

## **The Unlikely Holstein (Part 1)**

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*The Unlikely Holstein* picks up where *The Unlikely Exodus* left off. With their move to Tennessee, The Merlot's & McGrawl's thought they were done with Linda Holstein and her surprises..and yet here they are back in Arizona again because of them.

### **Chapter 1**

#### **Back at The (Holstein) Ranch and Lindsay vs Her Impulsiveness**

After Abby and I did our evaluation of Corona de las Estrellas, we headed back to the main dining room. Linda had arrived and we all took a seat in a super-sized corner booth. I introduced everyone to Marty and explained to Olivia, "Once Linda has you setup on a Service Contract, Marty will be your point of contact for repairs and *minor* projects. Abby and I will go over all this with you in more details when we come back later next month to do your refresh."

Olivia seemed to understand, "Suppose it makes sense being you all are not in Arizona anymore."

We chatted during dinner and I noticed Laura and Miss Kitty were being civil with each other, not that there was a reason they would not be. Their divorce was more because they each wanted to go different directions (and locations) with their careers. As the afternoon turned to early evening to later evening Marty finally announced, "I need to be heading out. Will see most of you again when ever y'all decide to do your refreshes."

As Marty was leaving I told him, "Good working with you again these last couple days. Abby and I'll be in contact with you when we can get a time frame setup for the refreshes. Oh and Kacie will be in contact with you once she gets the mess with Pinal County straightened out for the name change at the Superstition Mountain store."

Marty had forgotten about that store, "Oh yeah...what's the hold up?"

I told him, "Government red tape!"

Marty laughed, "Hate when that happens."

An hour later I told everyone, "Hate to breakup this joyous jubilee, but seeing as we need to be back in Paradise Valley tomorrow for the opening of Kat's store it

best we get going.”

Olivia told us, “Everything is ready at The Ranch for y’all. Lizzie and I will leave now as well and meet you over there.” The three of us left and followed Olivia and Lizzie back to The Holstein Ranch. Olivia asked, “Is everyone going to be in their own rooms tonight.”

Laura nor Lindsay said anything. I asked, “Abby and Lindsay, do you two still want to be together or in separate rooms?”

Lindsay told us, “May be we should be in separate rooms tonight so we actually get some sleep.”

Laura joked, “Oh, but I can function fine with four hours of sleep...well may be not...there was that Social Engineering attempt I almost fell for back at The Ritz towards the end...”

I reminded Olivia, “As much as we love to stay longer, we all need to be back at Paradise Valley tomorrow morning for Kat’s grand opening.”

Olivia told us, “Okay, I’ll make sure to get y’all up early enough to have a hardy breakfast before you leave.” Not so bright, but still early the next morning Olivia gave us a wake up call, “Breakfast in 5-minutes!”

I quickly dressed and headed to the kitchen to find Kayré and Olivia had a large buffet of food ready to go. I joked, “Did you two even sleep last night?”

Olivia replied, “Somewhat.”

After breakfast we headed back to Paradise Valley and arrived at Kat’s store shortly before opening. Everything appeared to be working as expected, hard to tell for sure as the morning was slow with only a people coming by just to browse. Kacie was concerned, “Usually we have a bigger response to a store opening. Hopefully things will pick up.”

Kat assured her, “Things will, I advertised the ‘official’ grand opening as tomorrow. Allows us a day to work out any kinks or gremlins which might crop up.”

I commented, “Well, then this would be a good time for Lindsay and I to get Jessie’s devices setup.’ Lindsay, Jessie and I headed to the back ‘flex’ room to work on getting her devices setup. A couple hours later we had Jessie’s iPad, iPhone and laptop all working. Around this time a group of ladies came in and spent quite a bit of time browsing. Since Kacie and Kayré had nothing else to do, they assisted where they could. The ladies did end up making a purchase. As Kat

rang them up she told them, "Well you are our first paying customer, let's see if this new system works as expected. If, not we'll figure out a way!" Fortunately for all of those involved everything went smoothly.

Kacie checked to make sure the inventory re-calibrated with the sale, "Okay, good. We'd setup Square correctly. "

Around four that afternoon Kat told us, "Today went well."

Kacie as still not convinced, "If you say so!"

Kat teased her, "Oh quit being such a Negative Nancy!"

Kayré laughed, "Hate to break it to you, this is her 'normal'!"

Kat chuckled and told them, "Well, at least I know. Anyway as I was saying...Jessie and I will treat y'all to dinner...if it is not too early for y'all."

I commented, "For Abby, Lindsay and I it is good timing given we are still on Tennessee time."

Kayré told Kat, "Neither of us had much of a lunch so we'd be good too. Where we going?"

Kat told us, "There is a Spanish restaurant just up the road in the resort."

During dinner Kat asked, "Were y'all planing on being out here tomorrow?"

I told her, "Abby, Lindsay and I can be if needed. Kayré and Kacie likely wouldn't."

Kacie told us, "If you three will still be out here tomorrow can I get a ride down? Kayré needs to open Thirsty Cactus tomorrow morning."

Laura asked me, "When are we supposed to be returning?"

I reminded her, "I haven't made any official plans with Marc yet. Likely we will leave sometime on Sunday in the afternoon. I am sure Martina will want to take us out to brunch that morning." I turned my attention to Kat, "Yes, we can be out tomorrow."

After dinner we dropped off Kayré and Kacie; we'd be coming back the next morning to get Kacie on our way down to Paradise Valley. We arrived back at The Sagebrush House and Martina greeted us, "Welcome back! Everything go okay?"

I laughed, "As well as it can with Linda Holstein!"

Marc walked in and commented, "That bad?!"

I told them, "Not really. Paradise Valley went well. We'll be back out there tomorrow for moral support. Oro Valley on the other hand, oh boy! We'll be back out in Arizona in October to tackle that mess. Anyway, since we are going to be back at Paradise Valley tomorrow we won't be leaving until Sunday late morning or early afternoon."

Martina became excited, "Oh goody. We all can do brunch Sunday morning. Oh...Ron while y'all were gone yesterday my twin dropped off a package for you!"

She handed me a box from ACME, I peered inside and saw a couple sets of high security transport restraints with cuff boxes. Also, saw a new-in-box set of sterling silver cuffs plus a couple other items which I had not ordered, but had notes wrapped around them with a rubber band. I removed the sterling silver cuffs along with the mystery items and then handed the box to Lindsay, "Here, you and Abby can have fun with these new toys tonight!"

Lindsay took the box from me and her eyes grew large when she looked inside, "Oh boy! Oh boy! Come Abby, lets have some fun tonight!"

Abby jokingly complained, "But, I wanted to spend time with Martina tonight!"

Martina told them, "Since y'all are going to here another day we can have some fun tomorrow night."

I sat down at the bar to examine the note and the two mystery items. Upon reading the note from Gary discovered the two mystery items were new prototypes of ACME. One item was an upgraded version of the vibrator Lindsay and Sara liked to wear under their belts to torment themselves. Apparently this upgrade version has 'more power!'. The other item was a mouth-guard type gag. I set those aside with the sterling silver cuffs until we got back to Franklin.

Lindsay grabbed Laura's arm and they headed up to the suite. Lindsay told Laura, "Best we use the bathroom before we start!" After both girls used the bathroom Lindsay told Laura, "Go ahead and strip down to your stockings."

Laura wasn't sure to expect, but she trusted Lindsay knew what she was doing. She removed her dress revealing she was wearing an all-in-one bodyshaper and asked Lindsay, "Should I remove my all-in-one girdle?"

Lindsay looked over seeing Laura's girdle and told her, "Oh, very nice girdle! Since we are only going to be able to get to each others pussy's you don't need

to." She handed Laura set of transport restraints and explained, "We will be on the bed in 69 position. Go ahead and put the cuffs around your ankles, then take a set of high security handcuffs and slide the plate over the top of them, but don't put them on yet. You will loop the chain through the slot and then around your waist. You will padlock the chain at your hip. The same handcuff key opens the padlock. I have a couple snap-links I'll use to connect the chains at our waist to each other once we are on the bed. Once we get into position then we can cuff our wrists."

Laura did as she was told and looked at the setup before she got on the bed and asked Lindsay, "You do know what you are doing right?"

Lindsay laughed, "Of course I do! Have I ever led you wrong before?"

While Lindsay had indeed never led Laura wrong, she was aware of Lindsay's 'impulsiveness' but decided she did not want to accidentally insult Lindsay, "No, can't say you have."

Lindsay assured her, "Nothing to worry about. I have the keys on me, in my bra....okay let's do this!"

Laura laid down on the bed and put her wrists into the cuffs. She watched as Lindsay laid down opposite of her and adjusted herself so their pussy's would be aligned with their mouths. Lindsay then took two snap links and connected one end of each to her belly chain and the other end to Laura's. As Lindsay cuffed her wrists Laura got to thinking about what Lindsay had said about having the keys in her bra. A thought crossed the back of her mind that neither one of them would be able to get the key. However, Laura quickly loss her train of thought as Lindsay started eating out her pussy. Laura was a bit out of practice as she didn't have Miss Kitty to please anymore and Sophie never does anything of the sort with her. At least she had performed a little bit oral on Martina, before they went at each other with strap-ons. A couple hours and many, many orgasms later Laura was exhausted. She told Lindsay, "Well, that was fun. I've worn out, but relaxed. Can you release me now?"

Lindsay was a combination of giddy and tired, "Yes, it was fun. About to fall asleep. Okay, to get out, we just need to remove the snap links and then I move towards your hands and you grab the keys from my bra. I'll rollover so you can get the lock on my hip and then can remove the chain from the handcuff box and you can unlock my cuffs; then I'll remove yours!"

Laura understood what Lindsay was saying, however she could not reach the snap-links, "Um...I can not reach the snap links on our waists...can you?"

Lindsay quickly realized she made an error in her hasty preparations, "Oh....shit

no!"

Laura was upset, more with herself than Lindsay, "Really Lindsay! Geez, I knew something didn't seem right about your plan. So we are stuck here."

Lindsay admitted her defeat but tried to put a spin on it, "Guess so. On the bright side we can still get to each others pussy!" She started licking Laura's clit. Laura wanted nothing of the sorts and bit down on Lindsay's clit. Lindsay let out a yelp, 'OW! Okay, guess your not in the mood. Don't worry Martina or Ron will come looking for us in the morning when we don't show up for breakfast."

Laura looked over at the bedside clock and was falling asleep anyway and figure it wouldn't be so bad. She told Lindsay, "Be glad you wore me out. Hopefully we can sleep okay like this."

Lindsay gloated, "Oh I've slept in much more restrictive positions than this. I usually fall asleep in the hogtie trainer."

Laura had been in the hogtie trainer a couple times...as a punishment. She recalled it being extremely uncomfortable and wondered how in the heck Lindsay could fall asleep. "How the fuck can you sleep in that bloody contraption?! I've been in it a couple times and was so fucking uncomfortable, I wouldn't been able to sleep unless you gave me a Valium."

Lindsay giggled and told her, "Sara seems to think I was a cat in my past life..."

Laura had no idea what that meant, "Okay.." As she tried to stretch out she was relived she could move her legs, "Well at least our legs aren't bound together."

The next morning I got up and headed into the kitchen to find Marc and Martina. Martina greeted me, "Morning! You're the first one up this morning besides Marc and I. Have some waffles."

Marc asked, "Should one of us go up and wake those two?"

I told him, "Nah. Let them sleep, we have a later start this morning. They should be down soon anyway."

After Martina, Marc and I had finished breakfast Laura and Lindsay still hadn't come down. Martina asked, "Should I go check on them?"

I looked at my phone and saw the time, "Yes, we need to get going soon. Oh and we also need to stop over and pickup Kacie."

Martina replied, "Okie dokie!" She went up and over to the suite and noticed the

bedroom doors were still close and light was off. She knocked on the door and called out, "Lindsay! Ann-Marie! Time to get up."

Laura had woken up moments earlier and had forgotten the predicament Lindsay had gotten her into until she went to move, "Martina! Wait! Come here!"

Martina opened the door and walked in to see Lindsay and Laura securely attached to each other in a 69-position, "Well it looks like you two had too much fun last night!"

Laura told her, "Yes we did. I have now found out about the hazards of Lindsay's impulsiveness! We're stuck!"

Martina let out an evil laugh, "Oh really! Dang pity too. Here you two are in a situation that I can take full advantage of; if it were not for the fact that Ron needs you two to be ready to go soon! Be glad I didn't bring a riding crop with me! Okay, what do I need to do to get you two freed?"

Lindsay explained, "Undo the snap links at our waist."

Martina looked at their rigging and asked, "That's all?"

Lindsay told her, "Once we are detached from each other I can maneuver so that Abby can get the cuff keys out my bra."

Martina disconnected the snap links from Lindsay and Laura's waist and then told Lindsay, "I'll get the keys for you." She reached into Lindsay's bra and removed the keys. She went to unlock the cuffs, but noticed the keyholes were blocked, "How do you get those cuffs off?"

Lindsay told her, "You need to use the handcuff keys on the padlock on our hips so the belly chain can be removed from the cuff box."

Martina inspected their rigging further and saw what Lindsay was talking about, "Wow, quite a secure setup you have there." She unlocked the padlock on Lindsay's belly chain and was able to pull the chain through freeing her cuffed hands from her waist. Martina was about to repeat the process for Laura and joked, "Can't I keep her restrained for myself?!"

Laura laughed, "Oh you would like that! No, Ron needs us at the client's store this morning. However, tonight you can put me into these restraints if you like."

Martina smiled, "Yes, I would like that! Alright, let me get you freed wouldn't want to upset Ron...learned that the hard way when we were married." She repeated the process on Laura who was finally able to get her wrists freed from

her waist.

Lindsay asked Martina, "Either give me the key or undo our cuffs as well."

Martina undid the high security cuffs being worn by Laura and Lindsay. Lindsay had released herself completely and told Laura, "I am going to use the bathroom and get dressed. I won't be long."

Laura was grateful to finally be freed, "Ah much better!" Lindsay had headed into the bathroom, she asked Martina, "Curious, how did you upset Ron while you two were married and what did he do?"

Martina looked at Laura and asked, "Seriously?" Laura looked back at Martina confused. Martina explained, "Our little affair, especially when you were suppose to be down in Tucson for a new client setup. Not to mention, what we did to Sara. I ended up locked in a chastity belt for several months until after we divorced."

Laura understood, "Yeah, that! Guess I got off easy. In my defense it was Miss Kitty's idea to keep you belted while you were living with us. Of course, she ended up putting me in a belt with thigh bands and plugs for a while. I guess I better get ready once Lindsay is out, don't want to somehow end up in a belt again! Though the only person he could convince to punish me would be Sophie...and with the way our relationship is at the moment, she would likely go along with it...come to think of it, I haven't seen that chastity belt since we left Marana..may be it got lost in one of the moves!"

Lindsay returned from the bathroom and told Laura, "All yours! I'll get our shit together into our bags."

Laura headed into the restroom and Lindsay was tidying up and getting their clothes into their bags. Martina was playing with the transport restraints. She had already placed the ankle cuffs on her ankles and was trying to figure out how the belly chain worked with the cuff boxes, "How does this go?"

Lindsay told her, "Before you put on the cuffs, you need to put the box over the handcuffs and loop the chain through the slot. Then wrap the chain around your waist and secure it at your hip with a padlock. Once that is done, put the cuffs on your wrists and you are ready for transport!"

Martina did as Lindsay explained and as Laura had come out of the bathroom she noticed Martina had secured herself into the transport restraints. She joked, "Couldn't wait until tonight!" She saw Lindsay had everything else picked up and in their bags and told Lindsay, "Well we better get going!"

Martina realized she would not be able to get herself freed without assistance, "Hey! How am I supposed to get free?"



As Laura and Lindsay headed out the door Laura yelled back, "We'll leave a key with Marc!"

Martina started to pout, "Come on you two, please don't leave me like this!"

Lindsay laughed, "You're the one that wanted to try out the restraints." They stopped before they reached the stairs and Lindsay told Laura, "I can not in good conscious leave Martina like that..."

Laura agreed, "Yeah, I know. Be quick about getting her released." Lindsay set her work bag down and went back into the main suite to release Martina. She returned a short time later and headed downstairs with Laura.

Marc and I were chatting and I saw Laura and Lindsay coming in from the foyer, "Ah, was wondering what happened to you two. Let's get moving still need to go across the way and pickup Kacie. Kat will have coffee/juice and donuts waiting so you two can eat once we are at the store."

After picking up Kacie, we made it over to Kat's store to see a line out front. This pleased Kacie, "Ah, now that's more like it!" The day was fairly busy, but as far as the IT infrastructure went, quiet.

We left mid afternoon as Kacie wanted to get back and spend some time with Kayré. On our way back I told her, "I'll be in contact with you for the Corona de las Estrellas refresh and Oro Valley rebuild. Got to try to sweet talk Andy and Wynn into helping me this time."

Lindsay commented, "Since I won't be part of that project, should be a better chance Andy will be more willing to help you. Would be fun again just us girls and the 'guard dogs'."

I had not mentioned anything to Lindsay or for that matter Sara, Ana and Maya, "Yeah, not sure if that is going to happen again. Wynn was not happy when we returned from Henderson."

Lindsay was confused, "Why? Everything was in order, we cleaned the house, did our own laundry and even got some food for y'all."

I told her, "I know. In all honesty I am still uncertain what Wynn was so upset about. It's not like the house looked liked the condo Laura and I had during spring break!"

Laura laughed, "Yeah, we really had some wild parties!"

I corrected her, "We? *You* did, I was busy getting us projects so we could eat and pay the rent. Anyway, I'll give Wynn and Andy a call tonight after dinner and try to get a feel of their willingness to assist. Least, we have more time and in theory we shouldn't have to deal with anything unusual."

Kacie joked, "You mean other than Miss Holstein!?"

I laughed, "Sadly, yes."

Laura told me, "Before Martina and I play tonight, I'll talk to Sophie. She doesn't seem as bitter when I talked to her a couple nights ago as she has been."

We dropped off Kacie and then headed back to the Sagebrush house. Martina was in the gathering room with Lulu when we walked in. Martina saw us and commented, "You're back early. Marc is up at the resort, should be home in a couple hours. Then we go out somewhere for dinner."

Laura commented, "I'm going to give Sophie a call." She finally knew her way through the house and made her way up the Burgundy Suite where her and Lindsay had been staying.

Lindsay told us, "Good time for me to call Andy...I'll do that I in the studio."

As they left I told Martina, "Well, I need to talk to Wynn. Be back later."

## **Chapter 2**

### **Wrapping up in Arizona and Laura Makes a Deal with the 'Devil'?**

I headed to my room and phoned Wynn, "Hey Ron, how's it going?"

I told her, "Not too bad. We wrapped up with Paradise Valley today and everything seemed to be going well there. So, Oro Valley is going to be a bit more complicated than I had thought."

Wynn understood, "Yes it will be with adding Corona de las Estrellas refresh into to mix. By the way I do have a service agreement drafted and ready for them."

I replied, "Oh good. Send it to Olivia and/or Kayré. Don't bother sending it to Linda, she hasn't check her email since the last presidential election!"

Wynn giggled, "Okay then. So do you have an idea of the scope of the projects yet?"

I replied, "Abby, Andy along with you and I need to sit down at some point and

go over all the photos and review their current setup. Perhaps next weekend. We still have at least a month and half so no hurry."

Meanwhile up in the Burgundy Suite Laura called Sophie, "Hello Abby."

Laura asked, "Is this an okay time for us to chat?"

Sophie told her, "If it is for you. What's going on?" Laura went on to explain what transpired down in Oro Valley and how we would be coming back out for the project towards the end of next month. Sophie told Laura, "You do know, I still not have gotten over the way you treated me when we were in Henderson. We need to do something about that, if you expect me to work with you and Ron in Oro Valley. While, I do miss working on the projects and your 'antics', I do not want to assist you if I am going to be disrespected and talked down to as you did to me last month."

Laura knew she had really screw herself and their relationship last month, "I know and I am so sorry. I was so caught up with trying to teach Miranda how to troubleshoot. I made a big mistake. I want to make it up to you..."

Sophie had already come up with a plan and told her, "That can be arranged; I have something in mind; We will discuss it with Ron when I come pick you up tomorrow." Laura was not sure why Sophie wanted to discuss this with me, but if it meant having Sophie assisting us again it didn't matter. Sophie asked, "When are you coming back tomorrow?"

Laura told her, "Don't know yet. I don't think Ron has made arrangements with Marc yet. I know Martina wants to take us all out to brunch tomorrow morning."

Sophie understood, "That's fine. Kindly let me know when you know, so I can come get you at Ron's barn."

Laura told her, "Okay then need to get ready. Marc and Martina are taking us out tonight."

Sophie laughed, "Dang y'all are being spoiled, wish I could've been there. Have fun!"

We all met in the gathering room with Marc and Martina. We ended up at a barbecue joint in the new phase of Thirsty Cactus. I commented when we arrived, "Had no idea this was over here, or everything else for that matter."

During dinner Lindsay told me, "I think y'all will be able to get Andy to help you out at Oro Valley."

I was relieved, "That would be a huge help. Still, unsure about Wynn though. Maybe she will come around once we go through the photos and our notes next weekend and she gets a better idea of the scope of the project."

Laura commented, "I talked to Sophie and while she is still mad at me about Henderson, but she did seem willing to help us in Oro Valley."

I joked, "What did you have to do to bribe her?"

Laura laughed nervously, "I am not certain what I have may have agreed to; I have this bad feeling I just made a deal with the devil!"

I laughed, "But, Sophie? She seems so harmless."

Laura reminded me, "She might be to you, but then she knows everything about me...oh well, can't be that bad. All I know is she wants to discuss the matter with you tomorrow night when she picks me up."

We returned back to the Sage Brush house. Martina and Laura headed up to the loft along with Lindsay. I headed over to Marc's office and setup our return transportation. The next morning Laura called Sophie before we headed out for brunch in Old Town Scottsdale and then Marc and Martina dropped us off at the airport. Before they left Marc asked, "Since the Zinfandel's are coming out for Labor Day, would it be okay if we did as well?"

I told him, "I have no issues. Get more use of those guest rooms. I believe Miranda and Mina are going to be coming over."

Martina was not familiar with Mina, "Who's Mina?"

Lindsay told her, "Miranda's 'eccentric' sister. Isn't she a PI?"

I confirmed, "I think she does bounty hunting as well. Anyway when we saw her she had a Mohawk and wearing a corset with high-waist bikini bottom paired with fishnets and combat boots."

Lindsay, "Which is why she didn't seem all that phased with Miranda training her self to wear ballet boots."

Marc told me, "The four of us will likely come in together. I can get The Zinfandel's on a flight with a lay-over in Phoenix or they may ride in from Henderson. Either way the four of us will come into Nashville at the same time. I will take care of the ground transportation, all you need to do is provide us a place to sleep, feed us and keep Martina entertained!"

Laura laughed, "I can entertain her...or torment her. Lindsay can help!"

Lindsay reminded them, "We have a new dual spanker up in our loft now. Put you two on it and see who can last the longest!"

Martina giggled, "Sounds like fun...don't you think so Anne Marie?"

Laura laughed, "Sure Marti!"

The three of us headed into the terminal to check in for our flight. Once boarding was announced I phoned home prior to boarding and informed Wynn, "Getting ready to board, should be in Nashville in about three hours. Marc says he has transportation for us there. Oh, before I forget couple things have come up. One Sophie wants to meet with me when she picks up Abby....something about an agreement they made in regards to Sophie assisting us in Oro Valley. Second, Marc and Martina are going to come out with Gary and Bunny for Labor Day. Guess Marc is going to setup so they all fly out from Phoenix. He will let us know once we get closer."

Wynn was confused about Abby and Sophie, "Why does Sophie want to discuss that with you?"

I told her, "I am not certain. Perhaps she needs a witness. Abby swears she thinks she may have 'made a deal with the devil'. Not really certain, guess we will find out when we get back."

Wynn laughed, "Never a dull moment with this bunch!"

We boarded our flight and made into Nashville as planned. After we retrieved our bags I texted Marc we were ready. He replied back his driver would be there shortly. I called back to the barn and spoke to Sara, "Hey we've landed and are just waiting on Marc's driver. Should be here in about an hour."

Sara told me, "Sounds good. I'll let Wynn know."

A few moments a black Lincoln Town Car pulled to the curb and the driver lowered the passenger side window and asked, "Merlot, party of three?" I replied 'yes'. The driver popped the trunk then exited to open the rear door for us, "I will get your bags; take a seat in the rear." The driver loaded our bags while Laura, Lindsay and I got into the back. Once he was done loading the bags he closed the door and returned to the driver's seat. "Okay, folks should be at our destination in about 50-minutes."

As we approached the barn I told the driver, "Make a right into the driveway then take the left fork to the rear entrance." I noticed Sophie's truck was parked

towards the garage building. I commented to Laura, "Sophie is already here!"

Laura was starting to feel uneasy, "Oh joy..."

We pulled into the driveway and the driver dropped us at the rear entrance, "Allow me to get your bags and I'll be on my way." He retrieved our bags and I went to give him a tip, but he declined, "No need to do that; Mister Frosh has already given me a gratuity."

We headed inside and were not greeted by the dogs as Maya and Ana kept the dogs up in their room until after dinner. We walked into the kitchen to see Sophie and unsurprisingly, Miranda helping Wynn with dinner. Miranda saw us come in, "Ah welcome home! Dinner is almost ready; go get cleaned up."

While Lindsay and I headed to our rooms to freshen up, Laura used the hall powder room. The three of us returned a short time later as Sophie and Miranda were dishing out Wynn's spicy meatloaf. Miranda told us, "Grab a plate and then help yourself to mashed potatoes and veggies! Lindsay, can you *quickly* grab us a couple bottles of wine." Lindsay went to the wine fridge quickly browsed the inventory and picked out a couple bottles and brought them over to the table. Miranda came over with a couple corkscrews as she took one bottle she handed a corkscrew to Lindsay, "I'll open one and you can open the other!"

After dinner Maya let the dogs out of her suite and then headed down to her piano. We all sat down in the great room and chatted for a bit while Wynn, Miranda and Sophie took care of clearing the table and getting the kitchen cleaned up. Sophie came over to Laura and I, "Ron and Abby...come with me please." I was expecting her to take us to the sitting room or my office, but instead she headed towards the stairs. Both Laura and I were confused, but followed her. We ended up in the McGrawl's Office aka the Franklin Barn Presentation Room. Sophie explained, "As I mentioned in the phone call with your sister last night, I have an arrangement that should she choose to follow will help smooth things over with us and I would be willing to assist you all in Oro Valley next month. Let me remind you Laura, if you ever pull crap like you did in Henderson with me again, I may not be so forgiving next time."

Laura was still uncertain as to what this 'arrangement' would be, all she did know was she needed to behave better towards Sophie, "Yes ma'am, I understand."

Sophie smiled, "Very good. Now for the arrangement." She picked up a box from the corner and handed it to Laura, "You should know what to do with this."

Laura opened the box and turned white, "Oh fu...I...I...I thought this got lost in one of our moves."

Sophie told her, "Oh, no! I came across it while I was cleaning out the Marana house before we moved." Laura pulled out her chastity belt from the box. Sophie told her, "Everything in the box."

Laura looked and saw a five-tiered vaginal plug and thigh-bands. She objected and hoping for a loop-hole, "How am I to wear my work clothes with the thigh-bands?"

Sophie reminded her, "You have all those dresses you never wear."

I laughed out loud as I was reminded of that Easter Sunday out in Oro Valley, "Think the last time she wore a dress was when we were out in Oro Valley and Miss Kitty and put her in the belt and thigh-bands."

Laura knew she should not argue with Sophie, but was curious, "How...how long do I need to wear this?"

Sophie pulled out a timer lock box which had already been set for one-week, "When you are done getting your self locked into the belt, put all the keys in here and activate the box. I'll let you take the box back with us, as a reminder of how long you will have left on your 'sentence'."

Laura knew she could not weasel her way out this, however she was wearing capris and a t-shirt beside her long leg panty girdle with stockings and heels. She complained, "Not really going to go well with what I am wearing now."

Sophie laughed, "Yeah. I see that...Fortunately, for you I took the liberty of bringing you a change of clothes..." She produced a garment bag with a dress, garter belt and bra.

Laura took the bag with a sigh and asked, "Can I at least have a little privacy while I change?"

Sophie told her, "I suppose so. Ron, let's step out and chat for a moment."

I followed Sophie out into the hall and after she closed the door to the room she told me, "Hopefully, this will improve her behavior and attitude towards me."

I laughed and asked, "and if it doesn't?"

Sophie told me, "Well, we will see how desperately she wants me to assist you in Oro Valley. Hopefully a week plugged in the belt with thigh-bands will turn her around."

I joked, "Or make her extremely horny! The plug is going to do a number on her

going up and down the stairs between your residence and her store.”

Sophie giggled and told me in a low voice, “Specifically why I chose the tiered plug...I could’ve let her off easy with a smooth plug, but what’s the fun in that!”

A couple minutes later Laura emerged wearing the dress with the chastity belt plus thigh bands locked on underneath. She was holding the garment bag along with the time box and commented, “I could’ve sworn I’ve lost weight since I last wore this, but boy it sure fits tight.”

Sophie told her, “I had it sent back to Gary a while back to have it readjusted to fit you better and change out the lock. Best we get going, it is a work day tomorrow and Ron looks like he is about to fall asleep. I’ll take the garment bag and the box for you and meet you down in the truck.”

Sophie headed downstairs and Laura cringed at the thought of going down the stairs with the vaginal plug insides her, “Oh well, it is only for a week and if this what it takes to get her to forgive me and assist us in Oro Valley...”

I told her, “I understand now what you meant by ‘making a deal with the devil’, though this was not quite what I thought!”

Laura laughed, “Me either. Um....can you help me down the stairs.” We slowly made our way down the stairs into the kitchen, “Hmm...that wasn’t so bad...hope going ‘up’ is the same”. Other than Wynn, no one else was around and Laura quickly headed out the backdoor.

As I came back into the kitchen Wynn asked, “Why is a Laura in a dress and walking funny?”

I laughed as I explained, “Sophie put her in a chastity belt for a week.”

Wynn giggled, “Oh....that explains a lot. Just a belt or other ‘accessories’ as well?”

I told her, “Thigh-bands and a five-tiered vaginal plug.”

Wynn winced at the mention of the vaginal plug, “Damn, she must have *really* pissed off Sophie! A week, think she will last that long or be begging Sophie for the key sooner?”

I informed Wynn, “All the keys are locked in a timer box, so unless Laura knows how to pick locks...Anyway, I am about to fall asleep here. Hopefully Sara is not super horny tonight I can get some sleep.”

Wynn told me, “You won’t have to worry about that. I put her on table earlier and



had Miranda working her pussy. Most everyone has gone to bed, including Sara. See you in the morning."

When I had come in I had left the box with Sara's replacement sterling silver handcuffs in the mud room. I went back to retrieve the box and took it with me up to our suite. Sara was coming out the bathroom wearing a black stockings, black sports bra and her sport belt. She saw me, "So, how did it go with Abby and Sophie?"

I laughed, "Well, you will be seeing Abby in dresses next week. Sophie has put her into a chastity belt with a plug and thigh bands for the next week."

Sara was curious, "Have I ever seen Laura in a dress?"

I told her, "Yes a while back when Miss Kitty was punishing her for something."

Sara yawned, "Oh yea, I sort of recall that. Boy, Miranda is getting really good at servicing me..." She let out another yawn, "...she really wore me out. I am too tired to hassle with cleaning my armor so I just wearing one of my 'alternative' belts."

I laughed, "Would it kill you to go one night without your pussy under lock and key?"

Sara giggled, "May be not, but why risk it!"

I pulled the cuffs out of the box and told her, "So, I was able to get Gary to get you a new set of your sterling silver cuffs."

Sara laughed, "Funny thing...we found my original set of cuffs a couple days after you left. Somehow or another they ended up in Maya and Ana's suite. Maya came across them when she was helping Wynn change the bed."

I told her, "Hmm...interesting. Any idear how they ended up in there?"

Sara told me, "A while back Maya had asked me to borrow them so she could cuff Peaches. We think when they were done Maya may have left them on the bed and then one of the dogs knocked them off when they jumped on top of the bed. That's our theory anyway and we're sticking to it!"

I told her, "Sounds plausible to me. Well at least you will have a spare set."

Sara took the cuffs, "Indeed. I can keep these in my bedside table, for quick and easy access when I need to cuff you."

I reminded her, "I am still on Arizona time and exhausted so please nothing tonight."

Again Sara yawned, "Don't worry, all I want to do now is get some sleep." She grabbed my crotch and commented, "However, you are still out of your device. I can suck you off to sleep..."

### **Chapter 3**

#### **Laura's Torment and A Plan for Oro Valley**

Laura and Sophie arrived back at their building. Sophie told her, "I'll bring everything up. I know the stairs may be bit of challenge as you are."

Laura told her, "Thanks. Going down in Ron's barn wasn't too bad, hopefully going up won't be either."

Sophie replied, "Sorry, but this needed to be done. Anyway it is *only* for a week." She headed up the stairs and opened the back door. Laura took a deep breath and started her slow trek up the back stairs. She discovered going up was lot more difficult and not just because of the plug, but rather the thigh bands. Laura was out of breath by the time she got to the top. Sophie came out to the deck to check on her, "You okay?"

Laura took a couple minutes to recover, "Yeah. Guessing I am a bit out of shape, but I'll be okay. I am going to take a hot shower then head to bed."

Sophie bided her a good night and headed to her room for the night. After her shower Laura headed to her room and crawled into bed, falling asleep almost instantly. Surprisingly she slept through the entire night as she was awoken by Sophie in the morning, "Time to get up for breakfast." Laura was not sure what day of the week it was, but concluded it must be Monday since Sophie was not at the cafe. Laura got out of bed, a bit too quickly and almost lost her balance because of the thigh bands. She walked over to the closet and saw she had at least a dozen dresses she rarely wore. She picked a dress and found coordinating stockings, shoes and undergarments. After she changed she looked at herself in her full length mirror and was surprised how good she looked. She met Sophie in the breakfast nook. Upon walking in Sophie asked, "How did you sleep last night?"

Laura told her, "Oddly enough I slept through the entire night. Likely from being worn out from the trip and going up the back stairs."

Sophie noticed her ensemble and commented, "You look really....'professional' today."

Laura blushed, "Thanks?" After she finished breakfast she told Sophie, "Best I head down to work. Miranda is likely already there."

Sophie joked, "Seems like she is always either here or at Ron's place!"

Laura told her, "She likes to be around people since her parents and sister tend to be gone a lot. Currently, her folks are out on another cruise and I recall her mentioning her sister is working a job out in Memphis. So that is why we see her so much. By the way, does she know?"

Sophie explained, "Unless you told her or Lindsay, neither of them know about your punishment...I mean our *agreement*."

Laura understood and concluded, "I doubt Lindsay would say anything, Miranda though. Oh well, she is well seasoned into our kinky lifestyle."

Laura headed down the inside stairs to her store. The lights were already on and much to her surprise Lindsay was getting the sales floor straightened up before opening, Laura greeted her, "Well good morning! Wasn't expecting to find you here."

Lindsay was busy arranging the displays to notice Laura and told her, "Morning. Yeah, Miranda called me last night she needed to bring something out to her sister in Memphis so she would be coming in later and asked if I could cover. Since the computer store has been a little slow lately I was able to come in this morning." She noticed Laura's dress, "Oh, nice dress. That's not one of ours is it?"

Laura told her, "No, bought this and a few others at the Desert Dress Depot outside of Tucson a while back. For those couple days a month where I needed to 'dress professionally' when the resort execs were in town from Vegas."

Lindsay went about her business and Laura concluded her earlier theory about Lindsay's response was right. One of her outside (as in not Lindsay, Sara, Maya or Miranda) sales ladies came in. She greeted Laura but made no comments about her attire likely as she would not know otherwise. Laura checked the schedule and saw Maya was not going to be working today, but Sara would be in shortly. She'd figured I would have likely told Sara already. A couple hours later Miranda came in saw Laura, "Morning. Sorry I'm late. Tried calling you last night, but got no answer."

Laura realized her phone was likely still in her job bag and still in 'airplane mode' and/or the battery was completely drained, "Oh, yeah sorry about that. The phone must still in my job bag, was rather tired when Sophie and I got back here

last night. Going to need to be charged too. I'll take care of that when I go up for lunch. Anyway, Lindsay did let me know you needed to do something for your sister."

Miranda laughed, "Yeah she needed her night vision DSLR lens." She noticed Laura's outfit, "Nice dress. What's the occasion?"

Laura laughed, "It is my punishment for the way I treated Sophie when we all were out in Henderson."

Miranda was confused, "So, she is punishing you by making you wear a dress?"

She figured it would be easier to show Miranda than to try to explain things, "Not exactly. Come with me." Laura and Miranda went to the stock room and she made sure no one else was around. She lifted her dress and told Miranda, "This is how she is punishing me!"

Miranda laughed, "Oh! Yeah, can't very well wear a short skirt with those bands. I didn't even know you had a belt, did she get one made for you while we were out there?"

Laura told her, "Oh god no, I've had this belt for a very long time. Miss Kitty used to put me in it when I misbehaved. Then there was the couple months I was in it when Martina was living with us in Henderson, before her and Marc married and returned to Arizona. Sophie did however, have it resized recently. I had lost a lot of weight once I left the resort and was no longer binge eating from the vending machines. This is an agreement Sophie and I...well more Sophie made for her to assist us with the projects we are going to have in Oro Valley next month. At least this is only for a week."

Miranda was unaware of the Oro Valley projects, "What you going to be doing and can I come along again?"

Laura told her, "We are doing a complete rebuild of the Oro Valley Budget Holstein and then a refresh at Corona de las Estrellas. As far as you going, you would need to talk to Ron about that. Still, not even sure the scope of the projects yet. I made a bunch of notes and Ron took a bunch of pictures when we were out there last Thursday. Think we are going to go over everything this coming weekend. It would be Ron, Sophie, Andy and I for sure, still don't know about Wynn."

Lunch time Laura headed back up to her residence, this time going at a slower pace. She was not as winded this time around, but the plug was getting her wet and turned on. She discovered her job and to-go bags were sitting on the living room sofa where Sophie had deposited them last night along with the garment

bag and timer box. She grabbed everything except for her job bag and went to place those in her room. She unpacked her to-go bag and placed the contents of the garment bag in her hamper. She returned to the living room and opened up her job bag and found her phone was nearly discharged and a missed call from Miranda. She retrieved her laptop and tablet as well and started charging all three devices. She placed her job bag next to her desk then went to kitchen to eat lunch. Before she headed back down to the store Laura did a quick scan of the living room making sure she hadn't left anything else out. The last thing she wanted to do was annoy Sophie by leaving the house a mess. She concluded everything was where it should be and headed back into her store. The rest of the day was quiet and uneventful. Once she wrapped up for the day she headed back up the residences. She seemed to have gotten better at navigating the stairs while wearing the thigh-bands, however the plug was still getting her worked up...and there was nothing she could really do about that.

As she came into living room Sophie saw her, "So, how did it go today?"

Laura told her, "Not too bad. Janice never said anything about me being in a dress. Of course she has not been with us that long to even know otherwise. Lindsay noticed, but only asked if it was a dress we carried. Miranda however, was more inquisitive."

Sophie giggled, "I am not surprised. How did that go?"

Laura explained, "I showed her the belt and thigh bands and that was that. Maya and Sara are suppose to be in later this week, but I am sure they already know."

Sophie observed, "You don't seem to be as winded as you were last night."

Laura told her, "Helps that I am taking my time going up the stairs. I am getting used to the thigh-bands but the fu...I mean dang plug is another story."

Sophie reminded her, "I don't care if you cuss, as long as it is not directed at me. Though if I were to have swear jar for you, it would help me pay for some new toys. Sorry about the plug, may be that was a bit over the top."

Laura assured her, "It's not that bad. Besides nothing we can do about it anyway with the keys locked away....unless you have a spare set."

Sophie laughed, "Nope those are the only keys I have and they are in the lock box."

Laura was confused by Sophie's previous statement about the swear jar and toys, "Why would you need extra money for toys? If there is something you want, let me know."

Sophie laughed, "I was trying to make a joke, guess it didn't go over very well. I make plenty of money at the cafe to support my hobbies. Ordered a custom locking clam-shell style hood when we were in Henderson, still waiting on that..."

The rest of the week wasn't too bad and Laura was actually enjoying wearing the dresses, besides being something different for her to wear it did make her look more professional. Given her situation Laura opted-out of Yoga this week, but still came to join us for dinner. Since she was not doing yoga she came to my office and knocked on the door. I looked up and was still surprised, "It is weird seeing you in a dress. Take it you're not doing yoga with the rest of the ladies tonight."

Laura laughed, "That would be a bit hard. Funny thing is I am actually liking wearing the dresses. Seemed like I was always wearing the same thing, either Capris or a short skirt with the company polo. Makes me feel more professional too! Anyway, since I am here have you had a chance to go through the photos yet?"

I replied, "No, I've been so busy trying to get caught up on everything else. Plus, Olivia had a ton of questions about the service contact that I've been answering over the past couple days. I really should upload the photos to our shared Google Drive folder." I looked around my office for my job bag, "Hmm....my bag is not in here. I know I brought it in with me on Sunday along with the box from ACME. Must still be in the mudroom, surprised Wynn has not said anything. Be right back." I walked through the great room and saw Miranda setting up. She asked about Laura and I told her she was not going to participate this week. I headed over to the mudroom and sure enough on the bench was my job bag. I picked it up and returned to my office and told Laura, "Yep, it was still in the mudroom."

Laura told me, "Yeah, Sophie brought my bags up and dropped everything in the living room. It wasn't until I came back up for lunch on Monday that I realized everything was still in there. Well, I knew my job bag was there as Miranda told me Monday she had tried to call me on Sunday evening. Hmm...I left my notepad in the bag which is by desk. Oh well, you mentioned we might go over this during the weekend. Oh, before I forget Miranda seemed interested in coming with us. I told her to talk to you about that."

I replied, "Good experience for her and the more people we have the easier it should be. To be honest, I still don't know about Wynn if she is going to come or not."

Laura was still unsure, "What happened again?"

I told her, "I don't know. As far as I am concerned Lindsay, Sara, Maya and Ana did nothing wrong while we were gone. They kept up the house, took care of the

dogs and even got us some food to tied us over when we got back until Wynn could go to the market. She's not telling me something and I have no idea why. I am hoping when the crew gets together and goes over everything and she sees the scope of the project she will join us. If not, no big deal I can manage it myself...did it for years before she came along. Do me a favor if she has not started yet call Miranda over."

Laura stepped out of my office and went into the great room and saw Miranda was still getting things setup. She called out, "Miranda, Ron would like a word with you."

Miranda joked, "Am I in trouble? Did I over-stayed my welcome?"

Laura laughed, "Nope, think he wants to discuss Oro Valley with you." They came into my office and Laura informed me, "Found her!"

I asked, "Miranda are you interested in joining us out in Oro Valley next month?"

Miranda told us, "If you don't mind, I think it would be good experience for me."

I told her, "Yes it would. Laura, you okay with her coming?"

Laura did not understand, "Why? We get along fine..."

I clarified, "Not what I meant. She won't be at your store to manage operations while you are gone."

Laura's response came as a surprise to me, "That's what Lindsay is for."

I told her, "I see, wasn't aware Lindsay was willing to take on management responsibilities. She sure didn't when she was working at PC's and Things. Oh well, let me find my camera." I dug through my bag and found my camera and popped out the SD card and placed it in the reader on my PC. "Hmm, suppose I should create a new sub-folder...what shall I name it?"

Laura joked, "The job from hell?"

I laughed and replied, "Already taken...Boot's Chugwater!"

A chill ran down Laura's spine when she heard the name, "Eek! The name certainly does fit!"

Miranda commented, "You know, one of you really needs to fill me on that project and what the hell happened. I've heard various things here and there, but really don't know the full story."

Laura told her, "Dear, I don't know that much about it as Sophie and I only came in towards the very end and I don't even remember how we got out there."

I told Miranda, "Yeah, good luck with that. Most everyone involved has blocked out anything to do with that job. Okay, may be not. It was a very weird job....hell even the offer was weird. Jed Rae shows up at the Fairy Duster house unannounced. Wynn had no idea who he was when the guard house called, she had just assumed he was a client I was expecting that evening. Maya was home and gave him some grief. However, Sara...shit she ripped him to shreds as soon as she saw him; scared the crap out of Lindsay..."

Laura asked, "What? Why?"

I replied, "Think about it, have you ever seen Sara angry...truth be told she kind of scared me too. Anyway, things calmed down after he told us his 'wife' was at the airport. His 'wife' was actually Tess."

Laura was really confused, "Wait, isn't she married to Dunn Brooks?"

I told her, "Yes, after Jed's arrest and incarceration in New York. It was all part of his scheme. So he presented the project and this was right after the McGrawl's had gotten kicked out of Tucson. So Andy still had a good chunk of the leftover inventory which they had written off when they closed their stores. That was how we were able to do the job relatively inexpensively. They gave us figures with dimensions, which Andy and I swear were not even close to being correct. Since we based all the cabling off of those figures we quickly realized upon walking in on the first day we would be coming up short. Then there's the famous 'Flaming TV!'"

Miranda laughed, "I've heard about that. Something about a bad generator?"

Laura added, "Same here as I said, I wasn't there yet."

I explained, "Sort of. It was a UPS unit that I have no idea where Jed got it from. The thing was ancient and I didn't really like the looks of it; more so the 'Made in China' stamped on it. Anyway, I sure as heck did not want to connect my laptop to his device. We asked Jed if they had anything we could test it with and somewhere he dug out this old analog box TV that was likely as old as Lindsay and Sara. The freaking thing weighed a ton plus had a dial and rabbit ears. Heck, I am not even sure if was a color TV..."

Miranda was confused, "There was such a thing as a non-color TV?"

Laura asked, "Geez are we that old?!"



I told Miranda, "Yes, while color TV's did exist as early as the 1950's, they didn't really become affordable until around 1970's, even then most broadcasts were still in black and white. Kind of like today with 4K, the TVs are out there, but most of the broadcasts are still in regular HD. Getting back to the job; so we connected the UPS down in the warehouse to the dedicated outlet in the sever room and the TV to said outlet. We cut the power to the sever room and then the entire building went dark, followed by the fire alarm going off. Someone, may be Lindsay was downstairs and alerted us the UPS was on fire. Maya had gone to the restroom and was on her way back to the sever room when the TV exploded. Luckily, the Chugwater fire department was just down the street and when the fire alarm went off they were dispatched by the alarm company. Wynn hadn't come along initially, but she did end up coming out to bring us more cabling, another UPS and some other supplies. They also kept changing the scope of things, which delayed us even more. Finally towards the end Laura came out.."

Laura cringed, "Oh god, what a nightmare. The flight out was hardly smooth. Then the connecting flight was delayed and it was so fucking COLD! I don't even remember much of what I did on my part. Thankfully, Sophie was with me to provide me with support, both professional and emotional."

I reminded her, "You know, you didn't have to come...you had The Network Admins of the West convention you were suppose to be a presenter at during that time."

Laura laughed, "Yeah I know. As much as I really was looking for an excuse to get out that retched conference, I don't think it would have been as bad as the crap I went through on that job."

Getting back at the task at hand I told Laura, "Okay so...oh I need to create two sub-folders, one for The Holstein and the other for Corona de la Estrellas. Let me figure out where the break is and start uploading the photos to the appropriate folders. This shall take a while. So we will likely...actually....hmm...Abby, who's weekend is it?"

Laura thought for a moment, "Well...the last time we got together was here...I think..."

Miranda commented, "Two weekends ago y'all were not here on Saturday."

I laughed, "How is it she knows more about our day-to-day life then we do! Okay, so that means we are hosting this weekend. So Miranda, would you be free Saturday afternoon? I am not sure if I will need to go help Andy out in the morning."

Laura advised me, "From what Lindsay has said, things are kind of slow right now. She's been at my store quite a bit this week."

Miranda told us, "Yes, I can be free..."

Leslie came in, "Sorry to interrupt, but Wynn wants to know if we are still doing yoga tonight."

I told Miranda, "That is all we needed from you. Go lead your session." Miranda left leaving Laura and I. I told Laura, "Well, at least we will have her and I am guessing Sophie as well?"

Laura replied, "I think so. She's seems to have come around now. She also realized she made have over done it with the 5-tiered plug...although don't tell her this...I am kind of enjoying it!"

We chatted over the next half hour until Miranda had wrapped up. Laura headed over the kitchen to assist Wynn with dinner.

## **Chapter 4**

### **The Saga of Wynn Continues**

Friday we met in town for the Food Truck night. While we were eating dinner Andy told me, "Things have been nice and quiet this week at the store. We've been able to get a good chunk of the repairs and upgrades knocked out. Don't think I'll need your help tomorrow."

I told him, "That's fine. Suppose when you do get back you along Abby, Sophie, Miranda and I can go over everything. I uploaded the photos the other night and Abby has notes..."

Laura joked, "Now, will I be able to read my notes..."

Andy asked, "What about Wynn?"

Wynn had gone to get food for herself once everyone else had arrived and gotten their own. Unbeknownst to Andy she had returned and was sitting next to him, "What about me?"

Andy turned around, "Oh, didn't realize you had come back. I was asking if you were going to be in the project planning session tomorrow."

Wynn told him, "No, think I will sit this project out. Don't want a repeat of Henderson."

Well, that confirmed that; still had no idea what exactly happened with Henderson that she did not want a repeat of. I figure it would best if I did not push it, "Okay. Well, we'll have Sophie and Miranda this time around so that will help." After we finished dinner, we walked around the two blocks. Wynn and the other ladies all went there own way leaving Andy and I.

We walked into a coffee shop and Andy asked, "So, why is Wynn not coming?"

I told him, "You're guess is as good as mine. From what she told me before I went back to Arizona with Lindsay and Abby she was not happy with how the ladies, specifically Ana and Maya had handled things while we were in Henderson. She has never really gave a specific reason and I have no idea why."

Andy jokingly theorized, "Perhaps she is tired of you and your projects."

I looked at Andy and replied, "*My projects?* Last time I checked you were still part of the AZOutback Consulting team....well except for Arizona last week...if that is the case, I mean why not just tell me? She's been with me long enough she knows she can talk to me."

Andy changed the subject...well more like redirected, "Do you get the impression she is not happy out here?"

I paused for a moment and thought about last month, before The Holstein projects came up, "Wow! I've wondered the same thing. We had a chat last month after we had gotten back from Henderson. She presented a really odd question to me; asking if I felt if it was a mistake for us to come out here. We talked about the ACME Henderson job and how things would have been much easier with the unforeseen circumstances had we still been in Arizona. She mentioned about being further from everything, compared to when were in Desert Oasis. Then a couple days later she told me 'she may be overthinking things' and then dropped it. That was around the time I had Leslie and Charlotte take her out for a girl's day out."

Andy was a bit surprised, "That is odd. Oh well, I suppose we can handle this ourselves."

I laughed, "That is what I said to Abby during yoga night. We'd managed without her for all those years, suppose we can do so again."

Andy commented, "Though the project seems to have gotten more complicated than before. Something is bothering her, just wish she would talk to us."

Saturday morning Sara and Lindsay joined Leslie and Charlotte for a show in

Nashville and would be gone most of the day. Andy had gone to this store for his usual Saturday catch-up projects and inventory check. I had checked the job boards, not really seeing anything I wanted to commit to currently. I was just starting to review the photos of The Holstein at Oro Valley and Corona de las Estrellas when Wynn knocked on my door. I looked up and noticed she was not in uniform which being a Saturday was nothing out of the unusual. I motioned for her to come in. She took a seat across my side desk and told me, "I am going to be gone for a while. I am heading back to Arizona. Need to figure out what I want to do going forward. Idina has already taken care of all the arrangements for me and my ride to the airport should be here shortly."

I asked, "You bringing Lucy with you?"

Wynn explained, "No, can't really bring here where I am going and besides she would not do well being away from Cream now they have been around each other so much now. Maya and Ana will look after her. I talked to them already."

I laughed, "Oh, so it just like Sara and Lindsay! Well, I understand; good luck and if you need anything give me a call."

Wynn's phone chimed, "Oh, my ride is here. Thanks for your understanding, sorry it had to end this way." She left my office and headed out to the mudroom to get her bags. I did not get a chance to ask what she meant about 'end this way'. I just sat there trying to understand what had happened, wondering if we had done something to make her not feel like part of the family anymore. I was lost in thought when Maya knocked on my office door.

Since she didn't get a response she called out, "Ron!"

I looked up and saw her, "Oh Maya, sorry was lost in thought here. Do come in."

Maya came in and appeared to be as confused and lost as I was, "Um....so did Wynn talk to you?"

I replied, "Yeah, few minutes ago then she took off. What did she tell you?"

Maya stammered a bit, "Something about going back to Arizona to find herself?"

I explained, "Kind of the same thing she told me."

Maya was hesitant to ask, mainly because she may not like the answer, "Um...do you....um...think she is coming back?"

I thought a for a long moment over her last words, "Honestly, I don't know. I would hope she would, but I sense she does not like it out here and she may not

be back.”

Maya was trying to remain calm, “What...what happened?”

I told her, “I wonder the same thing. Something happened while we were all out in Henderson. I don’t know what it was and she would not tell me.”

Maya posed a question that I myself wondered, “Would she consider staying with us if we went back to Arizona?”

I cringed at the thought, I had invested so much out here not only with the barn but having Laura and our mother out here, “I wondered the same thing. I really don’t want to go back. We all have adapted so well out here...well other than Peaches...”

Maya laughed, “There’s no pleasing her! Honestly, I don’t want to either. I’ve started a new life out here and really enjoy it.”

I told her, “Well as the photographer says, we will see what develops.”

Maya groaned, “Ron, that is a horrible dad joke! But, I get it.”

She left my office and I decided to call Marc, “Morning Ron! Calling to setup your transportation back to Arizona for your Oro Valley projects?”

I told him, “Um...no. I am kind of in a bad situation here and the way to resolve it may be for us to return to Arizona.”

Marc joked, “What did you do!”

I didn’t go into details, “I am not entirely sure. Since, it has been a couple years now I am a bit out of the loop as far as the real estate market in Desert Oasis goes.”

Marc knew I was being serious as well as knowing there were details that he would not be privy to at this time, “Kind of shitty right now. No one is selling, because they are anticipating all the new development to push up their values. Let me take a quick look here....hmm...well there is something on Coyote that might be big enough for y’all. Let me look at The Ashler Hills Estates...”

I asked, “Where?”

Marc reminded me, “That’s where you were when y’all were in the Acme House. A couple in there, but they just went on the market in the last couple days.”

I told him, "Seeing as I don't really know what is going on at the moment, I can't really commit to anything. I think us returning would be the *greater* of two evils so to say. Send me the info and I might get back to you or I might not. Oh and don't say anything to Martina about this." Miranda came into house and was calling out for Wynn, "I got to go, Miranda is here." I headed to the kitchen and saw Miranda, "Wynn's away at the moment."

Miranda replied, "That's fine. When are we going over the project?"

I really wasn't in the mindset to be thinking about the project, though really there was nothing I could do about Wynn. Furthermore, I had already figured she was not going to be a part of this project anyway. As they would say 'the show must go on', "Um...yeah sorry, running a little behind this morning. Still waiting on my sister and Sophie along with Andy. If you want, you can go play up in the loft. I believe Maya and Ana are up there. Sara and Lindsay went out with Leslie and Charlotte earlier and will be back for dinner..." I realized I would need to get the fish and the rest of the fixings, "...which reminds me, I need to head over to the market. Let them know I'll be back in about an hour or so."

Miranda understood, but could sense I was bit more frazzled than normal, "Will do. Are you okay?"

I didn't want to get into what was going on with Wynn; not that I knew much as it was; before everyone else returned tonight, "Yeah, yeah. Sorry, just dealing with something right now."

I headed to the market and returned an hour later. Upon walking in Andy and Miranda were chatting in the kitchen. Miranda saw me, "Need help with anything?" I passed her the bag of vegetables so I could set the fish on the counter. Miranda asked, "Should I wash these now?"

I told her, "No, wait until later. Have Abby and Sophie come yet?"

Andy told me, "Yeah, a few minutes ago. They are up in the loft."

Miranda asked, "Shall I go fetch them?"

I was about to tell her to go ahead, but realized I was not even close to being ready yet for our meeting. "Um...not yet. I need to get prepped, been a very weird morning. Let me get things in order here and then give me about a half hour." I headed back to my office and tried to focus on this project, but my mind kept going back to Wynn. After a few minutes I was able to start focusing on the photos and started making notes of my own. I was almost done when Andy, Laura and Miranda came into my office. I told them, "Good timing, I am about done going through the photos. Abby, any luck deciphering your notes?"

Laura laughed, "Think so, I gave them to Sophie the other day and she went through them!"

Over the next couple hours we went through all the photos and discussed what equipment was going to be needed for the rebuild and refresh. We were going to start going over the other aspects when the alarm on my phone went off. I silenced my phone and told them, "Well, that is all for now. I have a fish I need to grill."

Andy joked, "Are you being serious or is that a euphemism?"

I laughed, "No, I literally have a fish to grill...our dinner tonight."

Laura told everyone, "Well in that case I am going to head up to the loft. See what I can do, given my situation."

I had forgotten about Laura's situation which is ironic given she was still wearing dresses and asked, "How much longer do you have?"

She looked at her phone, "A little over 24-hours, but likely not until we get home tomorrow night. Anyway, let us know when dinner is ready."

She left and Andy commented, "I suppose I can chaperon."

He left as well leaving Miranda in my office she told me, "Unless you need help with dinner I'll be up there as well."

I told her, "No, I am good. Go have some fun with Maya and Ana or find a way to torment my sister." After she left I went out to do patio to get the grill warmed up then headed back inside to get the potatoes ready. Once I had all the potatoes wrapped, I went to work on prepping the fish. I checked the time on my phone and figured the grill should be warmed up by now and took the fish out. I put the fish on the grill and set a timer for when I was to add the potatoes. I headed back inside and after getting the kitchen cleaned went to work on the vegetables.

A while later Sara and Lindsay had returned from their excursion and came into the kitchen. Sara seemed a bit surprised to see me, "Oh Ron, what you doing in here?"

I told her, "Getting dinner ready."

Sara realized it was fish night and replied, "Oh yeah it is our Saturday this week." She looked around, expecting to see Wynn in there with me, "Wynn around?"

I gave a very generic answer, "No, she left earlier, not sure when she will be back. Anyway, your sister and Peaches, my sister and Miranda are all up in the loft."

Lindsay turned to Sara, "Shall we join them?"

Sara seemed confused by my response about Wynn, but opted not to dwell on it, "What?...yeah why not."

I told them, "I'll let you all know when dinner is ready." The alarm on my phone went off and told them, "Ah...time for the potatoes. So, about another half-hour." The two of them scurried up the stairs then to their rooms to get changed to play. I went out to the grill and put the potatoes on then headed back to the kitchen to get the vegetables going.

Lindsay came down the stairs shortly before everything was be done. She saw me and explained, "Miranda sent me down...she figured if she sent me down now, I might have a wine selection made before we eat!"

I laughed, "Yeah, you can be a bit OCD about the wine!" I went out to the grill to get the fish and potatoes. I brought the food back in and most everyone were already in the kitchen. Miranda once again asked if she could help and I told her, "Yes, you can get the plates and silverware out...oh and wine glasses too." I joked, "That is of course if Lindsay can make up her mind which wine we should have tonight."

Lindsay objected, "Hey!" She pulled a couple bottles, "Okay, okay here we go."

Peaches came the down the stairs with Cream and Lucy to take them out before dinner. I was glad to see Peaches had stepped up and was taking care of Lucy as well. After she came back in I told everyone to get cleaned up. We ate dinner and much to my surprise there was no mention of Wynn's absence. I doubt Maya had said anything to anyone, especially since she was really not sure what was going on. After we finished dinner I pulled Maya to the side and asked, "Have you or Peaches said anything to anyone yet?"

She knew what I was talking about and whispered, "No, have you?"

I told her, "No, well not exactly. I talked to Marc, but was very scarce on the details. Well, everyone is here so might as well 'rip off the band aide'!"

Maya laughed, "Yeah, that sounds rather painful...but needs to be done."

I told everyone, "Before you all go your own ways, have a seat I need to discuss something with all of you."



Everyone returned to the table and I began, "So most of you have noticed Wynn is not here right now. She left earlier today to go back to Arizona to clear her head, find herself, figure out what she wants to do, etc. I have no idea how long she is going to be gone. In the interim, we are all going to need to step up and take care of things around here. That would include cleaning your suites, changing your beds and doing your laundry. Not sure how we are going to work out meals..."

Sara told me, "Maya and I can cook...or we can do takeout!"

I laughed, "Yeah, my wallet will get skinnier, but the rest of us will get fatter....well except for Andy!"

Laura asked, "May be a bad time to ask this, but what about the Oro Valley projects?"

I explained, "Going into those projects, I kind of knew Wynn wasn't going to be part of them anyway. As far as the projects go, it is business as usual. Tomorrow afternoon we can continue discussing the finer details. Would like to have a general idea of what is going to be involved and then we can see what the lead time is on the equipment; then check with Aubrey or Lynette as well as Olivia to see when they want the work done....and hope Marty is free during that time."

Everyone went about their own ways, mostly up to the loft after dinner. Andy and I chatted for a bit in my office, "So, are you going to take on the role as project manager?"

I hadn't thought about it, "Suppose I will need to. No way in heck Abby would!"

Andy joked, "You could always delegate it to Miranda!"

My response caught him off guard, "That's not a bad idea." Andy wasn't sure if I was being serious. I explained, "She's very detail oriented and seems to have good grasp of what is going on. You and I can guide her and we will need to give her a crash course on the project management software as well as Active Directory." I had opened my email and saw Marc and forwarded her some information that I wanted to review. I told Andy, "We can discuss it more tomorrow, I have some things needing my attention right now."

Andy was about to ask if it pertained to Wynn, but opted not to, "Okay. I am going to go check on the girls and then likely head to bed...Lindsay says I can get 'some sugar tonight!'"

I laughed, "Lucky you! I don't recall the last time I did as your wife keeps

wearing her out!”

After Andy left I reviewed the information Marc sent me. While there were a couple properties that could work. Though they needed work to be functional for our needs. I got to thinking about all the toys we have and especially the table, what a pain that would be to move. Then got to thinking about Laura, here we are back together again and would just seem hard to leave her behind again. Even more so having mother and Blanche here now. Then the McGrawl’s have a well established store out here and they seem happy too. Maya is happy with her work situation and Peaches, well she is what she is! Then there is Miranda, she has become a big part of our family. The more I thought about it the more I realized that if Wynn were to give me an ultimatum of returning to Arizona if I wanted her to work for us, I would have to decline. The collateral damage with us leaving here would be worse than losing her, tough even losing her would be pretty bad too.

Sunday morning Sara and Maya made breakfast for all of us. After breakfast they changed their beds and then gathered up their laundry. After lunch they had their usual Holstein meeting. After that wrapped up Andy, Laura, Miranda and I discussed the finer details of the project. I checked lead times and noticed some of the wireless AP’s were on back order with a 2-week lead time. I checked Marty’s schedule and noticed he was in the Midwest until the end of the month, so that meant we wouldn’t be able to start until early October.

## **Chapter 5**

### **Where’s Wynn and The Return of The Holstein**

It had been a few days since Wynn had left. As much as we could, we had adapted to not having her around. I hoped that she was doing okay and wish she would call, if anything to let us know she was doing okay. Earlier in the week being a bit distracted I accidentally over-bid on a job that I had been eyeing. I was surprised a couple days later when I was notified I was the winning bid. Guess everyone else saw the high bid and figured it must be a very complicated job. Turns out it was...at least more time consuming more than anything. I was working on said project when my office rang lit up with a 520 area code number. I had just assumed it was Olivia or Aubrey, “AZ Outback Ron.”

Much to my surprise it was Wynn, “Ah Ron good I reached you. I only have a few minutes can we talk?”

I replied, “Yes, we may.”

Wynn continued, “So after a lot of thought and a long, long talk with Idina I’ve decided to check myself into The Moon Goddess. Still, not sure what I am going

to do yet. How are things going out there without me?"

I explained, "As well as they can be. Everyone seems to have stepped up to cover."

Wynn seemed a little relieved, "Well, that's good I suppose....um.."

I hadn't planned on saying anything to her, but it just kind of came out, "Just so you know, if you want to stay in Arizona, that is fine with me. Just understand, that we will not come out after you. It would be far more disruptive and damaging for all of us to leave here."

Wynn was not happy with my deceleration, but she respected what I had to say, "I see. That may make things a bit difficult. Well, that is something to ponder while I am here for the next couple weeks. No matter what I decide, I will let you know once I do."

I had a bad feeling based on her statement she likely would not be coming back, "I appreciate that. Thanks."

Wynn told me, "Yeah, I need to go now. I'll talk to you when I know more."

That evening after dinner I told everyone, "I heard from Wynn earlier. She has checked herself into The Moon Goddess. I also told her if she wants to stay in Arizona, I fine with that...however, we are not going back to Arizona just because she rather be out there. The lesser of two evils would be losing her than that compared to the fallout of uprooting our lives out here."

Andy asked, "How did she take that?"

I replied, "Respectfully, though I doubt that was the answer she wanted to hear. Nonetheless, she said she would let me know one way or another once her two weeks are up at The Moon Goddess. That is all I have for you if anything else develops I will let y'all know." As everyone prepared to go their own way I called out, "Andy and Abby come to my office please."

The ladies headed up the play loft while Abby and Andy followed me to my office. I reminded them, "As I said earlier, Wynn's sudden departure has no effect on the upcoming Holstein and Corona de las Estrellas projects. Based on Marty's schedule and the expect devilry of the equipment it looks like we can start a week from Wednesday."

Andy asked, "Weren't we going to be doing this *after* Labor Day?"

I reminded him. "We were, until Marty got a big project out in Georgia and

expected to be gone until around Halloween or even Thanksgiving.”

Andy recalled now, “Oh yeah that.”

I explained to them, “We will fly out on Tuesday, not sure if we will be at The Sage Brush House or Holstein Ranch, need to check with Olivia and Marc on that. I expect the rebuild for The Holstein to take a couple days and the refresh at Corona de las Estrellas should be done in a half day. So if we were to start first thing that Friday morning we should be done in time for Olivia to open for dinner. We’d be back in Tennessee on Saturday evening. Does this schedule work for you two?”

Both Andy and Abby confirmed. Laura told me, “Sophie might not like missing the quilting group, but it is only for one weekend. Now, I need to make sure I am on my best behavior with her during that job.”

I laughed, “Yeah, I don’t think it would be good if you were on your baddest behavior. Okay, I’ll give Marc and Olivia a call and figure out our lodging situation.” I called Olivia to confirm the timeline for Corona de las Estrellas and if the five of us could stay at The Ranch. I told her, “Likely, Sophie and Miranda will stay over in your bunk house with Lizzie. So that just leaves Andy, Abby and I needing a room.” Olivia informed me they had room and we could stay starting Tuesday night. I told her, “Okay, that works. I’ll let Marc know.” Upon wrapping up with Olivia I opened my calendar and blocked off the days for the projects then called Marc, “Hey Marc, I need to make travel arrangements.” I gave him the dates and how many of us there would be.

Marc asked, “Did you need lodging?” I informed him we would be going directly to Oro Valley once we landed in Phoenix. Marc confirmed the dates and asked, “Did you want to leave the return date open-ended...just in case?”

I laughed, “Just in case Linda comes up with something else for us to do while we are out there?! Yeah, might as well.”

Marc confirmed everything then asked, “Did you have a chance to look over the materials I sent to you last week?”

I replied, “Yes. At this point relocating back to Arizona is not a viable option for any of us.”

Marc understood, “Okay. By the way, I know this project got moved up, are we all still on for Labor Day?”

I had forgotten about their upcoming visit due to the situation of Wynn and us having to do the projects earlier because of Marty. I told him, “Far as I know. You

said Gary and Bunny are going to meet you two in Phoenix?"

Marc explained, "Yes, they plan on riding out from Henderson to our place then we will fly out together and stay at your place. Not certain, quite yet what day we are going to fly out. Really depends on Gary and Bunny. We will let you know once we get closer."

A couple days before we were to leave during dinner I reminded the ladies, "Maya, Ana, Sara and Lindsay; Abby, Andy and I will be leaving for Arizona in a couple days for the Oro Valley projects. We should be back by next weekend."

Lindsay asked, "Is Miranda coming with you?"

I replied, "Yes, she will be joining the four of us."

Sara was confused and asked "Four?"

I explained, "Sophie will be on the project with us as well."

Sara understood now, "Ah okay that makes sense."

I asked, "Any questions, concerns?"

Sara asked, "If I may...aren't Marc and Martina supposed to be coming out soon?"

I confirmed and added, "Yes, plus Gary and Bunny. I don't know yet for sure when the four of them will be coming in, but it will be around the Labor Day weekend. Once I know more, I'll let y'all know."

Maya asked, "Do the guest rooms need attention?"

I was unsure, "Good question. I haven't looked, not that anyone has used them recently."

The morning we were to depart Miranda brought Abby and Sophie over for breakfast. I was a little surprised to see Abby back in a dress again. She went to use the powder room and I joked, "Are we going to have issues getting Abby through airport security?"

Sophie laughed and told me, "She's not wearing a belt, at least not by my doing."

Marc's ground transportation arrived and we had everything loaded into the van and made our way to the Nashville airport. All of us, including Laura made it through the security check point without issues...though they did question Laura

about the contents of her carry-on bag, but allowed her to continue. A couple hours we landed in Phoenix. Miranda offered to wrangle our bags while Laura headed to the restroom. I told Andy and Sophie, "Going to head over the rent-a-car counter, our bags will likely be here before I get back." I headed the rental counter and showed the agent the confirmation and they immediately handed me the contract for a Lincoln Navigator. Marc had already provided them with my ID, insurance and payment details. I headed back to baggage claim just as the casserole started spitting out bags. I noticed Laura had returned, but some how looked different. After we got our bags we headed out the terminal to await the rental shuttle. I called Olivia, "Hey. We landed and our way to get the rental. I'd say about three hours." Olivia advised me she would be there when we arrived. We took the shuttle to the rental lot and picked up they keys to the Lincoln Navigator.

Miranda joked, "Way to splurge Ron!"

I told her, "This is Marc's doing. I suppose he had someone in the rental agency who owed him a favor as I paying the daily rate of an economy car!"

We arrived at the Holstein Ranch and selected our rooms. Olivia asked, "When do y'all want dinner?"

I replied, "Since we didn't have lunch, any time would be good. Best you check with Andy and his tapeworm!"

## **Chapter 6**

### **Girl's Just Wanna ~~get in Trouble~~ Have Fun and Wynn's Verdict**

The first night we were gone Maya and Peaches were not working. Sara and Lindsay returned from Laura's store. Lindsay asked, "So what do y'all want to do tonight?"

Sara knew Lindsay already had ideas, "I don't have any plans and doubt Maya or Ana do either." Maya and Peaches confirmed they had nothing planned for the evening.

Lindsay sprung her plan, "Maya you still have your 'girl' movies?" Maya confirmed, though she was not entirely sure where she had put them in this house. "We can put a movie on and restrain ourselves. Maya and I can put ourselves into fiddles. Sara and Peaches can use the transport restraints. This should make it more challenging to pleasure each other."

Sara was onboard and asked, "Sounds like fun, what is to keep us from getting out?"

Maya suggested, "How about a timer key box?"

Sara laughed, "Good idea, just don't let Lindsay set it."

Lindsay giggled, "Yeah, Andy was not too happy about that."

Maya was unaware of Lindsay's mishap with the timer box holding her and Andy's keys, "Why, what happened?"

Lindsay looked down in shame and told them, "I put the keys for my belt and Andy's chastity device in the box and instead of setting it for 36-hours I set it for 36-days!"

Maya just about died laughing and declared, "Oh shit! SARA, you are in charge of the timer box! Otherwise, I'm in...just need to figure out where I put my movies." Maya headed back to their room and looked in the toy closet. On an upper shelf she found her box of 'girl movie' DVDs. The movie on top was *After School Special*, a movie that Lindsay and Peaches had their first *unsuccessful* encounter during years ago. She grabbed a couple other movies randomly, having no idea how long they would be playing. As she was coming out of their room, Sara was coming down the stairs from the playloft with two single person fiddles and two sets of transport restraints.

Sara saw Maya had a couple movies, "You found them. Here, takes these fiddles I need to grab the timer safe out of our playroom. Since we are going to be detained for a while, might be a good idea for Ana to take the dogs out."

Maya asked, "Where should she deposit them when they are done with their business?"

Sara told her, "Suppose she can leave them in your suite. I just don't feel right about going into Wynn's suite."

Maya understood, "Yeah, it just feels wrong and I had to carry Lucy in there a few days ago and she whined the whole time. Sure wish I knew what went wrong."

Sara reminded her, "We didn't do anything wrong, things have changed. Nothing we can do, lets go down and get ready for some fun."

Maya took the fiddles and headed down the stairs while Sara went to get the timer key box. A short time later Peaches had taken the dogs out and had put them up in her suite. Sara placed the key box on the coffee table while Maya had set the two fiddles on the sofa. Sara asked, "Okay, Lindsay how long do you want

to do this for?"

Lindsay looked at the time and told Sara, "How about 2-hours?"

Sara asked everyone else, "Maya and Ana, that go for you two?"

Maya told her, "Yeah. So what are we to do?"

Lindsay laughed, "Whatever you can to whomever you want. Good ahead and get the movie started. I'll get Sara into the transport restraints, you do Peaches." Maya put the DVD in the player then went about attaching the transport restraints on to Peaches. Lindsay did the same to Sara. They deposited the keys for the cuffs and locks into the timer box along with the keys for the padlocks they would be using with their fiddles. Lindsay walked over and inspected Peaches' restraints and approved, "Good, job she can't walk very fast and limited usage of her hands." She handed the box to Sara, "Here you go." Sara took the box from Lindsay; setting it back on the coffee table then replaced the top. She spun the dial until the timer displayed 2-hours and press the dial in to set. The box counted down then beeped as it locked. Sara attached the cuffs to her wrists.

Maya and Lindsay quickly locked themselves into their fiddles. The four girls were now restrained, though Maya and Lindsay not as much. However, neither of them would be able to leave the first floor. The four girls sat on the sofa watching the movie. Out of habit as she was getting turned on Sara went to rub her pussy but discovered the cuffs wouldn't allow. She called out, "Lindsay, get down her and give my pussy some attention! I'll try to return the favor...some how later." Lindsay scooted down on to the floor and turned her back to the TV so she could rub Sara's pussy. Even though she couldn't see the movie anymore she could hear it and was getting excited and frustrated too, being not able to touch herself.

Over the course of the next two-hours the four girls found creative ways given their restraints to service and pleasure each other (but not themselves!). They were so into each other none had realized the box had unlocked. Peaches and Sara ended up in a 69 and once again Peaches got the best of Sara. After Sara recovered she told Maya, "Dang girl, you trained her well!" She got up and noticed the box had opened, "Times up! How should we do this?"

Maya told her, "Simplest way would be to get the key for one the fiddle's padlocks and open the lock. Once we get our fiddles off, it will be much easier to get you and Ana out of the transport restraints."

With a bit of trial and error along with Maya contorting herself into some impromptu yoga like poses Sara was able to unlock the padlock on Maya's fiddle and get the locking pin dislodged. Maya removed the fiddle from herself as she



rubbed her wrists joked, "If I am sore in the morning...okay Sara let me get the keys for the transport restrains and get you out. We'll let Ana and Lindsay try to get themselves out."

Peaches whined, "Why you not unlock me?"

Maya laughed, "Because this was Lindsay's idea and she loves a challenge."

Lindsay giggled, "True, I certainly do!"

Sara and Maya headed upstairs to get ready for bed, leaving Lindsay and Peaches to work together to get themselves out of their restraints.

--

Out in Oro Valley at The Holstein Ranch, Olivia and Lizzy woke Andy, Laura and I up announcing breakfast would be in a half hour. This gave Andy and I each time to take a shower. We met in the dining room with Olivia and Lizzie serving us their large cowboy breakfast. I joked, "I know we are going to be physically active today, but I am worried all this food is going to put us to sleep!"

After breakfast we headed over to The Holstein, Miss Kitty was there and asked, "So how long are we going to be offline?"

Laura told her, "All day today and most of tomorrow."

Miss Kitty laughed, "Then why the hell am I here!?"

Laura replied, "Moral support?"

Miss Kitty quickly answered, "No, that's why you have Sophie!"

Sophie laughed, "I don't think so sister!"

Miranda reminded them, "Now ladies let's play nice. We have a job to do here."

Miss Kitty reminded her, "Not today I do! No, Linda told me I am suppose to chaperon what ever the hell that is suppose to mean. Anyway, I am using today to try to get caught up on paperwork. If you need anything I'll be in my office."

Miranda was following the notes I left for her as to what order to do things. She told us, "Okay, so first thing we need to do is make sure everything matches what is on paper."

Laura warned us, "There is a good chance some things may not."

I added, "Yeah, especially since the building has been reconfigured since we last did a topology."

Laura had forgotten about that, "Oh yeah that was Marty's first task here was rewiring the conference room along with Lynette and Aubrey's offices. But, I still suspect there may be some oddities here and there!"

I laughed, "Oh like Hubtopia a few years back!"

We spent the first hour and half going through the building with a fine-tooth comb. We met back in the lobby and found Laura and Sophie coming in each carrying a couple switches. I commented, "Didn't think we were going to remove anything yet."

Laura told me, "No, we found these old 2950's laying around in a closet. Not sure where they came from as they are long past End-of-Life."

I told her, "Well, this would be a good 'teaching moment' for Miranda."

Laura was not sure what I was talking about, "How so...oh yeah the manifest. Miranda on your tablet go into our CRM and then locate The Holstein Oro Valley..."

I told her, "I think it is still under Budget Holstein Oro Valley, one of those things Wynn was going to update once we got all the stores moved over to the new name."

Miranda found what Laura was directing her to and reviewed the manifest, "Can't seem to find them."

Laura explained, "Which is what we would be expecting for something that has been obsolete for almost 10 years. So, should we just put on the recycle palette?"

I was looking at the rates with our eWaste recycling vendor and was surprised, "Um...no actually, our eWaste vendor will pay \$40 each for those."

Laura was shocked, "What the f.."

Sophie laughed and reminded her, "I told you can cuss around me..."

Laura look at her and replied, "I know, but am trying to set a good example for the lady in the room!"

Miranda told her, "Dear, you do realize I know all your cuss words..."

Andy added, "...plus Lindsay's in Mandarin too!"

Laura gave up, "Well fuck then!"

Andy enlightened us, "You know I recall a conversation I had with Dunn when we were still in Arizona. He was telling me a lot of the east African countries are still developing in their network technology. Seems there is a huge export market for that older Cisco equipment from The States. Which explains why our eWaste vendor is paying so well for those." We spent the next hours updating our notes as we continue to find more odd equipment, especially when we got into the attic. Laura reviewed the latest 'catch' and concluded it was never used by Linda. Andy theorized, "Could be from whatever was in here before. From what I remember the building used to be divided in two parts."

I told him, "More than that, at least three. When Laura and I first came out here Linda occupied where Lynette and Aubrey's offices, rest rooms and the new wiring closet are located. Kacie told me Linda bought the next section when a tax preparation company went belly-up. Guess that was the point Linda hired some college kid for her IT expansion and we ended up with Hubtopia. It would be a while before I came back out and hadn't realized she expanded. Once she got the settlement money from El Padre is when she bought the other half of the building. So, yes it is likely leftover equipment from whatever used to be in those areas. Just set those aside for now and I'll look them up and see if we hit the jackpot."

As the day progressed things went fairly smooth. We had completed all the re-cabling before the end of the day which was not as bad as we had expected.

--

Back in Franklin, the next morning Lindsay and Sara were at Laura's store with Janice. Maya came in mid-morning and Lindsay went over to her and Andy's store at that time. Later that afternoon Maya told Sara, "I got go. Peaches called and says the other piano player is it out tonight and she wants me to come in. So, we'll be back later this evening. I'll make sure she takes the dogs out before we leave."

Sara told her, "Okay. Lindsay and I can manage to find something for dinner...we've done it before." As it turns out their way of managing was simply to get some take-out on their way home. After they ate dinner and securely disposed of their trash, they let the dogs out. At bedtime Lindsay and Sara took the dogs to their playroom across from Maya and Peaches where they'd be sleeping until Andy and I got back. Much later in the evening Maya and Peaches arrived back at the house. Since only the lights in the mudroom were on Maya

concluded to Peaches, "They likely already went to bed. I am guessing they have the dogs in their room. Let's *quietly* head up the stairs, remember they start work earlier than we do."

Peaches understood and knew she would not want to get Maya mad. Maya had discovered she could punish Peaches by making her spend at least an hour or three in the hogtie trainer. Unlike the bondage stand which Peaches loved, the hogtie trainer provide no stimulation, just the uncomfortableness of being tightly and rigidly hogtied with a rigid hard plug pushed deep in her pussy. She replied "Yes Ma'am!"

--

As was the case the previous morning we stared day two in Oro Valley with an early morning wake-up call and a hearty breakfast. We made our way to The Holstein and this morning was Aubrey greeting us, "Morning all! So Lynette says we should be back online later this afternoon?"

Miranda informed her, "Yes, that is the plan."

Laura added, "Provide we don't run into any unforeseen issues."

Andy joked, "Really Abby? Curse us why don't you!"

I came to her defense, "Us Merlot's don't believe in superstition!"

Andy recalled, "Which is how we ended up out here!"

I told him, "No that was the reason we ended up at the new Paradise Valley store."

Andy added, "Plus Linda's decision to do a name change, which lead to her wanting to redoing this store."

Laura reminded him, "Um...no. It was Marty informing Wynn of their high number of tickets due to equipment failures."

Andy admitted his defeat, "Oh, yeah that was the case."

I laughed, "However, Corona de las Estrellas is a different situation."

Miranda was getting tired of our bickering, "Okay, can we just focus on the task at hand here?"

Andy joked, "I liked it better when Wynn was project manager, she wasn't so

strict! Okay, lets get this done."

Miranda taunted Andy, "Just a word of a caution, Lindsay and I get along very well..."

Much to Aubrey and everyone's relief, none of the equipment at least in the early stages of the deployment had given us trouble. Laura was being extremely respectful with Sophie. As she had been since we left Franklin, Laura had been wearing a dresses. I hadn't really been paying attention to her movements the past couple days, but occasionally noticed her moving oddly so I watched her more closely today. I asked, "Abby are you wearing your belt?"

Laura replied, "Yes, how did you know?"

I laughed, "Well besides that you are in a dress, just the way you are moving around. Thought Sophie told me you were not."

Sophie was nearby and heard my comment. She laughed and clarified, "What I told you was *I* did not put her into the belt, rather *she* has chosen to wear the belt."

Laura did tell me, "I am not wearing the thigh bands though, but do have the plug attached."

I recalled when we went through security in Franklin, "Did you have it in your carry-on and that was why security stopped to chat with you?"

Laura told me, "Yep. Not sure if the agent was concerned I might be being forced to wear it or was more curious. Either way, I just gave her one of Gary's cards and assured her it was my choice."

I laughed, "Well, may be Gary will give you a thank you gift for the referral! He has never able to send one to whomever refereed our mother to him." I went over to the other end of the store to see how Andy and Miranda were doing getting the new PC's installed. I had just got over to them when my phone started ringing with a '520' number. Again, I thought may be Olivia or even Kacie as she still had the same cell number from when she was living out this way years back. I answered, "AZ Outback Consulting, this is Ron..."

Again I was surprised to hear Wynn and she sounded as if she was in a better state of mind, "Hey Ron, what's going on?"

I stepped out to take the call and told her, "Out in Oro Valley for Day 2 of The Holstein rebuild. Everything is going great, equipment is behaving as is Laura too."

Wynn laughed, "She should be. She certainly would not want to have Sophie putting her into a belt again!"

I told her, "Um...she is in a belt...and no, not because of Sophie. She brought her belt with her and locked it on as soon as we landed. She has forego the thigh bands this time around, but left the plug installed. Guess, she has gotten to the point where she feels naked without her metal underwear on!"

Wynn concurred, "Yeah, I know the feeling. Not used to being out of my armor for so long. The reason I am calling is to tell you...I have reached a verdict. I been with y'all for a very long time and before that was working for the McGrawl's when they were out this way. I know you said you would not move out to Arizona for me..." I really didn't like the way this conversation was heading "...and I get it. Things is, I thought I would be happy being out here again...but after spending a couple days with Idina I quickly realized that was not it. So, Henderson...when we've done these projects in the past we didn't have the dogs and usually someone such as Bambi or Martina would be staying at the house with Sara and Lindsay....

I joked, "As if Martina makes a good chaperon."

Wynn agreed, "Well there is that. Anyway, I still not sure what happened to stress me out."

I suggested, "Could have been the tornado extending the project by three-days?"

Wynn laughed, "Yeah, *that* didn't help. Looking back though, Ana and Maya did very well in keeping the household in order...better than I expected. If I come back, I am assuming you would want me to continue being the lead on these projects?"

I told her, "Well...you've kind of been replaced."

Wynn asked confused, "Abby?!"

I laughed, "Oh shit no! She can't manage her own life...hence why she will let Sophie dominate her if that what it takes for Sophie to assist her. No, Miranda."

Wynn didn't seem surprised, "Oh, yeah. That makes a lot of sense. How's she doing?"

I explained, "She's done fairly well. She has figured out her way around our CRM system and even picked up Active Directory fairly quickly. She still stumbling around in Windows Server, of course I still do that even after all these years. So

used to working with cPanel when I am working on web servers."

Wynn understood, "Yeah, there is a bit of a learning curve. Anyway, I was going to ask if we could compromise say like when y'all went out to Arizona for the Holstein domain change. I stayed behind and worked it remotely. I can still be project lead in-person for local jobs such as when we did the one for Victoria and Larry." I was relieved that she was willing to negotiate and her terms did not seem unreasonable. "When are y'all going back to Franklin, I should be discharged tomorrow."

I explained, "Tomorrow we are doing the Corona de las Estrellas refresh and expect to be done with that in early afternoon, in time for Olivia to open for dinner. Of course that is contingent we finish The Holstein today. I haven't closed out our itinerary yet with Marc as was not sure if we were going to run into any issues at either location or Linda would pull another project out of her ass....I mean hat."

Wynn giggled, "Has she done either so far?"

I laughed, "Thankfully no! In fact, I haven't seen her in the past couple days...kind of refreshing and yet strange at the same time! Dundee might have taken her somewhere to keep her out of our hair while we are out here. Though, I suspect we'll see her tomorrow night as there is no way in bloody hell she is going to let us leave here without treating us to dinner at Corona de las Estrellas. Anyway, we are staying at The Holstein Ranch and there is an extra room. As long as nothing comes up we *should* be back in Franklin by Saturday evening."

Wynn told me, "Okay good. Idina is back at work now so I will let her know to ship my armor back to Franklin. So, I will call you tomorrow when they discharge me, will you able to come get me?"

I told her, "Oh no problem, anything to give me an excuse to drive this Lincoln Navigator! Apparently, someone at the rental agency owed Marc a favor!"

Wynn laughed, "Or Martina got a hold of them."

Her mentioning Martina reminded me, "Oh speaking of Martina, her and Marc along with Gary and Bunny who are coming out sometime towards next weekend. Still waiting to hear when Gary and Bunny are going to ride out to Scottsdale."

Wynn recalled, "Oh yeah, Labor Day. We hosting?"

I told her, "Far as I now. I think Mina is going to make her first visit!"

Wynn joked, "Well that should prove to be interesting. I need to get going, as I

said, I call you tomorrow.”

I opted not to mention the phone call with Wynn to anyone else. I’d rather leave her return as a surprise or not to get anyone hopes up if for some reason she were to suddenly change her mind. I headed back into the store to check on Andy and Miranda. Andy asked, “Important call?”

I laughed, “Yeah, something I am working on.” Wanting to get off the subject I asked, “So how are the PC’s coming?”

Miranda told me, “So far, so good. No problem children this time around.”

Andy commented, “This project so far has been...”

I told him, “Don’t say it...”

Andy laughed, “Fine, I’ll wait until we are done.”

Miss Kitty walked in and asked, “Y’all almost done?”

I told her, “Getting very close. Couple more hours to take care of some loose ends. Hey, quick question...”

Miss Kitty replied, “No, those rumors are not true; Laura and I are not getting back together!”

I stood their confused, “Um...okay...not what I was going to ask or would have for that matter...”

Miss Kitty laughed, “I know, just wanted to see how you would react. Anyway what did you want to ask me?”

I was still in shock by her prank and I had forgotten, “Um...good question...oh yeah; Where’s Linda? Haven’t seen her since we’ve been out here.”

Miss Kitty replied, “And that’s a bad thing? No, I had Dundee take her out of town for a few days. I figured y’all wouldn’t want her around while trying to get her projects done. She did insist though of being at Corona de las Estrellas tomorrow night.”

I told her, “Okay, I had a feeling she has been sent away and coming into these projects I was fully expecting she would want us to do dinner at Corona de las Estrellas tomorrow night. Now, I need to go check on Laura and Sophie, plus break the news to her.”



By the early afternoon we had updated and were operational. Andy being a man of his words declared, "Well, this went a lot better than we could have hoped for."

Laura cringed, "Great, now he jinxed us with Corona de las Estrellas."

I asked, "It's a simple refresh, what could possibly go wrong?!"

Laura knew I was being facetious, "Do you really want me to answer that question!"

I told her, "You know, I'd rather not...some things are best left untold."

Miranda giggled, "What happened to you Merlot's don't believe in such nonsense?!"

I ignored Miranda and told everyone, "Unless there is anything anyone wants to get here I suppose we could head back to The Holstein Ranch."

Andy joked, "Weren't you going to get a bullwhip for Sara?"

Miranda didn't know the back story about Sara, Linda and the bullwhip, "Why would you buy her a bullwhip?"

I laughed, "Running joke. Guess it was from when Linda's sever blew up. Yeah, Sara and I were on our way back home from a job with ACME; ironically during Gary's first 'tour' in Vegas. Anyway, she was locked in a new belt that she had chosen to 'wear home'. I was trying to figure out what the heck happened with Linda's sever so I had told Linda to keep her occupied. I had already bribed Sara that I'd buy her a dominatrix dress or two to get her to quit complaining about the belt and coming out here. Linda had one of her sales people working with Sara and I heard the crack of a bullwhip and turned to see Sara using the bullwhip. When everything was said and done, Linda tried to give me a bullwhip as part of the barter deal. I declined as I was concerned Sara could hurt Martina with the bullwhip."

Laura didn't realize how long ago this was when she asked, "Why was Martina living with you two?"

I told her, "Because Martina and I were still married. This was a long time ago...Sara was still our maid."

Andy commented, "Wasn't that when Lindsay and I met you two?"

I recalled, "Yes at the hotel that Linda has put us up. You helped me rebuild Linda's sever and we left Lindsay and Sara unsupervised down in the cafe and the

rest as they say is history!"

Laura asked, "Is it okay if I catch up with y'all later? Miss Kitty wants to treat Sophie and I to dinner. She'll drop us off on her way home."

I told her, "That's fine. Just remember we have another job tomorrow, so don't stay out all night!"

Miss Kitty assured me, "Oh don't worry, I need to open tomorrow morning."

--

Back at the Franklin Barn the girls arrived home from Laura's store. Maya and Peaches went to get ready to go to their night jobs at The Other Steakhouse. Peaches came down with the dogs and Maya came down in her piano playing outfit she used to wear at Vinnie's. Sara saw the outfit, "Wow, haven't seen you wear that in a long while."

Maya laughed, "Yeah my other outfit is still at the cleaners. I wasn't expecting to be working tonight, but the other player offered me this weekend off if I covered for them tonight. By the way, Ana is not working this weekend either. Guessing Ron and Andy are suppose to be back sometime Saturday. So perhaps, the four of us could 'relax' tomorrow night? I'll take Lindsay again...I have a present for her too..."

Sara joked, "Don't you be making me jealous!"

Maya laughed, "What that I bought your lover a gift?!"

Sara replied, "Your own sister too...of course you did disown me for a couple years, so I should not be surprised."

Maya knew Sara was joking and added, "If any consolation, I believe Peaches has a gift for you."

Sara was not sure if Maya was being serious, "Um okay?"

Maya assured her, "You'll find out tomorrow night when we relax." Peaches came in with the dogs and surprisingly was not complaining. She left the dogs downstairs and then headed upstairs to change.

Sara commented, "That was weird! She would usually be complaining about something whenever she takes the dogs out."

Maya was surprised too, "Yeah. Not sure if she has come to accept that she

needs to take care of both dogs now or she is just trying to not cross me as to avoid ending up in the hogtie trainer. I'd say the a latter, but the former is entirely plausible." Lindsay walked in and Maya told Sara, "Got to go!"

Lindsay was not sure what that was all about, "You don't have to leave on my part!"

Maya told her, "It's not you, it's me...I got a piano that needs playing tonight."

Lindsay just noticed Maya's outfit, "Oh, yeah I see that now!"

--

Back at the Holstein Ranch, Olivia and Lizzie grilled us burgers, brats and chicken. Miss Kitty dropped off Sophie and Laura a little after 8:00 that evening. They joined Andy, Miranda and I out on the patio with Olivia and Lizzie. Olivia warned me, "Oh by the way, Miss Holstein is going to coming back sometime tomorrow afternoon...thought I'd should warn you!"

I laughed, "Miss Kitty told me that she had Dundee take her somewhere to keep her away from us. As I told her, I'd be expecting Linda to want us at Corona de las Estrellas for dinner." We all chatted for a couple more hours before heading to bed.

## **Chapter 7**

### **The Grand Finale (and Return) and Just One More Thing!**

Friday morning Olivia and Lizzie did give us a wake-up call, but since we were not going to be starting as early on this project, they let us sleep-in an extra hour. Also, since this job was not going to be as physically challenging they made a lighter breakfast for us. On our way over to Corona de las Estrellas Miranda asked, "Since this is a refresh, do I go through the same flow?"

I told her, "You don't need to. However, it has been a long while since we've done a physical 360 of this location. Therefore it wouldn't be bad idea, if anything to re-familiarize ourselves with what we are dealing with."

Andy joked, "May be we'll find some hidden treasure here as well!"

I laughed, "I doubt that, given that Olivia has been here since the building was first built. We dd find some neat stuff at The Holstein though."

Laura joked, "Too bad I don't have the space at my place, I would've kept a couple of those as souvenirs...like Andy does!"

Andy told her, "You don't need much space. Just add a couple floating shelves."

Sophie commented, "You have some wall space above your home office desk you could install some shelves. Something we can look at when we return."

We were a couple hours into the project when my phone started ringing with the 520 number. I answered, "AZ Outback Ron here!" As expected it was Wynn asking for me to come get her I advised her, "Okay, can be there in about 30-minutes." I called out to Miranda, "Miranda! I've got to go pickup something, be back in about an hour or so. Hold down the fort while I am gone. If you run into any problems talk to Sophie or Andy."

Miranda told me, "Can do. Will do."

A half hour later I was at the Moon Goddess. The last time I was here was several years ago when Maya had her meltdown. Funny thing is I was thinking Laura was going to end up out here when she had her near meltdown couple years ago. The 'rat job' at ACME Deer Valley managed to get her refocused. Wynn was waiting for me under the portico in a purple t-shirt, black shorts, fishnets and flats. She had forgotten about the Lincoln rental. Since she only had a small bag she got right in, "You did mention something about having a Lincoln Navigator."

I laughed, "Like I said, someone must have owed Marc a favor. I'd be tempered to get one when get back to Franklin, but what I would get for the Murano would barely cover the down payment! So, you doing okay?"

Wynn was relaxed, calm and concise, "Yes. I just need to get away from everything for a while. Not something easy to do being with y'all."

I reminded her, "You could get away at any time, I've always told you that."

Wynn clarified, "Yes I know. I was more *I* couldn't get myself away..."

My phone started ringing and without looking to see who was calling I answered, "AZ Outback Ron."

Much to my surprise and horror it was Linda, "Oh good you answered. Dundee and I are on our way back, should be there later this afternoon. Assuming you all going to be done by then?"

I told her, "I believe so.."

Before I could continue Linda replied, "Oh goody. You know, I will treat y'all to dinner tonight. How many of you are there?"

I replied, "I want to say six?"

Linda confirmed, "Yeah that sounds about right. Okay we'll see you tonight." I was just about to disconnect when she said, "Oh and one more thing! Since y'all are in Arizona, I have a quickie project for you. Fill you in tonight, got go!"

I disconnected and cursed out loud, "Oh fuck!"

Wynn laughed, "You've been spending a lot of time around your sister lately!?"

I told her, "True, though she has really made an effort not to cuss...at least not as much. First I thought it was because of Sophie, but Sophie told Laura she can cuss all she wants as long as it is not directed at her. Abby then told us she was trying to set a good example as there was a lady present."

Wynn was confused by the statement, "A lady, who?"

I replied, "Miranda. Who reminded Abby that she knew all her cuss words already. Then Andy commented Miranda also knew all of Lindsay's in Mandarin. Anyway, that was Linda Holstein who has been away with Dundee the entire time we've been out here. She warned me she is coming back into town and dinner would be on her tonight...as I expected. However, she also mentioned she has a 'quickie project' for us and, no I don't know what it is."

Wynn replied, "Oh fuck!"

I laughed, "Is there an echo in here!"

Wynn returned to the topic we were discussing prior to Linda calling, "So, in the future I will do a better job of taking care of myself."

I reminded her, "I believe Leslie and Charlotte do their excursions monthly and from what they have told me they would love to have you coming with them."

Wynn seemed relieved, but then asked, "How bad is the barn without me being there?"

I laughed, "Surprisingly, not too bad. Everyone has stepped up and are doing their part to keep the barn clean. Heck, I'm even dusting my office. I am sure though it could use a good deep clean. You don't need to do that right way."

She reminded me, "But are Marc and Martina coming with Gary and Bunny next week?"

I had forgotten where we were in the year, "Oh crap, yes. Okay, well it should not be until around the end of next week. We're suppose to leave tomorrow...well I have no idea now with Linda's new project." We returned back to Corona de las Estrellas and I told everyone, "I picked up a hitch-hiker on the way back.."

Andy joked, "You do realize there is a large state prison near here?" He saw Wynn, "Wait did Ron help you break out of the Moon Goddess?"

Laura and Miranda were not paying attention until they heard *Moon Goddess*. Laura was thrilled, "Wynn, you're here!"

Wynn laughed, "Yes I am...and you are still wearing a dress."

Miranda added about Laura, "and chastity belt! I still say Sophie is punishing her."

Sophie made her presence know, "I am NOT! She is doing this on her own free will."

Miranda replied, "and I am the Queen of England!"

I asked, "How are things coming along Your Majesty?"

Miranda told me, "I'd say were about 85% there. Sophie and Abby are getting the remaining AP's setup and Andy is nearly done with the kitchen terminals."

I told them, "Great, that's good news. Wish I came bearing good news, however...Linda called me right after I picked up Wynn and told me she will be here later today; expects us to stay for dinner and has a 'quickie project' for us since we are still in Arizona."

Laura tried to bite her tongue, but blurted out, "Oh fuck!" She realized what she said and apologized, "Sorry!"

I laughed, "No need to. That was my exact response when I got off the phone with Linda."

Wynn added, "And mine too when Ron told me about the call."

Laura wondered, "Did she give any hints as to what this is?"

I explained, "Nope. She said she would tell us tonight..." My phone was ringing yet again, but this time it was coming up with The Budget Holstein at Thirsty Cactus number, "AZ Outback Ron."

Kacie was on the other end, "Hey Ron. I finally got Pinal County to approve the name change for the Superstition Mountain store."

I laughed, "Did you have to sic Martina on them!"

Kacie playing along, "No, but they couldn't refuse Marc's offer."

I was wondering if perhaps this was what Linda was wanting us to do. I asked, "Does Miss Holstein know?"

Kacie was confused, "Yes, they notified her and then me....why?"

I explained, "She called me a little earlier says she has a 'quickie project' for us while we are still out here. She'd tell us tonight."

Kacie sighed, "Really wish she would let me deal with y'all directly. Oh well, I can dream. Yes, I believe that is what she wants to discuss with y'all. I hope this won't be too much of an inconvenience for y'all."

I told her, "It shouldn't, provided that is all she wants. That store is on our way back from Oro Valley so it wouldn't be too bad. I would have preferred for us to return to Tennessee tomorrow, but I doubt that is going to happen now. Not that big of a deal, I will just try to get us out of Arizona as quickly as Marc can on Sunday."

Kacie apologized, "I am really sorry Ron, try as I may I can't fully rein her in!"

Once I finished with Kacie I told everyone, "The Gold Canyon/Superstition Mountain store name change can happen now. Kacie believes that is what Linda wants us to take care of while we are out here."

Wynn replied, "Well, if that all it is...we're getting off easy!"

I told her, "I hope so. I am going to phone home and let them know we won't be back tomorrow."

--

Meanwhile back at The Barn, Maya, though mostly Peaches were cleaning up after the dogs. Maya was busy getting her bed and the one in Sara's and Lindsay's playroom setup so they could 'relax' tonight. I called the house phone and Maya picked up, "Hey Ron! How are things going?"

I told her, "Not too bad. Almost done with Corona de las Estrellas. However, Linda called me earlier and informed me she has a 'quickie project' for us while

we are in Arizona.”

Maya replied, “Well that ain’t good! Any idea what?”

I explained, “Kacie called as well and told me they had finally gotten Pinal County to approve the name change for the Gold Canyon store. So we are thinking that is what she has in mind. We’ll find out in a few hours when we have dinner.”

Maya wondered, “When do y’all plan on being back then?”

I told her, “If her project is the Gold Canyon store rename then I hope we can be back mid-day Sunday. Again, I really won’t know until we all dinner with her tonight.”

Maya told me, “The four of us are managing, though Cream is shedding more so than normal now. Even though it is shedding season Ana and I never seen her shed this much. I am going try to get her to her vet and make sure this is nothing serious. Lucy isn’t too bad, but she too is approaching her shedding season. Anyway, I think the four of us are going to ‘relax’ tonight.”

I understood, “Ah, so if I try to phone home later tonight with an update, y’all likely won’t be able to get the phone. In that case I’ll give you a call tomorrow.”

Later on Maya and Ana met up with Sara and Lindsay at the food trucks. Maya informed them of our impending doom...I mean project and when we might be coming back. Afterwards she announced, “Well, since we are all here now why don’t we relax tonight?”

Sara already knew of Maya’s plans and replied, “Sounds like fun. So you are taking Lindsay again and I get Ana? Seems like a fair trade!”

Lindsay objected, “Hey! Aren’t I worth more to you then Peaches?”

Sara played along, “I don’t know, Peaches has gotten really good at finding just the right spot when she is servicing me orally.”

Maya grabbed Lindsay by the arm and told her, “You don’t need her! We can have plenty of fun together.” They headed upstairs and Maya told Lindsay, “I have a present for you too.”

Lindsay got excited, “Oh a present! What is it?”

Maya laughed, “A box with something inside, but that’s not important right now! You’ll find out shortly. I’ll give you hint, you will be wearing it while we relax.”



Lindsay asked, "So what should I leave on or not?"

Maya told her, "Just stockings or pantyhose. You may want to bring your ballet flats too as I am going to have the room fan set to turbo-prop!"

Lindsay thought for a moment, "Okay let me go to my room and grab the flats and remove my belt. I'll change in your suite." She went to her suite, found the key for her belt and removed it setting on top of the bed. She headed over to Maya's suite and saw a box on the bed.

Maya was in the bathroom, but had left the door cracked open and heard Lindsay come in. She yelled out to Lindsay, "Go ahead and open that box on the bed." Lindsay opened the box to find a garment wrapped in tissue paper. She removed the tissue paper to discover a silver/white sequined unitard much like Maya's 'Ruby Red' one she had worn the last time they relaxed together. Lindsay quickly removed her dress, bra and girdle and changed into the unitard. She was trying to zip he back when Maya walked in wearing her ruby red unitard and saw her struggling, "Here let me get that for you! It will get easier the more you wear it as the fabric stretches." She looked at Lindsay and laughed, "You look like a giant disco ball!"

Lindsay started singing part of the chorus to *Disco Inferno*, "Burn baby burn!" After composing herself, "Thanks. This was nice of you."

Maya admitted, "Well, actually it was Peaches. She got one for Sara and Wy...Wynn too." Thankfully Lindsay was more focused on getting ready to relax she didn't hear Maya's comments and her choking up over Wynn.

Across the way Sara walked into her and Lindsay's playroom not sure what to expect. She found Peaches sitting in the side chair in a dark blue sequined unitard with a box with a huge grin on her face. Sara upon seeing her joked, "You look guilty!"

Peaches laughed, "Me not guilty! I have present for you."

Sara recalled Maya had said she was giving Lindsay a present so was this a peace offering or part of the plan, "Gee thanks...but I didn't get you anything in return."

Peaches smiled, "No worry. You with me is all I need. Open box! Open box!"

Sara opened the box and discovered a dark green version of the same unitard Peaches was wearing, "Oh my, this is beautiful! Am I to wear this tonight?"

Peaches replied, "Yes Madam Rae!"

Sara out of habit started to correct her, "It's Mer...oh never mind. Let me get changed and then we get ready to relax."

It was nine in the evening at the barn and all was quiet. The dogs were in The McGrawl's office being Lucy refused to go into Wynn's suite and Cream liked to be with Lucy. The four girls were locked atop of their beds and to each other; relaxing for several hours gagged, hooded with earplugs and wands on their pussies cycling off and on intermittently to edge and torment them.

--

Down in Oro Valley it was a little after six that evening when Linda walked into Corona de las Estrellas wearing a traditional Mexican dress, suntan stockings and heels. Dundee accompanied her wearing jeans, cowboy shirt and boots. Linda came over to me, "Good to see you! Lynette and Aubrey tell me everything is working once again at my....I mean our store. Olivia also has good things to say about you and your crew as well! Thanks for coming out to take care of these jobs! Now, let's enjoy some of this fine authentic cuisine! Drinks are on me!" I politely declined the drinks since I was the one who would be driving us home. Linda appreciated me being so responsible, "Good thinking, I have Dundee taking me home."

We casually chatted as we ate and drank over the next hour. I was really hoping Linda would tell us about this 'quickie project' before she got too drunk. Finally I probed, "Say Linda, you mentioned to me earlier something about another project whilst we are still out here."

Linda was starting to get a bit inebriated but could still talk, "Oh...yeah! Kacie was able to get the name change for my...I mean our Gold Canyon store approved. So, hoping while you all here you can get that taken care of."

As much as I didn't really want to be doing another project for Linda at least this was going to be a 'quickie', "Yes, we can do that. The store is on our way back to Scottsdale. Won't have Marty with me, but do have Miranda, Sophie and Wynn to help Abby and I."

Andy objected, "Hey what about me?"

I laughed, "Oh yeah Andy and his tapeworm too."

By the time we all left Corona de las Estrellas and got back to the Holstein Ranch, it was nearly eleven Arizona time or one in the morning in Tennessee. Olivia had seen that Wynn was with us now and had called over to Lizzie earlier to get a room setup for her. The following morning Wynn was at my door, "Ron! Time to get up for breakfast."

I dressed and met everyone in the kitchen. Wynn was wearing nearly the same thing as yesterday except now a white t-shirt with purple tie-dye. I commented, "Wow, that is a really neat t-shirt."

Wynn laughed, "Yeah, I have a few now. It was something I was doing while I was at the Moon Goddess. I even made some with black t-shirts. Really won't get to wear them much when I get back, suppose weekends."

I told her, "You can in the evenings as well...better yet when the dogs are giving you a bath...oh yeah Maya told me Cream is shedding really bad is going to take her to the vet."

Wynn commented, "Good to know. I'll talk to her when we get back. It will be good to be back home...even if that home is not here in Arizona anymore."

After breakfast we bided Olivia and Lizzie a farewell. Olivia asked, "When y'all going to be back out this way again?"

I told her, "Hopefully not for a long while." While Wynn and Miranda were loading everyone's bags I called over to the Frosh's. Martina answered and I told her, "We're leaving Oro Valley shortly. Need to stop out in Gold Canyon for a couple hours to take care of some things with that store. I thinking we should be up your way mid-afternoon. Oh and Wynn is with us now, so there are six of us."

Martina told me, "Good thing we finished the remodel. Though I am not sure where we can put everyone. There is a sleeper sofa in the library."

I told her, "Yeah, either Andy or I will take the sleeper sofa. Wynn can have her old suite. Laura and Andy or myself can take the guest suites. Miranda and Sophie can take the FROG suite."

A couple hours later we arrived at the Golden Canyon/Superstition Mountain store; Jo Jo and Sadie were there. Sadie informed me, "Miss Holstein did mention y'all would be out today. Claudia stepped out for lunch, but she will be back a little later. How long is this going to take?"

Laura told her, "To switch you over to the new domain about an hour. The email, might be a couple hours. Though with as many of us that are here it may not take nearly that long."

Wynn asked, "Is there a conference room or office Miranda and I can setup in?"

Sadie told her, "Sure, you can use my office."

Wynn called out to Miranda, "Miranda come with me and bring your laptop, you don't want to try this on a tablet!"

Miranda joked, "What about at home?!"

Wynn laughed, "As long as not on a tablet!" She explained and walked Miranda through the domain change process. Once she got past all the confirmation prompts the sever began first of several reboots. Wynn told her, "Okay, now it is hurry up and wait as Windows Sever restarts and that is just removing the old domain. We will need to wait again for Windows Sever to restart after we associate the new domain. In the mean time I will walk you through installing the script to rebuild their Outlook profiles under the new domain."

A couple hours later the domain changed was done and everyone's device was now setup for the new email with their old email address auto-magically forwarding. Sadie was pleased, "Wow, we're finally able to use the new name. Sure took a long time for us to get converted."

I reminded her, "Nothing to do with us. Kacie has been trying for the past couple months to get this done but Pinal County kept giving her the run around."

Claudia laughed, "Oh god yes! I know all too well. I applied for a business licensee with my daughters for a side gig we have and the amount of bureaucracy and red tape is nuts. We just want to run a hat bar."

I was not familiar with term, "Hat bar?"

Claudia explained, "So, we have a trailer and go to festivals, community events, etc. We sell cowboy hats and trucker hats. We offer shaping for the cowboy hats and accessories as well. Took me three months to get the permit."

We did one last check at the Gold Canyon store before we headed back to Scottsdale. Hour and half later we had arrived at Marc and Martina's place. Martina greeted us, "Good to see y'all again. So who is going to stay in the newly remodeled suites?"

I explained, "Andy and Laura can fight over who gets which suite. Wynn, will take her old suite while, Sophie and Miranda can have the loft. I'll take the sleeper in the study. When is Marc due back anyway?"

Martina told me, "Couple more hours."

I told her, "Okay then. I am going to head over to the Thirsty Cactus Holstein." I left and headed across the highway to Thirsty Cactus to have a brief chat with Kacie. I walked in and saw Kayré but not Kacie. I approached Kayré, "Hey, Kacie

around?"

Kayré was surprised to see me, "Oh Ron, yeah she's up in her office. You know where it is?" I told Kayré 'yes' and she joked, "Is she in trouble?"

I laughed, "No, she did the best she could, but there's only so much she could do to control your mother."

Kayré laughed, "Yes, my mother is very determined!"

I assured her, "That is not necessarily a bad thing with the stores, just wish she would have a bit more faith in Kacie."

Kayré explained, "I think it is more she doesn't want let go than not having faith in Kacie."

I replied, "Makes sense." I headed upstairs and found Kacie's office and knocked on the door. Kacie called out, "Come in." I walked in and she was a bit surprised to see me, "Oh Ron. What are you doing here? What did Miss Holstein do this time?"

I explained, "So far nothing else other than springing the Gold Canyon store name change on me at the last minute. Just wanted to go over everything with you and make sure there is nothing else we need to do before we hopefully head home tomorrow." I reviewed the name change/conversions of all the Arizona stores except the new Paradise Valley store with her as well as the rebuild at Oro Valley.

Kacie was impressed, "Y'all got a lot done in these last couple months. As far as I know, there is nothing else...unless..."

I cringed and asked, "Unless what?"

Kacie told me, "Something fails.."

I reminded her, "Then y'all submit a ticket and Marty will get it taken care of. There is no reason we all would need be out here for minor equipment failure."

Kacie joked, "What about major equipment failure?"

I told her, "Same thing, submit a ticket. Marty will triage the issue and if needed he might call Andy, Laura and I out to assist with the fix. At least something like that we are not going in totally blind like we were with Paradise Valley store. Anyway, don't take this personally: but I don't want to hear from you again for a while!"

Kacie laughed, "I understand. I say the same about Miss Holstein and her wild ideas."

I headed back to Marc and Martina's place. Martina saw me coming in and told me, "We are doing Vinnie's tonight. You weren't around when we discussed it when Marc got home so I hope it is okay."

I replied, "Vinnie's is fine. Is Marc in his office?" Martina told me 'yes'. I headed into the studio and then knocked on his office door.

Marc saw me, "Ah Ron, good timing. I am checking your options for your return to Tennessee tomorrow...y'all are going back tomorrow right?"

I laughed, "I hope so. I am getting mighty tired of Linda Holstein and her Colombo surprises. How early can you get us all out of Phoenix?"

Marc told me, "Martina was hoping to do brunch with y'all tomorrow, but I understand y'all need to get back."

I assured him, "She can do brunch with us next weekend when y'all come out."

Marc realized he had not told me yet, "Oh yea. So I talked to Gary the other night and they are going to ride out from Vegas on Wednesday and layover in Sedona. So they will be here Thursday afternoon. Thinking the four of us can fly in sometime on Friday."

I replied, "That should work. Have no idea when Miranda and Mina are coming over. I'll ask Miranda about that later."

Marc and I discussed AZ Outback's travel arrangements to return home tomorrow. He was able to find us an early morning flight which would have us arriving in Nashville and have us back home in the early afternoon. Drew dropped by with Vinnie's and didn't seem surprised to see me, "Ron's visiting his home away from home!"

I told him, "At the rate things have been going lately, this feel more like my home. We're heading back to Franklin tomorrow and I do hope not to be out here again for a long while." After dinner I 'phoned home' and was glad when Maya answered, "Ah good, so y'all didn't get stuck last night when you relaxed."

Maya laughed, "We're okay as long as Lindsay is not in charge of our release. What's going on?"

I explained, "We are leaving Arizona early tomorrow and should be back in

Franklin by early afternoon. Marc has arranged for our ground transportation from Nashville. So, no need to worry about picking us up. Hmm...I need to make sure Marc knows that Miranda, Laura and Sophie need to be dropped off at different locations."

Maya reminded me, "Didn't Miranda bring Laura and Sophie over, or else someone abandoned a conversion van on your property!"

I had forgotten Miranda's Ford Sprinter conversion van, "Ah that's right she did pickup Sophie and Abby. Anyway we will call you when we get into Nashville. Also, Marc and Martina expects them plus Gary and Bunny coming out on Friday."

Maya understood, "So, we really need to get the house cleaned up before they come?"

I didn't want to tell her about Wynn coming back, so I just gave an ambiguous statement, "Don't worry I have that taken care of....oh Martina's calling me got to go!"

## **Chapter 8**

### **The Wynn is Back and Miranda Takes the Stand!**

Saturday morning Martina made her Spanish Omelet then after loading up the Lincoln we headed out to Sky Harbor. I dropped everyone at the curb and then dropped off the Navigator at the Rental Car Return lot. While I was away, Abby headed to the restroom to remove herself from her belt. We all made it through airport security this time with no issues or comments. Our flight departed Phoenix and arrived in Nashville as expected. Wynn and Miranda went to get our luggage while Abby headed to the nearest restroom to put herself back into her belt. Upon returning she tried to hand her key to Sophie, "Here, you might as well hold on to this."

Sophie reminded her, "I am not your key holder. If you do not have enough discipline not to let yourself out before you want to, you have a key safe at the house."

Laura laughed and put the key in her carry-on bag, "Fine! Not like I am going to change out of it on our way home anyway!"

During all this I called Maya and informed her, "Miranda is getting our bags and Laura is getting herself back into her belt. We should be leaving soon as our ride shows." Once we had our bags I called the number Marc gave us for the ground transportation. The porter informed me he would be there in about 5-minutes. We made our way to the curb and a short time later a shuttle van pulled to the

curb.

The porter rolled down the passenger window and asked, "AZ Outback, party of six?" I confirmed. "Great, go ahead and board while I get your bags loaded." An hour later we were back at the barn. Peaches had taken the dogs out earlier and they were still downstairs with Maya while she was playing the piano. Peaches had closed the door between the kitchen and mudroom so the dogs couldn't escape or mow us over when we came in through the back door.

The dogs heard the backdoor open, but didn't bother getting off their bed as they were 'charmed' by Maya's piano music. However, they smelled a familiar scent that hadn't been around for awhile, 'Wynn!' Both dogs started barking very excitedly. Maya was confused, "It's just Ron, Andy and Abby...why you two acting this way?" They made a beeline for the door. Lucy was scratching at the door desperately trying to get to Wynn. As Maya picked up Lucy she asked, "What's gotten into you?"

Lindsay had been in the kitchen and picked up Cream and told Maya, "I have Cream. Boy they sure want to get into the mudroom."

Maya told her, "As long as you have a firm grip on Cream I can open the door." She opened the door and was shocked to see Wynn standing there, "Wynn! You've come back home. So that's why the dogs are going nuts!"

Wynn smiled and took Lucy from her and started talking to Lucy like a baby, "Mommy's home. Mommy is feeling much better! Mommy is so sorry for leaving you!"

Laura gagged and commented about Wynn's interaction with Lucy, "Oh please!" She told us, "We are going to leave before I puke. See most of you tomorrow at my store." Miranda left to take Laura and Sophie home.

By this time Lucy had enough of Wynn's excessive affection and was trying to get herself free. Wynn commented as she placed Lucy on the floor, "Well that was a short lived welcome back!"

Maya asked, "So, how was your stay at The Moon Goddess?"

Wynn told her, "Very relaxing; Very insightful. Made me realize I was expecting too much from y'all while we were gone in Nevada. Also, I was expecting too much out of myself in trying to be both your care taker as well as Ron's business project manager."

I explained the changes, "So about that. Whenever we have an out-of-state job, Wynn will handle things remotely from here much as she did when the rest of us



were working the new Paradise Valley store. For in-state projects like the one we did for Victoria a few months back, she will work those on-site with Abby and/or Andy, plus myself."

Lindsay asked, "So who is going to manage out-of-state projects on site...Abby?"

Wynn and I both laughed out loud at the same time. I reminded Lindsay, "Abby, can't even manage her own life. That's why she allowed Sophie to take the dominate role in their relationship. She'll do anything to ensure Sophie doesn't leave her. No, that role has been vested upon Miranda."

Lindsay was surprised, "Wow. Glad, I suggested she tag along with y'all back in Nevada."

Andy agreed, "Yes, she has done very well and was great to have her managing the project in Wynn's absence."

Wynn looked around the house and was pleased so see the girls had kept up with the cleaning. She commented, "Wow, house looks really good. Feels good to be 'home' again...and yes this is where I belong, y'all are my family."

Maya told her, "Ana has been really good about cleaning up after Cream and Lucy."

Wynn recalled about Cream, "Ron mentioned you are going to be taking Cream to the V-E-T."

Maya laughed, "Why are you spelling it out? Yes, I got her in on Monday afternoon. She's been shedding a lot heavier than normal even with Peaches brushing her daily."

Wynn told her, "If you need to, I can take her for you."

Maya assured her, "No, I am not going into The Other Steakhouse tomorrow...well at least I don't plan on it unless the other piano player needs the night off. I'll keep you posted."

Andy changed the subject, "When's dinner, I'm hungry!"

Wynn gave him a look while Lindsay asked, "When are you *not* hungry?"

I came to Andy's defense, "Well, in his defense we haven't eaten since early this morning when Martina made us breakfast before our flight back."

Wynn corroborated, "Ron does have a valid point. Let me go take a look and see

what the food situation looks like." She headed into the kitchen and was surprised and pleased to see both the pantry and fridge were well stocked, "Wow, someone has done been to the market. Let me get changed into my uniform and cleaned up; then I'll see what I can make."

I reminded Wynn, "It is the weekend, you don't need to worry about being in uniform. Same goes with evenings."

Wynn laughed, "Sorry old habits! Let me at least get back into my armor." She realized her armor was still in transit from Arizona, "Oh yeah Idina just FedEx it back here from Arizona on Friday. Guess it is suppose to come sometime tomorrow or the next day. Damn, I feel so naked without my armor!" Wynn headed to her suite to freshen up and Lucy quickly followed her.

I laughed, "Much like Abby now and her chastity belt."

Lindsay giggled, "Oh so that's why she still wearing dresses."

I theorized, "Well, she has found she likes being in a dress as people take her more seriously. Then she has never really wore a dress without her metal underwear, so..."

Wynn returned a couple minutes later with Lucy following her around like a lost puppy. She looked in the fridge again and told us, "Looks like I can make a chicken salad."

The next morning well all gathered at the table for breakfast. Wynn was back in her uniform sans her armor. Lindsay commented to Sara, "Well, least we have Miranda back at the store."

Sara reminded her, "Abby too. Are you going to be over there this morning or at your store?"

Andy commented, "Seeing as she has been at our store all last week while I was gone she's likely tired of it. By the way, what's the repair situation look like?"

Lindsay told him, "Not bad...not good either, but not bad!"

Andy laughed, "Okay? So, am I going to need to call in Ron for reinforcement?"

I told them, "Hey, I have my *own* jobs to work on...not that I have any idea yet what that would be. I finished everything before we left and have not bid on any new ones yet."

Lindsay told us, "It is a bit backed up, still not as bad as it has been.."

I realized with The Frosh's and Zinfandel's are coming later this week I might not want to take on anything complex right now, "You know what, give me an hour or two to shovel my inbox and I can come out there."

Andy laughed, "What happened to 'I have my own jobs'?"

I explained, "With Marc and Martina along with Gary and Bunny coming toward the end of this week I really don't want to start on anything overly complex. Besides, we can afford to take a mini-vacation thanks to the new service contract with Corona de las Estrellas, plus the Oro Valley rebuild."

Wynn told us, "Well, after I get the breakfast dishes done I will get into 'cleaning mode'...man it has been a while! Maya are you still taking Cream to the V-E-T this afternoon?"

I laughed, "Why is she spelling out 'vet'?"

Maya told me, "She thinks Cream won't understand what she is saying if she spells it out. Far as I know, I will be."

We finished breakfast and everyone disbursed to their stores or other parts of the house; Sara and Lindsay left for Abby's store in the Roadrunner while Andy headed to his store in the Lexus. Maya and Peaches went back to their room, however Peaches came down a short time later with Cream as well as a box. She handed the box to Wynn, "This for you. Did not think I get to give this to you." Before Wynn could say anything Peaches was heading into the mudroom with Cream.

Wynn set the box on the table and carefully opened to reveal a garment wrapped in tissue paper. She unwrapped the garment revealing a sequined purple unitard, "Oh wow!"

Peaches had come back in with Cream and Wynn grabbed her as she was walking by and gave her a hug, "Ana, this is beautiful! When did you get this?"

Peaches explained, "I ordered a red one for Maya months ago, then ordered more last months for others. Came in a day or more after you left."

Wynn felt a renewed connection and realized that she *did* belong here; we are her family. She was trying to hold back her tears, "You don't know how much this means to me, thank you! Think I'll go ahead and wear this while I am 'cleaning mode' this morning. Peaches head upstairs not really understanding what happened, again she never had a close relationship with her family. Maya and the rest of us were more of a family than she ever had in Hungary or for that matter

in Chugwater.

Upon entering my office I saw a pile of mail sitting on my side desk. I took a quick glance at everything and saw nothing that needed my immediate attention. I fired up my PC and started the task of shoveling my inbox. I was midway through when I saw Wynn in the sitting room in her new purple sequined unitard, a fiddle and duster gag. As I laughed at the site of her, I was also so glad to see her back. An hour later I passed her in the great room dusting The Rae's piano and told her I'd be back later. I headed over to Andy's store and helped him and Lindsay with the repairs and upgrades. Lindsay had called over to Sara and asked her to meet us over at Taylor's for lunch. The four of us walked into Taylor's and were greeted by Taylor, "Oh wow The Merlot's and McGrawl's! Double lunch date or business?"

I laughed, "Both? We didn't really plan this...kinda just happened."

Taylor laughed, "Sure it did! Let me take you to a booth."

Sara asked, "So Ron, what did you have to do to get Wynn to come back?"

I told her, "Nothing. She had called me while we were still in Oro Valley at The Holstein and had told me she had made a decision. She purposed the compromise of handling out-of-state projects remotely."

Andy was relieved, "Glad she got help. So wished she would have talked to us though. I really didn't think she was going to come back, especially when you had declined her ultimatum. I was a bit upset with you at first when you told us that, but after some thought I understood why. Looking at the way things are with all of us now, it would have been far worse for all of us to uproot ourselves just to please her."

Lindsay had never really said anything about the situation until now, "I was so torn. She is like family to us, but I really didn't want to leave here. I have my sister and niece out here plus Andy and I have a successful store. Also, I would really miss Miranda!"

Sara joked, "Yeah, she would be more upset about leaving Miranda behind than her jobs at The Boutique Holstein or PC's and..."

Andy corrected her, "McGrawl Innovation Systems. We don't own the naming rights to PC's and Things."

Sara did her Valley Girl, "Whatever!"

We finished up lunch and went back to our individual stores. Andy asked me,

"How long you going to stay here?"

I told him, "I've got nothing going on at the moment, so I can stay the rest of the day." Since I was assisting Andy most of the day Lindsay stayed over at The Boutique Holstein. She called me later in the afternoon not long before we were all to leave. "What's going on Lindsay?"

Lindsay asked, "Can Miranda come over after work and play?"

I laughed, "But it is a school night. I don't care, y'all are adults. Is she staying for dinner?"

Lindsay checked with Miranda, "Yes....if it is okay with you."

I reminded her, "I am not the one you should be checking with."

Lindsay was confused, "It is your house, correct?"

I explained, "Yes it is, but Wynn is our House Mother."

Lindsay finally realized what I was getting at, "Oh, okay. So you are saying I should discuss this with her?"

I told Lindsay, "Yeah! I don't see her having an issue, however it would be courteous of you to let her know someone extra would be joining us for dinner."

After I wrapped up with the call Andy asked, "What the hell was that all about?"

I laughed, "I guess Miranda wants to come over to play and stay for dinner after work. Lindsay was trying to make sure it was okay with me when she should be letting Wynn know. She finally figured it out."

Andy laughed, "Yeah, she can be a ditzy blonde at times!" Andy noticed the time and where we were in repairs, "Looks like we are at a good stopping point here. I'll let the manager know we will be leaving soon."

I headed back to the house with Andy leaving a few minutes later and the girls about 30-minutes after that. I walked into see Maya with Cream talking to Wynn, "So the vet said to try a different shampoo for her and some Omega 3 products. She also said it could be stress related too."

Wynn understood, "Very well could be her and Lucy are like sisters now. Sure my absence did not go well with Lucy which affected Cream as well."

I laughed, "Much like Lindsay and Sara!"

Wynn giggled, "So true!"

Maya continued, "She gave me a bottle of the shampoo to use for the next couple weeks and a list of recommend products. I'll give her a bath tonight after dinner." She headed to her piano to play until dinner.

I asked Wynn after Maya had left, "Did Lindsay talk to you?"

Wynn confirmed, "Yes, she did. Really Ron, it's a school night!"

I played along, "Oh sure, make me the bad guy here!"

Andy came into the kitchen oblivious to our conversation. He asked Wynn, "How much time do I have until dinner?"

Wynn told him, "Still waiting on Sara, Lindsay and Miranda so I'd say about twenty minutes."

Andy headed up to his suite to take a quick shower. I told Wynn, "Think I'll head up to my suite and take a quick shower as well. Been working on dirty computers all day."

After my shower I headed back downstairs and took a seat in the gathering room. Cream saw me and got up from the pillow next to Maya's piano and came over leaping into my lap.

I was a little surprised, "Oh hello there." I stared petting her.

Maya stopped playing and commented, "That's odd, has she ever done that before?"

I told her, "No, this is the first time."

Sara, Lindsay and Miranda came in. Sara was surprised to see me in the Great Room and more so with Ana's pug in my lap, "That's an odd site!"

Miranda joked, "What that Ron is not in his office?!"

Sara laughed, "Yeah that too...Cream sure looks relaxed."

Maya joked, "She likes you! Guess it is dinner time?"

Wynn confirmed, "Yes, everyone is here now."

Lindsay headed to the kitchen to pick a wine, but stopped mid-way and asked, "What's dinner tonight anyway?"

Wynn told her, "Spicy meatloaf."

Lindsay replied, "Ah okay....hmm...suppose I should pick 'something in red'; may be Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, or Shiraz...do we even have Shiraz?"

Wynn replied, "I don't think so...oh wait...check the top shelf of the chiller. I think I saw a couple bottles in there."

Maya confirmed, "Oh...those...technically they are Ana's. She bought them last week when we were at Trader Joe's. She is saving them for a 'special occasion'...whatever that might be."

I recapped, "So, Andy buys exotic beer and now we have Peaches buying exotic wine there too!"

Maya shrugged and replied, "Everyone needs a hobby. Now, I am sure she will share with the rest of the class...I mean house. After all we could call this a 'special occasion'" She just noticed Miranda, "What is she doing here on a school night?"

Lindsay laughed, "Ron and Wynn said it was okay."

I told Lindsay, "Need I remind you; and Sara can confirm, I have no say as to what happens in this house."

Miranda explained, "I want to try the stand tonight. Think I am ready, or I won't be. I have my ballet boots out in my car."

Maya told her, "Well you did pick a good night, neither Ana or I need to be at work. Though I do need to give Cream a bath, provided I can remove her from Ron."

I told Maya, "Please take her I am starting to lose feeling in my legs!"

Maya came over and gently removed Cream, "Yeah she needs to lose some weight too, though that has nothing to do with her shedding issues."

I looked at my shorts, "Speaking of shedding...yeah well these will go in the biz bag."

Maya saw my shorts and apologized, "Oh, yeah. Sorry about that Ron. Hopefully, this new shampoo and the supplements her vet gave us will help with her

shedding issues.”

Wynn told Maya, “I will help you with her after I am done with the dinner dishes. This time I’ll make sure Lucy is in my room!”

After dinner Miranda helped Wynn with the kitchen; once she was done she asked, “Who is going to put me into the stand and what should I wear...besides the ballet boots?”

Maya commented, “Well I would except I need to give Peaches’ dog a bath. Perhaps Sara can if she is not busy.”

Sara replied, “I suppose I could. I’d suggest some booty shorts and may be a corset top. You would need to be able to get your legs and arms through the small hoops.”

Miranda was wearing a Boutique Holstein polo shirt with a skirt with black pantyhose. She joked, “Good thing I am wearing all sheer pantyhose and not control top!”

Sara laughed, “True, though you could be rebellious with your control top encased thighs being exposed! Now, need to figure out what the heck we did with that skinny vibrator we usually use with the stand.”

I recalled the prototype vibrator Gary had given me and the note indicating it had been fully charged plus it would not lose charge for months. I told her, “Actually, I have a new vibrator she can try out. I think it is still in my office.”

Sara told me, “Well, were going to head up the loft.” Miranda told us she needed to fetch ballet boots first from her car, “Well, after she gets her boots.”

I headed to my office and looked around trying to recall where I had put those new toys. Things had been so crazy lately that I had never really had a chance to add them to the collection. I finally found the box on one of my shelves. I grabbed the box and headed up to the loft. I saw Sara and Peaches, but not Miranda. I knew she had come back in as I had heard the backdoor when I was doing the great hunt in my office. I asked, “What happened to Miranda?”

Peaches told me, “Dressing room.”

I replied, “Ah, that makes sense. So anyway, when were out in Arizona for the Paradise Valley Holstein store Gary had also enclosed a couple prototype toys with the items I had ordered in the care package.” I handed Sara the box and explained, “So his note indicates it is fully charged will still hold it charge after several months of non-use.”



Sara opened the box and saw the vibrator with remote, "Oh, one of these! Lindsay loves to use these. So, what's different about this one?"

I explained, "Besides the extended battery life it is suppose to have 'more power'!"

Sara grinned, "Well, this is going to work so much better than try to wedge a wand between her legs!" She tested the remote and discovered the vibrator was fully charged and indeed had 'more power'. Sara let out an evil laugh and declared, "Oh this is gong to great! Oh Miranda..."

Miranda appeared wearing a black and white pin-stripe corset along with black leather booty shorts with the sheer black pantyhose from earlier in the day. She was also already wearing her ballet boots and was getting around fairly well. She heard Sara call her name, "What is it Sara?"

Sara told her, "I...mean *Ron* has a surprise for you. A new toy from Gary that is going to work so much better than trying to cram a wand between your legs." She handed Miranda the vibrator with remote and asked, "Have you used one of these before?"

Miranda took the toy and told her, "Nope, but I've seen Lindsay use one on herself and then put her belt on over it. So I should know how it works." She reached in under her shorts and pantyhose to set the vibrator in place. Sara wanted to make sure Miranda had the vibrator placed properly on her cunt and clit so she activated the toy with the remote. Miranda jumped backwards, but managed to maintain her balance in the ballet boots, "Oh wow! That is intense!"

Sara giggled, "That's only the low setting. I'll wait to turn it back on until you are fully secured into the stand. Okay, let's have you take the stand! Ron, can you assist her stepping in so she doesn't loose her balance or tip over the stand?"

I told Sara, "Yes." I turned to Miranda and told her, "Start with your right leg and place it through the thigh hoop. I'll hold on to stand."

Miranda easily got her right leg through the hoop, "Okay, that wasn't so bad."

I reminded her, "That's the easy part. Now, repeat the process with your left leg. I'll hold to you so you will not fall."

With a bit of effort Miranda got her left leg through the thigh loop while bracing herself with my shoulder. She was grateful to be able to hold on to me and Sara holding the stand, "Wow, that was harder than it seemed. Thank God and Greyhound y'all were there!"

Sara warned Miranda, "I am going to move your ankles so they are together and aligned so I can attach the loop." Sara aligned Miranda's ankles and attached the metal restraining loop, securing her ankles in place. She told Miranda, "When you are ready reach behind you and put an arm through the elbow loop. Ron can help you if needed."

I stood by as Miranda reached behind her with her left arm and was able to get it through the elbow loop. She did not realize how tight of a position it would force her into, "Wow, this is going to be tight! All that yoga is going to pay off!"

Sara asked her, "Can you get your other arm in?"

Miranda replied, "Not sure. Let me try." She reached behind with her right arm, but was having trouble getting it aligned to go through the loop, "Um...a little help Ron?"

I grabbed her arm and warned her, "This may be a little uncomfortable at first, guess it depends on just how limber y'all are."

Miranda was over-confident, "I should be fine..." I pulled her arm through the elbow loop, "Ow...now that is a stretch wow!"

Sara told her, "Stand up straight, your back should be against the center pole."

Miranda adjusted her posture and felt a bit more comfortable, "Okay, that's better."

Sara walked behind her and told her, "I am going to attach the wrist loop now!" She grabbed Miranda's wrists and lined them up in order to secure the metal loop around Miranda's wrists. Once she was done she asked, "How you doing?"

Miranda laughed, "Other than my arms being forced behind my back, okay!"

Sara clarified her inquire, "How you doing in the boots?"

Miranda told her, "Oh I am fine there. My arms are a little sore." She adjusted herself a bit.

I commented, "Well, you are not standing all the way straight. Once the neck loop is attached it will force you to be straight which will help your arms...somewhat."

Sara wanted to give Miranda a chance to get use to each stage of the stand. "Let me know when you are ready for us to attach the neck loop."

Miranda again shifted her weight a little trying to get some relief for her arms, "I suppose so. Hopefully, as Ron says will help my arms." I walked to the front of the stand and pushed on Miranda's shoulders forcing her to stand up straighter than she had been. She was a bit surprised with the sudden movement, but then felt a lot better, "Ow Ron....oh...that's much better."

Sara handed me one of the rectangular padlocks, "You locked one side, and I'll do the other!" Sara and I locked the neck loop around Miranda's neck making it impossible for her to remove herself from the stand...well not that she could've prior with her wrists and ankles secured. Sara stepped back and giggled, "Boy she looks hot in those shorts!"

I agreed, "The black pantyhose combined with the ballet boots really show off her calf muscles."

Miranda complained, "Too bad I can't see myself!"

I had my phone with me and told her, "Not to worry, I'll take some (blackmail) pictures."

Sara told Miranda "I am going to put the remote in your right hand. You can start the vibrator whenever you want. Since this is your first time and we don't know your limits yet, I am not going to gag you!" Sara handed Miranda the remote.

--

Meanwhile downstairs in the wash room, Wynn made sure Lucy was put away before her and Maya started on Cream's bath. Maya was reviewing the directions the pharmacist had given her for Cream's shampoo and joked, "This thing reads like stereo instructions!"

Wynn asked, "The instructions were translated from Japanese?"

Maya shrugged and suggested, "Or Chinese!" After a couple more rereads she sort of figured out what to do, "First: Shake Well...hmm is that the bottle or the dog? Okay, get her soaked, apply the shampoo then scrub gently. Allow to sit then rinse and repeat."

Wynn asked, "How long we suppose to 'allow to sit'?"

Maya laughed, "As much time as Cream cooperates!"

Wynn concluded, "At least I changed out my uniform so if she soaks us no big deal."

Maya asked, "You ready then?"

Wynn replied, "Suppose so." and began to fill the doggy bath while Maya wrangled Cream into the tub. Cream really didn't put up a fight unlike during her younger years. They applied the first 'coat' of shampoo to Cream. Wynn commented about the minty fresh scent of the shampoo, "If anything she will smell nice."

Maya joked, "You implying our dog does not smell nice?"

Wynn laughed, "I ain't going there." It had been a few minutes and Wynn washed off the 'first coat', "That went easier than I expected. Okay, let's do this again." They applied another coat of shampoo to Cream and gently scrubbed and allowed to sit. She instructed Maya, "Grab some towels and then get ready to get her out." Wynn rinsed off Cream and told Maya, "Okay get her out and hope we can get her dry before she tries to run off."

Since the door to the washroom was closed and Lucy was not nearby, Cream behaved herself and allowed Maya to not only dry but brush her as well. Maya looked at Cream, "Wow she hasn't been this clean since we picked her up off the showroom floor!"

Wynn joked, "Let's see how long she can remain clean." She opened the door to the wash room and Cream went trotting out into the Great Room. She was looking around for Lucy. Wynn commented, "I better let Lucy out before Cream starts stressing. She headed over to her room and opened the door. Lucy came flying out of Wynn's room nearly knocking over Maya.

Luckily Maya was able to catch herself, "Whoa! Damn she's fast. Dang near knocked me over."

Wynn apologized, "Sony about that, I should have grabbed and brought her out to the Great Room. You okay?"

Maya assured Wynn, "I'm fine, might have a bruised elbow...ah the hazards of having pets."

Wynn added, "Or children, not that we would know anything about that."

Maya joked, "Sometimes I feel like I am raising a child when it comes to Peaches!"

They headed to the Great Room and found Cream and Lucy were on the oversized pillow near the fireplace and were falling asleep. Wynn pointed the dogs,

"The bath must have relaxed her."

Maya concurred, "Suppose we should go up to the loft and see how Miranda is handling the stand." The two of them headed up the play loft as the two dogs drifted off to sleep together on the pillow.

--

Sara had placed the vibrator remote in Miranda's hand and warned her, "If you drop it, the vibrator is going to keep going until your 10-minutes on the stand are up! Speaking of which, let me set a timer for 10-minutes..."

Miranda laughed, "Y'all know I am into self torture, blame it on Maya!"

Maya and Wynn had just entered the loft, but missed the first part of Miranda's statement. Maya saw Miranda secured to the stand and her outfit, "Wow, you look hot! What are you blaming on me?"

Miranda started the vibrator and told Maya, "How I am into self torture."

Maya tried to play innocent, "Don't know what you are talking about Missy!" She asked Sara and I, "How long has she been on the stand?"

Sara told her, "We just got her fully secured a couple minutes ago. About to set a timer for 10-minutes." She told Miranda, "Starting timer...NOW!"

Miranda seemed to be doing okay other than the slight discomfort from her arms being pull tightly back behind her. She was trying different speeds and patterns on the vibrator when the first orgasm hit. Being she was rigidly secured to the stand she did not need to worry about bracing herself as the orgasm hit. She allowed herself to go and dropped the remote in the process, "Holly fuck! Oh shit, I am going to cum again!"

I laughed, "Well she seems to be enjoying herself." I looked over to Wynn and Maya and joked, "So how many times did you have to change tonight?"

Wynn told me, "We really didn't need to. Cream didn't try to give us a bath. She stayed in the tub and even when Maya removed her, she didn't try to shake herself off on us."

Maya was rubbing her sore elbow, "The only casualty was my elbow when Wynn let Lucy out. Could've been worse...anyway, I am going to head down and play on the piano a little."

Miranda screamed, "Holly...." the next part was in Mandarin then, "Oh God! YES!

YES!"

Maya joked, "Ron, be sure to let Gary know the new vibrator is a success!" She headed downstairs.

Miranda was trying to catch her breath and was relieved when the timer sounded, "Oh thank heavens. Please, turn it off!"

Sara smiled and told her, "You can turn it off once you are off the stand!"

Miranda panicked, "Oh please no!"

Sara laughed and asked, "What happened to 'I am into self torture'?" She picked up the remote and turned off the vibrator and then asked me, "Can you help me get her out?"

I told Sara, "I'll get the neck, you do her wrists then ankles." I took the keys for the rectangular padlocks connecting each end of the neck hoop to the stand and opened the locks. Miranda lurched forward slightly, though she really couldn't go far with her arms still held tightly behind her. I warned her, "Trying not to lean forward. That will put more pressure on your shoulders. Miranda straightened herself up as best as she could. Sara removed the hex bolts holding the wrist loop in place and freeing Miranda's wrists. I asked her, "Can you get your arms out?"

Miranda struggled a bit, but finally got her left arm out the elbow loop and in front of her. As she pulled her right arm out she commented, "Yoga, definitely helps."

Sara was working on getting the ankle loop removed and told her, "Almost done here. Ron and I will help you out." Sara removed the loop and I grabbed the stand to prevent it from tipping as Miranda pulled her long leg out of the thigh loop. Sara assisted getting her foot through the loop. Miranda had an easier time with her other leg. She tried to walk over to the bench but was a bit uneasy Sara grabbed her arm and told her, "Let me walk you over there...how are your feet?"

Miranda laughed, "My feet are fine, my leg muscles are so tight from being held for that period...how long was I in there."

Sara told her, "About 20-minutes."

Miranda was shocked, "Really, felt much longer. Suppose I need to work on getting myself a bit more flexible. That was fun. Need to do it again sometime, but again I need to limber up more!" She sat down on the bench and began to remove her ballet boots. I sat down next to her and showed her the pictures.

Miranda was surprised when she saw how contorted she was in the stand, "Geez, how the hell did I get myself into that. I do have to admit I do look good in the black pantyhose."

## **Chapter 9**

### **New Visitors and Gary Zinfandel: Chastity Belt Salesman!**

Tuesday evening Marc called me, "Hey ya Ron! So the Gary and Bunny left this morning for Arizona and ended up laying over in Prescott. They plan on being out at our place sometime tomorrow afternoon. Think they are going to stop off and see Lulu first. We are going to fly out on Thursday, if that works for y'all."

I replied, "Far as I know. I'll have to check with our House Mother, but don't see any reason why we can't accommodate you."

Marc laughed at my reference of Wynn as our house mother, "She's been promoted! Okay, I'll give you a call tomorrow night once Gary and Bunny arrive. I am not going to make any arrangements prior in case they get delayed."

I added, "Or distracted like their honeymoon where they kept visiting more friends before they finally made it home. Bambi was staying with us while they were gone and was getting to a point where she wondered if they were ever coming back home." I wrapped up with Marc and found Wynn in the kitchen. I filled her in on the plans, "Marc called. Says Gary and Bunny *should* be arriving at their place tomorrow afternoon. They all plan on flying out on Thursday, assuming that works for you?"

Wynn reminded me, "It is your house."

I reminded her, "But you are the one that cleans and manages it!"

Wynn laughed, "True, though not as much as I used to now that everyone else has been helping out. I'll do a check of the guest suites later. How are we handling things food wise this weekend?"

I told her, "I have no clue. Need to find out from Miranda if her and Mina are coming this weekend. I know mother and Blanche will as would Abby and Sophie."

Wednesday after work Miranda arrived back with the girls for yoga night; a day earlier this week due to the upcoming visit by the Frosh's and Zinfandel's. I asked her, "Say are you and Mina coming sometime this weekend. Marc and Martina along with Gary and Bunny are supposed to be coming in some time tomorrow."

Miranda laughed and asked, "You sure that is a good idea?"

I joked, "Well I can *try* to keep Sara and Lindsay away from her!"

Miranda told me, "Good luck with that! Honestly, I am not sure how she is going to react. She knows some details about your loft from what I have told her and she's seen me in my ballet boots as well as armor. She might want to try some stuff out or she may not...do not know. Thinking Saturday might be good. Is your sister and her partner going to be here then?"

I reminded Miranda, "Sophie is Abby's assistant and nothing more...well except for may be Mistress though based on the her response when Abby asked her to hold her key I don't think she wants that roll. Miss Kitty was her partner."

Miranda had been with Wynn getting a luggage cart when Laura tried to have Sophie hold her key, at least until they got home, so she was unaware of the interaction, "I missed that, what happened?"

I explained, "Sophie flat out told her she would not be her key holder and reminded her she has a key safe."

Miranda did not realize Laura has one too, "Oh she does...hmm...perhaps I can talk her into joining me for a challenge, something Gary's Step Daughter suggested."

I asked, "Do I really want to know?"

Miranda laughed, "More than likely not. I promise I won't hurt her...though she is going to be flustered."

Wynn commented, "Dang Lindsay really did a number on her...best we keep her away from Mina!" The house line started ringing and after answering Wynn informed me, "Gary on the house line."

I headed to my office and picked up the house extension, "What's up Gary?"

Gary told me, "Bunny and I hit the road earlier. We're going to layover in Sedona tonight then later tomorrow head over to The Frosh's."

I thought Marc and told me something different, "Could have sworn Marc told me y'all were coming into Prescott, not Sedona."

Wasn't sure if he was being serious, "Oh shit, that's right...Bunny! I knew I shoulda taken that left turn at...no...we are going to Prescott I get them confused."



I laughed, "How the hell can you confuse the red rock tourist trap of Sedona with Prescott, Arizona's version of Nashville but on smaller scale?!"

Gary told me, "I guess I really never paid that much attention to it. Hemingway, I did want to give you a heads up I am sending over some new products via Road Runner. I ask you don't open the crates until we get there so we can properly demonstrate them. Think they coming in today."

Always a fun time when Gary sends us new products. I hadn't recall seeing an email from Roadrunner today, but then I hadn't checked my email since this morning. I did wonder where we should place said crates so I asked him, "Should we leave the crates downstairs or put them up in the loft?"

Gary had no idea of the layout of the barn but explained, "Depends, where would work better for demonstrating?"

I replied, "I suppose that determines on what you are demonstrating?"

Gary laughed, "I can not tell you that as it is suppose to be a surprise!"

I was trying to determine how much space he needed, "Yeah, I know! Let me rephrase this, how much space do you need? Are we talking about a large piece of equipment or is it toys?"

Gary understood, "Oh, I see what you saying. Would be toys and need some space for someone to lay down on the floor."

Well that narrowed it down, literally, "I suppose then we should leave them in the Great Room. Floor space is rather at a premium up in the loft," I joked, "If we keep adding new equipment at this rate going to have to build a fourth level...not that I think Town of Franklin would allow that though. Anyway, there is plenty of floor space in the great room, after all that is where Miranda sets up for yoga each week."

Gary suggested, "I've heard Marc and Martina can get 'things done'...anyway see you tomorrow. Marc said he will call once we get closer."

Once I wrapped up with Gary I looked at my email again and sure enough there was three packages coming from ACME and were already out for delivery. Figured I better go warn and give direction to Wynn about this incoming shipment. I headed back to the great room and found Wynn, "Hey, Gary is sending us a care package or three via Road Runner and they are suppose to arrive today. He won't tell me what it is, but he told us not to open them until he gets here so he can 'properly demonstrate'. I was able to at least find out that it is toys and would be

best to leave the crates in the Great Room given his demonstration requires floor space."

Wynn looked about as Miranda was setting up for yoga and confirmed, "Well, that we do have plenty of in here...even with Maya's piano..." The door bell chimed and given everyone coming for yoga such as Leslie and Charlotte would use the backdoor Wynn asked, "Road Runner?"

Since the dogs were in Maya and Peaches' room I opened the door and found three crates of various sizes with the ACME logo stenciled on each sitting on the porch. Two were fairly small, but the bottom one was rather long and had rope handles on each side. I called out to Wynn and Miranda, "A little assistance here please!" Wynn came out on to the porch and I handed her the two small crates, "Beware the bottom one has a little weight to it. Miranda and I should be able to get this long one." Miranda came out and I told her, "Grab one end and I'll grab the other."

Miranda and I were both surprised by the weight she joked, "Is he sending you missiles or guns?"

I laughed, "I knew that crate reminded me of something. Let's put this over in the other corner."

Late the next morning Marc called, "Gary and Bunny arrived. We are going to heading over to Sky Harbor in a couple hours. Looks the flight is coming in around 5:00 PM your time. Call you once our ground transportation is on the way."

I went out the kitchen to find Wynn taking inventory while making a list and checking it twice. I warned her, "Marc called. They are heading to the airport in a couple hours and expect to come into Nashville around five. They'll call again once on the road."

Wynn told me, "Good gives me some time to go to the markets. When did Miranda plan on bringing her sister again?"

I told her, "Saturday. Mother and Blanche will be up later that day along with Abby and Sophie. Believe they are going to be making The Merlot Family Enchiladas that night. Think I am going to be grilling tomorrow. Not sure about Monday yet or when they plan on leaving!"

Wynn informed me, "Well tonight given the uncertainty of their arrival times I am going to throw a couple family size lasagnas in the oven once we hear from them. I just need to recruit a couple people to make a salad. Hopefully someone will be home by then. Maya and Ana are working tonight."

I reminded her, "Lindsay and Sara will be home well before they even land. Worse case scenario I'll help you out."

Wynn seemed relieved, "That's good, I've got a lot going on right now! I am going to head out to the markets, be back in a couple hours." Later that day Maya and Peaches left for work after the dogs were taken out. Wynn returned with lots and lots of food. I assisted her emptying out the Murano and getting everything sorted.

We had just gotten everything put away when Lindsay and Sara came in. Lindsay announced, "We're home!"

I told them, "Come into the kitchen when you are done."

Sara walked in with Lindsay and saw Wynn and I standing in the kitchen. She turned to Lindsay and asked, "Why do I get the feeling we are in trouble; What did you do?"

Lindsay wasn't sure what was going on and answered as best as she could, "Wait how is this *my* fault?"

I laughed, "You two are not in trouble...yet. Anyway, Wynn needs some assistance with making a couple bowls of salads for dinner." I glanced out to the Great Room to the clock by Maya's piano and noticed it was still half until five, "Our guests should be landing in the next half hour and then about another hour before they arrive. Marc is supposed to call me ahead of time once they are on the road."

Sara and Lindsay assisted Wynn with the salads. A bit after five my cell rang showing Martina's cell, "Hey Ron, we've landed. Just waiting on Marc's ground transport then we be on our way."

I headed to the kitchen to find Wynn babysitting the oven and told her, "Martina called, they are getting ready to leave for our house."

Wynn replied while glaring at the oven, "Good, good. Just waiting for this here oven to preheat."

I told her, "Watch oven don't preheat!"

Wynn gave a fake laugh and demanded I leave, "Get out here, your jokes are getting old."

I replied, "But I am old!"

Wynn's response caught me off-guard, "You're younger than I am!" The oven played a tune once it was done preheating, "Ah, it is ready!"

I headed back to my office trying to wrap my head around the fact Wynn was older than Sara or I. A bit later the door bell chimed and I headed out the great room to greet our guests. Sara and Lindsay also joined us. Gary came in and gave me a bear hug, "Good to see you again!"

Bunny walked over and also hugged me, "Wow, really nice place y'all have out here!"

I told them, "Thanks, it seems to be working well for us now. Wynn will show y'all to your rooms."

Wynn told them, "You will be across from each other. Your rooms do not have bathroom, but there is one near your rooms no one else uses. Follow me."

Bunny looked around in awe, "Wow, this place is incredible. Nothing as I was expecting from the outside."

They were shown their room where they deposited their bags. After they freshened up we all met in great room. Wynn told us, "Dinner should be ready in about twenty minutes."

I joked, "Should be enough time for Lindsay to choose the 'perfect wine'"

Lindsay replied, "Whatever!"

Martina noticed the vacant piano and asked, "Maya not here tonight?"

I explained, "Correct her and Ana are working tonight. Think they are off the rest of the weekend."

Bunny just noticed the piano, "Wow, this is a big room!"

I told them, "Yes it is, perfect for yoga and Gary to do his demonstrations later on."

Gary asked, "I am guessing the crates arrived?"

Wynn replied, "Yes, they are over in the other corner over yonder."

Gary walked over and looked at the three crates. He pulled the heavier of the smaller two and commented, "Okay, I will tell you this one has the new locks for

the table. I'll get them installed later this weekend. The smaller crate has accessories that can be used with the new toys I have in the large crate."

I told him, "Miranda and I were thinking it was either missiles or guns!"

Bunny laughed, "Told you so! I said that exact thing to him when I saw the shape and size of that shipping crate! So, Ron what is the story of this place?"

I told her, "Well, it had already been converted into a residence when I bought it. We extended that entire back wall out two and half feet plus added on the mudroom/washroom and Wynn's suite. There was semi-detached tack room which I had my contractor gut and build out the new bathroom, sitting room, the two guest rooms and my office. A lot of reconfiguring on the second level which were all the family bedrooms are located. The third level was a gaming loft for the previous owner's kids and was pretty much a blank slate. We will show you the loft tomorrow. As far as the history of the property, really don't know much about it. Suppose I should ask Miranda she's been out in this area her entire life."

Gary asked, "Was this Dundee's work?"

I laughed, "Nope, I wouldn't have been able to afford his labor out here. Local guy, Victor who is our Realtor's, Victoria husband. He did Miranda and Mina's place as well as where Lindsay's sister lives with her daughter."

Wynn announced "Dinner!"

Bunny saw the huge table and commented, "Wow, that is cool! I like the table over having a giant island. Just feels more..."

Wynn replied, "Intimate, personal?"

Bunny laughed, "Yes. It works in here and with the benches keeps to the farmhouse theme."

I told her, "Funny thing is Victor had originally purposed an island running parallel with the back counter. Wynn and I thought it would work at the time. It wasn't until we got back to Arizona and I looked at the renderings he sent me that it just seemed too big. Plus it would not have been large enough to accommodate everyone we normally have here. Maya and Ana were not living with us until after we had been here a few months."

Wynn added, "Neither was Miranda!"

I laughed, "Well, technically she does not live her. Though we see more of her than we do the rest of the family."

Gary upon hearing Miranda's name asked, "Will she be here this weekend, want to make sure everything is going well with her armor."

I told him, "I know she will be. Normally, she'd would have been doing a yoga session in the great room around this time."

The next morning shortly after breakfast Miranda called ahead and asked it was okay to come now with Mina. Wynn told her, "I don't see why not. Gary was asking about you last night."

Her and Mina showed up about 10-minutes later. Mina was somewhat more conservatively dressed then last time; she was wearing a deep-plunge over-bust corset with a skirt, fishnets and combat boots. I told Miranda, "Miranda, you remember Gary he was there briefly while we were in Henderson."

Gary apologized, 'Sorry things didn't quite go as expected during that project."

I told him, "Fortunately for you, that was only the *second* worse job we've ever been on. Anyway, this is his wife Bunny; she makes leather harnesses."

I was not sure if Miranda was wearing her armor until Bunny and Miranda hugged and Bunny commented, "Wow, can't even see she is wearing an armor!"

Gary reminded her, "Well, I do market it as protective and yet discreet!"

Mina hadn't been paying much attention then comment, "Oh *you're* that Gary! Say do you make something a bit less restrictive, yet still provide the same function?"

All of us including Miranda looked at Mina with a bit of surprise. Based on what Miranda has said prior she knew about Miranda's armor, but had no idea Mina would be wanting something for herself. Gary re-introduced himself, "Gary Zinfandel: Chastity Belt Salesman at your service!"

Bunny laughed, "Oh brother! Way to stroke his ego!"

Martina joked, "Be glad that is the only thing of his she is stroking!"

Bunny just looked at Martina, "Okay then...don't make me whoop you!"

Martina teased Bunny, "Honey, don't threaten me with a good time!"

Gary wanted to focus on Mina, but was getting distracted with Bunny and Martina's banter, "Ladies play nice!"

Bunny whined and pointed to Martina, "She started it!"

Gary ignored her and asked, "Mina, what were you wanting or needing?"

Mina explained, "Well, when I am doing stakeouts they tend to be long and dull. When I get bored I tend to...well um...do something below the belt that can cause me to get 'distracted'. Couple times I almost missed my mark, because I was 'distracted' and did not notice them. However, I also need be able to move quickly. Sometimes some of my marks don't always cooperate and make me chase after them."

Gary and I at nearly the same time came to the conclusion, "Sports Belt!"

Gary laughed, "Yeah what Ron said. It will still provide you with protection 'down there', but it is lightweight with a steel thong cable in-lieu of a standard rear shield or band. Too bad I don't have prototypes with me."

I reminded him, "Sara has a sports belt."

Sara replied, "Yes, except it is a modified model that allows a rear plug to be added."

Gary asked, "Would you mind modeling it, sans the rear plug?"

Sara told him she could and I suggested, "Why don't you use The Presentation Room upstairs?"

Sara was confused, "The what?"

I laughed, "Sorry, The McGrawl's office, which they never use. The room y'all used to show Miranda the plethora of ballet boots."

Sara understood and Miranda knew what I was talking about, "Oh I know that room! I can take her up there."

I told her, "That's fine. You need to take Gary up there as well, he has not been to this house before other than this floor."

Sara had already left to retrieve and change into her sports belt. Miranda, Mina and Gary headed towards the stairs and Gary commented, "Good thing I have a measuring kit with me! Just need to grab it out my bag."

Bunny laughed, "Much like his American Express Card, he never leaves home without it!"

I joked, "You never know when you might need it!"

Martina suggested, "Bunny, why don't we join Lindsay and the rest of the girls up in the loft?" As they disbursed I headed to my office. Marc was in the sitting room with a selection of my vintage Penthouse and Playboy magazines. I joked, "It don't take much to entertain you!"

Marc reminded me, "Hey, there are many quality articles and stories to read in these!"

I laughed, "Okay, if you say so!"

Marc added, "But the pictures are nice too!"

## **Chapter 10**

### **Oh What a Weekend!**

Sara had changed into her sports belt without the rear plug and headed over to the Presentation Room or "The McGrawl's rarely used office". Gary had laid out his measuring kit on the burgundy chaise. Sara walked in and Gary explained to Mina, "As you can see this is lot lighter weight then the armor your sister wears." Gary noticed Sara had an upgraded prototype version, "Oh, I forgot you were the one I gave that prototype to. So, Sara's belt does have an upgrade with the lightweight secondary shield."

Miranda asked, "What is secondary shield?"

Gary explained, "The secondary shield attaches in front of the main shield to protect your pussy 'lips'."

Miranda was still confused, "Protect from what?"

Sara told her, "Pinching, touching, simulation from something thin being inserted under the shield. Our armor has a completely enclosed, but perforated crotch where as a regular belt normally has a slit in the crotch plate to allow your 'lips' to protrude. Mina, can you get yourself off, by playing with those?"

Mina replied, "Well, no...but again it could prove be a troublesome distraction. So may be I should opt for the secondary shield too." She noticed the padlock on the front of Sara's belt, "That lock seems like it would show under clothing."

Gary told her, "We have three different style locks for the belts. The standard padlock as you see here, a radial lock, but it still protrudes as the purpose is for



higher security than a standard padlock.”

Miranda asked, “Is that what Maya has on her Super Max belt?”

Gary replied, “Yes, but a much stronger and secure version. Hers has the ability to have a tamper-evident seal added.”

Miranda recalled when Maya showed her the belt a few months ago, “Oh yeah, she demonstrated that when she show me the belt.”

Gary continued, “A few years back we started offering an integrated lock which allows the locking plate to sit nearly flush with the waistband.”

Sara advised Gary, “My torment belt...I mean medium duty has that type of lock. I suppose I could go change into that real quick.”

Gary told her, “Sure. If Mina here is serious we can start measuring her while we’re waiting.”

Mina told Gary, “I am serious about this. This will prevent me from having ‘mishaps’ while on the job. How long does it take to make one of these?”

While Sara went to change belts as Gary explained to Mina, “Usually about two to three weeks. The Sports Belts being much simpler to make and are usually right around two weeks. Even if we add the upgraded secondary shield it will not really lengthen the production time.”

Sara had come back wearing her medium duty or torment belt. Gary pointed out the differences, “Okay, so this a medium duty which is pretty much the standard design if you are going the non-sports belt route. As you can see this one has a full rear shield with a cut out for bathroom. Ron’s sister wears a medium duty which used to have a radial lock on it. When Sophie sent it back to us to be resized she requested the integrated lock so it would not show under her dresses.” He turned Sara around so she was facing him and Mina, “Notice here how the locking plate is flush with the waistband...Sara did you bring the key with you?”

Sara handed Gary the key, “Yes, figured you would want to demonstrate the locking system.”

Gary took the key and explained, “So you insert the key on the left side of the locking plate and turn. This will disengage the locking pin leaving it attached to the key. Remove the locking plate and then pop-out the locking post to remove the belt. To put it back on you insert the locking post as such then put the center hole of the other end of the waistband over the post. Now, there is a little

adjustability with the three holes to accommodate for weight fluctuation and other factors which could affect how loose or tight the belt fits. Once you have both ends of the waistband in the locking post simply put the locking plate over the post and while holding with one hand fully insert the key into the plate as such until it will go no further then turn to lock. If everything is lined up correctly, when you pull the key out the pin should remain in place." Gary demonstrated the locking mechanism using Sara's belt.

Mina asked, "Not that is much matter as I am ambidextrous, but is the key-way always on the left side?"

Gary told her, "Yes. Kind of an industry standard practice as usually those who wears these typically have someone putting on and removing it for them."

Mina understood, "Ah that makes sense. So, what do you need from me."

Gary told her, "I'll have your sister start getting your measurements." Over the next twenty-minutes Miranda got all the measurements Gary needed. Gary told her, "Okay, think we are done here. Just need a name, address, phone number and email address." Mina gave Gary her contact information and Gary informed her, "Okay, I'll FAX this info over to my stepdaughter, Cristina and have her get in contact with you to setup payment arrangements."

Mina told him, "Sounds good."

Sara had left the room and Gary had no idea where he was, "Hmm, Sara left. I need to get back down to Ron's office."

Miranda told him, "I can take you down there."

Gary came to my office, "Hey, can I use your FAX to send over Mina's order to Cristina?"

I laughed, "Sure, don't think I've used that FAX machine since I moved into the barn."

After Gary sent the FAX he asked, "What happened to everyone?"

I replied, "They are all up in the loft."

Gary told me, "Well, if this is a good time I'd like to demonstrate the new stuff. I need a couple volunteers."

I told him, "I am sure that could be arranged. I'll have Wynn wrangle everyone back downstairs. Let's head over to the Great Room." Wynn was in the kitchen

and I asked her, "Could you get everyone down here, Gary wants to do his 'show and tell'."

Wynn rounded up everyone and Gary commented, "Need to open these crates, got a crowbar?"

Wynn told him, "Yeah, there is one in the laundry room."

I was puzzled by this and asked, "Why?"

Wynn laughed, "No clue, been there since we moved in. Perhaps Victor or one of his crew left it." She went to the laundry room and came back with a full-size crowbar. She handed it to Gary, "I assume this will do?"

Gary took the crowbar and told her, "I think so." He popped the top off the larger crate revealing the contents inside were buried under sawdust/wood shavings.

Miranda commented, "Still say it's guns or missiles!"

I added "Or The Ark of the Covenant, though the crate is a bit too small for that fit that in there."

Gary pulled out two sets of rigid spreader stocks and explained, "So my guy who did those fiddles I gave to you and Abby many years ago has made these. Similar principle and design. These can be used solo where as the 'user' has their wrists and ankles locked together while leaning forward. However, since there are two...this is where it gets fun. Now before I continue I need to open this other crate." Gary took the crowbar to middle sized crate and explained as he pulled out the toys, "These are an upgraded version of the penis/dildo gag. The dildo portion is a little longer and thicker plus is an upgraded material." Gary set them on a nearby table so he could turn his attention back to the rigid spreader bars.

Mina walked over to take a closer look at the gags though she was a bit confused. Martina came over to her and explained, "The smaller end goes into your mouth, while the large end is used to..."

Mina understood, "Ah, okay."

Gary continued his spiel...presentation, "So as I was saying...when you have two of these spreaders is where the fun starts. I could use two 'volunteers' to demonstrate these."

Since Martina and Bunny had done it the night prior he was expecting them to volunteer again. Instead Martina told him, "How about the new girl and I do this?"

Out of caution I objected, "Martina..."

Martina was confused, "Ron?"

Miranda understood my hesitation, "She is rather new to all this.."

Mina assured us, "It looks like fun and Martina seems harmless enough."

I laughed, "Oh god no! You've got a lot to learn about her. If you are okay with this fine by me...though Wynn is our house mother."

Wynn told me, "Don't matter to me. Though she *is* awfully trusting of Martina."

Mina was unsure what was going on, "Should I not trust her?"

Miranda told her, "No, you're fine. She has a bit of a 'reputation' and I'll explain it to you later. However, perhaps I should go first so you can decide if you want to later."

Mina was still somewhat unsure and was only wanting to do it because of the 'peer pressure' Martina had unknowingly placed on her, "That...that's a good idea."

Gary commented, "Well, it doesn't matter to me, however can someone get me a bottle of lube?" Wynn headed up to the play loft to grab a bottle of lube. Martina was wearing a long skirt with her pink corset and white stockings while Miranda was wearing a skirt as well with a t-shirt and black stockings. Gary told them, "You both will need to remove your shoes and skirts."

Both Martina and Miranda did as directed and both girls were wearing the heavy duty garter belts. Bunny saw those and was in love, "Oh wow, nice garter belts...would love one of those!"

Martina told her, "There is a guy out in Nashville who makes these. Perhaps, tomorrow someone here can take us up there to see him."

Marc had come out to The Great Room to see what was happening and heard Martina's comment, "Oh great. I am still paying off the credit card from the last time you went out there!"

Martina laughed, "Whatever. It's not like you don't spend a ton of money on..." Martina was trying to think what Marc frivolously spent money on but drew a blank, "...oh never mind. Gary I'll be on the bottom this time." Marc was about to make a comment, but opted to invoke his 'right to remain silent'!

Gary told Martina, "Okay then before you assume the position, put on the gag. Miranda needs to do the same." Miranda had used these type of gags before with Lindsay so she knew what to do. Both girls were now gagged. Martina got on to the floor, put her arms above her head and laid back. Gary opened each end of the stock and placed each of Martina's wrists into the stock. Bunny had placed the other stock at Martina's feet and placed Martina's ankles. Gary instructed, "Miranda lay down facing Martina but in the reverse direction. Miranda got down on the floor and positioned herself as directed. Bunny grabbed her wrists placing them in the stock next to Martina's ankles. She closed the stocks, inserted the locking pins and attached a quick link through the hole of each pin. Gary did the same placing Miranda's ankles next to Martina's wrists. As he closed and 'locked' the stocks he commented, "If you want to make sure nobody messes with them you can use padlocks on the pins just you would with the fiddles. However, in this case we will just use these spring links. Be sure you place the pin so the hole is on the 'inside' otherwise there is chance the prisoner...I mean participants might be able to get to the spring links and free themselves."

Bunny told the two girls, "I am going to apply some lube to the dildos and a little on your pussy's as well."

Gary looked at Martina and Miranda restrained together in the 69 position. He noticed they were nearly the same size, "You two seem fit perfectly."

Bunny began to apply the lube and then commented, "Indeed they do. My arms and legs were a little sore afterwards from being slightly bent since I am little smaller than Martina." Bunny finished applying the lube to the dildos and placed a little on Miranda and Martina's pussies. She told them, "You two are all lubed, you should know what to do."

Sara joked making reference to the challenge she lost to Peaches while we were in Henderson, "Whoever cums first spends the night in Lindsay's cage!"

Wynn was confused at first, "What?" Then she put two and two together, "Oh so that's what happened to you that night we were in Henderson."

Lindsay recalled and giggled, "Yeah, it was an odd site walking into the room the next morning and finding you locked in *my* cage."

Mina was getting turned on and had placed her hand under her skirt. Lindsay noticed and scolded her, "Oh no, none of that in here young lady. Sara we need do something about Mina!"

Miranda was trying to look to see what was going on, but really couldn't being face down and fucking Martina's pussy with her dildo gag. Sara came over and

grabbed Mina's arms pulling them behind her back and applied her Sterling Silver cuffs telling Mina, "That is something you only do in the privacy of your own room...or in the playloft!"

Mina let a confused "Hey!" and then went about getting her hands in front of her and in the process hit Lindsay in the jaw.

Lindsay yelled out in pain and Mina turned red then immediately apologized, "Sorry, I didn't know you were there."

Miranda really wanted to understand what was happening so she started yelling through her gag to get someones attention. I told everyone, "Okay everyone time out! Someone remove the gag from Miranda."

Bunny came over and undid the gag and Miranda asked, "What did she do?"

Before anyone could answer Lindsay comment, "Ow! That's going to leave a mark." She the noticed Mina had her hands in front of her now, "How the hell did you do that?"

Mina laughed, "Well besides being ambidextrous, guess you can say I am double-jointed too. Again, really sorry was just a reflex action."

Miranda was still not sure what happened until she saw Mina in cuffs, "Oh fuck, I should've warned y'all not to cuff her without telling her! Though still don't why she is in cuffs."

Lindsay rubbed her jaw and explained, "She was trying to get herself off with her hand while watching you and Martina." She looked at her hand and upon seeing blood concluded she was bleeding, "Hmm...I'll be back need to cleanup."

Wynn had glanced over at Lindsay and saw too she was bleeding then told her, "Let's got my bathroom and I'll help you get that cleaned up."

I instructed Gary and Bunny to get Miranda and Martina freed from the stocks and for Sara to remove her cuffs from Mina. After Sara removed the cuffs, Mina went and sat down away from everyone else. Once Miranda was out the stocks and had a chance to put her skirt back on she came over to me, "What happened to Lindsay?"

I was not sure as I had my back turned to her at the time, "Don't know, think when you sister went to get her hands in front of her she must have hit Lindsay in the jaw with the cuffs."

Miranda asked, "May be we should just leave."

I told her, "No. Everyone needs to take a break for a bit. No one is in trouble, things just got a little chaotic."

Mina came over to Miranda and told her, "I want to go home. Sorry for the troubles Ron."

I assured her, "It is fine, things happen. You are welcome to stay."

Mina headed towards the mudroom and Miranda told me, "I'm sorry. I think she is a bit overwhelmed and embarrassed by what happened. I do hope she didn't do much damage to Lindsay. Maybe once Mina has had a chance to clam down we can come back later this afternoon or for dinner."

Miranda headed out to the mudroom to catch up with her sister. Martina came over and apologized, "Sorry, I shouldn't have pushed her like I did. I forgot she's still a 'virgin' to our lifestyle."

I told her, "You did nothing wrong. Why don't y'all head up to playloft."

All the ladies headed up to the loft and Gary commented, "May be I should have been a bit more forthcoming with you about everything."

I explained, "No, nothing to do with that. Mina was a bit of a wild card as she has not been seasoned to our lifestyle as Miranda has."

Gary started packing the stocks and told me, "By the way, these are yours to keep; as are the gags."

I told him, "Thanks. Not sure if there is going to much room up in the loft for the girls to use those...however, I am sure we can clear some space. For now, just put everything into the crates and we can stick them in the loft's toy closet."

Lindsay and Wynn walked out. Lindsay had a small bandage on her chin, but seemed to be in good spirits. She noticed it was only Gary and I downstairs. She asked, "Hey what happened to everyone?"

I told her, "Everyone went up to the loft. Except Mina and Miranda, they left a few minutes ago. Mina wanted to go home after what happened. How you doing?"

Lindsay laughed, "Sore jaw more than anything. Well crap, she didn't need to leave on my account. I think Sara and I got a little carried away."

I assured Lindsay, "It was combination of a lot factors, Martina, Gary as well as

you and Sara, plus as Martina put it Mina is a 'virgin' to our lifestyle. I am not mad at anyone, this was just a freak accident."

Lindsay laughed, "Suppose it is. Seems to happen with me a lot. Oh well, I'll give Miranda a call and check up on them." She headed upstairs to her room.

Wynn told me in regards to Lindsay's injury, "It is small gash. Cleaned it up real well and did a field dressing! So what happens now?"

I told her, "Who knows. Mother and Blanche plus Abby and Sophie are going to be coming later. Miranda said they might come back later once Mina has had a chance to clam down. As the photographer says..." I recalled from earlier Wynn was getting annoyed with my 'old' jokes. "Oh....Never mind. Hey Gary, let me help you with getting those crates into the loft!"

Wynn told us, "I take the two smaller ones. Make it easier for you two to bring the weapons crate up."

--

Lindsay had gone back to her room to get her phone. She called Miranda's cell. Miranda answered, "Hey Lindsay. Sorry about my sister. You okay?"

Lindsay laughed, "I'm fine, just a small cut! Been through a hell of lot worse when I crashed into Wynn at one of the Arizona houses. Y'all didn't need to leave on my account."

Miranda seemed relieved, "Good to know. Mina, just felt embarrassed and ashamed for what happened. Hope Ron is not mad at us."

Lindsay assured Miranda, "I don't think he is."

Miranda joked, 'He might have been if Mina had flipped you over her. I really should have warn you all that she knows how to defend herself. She has a blue belt in taekwondo, so best not to surprise her. I guess I wasn't expecting you two to cuff her. Hell, I wasn't expecting her to buy herself a sports belt!"

Lindsay asked, "You guys coming back later? May be things would be a little calmer with not having Gary doing a demonstration down in the great room. Besides Abby is making her family enchiladas tonight for dinner!"

Miranda told Lindsay, "Let me go back over to the main house and chat with Mina. Think she has had a chance to calm down. Really don't want to miss out on The Merlot enchiladas!"



--

Gary, Wynn and I made it up to the play loft. Gary had yet to see our loft and looked around, "Wow, you've got a lot space up here...but you also have a lot of stuff." He noticed stuff he had forgotten about, "Oh yes you still have the 'oops' fucking machine."

Wynn asked, "Oops?"

Gary explained, "Yeah, someone got confused and merged two orders. The cross was suppose to be for something else, but then 'oops' the fuck machine got attached. The person who ordered the fuck machine, didn't have room in their play area for such a giant cross. Plus, I couldn't sell the dang thing because of its size. So when Ron had ordered all those toys including the table years ago and told me how big of space he had I just included it in the order....and marked everything else up by 25%..."

I wasn't really paying attention to Gary until I heard the last part, "You did what?!"

Gary laughed, "Well okay, I made that last part up." He was still looking around and saw spanking bench, "Oh the Santa Fe Spanking Bench! Man, you got a good deal on that! That mistress was getting out of the 'family business' and reached out to me to help her liquidate her collection." He came to the table, "Ah there you are my beauty! This is by far my most favorite toy I have ever built for you. You really knew what you wanted. So this will be yet another upgrade."

Wynn asked, "What was the previous?"

I told her, "Besides the magnetic restraints for a self bondage miking experience; he changed the restraints on the stool."

Gary told us, "Okay, I am going to need a can of WD-40, a socket wrench, some rags and a roll of duct tape."

Wynn was following his list until the last part, "What do you need a roll of duct tape for?"

Gary joked, "To stop something that shouldn't be moving from moving! Much like WD-40 is for something that should be moving that is not."

I told Wynn, "Don't you know he is one of those guys with 'skills'? We could send him out with a pocket knife and a Q-tip and he'd build us a shopping mall!"

Gary laughed, "I might be handy, but not that handy! Anyway don't need duct

tape and there should be a socket wrench in this crate. However, I do need the WD-40 and rags."

Wynn headed down to the mudroom to get some shop rags and the can of WD-40. She found the items and headed back to the loft to give them to Gary, "Here you go. We didn't have WD-40 but this silicon spray lubricant should work."

Gary took the items and inspected the can, "Oh yeah, this is way better. Okay, give me about 45-minutes to perform the operation!"

--

Wynn and I headed back downstairs in time for Abby and Sophie to come in. Abby was in a dress and I assume her belt as well saw us and asked, "Who all is here?"

I told her, "Marc and Martina along with Gary and Bunny. Marc is in the sitting room *reading* my dirty magazines. Gary is up in the loft doing an upgrade to the table. Andy is at his store. Martina and Bunny along with the rest family are in the loft."

Abby wondered, "When are Miranda and Mina coming?"

I explained, "There were here this morning when Gary was demonstrating some new toys. Things didn't go so well and they left."

Abby was confused but concluded, "So two less for dinner? Mother called me earlier said they'd be here closer to dinner time."

I told her, "As for now yes. That could change."

Sophie told Abby, "If it is okay with you I am going to head up to the loft and see if I can play with Martina."

Abby was shocked with both Sophie asking permission and the fact she wanted to play up in the loft, "I am not your keeper, you might be mine...anyway go have your fun." Sophie did not respond to Abby's 'keeper' comment. She headed up the stairs to the loft. Abby commented, "That was weird. She has never asked permission before to play up in the loft."

I suggested, "Maybe because I was here and it involved Martina? Not that I care."

Wynn changed the subject, "Abby, you want to make sure we have enough food for tonight?"

Abby told Wynn, "That's a good idea. Don't want to run out of food." The two of them went about 'checking inventory'.

I was about to head back to my office when Miranda and Mina came through the back door. Upon seeing me Miranda joked, "Oh crap, I was hoping we could sneak in without you seeing us! How's Lindsay doing?"

Lindsay had come down to get more water and Gatorade to bring back up to the loft. She saw Wynn, Abby and I but not Mina and Miranda. "Hey Wynn, the beverage fridge in the playloft is nearly empty. I'll take a few bottles up to tide us over."

Wynn laughed, "How are we out...oh wait Martina. That girl drinks like a fish!"

Lindsay turned around and saw Miranda and Mina, "Goody you two came back...and Ron hasn't thrown you two out of the house."

Laura was now even more confused, "Why would Ron do that." She then noticed Lindsay's bandaged chin, "What happened to you?"

Mina admitted her bad deed, "I smacked her in the face with my cuffed hands after her or Sara cuffed me this morning. I am so sorry Lindsay!"

Lindsay came over and hugged Mina, "I'm tougher than you think. I survived crashing into Wynn at the house in Arizona and I was a football linebacker in high school."

Laura was not familiar with that part of Lindsay's life, "You were what?!"

Lindsay giggled, "Just as I said Abby, linebacker on our high school team."

Laura laughed, "Okay, then." She asked Miranda, "So you two staying for dinner?"

Miranda replied, "Of course. Wouldn't want to miss your famous chicken enchiladas!"

Laura reminded her, "Well technically there our mother's."

Lindsay told us, "Let me go back up and drop off these bottles then I'll be back."

Miranda asked Laura, "Need any help?"

Laura told her, "Not yet. Wynn and I are still trying to make sure we have enough food for everyone. Especially Andy and his tapeworm!"

## **Chapter 11**

### **Breaking Her in Gently and The Fun Continues**

Lindsay headed back up to the loft and added the water and Gatorade to the beverage fridge. Afterwards she took a look around the loft and notice Gary and Andy at the table. Gary was showing Andy how to use the new timer restraints. Lindsay came over and asked Gary, "Shall, I remove his device so he can be milked?"

Gary laughed as he did not know about Andy's situation, "Oh so she has your cock under her control! Sure, that would be great. The lad looks like he could use a good forced milking!"

Lindsay replied, "It his choice...just as it is mine and most everyone else in this house to be in some type of chastity device. He can have it removed anytime he likes." She handed Andy the key and then told him, "I am heading back downstairs for a bit Miranda and Mina returned."

Gary was pleased to hear they returned, "Good, glad they came back. I suppose things got a little out-of-hand this morning. Blame it on Martina."

Martina was walking their direction when she heard Gary's comment, "What are y'all blaming me for?"

Lindsay pointed to her chin, "I suppose this. But, you were not totally at fault. Just a chaotic situation and being at wrong place, at wrong time."

Martina didn't seemed bothered, "Hate when that happens. Anyway, would you like to join Sophie and me in the cage?"

Lindsay told her, "Love to, but Miranda and Mina are back. Thinking Miranda and I will bring Mina up and have her look around and see if there is anything she is willing to try."

Martina was disappointed, "Well darn. Oh well, we are going to be here for a couple more days. So may be later this weekend. Let me see if I can get Abby to join me!" Martina headed towards the stairs as did Lindsay. When they both arrived in the middle level Martina joked, "You following me...making sure I am not getting into trouble."

Lindsay laughed, "Nope, we just both happened to be heading to the same place."

They both arrived in the kitchen and Martina saw Laura wasn't doing anything currently, "Hey Ann Marie since you are not doing anything how about you join me and Sophie in the cage!"

Laura laughed, "I *am* doing something Marti, I am helping Wynn to check if we have enough food for tonight."

Wynn told them, "Since I need to go the market and we still have a couple hours until dinner, why don't you have some fun with Martina while she is here."

I joked, "Take this opportunity now, as you two likely won't see each other again after this until Christmas time. Well, unless for some reason we end up back in Arizona again, between now and then."

Laura cringed, "Oh god no! I am getting tired of going back and forth. Well, since apparently I am not doing anything, I suppose I will join you two. I do ask you are between Sophie and I."

Martina didn't understand what difference it made, but didn't really care either, "Sure, if that is what it takes!"

Laura and Martina headed back up the loft. Miranda asked, "Is it okay if Lindsay and I take Mina up to the loft?"

Both Wynn and I were unsure who she was directing the question to. Wynn replied, "I don't have an issue, what say you Ron?"

I laughed, "You are the House Mother and as what has become apparent in the past few months, I really have no say as to what happens in *my* house. Regardless, doesn't matter to me. You know your sister better than we do. Least Gary's not around doing a presentation."

Lindsay told me, "He's up in the loft showing Andy how to use the new restraints. I gave Andy the key for his device so he could be milked."

Mina had been quiet, more just observing and absorbing what was going on. She asked confused, "Wait, men can have a belt as well?"

Lindsay replied, "Yes. Similar design except there is a tube attached to the front shield that their penis is inserted pointed downwards into. Prevents touching and depending on the size of the tube, can also prevent...or at the very least make erections uncomfortable. Andy doesn't wear a full belt, he has tube secured to a cock ring. Don't think he has ever worn a full belt. Anyway, since it sound like it is okay with Ron and Wynn, come with us and we show you around the loft."

The three of them headed up the loft while Wynn headed to the market. I made my way back to towards my office and passed Marc in the sitting room. He was browsing the shelves and commented upon seeing me, "Your Penthouses are out of order."

I joked, "This ain't a library dude! Not sure how that happened as far as I know you are the only one who *reads* my 'dirty magazines'. Though Sara did mention something about Peaches, but I think that was the Mad Magazines. By the way, if you want to take a box with you back to Arizona to tide you over until we meet again at Christmas."

Marc told me, "I appreciate the offer, but honestly won't really have time once we get back to Arizona. Kind of the reason I wanted us to stay out here a bit longer than just a couple days this time. Give us a chance to unwind and decompress."

I joked, "So, when are you two going to move out here!"

Marc laughed, "Someday..."

--

Miranda and Lindsay brought Mina into the loft. Mina looked around and was surprised at the size, "This is big up here."

As they walked around Lindsay pointed out the toys, "Fuck machine with bondage cross right here. Over to the left is the table we usually use with each other, but Andy is on it today. Spanking bench then the cage."

Mina noticed Sara was setting up the cage and asked, "What is happening?"

Miranda explained, "Those in the cage are placed in a straitjacket then have a harness which holds a very powerful vibrator in place."

Lindsay added, "Two or three can fit in the cage. The straitjackets make it so they can not touch themselves, have to rely on the stimulation from the wand to get off. However, the wands are plugged into an evil device Gary created. He calls it the 'Magic Box', it is a power box that can be programmed to intermittently shut-off certain outlets for random amount of time. Allows the 'participants' or 'victims' to be tormented and edged. Moving on we have the robo-spanker Gary built for us. Suppose to be similar to the original prototype Marc and Martina have in their loft."

Mina was secretly obsessed with the spanking bench and was curious, "How this differ from the other spanker?"

Lindsay explained, "The other was just a spanking bench. The participant is strapped down by someone who will in turn spank them with a paddle. This is an automated machine which can be used manually or it is possible to secure yourself to the 'saddle' and use the magnetic cuffs to keep yourself in place for up to 30-minutes. The 'business end' on this is a long and narrow wooden paddle with or without holes."

Mina asked, "Do holes make a difference?"

Miranda explained, "Yes, very much. A solid paddle provides a cushion of air between the paddle and one's bottom. The holes eliminate that cushion, so it is much more...um...stingyer."

They rounded the corner and Mina noticed The Stand as she pointed to it she asked Miranda, "Oh so is that the contraception you have yourself placed into with those deadly boots?"

Miranda laughed, "Sure is!"

Mina commented, "I am going to have to see myself one of these days. I can't imagine you walking in those boots, much less standing around."

Miranda told her, "May be later this weekend we can come back and I'll bring my boots so you can see." She asked Mina, "Anything you wanted to try?" She wasn't expecting Mina to answer her, however...

Mina told her, "I'd like to try out that spanking bench. But, want Lindsay to do the deed...not that I don't trust you, I just don't want you to get revenge on me for what happened in our younger years!"

Miranda ignored the last part of her sister's comments and told Lindsay, "You okay with that."

Lindsay told her, "Sure, other than I'd rather be the one who is spanked...but I can spank Mina."

Mina surprised both Miranda and Lindsay, "We can trade places later."

Lindsay was getting giddy with excitement, "Oh nice. Okay, for now I am going to use my solid pledge paddle on you."

Mina laughed, "Pledge paddle? Is Ron running a sorority here?"

Lindsay told her, "Or a harem. Normally, boys are not up here; not that there is a rule saying they can't be, they just don't normally come up here. I need go find

said paddle. In the meantime, Miranda is very familiar with the bench and can get you setup." Lindsay went down to her room to get her pledge paddle which so far had been signed by Sara, Martina and Miranda; she would be adding a new name today with Mina.

Mina removed her skirt and climbed upon the spanking bench and observed all the restraints, "Sure a lot of straps."

Miranda giggled, "Of course, need to hold the participant tightly in place. Nothing more annoying than trying to hit a moving target. You okay with this?"

Mina told her, "Should be. Lindsay is okay, it is Martina you told me to stay away from."

Miranda replied, "I did no such thing! She's just a bad influence that's all. You'll be fine with Lindsay or Martina."

Lindsay returned with her pledge paddle and told Mina, "When we are done, you need to add your name to my paddle."

Miranda had Mina fully strapped to the bench. Lindsay again assured Mina, "I'll start easy. If it gets too much let me know and I will stop."

Wynn had returned home and headed up to the playloft to get Laura and Miranda. She called out, "Miranda! Laura! I'm back and Ms Merlot is here with Blanche."

As Wynn was removing Laura from the cage, Miranda told Lindsay and Mina, "Gotta go help out with dinner. Have fun!"

Miranda met up with Laura and Wynn. Wynn asked, "What is your sister up to?"

Miranda giggled, "Getting spanked by Lindsay!"

Wynn commented, "Didn't expect that. Well, better her than Martina."

Lindsay reminded Wynn, "Martina might be a bad influence, but she would not hurt anyone."

Laura agreed, "Very true...on both accounts."

Miranda commented, "Mina wants to see me in the stand...as well walking in the ballet boots. Next time I come out with here I'll bring my ballet boots."

The three of them headed downstairs to assist with getting The Merlot Enchiladas



prepared. Lindsay started spanking Mina very gently. Mina teased Lindsay, "Oh come on, you call yourself a Sorority Sister and you spank *like that!*?"

Lindsay laughed, "Be careful what you ask for!" She gave Mina's bottom a more moderate whack.

Mina continued to tease Lindsay, "Well, that's a little better." Lindsay gave a much harder whack this time around and Mina was surprised, "Ow! That's more like it!"

Lindsay gave Mina a few more whacks before telling her, "I am going to stop now, don't want to hurt you."

Mina was thinking the same thing as she was close to allowing Lindsay to go too far, "Fair enough!"

Lindsay undid the straps and Mina climbed down from the bench and rubbed her sore behind. She told Lindsay, "You are stronger than I estimated you to be."

Miranda came back up the loft looking for Lindsay and told her, "Lindsay the first batch of enchilada are almost done. Can you work your wine magic?"

Lindsay laughed, "Magic?! Most of the time I just pull a selection out my ass..." Miranda and Mina looked at her oddly, "Okay, that came out wrong. Let's pretend y'all didn't hear that!"

Miranda told her, "Sure."

--

Unlike Arizona during Labor Day, it was actually cool enough for us to eat out on the patio. Another plus was we could accommodate more people at once on the patio than in the kitchen. Marc and Martina came out and she commented, "Wow, it is almost 'cold' out here. We'd still be roasting out in Arizona this time of year."

By the time everyone who came out for the first batch was severed the second batch was ready. Laura, Miranda and Wynn joined everyone else out on the patio. When everyone was done, Laura and Miranda brought in the dirty dishes and helped Wynn with the dishwasher. Everyone was talking among themselves and the conversation turned to the girdle maker. Martina asked Abby, "Hey, could you take Bunny and I out to Nashville to the girdle maker tomorrow?"

Laura informed her, "I would except, I don't have my Caddy anymore. Sophie's truck only seats three."

Sara told them, "I can take them in my Roadrunner. Want to join us Lindsay?"

Lindsay didn't need to be asked twice to be able to do something with Sara and told her, "Sure!"

I was trying to figure out what we would be doing for dinner over the next couple nights. I asked, "Miranda are you and Mina coming back tomorrow?"

Miranda told us, "Don't think we will be back until Monday. I need to remember to bring my ballet boots with me when we do come back."

I asked Marc, "How long y'all out here for?"

Marc told me, "The four of us plan on leaving Tuesday morning. Martina and I would love to stay longer, but we have a resort we need to get back to."

Gary added, "I have my production offices in Henderson I need to be at. Plus, Bunny is missing Bernie!"

I joked, "How's Claudette been behaving?"

Bunny laughed, "Since Bambi hasn't called me, she must be doing well! I do hope we can come back out for Thanksgiving or Christmas."

I told them, "Should work. Now that our mother and Blanche are out here, we don't need to go out to Oro Valley for Thanksgiving."

Wynn joked, "But, that won't stop Linda from inviting us."

I laughed, "True and may be we will head back out that way for Thanksgiving. Still a couple months out. But, yes y'all are welcome to come out for Christmas. Okay, so who else is going to be here on Monday?"

Laura told us, "Since it will be my last chance to see Martina until Christmas, I will."

I told them, "Okay sounds good. I'll grill some fish on Monday then."

After dinner Mina and Lindsay returned to the loft. It was Lindsay's turn to be spanked. When they were done Lindsay found a Sharpie and handed it to Mina telling her, "Please add your name to my paddle."

Mina took the marker and signed her name joking, "Of all the things people have asked me to autograph..." When she was done she handed the paddle back to Lindsay who drew a two-way arrow next to Mina's name to signify she was both a

spanker and spankee.

Lindsay was excited, "Cool, got another name on my paddle!"

Mina told her, "Glad to be of assistance."

Miranda came up looking for Mina, "Ah there you are. We should get going soon."

Mina replied, "Yeah, I do have an assignment tomorrow. Thanks for inviting me and again I am so sorry about hitting you in the face."

Lindsay took it all in stride, "Another scar for my 'collection'." Pointing to her leg, "This one is from my high school football days. People seemed to think because it is all girls it is not so rough. I can tell you some of those girls can hit hard!"

Mina rubbed her bottom, "I get that now." She turned to her sister and told her, "I'd still like to do what you and Martina were doing this morning. If that is okay with everyone?"

Lindsay explained, "That is fine. Everyone is welcome to play with anyone...as long as they respect each other's limits. Martina might be a lyin', cheatin' bitch, but she will always respect your limits."

Mina was a bit surprised, "Kind of a harsh thing to say about her?"

Lindsay asked Miranda, "Guessing she doesn't know what she did to Ron?"

Miranda laughed, "Guess not, never really came up. So...um...Martina was Ron's first wife and she cheated on him with his sister while Ron was on a business trip."

Lindsay added, "And they also tried to have their way with Sara too."

Mina was dumbfounded, "and he let's her in the house?!"

Lindsay told her, "That was a long time ago and Ron was more upset that Martina and Abby....or Anne-Marie almost cost him The Holstein account!"

Miranda laughed, "Still can't imagine that ever happening. Now, we couldn't get rid of Miss Holstein if we tired!"

Lindsay confirmed, "You got that right. Anyway, Ron had only married Martina to get her stop bugging him about getting married. Plus, he was relieved it was his sister she was screwing around with and not some strange guy. She was also the one who filed the divorce."

Miranda and Mina left, promising to be back Monday for some more fun. Saturday Sara, Lindsay, Abby as well as Martina and Bunny on headed into Nashville in Sara's Roadrunner for a shopping excursion at the girdle maker then have lunch. Gary, Andy, Marc and I went out to lunch with Wynn.

During lunch Marc asked, "So if I may, what happened last month?"

Wynn told him, "No you may not!" Marc was in a bit of shock, but then Wynn laughed and continued, "But since you brought it up and are 'family'; I had some crazy idea in my head that I would be happier in Arizona. So much so I gave Ron an ultimatum to move back to Arizona if he wanted me to remain a part of the household and business."

Marc understood now, "Ah okay, so that is why you were asking me about the real estate market out there. So what changed?"

I told him, "I told her 'no' as us going back to Arizona would have been a lot worse than us losing her."

Wynn explained, "Not the answer I was expecting, but after a couple weeks at The Moon Goddess to think things over, I came to the realization that here is where I belong...oh and Ron was right!"

I reminded Marc, "Had way too much at stake here in Tennessee. Have my sister here and our mother too. Andy and Lindsay are happy out here as is Maya. Ana, well I don't think there is really any pleasing her. Then there would be the hassle of not only finding place big enough to accommodate all our toys, but getting them moved for that matter. That table kicked our asses!"

Gary hadn't understood why it has been so problematic as he had not seen our place. Now though he understood and asked, "So how the hell did you manage to get it up into the loft?"

I explained, "Lindsay's sister had an appliance dolly which made it much easier to get up to that third level. I am so glad I opted to have Victor change the directions of the stairs to the second level as otherwise we would have not known about the rot...until we had attempted to bring the table up."

Gary joked, "Well, next time you go to move rent a Telehandler!"

I laughed, "Well, I hope there ain't going to be a next time. But, if there is that might work."

## **Chapter 12**

### **It's All Fun and Games Until Everyone Is Stuck!**

Sunday morning we headed into Nashville for a brunch compliments of Martina. After they returned Lindsay took Miranda's place at their weekly Holstein meeting. After the meeting Lindsay joined everyone else up in the loft. Gary was bored and came into the sitting room and saw Marc with a pile of my 'dirty' magazines. He picked one up and glanced through it commenting, "Man, I have forgotten how well done these were done back then. I came across an issue from a couple years back..someone 'smuggled' it into the building and I was appalled. When I picked it up, I thought someone had removed half the magazine. The photos were lackluster and the models were not all that great looking."

Marc joked, "How about the articles?"

Gary laughed, "Don't even recall seeing many of those. Hell, I am surprised these are still even in print. Seems like physical media is a dying art form."

I told him, "Dang Internet! Well I do have a wide selection; feel free to browse. I'd offer to let you take some with you, but I doubt Bunny would want that have this kind of material in the house."

Gary laughed, "No, she don't care. Her and Bambi get all those 'girl' magazines. Thinking your sister-in-law gave Bambi a gift subscription at one time and she has been subscribing ever since. Might take you up on that offer."

I glanced out to the back porch noticed Peaches taking the dogs out. Maya came into the sitting room and was shocked, "Wow, Ron is not in his office. Anyway, just wanted to let you know I am going in with Ana. Made a last minute swap with the other piano player. Which means I don't have to go in tomorrow. Anyway, don't wait up for us."

I laughed, "Don't mind me, I'll just be sitting on the back porch cleaning my shotgun."

Maya wondered, "You have a shotgun?"

I told her, "Well, technically a Red Ryder BB Gun...well had. Haven't seen that thing in 30-years; that might have to do with Laura almost shooting her eye out!"

The next morning Martina and Wynn made a Spanish omelet. Wynn asked, "You need anything at the market besides the fish?"

I told her, "Don't think so. I know we still have a lot of potatoes."

Wynn was unaware I had bought a bag a couple months ago when she was starting to have her melt-down, "Yeah, I seem to recall a couple months ago an extra bag of potatoes suddenly materialized in the pantry. Not sure where they came from."

I replied, "Well, when two bags of potatoes love each other very much...."

Wynn groaned, "Oh boy, I walked right into that one..." Miranda and Mina came in the backdoor "...perfect timing, I was about to bludgeon Ron with a rolling pin!"

Miranda laughed, "Y'all didn't need to stop on our account...though Sara might not be too happy with you. Anyway, hope y'all don't mind us coming early. Mina has been itching to play with Martina."

Wynn asked pointing to Mina, "Does she know about Martina's...um..."

I added, "Reputation?"

Wynn became slightly uncomfortable, "I...I suppose that is one way of putting it. Sorry."

Wynn was turning rather red which seemed odd to me. I commented, "Why? It ain't a big secret. She is well known in many parts. Though the details about her and my sister have stayed within our inner circle; which somehow keeps getting larger. I should add Kacie now knows."

Wynn asked, "How about Linda?"

I laughed, "I don't think so. She has no clue as to what happened that night way back when. Far as she was concerned Laura ate something earlier that didn't agree with her...that 'something' being Martina, which *did* agree with her, but not *me*! As I have said in the past, I don't care who plays with who as long they both consent and respect each other's boundaries and limits. I have yet to throw anyone out of the house...though did come dang close a few years back with Andy and Lindsay...but not for the 'play rules'. Anyway Martina and the rest of the ladies should already be up in the loft. Well, except for Ana and Maya as they both worked until late last night."

Miranda commented, "Hence why the dogs didn't try to run us down when we came in."

Wynn told Miranda and Mina, "There is leftovers of Martina's Spanish Omelet if y'all are hungry."

Mina took Wynn up on her offer, "Sounds good, was out all weekend on an

assignment and got back in this morning. Haven't eaten since yesterday afternoon."

Miranda told her, "While you are doing that I am going back out to the car and get my bag. Then I need to do some stretches to limber myself up."

Mina laughed, "I know you have 'photos', but I still want to see for myself you in that bizarre contraception. Hell, I still don't see how you can walk in those boots!"

Wynn had warmed up a plate for Mina who sat herself at the table. I have no idea why, but I asked Miranda, "Has she seen the hogtie trainers?"

Miranda replied, "I think she did....oh wait, no we didn't get to that part of the loft. Hmm....nothing special needed for those..."

I was wondering what evil plan Miranda was hatching in her head, but reminded her, "Other than a crotchless body stocking, which we have plenty of those."

Miranda commented, "So I noticed....wouldn't want her to be by herself though and I ain't going there."

As luck, fate or just plain uncanny timing has it Lindsay came down the stairs to hear Miranda's last statement "Where ain't you going?"

Miranda was surprised by Lindsay's sudden presences and turned to see Lindsay wearing all black: a bodysuit, skirt and tights, "Dang, you like a ninja! The Hogtie trainer. I have no problem with the stand....other than I need to get a bit more limber first, but the hogtie trainer is a no go for me!" Pointing to Mina, "However, I think she might enjoy it, but I rather she not do it by herself."

Lindsay reminded her, "Well, I don't mind being in the hogtie trainer. I kind like it, it's relaxing."

Wynn was not expecting to hear that statement for Lindsay, "Bloody hell what!?"

I laughed and joked, "I am surprised, you are surprised...this is Lindsay we're talking about."

Miranda commented, "Hmm...I am beginning to see a pattern with her!"

Wynn looked at her, "Really? She's a troublemaker...look at how she 'influenced' Sara, Martina, yourself!"

I reminded Wynn, "Actually Martina and Lindsay was the other way around. It was Martina who started it several years ago at the ACME Holiday Party. Besides

Lindsay is a 'playful spirit' but she is also very responsible."

Wynn admitted, "Still don't know much about Martina, she was only here for a short time when I started. However, it seems Lindsay is well on her way to corrupting your sister Miranda."

Miranda also 'defended' Lindsay, "As I recall it was Martina who suggested Mina and her should do the demo instead of Martina and I. Also I have you know Sara was just as responsible for influencing me. However, Lindsay is very responsible when it comes to Abby's store when I am not around."

Wynn laughed pointing to Miranda, "True, she had no chance between Sara and Lindsay! Sorry, just giving Lindsay a hard time, a bad 'hobby' of mine."

Mina finished the leftovers and placed the plate in the sink. Lindsay seemed to be okay with this and told us, "Well now that she is done with breakfast we'll be up in the loft! Guessing Sara is already up there with Martina."

Wynn took the plate and fork out of the sink depositing them in the dishwasher. She told me, "Heading to the markets now. Be back later by lunch."

I headed to my office having just fired up my PC when Maya and Peaches came in. Maya told me, "Bunny, Ana and I are going to head into town to check out some of the local boutiques. We'll be back this afternoon." They left in Maya's Jeep.

I was just about to check the job boards when Laura walked in, "Hey Ron. Who all here?"

I told her, "Far as I know: Lindsay, Sara, Martina along with Mina and Miranda are all up in the loft. Maya and Peaches took Bunny into town earlier. Marc and Gary took off somewhere earlier too. Andy is at his store and Wynn left for the market earlier. She will be back before lunch."

Laura told me, "Well, then I'll head on up and see what kind of trouble they are getting themselves into and see if I can join them."

I laughed, "Sure. I know Miranda is going to do the stand as Mina, still doesn't believe Miranda can contort herself into it. Mina wants to play with Martina, what Miranda and her did with Gary's demonstration earlier this weekend. But first, Lindsay and Mina are going to spend some time in the Hogtie Trainers."

Laura had no idea about Miranda and stand, "Wait, Miranda has done the bondage stand? Now, that would be quite the sight!" She left my office and headed up to the loft. She saw Lindsay in all black and asked, "You the Loft



Mistress today?"

Lindsay laughed, "Not really. I am more the Loft Ninja! Thinking Sara is the 'loft mistress of the day'. She is going to get me and Mina setup on the hogtie trainers shortly."

Laura wanted to spend sometime with Martina and really didn't want Sara (or Lindsay for that matter) to interrupt them. As she scanned the loft, she was not seeing her and asked, "Martina up here?"

Lindsay told her, "She should be soon. She and Wynn had made breakfast this morning and she wanted to change."

Laura seemed relieved she hadn't missed her 'last chance' to play with Martina. She asked Lindsay, "Anyway, we can keep Sara occupied?"

Lindsay thought for a moment, "Hmm...could put her on the table..."

Laura told me, "Nope, I want to do Martina on the table. How about the cage?"

Lindsay told her, "She doesn't really like being in there. Unless I am in there with her. But, I already promised Miranda I would be in a hogtie trainer along with Mina. How about the fuck machine? Ron keeps himself locked up nearly all the time, so I am sure she would enjoy the experience!"

Laura was thinking everything through, "Okay, Sara on Fuck Machine; Mina and Lindsay on hogtie trainers and Miranda in the stand...yeah that would work! Martina and I can have the table to ourselves with no one to bother us!" She asked, "Where's Sara?"

Lindsay pointed to the stand, "Getting the stand prepped for Miranda."

Miranda came out the dressing room in a black long-sleeve leotard, black fishnets and the ballet boots. Laura was shocked, "Damn! You look hot in those boots and fishnets!"

Miranda joked, "Watch it now! You're my boss, wouldn't want to have file a sexual harassment complaint!"

Laura reminded her, "What happens in Ron's loft, stays in Ron's loft!"

Miranda laughed, "Well, true." She turned to Sara and Lindsay and asked, "You two ready to help me into this?"

Lindsay told her, "Mina and I need to go change, I am sure Abby can assist

Sara." She headed with Mina to the dressing rooms so they could each change into a body-stocking.

Laura walked over to Sara and asked, "Okay, what do I need to do?"

Sara told her, "Just hold on to the stand so it does not tip over as I help Miranda get her arms and legs in."

Laura held on the stand as Miranda with the assistance of Sara got herself into the stand. Sara had secured Miranda's ankles and wrists as she picked up the neck restraint and the rectangular padlocks, she handed one of the locks to Laura and pointed as she put the restraint in place, "Just put the gap of the lock in place on your side as such, then push the cylinder to lock." Laura watched as Sara attached the lock into the neck restraint on one side. She repeated the process on her side.

Laura looked at Miranda contorted as well as secured to the bondage stand in the black fishnets and was getting a bit turned on. She commented to Sara, "Boy that sure holds her in tight. Now I understand the ballet boots."

Sara handed Miranda the vibrator remote and reminded her, "You drop this and your stuck enduring whatever setting it is on until someone gets you out later."

Laura was really surprised, "What the fuck? She has a vibrator in her?"

Miranda laughed, "Of course I do! Yes Sara, I am well aware of that...so I will be more careful this time!"

Lindsay and Mina came out the dressing rooms each wearing nothing but a bodystocking. Mina saw Miranda, "Holly shit! I did not think she could do that."

Laura told Sara, "I'll help you with Mina and Lindsay getting them into the hogtie trainers. Then how about you spend some quality time on the fucking machine? Martina and I would like to play together and not be disturbed!"

Sara was wondering what Laura was up to, but figured her and Martina would stay out of trouble. Besides, it had been a very long time since she had done been on the fuck machine, "Neat that sounds like a plan. Wow, can not recall the last time I've been on the fuck machine. Thinking might have been right after we moved here. Well, then Mina and Lindsay come with us. Abby, I'll give you a crash course on setting up your victim...I mean participant in the hogtie trainer."

A few minutes later Mina and Lindsay were both gagged and secured into a hogtie trainer. Abby's plan was quickly falling into place nicely, though she was getting concerned Martina hadn't come back up to the loft yet. As luck would

have it Martina finally made her way back up the loft. She looked and around and noticed Mina, Miranda and Lindsay all secured and Abby starting to get Sara on to the fuck machine cross. She came over and playfully asked, "Need help getting her secured?"

Laura joked, "Got some coliform, she's putting up a fight?! Not that would work given the leather hood she is wearing. Anyway, you can do her ankles, you might need to adjust the cross. Just pull out the spring pin on the side and pull each piece out to accommodate her limb." Martina and Laura had Sara secured to the cross. Laura told Martina, "You could get her primed while I get the machine setup." Martina started rubbing Sara's pussy and later on put a finger, then two into Sara's pussy as Sara softly moaned through the hood. Laura got the dildo lined up and partially inserted into Sara's pussy. She told Martina, "Okay, she should be good to go." She started up the machine and then ordered Martina, "Let's head over to the table Marti"

Martina played along, "Yes Mistress Anne-Marie!"

Laura laughed, "Twenty years ago if someone told me I'd still be using that fucking stage name now...anyway. You know the drill: straitjacket and collar. I should also gag and blindfold you too. Let me go look at Ron's toy closet and see what I can find."

Martina giggled, "Oh you really want me to have an experience!"

Laura told her, "We won't see each other until near the end of the year, so want to make it an unforgettable expedience!" While Martina put on the collar and got herself into straitjacket (as much as she could) Laura browsed our selection of gags and blindfolds. She found a pink ball gag and blindfold set for Martina and headed back to the table. Martina already had the collar on and was just getting the jacket over her head. Martina climbed up on the table and Laura placed the gag and blindfold on Martina. Laura secured the straps of the straitjacket and then aligned Martina into position on the table then finished securing Martina to the table. Laura took a quick look around to confirm everyone else was secured and occupied, thus leaving her and Martina 'alone' together. Laura was excited and surprised she was able to pull off her grand plan. She sat down on the stool in front of Martina's wide open and waiting pussy. She reached down and closed the rigid cuffs around her ankles then reached behind her and closed the rigid wrist cuffs. With the final 'click' she had a tinge of excitement run through her as she dove into Martina's pussy. She had not realized though, that there was no one in the loft now that could get anyone, including her out.

I finally had a chance to start looking at the job boards, though nothing exciting was currently to be found. I was still working on getting my inbox cleared out when I came across an email from a client I had done work for many years ago.

They were looking to do a major refresh of their site and looking for a CRM that would be easier for them to use. I tagged the email for follow-up and went back to the job boards. I heard Wynn come into the kitchen and went out to assist her. I caught up with her and asked, "Need any assistance?"

She told me, "Yes, there are a couple cases of wine still in the Jeep and more produce. Grab whichever is easier for you and I'll take the other."

We headed out to the Jeep and I thought she was joking about the wine, "Good god, that is a lot of wine!"

Wynn laughed, "We've had a lot of people here this weekend. Plus, the Wild World Wine Warehouse is having their 'back to school sale' right now." I still hadn't gotten used to school starting so 'late' out here. In Arizona it usually started at the end of July. I grabbed a case and a bag of produce. Wynn grabbed the rest and we headed back into the house. She deposited all the produce by the sink and placed the cases of wine by the chiller for Lindsay to stock later. She asked, "Have Ana and Maya gotten up yet?"

I told her, "Yes they did, but they left with Bunny to go Boutique hopping! Surprised me too as they didn't get off work until after midnight last night. Surprised you didn't hear them come in this morning."

Wynn reminded me, "I usually wear a hood and ear plugs when I go to bed. I am a light sleeper after all. Any other comings and goings?"

I told her, "You already knew about Marc and Gary heading into town in my Murano. Andy be at his store. The Morgan Sisters...well you were here when they showed up. Oh, yeah Laura came in on a mission to spend as much time as she could with Martina before they leave tomorrow."

Wynn looked at the bags of produce, "Sure could use a helper. Getting close to lunch time too. Has anyone come down?"

I told her, "Don't think so. Perhaps we should make sure everything is okay."

Wynn laughed, "Yeah, not a bad idea. Least we can use the excuse that we were wanting to know what they wanted to do for lunch."

Wynn and I headed up the loft. Upon walking in I noticed Sara passed out on the fucking machine. Miranda saw us and called out, "Hey can one of you get me out of here; I'm getting a bit sore!"

Wynn and I came over to assist getting Miranda extracted from the stand. Wynn asked, "So who was suppose to let you out?"

Miranda told her, "Not sure. Sara and Abby put me in here. Then they went and put Mina and Lindsay into the hogtie trainers."

I asked, "So who put Sara on the fuck machine?"

Miranda commented, "I believe it was Abby and Martina. And no, I don't know what happened to them."

I told her, "Well, give us a moment and we will have you out." I was looking around for the keys to the rectangular locks when I caught a glimpse of Laura's red hair on the other side of the loft at the table. I tapped Wynn and told her, "Looks like Laura is doing Martina on the table." As I took a closer look I could see Laura had her hands behind her, "and it looks like Laura has gotten herself and everyone else stuck!"

Wynn laughed, "Dang it, I was going to blame Lindsay..."

As I grabbed the hex wrench and the keys for the locks, I reminded her, "Seeing as she is in the hogtie trainer...and while she is quite talented, there would be no way she could secure herself into a hogtie trainer. Let's get Miranda out and then we'll have a chat with Laura."

We got Miranda freed from the restraints and helped her out of the stand. She carefully stretched and commented, "Going to use the restroom then get of these boots. I'll take care of Sara when I am done. Though I am wondering how Mina is holding up."

I assured her, "We'll go get her and Lindsay out next."

Wynn left out and evil laugh, "Yeah...we are no hurry to get Laura out. She kept saying she wanted to spend time with Martina...."

Wynn and I made our way over the hogtie trainers and I saw both Lindsay and Mina were gagged. Lindsay appeared to be asleep, while Mina was awake but looking uncomfortable. I removed the gag from Mina and told her, "I'll get you out shortly."

Mina laughed, "I'm okay, for now. Not sure how I be once I get back into a normal position. Is Lindsay asleep?"

I told her, "Yes she is. Rumor has it she was a cat in her previous life."

While I worked on getting Mina released Wynn walked over and slapped Lindsay on the behind, "HEY WAKE UP!"

Lindsay was rudely awakened and let out a muffled yelp. Wynn removed her gag. Lindsay commented, "Wasn't expecting you two to release us. What happened to Laura and Sara? They were the ones who put us in these."

I told her, "Sara is on the fuck machine cross and Laura, well she got her self stuck with Martina on the table."

Lindsay recalled now, "Oh yeah, Laura was asking me what to do with Sara so her and Martina wouldn't be bothered. So wait, she is doing Martina on the table and she cuffed herself to the stool?"

Wynn confirmed, "That she did! She pulled a Lindsay! Ron and I will have a chat with her shortly."

I laughed and asked, "Is that like 'pulled a Homer'?"

Wynn ignored my joke and worked to free Mina while I removed Lindsay from her hogtie trainer. Both girls were relieved to no longer be folded like a pretzel while being impaled by a hard copper dildo. We walked over to Laura and Martina. I could see Martina was gagged and blindfolded so she had no idea we had appeared. I cleared my throat and announced, "Abigail!" Laura let out an 'Oh fuck!' I continued, "Well, I see you got your wish to spend time with Martina undisturbed. However..."

Wynn told her, "You secured yourself to the stool and hence got yourself and everyone else in the loft stuck. "

Laura admitted her mistake, "Sorry, got caught up in the moment and didn't think things through fully. I had this rare opportunity to play with Martina and didn't want to be disturbed."

I told her, "That you did. Next time, let someone...say Wynn or myself know...especially if no one else up here can release you."

Laura felt ashamed by what she had done, "Yes, I should've known better. Can you let me out?"

I laughed, "But you are the one who wanted to play with Martina."

Laura told me, "Not anymore. Wore her out."

I grabbed the key pin for the cuffs and popped open the wrist cuffs then handed her the key pin and told her, "May be later once Martina and Mina do their thing...provided Mina still wants to play after being stuck in a hogtie trainer for

god knows how long, you and Martina can switch places." I knew Laura did not like being eaten out by Martina as she could be very aggressive and rather be fucked, but this would be a fitting 'punishment' for what she did earlier, "After all, you want to spend as much time with her as you can!"

Wynn knew as I did and added, "Seems only fair. You should have a chance for her to give you pleasure, otherwise it would be selfish of Martina. Anyway, when you two are done meet us at the stairs."

Miranda came back out sans the ballet boots and went about getting Sara released. Laura released Martina and met Wynn and I along with Sara, Lindsay and The Morgan sisters at the stairs. Wynn explained, "The reason we came up here was to find out if anyone wanted lunch. I am guessing most everyone is still stuffed from Martina's big breakfast. Also, I could use a helper to clean up all the produce I just bought. Oh and Lindsay, I over bought at the wine store so figure out what should go in the chiller and the overstock we'll keep in the pantry until there is room."

Everyone, especially Mina agreed they could wait to eat until dinner. I told them, "The only thing is I don't know when Marc and Gary plus Bunny, Maya and Ana are going to be back. Andy, all I need to is text him a picture of the fish on the grill and he'll drop everything and come home!"

Mina asked, "Martina can we still try out what my sister did with you the other day?"

Martina smiled, "Sure! Just let me use the bathroom the freshen up. Ron do you remember where you put the stocks and gags?"

I joked, "I've slept since then! No, I know where Gary and I placed them."

Lindsay had enough play for now and would take care of the wine situation in the kitchen. Miranda told Wynn, "I'll head down and help you out with all the produce. Need to earn my keep!" The three of them headed downstairs. Leaving Sara and Laura unoccupied.

Laura looked at Sara and concluded, "Well it is just you and me. Martina is going to be occupied with Mina..."

Sara asked, "So what do you want do?"

Laura was not sure, "I don't know, what do *you* want to?"

Sara thought for a moment, "How about we get spanked with the new robo-spanker?"

Laura had forgotten about the new toy, "Hmm...haven't tried that yet. Okay."

I went about getting the stocks and dual headed gags out of storage. Martina head returned with Mina. I asked, "Who is going to be where?"

Martina told me, "I'll be on the bottom again."

I handed them the gags and replied, "Works for me!" Martina laid down on the floor and I laid out the stocks. I told Mina, "Okay, lay down a top of Martina." Mina did as she was told and I noticed she was little shorter than Martina, "Hmm...just an FYI Martina, she is a little shorter than you are so your arms and legs may be slightly bent to fit her limbs into the stocks." Martina didn't seem too concerned and put on her gag. Mina followed suit then I secured their ankles and wrists into the stocks. I called out to Sara, "Hey Sara, can you grab the pump bottle of lube please?"

Laura had gone to the powder room and Sara was getting the robo-spanker ready for them, "Sure. Waiting on your sister anyway!" Sara came over with the lube. While I applied lube to the dildos, Sara added lube to Martina and Mina's pussy's. She told them, "Okay, y'all are lubed up now. Have at it! I am going to go wash then having a spanking session with your sister. Hmm...can she last the entire thirty minutes?"

I laughed, "I have no clue, but it won't killer her. She might not like it..."

I headed back downstairs to see Lindsay was taking stock of the wine and Miranda was helping Wynn get the produce cleaned. I told Wynn, "I am going to text Marc as well as Maya; find out when they plan on being back so I can figure out when to get the fish going."

Wynn told me, "Might as well have an early dinner tonight as I do believe Marc mentioned their flight leaves somewhat early tomorrow morning."

I added, "Plus they are still on Arizona time too." I headed to my office and found my phone. Sent out a text to each of them. Marc replied they were already on their way back and should be at the barn within an hour. Maya replied they plan on being back around 3:00 PM. I headed back to the kitchen and advised Wynn, "So Marc and Gary are already on their way back. Maya says they will be back around 3:00 so, lets plan having dinner then." I looked at the time on my phone and concluded, "Which means I need to start getting things prepped soon. I can wait for you and Miranda to finish with the produce. I should check to see how much propane is left in that tank and if I have a spare..."

Wynn advised me, "I seem to recall the spare cylinder under the grill is empty."



I told her, "Well then, guess I'll head into town and do a quick exchange. Don't want to run out of gas before dinner is done."

Later on everyone returned with the exception of Andy. I snapped a picture of the fish on the grill and sent it to Andy. Within seconds he replied, "Leaving right now!"

We all gathered on the flagstone patio for dinner. Once everyone had gotten their food and was seated I proposed a toast, "Here's to a fun reunion and gathering!"

Bunny commented, "Thanks Ron and Sara for having us out. It's been really nice."

Gary reminded her, "Let us not forget it was Martina's idea for all of us to come out together."

Bunny joked, "For once the bitch had a great idea!"

Martina played along, "Aw...thanks!"

Marc told them, "Martina and I plan on being out here for Christmas, so if you two want to join us..."

I joked, "Not sure how Claudette or Bunny would like that!"

Bunny laughed, "As long as she gets to spend time with Persephone. Besides, they are coming out for Thanksgiving. The less I have to deal with her the better."

Gary replied, "Amen to that!" Bunny gave him an elbow to the ribs, "Ow! What was that for?"

Bunny didn't say anything to him but told us, "We might take you up on that offer."

I warned them, "As I am sure Marc and Martina have told you, it does get cold out here so be sure to pack accordingly!"

After dinner the girls returned to the loft and Wynn made sure Martina did Laura on the table.

## **Chapter 13**

### **'Major Equipment' Failure and A Project For Peaches**

It had been a couple weeks now since The Zinfandel's and Frosh's had left. Midweek I was busy with several projects including doing a new site for a former client from way back when. I had just logged in and was about to check my email when Wynn told me, "Marty is holding on your business line."

I told her, "Odd, he does not usually call me. Thanks." I picked up my business line, "AZOutback, Ron."

Marty greeted me, "Morning..least I think it still is out your way. Anyway, I am out at The Holstein at Superstition Mountain. Had just gotten back to my Tucson house last night when Sadie called me. Said they had a big storm in the area and lost power for a couple hours. However, when the power came back on they were offline. I told her to send in a ticket and I would get up there in the morning to see what was going on. I am here now and it is a huge mess."

I asked, "The area or the store?"

Marty laughed, "Well both actually. Lots of downed trees and standing water. Anyway most all of the APC equipment...well pretty much anything that was plugged in and running at the time is fried."

I was wondering, "Lighting strike to the building?"

Marty told me, "Was thinking the same thing, but the fire department confirmed there were no direct strikes to the building. I saw an SRP crew working on a nearby transformer and chatted with them. They confirmed the transformer did take a lighting strike last night. So, I am not sure how y'all want to play this or what protocols you have for a situation such as this."

I asked, "Have you finished reviewing everything yet?"

Marty explained, "Almost. Let me give you the ticket number...I am still adding to it so it will be read-only on your end."

Marty gave me the ticket number of this incident and I pulled it up. I started reviewing the list of affected equipment and told him, "Wow! Okay...um...well let me rally the troops and I'll give you a call back within the next hour."

Marty informed me, "Sounds good. I'll keep adding on to this ticket as I go. Oh...the sever seems to be fine. I did have to replace the power supply, but then it fired right up. Running diagnostics currently."

I checked their manifest and discovered, "Oh an HP DL160 G6. Not surprising, those things are 'bullet proof' and would likely survive a nuclear blast!" I wrapped

up with Marty and called out for Wynn. She came into my office and I told her, "Send out a 'Pineapple' to the crew, got a major mess in Gold Canyon."

Wynn took out her phone and sent the alert to Andy, Miranda, Abby and Sophie. She then asked, "What's going on?"

I gave her a brief summary, "From what Marty has told me AJ and Gold Canyon got hit with a big monsoon storm last night. Nearby transformer was hit by lightning. Based on what Marty has checked so far, most everything got fried. He is still adding to the ticket. Need to figure out how we are going to handle this."

Wynn asked, "Should I have them come into the sitting room since your office is going to be too small."

I replied, "Nope, Great Room. I can cast the ticket info and do a video conference with Marty on the TV in there."

Over at The Holstein, Miranda got the text alert from Wynn, but had no idea what it meant. Lindsay and Sara had gone out earlier to pick up some goods from a local supplier so she could not ask them. She found Abby and asked, "Did you get an odd text from Wynn as well?"

Laura went to check her phone and then told her, "Oh, I don't have my phone down here. What did she send?"

Miranda told her, "A pineapple?"

Laura freaked, "Oh fuck! That's not good. We need to get to Ron's ASAP! Let me go upstairs and grab my phone and bag."

She headed upstairs and Miranda still had no idea what was going on. Her phone started ringing and she saw it was Andy, "Hey Miranda. Laura's phone is going to voicemail. Can y'all swing over and pick me up on your way over to Ron's. I rode in with Lindsay this morning."

Miranda told him, "Yeah, Laura is getting her phone and stuff. What does this mean?"

Andy was surprised I had never explained the significance to her, "Wait Ron has never told you about 'Pineapple'...oh you are new edition to the team. Simply put it is 'drop everything and get over to his place for an emergency meeting'."

Miranda was still clueless but told him, "Okay, Abby is coming back down the stairs now, we'll be there shortly." She told Laura, "Need to pickup Andy since he rode in with Sara and Lindsay this morning."

After they picked up Andy, Laura told them, "I just texted Wynn letting her know the three of us are coming in together."

Back the house I fired up the TV in the Great Room and did a split screen with the ticket and video conference app. Wynn came in and told me, "Andy is coming in with Miranda and Laura. Still waiting on a reply from Sophie..." her phone dinged, "Okay, Sophie is on her way say about 10-minutes." A short time later Andy, Laura and Miranda came in the back door. Wynn yelled out to them, "We are in the Great Room."

The three of them came in and took a seat. I explained, "Still waiting on Sophie, but I can at least fill you in on what's going on. This is regarding the Gold Canyon Holstein."

Andy joked, "Linda springing up last minute change again?!"

I told him, "No, this is much worse. Sometime last night the area got hit by a big thunderstorm and according to Marty from his chat with an SRP crew in the area..."

Miranda having not been from Arizona had no idea, "Sorry, who or what is 'SRP'?"

I replied, "Oh yeah, you're not from there. Salt River Project or simply SRP, they are the main electric provider for the Phoenix Metro area including Gold Canyon. As I was saying, Marty chatted with the crew and found out a nearby transformer was struck by lightning. He said Sadie called him last night after the power was restored and they could not get the store back online. He had her create a ticket, which I should refresh as he has been adding to it as he accesses the carnage."

I refreshed the ticket and scrolled down to the comments. Abby saw the list, "Shit! Did anything survive?"

Sophie came in the back door and had made her way into the Great Room and asked, "Survive what?"

Andy told her, "Lighting strike to a transformer near the Gold Canyon Budget Holstein..."

I laughed, "So far, we think the server made it through unscathed...well other than the power supply. Marty was still running diagnostics when I last spoke to him. Let me see if I can reach him via video conference." I attempted to connect via video call and Marty appeared. I told him, "Okay, the crew is here and I have filled them in on the basics. What can you tell us?"

Claudia came into the frame, "Morning all. Around six last night the storm hit; first strong winds and heavy rain, then lightning. We lost power around six-thirty and after we got everyone out of the store Sadie and I shuttered the store and went home being we're so close. No power at the house either, but that came back not long after we arrived. We had expected the storm to die out within a half hour or so. Every time we thought it was over it start over again. Finally a little before ten the storm seemed to have fizzled out and we headed back to check on the store. Everything seemed fine on the outside, well other than the parking lot was flooded and several downed trees. When we opened the back door there was very high pitched sound coming from the server closet."

Marty added, "That was the APC1500 on the network rack. It is displaying 'OVERLOAD' and not providing any power. Unplugging it and plugging it back in did not clear the error."

Wynn confirmed, "It is an internal fail safe. The unit took a bigger incoming current load than it was designed to handle. It will need to be replaced."

Laura asked, "Marty is everything on the network rack dead?"

Marty confirmed, "Yes. Connected each device to my big ass power bar and nothing would come on. The three TVs are all dead too."

I laughed, "Yeah, those were just plugged right into an unprotected outlet."

Andy commented, "Suppose that means the mini-PCs mounted on the back are fried too!"

Marty was unaware of the mini-PC's, "Oh, I thought they were using USB sticks." He looked at the manifest, "Oh, I do see now there were three HP minis. I'll be back, need to check on those."

Claudia asked us, "So how does this work in regards to our service agreement?"

I explained, "There will not a special trip charge and labor is covered. Anything that can not be warrantied you will be charged for replacement. At this point that sounds like the PC's, TV's and the battery backup units. The CISCO Network equipment is covered...assuming they are still in warranty....Wynn can you check on that and get that process going?"

Andy asked, "Shall I contact Dunn and Zina and see if we can replacement battery backups and mini-PC's?"

I reminded him, "I still have a nearly full box of those mini-PC's you brought over from Arizona so we are good there. In regards to the battery backups, yes see

what you can find out. Going to need to get some TV's too. Suppose we can stop at a Buy More or Large Mart on the way in and get new TVs."

Claudia asked, "Would it help if we can get the TV's? I know a guy..."

I asked, "His name wouldn't happen to be Jed Rae would it?"

Claudia was confused, "Who? No..."

I laughed, "Sorry, kind of a (bad) inside joke. Yes, if you can get the TV's that would help. We can remove the old ones and mount the new."

Claudia then asked, "When can y'all be out here?"

I paused for a moment, trying to work out the logistics, "Well, CISCO can drop ship the replacement equipment overnight. We can likely have PC's and Things send out the battery backup units via Road Runner so they'd arrive within 24-hours. I need to consult our travel advisor as well as the crew to figure out when we get out there."

Marty came back and reported, "Yes, all the mini-PC's are dead. I do have good news though, the sever seems to be fine other than the power supply. I know HP is picky about warranty parts will they warranty that?"

I explained, "HP Enterprise discontinued their self service program a while back...well at least the web version. It is more hassle than it is worth to try and do a claim the 'new and improved' way. I do believe we have extra power supplies, so I am not going to bill them for that. As I was telling Claudia, I need to check with the crew and my travel consultant as to when we get out there."

Marty understood, "Well, let me know so I can be here. Any other questions?"

Wynn asked, "Yes. iPad's, Square and laptops/docking stations, et al?"

Marty told us, "The Square Terminal is fine other than it does not have a network connection. Claudia says they did not have their laptops docked at that time...they really only use them at home. iPad's are all fine as they were not charging during that time. The two offices each have an APC 350 for the dock and monitor. The 350's appear to be fine, they passed the self test."

I had noticed Claudia was saying something then disappeared off-frame. She reappeared shortly and told us, "Our POS Cannon printer is dead."

I asked, "Is that Point-of-Sale or Piece of Sh..?"

Claudia laughed, "Yes!"

Andy joked, "Our condolences! We can get that replaced with something much more reliable and of better quality."

I told Andy, "Yeah, whatever we setup Kat with at Paradise Valley, was something HP." He stepped out to call over to PC's and Things. I returned my attention to Marty and Claudia, "Okay, I'll be in touch later today once we have a better idea of what we are needing to do and when we are able to do this." I ended the video conference and told the crew, "The way I see this, we have two options on when we can do this; We can wait until tomorrow to fly out which means we may get out there in the later afternoon and thus would have to pickup again the following morning; the other option is we fly out this afternoon, get to Gold Canyon by evening, stay the night then first thing in the morning start getting to work. We'd likely be able to finish by early afternoon and fly back here to be home in the later evening. Which do y'all prefer?"

Wynn reminded me, "I won't be going with you, would be handing this remote."

I confirmed, "Yes, so Miranda is the onsite project lead for this incident."

Miranda told us, "Well, time is money and each hour they are down, they are losing money. So, I think it is a good plan if we can get out there tonight and then tackle this fully refreshed in the morning."

Laura wondered, "Would even be able to do anything in the morning though as we are waiting for the network stack from Cisco?"

Andy came back in and told us, "Talked to Zina and they do have APC1500 units in stock as well as the same HP Printer we used at Paradise Valley. She is also willing to have them brought over to the site. Guess, she figured the gas would be cheaper than the expense of Road Runner."

I told Laura, "Well, there's your answer. We will still need to remove the dead equipment. From what I recall Cisco does UPS Overnight morning so we will get the replacement equipment fairly early. I mean we don't have to start as soon as the sun comes up. We can have breakfast then head over there."

Laura understood, "Yeah, that makes sense. I am okay with leaving later today if Miranda is. I'll chat with Lindsay when we get back to the store to let her know Miranda and I will be gone."

Sophie stipulated, "As long we don't have a repeat of Henderson I am good."

I laughed, "Well, I can not control the weather, but I doubt we should have any

issues. It is not unusual to have a late season storm plow through in September, but it is rare and a singular occurrence."

Sophie clarified, "I was refereeing to the way your sister treated me there...which I doubt you can control either. " Laura ignored Sophie's comments more so to keep herself from ending up with thigh bands and a torture plug from being added to her belt.

I told everyone, "Let me get in contact with Marc and see what he can do. At this point, I believe we are done here and I will let y'all know once I know more." Andy, Miranda and Abby all left together to head back to their stores. Sophie also left heading back to The Cheshire Farm's Cafe.

I rang Marc, "Oh hey Ron, what's going on?"

I told him, "Heard part of The Valley got hit hard last night, you guys okay?"

Marc laughed, "Yeah, we didn't get anything. Seemed to be isolated to Apache Junction and Gold Canyon areas."

I replied, "Which is why I am calling. Linda's Gold Canyon store took an indirect lightning hit last night. Need to see about getting Miranda, Sophie, Abby, Andy and myself out there likely this evening. We will need a rental for a day and accommodations in the area for tonight only. This is an emergency situation so the costs come out of our pocket, not the client's."

Marc asked, "So you plan just going directly to Gold Canyon from Sky Harbor?"

I confirmed, "Given the time sensitivity and location of this job, it makes more sense. All the replacement equipment is coming in tomorrow morning so we should not be out very long."

Marc told me, "Okay, I can get y'all on a flight arriving around 7:30 tonight Arizona time at Sky Harbor. I'll work on your rental and send you the details once done. As far as hotel, there is a Best Western. Should be able to get you a couple suites....the manager owes Martina a big favor so I can likely get one of those fully comped. Don't worry I'll get everything arranged, including ground transport to and from Nashville. I'll call you in a couple hours with the details."

I was looking at my job queue and hadn't realized how backed up I was still between going out to Arizona last month for The Holstein rebuild and Corona de las Estrellas refresh then having the Zinfandel's and Frosh's over. Here, we going to be heading to Arizona later tonight, but hopefully only for a day or two. I glanced out towards the sitting room and saw Peaches going out the backdoor with the dogs. I recalled Maya had mentioned to me Peaches had done web



design work in the past. An idea came to my head to delegate out the web job from the long time client. My time would be better spent trying to get some of the smaller triage and 'mishap' jobs knocked out. I headed towards the kitchen just as she was coming back in. The dogs came running in and stop only briefly to sniff me and then headed towards the great room. I asked Peaches, "Hey you got a few minutes, want to discuss something with you?"

Peaches looked at me worried, "What did Maya do?"

I laughed, "Nothing to do with Maya and no your are not in trouble. You still do web design work?"

Peaches told me, "Been a bit, but I do. Why?"

I told her, "Come with me to my office, want to show you something." As we walked back I explained, "A long time ago I did a site for a client and now they are asking to have it redone, more modernized. Thinking it will need to be converted into WordPress or Joomla so it is easier for them to manage."

I showed Peaches the site and she remarked, "It is old and weird! May I?" I let her sit down at the computer and take a look at the site in more details. She told me, "Ah Front Page that why it be weird. Can be done. Why you not do it?" It had been so long since I had used Microsoft Front Page for web work, I had forgotten about it and the unique server side requirements it needed.

I told her, "Don't have the time. Still trying to get caught up from the last trip to Arizona then having Gary and Bunny plus Marc and Martina over that long weekend. I am leaving with the crew tonight for an emergency job in Arizona; hope to be back late tomorrow. I'd normally wouldn't even be doing something like this anymore, but they are very old client." I was debating how much of the commission to give her, but figured since I would be able to get other projects done I'd let her have the whole amount. I showed her the contract, "This is what they are offering and when they would prefer to have it done."

Peaches reviewed the contract, "Works. I can do for less."

I reminded her, "This is not a bid, this is what they will pay me for getting this done. In this case, I'll let you have the entire amount as I need to get caught up on everything else."

Peaches understood, "I see. When can I start?"

I told her, "I'll email the client letting them know you are going to handle this and to be in contact with you. I'll also forward their details to you once they approve and I set up a new server and an access domain you can work with so they can

review. Just let me know once they are ready to go live and I'll take care of pointing their domain to the new server."

Peaches bowed, "Thank you Mister Merlot!" and left my office.

After she left Wynn came in and told me, "Marc called while you were meeting with Peaches. He says he emailed you all the travel arrangements for Gold Canyon. So, what was that all about anyway?"

I told her, "Delegation! I had an old client reach out to me. This was from back when Laura and I were doing this consulting gig while at The University. I did a website for them back then and now they want it updated and moved to a more modern platform. I really don't want to deal with it and wouldn't have otherwise except they are a past client. So Peaches will handle the conversion. I just need to setup a new sever with a temp domain for demonstration and building purposes. WordPress or Joomla won't run on a Front Page server."

Wynn knew of Front Page, "Wow *that* is old! So when y'all leaving?"

As I switched over to my email I told her, "Good question. Let me see here." I looked at the travel arrangements and saw we'd be leaving Nashville around 5:00 PM and arrived in Arizona around 6:30 PM Arizona time. I told her, "In a few hours. Need to let them all know. Ground transportation suppose to be here about quarter to 3:00 PM. I also need to let Marty and Claudia know."

Wynn told me, "I let the crew know. You take care of the rest."

I thanked her and then called Marty, "Hey Marty, we are coming in tonight. However, we are going straight to the hotel. After breakfast tomorrow morning we will get to work. If you can let Claudia, Sadie or Jojo know I'd be grateful, got a lot to do before we leave in a few hours."

Marty assured me, "I'll let them know. Jojo came in right after you dropped off the conference and said they'd get the TV's taken care of. Wynn updated the ticket with the claim numbers from Cisco. Andy added in the information as to what PC's and Things are providing..." I just realized we needed to provide the PC's for the TVs.

I told Marty, "Oh PC's, yeah I need to grab four of those before we leave. I think I know where they are used one for local project a few months back to host a virtual machine running Windows XP. Okay, we'll see you tomorrow." Once I wrapped up with Marty, I went about creating a new Linux server for the client. It would need to be done regardless if it were Peaches or myself doing the site work. I emailed the client (and copied Peaches) in regards on how we would be handling the site conversion. I headed out to the shop to grab four HP mini PCs. I

added those to my tool bag and brought that into the house. Headed upstairs to pack a 'to go bag' with three changes of clothes just to be safe. A little later in the afternoon Miranda dropped Andy off at the house and would head to her place to pack then come back with Abby and Sophie.

Andy came into my office and joked, "We sure been going back to Arizona a lot lately. May be we should've moved back after all!"

I laughed, "I don't think so Andy!" I checked my email and saw the client had replied they were fine with Ana doing the site. I forwarded the new site info to Peaches and then told Andy, "Well, got one less project I need to get done now. Was able to have Peaches handle converting a very old website for an even older client of mine. Just got too much on my plate right now and seems like I am barely able to get anything done with all these trips to Arizona! "

Andy could relate, "I feel your pain. I have repairs that are piling up. Every time I think we can get hem knocked out, just as many show up."

I reminded him, "That's a bad thing; doesn't this mean business is good?"

Andy laughed, "Suppose to. Least I have a decent manager...well better than the material we had Fountain Hills."

I had to ask, "Which one Houdini or Glen Campbell?"

Andy laughed, "Glen Campbell by far. At least Houdini just left quietly during the night. Who we have here is not quite on the same caliber as Zina or Dunn, but still better than nothing and not worse than those two!"

Wynn came to my office, "Abby, Sophie and Miranda are here. Your transportation is on the way. Driver called said about twenty minutes."

I asked Andy, "You did tell Lindsay we are leaving?"

Andy asked, "Did you tell Sara?"

I replied, "Nope. Peaches knows."

Abby came into my office mid conversation and told us, "I already let Maya, Lindsay and Sara know. They were a bit confused when they came back to find Miranda and I gone. I explained the situation. I told Maya as we're leaving this morning that we had a meeting with you and would be back later."

Our ground transport arrived and the porter loaded all our bags. As we were heading out the door Wynn assured us, "I'll keep y'all updated with the claims

from Cisco and I told Zina to bring the items out tomorrow to the site after 9:00 AM. I've got everything under control out here. Just get out there, get it done and get the hell out there before Miss Holstein finds out you're in the state!"

I laughed and told her, "She's in Oro Valley, but yeah I really don't want to be out there any longer than we need to be."

## **Chapter 14**

### **Clean Up at Gold Canyon and We're Going to Need a Bigger Store!**

We landed at Sky Harbor and while waiting for our bags a familiar scene played out: Andy and Sophie stayed at baggage claim while I went to get the rental; Miranda went on the search for abandoned baggage carts and Abby disappeared to the ladies room to change into her belt. I made it to the rental center and was able to get checked in and the rental fairly quickly. I was just leaving the lot when Miranda called and asked on my status. I told her, "Leaving the rental lot now, should be back to the terminal in a few minutes. Go ahead and head to the curb now." I made my way to the arrival curb and saw everyone waiting. I pulled up and pushed the button to open the rear hatch and the sliding side door. Miranda and Sophie started loading all our bags.

Andy got in and joked, "Never thought of you as the mini-van type!"

I laughed, "In all honesty the few minutes I've been in this thing, I am loving it. Handles a lot smoother than an SUV."

Miranda yelled from the back, "You have more cargo space than you did with the Tahoe. Okay, we got the last of the bags in. Let me run in and return this cart...and become a quarter richer." Miranda returned the cart and then got into the van. We decided it would be a good idea to stop for dinner on the way to the hotel. After an hour pit-stop for dinner we made it to the Best Western.

Upon checking in the clerk noticed my name and commented, "You are getting the second room for free thanks to Misses Frosh. The least I could do to thank her for the golf lessons. It does say here you *may* be checking out tomorrow or the next day?"

I told her, "I would hope we only need the rooms for tonight as we should be able to get done what we need done tomorrow and return back to Tennessee."

The clerk told me, "If you can let us know by 2:00 PM tomorrow to avoid having to pay for an extra night. Here are your keys."

Since the suite was two bedrooms plus a hide-away bed I figured that would work

for Andy, Abby and myself. I handed the key for the standard room to Miranda, "Here you and Sophie can have this room to yourselves."

Sophie joked and pointed to Laura, "Good, I don't want to be in the same room as her!"

Abby was not sure if Sophie was joking, but decided just to ignore the comment if she knew what was best for her. Since it was already late evening Tennessee time the three of us went to bed fairly early. I had just woken up when my phone started ringing. I saw it was Sadie, "AZ Outback, Ron."

Sadie commented, "Hope I didn't wake you. Wanted to treat y'all to breakfast before we get started. Meet me down in the lobby when y'all are ready."

I told her, "Just got up, not sure about everyone else yet."

About 10-minutes later we met Sadie down in the lobby and she told us to follow her up the road to the cafe inside the golf resort. During breakfast she told us, "Jojo and I got the TVs yesterday afternoon. They are in the store and still in box."

I told her, "Well, Sophie, Miranda and Andy can take care of those. Abby and I will be removing and cataloging the bad equipment." After breakfast we returned back to the hotel and I told everyone, "Let's assume we are going to be leaving this afternoon, so get all your bags out of the room." We made our way to the Gold Canyon store and noticed the SRP crew were still working on the transformer. It appeared the downed trees had been cleared and noticed there was still a lot of water in the nearby wash. We walked into the store and the smell of fried electronics knocked us over, "Good grief, you are going to need to air this place out. Grant you it should get better once we get the bad equipment out."

Sadie commented, "Yes it is a bit potent in here!"

As the morning progressed we had the bad equipment removed. Marty came in and assisted Andy with dismounting the bad TVs and getting the new TVs mounted as well as attaching the HP minis. UPS came in with the new network equipment from Cisco. I instructed Miranda, "Okay, lets get these boxes opened up and the equipment unpacked. We are going to put the bad equipment back in the same box. Cisco provides us with a prepaid UPS return label for each piece. With each piece of equipment you unpack, snap a picture of the sticker on the rear with your tablet and then send all those to Wynn. She will get those added to the manifest. While you are doing that I'll process out the bad piece of equipment."

As were getting the network equipment processed Jojo came in and told me, "Ron, there is a lady here to see you."

I walked out to the lobby to see Zina I asked, "You come bearing gifts?"

Zina walked over and hugged me, "Good to see you again Ron. Yes, I have some battery backup units and a new HP Network printer. Could use some assistance."

I told her, "Let me go find Andy." I went about and located Andy with Marty and told him, "Zina is here with the APC units and HP Printer."

Andy was excited, "Oh wow. I was expecting her to send Max or Doyle over." We walked in to the lobby and Andy saw Zina, "Zina! So great to see you."

She came over and hugged Andy and joked, "I so missed you. I mean Dunn is nice to work with, but he just not the same. Anyway, if you can give me a hand we can get everything in one trip."

After they brought everything in Andy and Zina chatted for a bit. I headed back to the sever room and found Abby was getting everything re-mounted on the rack. Sophie came in carrying a still in box APC1500 and set it on the floor. She commented, "These things always fool me with the bulk of the weight being on the one side. Let me get this unboxed and mounted. Looks as if Abby is about ready to get the configs uploaded."

I told her, "Suppose you won't be needing to go to the gym anytime soon. Oh, before you mount the unit, let Miranda get a photo of the back sticker so Wynn can updated the manifest."

Sophie understood, "Yes, that would be helpful. We don't want what happened at Corona with the stale manifest to happen here!"

I laughed, "Stale? Interesting choice of words."

Sophie added, "Well, that would have been the word I would have used had someone asked me to describe your sister during her final days at the resort."

Abby objected, "Hey! That's not right. I was more 'rotten' then stale!" She turned to me and asked, "Have I told you how much I appreciated you dragging me out for that job you did for Lindsay's sister couple years ago?"

I told her, "I am not sure."

As we approached noon we had the store nearly up and running again. There were a couple minor things that needed to be taken care of, but nothing that

would require us to stay an extra day. I called the hotel to inform them we would not be needing the rooms for tonight. I also called Marc to get us a flight out this evening. We'd be arriving back in Nashville very late, but at least we would be back tonight. Finally around 2:00 PM we had everything working as it has been prior to the storm. I sat down with Jojo and went over the billing for that parts. She told me to forward the invoice to Kacie and it would be taken care of. Since we had a few hours to kill before our flight we stopped off for an early dinner. We made it back to the airport and I dropped Miranda at the arrivals curb and she went on the hunt for an abandoned luggage cart. She located several and took one across the terminal to the departures curb. Her and Sophie loaded up the cart and awaited my return from the rental center. Since she had the time Abby headed to the ladies room and removed her belt. I made back and we went through the process to get checked in for our flight. While I was waiting for us to board I called Wynn, "We should be departing in the next 30-minutes. Marc has assured me he has arranged ground transportation from Nashville."

Wynn told me, "Sounds good. Things have been peaceful here. Oh, Kacie called for you earlier..I am assuming it had to do with payment for the Gold Canyon store, but said she would call you back in a day or two. Oh yes, Maya and I finished the special shampoo for Cream. It does seem to have helped."

I had forgotten about the over shedding with Cream, "Forgot about that. Also, suppose it helps that Lucy is not stressed out."

Wynn sighed, "True. Well, I suppose I'll be the one sitting on the back steps tonight 'cleaning my shotgun'. See y'all when you get in, give me a call when you land at least."

The flight home was smooth and once we deplaned everyone headed to the restroom. Abby of course took longer than the rest of us as she wanted to get back into her belt."

After I called Wynn to let her know we landed I joked to Sophie while were waiting for Abby, "You know, I am beginning to think this 'punishment' of yours didn't quite have the end result you were expecting."

Sophie laughed, "What are you talking about Ron? She been behaving better than she ever has. So she decided she likes the belt, she does know that if she were to cross me again I'll add the thigh bands along with a torture plug and put the key in the safe..."

Abby came out of the restroom and saw Sophie and I chatting; likely about her. She commented, "My Spidey Senses are tingling again..."

I laughed, "You are mistaken it is simply the draft from a well ventilated airport."

Abby played it off, "Sure...if you say so!"

Thankfully the baggage carousel finally activated and we were able to get our bags and get the hell out of Dodge...well Nashville. I gave Wynn a quick warning call. We made it back to the house and other than the rear porch and mudroom it was dark. Maya's Jeep came in right behind us and parked in the garage. Maya came over and commented, "Well, I am guessing everything went well as you made it back fairly quick."

I told her, "For once, a project for Linda Holstein that went smoothly. Of course that might have to do with the fact she was not involved in this project and we were able to avoid alerting her to our presence!"

Miranda came over and told me, "I am going to be taking your sister and Sophie back to their place then head home. See you this evening for yoga."

Being how tired Andy and I were we just left everything in the mudroom and headed to our rooms. After breakfast the following morning we gathered our gear. Once I had everything put away I headed to my office to see what was happening. I hadn't really been paying much attention to my email while we were in Arizona. I checked this morning and noticed a payment acknowledgment from Kacie as well as a chain of emails between my client and Peaches regarding the site. The latest email was them confirming they were satisfied with the changes and to go ahead make the new site live. I had just finished reading the email when Peaches appeared. She knocked and asked, "Can I come in?"

I motioned her to enter and told her, "So, I see you finished the project I gave you. How did it go?"

She laughed, "Much easier than many vendors I deal with. Can you make it live?"

I told her, "Yes, let me change a couple things on the CRM side and then I'll point their domain to the new sever. Everything should be live within in a few hours."

Peaches bowed and told me before she left my office, "I let them know. Thank you."

Later that afternoon Miranda came in to get ready for Thursday Night Yoga. I passed her in the kitchen and commented, "Didn't we just see each other last night?"

Miranda playing along told me, "No, it was just a dream."

I laughed, "Okay..."



Friday morning upon logging into my email I saw a payment acknowledgment from the client for the website. I needed to figure out how to give Peaches her cut for the site design. I headed back to the kitchen to get some tea and told Wynn, "If you happened to catch Peaches have her come to my office. Need to get her paid for that site design she took on for me."

Wynn laughed, "Way to delegate! Didn't think you could let go."

I reminded her, "The only reason I took this project on was because it was a very old client. Otherwise I wouldn't have bothered. However, she really helped me out."

Later that afternoon Wynn informed me, "Kacie is on your office line."

I picked up the line and greeted her, "Good day Miss O'Neil. Wynn did mention you had called while we were out cleaning up at Gold Canyon. I did get the payment for that job."

Kacie told me, "Good, that's not why I am calling you. So, when you and Abby chewed out Miss Holstein and I couple months back..."

I reminded her, "We were 'setting expectations'!" I was starting to get concerned as to where this phone call was going.

Kacie laughed, "Sure whatever. Anyway, I wanted to give you a heads up about a forthcoming store expansion."

While I appreciated the advanced warning, this was certainly not something I really wanted to be hearing about now having just returned from Arizona, "Oh great, we just got back from Arizona too. I really don't feel like going back again so soon."

Kacie told me, "It is not an Arizona store. It is your sister's."

I was confused, "Wait what? Why hasn't she said anything to me about it?"

Kacie explained, "Because she doesn't know we are going to do it. Miranda has been working behind the scenes with The Franklin planning and zoning commission. We've been told we can do what we plan on doing, but I need to come out and take a look for myself. Was wondering if Kayré and I can stay at your place for a few days while we work things out."

I told her, "Sure we have the room. However, I can't see Laura expanding, is she taking over something on either side of her?"

Kacie told me, "No, she has the yard between the deck and garage. We are going to have the deck and stairs demolished, bump out the rear of the building about five feet. She will end up with a roof-top deck over the new portion with a new spiral stairs to access said deck. The new section will be for an expanded hat bar as well as place for Miranda to offer her custom leather belts."

I replied, "Hmm...Interesting! Belts and hats are really big out here, so that makes sense. So when y'all coming out?"

She told me, "I thinking Monday afternoon...or evening. Have to look at our schedule and see when can get a flight out. Also need to see when the contractor...um what his name...Victor is available. I should ask since you have 'seasons' out there, what's the weather like this time of year?"

I explained, "Upper 60's during the day, might top out above 80. Night time is cool usually mid 40's but might get close to freezing. Just bring a hoodie with you and dress in layers."

Kacie was getting excited, "Oh my, that sounds so delightful. We have yet to dip below 100, at least it has been cooling of in the evenings. Okay, I'll call you over the weekend once we know more."

There was knock at my office door and I looked up to see Peaches. I motioned her to come in and while I briefly muted Kacie told her to take a seat. I wrapped up with Kacie, "Okay. That will work, I need to get going." I removed my headset and asked, "What can I do for you?"

Peaches made a face and told me, "Not know. Wynn said to see you."

I recalled now, "Oh yes. Sorry, been one of those days....weeks...months. So the client for the website has paid me and I need to get you your money. Should I just give you cash?"

Peaches surprised me when she asked, "Can you move to my PayPal?"

I told her, "Didn't know you had one. Yes, I can do that. What is your PayPal email?" Peaches provided me the email associated with her account and I transferred the funds from my PayPal to hers. Once I got the confirmation email, I told her, "Done!"

She looked on her phone and confirmed, "Thank you Mister Merlot." then left my office.

I headed to the kitchen to chat with Wynn in regards to Kayré and Kacie, plus

The Boutique Holstein. I found Wynn and told her, "The Holstein strikes again!"

Wynn had a look of fear and asked, "Good god now what?!"

I told her, "Well, the good news is this does not involve any of the stores in Arizona."

Wynn asked, "What then, is she opening a new store in another state?"

I laughed, "No. They are looking at expanding Abby's store. Kacie has already done the preliminary legwork..well she had Miranda take care of working with the zoning codes for Franklin. They plan on taking out the existing deck and then bumping the building out 5-feet with a roof top deck. From what Kacie was saying they are needing the space to expand their hat bar as well as a space for Miranda to create custom belts. So Kacie and Kayré are coming out for a few days next week. Not sure when, likely Monday. Kacie wants to review the site in person."

Wynn was confused, "Going to take her a few days to review the site and she needs Kayré with her?"

I told her, "I think it is more of a vacation for the two of them. Get away from the heat of Arizona and likely Miss Holstein. Anyway, they will be staying with us."

Wynn understood, "Sounds about right. Least we are getting some use out the guest rooms other than Holidays. Oh, Maya mentioned something the other night she may be leaving your sister's store. Think she said she is going to be working for Andy."

I commented, "Wondering how long before Sara and her would get tired of seeing each other 24/7. Well, that would certainly help with Andy with his backlog."

Later that afternoon I finally had a chance to take a look at the job boards when Maya came to my office, "Ron, you have a moment?"

I told her, "Sure. What do you need or did I send for you?"

Maya was confused by the latter half of my question, "I don't think you did?"

I admitted, "Sorry, that was Peaches. Sleep schedule still a bit out-of-whack. So what's up?"

Maya informed me, "Starting Monday I am no longer going to be working at your sister's store."

I joked, "So you and Sara have finally got tired of being around each other all the time!"

Maya laughed, "Sure. Trisha is coming back so Abby really won't need my help anymore and they are adding someone else after the first of the year. Lindsay was telling me how backed up they are at their store, so I will start working over there."

I told her, "That will help. It would be nice for me to have a Saturday where I am not spending most of the day bailing out the McGrawl's. So, you still going to be playing the piano at The Other Steak House?"

Maya confirmed, "Yes, but only on Saturday and Sunday evenings. Anyway, that is all...oh the shampoo seems to be helping with Cream's shedding."

Saturday afternoon I was over at the McGrawl's store for what likely would be the last time. Wynn called my cell, "Sorry to bother you Ron. Kacie called and said they'll be out Monday afternoon our time. Not sure if you want me to get them or if you would?"

I told her, "Seeing as I have yet to be able to take on any new projects I should be able to get them. I give her a call after dinner."

Wynn asked, "Silly question, but is your sister aware of this?"

I explained, "Not that I am aware of. Like I said, Kacie told me Miranda has been dealing with the Town of Franklin in regards to the permits and zoning variances. I am going to assume Kacie is going to at least let Abby know she will be coming out here. Again, I really don't know much about this project, other than at least it will be 'local' which means you likely be lead...not that I have any idea of what we are going to be doing. Guess, will find out more when Kacie meets with Victor next week. Anyway, I should be home in a couple hours."

Andy was wondering what was going on and asked when I wrapped up with Wynn, "What is this about your sister, Kacie and Victor?"

I explained, "So when we got back from Gold Canyon, Kacie called me and informed me they want to expand Abby's store. Miranda has already gotten preliminary approval to have the back deck and stairs removed; then to expand the existing building out about five feet. There will be a new roof-top deck on top of the addition. They want to use the new space for an expanded hat bar and guess for Miranda to feature her custom belts. So, Wynn called to let me know Kacie *and* Kayré will be coming in Monday afternoon."

Andy was confused, "Why Kayré coming too?"

I explained, "Thinking Kacie wants for them to have some time together away from Arizona and Linda. Believe they are going to be staying the week."

Andy commented, "Hmm...interesting. So, do we have a timeline on this project and what we would be doing?"

I told him, "No clue. They will meet with Victor and kind of go from there. As for what we might be doing, no clue yet. Guess it depends on what other parts of the store they might change. I am not certain if this is going to be a simple remodel or a full gut and renovation."

Andy understood, "True, if it is the latter then sounds like there will be a lot for us to do. Least it is local and we don't have to deal with Miss Holstein."

I reminded him, "Don't count your chickens before they hatch...she showed up here for the grand opening."

Andy did recall, "That's right. Well drat!"

A couple hours later we called it a day and headed back home. On our way back to the barn I commented to Andy, "So I understand I am being replaced by my sister-in-law."

Andy laughed, "I wouldn't call it 'replaced'; you weren't exactly on the payroll!"

I joked, "Oh man, does that mean you won't be getting me those Trader Joe's exotic beers anymore?"

Andy assured me, "Don't worry I'll still keep getting those...otherwise you'd kick Lindsay and I out!"

I laughed, "Ha! Even if I tired, Sara would neuter me with a dull knife!"

Andy cringed at the very thought, "Ow! In regards to Maya this works well for all involved. Laura wasn't going to need her anymore with the other sales person coming back. Lindsay and I had been talking about bringing on someone part-time to help with this never ending backlog, even if indirectly. She was chatting with Lindsay about her situation...though from what I understand Ana makes more money she does."

I reminded him, "Peaches is a 'manager', Maya is...well I am not sure, guess a 'sales associate'. I've always wondered if Maya and Sara would get tired of being around each other all the time. Surprise her and Lindsay aren't..."

Andy told me, "Lindsay spends most of her time at our store now."

I laughed, "That's unusual! Didn't think she wanted to be involved in that aspect of your 'business'....she sure didn't in Arizona."

Andy explained, "But, she was when it was just us. Things kind of got messy when we bought out PC's and Things. Being now it just one store, like it was a couple decades ago when we started out in Tucson."

We arrived at the barn and no surprise we saw Miranda's van parked in the back along with Sophie's truck. Andy and I walked into the mudroom and were knocked over by the aroma of the Merlot Chicken Enchiladas. We made our way towards the kitchen and saw Laura and our mother putting the finishing touches on tonight's dinner. Most everyone else was in the Great Room with Maya on the piano. Sophie was wearing a black dominatrix dress and saw us come in, "Well, nice of you two to finally come home! Now go wash and we can get this dinner started!"

Andy and I looked at each other in confusion while I replied, "Yes...Mistress...Sophie?" Andy and I headed our separate ways to get cleaned up and returned to the kitchen shortly. When we returned I joked, "So is Sophie the Loft Mistress today?"

Laura laughed and told us, "Yes she is. Seeing as she has not been before we decided to allow her to assume the role this rare time she is with us on a Saturday."

I was wondering about that as she usually had her project, "Yeah, doesn't she usually do her quilting group on Saturdays?"

Sophie explained, "We are on 'fall break' for the next two weekends. I will join y'all next week when we do dinner at your mother's place."

Suddenly the sound of an Alto Saxophone came from the great room, "What the...?" I looked over to see Maya on the piano with Miranda standing next to her playing the sax. I was in total shock and complimented her, "Wow, Miranda that is impressive. Did not know you played the saxophone!"

Miranda joked, "You never asked! Been many years since I played. Maya and I were chatting one day and somehow the subject came up. Took me a couple weeks to find it and get it tuned. Best we take a break now and have dinner, wouldn't want to get on the bad side of the Scottish girl!"

Laura laughed, "Don't let the dress fool you, she's harmless....well for the most part!" During dinner Laura told me, "Oh Ron, Kacie is coming out next week. We

are meeting with Victor on Wednesday morning to discuss a possible expansion. Will you be able to be there?"

I replied, "Seeing as I yet to start any new projects or even get work done on my current with the constant chaos currently, I can be there I can. She did let me know earlier this week when we got back from Gold Canyon. So what all are you going to be doing?"

Laura admitted, "I am not really sure. Best if Miranda explains."

Miranda had just taken a bite and signaled for us to wait for her to finish, "Great timing there Abigail!"

Laura did not freak out and simply replied, "Sorry!"

Miranda continued, "Anyway, we are looking at taking out the back deck and expanding further back the store. The new addition will house a new and improved Hat Bar and a belt display. There will be a roof top deck over the new section. We are not certain yet how we are going to expand. We might go straight back leaving a couple feet between the garage and building we might do an 'L-shaped' addition going all the way to the alley next to the garage. Either way we still have the same amount of 'open space' in the rear. Victor will be able to give us a better idea once he has a chance to evaluate the current building and lot setup."

After we were done with dinner mother and Laura assisted Wynn with the dishes and getting the kitchen cleaned up. Sophie had gone back up to the loft and returned a few minutes later wearing a black long sleeve t-shirt and capris. I joked when I saw her, "You no longer on loft mistress duty?"

Sophie replied, "Sadly, all good things must come to an end. Besides, unlike your sister I am not really one for dresses."

I had not really paid attention when we came in or for that matter during dinner, but I looked over and confirmed Laura was wearing a dress. I reminded Sophie, "She didn't used to be, until you put her into the belt with thigh-bands."

Maya and Miranda had resumed their 'jam' session and much to our surprise Peaches sang a couple of the songs. Later that evening everyone headed back home, though many would be back tomorrow for the weekly Holstein meeting. The next afternoon Miranda came over to take part in the meeting. When they got the Tennessee portion of the agenda Kacie asked for me. Miranda found me in my office and told me Kacie wanted to talk to me. I walked over into the sitting room and Lindsay handed me her tablet. Kacie asked, "Did Laura mention we will be meeting with Victor on Wednesday morning?" I confirmed, "Good to know. By

the way, Miss Holstein is not aware of this and I've been very cryptic in regards to what Kayré and I will be doing next week. I'd appreciate it if she were to contact you not to say anything about this or confirm our whereabouts!"

I laughed, "You sound like two teenagers sneaking away to get eloped! Don't worry, I have no desire to deal with her presently....even if she is a 'premier client'!"

Kayré appeared behind Kacie and laughed, "He's on to us!"

**To Be Continued...**