupted, "...that's now how I recall it when I tried to warn you about Dirk when we were younger."

Maya apologized, "I know, I know. I really regret letting him become between you and I. That was in the past and this is now. However, in some ways when I dominate Bambi I am redirecting my anger with Dirk to her as a form of release. But I would never do anything to her to cause permanent damage. We both know her limits and we respect that, if she tells me it is too much I DO stop." Maya was now sobbing.

As if this couldn't get any more awkward Bambi came out to see Maya in that condition, "What have you two done to her?"

I motioned for Sara to move with me over to one of the chairs so Bambi could be with Maya on the swing. Bambi sat down on the swing with Maya trying to calm her down, "What's the matter dear?" Maya was still too emotional to talk so Bambi asked us, "Kindly explain what happened?"

Best I could, I explained, "Well, not sure how to explain this."

Once again Sara to the rescue, sorta, "We were concerned that Maya may involuntarily hurt you."

Bambi was confused, "How so?"

I explained, "We were worried that while she's dominating you she may get carried away, taking her aggressions with Dirk out on you."

Bambi has always kept a cool head no matter what, "Ah I see and very understandable. She has gotten a little rougher than usual a couple of times, but she has always respected my limits. I've told her she is going too far and she does back off. Maya has never hurt me and I have complete trust in her. May be we got a bit carried away earlier today." Turning her attention back to Maya, "It is okay dear. They have a right to be concerned. I am in a guest in their home and they are kinda responsible for me. You gotta realize, if anything happens to me Gary would shoot Ron...provided my sister doesn't get to him first."

I wasn't sure if I should be taking this seriously and be worried. Sara looked at me with a state of panic on her face. Finally Bambi assured us with a laugh, "Just kidding about the shooting you part. Although if Bunny had her way..."

I laughed, "I know, I know she is still a bit *sore* about my 'suggestion' during their honeymoon. She told me that when I talked to her earlier tonight."

Bambi was laughing, "Well, *I* thought it was a brilliant suggestion. Okay, I think we have made some progress here tonight, lets get some sleep."

Maya was a bit calmer now, "Thanks y'all. Let's go to bed now, I'm a bit tired."

## **Chapter 14: The Dust is Settling**

The next morning was fairly quiet. Andy called to say he was fine and didn't need any help at the store and Kacie was doing fine as well. Since I had some time to kill I headed out the garages to work on some computers for Andy. I'd been down there for a couple hours when Kayré asked over the intercom, "Ron, you here?"

I replied back, "Down in the west garage."

A few minutes later Kayré appeared, "Didn't know you had a shop down here neat. Anyway, Wednesday did you want to do this as a day trip or overnight?"

I hadn't thought much about it, "All we need to do is see your supplier..."

Kayré informed me, "Actually, suppliers. I had to place an order with another of our suppliers and this one is in Green Valley."

I commented, "Well then, that changes things. I suppose I should get on the horn with your mother see what kind of arrangements she can make. Um is Sara going

to join us?"

Kayré surprised me with her answer, "No since Lindsay doesn't want come down there and she doesn't want to be away from Lindsay..."

I laughed, "She rather be with Lindsay than with her husband..oh well...I get the idear. Okay how about Kacie?"

Kayré explained, "No, she doesn't want anything to do with this, which is why she delegated this part of the business to me."

I nodded, "Ah okay. So then you, me, Bambi and Maya. I don't think the four of us would do well in one room."

Kayré protested, "But we would all be belted!"

I laughed, "My point exactly! I would never get any sleep with three sex-deprived women."

Kayré left the garage laughing and I rang Linda, "Hey Linda, Ron here."

Linda was bit surprised, "Oh hey Ron, what's going on."

I explained, "The usual. Everything is going well. Just wanted to let you know Kayré, Maya, Bambi and I will be out your way on Wednesday. Kayré needs to pick-up a couple orders and she wants to get the furniture out of storage. Their condo is almost ready for move-in."

Linda was pleased, "Good to hear. I hope y'all at least stop by to say 'hi!'"

I explained, "We can do that and also bring back your auto-trailer. We will however need two hotel rooms since one of the suppliers she needs to visit is in Green Valley."

Linda understood, "Ah yes the corset maker. Do you want to try the usual again or go somewhere else?"

I told Linda, "I am willing to give Charlene another chance if you are."

Linda replied, "Okay, I'll give her a call and let her know."

I had just finished up another system when Wynn paged over the intercom that lunch was ready. I head upstairs and joined Wynn, Bambi and Kayré for lunch. Wynn asked, "How many more systems do you have left to build and did y'all need any more help?"

I explained, "Thus far got about a half dozen left, including two Ultimate's which are going to take a lot of time. I could use your assistance more so just getting all the parts in order. "

After lunch Bambi and Kayré announced they were going to be down in the playroom and Kayré wanted to try out the caning platform. Funny, I don't recall Kayré being so submissive in the past. I suppose I could blame...err...attribute that to Sara as well. Wynn and I headed back down to my shop to get the remaining systems for PC's & Things built. I advised Wynn, "Here are the two orders, in theory I should have all the parts in-stock. Oh and don't take any parts from the green bins, those are reserved for Mel's systems."

Wynn spent the next hour picking all the parts while I managed to complete a couple more economy systems. Wynn came up with a cart full of parts and asked, "Okay where should I place these?" After clearing some space on the other table, I showed her where to put them. She then asked, "Um what should we do, about the video card on this order?"

I looked at the order and noticed the customer had requested a GeForce 7900 GTX. I told Wynn, "Hadn't realized I was out of those. I'll give Andy a call and see if he has any." Wynn disappeared again to get the parts for the second system when I realized I might have an equivalent replacement. I yelled out, "Wynn while you are back there see if I have any GeForce 8800 Ultra." While she was looking I called over to Andy's shop. Max answered, "Hey Max it's Ron. Say do you happen to have any GeForce 7900 GTX in stock?"

Max was unsure, "Doubtful, but I'll check." He came back a couple minutes later, "Nope, we're out as well at Fountain Hills."

I told him, "Okay no problem then."

Wynn returned with a GeForce 8800 Ultra and asked, "Looking for one of these?"

I replied, "Yes, we will have to substitute this for the 7900 GTX since neither store has them right now. Make a note on the invoice to a misc discount for \$175."

Wynn was a bit shocked, "\$175 is quite a discount!"

I explained, "They'll get the card at cost, but we make up for it with labor so it is not as bad as it seems."

We continued building the systems into early evening when we heard the familiar rumble of the 'Pink Monster'. Maya came over to the shop and informed us, "Hey y'all I stopped over at KFC and picked up some chicken for tonight. Can Wynn come up and help me?"

I looked up and replied, "Go ahead Wynn, you've gotten quite a bit done already. I'll be up in a few minutes, just want to get this system going."

Wynn headed back to the house with Maya. It was only a couple more minutes before I had the system ready to install Windows Vista. Once I had the install process going I headed back to house for dinner. I joined Andy & Lindsay in the dining room. Andy asked, "Doyle said you were looking for a 7900 GTX, did you happen to find one?"

I explained, "No, I just ended up using an 8800 Ultra instead. We'll make up the cost in labor."

Andy commented, "We may have to stop offering the 7900 GTX until we can get more. So, how many more do you and Wynn have left to build?"

Wynn replied, "We finished up all the economy systems and Ron is doing the OS install on the remaining Deluxe system. So that just leaves us with those two Ultimate systems."

I explained, "Okay, wanna get those done tomorrow as Wednesday Kayré, Maya, Bambi and I need to head down to Oro Valley. But thanks to Wynn I have all the parts ready to go on those, just a matter of getting them built. The Deluxe should be done later this evening. Want to spend some time with Sara tonight..." it was at that moment I realized I hadn't seen Sara, "Speaking of Sara where is she?"

Kayré explained, "She'll be back later this evening, her and Kacie had a sales follow-up appointment this evening. Now, if you excuse us, Lindsay and I are going to head down to the playroom, something about her wanting to restrain me to the caning platform." Kayré left and headed upstairs to change.

As Lindsay was getting up to leave I asked, "Please be gentle with her, she will be seeing her mother soon."

Lindsay smiled and assured me, "Don't worry Ron, I won't hurt her...too much...." as she left the room with a mad-scientist like laugh.

I finished up my dinner and headed back down to the shop to check on the progress on the deluxe system. Much to my dismay it was only on 15% complete but then that suddenly jumped to 87% after the first reboot cycle. Good ole Microsoft, love to over estimate the time an install is going to take. I figured while I was waiting on this I would get started on one of the Ultimate systems. I had gotten the motherboard assembled when the deluxe system install finally finished. I was just about to wrap up when Wynn and Andy came down to the shop. Andy asked, "Kayré, Bambi and Lindsay are down in the playroom and Maya is busy studying for a final, so we came down see if we could help you out."

I replied, "Well, I was just about to wrap up for the evening, but between the three of us, we could knock out these last two systems. I already got the motherboard built up on one of them. Just need to install the hard drive along with a DVD-RW drive, the power supply and cooling system. You and Wynn can work on the other system that is the one we are substituting the 8800 Ultra on."

Andy replied, "That will work well. If you don't mind tomorrow morning you can help me get these delivered to the store." I was wrapping up on my system when Andy commented out the blue, "Hey, it's been a month now!"

I was a bit engrossed in what I was doing but Wynn asked, "Since what?"

Andy laughed, "Since we've had any issues with the Fountain Hills store!"

I joked, "Wow that's got to be a record!"

A couple hours later Sara and Kacie came into the shop. Kacie joked, "So this is where those boys were hiding."

Wynn letting her presence be known, "and me too."

Sara asked, "So how much have you gotten done."

Andy explained, "We are just about done with all the orders from the Grand Opening weekend. I am finishing up this system and Wynn and Andy are working on the other. These are both Ultimate's so they are taking a bit more work."

Kacie replied, "Impressive. We still need to wrap up our orders. You are taking Kayré back down home Wednesday?"

I told her, "Yes, need to visit a couple suppliers and get the rest of your furniture. She said you didn't want to come."

Kacie had a change of heart, "Well initially, but since I am going to be running the business with Kayré it may be a good idea for me to get to know the suppliers."

I asked, "So you are coming?"

Kacie batted her eye lashes, "If that is not a problem."

Sara stood between me and Kacie, "Hey! Quit flirting with my husband."

Kacie acting like a child, "Make me!"

Sara replied, "If you keep that up, I am going to give you a caning you won't soon forget!"

Kacie with a straight face, "Is that a threat or promise?"

Sara answered, "That depends..." then started laughing. She turned to me, "We've gotten to know each other quite well these past few days. Don't mind us. Any way, have you seen my sister?"

I answered, "Which one?"

Sara looked at me oddly and repeated, "Which one?"

Trying not to laugh, "Yes, the one from Texas or your twin from Tucson?"

Sara played along, "Both actually."

I explained, "Well, Maya is studying for her final and Lindsay last I heard was in the playroom with Kayré. Now back to Kacie's question, no not a problem coming along. But you will be in the same room as Wynn, Maya, Kayré and Bambi. I myself will be in my own room, preferably on the other end of the hotel."

Kacie replied, "Okay, I can live with that. Should be interesting. Now, is it okay if I play with your wife a bit? You can join us if you want."

I told Kacie, "That's fine. The three of us will be there in a bit, we want to get these computers done tonight."

## **Chapter 15: The Budget Holstein Expansion and Since We Were In The Area**

Very early, the next morning Wynn, Maya, Kacie, Kayré, Bambi and I all piled in to the Acme Truck. We had hitched up the auto trailer that we used when we brought Lindsay's car back with us. Since it was still early I decided we would have breakfast in Florence. Hadn't been to that truck stop since the morning work started on Gary's house and Martina had her 'wake-up call'. Kacie noticed my detour on to US 60 east and commented, "Going a different route?"

I explained, "Yes, we will have breakfast out in Florence. None of y'all ever been to this place. The last time I was out there was when work started on Gary's house and Martina discovered she was belted. She got a wake-up call she would never forget. Marc had to pay the contractors *not* to start before 7:00 AM. Plus this route should be less traffic and haven't gone this way in many years so will be interesting to see how much it has grown."

We left Mesa and Apache Junction and came into the outskirts of Gold Canyon. Now I understood why ADOT wanted to extend the freeway portion of US 60 in through Gold Canyon. We continued further east and discovered a whole another

section of Gold Canyon still under construction. Kayré commented, "Wow, Gold Canyon sure has grown since mother and I were up here a few years ago."

I commented, "Well, if Lost Dutchman Heights ever becomes a reality it is going to make this development look small." As we continued past Gold Canyon we were nearing Florence Junction when the highway suddenly curved south, "What the...oh they finally made the interchange with Arizona 79 a freeway grade interchange." About an hour later we pulled into the truck stop and had breakfast. I also decided this would be a good time to refuel the truck. It was mid morning when we reached Oro Valley and our first stop was the Budget Holstein. The five of us walked in and were surprised to see the north wall covered in plastic.

Linda walked out and greeted what she thought were customers, "Welcome, sorry about the mess..." she finally noticed it was her daughter and her entourage, "Oh Kayré, Bambi, and Ron forgot y'all's were coming today."

I commented, "Kacie will be in shortly, she was calling the supplier in Green Valley to make sure the order is ready. Maya is unhitching the auto trailer and will join us as well. Now, what is going on in here?"

Linda explained, "Well, I sorta made a deal with Marc and was able to get one of his contractors out here. I know I said I was going to wait until after the New Year, but they had a job cancellation. I hope you don't mind Ron."

Maya who had just walked in asked, "Why would he mind?"

Kinda my thoughts exactly, "Yes, why would I mind?"

Linda replied, "Kinda thought you wanted to wait on this."

I explained, "Doesn't much matter, I am fairly flexible. The McGrawl's and my sister on the other hand are going to be tough to work with."

Linda was relieved, "Good, right now they are just doing demo and some structural modifications. Really won't be doing any heavy duty work at this point."

I told Linda, "Good. Just make sure they don't put up wallboard all the way until Maya, Wynn and I have had a chance to come through here and run the wiring for the ports."

Maya looked at me blankly, "You want me to help you with this project?"

I explained, "I figured you will want to be doing something while you have those three weeks off for winter break. Besides Sara is kinda busy with the Budget Holstein North."

Maya laughed, "Good logic, just didn't think you would want me to help you."

I turned my attention back to Linda, "Once the demo is done, I will want you to mark on the studs where you are going to want the ports. This will make it a lot easier when we come back next year to do the installs. Now you said they won't be doing any heavy duty work at this point, do you have an idea how long it will take them?"

Linda advised, "Be right back." She disappeared into the back and came back a couple minutes later with the contractor. "Davis, this is Ron Merlot, my computer/networking guy. Can you fill him in on the time line?"

Davis and I shook hands and he explained, "This week we are doing demo. Next week we are going to make some structural modifications such as new windows and relocating the main entrance. We will also frame up the new sections. Linda has already explained you want to get in here before we put up the wallboard. We won't do that until after the 1st of the year. From that point if all goes well, we should wrap up around the 8th or the 9<sup>th</sup> of January."

I explained, "Okay, this would work well, we can come down after Christmas and get the wiring done. I may or may not need Andy, depends on how much you are going to be doing. This shouldn't be as overwhelming as the Boots job, I sure as heck did not plan on spending three weeks out there. Now, the fun part is going to be trying to get my sister out here. I guess I better give her a call and see what her schedule looks like."

I whipped out my cell phone and instead of using the speed dial, I tried calling Laura's number from memory. I was expecting Laura's ear-splitting Minnie Pearle 'Howdie' but instead some else answered. "Sorry to bother you, is Laura Myers there?"

It didn't even dawn on me I had called my mother instead, "Um no she doesn't....wait...Ron?"

I was confused, "Mom? How the heck? Okay, that's the last time I try to ring Laura from memory."

Lorena laughed, "Well it is good to hear from you. What are you up to?"

May be I *did* mean to call her, "Funny you should ask. Doing anything tonight?"

Lorena thought for a moment, "Let's see Blanche has an underwater basket weaving class....oh wait she is done with that, so no. Why?"

I simply told her, "Well, since we are in the area how about dinner tonight?"

Lorena was excited, "Great, you, Sara and who else?"

I explained, "Well, no Sara is not with me. Wynn, Maya, Kacie, Kayré, Bambi are all with me, I'll explain tonight. I still need to call Laura, this time I'll use my speed dial."

We agreed on an early dinner since it would be nearly an hour drive back up to Oro Valley from Tubac. This time I did get hold of Minnie Pearle and asked, "Hey what is your schedule like after the 9th of January?"

Laura was puzzled, "I thought were doing Mel's job before Christmas."

I told her, "We are, this is for the Budget Holstein Oro Valley. Linda hired one of Marc's contractors and they are already started work."

Laura checked her calendar, "Eww...shit....crap...fuck...I'll have to get back to you on that one. I've got a convention that I am suppose to present at in Reno towards the end of the month, but I really don't want to do that. I suppose I could honestly tell them something else came up. I'll think about this and let you know when we come out in a couple weeks."

After I was done with her I headed back inside to fill everyone in on the news, "Okay, Laura is uncertain when she is going to be able to do this. She presently is suppose to be presenting at some type of convention up in Reno, but she didn't sound too thrilled about it. She shall let me know when she is out here in a couple weeks. Now, Maya, Kacie, Kayré and Bambi we will be having dinner with my mother and Blanche."

For whatever reason Kacie didn't know about my mother and Blanche since she asked, "Who's Blanche?"

I was starting to answer, "Well, Blanche is my mother's..um..."

Maya jumped in, "Girl friend?"

I nodded, "Yes, I guess that is what you would call her. Now, where is this first supplier?"

Kayré explained, "Right here, they delivered everything to the main store. Next time around they should deliver to the Scottsdale location."

While the girls loaded everything up I chatted with Linda for a few for minutes, "So once I can get Laura nailed down, I'll give you a call. By the way, you are still coming up for Christmas to check up on Kayré..."

What I didn't know was that Kayré had came back in, "Ron!"

Pretending not to notice I corrected myself, "...err....I mean visit Kayré and Kacie?"

Linda laughed, "Nice save. Yes."

After we finished at the Budget Holstein we headed over to the old Holstein Ranch to get the remaining furniture Kayré and Kacie had stored. I asked Kayré if her mother had any offers on the ranch. Kayré replied, "Not really, the real estate market is a bit sluggish right now. She may end up putting it up for rent or setting it up as a time share. She wants to wait until after the holidays to see what happens. We should be done here shortly did you want to grab some lunch?"

I looked at my cell phone and it was almost 11:00, "Sure something light as we will be having dinner with my mother and Blanche around 4:00."

After a quick lunch we stopped over at the corset maker and picked up a dozen cases of corsets. I asked, "Are these already sold or just stocking up?"

Kacie replied, "Most of these are already sold from the grand opening. The last few boxes are for us to have in stock."

I hadn't really noticed how much stuff we had loaded into the ACME truck but it was nearly full. There would have been no way we could have gotten all this in the Hummer in one trip. Kacie came back out with a couple more large boxes and saw how full the truck was, "Yikes, hope we can get these dress boxes to fit."

Bambi and Maya jumped up into the back of the truck and started moving some of the other boxes around. After a few minutes of rearranging, Maya announced, "Should be room here now for those boxes." It was a tight fit, but they did manage to get all the boxes and furniture into the ACME truck. I helped Maya and Bambi get the tarp secured.

I checked my phone and it was about 20 minutes to 4:00, "Wow, good timing. We've got 20 minutes and they are only a few minutes away." It took us a little longer than expected as somehow I again managed to miss the Alisio Springs exit, but we still made it before 4:00 PM. I introduced my mother and Blanche, "Kacie, this my mother Lorena and her partner Blanche."

Lorena asked, "So what brings y'all down here."

Kacie explained, "Well, had to pick up some orders for a couple suppliers. Plus Kayré and I needed to get the rest of our furniture. Thankfully, Bambi let us use The ACME Truck."

Blanche asked, "What in the world is The ACME Truck?"

Bambi explained, "It is an old Las Vegas Fire Department six-seater ladder truck that Gary bought at a surplus auction. The ladder had been damaged at a casino fire and it would have cost the Las Vegas Fire Department more to replace the ladder than to get a whole new truck. Funny thing is Gary actually made money off the deal. He ended up getting the money he paid back plus more by selling the ladder to a scrap yard. We have mainly use it for large shipments, although it been used quite a bit lately for moving."

Lorena asked, "So when do you two get to move into your new home?"

Kayré explained, "If all goes well, should be next weekend. It'll be nice to have our own place. Not that we mind stay with y'all Ron and Maya."

Lorena announced, "Well, I suppose we should head over to dinner. How did you want to do this?"

I replied, "We'll take The ACME Truck and follow y'all. We will head back to the hotel after-wards."

We had dinner and old-school 50's style dinner. After dinner as we bidding our farewells, I reminded my mother, "Don't forget Laura and Miss Kitty are coming out for Christmas."

Laura assured us, "Yes, Blanche and I will be up for Christmas. We are thinking of getting up your way that Friday, beat the traffic."

I told them, "That would be fine, I think Laura is coming in the week prior as we have a job up in North Scottsdale. Oh, that reminds me, her and I will be back down this way in early January for the Budget Holstein job."

Lorena asked, "Well, if you two have time could you come down and see us."

I assured her, "By all means yes. We'll likely either come see you the night before or after the project. Still not even sure when we will be down. Laura had a convention that month, but she was looking for a reason to get out it."

Lorena told us, "Well, that is still about a month or so away and we will see you before then."

The six of us headed back up to Oro Valley to try our luck with the Holiday Inn. After arriving at the hotel I told the girls to wait while I went in to get the keys. I walked into the lobby and much to my surprise Charleen was at the front desk. She saw me enter, "Good Evening Mister Merlot. I assure you we have your reservations correct tonight. That was for two suites correct?"

I told her, "Um...No. One regular room and one suite."

Charleen replied, "Oh, okay. Well, you will get two suites tonight. Here are the key cards for the Cooper Queen and the Palo Verde suites." I was about to whip out my plutonium card when Charleen explained, "I have comped both rooms tonight, due to our screw-up last time. We appreciate you giving us another opportunity to serve you."

I thanked her, "Well, I told Linda I would give y'all another chance. We've been here so much, that one little mix-up isn't going to keep us from coming back." I took the cards and headed out to the ACME Truck. I handed the key card for the Copper Queen to Maya, "I'll drop y'all off at your suite and then head over to mine. I'll ring y'all in the morning when I get up in the meantime you five have fun."

After I dropped off the girls I headed over to the Palo Verde suite and pretty much just feel asleep as soon as I walked in. The next morning it was almost 8:00 when I woke up to discovered I hadn't even changed out of the clothes I was wearing the night before. I took a brief shower and rang the girls, much to my amazement they were actually sleeping. I told them to meet me in the lobby when they were ready for breakfast. Gradually they all came down to the lobby and had breakfast. It was almost 10:00 when we finally hit the road to head home. The drive home was not so bad and we did end up getting home around 6:00 that evening. Andy was already at the house and helped us unload Kayré and Kacie's furniture into one of the storage garages on the east side. Bambi would take the ACME Truck up to the Budget Holstein North in the morning and help the girl's unload.

The next few days for once were rather quiet. This gave me sometime to get Mel's systems built and tested. Wynn paged over the intercom, "Ron...Mel is holding on the office line."

I picked up the cordless for my office line, "AZOutback, Ron here."

Mel replied, "Hey Ron! I just wanted to confirm we are on for the 11th?"

I checked my calendar, "Yes we are. I'll give Laura a call on Monday and make sure she can still come out on the 16th. Just finishing up on your systems now."

Mel explained, "Good if all goes well, I should be able to open on the 17th."

## **Chapter 16: The New Home & Gift Ideas**

Thursday night, Kacie, Kayré and I went down to the Foothills Condos to do their walk through before they took ownership on Friday. Much to my surprise the

condo was in perfect condition and there was nothing that needed attention or repair. We returned to the sales office where they finished the last of the paperwork and were given their keys. I don't think the reality had really sunk in for them quite yet. Later on that evening it finally did for them. They spent the rest of the night boxing up everything. Bambi would bring around the ACME Truck over in the morning and help them get moved in. I was just wrapping up on in my office late Thursday evening when the office line rang. I glanced at the caller ID and noticed it was Gary's cell.

Gary explained, "Hey Ron. Sorry to call so late. Just returned from picking up Cristina at the airport. Bunny and I are going to come home tomorrow."

I told Gary, "Okay. Tomorrow is going to be a little hectic, Kayré and Kacie are moving into their condo."

The next morning Kayré and Kacie loaded everything into the ACME Truck and were finally done by lunch time. After lunch we made the short trek down to the condo and started unloading. We unloaded everything in to the living room and dining rooms. Kacie looked at the piles of boxes and disassembled furniture and sighed, "Now what?"

I told her, "Well, first thing we should do is get y'all's bed put together. Shouldn't take us more than a half hour." With the help of Kayré and Kacie, I had the king frame assembled and the head/foot boards attached. Next were the two twin box springs and finally the King mattress. I looked outside to see the sun was starting to set and suggested, "Since it won't take too much time, let's get your dining room table setup then we can order some KFC."

While I got the dining room table setup Kacie called in an order for KFC. After I had finished with the table I went out on to the over-sized balcony. The view was incredible, especially with the sun reflecting off the mountains. While they did have a little Bistro Set, the giant balcony was still very much empty. I got an idea for a housewarming surprise for Kayré and Kacie. Kayré called out, "Ron, Maya is here with KFC."

The entire of bucket of chicken was gone in matter of minutes. I held up my can of Dr. Pepper and purposed a toast, "Ahem...A toast to Kayré and Kacie and their first dinner together in their new home."

Kayré blushed and Kacie laughed, "Wow. Thanks Ron. Kinda cheesy toast, but hey!"

I notice Kayré look as if she was about ready to fall asleep and Kacie seemed a bit tired as well. I commented, "You two looked a bit tired and I think you want some time alone as well. I gotta head down to Wal Mart anyway so, I'll bid you two a good night and return in the morning."

Kacie came over and hugged me, "Thanks for everything Ron, we really appreciate all you and Sara have done."

I told her, "No problem. Let us know if you need anything else." I headed outside to the ACME Truck.

I arrived back at the Zinfandel's and was parking the ACME Truck in the RV garage when Gary came out, "Evening Ron."

I replied, "Hey Gary. How's Cristina?"

Gary told me, "She's doing okay. Tough time for her right now, but she'll make it. Bambi says y'all been getting a lot of use out that there truck."

I explained, "Yep, came in handy down in Tucson for getting the rest of Kayré and Kacie stuff as well their orders for the Budget Holstein."

Gary nodded, "Well, glad it worked out. Anyway, I really need to get back to my office."

I joked, "Let me guess, you need to make up for some lost time with your chair!"

Gary just laughed. We bided each other a good night and I walked back over to the house. I was a bit surprised to see Maya in the kitchen but she explained, "Slow night, even with the condos."

I told her, "Well, at this point I think it just Kayré and Kacie thus far. No one else has moved in yet. Hey, did you have any plans for this evening?"

Maya replied, "Nope, not really. Why?"

I explained, "I could use your help. I wanna go over to Wal Mart and get a swing for Kayré and Kacie since they have that huge balcony. A condo-warming gift if you would?"

Maya commented, "What a great idea, I am sure they will enjoy that. Let me go grab my purse real quick and meet you down in the garage." When I got down to the garage I noticed the Cruiser was gone. Maya responded, "Sara, Lindsay and Andy went out for the evening. Said they would be back very late."

I replied, "Okay. So I'll guess we will take the Hummer then."

We arrived at Wal Mart and found they didn't have much of a selection of patio swings left as it was the 'end of the season'. Funny thing is while for most parts of the country this would hold true, in Arizona it would be the start of the 'patio

season'. We did manage to find a huge stack of two-seater swings on clearance. I commented to Maya, "Wow, good price."

Maya joked, "At that price we could get one for each of the decks!"

I looked at her, "Not a bad idear! That way you and Bambi can sit on your deck together."

Maya didn't comment on that and just mentioned, "Okay, well we are going to need a flat bed, let my go wrangle one down." She disappeared to find a flat bed cart. A few minutes later she returned with a female associate with a flat bed cart.

The associate asked, "How many?"

I replied, "Let's see, Queen Suite, King Suite, Presentation Room, Maya's Room and then the girls' condo. Um that would be five."

She looked at the pile, "Tell you what if you could help me out, take all six and I'll take another 20% off. I really need this space for Christmas stuff."

I figured why not, we would have a spare, "Sure." While I held the cart Maya and the associate loaded up the six boxes. The associate even escorted us over to the checkout then out to the Hummer. Again I ended up holding the cart while they loaded the boxes into the Hummer. Before she left I handed the associate a \$20 bill, "Thanks for your help."

When we arrived at the house I instructed Maya, "Park up front so we don't have to carry these up two sets of stairs." It was tiring enough carrying 4 sets up the stairs, so I was glad we didn't have to go up two flights of stairs. I told Maya, "I'll get these built later this weekend. Go ahead and put the extra one over in the western garage"

Maya replied, "No hurry. I am going to bed now, good night."

I told her good night and headed down stairs. I was just about to head into the kitchen for a bowl of ice cream when the front door bell rang. I opened the door to find Marc with what looked like a few wrapped paintings in a large box. Marc commented, "Ah good you are home. Let's go to your office." We walked over to my office and Marc closed the doors behind us. He explained, "Okay, remember at the wedding we had the photographer that Olivia and Linda had hired?" I nodded and he continued, "Well, what you did not know was I had also enlisted a buddy of mine, a former paparazzi photographer. Any way take a look at these." He unwrapped one of the pictures and it was Sara, in her full restraints and I standing in front of the rent-a-preacher.

I looked at the picture and commented, "Wow. Where the heck did he take that from?"

Marc laughed, "From the deck of the suite next to your old office. I have one of Gary and Bunny as well. Take a look." He unwrapped another photo and it was an equally impressive photo of The Zinfandel's.

It finally dawned on me, "Okay so that is why you asked Sara and I to move away from Gary and Bunny."

Marc laughed, "Yep. I also had these 'scrap books' made up by Olivia's photographer. There's one for you and Sara, Gary and Bunny and Lindsay as well since she was Sara's slave of honour. You know these would make great Christmas gifts. The scrapbooks are from me. Now I have a couple more pictures from the wedding." He hands me another photo and it was my mother and Blanche. "Here is another this time with your sister and Miss Kitty. All you need to do is get these photos framed."

I told Marc, "I think there is custom framing place over in the Promenade up on Frank Lloyd Wright & Scottsdale."

Marc continued, "Here is one more, this one was a little different since I took it one of the times we were at The Unlikely Cowboy. I had my photo guy clean it up a little, but I do think it came out well."

I was in shock, "Oh wow! Great picture of Kayré and Kacie. Yes, these indeed will make great Christmas gifts. Speaking of Christmas, what are you and Martina up to?"

Marc explained, "We are going to be leaving for Aspen, Colorado on the 21st and be back after New Year's. So I am going to leave these here with you."

I thought for a moment, "Hmm...well in that case, I better put these somewhere safe."

Marc asked, "What did you have in mind?" I got up and walked over to the library and pulled out the 'Latin Books' and pulled the release. Marc stood there in amazement, "Cool, a secret room."

I explained, "Yep Dundee added it when we did the remodel. I have all the master belt keys in here along with the DVR for the camera system. There is a little bit of storage space in here, not much." I placed the box and the photos on the bench and headed back in to the office.

Marc and I bided each other a good night and mentioned him and Martina would be moving in next week. I finally had my bowl of ice cream before heading to

bed. The next morning Andy along with Sara, Lindsay and Maya headed out to Tucson for the weekend with The Cruiser. I told Wynn, "Once you are done with the breakfast dishes come to the office."

I was getting ready to turn on my computer when Wynn came in, "You wanted to see me Ron?"

I explained, "Okay, recall from the wedding Olivia had commissioned a photographer. Well, turns out Marc did as well."

Wynn looked at me confused, "I don't recall seeing any other photographers there though."

I told her, "That's because his guy is semi-retired paparazzi. Anyway, Marc dropped off some stuff last night." I got up and retrieved the items from within the secret room and placed them on one of the tables in the library. I continued, "Olivia's friend made these scrap books. However most of these photo's were taken from The King Suite deck by Marc paparazzi friend." I unwrapped the photos and showed Wynn.

Impressed she replied, "Those turned out really great. Oh, so that is why Marc came over and split you and Gary apart."

I explained, "Yep, he wanted to make sure the paparazzi photographer had a clear shot of both of us. Anyway, I am going to be giving these as Christmas presents. If you are not do anything today, can you takes these photos down to *I've Been Framed!* over in the Promenade?"

Wynn carefully picked up the photos and took them with her to get framed. I went out to the garage and unpacked the swing for Kayré and Kacie. I had it assembled into four sections of parts and was loading those into the Hummer when my cell phone rang with a 520 number, Kayré's cell phone, "Morning Ron. You going to be over soon?"

I told Kayré, "Just got a couple things to wrap up here and I'll be right down. Oh, I've got a condo-warming gift for y'all." In a few minutes I was down at the girls' condo.

I was barely up the stairs when Kacie and Kayré meet me at the door. Kacie asked, "So where is this gift Kayré speaks of?"

I told her, "It is down in the Hummer. I could use a hand getting it up the stairs. I will need to finish assembling it as well."

Kacie followed me down the stairs and was very excited when she saw the swing bench, "A patio swing! How nice. Oh wow Kayré is going to be so happy. My

father had one at his place. Okay, what should we bring up first?"

I suggested to keep Kayré guessing, "How about the frame parts first. Let her try to figure out what it is." We brought up all the frame parts at once and took them out to the balcony. Kayré just looked at all the parts confused. I told her, "You'll see soon." Kacie and I went back out and time came up with the bench for the swing.

Kayré saw us bringing in the bench and nearly lost it, "Ron! Oh my god! Wow! This is almost like the swing at her father's place where Kacie and I exchanged our first kiss!"

In a matter of a few minutes I had the swing fully assembled. Kayré and Kacie spent most of the morning in the swing while I worked on getting their big honkin' entertainment center put together. I had a couple sections built when they finally came in and offered to make lunch.

Kayré thanked me, "Ron. We really, really love the swing. Thanks so much. My mother has always had great things to say about you and now I know why."

After lunch I went to work on the next couple sections of their big honkin' entertainment center. Finally late that afternoon I had finished all the sections. Kacie informed me they were going out for the evening and asked if I could finish up tomorrow. I headed back to the house to find that Wynn was gone as well. Or so I thought, I was just about to turn on my computer when Wynn walked in to the office. She brought in the photos from *I've Been Framed!*, "Well, what do you think?"

I looked over the framed photos, "Nice. I don't suppose you can gift wrap these?"

Wynn replied, "Sure. You want me to do the scrapbooks as well?"

I told her, "Yes if you could, that would be great. I am going to work on getting these swings built."

Wynn told me, "Okay, I think there is still some wrapping paper up in the Presentation Room. I'll get these wrapped and placed in the secret room." She was just leaving when she stopped and asked, "What swings?"

I explained, "Maya and I had gone to Wal Mart a couple nights back to get a swing for Kayré and Kacie. Well, they had this model on clearance and we decided to get four more for all the suites and the presentation room."

Wynn replied, "Ah okay." Both of us headed upstairs to the Presentation Room and Wynn looked through the closet, "Okay, looks like we've got quite a bit of wrapping paper in here. Oh, when are you going to put up a tree?"

I thought, "If I get a free moment tomorrow, I'll try to pick-up one out in Carefree. If you need me, I'll be out here working on this swing."

By the time I had finished the first swing I was fairly well wiped out. After a long shower I headed to bed. The next morning I rang Kayré and Kacie, "Hey Kacie, were you and Kayré planning on decorating for Christmas?"

Kacie replied, "We weren't at first but since Kayré's mother will be coming up we may just to do so. Why?"

I explained, "Well, if you like I can take you two up to my usual tree farm out in Carefree. Much better trees than you will find on the corner lots or even at the big box stores."

Kacie relayed the info to Kayré, "Yea, that would be good. We will be ready in a couple hours if that is alright?"

I thought for a moment, "Yes, that would be fine, still have 3 more swings to build."

In those two hours I was able to get the swing for Maya's suite and the King Suite built. I asked Wynn to come along with us. We took the Hummer and picked up Kayré and Kacie. An hour later we were up at the Carefree Tree farm and Kacie was glad they came, "Oh wow, you're right Ron these trees are so much better." They picked up an eight-foot tree while I got twelve footer for our place.

Wynn looked at the tree and joked, "Is that going to be big enough?"

I just laughed and told her, "Not really, but a fifteen footer does not get through the front door very well. Discovered that the first year we were in the house!"

Kayré asked, "You said fifteen footer, geez talk about over-kill!"

I simply replied, "Martina". That was all I had to say and everyone knew what I was talking about. I went up the front and paid for the two trees while Wynn, Kayré and Kacie went to work securing them atop of the Hummer. The four of us had lunch at an old chuck-wagon style restaurant before returning home. We stopped back off at mansion first to unload our tree. I informed Wynn, "I believe all the decorations are in the far eastern garage. Have fun!"

I unloaded Kayré and Kacie's tree and they realized they didn't have any decorations. They headed over to Wal Mart for a couple hours to get decorations. During that time I was finally able to be finish assembling their big honkin' entertainment center. I was just getting all their components loaded and connected when they returned. Once again they treated me to dinner before I left

for the evening. I had just gotten back into the house when Wynn approached and asked, "Um Ron what is with the cows?"

It took me a minute to figure out what she was talking about, "Huh? Oh...The Merry Moo's. Yeah, there should be three of them along with a sign 'Have a Moo-rry Christmas'. Laura got those for me the first year I was out here."

Wynn just shrugged it off, "Um okay. Hey can you help me out with stringing these chili pepper lights?" We spent the rest of the evening getting the tree decorated.

We just finished and had turned out the lights when Andy, Lindsay, Sara and Maya returned. Lindsay and Sara were busy discussing something amongst themselves when they walked into the Great Room and saw the tree. Lindsay was in awe, "Wow, that is some tree you've got their Ron."

Andy walked in from the kitchen and had heard his wife's comment, "Tree?" He then saw the tree, "Yikes, what is that a 10-footer."

I corrected him, "Nope, 12-footer."

Sara laughed, "Remember the first year when you *tried* to bring in that 15-footer?"

I told her, "Yeah took me a week to get all the sap off of me."

Lindsay joked, "Is there going to be enough room under there for all our gifts?"

I winked at Andy then looked at her with serious face and replied, "Gifts? What makes you think I am going to be giving y'all gifts? I gave you the land for the house and letting you two stay here rent free while it is being built. What else do you expect of me young lady?"

Lindsay was a bit surprised by reaction and was glowing rather red, "Ah...Sorry Ron. Guess I should be grateful for what you have already done for us." She was almost starting to cry.

Still keeping a straight face, "Yes, as well as you should be. Now, once I lop off a couple rows of branches on the bottom, there will be plenty of room for gifts under this here tree."

Andy just started laughing, "You really had her going there didn't you!"

Lindsay came over and slugged me and Andy in the arm. What happened next was a bit odd, Sara came over and grabbed Lindsay, "Hey you don't go around hitting my husband. You are coming with me." With that she pulled out a set of

handcuffs and cuffed Lindsay hand's behind her. The two of them along with Maya disappeared down to the playroom.

Andy looked at me, "Does Sara always carry a set of cuffs with her?"

I just laughed, "Don't know, sometimes I wonder. Anyway, while y'all were gone I added a swing on to the balcony of your suite. I've got one last one to build over in the Queen Suite, but will do it tomorrow." Andy and I sat and talked for a bit before heading to bed. Sara came up about an hour later and just went right to sleep.

The next morning I would learn she left Lindsay down in the jail until early in the morning until they all left. I came down the stairs to find Wynn vacuuming the Great Room around the tree. She saw me and told me, "There was left over omelet in the microwave."

I told her, "Thanks, um you may want to wait on doing any more vacuuming around that there tree until I remove those bottom branches." After breakfast I removed the bottom two rows of branches from the tree then spent the next hour trying to get all the sap off of me. I had started working on getting the last swing built when Wynn paged that I had a call holding on the office line. I went back inside then over to the presentation room and picked up the office 'bat-phone' and was surprised to hear Linda, "Hey Ron, your usually really prompt getting back to me so makes me think you didn't get my product email."

I explained, "Linda, I haven't had my computer on since Thursday evening. Been so busy moving Kayré and Kacie, getting Christmas trees and assembling five swings. If I am lucky I might just get to turn it on tonight."

Linda laughed, "Oh okay. Well, let me know if you don't have it. Oh and I'll be coming up on the 19th and am staying with Kayré and Kacie."

I told her, "Good, Laura and Miss Kitty are coming in on the 15th then my mother and Blanche are suppose to come up that weekend as well. So I'll be out of rooms. I am thinking we'll have a big shin dig that Saturday afternoon. Marc and Martina are leaving for Colorado the next day." I went back out the Queen Suite deck to finish working on getting this last swing built. Was just about to attach the bench to the frame when Wynn came out with the house phone.

She handed me the phone, "Your sister."

Carefully I answered, "Evening Laura, what's up?"

Laura explained, "Um a slight change of plans for next week..."

I shuddered to asked, "Such as?"

Laura continued, "We are still on for next Monday but was wondering if would bring Sophie?"

I cringed, "Oh boy..."

Laura was practically begging, "I know it is short notice Ron, but she doesn't have any family in Nevada. We really don't want to leave her here..."

I cut-in, "...Laurena! I don't have a problem with y'all bringing Sophie. I have a problem as to where to put her. I suppose she can stay in the presentation room until Mom and Blanche arrive. Then I am not sure, will cross that bridge when we get there."

Laura was caught off guard, "Did you just call me Laurena?"

I joked, "I could have called you by your real first name."

She begged, "Please don't. Even Miss Kitty doesn't know my real first name and I rather it stay that way too. Alright, then we will see you next Monday."

I handed the phone back to Wynn as she asked, "Did you call her Laurena?"

I laughed, "Her full name is, Abigail Laurena Merlot...or does she go by Myers now? Anyway since you are here, help me get this bench attached and this swing will be done." I had finally finished getting all the swings built and my plans were to go down to my office and turn on my computer. However I soon would discover dinner was ready. After dinner I finally headed into my office and fired up the computer. Much to my dismay, Andy's Spam filter had sprung a leak, but that didn't take very long to fix and cleanup. Finally found Linda's email and found the pictures on her server. I was amazed at what she was adding. It was a latex combination corset/hobble dress with a very high collar. So high the collar could be laced up to act as a muzzle. I added the information to her website and made note to call her in the morning I was going to have to get some of those dresses for the girls.

I was about to sign-off when I got an email from Jason Jason asking if I would still accept referrals and if I would consider still going outside Arizona/Nevada market. I replied back that I'll take any business he sends my way and as for going outside of the market, I didn't have a problem with that. I sent off the reply and kinda wondered about his email. I shut down my system and headed up to bed to find Sara changing into her night clothes including a different belt. I commented, "Haven't been wearing the corset-belt much lately."

Sara replied, "I will be soon, just wanted a change. Haven't seen much of you lately, what's new?"

I laughed, "Funny here we are married...any way let's see Maya and I bought six patio swings. We were just going to get one for Kayré and Kacie as a condo warming gift. But they had them on clearance and so I was going to get four more so all suites would have them. But then the girl at Wal Mart ended up giving us 20% off the clearance price if we took the remaining six she had."

Sara asked, "So what did with you do with the sixth?"

I told her, "It is in the garage for now, not sure what I'll do with it."

Sara had a bright idea, "Give it to Andy and Lindsay as a Christmas present, of course their house won't be ready quite then, but when it is."

As I leaned over and kissed her, "Good idea. Oh and I got a rather odd email from Jason Jason."

Sara inquired, "How so?"

I explained, "Well, he asked if I was still accepting referrals and then asked if I would take business outside of the Phoenix/Tuscon or Las Vegas markets. But he didn't have anything else to say about it. See what happens. Good night dear."

### **Chapter 17: They make for a great gift...**

The next morning after breakfast I headed back to my office and got on the horn with Linda, "Morning Ron. Get the email?"

I told her, "Yes I did and the products are already on your site. How much are those dresses at cost and do you have them in stock or get them before you come up?"

Linda answered, "\$150 each. I have a few in stock, but I can get more by the middle of the week. Why?"

I replied, "Okay, I want to get four. Purple for Wynn; White for Lindsay; Red for Maya and Black for Sara."

Linda responded, "That's \$600 dollars Ron!"

I said, "So? You know I am good for the money."

Linda laughed, "I know, I know."

I told her, "Now, these are going to be Christmas presents for the girls, so don't say anything about them."

Linda promised, "Okay, I'll be careful. Was there any thing else?"

I joked, "Do they come in Pink?"

Linda replied, "Yes they do. Did you want one for Martina?"

I thought for a moment, "Sure, kinda of peace offering so to say and I am sure Marc will enjoy Martina wearing one."

Linda laughed, "Um...okay. I'll bring them when I come up next Friday."

The rest of the week was fairly quiet. Wynn and I worked on getting the house ready for next week when we would have the onslaught of guests. I gave Mel a quick call Wednesday night to confirm for the install the next morning. That night Marc and Martina did the walk through on their condo, they would move in over the weekend. Thursday morning Wynn and I loaded everything into The Cruiser and headed over to Mel's store. I commented to Wynn, "This has to be the closet third party job I've done yet."

Wynn commented, "Yep, you've been doing mostly Tucson or Vegas these past couple months."

We arrived at Mel's suite a few minutes prior to her arriving. I was getting all the small parts sorted and my toolbox when Mel arrived. She greeted us, "Morning Ron and Wynn."

Over the next 20 minutes we brought in all the parts. The first thing we did was swap out her 4-port hub with an 8-port SOHO switch. Wynn asked, "Do you want salvage this Ron?"

I replied, "I have absolutely no use for a 4-port hub. Just leave it, they might need it in the future." By lunch time we had all the machines in place and wired. I informed Mel, "The computers are installed. My sister will be here next Tuesday morning to get your network going."

Wynn and I headed back to the Cruiser to do a reverse inventory. Mel asked, "Are you going to give me an itemized receipt?"

I told her, "In a moment, just need to connect my notebook to my printer/fax in the glove box." I was wondering if Mel thought I was joking. I opened the door to glove box and connected the USB cable to my notebook and clicked print. A few seconds later an invoice came out of the printer and I handed it to Mel.

She just looked at the printer in the glove box, "Here I thought you were joking about printer in the glove compartment! I'll be back with your cashiers check."

Mel returned a couple minutes later with my cashiers check, I would deposit this later and then get one made out to Linda for the dresses.

I dropped Wynn off at home and told her, "I am going to head over to the bank."

As was normal, Ryan grabbed me as soon as I walked in the door, "Good afternoon Ron, haven't seen you in a while."

I told him, "Been all over this past month on various jobs. Got a cashiers check here I would like to deposit and also want to get one made out to Linda Holstein for \$750." Ryan took care of everything and I was out the door with the check within a few minutes. When I got home, I headed back to my office. I was thinking what could I get my mother. I decided to give her a call, may be she would drop some hints. I was not expecting Blanche to answer, "Hey Blanche, is my mother around?"

Blanche told me, "No, she is out with friends. Want me to have her call you?"

I told Blanche, "Um no, actually may be you can help me out here with the some suggestions for Christmas presents for her."

Blanche told me, "Well, she does loves to garden, but always complains it hurts her knees. She has this foam pad she uses, but it doesn't do her much good. The gloves and hat she has too are not in the greatest condition either."

I made note of everything and asked, "Besides tomatoes, what else is she growing?"

Blanche explained, "Well we both tend the garden, bell peppers and squash. She really wants to grow grapes but has had a hard time finding some decent starter vines. That's all I can really think of right now."

I told her, "That's fine, I'll see you two next week. Oh, forgot to mention, Laura and Miss Kitty are bringing Sophie as well. Guess we are going to a big shin dig next Saturday. Marc and Martina are taking off for Colorado the next day."

After I got off the phone with Blanche I went to find Wynn. She was in her quarters still in uniform and for that matter her armor, but was reading another lesbian magazine. I knocked on her door and she dang near fell of the bed, "Geez, you okay?"

Wynn looked up a little embarrassed, "I'm fine. Did you need something?"

I explained, "I am going to be going over to the nursery do some shopping for my mother. Be back in a couple hours."

Sure I could have gone to Wal Mart, but I wanted to get some better quality items. I had just walked in when I was asked if I needed help. I explained, "Well, my mother and her partner live down in Tubac/Green Valley area and love to garden. I want to get them some knee pads, hats and gloves. Plus I want see if I can find some more mature grape vines." I was shown where the knee pads, hats and gloves were. They also informed me they had another location down in Green Valley which had a very large selection of grape vines. They suggested I pick her up a gift card. I wasn't too sure how much to get her and was thinking about that when my cell rang. Checking the caller ID I saw it was Laura, "Afternoon sis!"

Laura informed me, "The three of us will be arriving at Deer Valley Airport around 5:30 Monday afternoon. I was thinking about renting a car but will wait until we get to your place."

I told her okay, "That will work. Hey, have you even gotten anything for mom yet?"

Laura cringed, "Um...Shit! No. Have you?"

I informed her, "As it happens I talked the Blanche earlier today. Found out they both like to tend the garden. So I am getting them some knee pads, gloves and hats. I am at the nursery now and they suggested since they have a location down their way to get them a gift card. Mom wants to grow grapes."

Laura reflected, "Wow, that brings back memories. She use to grow grapes back in Nevada. Do me a favor I'll give you \$75 you can put towards a gift card. You don't have a problem with saying it is from the both of us?"

I explained, "No problem. I'll match your \$75 and make it \$150, she should be able to get some nice grape vines with that." I took all the items to the front and added a \$150 gift card to the order. They gave me a little pot in a box that I could place the card in to make it easier to wrap. I thought to myself as I was coming home, amazing I got all my Christmas shopping done in a matter of a couple days thanks to Marc. It was almost home when Sophie came to mind. Even though she was a last minute addition I would feel bad if I didn't get anything for her. I was wondering what I could get her when an evil thought crossed my mind. I'll get her one of those dresses then have her model in its full glory after the girls open the boxes. I just needed to get her measurements.

I tried to call Laura, but Miss Kitty answered, "Evening Ron. Your sister is out on another job, shall I take a message?"

I explained, "Actually no, but I think you can help me out. Could you fax over Sophie's measurements?"

Miss Kitty was curious, "Sure, but why?"

I told her well, "There is something I want to get her from the Budget Holstein."

Miss Kitty asked, "What is it? I am actually on the computer right now, is the item on their site?"

This made things a little easier, "Yes, in the new arrivals section. The Latex corset/hobble muzzle dress."

Miss Kitty found the item, "NICE! I want one of those too! In fact can you get on for Laura? Let me look at the colours."

I explained, "They are \$150 each at cost."

Miss Kitty told me, "No problem, I'll Road Runner you a check for \$450. Now let's see here. For Sophie let's do the tan. I'll take a dark blue and Laura will take the forest green."

I replied, "Okay fax over all your measurements if you could. I am not sure if Linda has Laura's. Oh and I have going to have Sophie model the dress Christmas morning."

Miss Kitty replied, "Cool, she'll like that. Okay will do in a couple minutes. Thanks Ron!"

My next call was to Linda's cell, "Budget Holstein Oro Valley...oh hi Ron. What do I owe this call for?"

I told Linda, "Miss Kitty saw the new dress online and wants me to get her and Laura one now. I had already planned on getting Sophie one and having her model it Christmas morning. She is suppose to be faxing over all the measurements shortly."

Linda joked, "Geez, at this rate you should get one for yourself too! What colors?"

Doing an Al Borland, "I don't think so Linda! Colors, are going to be tan for Sophie, dark blue for Miss Kitty and forest green for Laura..." My office FAX started ringing, "Ah, getting a FAX hold on...perfect, okay let me re-fax this over to y'all."

Linda informed me, "Okay got it. Well, now I'll have all three of their measurements on file. Of course I was fairly close with Miss Kitty and Laura. I know I can get these before I leave."

Wynn came into my office as I was wrapping up with Linda and stood their until I was off the phone, "Ron, the girls are going to be a bit late tonight business is

very good tonight at the Budget Holstein North. So I am going to hold off on dinner for a bit. Anything you needed?"

Funny she asked, "Yes, I got the items from the nursery. Do we have any more gift boxes?"

Wynn replied, "Yes, there are a few left."

I told her, "Everything is in 'the room'. I suppose we could start putting the wrapped gifts out under the tree."

Wynn said she would take care of everything. My cell phone rang it was the Zinfandel's, "Hey Ron. Bunny here. Hey do y'all need a fireplace set. It was a housewarming gift from one of the furniture stores. But, since we don't have a fireplace and Gary won't let me bludgeon you with the poker so..."

I joked, "You asked?"

Bunny laughed, "No, he told me when it arrived, I was not to beat you with it!"

Laughing, "Well that was nice of him. Anyway, we already have one. However, I know the McGrawl's don't have one, well they don't even have a house yet. You two can give it to them as a Christmas present."

Bunny was serious for once, "You know Ron, I would not hurt you. Sure I was a little bitter about your 'suggestion' but looking back we had a blast!"

## **Chapter 18: Mel's Network Install/You're In Big Trouble!**

The weekend was fairly quiet even with Marc and Martina moving into their condo. Laura called me Sunday night, "Hey our flight got moved, we are coming in around 2:00 now. I also scheduled to have Enterprise bring us out a car around 6:00 that evening."

Monday morning was final preparations for the Queen Suite and Presentation Room. Marc stopped by real quick on his way to work, "Hey Ron. We love the condo, thanks for the suggestion. Martina and I are so close to you now, this will be nice. Well gotta run to work see ya!." Just as suddenly as he appeared Marc was gone again. Wynn made sure there were fresh sheets on the beds and plenty of towels. I had already left for the airport when Laura called, "Hey we got diverted to Bullhead City due to bad weather. We should be taking off in the next half hour or so."

I told her, "Okay, give me a call when y'all's land. I'll be over at Gary's Office."

After I got off the phone with Laura I called Gary's Deer Valley Office, "ACME

BDSM Deer Valley, Lulu here."

I informed her, "Lulu, Ron Merlot, is Gary around?"

She told me, "Yes Ron he is, but he's in a meeting. Should be done shortly, shall I take a message or have him call you?"

I told her, "Nah. Just let him know I'll be there in about 20 minutes." It had dawned on me that while Lulu and I have talked on the phone many occasions, we've never met in person. I arrived at Gary's office and walked in the front door and I swore for a second it was Martina sitting behind the counter.

Lulu ask, "Can I help you?"

I laughed, "Sorry, you look just like my ex-wife. Very odd?"

Lulu was a little annoyed, "Did you come here for a reason or to compare me to your bimbo ex-wife?"

Gary walked in on the last part of Lulu's comments, "Ah Lulu, Ron I see you two have met!"

Lulu was rather embarrassed by her behaviour and stammered a bit, "Ron? As in Ron Merlot?"

I simply replied, "Yep. Hey, Laura and company's flight got diverted to Bullhead City due to bad weather. Last I talked to her she said they would be taking off soon and would call me back when she landed."

Lulu in attempt to get off on a better foot, "Ron it is a pleasure to finally meet you in person. So I remind you of Martina?"

Gary looked at her, "She does? I don't see it...oh wait 'the old' Martina when she had the blonde hair."

I added, "Well if she was dressed in all pink I likely would have ran away! Oh by the way, I got a call from your wife the other day."

Gary started laughing, "Ah yes, I had to lay down the law that she could not beat you with that fireplace poker. You know Lulu doesn't know the full story, I suppose we should tell her."

I couldn't help but laugh too, "Sure why not, you start."

Gary began, "Well, as you know Bunny and I went up to Sedona for our honeymoon. I had her in a high-security model K with both plugs installed."

I picked up, "So, I casually suggested to Gary via email while they were up there, they should do a Jeep Tour."

Lulu just started laughing, "Oh my god! No wonder she wants to hurt you."

Gary added, "Oh, it gets better. We ended up staying an extra couple days so we could do all the tours!"

Lulu was laughing so hard, "You're lucky your not a dead man Ron."

To my defense, "But Gary here says she has secretly admitted she did enjoy the tours. Heck she he told me that the other night."

My cell phone was ringing, "AZOutback Consulting."

Sophie was trying to imitate Laura and doing a good job at it too, "HOOOWDDEE Ron! We've landed."

I told her, "Okay be over shortly, just at Gary's office." As I left I reminded Gary, "Hey don't forget, the mother of all Shin Digs this Saturday."

Gary laughed, "Yep the Merlot Christmas party this ought to be wild!"

I reminded him, "Hey it's at your favorite place too!"

Gary smiled, "Ah yes, The Unlikely Cowboy. Hey, can I bring Lulu?"

I advised him, "Well, we have the whole place to ourselves so that is fine. She can even meet Martina! I really got go. So see y'all Saturday." I headed over to the airport to find Miss Kitty and Sophie sitting on a bench with their luggage. I asked, "Um, where's Laura?"

Sophie replied, "Ladies room. She's a little uneasy right now, but I think she'll be fine once she gets to your place and has some Vodka." I sat there for a moment silent Sophie asked, "You okay Sir?"

I looked up, "Ah yeah. I better give Wynn a call and have her pick up some Vodka." While we waited for Laura I whipped out my cell phone called home, "Hey Wynn, Ron. I'm still at the airport, their flight had gotten diverted to Bullhead City. Anyway I need you to get me some Vodka for Laura. We should be home in the next hour or so."

About this time Laura comes stumbling out of the ladies room, "Hey Ron. Sorry for the delay still a little uneasy at the moment."

I told her, "That's alright, whenever you are ready."

Laura sat for a few more minutes and remarked, "Hate to think if I was up in one of those tin cans. Okay I am doing better now let's go." While we're waiting for Laura to recover Sophie had managed to get a luggage cart and had loaded all their bags. A few minutes later we were at my Jeep. Laura commented a bit distressed, "Ah brought the Jeep this time."

I replied, "Maya has class today, finals actually. So she took the Hummer. You going to be okay?"

Laura assured me she was fine, "A little Vodka and then some sleep, I'll be good as new."

As we were driving home Sophie commented, "I see Arizona is not as barren as Nevada."

I recalled, "Yep. I didn't know how barren it was out in Nevada until I did the drive from Laughlin to Vegas."

We arrived back at the community and Miss Kitty commented, "I see they are making some progress on the McGrawl's house. When is it suppose to be completed?"

I told her, "I think mid April, but then Gary's wasn't even suppose to be done until about now, so it is anyone's guess."

Wynn met us in the garage and told Laura, "There's a bottle of Vodka waiting for you in the kitchen Laura."

Laura bowed, "Thank you Miss Wynn, I really need that right now too." She made her way up the stairs rather quickly.

Wynn came over to help Sophie with the bags, "Here let me help you, no use you trying to lug all these up two sets of stairs by yourself." Wynn headed up the stairs with Sophie following and directed her, "Okay, Laura and Miss Kitty's bags go in here. You will be staying over here, not as lavish as the suites, but still nice nevertheless."

Later on Enterprise came by and dropped off a Gold Cadillac for Laura who was still very out of it. I came up into the suite and sat on the bed next to her, "Hey. You doing any better?"

Laura replied, "Yes I am. Just very drained will need to get some sleep. Don't worry about me Ron."

I told her good night and went down into the kitchen. I told Miss Kitty and Sophie, "She's going to try to get some sleep."

The next morning I got up to discover Laura was doing better and had already left with Miss Kitty. I was assuming she was doing Mel's install. Sophie came down the stairs, "Morning Ron. You know it is kinda nice to be able to sleep a little later once in a while."

I asked her, "What time do you usually get up?"

Sophie replied, "Well, we don't get up overly early, but I am the first one up. Hey your sister says you've quite a collection of old 'Adult magazines'?"

I told her, "Yep some as far back as the 60's, but mostly 80's and 90's. When you are done come over to my office, just off the great room." Sophie came in about a half hour later. I walked her into the library, "Well, everything on this side is Adult material, the other side of the room is all computer related."

Sophie spent most of the morning in the Library while I worked on a couple small projects. That afternoon I heard Laura and Miss Kitty in the Great Room. I was going to join them and find out how the install went when my office line rang. It was Mel, "Um Ron, did your sister make it in yesterday?"

I was a little confused, "Um yes, why you ask?"

Mel informed me, "She never showed up this morning and now I am in all panic as I was going to open tomorrow."

I wondered what her excuse would be this time, I asked Mel, "How late are you going to be there tonight?"

Mel replied, "Likely to at least eight or nine."

I told her, "Okay thanks. Let me look into this." As soon as I got off the phone I yelled out, "Abigail Laurena Merlot get in my office now!"

Sophie nearly fell out of her chair. Laura was in the Great Room when she heard me call out her full name and replied, "Oh shit!"

Miss Kitty heard me call out her name as well and commented, "I didn't know your first name was Abigail...."

Laura muttered, "I kinda wish you didn't too!" She quickly made her way to my office and before I could even lay into her she asked, "I suppose this has to do with Mel's install?"

I simply replied, "Yes it does. The install that was suppose to be done this morning. I really don't want to know what happened with you, so don't even start with me. Meanwhile Mel is in all of a panic as she wanted to open tomorrow, but currently doesn't have a working computer network. Dang it Laurena I thought we were pass this. You think it is all about you, but it affects us as a company as a whole."

Laura replied, "Please don't call me that."

I told her, "You rather I call you by your real first name, Abigail?"

Laura pleaded, "Please don't...."

I warned her, "Now, you have a chance to redeem yourself and the image of AZOutback Consulting."

Laura asked, "How so?"

I replied, "Well, Mel is staying late and hoping you will show up tonight and get her computers working so she can have her grand opening tomorrow." Laura got up and headed out the office and to the car. She passed Miss Kitty without even saying a word to her. Meanwhile, I got on the horn with Mel, "Okay, she is on her way. I'm really sorry about this, I've should have checked up on this earlier." Miss Kitty walked into the office and sat down on one of the sofas. I nodded to her and wrapped up with Mel, "Thanks for your understanding."

Miss Kitty asked, "You mean to tell me she had a job she was suppose to do this morning?"

I informed her, "Yes. Brand new client too, which is why I am so upset with her right now. Thankfully the client doesn't seem too upset. I just hope Laura really shows up this time and gets the job done. Shit, this is like The Budget Holstein all over again."

Much to her credit and to Mel's relief, Laura did show up and got the install done rather quickly since it was only 6 computers. Laura found Mel in her office and told her, "You are all set. If you run into any problems give my brother a call. Have a good night." Before Mel could say anything or even pay her, Laura was already gone.

Mel thought to herself that it was odd and decided to call me, "Evening Ron. Your sister was here and finished up everything. All is well. Just a quick question if I may...when I paid you last week, did that include Laura?"

I told her, "No, in this case Laura would have billed you when she was done, why?"

Mel replied, "Oh nothing, she just left without me paying her. May be she will send me a bill later. Oh well, I need to get some sleep before my opening."

I just hung with Mel when Laura walked in my office, "Thank you for giving me a second chance here. She's all set to go. I am heading up to bed now. Again thanks."

I opted not to mention the phone call from Mel, "Good night."

## **Chapter 19: It Is The Most Wonderful Time of the Year and The Mother of all Shin Digs!**

Over the next couple days Laura avoided me as much as she could. I really wanted to talk to her about the Budget Holstein Oro Valley job, but could not get a chance. The morning before everyone was to start arriving she was down in the kitchen with Miss Kitty and Sophie. I was going to bring it up then, "Hey Laura, if you got a minute I want to talk to you..."

Laura got up and headed out the door, "Sorry gotta go."

I was going to ask Miss Kitty what was going on when the doorbell rang. Wynn announced, "Ron, there is a Mohave County Sheriff here looking for your sister."

Miss Kitty commented, "Ah shit! The bastard is pressing charges."

I looked at her dumbfounded and headed into the foyer to see what, if anything I could do to help, "Howdy, I'm Ron Merlot, Laura's brother." We headed into The Great Room and sat down.

The Sheriff explained, "First off, she is not in any trouble. I was actually coming out on welfare follow-up to make sure she was doing alright and see if she had reconsidered not pressing charges."

I explained, "I really have no idea what is going on here..."

Miss Kitty interrupted, "Crap, she didn't tell you. She got into a bit of an altercation with a drunk businessman when we were at the Bullhead City Airport. He kept hitting on her and would not leave her alone. She had told him several times, and very 'politely' mind you that she was not interested in him and she was taken."

I started laughing, "Wait, Laura was being polite, not a sailor."

Miss Kitty giggled, "Yes, odd I know. It was a public place so she didn't really want to make a scene or bring attention to herself. Well, he was being persistent

and then started getting physical with her. This time around she told him in not so polite way to get off of her. Mind you that got the attention of the other people in the terminal."

The sheriff added, "There are several witnesses who have verified the accounts that she was being harassed by this individual."

Miss Kitty continued, "Anyway, he would not let up and tried to reach under her skirt. She kicked him and he was out cold on the ground."

The sheriff explained, "So we are considering this self defense. He did start threatening to press charges when he came to but based on the witness accounts they would not stick. Anyway, here is my card when she returns have her give me a call. Thanks"

After the sheriff left Miss Kitty added, "That next morning we went to consult an attorney which is why she didn't make it to the install."

I asked, "Why didn't she just tell me this, of course I didn't give her a chance when I called her into my office using her full and real names. But she had a chance when she came back that evening."

Miss Kitty explained, "Now you understand why she was so distressed when we arrived. I think if anything she was a bit embarrassed by what happened there and therefore did not really want to talk about it. Hey, is her first name really Abigail?"

I laughed, "Yep and calling her that bothers her more than calling her Laurena."

Miss Kitty replied, "I see, when she comes back tonight I'll have her talk to you."

Later that evening Laura returned and Miss Kitty sent her to my office. She sat down nervously in front of me. I asked, "I get the impression you are upset with me..." Laura was about to say something but I continued, "...you have a right to be. I had just assumed you were out shopping or do something else with Miss Kitty that morning instead of Mel's job. Grant you I did not give you a chance to explain what was happening before you left. But you did have a chance when you got back from Mel's install. Which reminds me, I got a phone call from her after you left."

Laura asked nervously, "and?"

I told her, "Well, she was very pleased with your work and that you did follow through to get the job done. However..." Laura cringed. "...she was a bit confused as to why you did not bill her for your install services."

Laura explained, "I screwed up and felt as a good-will it was best not to charge her."

I explained, "Thing is, you didn't screw up at least not totally. I did. Had you told me what happened Monday and you needed some time to take care of business on Tuesday morning I would have called Mel and rescheduled for later in the day. She wouldn't had minded at all, better than you not showing up at all. Oh and I suppose I should give us this."

I handed her the card from the Sheriff she looked at the card and asked, "He came to the house?"

I told her, "Right after you left. He and Miss Kitty explained everything. Not that it is any of my business, but I am curious as to why you don't want to press charges?"

Laura explained, "Too much trouble to have go all the way out to Kingman for court. Besides he didn't actually do anything to me, just a little embarrassed that's all. Could we not discuss this any more Francis?"

I laughed, "Okay that is fine. But do me a favor give that nice sheriff a call and let him know you are doing okay. Hmm....Francis, you're the second person to call me that recently."

Laura was in a bit of shock, "Really, who else knows that is your real first name?"

I told her, "Well besides Sara, Joe my carpet/upholstery guy."

Laura remembered him, "You mean Rudy Jose Dominguez? I wondered whatever happened to him."

I laughed, "Yep, he was out here right after you and Miss Kitty were here, when you took Martina with you to Henderson."

Laura recalled, "Yea, we did have a bit of a wild weekend then. So who all are coming up tomorrow?"

I explained, "Linda as well as Mother and Blanche. That reminds me we need to but Sophie somewhere else. Who do you think she would get along with better Maya or Wynn?"

Laura replied, "Well she has been hanging out with Wynn quite a bit so she should be fine with her. I take it Linda is staying with Kacie and Kayré?"

I replied, "Yes. I suppose we should move Sophie now." I got on the intercom, "Wynn and Sophie could y'all's come to my office."

I could tell they were going to get along fine when they both entered and pointed at each other while saying, "She did it!"

Laura just looked at me confused and I told her, "Running joke, much like Marc and Martina's marriage. Anyway, Wynn and Sophie until my mother and Blanche leave, you two will be bunking together."

To my surprise Wynn replied, "Actually, she already is. Moved her last night."

I told her, "Okay, that was easy. Carry on." After they left I turned to Laura, "Now why cain't everything be that easy?"

Laura laughed for the first time since she arrived, "Would make life simpler wouldn't it. Sorry about this mess I got you into again. I keep trying to improve, but just having a good run of bad luck."

I got up and gave her a long hug, "It's okay. Things will get better. Now, let's enjoy this time together."

The next morning I got a call from Linda, "Morning Ron. Hey just want to let you know I'm on my way up and have all your dresses. Even better they are all already gift wrapped except for Sophia's. Oh and Kacie and Kayré already know as they got their own as soon as they came out. But they know not to mention anything to the girls. Now, I am staying with my girls correct?"

I told her, "Yes, but go ahead and come to my place first since you are on the guest list on file at the guard house, besides which you need to drop off all the gifts." The front door bell rang, "Gotta go, I think my mother and Blanche are here."

As I walked out my office Wynn announced, "Mrs Merlot and Blanche!"

I greeted them, "Wow, y'all made good timing. Anyway you will be up in the Presentation Room. Laura and Miss Kitty went out to do some last minute shopping. I think Sophie is down in the playroom with Maya and Sara."

Blanche asked, "We've got gifts in the car, should we bring them in?"

I pointed to what was currently fairly barren under the tree, "Yes, set them over there. It is going to start filling up down there as Linda is bringing a bunch of gifts as well."

After they had a chance to freshen up, Lorena and Blanche came over to the library. Lorena commented, "Still can't believe this all use to be one giant room."

I told her, "You know, Maya recently put together an album with all the changes to the house. She took all the before and after photos I had taken. She really went all out. Let me grab it." I went over to the Great Room and got the album and placed it on the table in front of us. "Okay, these first few pictures were when I came out to see what I had purchased."

My mother asked, "You mean you bought the house without even seeing it?"

I joked, "Yes, the way things were going I would have hurt Abigail and/or her cheerleader roommate's and their friends."

Blanches asked, "Who's Abigail."

Lorena told her, "That's Laurena's real first name, of course she prefers to be called Laura."

I showed her the pictures of the upstairs, "As you can see the King Suite was already done but the Queen Suite added the door to the bathroom. Now let's see here, ah the kitchen, that I had totally redone per Martina. You can see there as no island or even a walk-in pantry. The fridge use to be where the pantry is now. Over here you can see there was small range and microwave. Then we didn't even have the stairs leading down to the playroom and the other garage."

I turned the page and Lorena was just in shock when she saw the rear yard, "Wow there was nothing back there."

I explained, "Yep. No patio or even my Big Honkin' Grill. The pool was added upon Martina's request and she paid for it with here 'Google Money'. This was done along with the bath-house on the north side to fill in that space. Okay, now we fast forward to this year. The ANOZIRA Jacuzzi tubs were added last summer when I was going crazy with projects at both Oro Valley as well as Vegas. Here we go the old library, not the nicest looking place."

Blanche commented, "So were those shelves in the 'before' picture built-in?"

I told her, "No, just a bunch I picked up at Wal Mart. From what I could tell, the people here before never did anything with that room or for that matter most of the upstairs. I think they used what is now the maid's suite and the King Suite. They were only here a couple months before they couldn't take the heat anymore. From what Marc told me, they had planned on retiring in Arizona and have a big house where their grand-kids could come for extended visits."

Lorena commented, "Sure spent a lot on renovations though."

I explained, "The money I have spent so far on renovations is less than the price difference on the house. I have not had it appraised lately but sure it is worth a

lot more than when I bought it. Plus, I've been careful not to 'over-do' and become the most expensive house in the development. If anything this house is right about median price, you should see some of the 'mansions' they are building along the south side of Roadrunner and north side of Coyote."

Blanche joked, "Any more renovations planned?"

I told her, "Yes, but minor. When I can get some time that I am not away on jobs, I want to replace the tile in the bathrooms and kitchen. I am looking at putting in the similar travertine as is in the entry way. Also want to replace the counter tops in the kitchen as well. Not sure why they opted for such cheap stuff in the kitchen, but went all out in the bathrooms. Also looking at putting some gates in front of the Porte Cochere to keep the back area private. I believe the original owner had intended to do so as everything is already prewired and there are slabs for the mechanicals and call box."

Blanche added, "I've got a friend up this way who makes custom wrought iron gates, I'll give you her number and web address. I bet ya she can get those made and installed by this time next week."

I asked, "But if it is custom work, why so fast?"

Blanche explained, "She gets the main gate in stock sizes. The customization usually takes a couple days. She has her brother doing the installs. Take a look and give her a call, it will be our present."

The front door bell rang. I commented, "Wonder who that is, too soon for Linda as she called when y'all arrived."

Wynn announced, "Linda Holstein."

The three of us came out of the office and I asked, "Didn't you just call me a couple hours ago?"

Linda told me, "I was calling you from Gold Canyon, had made a delivery out there on my way up here. Now, how about I get some help unloading all these boxes. The one with Sophie's dress is up front. All the rest are already wrapped and tagged."

By the time Linda had placed all the boxes under the tree, it wasn't so barren anymore. Meanwhile I went back to the office and looked over the website. I found a style which mixed wood with wrought iron that would match up with our design style well. Blanche called her friend who came out that afternoon with her brother. They introduced themselves as Ben and Lisa. Ben took a look around and informed me, "You're right about the original owner or the builder had planned on having gates everything is already prewired including the connection to your

intercom system. Even the sensor loops are installed, though it took me a few minutes to find the ones for the exit as they were installed on the north side of your Porte Cochere. Once Lisa gets the gates assembled should take me a couples hours to get them installed. How long do you think these will take Lisa?"

Lisa had been using my measuring wheel and told us, "This drive is a fairly common size so I can get the gate frames later today. It will take a couple days to stain the wood as well as to make and installed the twisted wrought iron. Should be able to get them done and ready for Ben to install on Tuesday."

Ben informed me, "Then I will be back Tuesday morning to do the full install which will take a few hours. How many remotes are you going to need?"

I told him with a straight face, "A lot."

Ben laughed, "Could you narrow that down for me Ron?"

Off the top of my head, "Let's go with 10, so we can have some spares."

Ben noted this, "Okay ten it is. I'll be back on Monday morning. You folks take care."

The sun was beginning to set when they left and my cell phone started ringing it was Maya, "Hey Ron, we're fairly slow tonight so I am going to be coming home in about 30 minutes. Since we have so many people, how about I bring over a couple party pizzas, some bread sticks and soda?"

Considering Wynn had been occupied most of the day with Sophie, Blanche and my mother down in the playroom this was not a bad idear, "Good idea Maya, Wynn has been rather occupied with Sophia down in the playroom most of the day." I decided to check on the two maids so I headed down to the playroom. Once in the playroom I found Wynn was locked on to the cross, being fucked by the machine while Sophie was straddling her head, having her pussy serviced. I then noticed both my mother and Blanche were in separate jail cells, blindfolded, gagged and chained to their stools.

I tried calling out Sophie's name, but she really couldn't hear me over her moaning and the fucking machine. I put a hand on her shoulder which startled her, causing her to fall backwards. Luckily I was there to break her fall. She looked up, "Oh...hi Ron." After regaining her balance and composer she asked, "Am I keeping Wynn from her duties?"

I laughed, "No, looks like she was servicing you well. I was just coming down to let y'all know we will be having pizza tonight for dinner. Curious...why are my mother and Blanche in the jail cells?"

Sophia answered, "I dunno. Wynn put them in there."

I told her, "Okay then, never mind. Chances are I don't want to know. Anyway, go ahead and get cleaned up and be sure to release the prisoners." I went upstairs to get the dining room ready for dinner. Andy, Sara and Lindsay came in the back door as I was walking into the kitchen. I advised them, "Dinner will be in about 15 minutes, so you have a little time to freshen up."

Sara asked, "Where is everyone?"

I laughed, "Well, Sophia is having Wynn service her. Blanche and Lorena are also down there, but Wynn put them in the jail cells." Sara was about to ask, "...before you ask, I have no idea why and frankly I don't care. It looked like those two were content with their current situation."

Laura and Miss Kitty arrived shortly before Maya. Laura asked, "You've seen Sophie."

I told her, "Playroom, along with Wynn as well as mother and Blanche. Now, get ready for dinner."

During dinner I announced, "I am going to be doing another improvement on the Merlot Mansion. This one is compliments of my mother and Blanche."

Maya commented, "That's nice of them, a Christmas present of sorts?"

Lorena replied, "I suppose so and favor for friends of Blanche."

Sara asked, "So what are you going to have done now?"

I explained, "I am having gates installed on the south side of the Porte Cochere entry. It appears everything was already setup when the house was built, so the install should be fairly simple."

Lindsay asked the obvious, "Why would you want to put in gates?"

I told her, "The gates will help keep the back patio area, garages and pool private. As it is now, anyone can drive through or walk back there. The gates will be installed on Tuesday. Y'all will get remotes and if you are currently visiting you will get a remote as well for use during your stay."

Saturday evening the girl's got all decked out for the Mother of All Shindigs. They weren't overly formally dressed, but still dressed up. Even Gary and I dressed down a bit, just enough so we didn't look like used car salesmen or oil barons. Much to my surprise Lulu showed up wearing a pink dress. Martina walked up to her and joked, "Hey, it is my long lost twin sister!" Gary and I were a bit

surprised at how open Martina was being, may be she had already had a drink or two.

Lulu commented, "Ah so you must be the famous Martina!"

Martina laughed, "Word gets around fast doesn't it? Now, I don't believe we've met."

Lulu introduced herself, "I'm Lulu Crow, Gary's assistant at his Deer Valley office. Care for a drink?" Gary and I watched as the two of them walked over to the bar. They spent most of the evening chatting amongst themselves.

Gary looked at me with disbelief, "Well I'll be. I thought for sure Martina would have laid into her about the pink dress."

I laughed, "I know and here I was hoping for a cat fight, would've been quality entertainment. Oh well."

Gary commented, "Well at least they are playing nicely. Speaking of which, have you seen our sister-in-laws?"

I looked around to see if I could find Maya and/or Bambi finally spotted them off in the far corner of the bar drinking and giggling. I told Gary, "Looks like they are enjoying each others company." About that time Maya started kissing Bambi passionately, "Definitely enjoying each others company."

The food started arriving and everyone came around to start getting their share of the feast. After dinner most everyone hit the center of the patio and started dancing. Since Sara was occupied by Lindsay I looked around to see Andy was off in the corner talking to Linda. I walked over and joined them, "Seems our wives are dancing without us. What's up with that?"

Andy laughed, "Better with each other than some other guy."

I couldn't help but think of my reaction with Laura and Martina, "I know what you mean. Kinda the same way I felt earlier this year when I found out it was only Laura that Martina was screwing around with. God, seems just like yesterday. Sara was just my assistant and maid. Heck we didn't even know you and Lindsay then. It was Linda that brought us all together."

Linda asked, "Which time was that."

I explained, "That would have been the first time that computer blew up. Sara and I were on our way back from Vegas from Gary's install when you called. We ended up meeting Andy and Lindsay the next morning at the hotel when we were having breakfast."

Andy added, 'Since then Sara and Lindsay have been nearly inseparable.'

I still wondered, "Hey, this has been bothering me. What the heck were you two doing there anyway?"

Andy thought, "Good question. Oh, we were having the condo fumigated after we had been taking care of a friend's dog for a week. You wanna talk about a flea bag! So that was why we were there. We were going to stay at Loews but they were overbooked. Strange how this had a way of working out."

I asked Linda, "So how do you like Kayré and Kacie's condo?"

Linda commented, "Very nice. Somewhat similar to the one I have down in Oro Valley. So I heard Marc and Martina live over there as well."

I told her, "Yes, they are on the other end in the smallest unit. You know it is hard to believe all my rooms are filled. In fact Sophie is staying with Wynn at the moment."

Linda asked, "Is that why you bought that large of a house?"

I told her, "No. The only reason I bought it was to get away from Laura and her cheerleader roommates/friends. I would have no idea that I would be using all the rooms...."

Martina came around and grabbed me, "Hey Ron, let's dance. Just like old times." Funny thing was, Martina and I rarely danced even when we were married. Of course Martina's idea of dancing is bumping and grinding her partner.

Thankfully Laura saw what was going on and cut in, "Ron do you mind if I cut-in?"

I told her, "Not at all, go right ahead."

I walked back over the Linda and Andy. Andy was laughing, "What the heck was that?"

I replied, "Martina's idea of dancing. She never gave me this much bloody attention when we were married!"

The party would have gone well into the night, but the restaurant did kick us out at 11:30 PM. I did make sure to give Marc the dress for Martina before we left, "Here, this is for Martina, a peace offering of sorts. I know she will love it and I think you will too." Marc looked at me confused when he took the box, I just told him, "Trust me!" Everyone headed back home with the exception of Lulu who opted to spend the night at the Zinfandel's after having so much to drink.

The rest of the weekend was fairly quiet. Most of Sunday everyone slept trying to recover from the night before. Around 9:00 AM Tuesday morning Ben and Lisa returned. Over the next several hours the two of them installed the mechanical components, the call box and finally the gates. Ben explained, "We did make one upgrade, the system can also run on batteries in the event of a power-failure. Gate codes and remotes will work, but not the intercom features since that does require power to function."

That evening I handed out remotes to Wynn, Sara, Maya, Andy and Lindsay as well as Laura. I advised them, "The remotes should work as far as the circle." Then I explained how the intercom system worked, "When a visitor comes up they will push the call button on the call box outside. That will buzz the intercoms in the kitchen, presentation room, great room and/or my office. On those intercoms there is a button marked as 'AUX' pressing and holding this will let you talk to the person at the call box. To open the gates, release the 'AUX' button and then press it three times. You will hear a beep on your end at the caller will hear a tone and see an 'Open' message as the gates open." I concluded, "Now, the exit gates are just like those in the community, drive up and they will open automatically. This system is also designed to work in a power failure as far as remotes and gates are concerned. The intercom won't work since the main system is tied into the house's power system."

## **Chapter 20: A Christmas Eve Game**

The next morning I was able to get everyone out of the house with the exception Wynn. I called her into my office, "Okay, so we are going to be doing a game tonight."

Wynn pointed out, "But we have an odd number of people."

I explained, "I know. But I won't be participating. I have a big job I want to work on and will be playing Santa later this evening anyways. Plus will need to do the wake up call too. As we did in the past we will be using the bed restrains system and also I have put together some play bags with various toys. So, one of those in each room as well. I will need you to presetup the Queen Suite, King Suite, Maya's Room, Presentation Room and your suite. I'll explain the assignments later."

Wynn advised me, "Okay, I'll start getting stuff setup."

I headed out to my shop to grab me 10 cable tags which would be attached to each belt key so we could easily keep track who's was who's. On my way back up I grabbed a large mason jar from the recycle bin. I would have they key holders tag their keys and then deposit them in the jar. I would later place each key either in a red envelope for the subs or green envelope for the doms. I called over

to KFC and placed a large order for delivery to come that evening.

Everyone returned later that afternoon and I had them gathered in the Great Room and explained, "Okay folks we will be doing a game tonight." I could sense a wave excitement with some of the people and confusion with the others so I explained, "For those of you who have not participate in a Merlot Mansion Game before, let me explain a few things. First everyone that has a belt, needs to be belted. If you are not already please go do so now." I waited but no one left, "Okay, that went better than I expected. Now, does everyone have their belt keys with them? If not go get them please."

Most everyone cleared out except Wynn, "I have mine already."

I handed her a cable tag and a Sharpie, "Here put your name on this and attach it to the key ring. When you've done that place it in the mason jar." Wynn did as she was told and placed her key in the jar when others started returning. I informed them, "Pickup a cable tag, put your name on the tag, attach the tag to your key ring and place it in the mason jar." After everyone had placed their keys in the jar I explained more, "Now, each of you will be partnered with a playmate. One of you is going to be sub while the other will be a dom. Your partners have already been determined and you are not change partners. Nor should you leave your room unless it is to use the bathroom. We will begin after dinner. Dinner should be here in about 2-hours. You have 90-minutes to get freshened up and choose the outfits you want to wear tonight. I would not suggest changing into the outfits until after dinner given we will be having KFC. Bring what you are going to wear down to the playroom as you will be able to use the changing rooms down there. After 5:30 PM you may not re-enter your rooms. Once you drop off your clothes in the playroom, you can come up to the Great Room until Dinner. That is all."

Once everyone left I took the mason jar back to my office and started getting the envelopes ready. I placed Lindsay's, Lorena's, Maya's, Blanche's and Sophie belt keys in green envelopes and attached their playing card to the front. Meanwhile I placed Sara's, Miss Kitty's, Andy's, Laura's and Wynn's in a red envelope along with set of cuff keys. A little after 5:30 PM I got on the intercom an announced, "Everyone please meet in the Great Room in 10 minutes." Wynn took this as her queue to finish setting up the rooms.

- **Hearts (Subs) / Spades (Domes)**
  - Ace – Sara / Lindsay
  - Two – Laura / Blanche
  - Three – Andy / Maya
  - Four – Miss Kitty / Lorena
  - Five – Wynn / Sophie

- **Room Assignments**
  - Spare (Ace) – Sara/Lindsay
  - Queen Suite (Two) – Laura/Blanche
  - King Suite (Three) – Andy/Maya
  - Presentation Room (Four) –

Lorena/Miss Kitty  
○ Maid's Suite (Five) –  
Wynn/Sophie

Wynn returned to my office and confirmed, "All the rooms are setup and everyone is accounted for. Now what?" I looked at my computer clock and waited a few seconds. Wynn was wondering what I was up to, "Well?" The doorbell rang.

I suggested, "How about you get the door?"

Wynn gave me a dirty look and left my office to answer the front door. I entered the Great Room and announced, "Dinner has arrived." We all headed into the dining room and dinner was gone in about 30-minutes. I announced, "Wow, made fast work of dinner. Everyone into the Great Room. I'll be right back." I headed into my office and grabbed the five green envelopes. I returned and announced, "Will Sara, Miss Kitty, Andy, Laura and Wynn please come join me in the playroom. The rest of you shall wait here for me to return." The six of us headed down the stairs and into the playroom. Upon arriving in the playroom I asked, "Which three would like to get changed first?" Sara, Andy and Wynn volunteered first, followed by Miss Kitty and Laura.

Once they were all changed I explained, "You five are going to be subs tonight. I am going to give you a green envelope which has your domes belt key. You can do whatever you want with the envelope as long as it remains in the suite. You can leave it in plain site, hide it on your person, in the bathroom, etc. When you enter the room you are going to find a restraint system setup on the bed for your ankles, waist and neck. These are all quick-restraints. You will also find a gag and blindfold as well. Hanging from above the headboard is a tether with a set of cuffs. Once you have the quick-restraints fastened along with your blindfold and gag, you will cuffs your wrists and wait. It will be about 20-minutes before I meet with your dommes, so expect to be waiting for about 30-minutes. They will have the keys to your cuffs and belt, but that does not mean they have to use them. I will do a wake up call in the morning around 7:00 AM and you will have about an hour to get cleaned up before breakfast will be served by the Zinfandel's. Okay, I am going to start handing out the envelopes now. Be sure to attach the playing card to the door of your room so your subs can find you."

I started handing out the green envelopes, "Sara, you will be up in Maya's room. Miss Kitty, you shall be in the Presentation Room. Andy, you have the King Suite. Laura, you will be in the Queen Suite. Wynn, you will be in your suite. Everyone please use the stairs in the kitchen to get up to your assigned rooms. Wynn you will need to come back down through the foyer then go to your suite from there. Okay you have five minutes to get to your rooms. Have fun."

Everyone left for their assigned rooms to get ready. 10-minutes later I returned to the Great Room, "Alright, go ahead and head down to the playroom and get

changed. I'll be down shortly with more information." As the remaining players headed downstairs I went to my office and grabbed the red envelopes. I made my way down to the playroom and waited for Blanche and Sophie to finish changing.

I explained the rules, "I am going to give you a red envelope with a spades playing card attached. Your sub has placed an identical playing cards in the hearts suit on the door to their room. Now, when you enter the room, you will find your sub gagged, blindfolded and restrained to the bed. In your envelope is the key's to the cuffs along with their belt keys. Just because you have those keys, don't mean you need to use them right-away or at all. Further, somewhere in the suite is a green envelope which has your belt key inside. They could have your envelope in plain site, hidden on their person or somewhere in the suite. They do not have to tell you where it is if they do not want to. Once you go into the room, you should not leave with the exception of Lindsay and Lorena to use the hall powder room. In the morning I will do a wake up call around 7:00 AM. You will have about an hour to get cleaned up before breakfast will be served by the Zinfandel's. Any questions?"

No one had questions and were anxiously awaiting their room assignments. I started handing out the envelopes, "Lindsay, you will be in Maya's room. Blanche, you have the Queen Suite. Maya, you shall dominate in the King Suite tonight. Lorena as I mentioned earlier you have the Presentation Room, the powder room will be on the left side when you exit the room. Last but certainty not least we have Miss Sophie in the Maid's Suite. Have fun, but please respect your sub's limits and be safe!"

Everyone departed which gave me a chance to work on a large web job, which if I completed would mean a nice Christmas Present for me. Lindsay headed up the stairs and commented to everyone else, "Geez, I get the sub who is on the other side of the house!"

Maya replied as she was entering her sub's room, "I feel your pain sister, I've got the King Suite! Do have to say though, love your elf outfit!"

Lindsay giggled, "Use to wear it when we did the holiday parties at the club". She sighed as she thought about old times. She was thinking to herself that this better be worth it. She was wearing a very short green dress with red and green tights along with the curly elf shoes and a hat. She was wondering who her sub would be. She opened the door and was shocked as to what she saw. There restrained to the bed was Sara in her black widow corset, a black PVC skirt along with black stockings and sandals. Lindsay was somewhat jealous at how hot Sara looked in the Black Widow corset, she always thought that she couldn't wear it as well as Sara did. Lindsay did a quick scan of the room hoping that may be the green envelope would be in plain site. Lindsay did not see the envelope but figured Sara would give it to her or at least tell her where to find it. Now Lindsay was wondering which belt Sara was wearing. Being that Sara was in the Black

Widow, would likely mean she was not wearing her armor. The easiest way to find out would be to put Sara on her side and undo the corset. She could do that without having to release Sara from most of the restraints.

She was about to undo the neck restraint when she noticed the 'toy bag' on the chair across from the bed. Lindsay was curious and opened the bag and looked through the contents. She found a toy which would not only stimulate Sara's pussy but would also tickle her clit. She turned it on for a second to make sure it worked. The noise of the toy made Sara jump. Lindsay set the toy down on the bedside table and went about removing the neck restraint. She then rolled Sara onto her side and noticed she was indeed just wearing a normal belt. She still couldn't get over how good Sara looked in the Black Widow and decided to leave her in the corset. She looked at the PVC skirt and noticed it could be removed by undoing the snaps on the waist. Lindsay removed the skirt and then rolled Sara on to her back, re-attaching the neck restraint.

Lindsay carefully ripped open the red envelope and removed Sara's belt key. With a little luck she was able to get the belt off of Sara. She placed the belt on a nearby chair and then picked up the toy. She slowly inserted the toy into Sara's pussy. Sara moaned as the toy slid effortlessly into her very wet pussy. Lindsay then lined up the clit tickler and turned the toy on. When the toy came to life Sara jumped against her restraints and let out a muffled scream. For the next hour Lindsay tortured Sara with the toy. Of course she was torturing herself as well still being belted. She realized this every time she reached down to touch her pussy. She scanned the room again, just hoping the green envelope would magically appear somewhere. Lindsay was kind of lost in thought when Sara had a massive orgasm. Unfortunately for Lindsay, the orgasm was more than Sara could handle and she passed out.

Lindsay was kicking herself for not being more careful in making sure Sara did not get too much stimulation. She was wondering now if she would be getting out of the belt tonight or not. She wasn't too sure what to do at the moment. She opted to release Sara from the restraints and remove her gag. She turned off the light and then laid down next to her. A couple hours later Lindsay had fallen asleep and Sara had woken up. Sara realized she was not gagged, in her belt or even restrained. She was still wearing the blindfold. Sara removed the blindfold and allowed her eyes to adjust to the night light. She then noticed an elf laying next to her. She wasn't sure at first who it was as her eyes were still adjusting. Sara noticed the blonde hair under the hat and determined it had to be Lindsay.

Sara sat up and thought for a moment and an evil idea crossed her mind. Now, Sara knew Lindsay was a heavy sleeper, so she repositioned the restraints and attached them to Lindsay. Sara thought for sure Lindsay would wake up when she cuffed Lindsay's wrists. Lindsay was still sound asleep. Sara then walked over to the TV and reached behind it, retrieving the green envelope containing Lindsay's belt key. Sara carefully removed Lindsay's tights and then removed the belt. She

was expecting Lindsay to wake up at any moment, but she was out like a rock. Now that the belt was off Sara started rubbing Lindsay's pussy. This resulted in some moans from Lindsay but she was not really awake. Sara adjusted the ankle restraints so Lindsay's legs were spread enough for Sara to get to her pussy. Sara began eating Lindsay's pussy, which still did not get the attention of Lindsay. Sara saw the toy Lindsay had used on her earlier sitting on the table by the bed. She inserted the toy into Lindsay's primed pussy and fired it up. This finally woke up Lindsay and she realized she was now the sub, "Hey! What happened?"

Sara looked up from between Lindsay's legs and smiled, "Merry Christmas dear! Now, let me give you your present." With that Sara removed the toy and resumed eating Lindsay's pussy and rubbing her clit. Lindsay had a couple orgasm before Sara released her. The two of them cuddle and kissed each other before falling asleep in each others arms.

Blanche headed into the Queen Suite dressed as Mrs Claus and noticed her partner's daughter restrained to the bed. Laura was wearing a green corset, long skirt and nude stockings. Blanche was having some reservations but decided she would show Laura a good time. She would start off by giving Laura a deep massage provided she could find some massage oil. Blanche checked in the bathroom and sure enough she found a bottle of peppermint oil. The next task would be to get Laura out of the corset and skirt. Blanche released the waist and neck restraints so she could get Laura on her side. After she loosened up the corset, she unzipped Laura's skirt, pulling it down to Laura's knees. She placed Laura on her back and re-attached the waist and neck restraints. Blanche was able to open the corset and then disconnected the tether connecting the ankle restraints to the bed. This allowed her to remove the skirt. She then noticed the green envelope which had her belt key. Blanche opened the envelope and removed her belt key and then proceed to remove her belt. She climbed upon the bed removing Laura's gag and then straddled Laura's face allowing her Mrs Claus skirt to drape over Laura's head. Laura knew what to do and started on Blanche's pussy. Laura was still blindfolded and even if she wasn't she would not be able to see much with Blanche's skirt draped over her head.

Blanche was surprised at what a good job Laura was doing on her pussy. She opened the bottle of oil and rubbed some on her hands and then started massaging Laura. Blanche was having a hard time focusing as Laura was doing a darn good job on her pussy. Before she got too excited, Blanche dismounted Laura's face and resumed the massage. Blanche was getting turned on by Laura's body. Even though Laura's tits were small they were well formed and Blanche couldn't help herself from sucking on the nipples. Blanche laughed to herself as she would have never seen herself as a cougar. As she was sucking on Laura's tits she reached down and started rubbing Laura's pussy. Laura was moaning loudly and was pleading, "Get me out of these cuffs and I can return the favor."

Blanche would love to have some attention but she did not want Laura to be able

to remove the blindfold. She had noticed the toy bag earlier and decided to see what she could find. She noticed a set of Velcro cuffs with attached tethers. Blanche smiled, this would give Laura's hand some freedom but not enough to reach up to the blindfold or to release the other cuff. She attached each tether to the corners of the foot board. Blanche removed the cuff key from the envelope and first undid Laura's left wrist, attaching it the Velcro cuff and repeating the process with Laura's right wrist. Blanche climbed back on the bed and resume sucking on Laura's tits while rubbing Laura's pussy. Laura wasted no time and started finger fucking Blanche's pussy while rubbing Blanche's clit with her thumb. Blanche really thought she could control herself, but Laura made quick of bringing her to orgasm. Blanche let out a scream, "Oh God! YES!"

Laura stopped for a second and asked, "Blanche?" She then resumed her assault on Blanche's pussy and brought her to another orgasm within a couple minutes.

Blanche was panting, "Oh God! Laura stop, I can not take anymore."

Laura laughed, "Sure you can!" She started fucking Blanche's pussy harder and faster. Blanche had yet another orgasm and collapsed on top of Laura who bargained with Blanche, "You want me to stop, release my wrists." Blanche really didn't want to release Laura this early in the game but she really could not take much more, "Okay, have it your way."

Laura started fisting Blanche. While Blanche was enjoying the stimulation she was just too tired, "Okay, you win." She released Laura's left wrist and begged, "Please stop!"

Laura reached over and released her right wrist and then removed the blindfold as Blanche got off the bed. Laura's eye adjusted to the dim light in the room. She saw Blanche's outfit and commented, "So this is what Misses Claus does while Mister Claus is out delivering toys!"

Blanche release Laura form the rest of the restraints and joked, "I only get one night a year that he is out of the house". The two ladies massaged each other and chatted until they fell asleep.

Maya walked into the King Suite wearing a sheer black body-stocking with a pair of short-shorts and her 6-inch ankle boots. Maya surveyed the room, more interested in seeing if the green envelope was in sight. She could not find the green envelope anywhere, but then noticed a white envelope on the table by the door, "What is this?" She opened the envelope and noticed what appeared to be a set of padlock keys, "What do these go to?" Maya had been too busy trying to plan her escape from her belt to notice who her sub was. She walked further into the suite and noticed it was Andy who was retained to the bed. Andy had on a black muscle t-shirt along with a pair of leather shorts. Upon closer inspection of the shorts, Maya noticed the locking belt around the waits and locking bands

around each leg. Maya commented to herself, "Hmm...nice shorts."

Maya was going to rub Andy's cock through the shorts but discovered her also had on a CB-5000. Maya laughed, "Well, no relief for you!" She was still looking for the green envelope and was now trying to decide what to do with Andy. She would like him to service her pussy, especially since she had been let out of her belt for quite some time now. But, since she couldn't get out her belt that would be difficult. If she let Andy loose, she wouldn't be in control anymore and Maya wanted to remain in control. She did have some leverage as Andy did not know Maya had already had found the keys to his shorts. Maya needed to pee so she headed into the bathroom. Upon finishing her business she got up to flush the toilet and saw the green envelope sitting on top of the toilet tank. She ripped it open and removed her belt.

Given how far the bathroom was from where Andy was restrained, he could not hear the toilet flush and therefore he did not know Maya had found her key and removed her belt. Maya strung him along, "Now, what to do with you." She noticed the toy bag over on the love seat, "Oh...what do we have here?" She opened the bag and looked through the contents. A dildo fell out of the bag and rolled over towards the dresser. Maya went to retrieve the dildo and noticed one of the drawers was partially opened. She glanced in the drawer and saw a Hitachi Magic Wand massager. Maya got an evil idea. She pulled out the massager and found a plug by the bed. She placed the massager on the bed between Andy's legs. She removed her short-shorts and then got up on the bed. Very carefully and quickly Maya removed the gag and then set her bare pussy on Andy's face. Andy did not need to be told what to do and started eating Maya's pussy.

Maya let Andy get warmed up on her pussy before she started torturing him. She leaned forward and grabbed the massager turning it on and jamming it up against Andy's crotch. Andy was surprised and stopped what he was doing. Maya turned the massager up to a higher setting. Andy's cock started to get hard, but given it was encased in a steel tube there was not much room for expansion. Maya warned him, "Start licking my pussy again or I will put this on the highest setting." Andy didn't think much of Maya's threat until she did turn the massager up to the highest setting. Wrenching in pain Andy started back on Maya's pussy, "That's more like it." She turned the massager down to a lower setting. Each time Andy started deviating from Maya's pussy or wasn't doing a good enough job, she would turn the massager back to high. After about an hour Maya had her first orgasm in nearly a month, "Oh wow, it has been a long while since I've had that intense of an orgasm! Okay, I suppose it is only fair that I give you some attention. After all your wife is the best thing that has happened to Sara, so I owe you some thanks."

Maya got up and took the padlock keys out and undid Andy's shorts. She slid them down to his knees. Maya was expecting a regular CB-5000 that she had seen us guys in before but this was a CBT-7500. It was similar design the CB-

5000 except it used a slightly curved steel tube with a small hole at the end and had an integrated locking system. It took Maya bit of time to figure out the lock but finally managed to get the tube detached from the cock ring. She then noticed as she started pulling the tube off, that it contained an insert that went into the urethra which made pulling-out of the device impossible. She set the device on the table and got back atop of Andy's face. She leaned forward and started sucking Andy's cock. Again Andy was paying more attention to the stimulation on his cock than Maya's pussy. Maya laughed, "Geez, Lindsay needs to do a better job training you!" She grabbed the massager and turned it on and placed it next to Andy's cock. The stimulation was too intense for Andy and he started begging Maya to stop, "Lick my pussy and I'll turn this down." Andy started licking Maya's pussy and sucking her clit as she turned the massager down and went back to his cock.

Maya had a couple more orgasms, but some how had managed to keep Andy from having any. Somehow her mind had turned to a conversation she had with Sara while back. It was Sara telling her how Martina had taught her how to give Ron 'the ultimate orgasm' which involved sucking his cock while massaging his prostrate. Maya had noticed a bottle of lube and some latex gloves in the bathroom when she was looking around earlier. She released the waist restraint and then removed the ankle tether so she could completely remove Andy's leather shorts. After getting the shorts removed, she reattached the tether and adjusted the ankle restraints so his legs were spread. She headed into the bathroom to pee again and to get the gloves and lube.

Maya returned loosened the tension on the ankle tether and hoped upon the bed. As she nosily put on the gloves she taunted Andy, "Here is a little something I learned my sister, compliments of Ron's ex-wife!" Andy really wasn't too sure what was going on, that was until he felt Maya's gloved fingers working his asshole. He then felt Maya insert a lube syringe and filled his asshole with lube. She removed the syringe and started started sucking Andy's cock. Andy was wondering if Maya was really going to massage his prostrate....a few minutes later that question was answered when Maya stuck her finger in his ass and started massaging his prostrate. Andy was moaning loudly, but yet was not cumming. Maya laughed, "Hmm, I'll give her credit though, Lindsay must have trained you well in orgasm denial. Okay, time for 'Plan B'."

Andy groaned, "What is 'Plan B'?"

Maya let out a witch like crackle which even surprised herself, "You'll find out shortly." She continued the prostrate massage and sucking his cock. With her left hand she reached over and grabbed the magic wand and placed it against his scrotum. She started on the lowest setting. Andy's cock was starting to dribble out more precum, so she turned up the massager. She was about to kick it up another notch when Andy finally cummed very intensely in her mouth. She also felt his anus muscles contracting against her finger as he orgasmed. She pulled

her finger out and turned off the massage, but lightly continued sucking his cock to clean him off. She got off the bed headed into the bathroom to dispose of the gloves. On her way back, she put her belt back on along with the short-shorts. Maya removed the restraints from Andy's ankles, waist and neck as well as undid the cuffs. She told him, "I will go sleep on the sofa."

Andy reached over and tried to rub Maya's pussy but discover she had put her belt back on, "Why are you back in your belt? Let me fuck you."

While Maya would have loved the attention she felt it was best that she did not allow Andy to penetrate her, "That's okay Andy, I'd rather you not. Out of respect for Lindsay."

Andy commented, "Okay. I am sure she would be fine, but I understand." Maya did lean over and kiss Andy before she went to lay down on the sofa by the deck.

Miss Kitty headed over to the Presentation Room. She was wearing leather Capri pants and a leather corset along with tan stockings. She entered the room and saw our mother restrained to the bed in a sheer black blouse, waist cincher and a long skirt that hid most of her stocking covered legs. Miss Kitty let out an evil laugh, "Ah Miss Merlot, we meet at last!" Lorena wondered what was in store for her. Since Miss Kitty was not in a belt, she was not looking for a green envelope. While there was a green envelope it only contained a random key.

Miss Kitty noticed Lorena was not wearing a bra under the sheer blouse and started rubbing Lorena's tits. Miss Kitty release the waist restraint and lifted the skirt to discover Lorena's belted crotch along with thigh-bands. She was a bit surprised, "I didn't know you wore a belt. Okay, so there must be a key in this here red envelope." She ripped open the envelope to get the key but then discovered the waist cincher would need to be undone in order to get the belt opened. Miss Kitty laughed, "Had to make this more complicated for me!" She undid the neck restraint and then loosened the tension on the ankle tether so she could get Lorena on her side. Once Miss Kitty had Lorena on her side, she undid the waist cincher. She then noticed the belt Lorena was wearing, "Wow, a high security belt. Blanche really has you under her control!" She rolled Lorena onto her back, reattaching the neck restraint.

Miss Kitty removed the locks on the thigh bands then proceed to unlock the waist band of Lorena's belt. Miss Kitty was in for even more of a shock when she remove the front shield and saw the vaginal plug and then the anal plug, "Wholly shit. I've got get one one of these for Laura. She has been misbehaving a lot more lately." Now it took Miss Kitty 20-minutes to get the belt off of Lorena, "Finally! I can get to your pussy now". As she was setting the belt on the floor, she found the toy bag, "Hmm...a goody bag. Let's see here..." She rummaged through the bag and found a jelly double-headed vibrating dildo, "Oh boy this could be fun!"

Miss Kitty grabbed the dildo and set it on the bed. She looked at Lorena and thought for a moment, "Well, I can't keep you restrained and use this toy so let me see here..." She looked back through the bag and found a wrist-to-waist belt, "Ah here we go this will do well." She grabbed the belt and walked over to the bed. She placed the belt around Lorena's waist and then undid each wrist from the cuffs and placed them in the belt cuffs. She then released the tether on Lorena's ankles along with neck restraint.

Miss Kitty ordered Lorena, "Sit up against the head board, but keep your legs out." Lorena did as she was told. Miss Kitty took some of the extra pillows and placed them against the foot-board. She stripped out the Capri's and climbed upon the bed with her back against the foot-board. She reached over and started rubbing Lorena's pussy, which was met with muffled moans from Lorena. Miss Kitty started rubbing her own pussy as well to get it primed to accept the dildo. Once she determined that both her and Lorena's pussy's were primed enough she inserted the dildo. She then directed Lorena, "Come forward a bit. We need to push this into both of us." Lorena moved down the bed a little as the dildo slid further into her and Miss Kitty's pussy's until the vibrating nub was against both their clits, "Stop. Perfect." Each of them started fucking the dildo and Miss Kitty announced, "And now the fun begins!" She turned on the vibrator and both women cummed nearly at the same time.

Sophie, who was not use to being a Dom was wearing of all things, a black dominatrix dress with black boots and fishnet stockings. She entered the maid's suite to find a a purple mummy restrained to the bed. Sophie looked around to see if her green envelope was laying around anywhere in plain site. It did not appear so. She closed the door and looked over Wynn, trying to figure out how the heck to get her out of the Zentai suit. She ran her hand over the silky fabric and over Wynn's tits. Her hand stopped when she felt the hard steel, "Whoa, she's got a chastity bra on as well..." She then ran her hand down further and discovered Wynn's armor, "What the fuck?" Sophie was really curious as to what the heck Wynn was wearing. She looked some more but still could not figure out who the heck to get Wynn out the Zentai suit. She decided, "Okay, I am going to release your wrists and neck so you can show me how to get you out this suit."

Sophie opened the red envelope and removed the cuff keys. She undid Wynn's wrists and the neck restraint. Wynn was wearing a gag under the mask of the Zentai suit, but the mask itself had a built in blindfold. With her hands and neck free now, Wynn sat up and reached behind her neck and undid the snaps on the hood. She removed the hood and the gag, then decided she would take advantage of her freedom. Sophie wasn't really paying attention to what was going on, she was still in awe over the Zentai suit and still wondering what Wynn had under the Zentai suit. Wynn reached over, grabbed Sophie who was certainly caught off guard, "What the..." Wynn then planted one of her intoxicating kisses on Sophie who had massive orgasm which really caught her off guard, "Oh....god!

Holly shit." Sophie landed on the floor with a thud, "Ow." She got up and shook herself off and then looked at Wynn and asked, "What the fuck was that?"

Wynn laughed, "Gee, I can tell you work with Laura. Her bad habits have rubbed off on you."

Sophie was a bit taken aback or more like embarrassed by Wynn's comment, "Whoops. I'm sorry."

Wynn assured her, "Don't worry about it, just an observation. So, did you like that kiss?"

Sophie was still recovering, "Wow! That was incredible. You've got a talent there girl! I do love the Zentai suit. But I am more curious as to what you have on underneath."

Wynn informed her, "If you will undo the waist and ankle restraints, I can get up and show you."

Sophie thought for a moment and told her, "Well, can't really do much with you anyway at this point. Okay." She reached over and undid Wynn's ankles and the waist restraint.

Wynn got up and started stripping out of the Zentai suit. Sophie's jaw dropped when she saw Wynn's 'armor', "Wow what the fuck is that thing?!"

Wynn explained, "It is a chastity-corset belt. It is chastity belt, bra and corset all in one. Gary made it for me as a prototype. Sara wears one as well. If you will give me the key I'll give you an inside view."

Sophie replied, "Wait, I want to take a good look at you with it on." Wynn stood in the center of the room as Sophie walked around her examining the armor. She then directed Wynn, "Sit on the bed please." Wynn returned and sat down on her bed. Sophie looked some more and asked, "How is it your tit's don't pop out?"

Wynn told Sophie, "If you give me my key, I'll show you."

Sophie knew she was going to lose some advantage in getting her key, but she was so fascinated by Wynn's armor that it didn't really matter, "Okay."

She removed Wynn's key from the red envelope and went to hand it to her, but Wynn stopped her, "No, you hold on to it. Now, on the backside in the center you will see a keyhole. Insert the key and turn it counterclockwise one full turn." Sophie did as Wynn instructed and the lock popped out, "Okay now turn the key back clockwise and then remove." Sophie turned and remove the key. "Okay now start spinning the lock counterclockwise, it will take a few turns." Sophie started

turning the lock and watched as the back of the belt opened up. She kept turning the lock until it would not go anymore. "Good, now let me stand up. Have a seat over at the desk." Sophie moved away from the bed and sat at the desk chair as Wynn had told her to. Wynn stood up, leaned forward and slid her tits out the grooves. Since she had the vaginal plug attached the armor didn't fall right off of her. Wynn now grasped the sides of the armor and started working it down. Finally the plug popped out and the armor dropped to the floor with a clunk.

Wynn stepped out of the armor and handed it to Sophie, "Somehow I was expecting this to be heavier." She then noticed the nipple piercings on Wynn and the tracks inside the armor, "Ah, so you slide your tits with the piercings into this track. But, how does it not come off?"

Wynn explained, "I have to lean forward to remove or inset my tits into the tracks and once the suit is closed I can not lean forward. Now, how about I go get your green envelope and let you out of that belt so we can have some fun."

Sophie replied, "Okay, but I am really not comfortable being a dom."

Wynn was curious, "How so?"

Sophie told her, "Not sure, I just prefer *being* dominated. Laura learned that real quick about me."

Wynn had an evil grin on her face, "Well, there is nothing to say that you have to be a dom tonight."

Sophie asked, "What is that suppose to mean?"

Wynn laughed and then ordered her, "Get on the bed, now!"

Sophie jumped on to the bed and before she knew what was happening Wynn had already cuffed her hands and was attaching the rest of the restraints to Sophie, "Thank you mistress!" Wynn giggled and disappeared into her retreat where Sophie and been sleeping on a sofa to get the green envelope.

Wynn returned a short time later and removed Sophie's belt, but not before giving her another kiss. The two girls played for a couple more hours before they started falling asleep. Wynn went ahead and release Sophie who went back into the retreat to change into something more comfortable for sleeping. She returned wearing a long sleeve t-shirt, shorts and was still wearing the fishnets, "Thank you Wynn, that was very nice." As she was heading back towards the retreat she asked, "Is it me or is it a little cold in here?"

Wynn had noticed the chill earlier, but thought it was because she was out of the Zentai suit and armor, "Now that you mentioned it. Let me turn on the heater in

here. Good night.”

While everyone was having their fun I had lost track of time. I decided I would take a break as I needed to set the remaining gifts out under the tree. I headed into the secret room and grabbed the box with all the framed photos and scrapbooks. I was placing these under the tree when the grandfather clock in the foyer chimed Midnight. After I had finished with the gifts I placed the box in the hall closet and decided to visit the bathroom as well while I was there. I headed into the kitchen to get a glass of wine and returned to my office. I thought about going to bed, but I wanted to see how much I had left on this large job. As it turned out, I did not have much left and by 1:00 AM I was done. Before I signed off I emailed the client and submitted an invoice. I headed back to the kitchen to put my wine glass in and run the dishwasher. I noticed it seemed a bit cold inside so I fired up the down-stairs heaters before returning to my office. I was about to shut-down the computer when I got an email from Paypal informing me funds had just been deposited into my account from the client I had just billed. Well, that was a nice Christmas present!

## **Chapter 21: A Not So Merry Christmas?**

Having had another 'game' on Christmas Eve worked out in that everyone was occupied with the game and eventually exhausted that they could sleep. This had to be on the few times we had a really full house. My alarm went off as scheduled at 6:45. I got dressed and headed down to my office for this morning's wake up call. I queued up a Santa recording in lieu of the Rooster, but still followed by Ty Pennington's greeting. At 7:00 AM I broadcast the greetings and then announced, “Merry Christmas and good morning everyone! Hope y'all had fun last night. You have an hour to get cleaned up. Breakfast will be served around 8:00 AM. Please meet down in the dining room when you are done.”

Thirty minutes later Wynn found me in the kitchen and asked, “What are we doing for breakfast?”

I explained, “The Zinfandel's are suppose to be having it catered here. They should be over shortly.”

The intercom gonged and displayed “Entry Gate”. I answered to discover it was Gary, “Merry Christmas Ron. Hey can you open these here gates so the catering truck can come on back.”

I replied, “Sure thing.” I pushed the Aux button and the line was disconnected with a long tone.

The gates open and Gary came into the house a couple minutes later, “Man it is cold out there!” I looked at the readings of the various wireless thermometers I had setup. I noticed the temperature had plummeted during the night and under

the porte cochere it was reading around 30 degrees while out by the pool it was in the upper 20's.

I commented, "Wow, haven't seen it this cold out here in a while. Let me get the fireplace going."

Gary commented, "Yea they are saying we might have a *White Christmas*. Okay, the caterers are going to setup in the nook, we'll do this 'buffet style'."

While the catering crew were getting setup I headed back into the library. I wanted to make sure I had gotten all the gifts out of the secret room. I opened the bookcase and looked around. After I determine nothing was left behind I came back into the library to find Wynn looking out the window into the backyard. She saw me and commented, "A lot of ice out there. Been a while since we've had a frost." She then noticed the mountain tops, "Um...Ron is that snow a top of the mountains?"

I looked and sure enough there was a light dusting of snow on the tops of the mountains. I replied, "How about that. This only happens once a every few years or so, though usually later in the season. Wow, what a site."

The caterers had setup and everyone started coming down for breakfast. Andy commented on the fireplace, "Wow, never seen you use that before."

I replied, "Well since it so cold and snowing outside, I thought I'd get it going."

Lindsay had come down the stairs and heard my comment about snow, "Snow? You're joking?"

I told her, "See for yourself. Take a look at the mountain tops."

Lindsay didn't believe me at first, "Yea right, it would snow in Phoenix...." she saw the mountain tops, "Holly shit, you are not making this up!"

The intercom gonged again with 'Entry Gate' on the display, "Kacie here can you let us in?"

Linda, Kayré and Kacie came in. Kacie commented, "I had no idea it would snow here."

I just laughed, "Got to admit, it feels more Christmas like. You never know what the weather is going to be like. One year it was in the 80's on Christmas day. Anyway, grab some food and meet in the dining room."

Everyone gathered for breakfast and between Andy and Gary, the buffet was gone in about 10-minutes." After breakfast we all gathered in the Great Room.

Before we started the gift exchange I announced, "First off, thank you everyone for coming. Most of us were together for Thanksgiving and it is really great to see everyone here again for this *White* Christmas. I have to say though, it is a bit odd and somewhat awkward not having Martina here this year. Of course, this is nothing...the first year Sara, Martina and I were here. Martina had me get a 15-foot Christmas Tree, that was a bit awkward to work with! The Merlot Family has grown quite large this year, especially the extended portion. Any one would like to say anything?"

Much to my surprise Lindsay stood up, "I know we don't always show it, but Andy and I truly appreciate all you have done for us. I know we all just met earlier this year and none of us knew what would be thrown our way. Throughout it all, y'all have been there for us, especially Sara. We've been though a lot together over the past few months, but I am glad to have y'all here!"

Andy added, "Yes, you've gotten each others out of a few binds. I don't know what to say other than thanks."

Laura spoke next, "Ron and I have had our ups and downs over the past couple years. We parted ways for this business venture. Of course I went and made things more rocky for us by having the fling with Martina. But then again she did bring it upon herself...Anyway it is really neat to be able to spend Christmas with Ron this year. Even better with Miss Kitty and having our mother and Blanche here as well. Been many years since we've all been together. Also thanks for letting us bring Sophie."

Lorena stood, "I have to second what Laura just said, it is nice to have Christmas with you and Ron this year. The last time we were together was a few years back and that was when my late husband was still around. That was not exactly a 'Merry Christmas'. But this year is wonderful to have you two...errr...three as well as Blanche with us this year."

Bunny was next, "Much like Andy and Lindsay we thank you for being so charitable. We wondered if moving out here would be a good choice. All in all, it has worked out well for us. We all get along so well...even though for a while I wanted to do evil things to you Ron!" I gave a 'who me' look, "But I am over that now. Anyway thanks for all you've done for us."

I was kinda expecting Maya to say something, but she just sat off in the corner lost in thought. I asked Sara pointing to Maya, "Is she alright?"

Sara commented, "I think she is a little shy/nervous or in shock. This is her first Christmas with me in several years and without our mother," Turning her attention to her sister, "Maya, dear please come over here and join us. No need for you to sit alone."

Maya came over and sat on the floor next to Sara and held her hand as she told us, "Sorry, this is a bit much for me right now. It has been a very, very long time since I have celebrated Christmas, much less with my sister. The last time we were together for Christmas was right before our mother's death. Sara and I have not seen or spoken to each other in so long. Some days I think I am dreaming. I find it hard to phantom that my life has improved so much and my relationship with my sister has become so strong again. Plus my strong friendship with Bambi who has helped me overcome so much. Thanks y'all!" Maya excused herself to have a good cry. Bambi followed her into the hall bath to help her calm down.

Finally Kayré spoke, "Unlike most of you, mother and I have always spent Christmas together. Most of the time it was with Olivia and her father. This year has been quite an adventure and I have Sara to blame..." Sara was in a bit of a shock, but Kayré continued, "...okay, not blame but to thank. If it were not for Sara I wouldn't be sitting here right now with Kacie...and belted!"

I turned everyone attention to the gifts, "Alright! We've got a lot of gifts here, so lets begin. Gary and Bunny."

I handed them the wrapped picture Gary took it, "Geez Ron what is this?"

I told him, "Open it and you will find out!"

Gary unwrapped the picture and was in a state of shock, "Wow! How?"

I advised him, "Hold that thought...Sara...", I handed her a wrapped picture.

She unwrapped the picture, "Cool, a photo of us at the altar. Wait...where was this taken from?"

I explained, "Remember how Marc and asked us to split apart from Gary and Bunny when we the rent-a-preacher was getting started? That was so his photographer could get the separate shots of us from the balcony of the King Suite. Now I have some more. Laura/Miss Kitty, Mother and Blanche, Andy/Lindsay and Kacie/Kayré." As everyone open the pictures I explained, "Most all of these were taken at the wedding with the exception of the one of Kacie and Kayré which Marc took over the Unlikely Cowboy."

Andy asked, "Can we present our gift to you Ron?"

I told him, "Sure." Lindsay got up and removed a small box from the tree and handed it to me. I unwrapped and was amazed, "Wow an external hard drive."

Andy added, "Not just any external, but a USB 2.0 and this baby is 500 GB. No more having to copy files between the PC and Laptop."

I was floored, "Wow thanks guys!"

Gary got up, "Okay Andy and Lindsay, the girls and I got you a little something for your new house."

Lindsay eagerly took the box from Gary, "Oh, it's heavy." She hastily unwrapped the package, "Neat, a fireplace set. Wow, I keep forgetting we are going to have a fireplace!"

There were still a lot of gifts left to give out before I got to the dresses. I signaled to Linda who asked, "Sophie can you come with me for a bit." Sophie and Linda headed into the library. Sara, Maya, Wynn and Lindsay exchanged gifts amongst themselves.

I was surprised when Laura handed me a box, "Here, I saw this over in Henderson and knew you had to have it!"

I unwrapped the box, "Oh cool, a cow cookie jar! I've always wanted one of these, but could never find them."

Miss Kitty added, "It 'Moos' when you open the top!"

I thanked them and directed by attention to Andy and Lindsay, "Okay, I too have a gift for the new house. It is not in here though. Now, you may have noticed in the past week a new addition to your suite's deck?"

Lindsay asked, "The swing? Sara and I were out there the other night."

Andy joked, "and yet you and I have yet to spend any time with you out there."

I added to Andy's joke, "Well there will be plenty more opportunities for that once you two move into your house. I have an extra sitting out in the storage garage ready for final assembly. I'll bring it over once y'all moved in."

Sara was getting a bit antsy, "What are all these boxes down here we haven't opened?"

I explained, "We will get to those soon. I have one other set of gifts. Mother and Blanche..." Both came over to me and I handed them their box. I explained, "Blanche has told me that you two like to garden, but it is a bit hard on y'all..."

Lorena, "I am not too sure what you mean..." She opened the box and found that hats, "Nice hats, these will keep the sun off of us."

I explained, "There's more..."

Blanche removed the tissue paper and came across the leather gloves, "Wow are these leather?"

I replied, "Yes, they are professional grade gardener gloves. These will hold up very well, especially with the harsh condition out here. Now, below those..."

Lorena removed the tissue paper and laughed, "Knee pads! Let me guess, you talked to Blanche."

I laughed, "Yep, last week I called. I was going to talk to you hoping you would drop some hints. However, you were not home so Blanche gave me some ideas."

Laura picked up the small box that had the 'gift pot' in it and handed it to Lorena, "This is from both of us."

Lorena looked at the box and asked, "What is this a coffee mug?"

Laura giggled, "Not quite, open it up."

Lorena opened the box and saw the pot, "Um...a pot? Oh wait was is this inside. Aha, a gift card for ACME Nursery's. I've been wanting to go there. A lot of my girl friends says that have a really good products and selection."

I explained, "The hats, gloves and knee pads are all from there. The have a location out near Carefree. They told me you should be able to find some great grape vines at their Green Valley location. The gift card is for \$150"

Lorena was almost in tears, "Wow, you two did this for me?"

Laura came over and hugged our mother. Meanwhile, I went into the office real quick to check on Linda and Sophia. Linda has just finished lacing the main dress and was just starting to lace the neck corset muzzle portion. Linda told me, "Should be a couple more minutes, just call out when you are ready."

As I returned to the Great Room, Lorena came over and hugged me, "Thank you Ron. You and Laura do not know how much I appreciate this."

I told her, "Your welcome, just glad to have the family back together." Turning my attention to everyone else, "We are almost ready for the grand finale, however a couple other small gifts. Gary and Bunny, Sara and Lindsay." I handed them the scrapbooks, "Marc had these made."

As they unwrapped the scrapbooks, Lindsay asked, "I appreciate the gift, but why I am getting one as well?"

I told her, "You were Sara's Slave of Honor, so we felt you should have one as

well."

Bambi and Maya returned to the living room. But still Maya kept her distance from everyone else. Turning my attention to everyone else, "Now, for the grand finale! Laura, Miss Kitty, Maya, Lindsay, Sara and Wynn come on down!" I handed them their boxes and explained, "There are from both Linda and I." As the girls opened the boxes, I explained, "You really can't grasp the full concept of these dresses until you see one modeled. Sophia!" Sophie slowly made her way out my office into the Great Room. She stood in the middle of the Great Room as I explained, "Not only does this dress lace all the way down, but it has a high neck corset that acts as a muzzle! It is possible for the wearer to unlace the neck corset however..."

I turned to Sara, "Hand me your cuffs please." Sara looked at me surprised and reached into her skirt pocket and pulled out a set of handcuffs and hand them over to me. I applied the cuffs to Sophia's wrists and commented "Well, I just proved that theory. Anyway, if their hands are cuffed in front of them, they will not be able to reach behind and undo the corset."

As I was holding Sophie by the arm I noticed her pulse was racing. Not sure if she was nervous, excited or both. I asked her, "You alright?" Of course right after I asked her, I realized with the neck corset muzzle she would not be able to answer me. However Sophie did manage to nod her head that she was doing alright. I assured her, "Don't worry a couple more minutes and I'll have Linda get you out of this dress soon." I turned to Sara and asked her for the keys to the cuffs. She handed me the keys which in turn I handed those over to Linda who led Sophie back to the library and un-cuffed her hands.

Linda undid the muzzle and asked, "Did you need help getting out of the dress?"

Sophie replied, "No, I'll keep it on for now, just wasn't expecting the neck corset muzzle to be so restrictive." Sophie came back out into the Great Room to join the rest of the family.

My cell phone was ringing and looking at the caller ID it was Marc, "Merry Christmas Ron! Hey Martina loves the dress and I especially like the muzzle part. Thanks."

I laughed, "I thought you would like the neck corset muzzle, Martina can get a bit chatty at times. Hey again, thanks for all your help these past few months it is appreciated by all of us. You and Martina enjoy yourselves now in Aspen."

After I was off the phone with Marc, Maya and Sara approached and asked to see me in my office along with Lindsay and Bambi. After we sat down Maya explained, "This is a difficult time for us, our mother died on New Year's Eve back in 2004."

Bambi came over hugged and comforted Maya. Sara still in shock but explained, "This was what the check from Texas Life, Livestock and Property Insurance was for. I never really said much about our mother's death, mainly because we don't know what happened. Further, it was not something we really wanted to talk about." Lindsay came over and embraced Sara.

I suggested, "Since we a few hours before dinner, why don't the four of you have some fun down in the playroom. Help get your mind off of this."

Lindsay replied, "Good idea Ron! Come on Sara."

Maya responded, "I think I'll pass on the playroom but would like to spend some time with Bambi if I could."

I told her, "Not a problem, I am sure Gary and Bunny will understand."

The four exited my office and headed their separate ways with their partners. Gary met me in the library and asked, "What is going on?"

I explained, "I'll tell you in a moment I need to find Andy and your wife." Once I located Andy along with Bunny and they were all in the library I explained what was happening.

I told them, "I have learned the girls' mother died back in the end of 2004. However, the circumstances of her death they apparently don't know. Maya was visibly upset and I think Sara is still in a state of shock. Sara and Lindsay went down to the playroom. I think Maya and Bambi went up to Maya's room to have some time together."

Gary offered, "I could have Jason look into this if you want. It could help answer some questions."

Andy objected, "May be there is a valid reason why they have been left out of the loop."

I had to agree, "Thanks for the offer Gary, but Andy is right. It is best we leave this be. If the girls want to know, let them ask."

## **Chapter 22: The Job Shuffle**

The Monday after Christmas, Linda headed back to Tucson. We had made plans for my crew to come out later that week to get the wiring done before Davis and his crew put up the new wall board. Tuesday morning Linda called, "Hey Ron. How do you feel about a slight change of plans?"

I asked, "What do you mean by slight?"

Linda laughed, "Well I know we were suppose to be doing the Budget Holstein this week but Davis discovered a whole mess of problems as he started doing demo in the other half of the building. Apparently the prior tenant did some renovations which are not up to code. So he is telling me it is going to a few weeks before your crew can come out."

I explained, "Well, no problem. Although I think Laura is going to be disappointed though."

Linda asked, "How so?"

I laughed, "She has that convention during the time frame we would be doing the network install. The convention she was looking for an excuse not to present at. So now what?"

Linda replied, "Well, there is The Corona de las Estrella's. Most of what we are going to be doing in there is cosmetic. Well, with the exception of the kitchen which has already been gutted. Anyway, I'll email you a link to a site that specializes in food service computer systems. If I purchase it, will you install it?"

I informed Linda, "Yea, we should be able to do that. I'll review and get back to you."

A couple weeks later Maya, Andy and I headed over to Oro Valley to get the new computer system setup for Corona de las Estrella's. This job did not require Laura as there was really no changes being made to the network. Except that we added a wireless router as the new system would have the servers taking orders using a tablet instead of the traditional pen a paper. Olivia had given a lot thought about this, but felt the extra cost would be made up with the improved efficiency. Shaving a couple minutes off each order might not seem like it would make a difference, but it would result in quick turn around and less errors.

On what we thought would be our last day in Oro Valley, Linda called, "Hey Ron. You guys still in town?"

I informed her, "Yes. We planned on leaving tomorrow though. Why you ask?"

She explained, "Well Davis got quite a bit of the mess cleaned up and ended up doing more demo than we expected. He told me since everything is so open this would be a good time for y'all to run the wiring."

I told her, "Hmm, while we could run the wiring since we are down here we don't have any of the items we would need for your job with us."

Linda seemed disappointed but understood, "Okay. Just thought I'd let you know."

If anything changes, let me know."

I told her, "Shall do."

Andy came over and asked, "What as that all about?"

I told him, "Seems Davis ended up gutting more of The Budget Holstein than Linda thought. She was wanting us to do the wiring now, while it was still open. But, as I explained we don't have any of the items we need with us."

Andy had an idea, "How about we send Lindsay, Wynn and Sara down with the supplies. Between the six of us, we could get it knocked out pretty quick. Besides we don't need Laura until Linda is ready to have the computers installed."

I was impressed, "Good thinking. Okay, let me get on the horn with Linda and let her know we'll be over after lunch to survey the building. Meanwhile, you should call Lindsay and make sure her Sara and Wynn can make it out." While Andy was calling Lindsay, I called Linda, "Hey Linda. Ron here. Hey Andy and I were talking it over and are thinking we can get Lindsay, Sara and Wynn out here this weekend with the supplies. Between the six of us we should be able to get the wiring knocked out. We don't need to get Laura involved until after you take delivery of the new computers."

Linda was excited, "Great Ron that is good news."

I told her, "Okay, after lunch Andy and I are going to be over to take look around. We will be able to better determine what we are going to need. Do you have everything figured out already?"

Linda replied, "I believe so, see you two this afternoon then."

Andy had wrapped up with Lindsay and confirmed, "Yes, they can come down this weekend."

I told him, "Good. Once we know what we need, I'll email Wynn the list and she can setup a ticket and get everything picked and packed."

After lunch Andy and I headed over to the Budget Holstein. Linda met us at the new entrance and explained, "Davis had to gut out most of this side of the building. We have drawn up some new plans since we are no longer constrained to working what was there before."

I looked at the new plans and noticed she had moved her offices to the new section. I also noticed where her old offices and the server room were was now the retail floor. "Hmm....so you are moving your office."

Linda commented as she pointed to the plans, "I had Davis do up a new server room."

Andy cringed, "Yikes, we are going to have to do a massive re-wiring now."

I thought for a bit and asked, "What if we do like we did with ACME Las Vegas?"

Andy didn't really understand at first, "ACME Las Vegas? Oh Cristina's job. Dual servers? Wouldn't that be overkill here?"

I told him, "Not really, we do a small shuttle server for Linda's office area with her design software. The old server we will turn into a web server." I turned to Linda, "Of course it still going to need a closet."

Linda called out for Davis, "Hey Davis can you come here for a bit." Davis came into the room with us and Linda explained, "They say that the old sever is going to stay where it is and would need to be in a closet."

Davis looked at the plans and asked, "Does it has to be right where it is now as that is going to be open retail area?"

Andy and I looked at the plans along with Davis, "Well, we could more over towards that wall, only a few feet so shouldn't too bad. Let's go take a look." We walked over to that section of the building and determined where we would be moving the server was part of Linda's old office and was next to the restroom. I told them, "If we can build a little closet here with electrical and ventilation, we can move it in there."

Davis looked at the plans some more, "Okay, yea the would work. I can always shift the restroom over a little to get the needed space."

Andy asked, "Would be able to get a new server out here by this weekend?"

I reminded him, "We don't need it right yet. We can bring that along when we do the final install of the rest of the computers. Now, let me start making a list here of what we need." A couple hours later I had a list ready to send to Wynn.

Two days later on Saturday morning Wynn, Lindsay and Sara arrived. It took the six of us the better part of the day to get all the wiring done, but it was done. While the girls' were getting everything cleaned up Andy and I explained to Linda, "Okay, once Davis is done with everything and you are ready to get the computers installed, let us know."

Linda confirmed, "Davis says it will still be about another month and half to two months. But I'll let you know. I hope to have this done around Easter as we will be doing the Grand Reopening of Corona de las Estrella's at that time."

Andy asked, "Why Easter?"

Linda laughed, "It has nothing to do with Easter, just the date. You'll understand when the time comes."

The girls announced they had everything cleaned up and the Hummer was packed ready to go. Andy and I bided Linda farewell and we headed home. While I normally don't like coming home via I-10, since it was a Saturday night traffic would be lighter. We made it home in about 4-hours."

*To Be Continued...*