

Somewhere Inside the Tree House

Somewhere Inside the Tree House

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Charlie and Colton were both footloose and fancy free and lying inside a pumpkin patch...wondering what to do next.

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Somewhere Inside the Tree House : Chapter 1

They lay together in the pumpkin patch hiding from a group of people who had just walked past them and trying not to laugh. The sounds of a raucous party complete with Halloween music could be heard from a residence in the distance so that's probably where the people were going.

Given that you had two witches, a devil and a GI Joe in the mix. Yes, definitely hitting the hottest Halloween party in town.

Charlie sat up, after they had walked past, leaning against a large sized pumpkin which remained on the twisty vine along with the others that hadn't made the cut to be turned into jack o lanterns that year. Still, there was plenty of time for them to be turned into pumpkin soup on many a Thanksgiving dinner table. But for now they made good props for hiding while Charlie hid out with one of her best friends, Colton. They had grown up together on neighboring ranches together but alas, both of them had been ditched or dumped by their dates for that big party in the distance.

Hence the hiding out in the pumpkin patch instead of partying it up on the dance floor listening to over a dozen different renditions of either *Thriller* or *Monster Mash*. Colton's ex girlfriend Trina was holding the bash while her parents were out of the country, leaving her the five bedrooms, four and a half baths to fill with over 100 guests from high school. One of them was her brand new boyfriend, David who had just bought a Porsche and was captain of the tennis team.

Charlie had been going out with Jake who had dumped her for a reunion with his old girlfriend Lorie who headed the cheerleading squad. They were both attending the Halloween bash as Adam and Eve.

She sighed as she lay back in the patch looking up at the stars which filled the black velvety sky. The earth and the foliage from the patch felt damp against her shirt but pleasantly cool, after the unseasonal hot day. Colton lay beside her, neither of them in costume but both thinking the pumpkin patch to be just the right place to hide out from the rest of the world. He had spread a blanket taken from the attic at his house and they had even brought some fast food to eat while spending the holiday together.

"Wish you had gone," she asked, lying next to him on the blanket.

He remained silent for a moment.

"Nah...I knew it was over between us...she just had other ideas of what she wanted."

"She's a fool Colton," Charlie said, "She doesn't know what she wants...she'll realize she screwed up and she'll be back."

Colton shrugged.

"I won't be waiting."

"Oh that's right...you'll have moved on already...that's great...I wish I could do that."

He turned to look at her detecting sadness in her voice beneath her carefree attitude. She must have cared more for that loser than she let on, but then what the hell had a young woman with her beauty been doing hanging out with a guy who'd dump her so easily? She might be his childhood friend but that didn't mean he still wasn't a guy, who didn't look at her curly dark brown hair and hazel eyes and not notice her beauty. She

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had been thin as a child, but her angles had grown into curves, toned by a lifetime spent riding horseback.

Sometimes when she wasn't looking, he enjoyed the view like right now, the way her jeans sculpted her lower body, her toned legs and yeah, her ass too. He knew that such thoughts about his friend probably might lead to her teasing him but if he kept them to himself...

"Hey I really do envy you your ability to just love them and leave them," she said with a sigh, "I wish I knew how to be better at doing that."

He looked over at her, her finely cut profile, and he felt her wistfulness almost physically. But she needed to know some serious truth here.

"Charlie...Don't change what you've got, for anyone," he said, "So this latest guy wasn't worth what you had to give him, maybe the next guy..."

She smiled, but she shook his head.

"No I'm done with this love stuff...I just want to like a guy enough to have a good time, not put anything more into it."

He frowned when she put it that way. Damn when had that happened, when he hadn't been looking? He just never remembered her sounding so jaded. They were both in their final year of high school.

"Don't say that," he started, "You're too young to be thinking that way."

She snorted from where she lay in the darkness.

"Why...I'm not much younger than you and you're already acting that way."

She had nailed him straight with that one and he couldn't deny it, so he just looked at her.

"You don't want to be me."

Oh now that intrigued her, so she rolled on her side to face him.

"Why...is it bad or something," she asked softly.

He looked at her for a long moment, not forgetting that inquisitive nature of her, the quality that along with some serious studying habits not to mention smarts had led her to the top of her class.

"No...because you're a woman, and men are different."

She lifted her head and arched a brow.

"Don't give me that crap Colton...I know men and women are different since I walked in on you and Gary when you were nine and skinny dipping."

He cleared his throat.

"Yeah...well I'm even more different than now from you than I was back then."

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God, she knew that, Colton had never been gangly, just leanly muscled but when he hit his sophomore years, he had started growing into his frame. Helped him greatly as a running back on the football team when he got tackled, not that it happened often, with his agility and turn of foot. The girls told stories about him, in breathless fashion in the locker room before PE.

She played along like she knew what the hell they were talking about because they assumed that she did, because she grew up with him. They hadn't asked her if she'd slept with him, because they assumed that to be the case cause guys and girls couldn't be friends, not when they could be frolicking in between the sheets or in the back seat of a car instead. But she and Colton, they had never crossed over that line.

Not that she hadn't thought about it, she had especially lately, now that they were both seniors in high school, about two months into their last year and both unattached...not that he did...he looked at her as a buddy, his partner in crime and all around close friend. He just didn't look at her as some woman he wanted to have sex with, not when there were other beautiful outgoing women out there to sample.

And she knew that he had indeed sampled. Not tonight of course but other nights and more of those to come.

"So how long before you, you know hook up with someone new?"

She asked him that right as she thought it, as she often did when she spoke with him, favoring always the direct approach.

He just looked at her.

"What...well...not tonight if that's what you're thinking."

"No...well you can wait until tomorrow I guess."

He narrowed his eyes.

"What about you?"

She looked all innocent but inside she felt warmth fill her at his question.

"Well, I told you...only if he's interested in having some fun."

He just sighed thinking that was all wrong for her. Okay, what was good for the gander...he wasn't one of those double standard guys but this was his friend he was talking about. He reached over and stroked her hair and she just looked at him. Not that he had never done that before but not this way...

"Colton...what is it?"

He just looked in her eyes, and suddenly some images appeared inside his head faster than he could chase them away if he'd even wanted to do that. He thought about the other night when they had hung out in the basement recreational room at his house. They'd been sitting on the sofa listening to the sound system, some early rock and roll and not doing much talking. She'd worn her hair down like now and she had worn this lovely top with flowers of different colors on it, and the top had been lower cut to accentuate her breasts. He had definitely been aware of when that part of her had changed, and nicely. He thought then about kissing her on that couch, he had glanced sideways at her wondering what she had been thinking about him.

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But she just looked in front of her, in her own world. Maybe she'd been thinking about Jake. Maybe missing him when all Colton could think about was how it might feel to dip his hand inside of that shirt and stroke those breasts, to feel the nipples harden at his touch. Was she even wearing a bra, he couldn't tell.

Now he thought about that time and he just looked at her, the question still on her face even if her lips had stilled. They just lay there in the patch in the comfortable way of old friends but his mind had been wrapped around what it'd be like...

"Nothing...I was just thinking."

"About what...about her," she asked.

He remained silent for a while which was his answer. But not the one he wanted to give her. The way she digested his nonresponsiveness that prompted him to find some words.

"No...no I wasn't...She's with another guy now and I'm free."

She looked at him as he said those words, and he seemed to savor them. Not that it surprised her because she didn't see him as the type who remained serious about one woman. Maybe one woman at a time but not one woman for all time...not that she expected that of him at all. They were both still very young with their lives spread ahead of them.

"I guess that's the way to look at it," she said, "I'm free too and I'm glad I'm not with him. Jake...he was kind of jealous of every guy around me...especially you."

That surprised him because there had been no reason because he and Charlie had never...well he had thought about it but actually, no so her boyfriends had no reason to worry about him. Suddenly, that realization nagged at him, like an itch that he couldn't reach.

The woman lying next to him, had parts of her he knew as well as himself, like how she liked to go riding on her horse, how she liked to explore corners of the mountains to find what nature had hidden there. She loved to skinny dip in the pond, oops maybe he wasn't supposed to know that but she loved to laugh at old movies they watched together in that basement.

But he didn't know everything about his friend, including how she liked to be kissed, and where it would tickle first before it aroused her. What would he do if he kissed her in between her breasts suckling on the ripened nipples he knew would be waiting, if he removed her shirt...maybe a lacy bra or an undershirt?

It didn't take much to arouse him...and sure enough his pants tightened at the thoughts that filled his mind. No way to relieve it, at least until he got back home, as he just lay there apparently oblivious to her effect on him.

She glanced over at him as the quietness between them grew, matching the night, the sounds of the party fading.

"So if we're both free...."

Her voice drifted off and she closed her mouth having said too much. She never had a problem saying exactly what she wanted to say, speaking her mind and all that, but right now, she had just stopped, and she had looked away, out across the patch at an eye level with rows of pumpkins, all awaiting the next round of picking. The fragrance of some overly ripened ones that had split open wafted in the air with the distant smell of something burning in the night.

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Probably barbecue from the party, the one the two of them had ditched.

He shot her a look, and she knew he had gotten her meaning but what did he think about it?

"You really thinking what I'm thinking," he asked.

She bit her lip, and just shot him a look.

"What if we just...only until one of us got together with someone else?"

His eyebrows shot up and she knew what she said shocked him. Damn, not her intent at all, maybe she should just forget about it. Yes, dumb idea to spring on a guy who might be her best friend but after all had never touched her as he might a girlfriend since they were interested in doing stuff like that.

"Forget it..."

He shook his head, all serious now.

"I can't...once you say something like that...it's hard to do that."

She pondered that and thought he might be right about that because she didn't really want to take back her words. What she wanted was to know what it felt like to kiss his mouth, whether his stubble on his jaw tickled when it brushed against a woman's skin.

And not just on her mouth.

Damn, she was getting way ahead of herself. Slowing down her breathing might help bring sense back into the conversation because what she had hinted at but couldn't say, just crazy talk. But he didn't seem to think so, not if the sudden light in his eyes was any indication. His own breathing had quickened too.

Then without more words between them, Colton moved closer to her and damn, if he didn't kiss her mouth...tentatively at first as if aware that he was probing new ground between them. She hadn't really been all that startled, but she reached out to welcome his kiss, as it grew into something, more than a greeting between two friends. She tasted the spearmint gum that he favored, the hint of his aftershave reached her and his lips, and she moved her tongue around to taste more of him.

Gingerly because after all, they didn't usually do this but he definitely didn't seem to mind. He reached out to place his hand behind her head, pulling her closer, as they lay hidden in the patch. Kissing him was much, much different than Jake or any of her other boyfriends, it sent jolts of pleasure throughout her body, far away from her mouth. Suddenly, she knew she wanted him to do more than kiss her, she wanted to feel his naked skin underneath her fingertips, and...she swallowed dryly, his own hands on hers.

Oh god, what was she thinking here...don't think, she told herself then, just feel the moment ...because it might not last longer than that. A kiss stolen between two friends, on Halloween night because neither of them could get a date to the party...

But Colton didn't think about the party, or any of his ex girlfriends not even what's her name....he just thought about stroking Charlie's mouth with his own before deftly sliding his tongue into it, not forcefully but coaxing her gently, until she supplicated. Pleasure jolted him when he tasted her, the cinnamon from the apple pie they had just eaten, and some of that wine they had scored from his daddy's cellar. She moved closer to him without realizing it, and his hands began to explore her as fervently as his tongue moved inside her mouth.

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Her tongue met his boldly and they stroked each other, and damn if that didn't feel wonderful, she thought.

So did he, he knew that when he felt his pants grow even more tight, his erection pushing against them. He didn't question the way he felt because that kiss just continued to grow, but his hands started wandering, stroking her back, and then slipping underneath her shirt.

"Colton..."

She felt his warm hands against her bare skin, which prickled beneath his touching...and below his hands, her panties started to get damp. She felt her breath leave her as she realized that she hadn't felt that way about him.

Not that she had allowed herself that pleasure, to want something that could never be hers. But why they kissed, she imagined what it'd be like if his hands moved towards her waiting breasts and worshipped them as he did her mouth. Guys didn't seem to know what to do with her breasts, which had developed by the time she hit 14. They tended to squeeze them like they were milking a cow when she preferred having them rubbed, and god, if she could find a guy who would mouth her nipples like cherries, she would probably climax just from that. Especially if Colton...no she couldn't say it, he was just her friend and they were just getting a little carried away and soon enough, one would rein them in, safely back into their friendship.

But what she really liked is when another hand besides her own stroked her pussy, that juncture between her thighs, rubbing her clitoris, gently, not too rough and when she became wet down there, if he would slide a finger inside of her, and stroke through her tightness. She imagined what it'd be like if Colton fingered her, watching her reaction with those intense eyes of his, wondering what it would be like to be the woman in his bed.

She'd undress for him, or he'd do it for her, baring his own skin and then as she opened herself up to him, he'd lie between her thighs and she'd wait for that slice of heaven when he thrust inside her for the first time. Or maybe she'd mix things up and lower herself onto his erection and ride him, while he stroked her breasts with that tongue...her breath quickened and she tried to stop it lest he notice that he had affected her that way.

Colton watched her and knew she imagined something that made her smile, and he thought about what she looked like beneath her clothing, he imagined what it'd be like to kiss the softness of her breasts until he reached her nipples, and took them inside his mouth, carefully. Playing with them with his tongue and hearing her cry out because she begged for it, then imagining what she wore beneath her pants. Did she favor cotton or lace panties, and were they white or a soft blue...or something more off the path like red or black? Did she wear delicate silk between her legs, underneath her clothing and relish in that secret?

God she looked sexy enough just to kiss and the hardening of his penis told him that he wanted to do much more than that. But it was messed up to feel that way about a close friend wasn't it? To imagine unwrapping her like a birthday present and inhaling her scent, that hint of perfume and something darker...something uniquely her. Spreading those toned thighs of hers and slipping those panties off of her legs to look at her pussy, what would that be like?

He sucked in his breath and felt the sweat prickle on the back of his neck just at the thought, at gazing down at those soft rosy petals, nestled in curls, darker than the hair which framed her face or did she shave, he'd never thought to ask. Questions like that just didn't come up in the scope of their friendship though now he wondered idly, but more so about what it'd be like to bury his face in between her thighs, licking her pussy lips, and thrusting his tongue inside of her for a taste. He knew it'd be heaven, he was a lover of pussies after all, not able to ever get enough of worshipping them properly with his mouth.

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Maybe not all guys were like that but Colton loved to go down on his women. Not that he didn't love it when women wrapped their lips around his cock but the way a woman looked after she climaxed in his mouth...her face all rosy, her lips agape...and her eyes...wanton.

He felt a jolt of pleasure in his cock when he imagined that face belonging to Charlie. Then the act of pressing her against her, resting between her knees which grasped his ass snugly, holding him against her. The joy of the first thrust inside her pussy which he knew would be snug and hot, her moisture helping him slide inside of her, the walls of her hugging him, rubbing to build him up right until the point he shot his wad.

Colton sighed as his thoughts wandered into the forbidden recess of his mind that he harbored fantasies of fucking his friend, who lay next to him right now after that kiss, still apparently unaware of what she did to him. Her cries haunted him, the ones she would make as she gripped his ass as he pushed deeper inside of her, her whispers begging him not to hold back, to ride her harder and faster, the slap of their bodies colliding over and over. How it'd feel to arch his back against her, during that moment he reached his own precipice. One look from her...definitely enough to push him over the edge...he thought as he shifted his body to find a comfortable position because his cock just wanted out of his jeans, and inside the woman next to him in the worst way.

"Colton..."

His head turned towards her and she just looked at him.

"What?"

She licked her lips, shifting her own position so she could really look into his eyes. He sensed that she felt his turmoil on some level.

"I have a confession to make and I don't know if you're going to like it."

His body jolted, was she going to call him on his attraction to her...which would be much more obvious to her if she moved a few inches closer to him, where their bodies would touch.

"How do you know unless you tell me Charlie?"

She tilted her head.

"Because it's not something I know if I can tell my friend...."

Now he felt more intrigued than worried.

"Why don't you try me and see what happens?"

She smiled then, a little coyly or maybe it was out of shyness. He couldn't tell, it wasn't a smile he recognized.

"I don't want to be your friend anymore Colton..."

Now that hit him like a ton of bricks...because they had been friends forever, or so it seemed, at least longer than both of them hadn't known each other. What had he done to piss her off that had led her to say such a thing?

"What the hell, Charlie...why would you say that? What have I done?"

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She inched a little closer, which was kind of a funny reaction for someone who didn't want to be friends with him, from the woman who had just kissed him, had stuck her tongue in his mouth and allowed him to do that to her. Sometimes he didn't understand women...even the one he thought he did above the rest.

"Nothing...that's the problem...I know we're supposed to be childhood friends and all that but when I look at you...I don't think that way...I want to know what it's like..."

Colton thought he might know the rest but he didn't want to get his own hopes up.

"To know what's like?"

She smiled even more widely, her eyes lit up in a way that only coaxed a certain part of him to get even harder.

"To get it on with you...to feel you against me...to fuck you and for you to do that to me..."

His jaw dropped then and his body tingled in a way it hadn't really done.

"Really...?"

She shot him an amused look.

"Yeah really...you know Colton I never took you for the shy virginal type."

He chuckled at her, his voice low in his chest, the way she liked.

"Funny...me neither about you...though I often wondered."

"You did?"

He reached out to stroke her face then, placing his thumb over the lips he had just so thoroughly kissed but not nearly enough.

"Though in my fantasies you were wearing less clothes, and we were outdoors but not in a pumpkin patch, and you were straddling on me, while I...well the way you looked naked, with your hair...oh god...and your tits close enough..."

She breathed more loudly.

"Enough for you to take inside your mouth, while I...rode your cock," she finished for him.

"Oh yeah...while I held onto those hips, and you...you had this rhythm and it was so hot."

"It's hotter in reality, I can promise you that...but do you have the...balls to try me?"

He continued stroking her face, moving down to her neck.

"I think so...what about you, how would you like it if we...were in my bed and I licked that pussy of yours...until you grabbed the bed sheets just before you screamed?"

Her brow furrowed.

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"I don't know...I'm not really all that noisy."

He smiled somewhat cockily.

"That's because you haven't been with me."

Her mouth twitched.

"Okay...maybe if you um, rode me and we rocked the bedposts, I might think about it..."

He processed that thought, of her lying in his bed after he'd stripped her bare, maybe later down the line with some restraints on her wrists which would be tied to the bedposts as he sunk his cock deep inside of her. He didn't know how she felt about a little rope play but he'd love to find out.

"It's a deal...so why don't we take our little party elsewhere?"

She didn't move, but he knew she thought about it.

"I'm on the pill so that'd work..."

He sighed, god, it turned him on that they were talking about it, not as good as getting down and dirty but now that they were heading in that direction...but...

"Look, we don't have to jump into bed right away...we could do a little exploring first."

She nodded.

"That'll work for me...but not...here..."

Yeah, the last thing he'd like is if a cop came upon them out on party patrol and saw them with their hands in each other's pants. So he got up and helped her on her feet and as they heard thread of the *Monster Mash* music reach them, he placed his arm around her waist and they left to take their own party indoors.

Bringing all those fantasies they had kept hidden from each other, finally to life.

Chapter 2

Charlie looked up at the tree house dubiously, a rope ladder led up to the platform which it sat on, nestled in the huge branches of an ancient tree. Not that she didn't have the schematic of the house memorized by heart, having played there with Colton as a child. It boasted two rooms, one larger and a smaller one and a couple windows where they hung some curtains, with cowboys and Indians on them. There had simple furniture, a scarred wooden table and some battle worn chairs and a safe in the back of it which only the two of them knew the combination.

They had spent so many hours up here while growing up, planning battles against other neighborhood kids, on hot days with their bottles of cola next to them and on rainy days, they'd sprawl out on the carpet nailed to the floor and read piles of comic books. The Lone Ranger, Spiderman and the litany of different heroic figures although later she had favored Archie's comics and sighed, as she realized that she would forever be Betty to Colton's Archie while a line of Veronicas went in and out of his bedroom.

Still he never invited a single one of them into their special tree house which lay abandoned when they outgrew it and she thanked him for that.

Now both older, on the cusp of adulthood, they stood in front of the tree and when Colton had asked her to follow him up the ladder after he untied it from where it had been wrapped around the tree, she had just nodded. He climbed up the ladder, giving her a great view of his rear view, and the denim which hugged it so tightly. She sighed, in anticipation because she couldn't wait to follow him up.

When he had suggested they head to the tree house, she had thought him to be crazy but it made perfect sense. It was private and if they were quiet, no one would ever know they were up there together. Her body tensed in a way pleasurable as she tapped her foot waiting for him to reach the top and signal her on up.

Finally, he did and she started her own climb as the ladder swayed. She held on tightly and proceeded carefully step by step until he reached his hand, and pulled her the rest of the way up until she stood with him on the sturdy platform looking down into the expansive backyard of his house.

She bit her lip as she looked at him.

"I don't have much time Colton. My mom's expecting me in little more than an hour."

He sighed.

"Okay we'll have to make the most of the time we have then won't we. Starting right now."

She smiled as he put his arm around her waist and they walked inside the tree house. Her eyes widened as he walked over to turn on an electric lantern and it filled the enclosed area with a soft glow. Ahead of them, she saw a plush rug she hadn't seen before and she turned to him, arching a brow.

"When?"

He looked at her innocently.

"Oh a while ago. Like it?"

She took on some decidedly adult decor and the safe in the corner. She looked at it and at him.

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"Oh there's some surprises in there," he said, "but I'm not telling you what they areâ you'll have to find out for yourself."

"I thought it was just going to be the two of us."

The smile he gave her then melted her insides completely, and when he placed his hands on her shoulders and drew her closer to him, she didn't resist.

"Are you going to kissâ ?"

He answered her by putting his hand beneath her chin and drawing her in where his lips could capture hers, and if she thought their earlier kiss had defined him, she had been wrong. He parted her mouth with his own lips, sucking gently on her lower lip first, then her upper and her legs threatened to turn to rubber. He hardened his kiss, probing her lips more deeply, and then when they parted, he thrust his tongue inside before she knew it. The shock started off like ice water and then her body warmed up, as he traced the inside of her mouth, then slowly thrust his tongue in and out of her mouthâ she tried to grab hold of it with her own lips to trap himâ but he deftly slid it back out before stabbing the inside of her mouth with it again.

Her hands slid around his waist, pulling him closer to her, and she felt him grow hard against her bellyâ and the heat of that contact spread down to her pussy which started moistening. The feeling of herself growing wet exhilarated her but it made her suddenly shy.

Because this was her best friend, her partner in crime and as he thrust his tongue inside of her mouth, he took no prisoners. He ran his hands down her sides, resting them on her hips.

"Oh god Coltonâ !."

She sighed as he moved his mouth, its gentle kisses trailing dampness down her neck, his mouth gently sucking on the skin there to bring up a tiny bit of it between his teeth. She nearly jumped as he did thatâ where she expected pain, she instead felt bliss.

"Iâ !godâ !if I don't go pretty soon, my aunt's going to kill meâ !"

He whispered in his ear, his breath curling the tendrils of hair as it caressed her skin. Oh god, who would have thought that her childhood friend had the ability to drive her wildly with his touchâ his mouthâ her mouth watered because when she thought about what came next on that list. She could feel it bumping against her bellyâ she wished he'd rub against her pussy like that. A few layers of clothing couldn't keep him out.

But it'd be better if it all came off.

"Okayâ !," he said, as he broke between kisses, "We'll keep it simple tonight hmmm?"

She nodded breathlessly, as he walked her to the tree house wall, until he pushed her against it. She definitely felt his erection then stretching through his jeans, huge and thick...she wanted him to shuck his clothes so she could hold him in her hand, maybe she'd even jack him off if he'd ask nicely.

But he clearly had other plans.

He thrust his pelvis against the juncture between her thighs, and oh, when his bulge rubbed against her denim cloaked pussy, she tightened her grip on him. He ran his hands beneath her top, stroking her body before moving to her pants which unsnapped just as easily and he slid them down her legs.

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"Are we going toâ!"

He started unbuttoning his own jeans and pulling them down, leaving only his briefs shielding his engorged penis from her.

"Not tonight, but this is the next best thingâ!"

He lifted her up in his arms, while he kissed her mouth and slammed her against the wall, up higher than he had been, and then before she could say anything, he thrust his pelvis up and against her, and when he made contact with her pelvis, he ground in a tantalizing motion as he thrust his tongue inside of her mouth.

She could feel the heat of his penis rub against her dampened silky panties, the fabric chafing against her pussy with each movement he made with his own body. She just held onto him as he did the bump and grind against her and she knew in a flash what kind of lover he would be.

It both thrilled and terrified her.

If they were on the dance floor, their moves would almost be legal. Until you realized that instead of dancing a slow number, they were fucking with their clothes on. The delicious friction as his erection rubbed between the slit of her pussy in careful rhythm as the fabric abraded her, brushing her clitoris.

"Oh Coltonâ! don't stopâ! oh godâ!"

He smiled to himself, she wasn't screaming but he'd gotten her talking. He kissed the rest of the words right out of her as he quickened the tempo against herâ! wanting so desperately to tear off their clothes and thrust right inside of that pussy, feeling its warm sheath grab onto his cock, as he thrust in and out of it. He watched her move her headâ! gasping at the sweet torture of their bump and grind and the temptation to deftly push a couple of layers of fabric which stood between them, tore through him. It's be so easy to shift slightly and for him to really start fucking her.

Butâ! those temptations slipped away because she meant more to him than anyoneâ! any sex between them wouldn't happen tonight. No, he wanted to wait until they both had plenty of time to spend togetherâ! giving and taking pleasure.

She shuddered beneath him.

"Oh god I think I'm going to comeâ!"

He knew she was close, the way she tensed against him and her eyes widened when he stopped kissing her enough to look at them.

"Just go with itâ! let it happenâ!"

She pushed herself against him suddenly and she clutched him harder and she started breathing harder.

He thrust his hips even after she came, still riding that slit with his erection untilâ! he felt himself convulse and thenâ! the jets of semen. He pressed against her then and she grabbed hold of him as they rode that last crest together, until the sensations started to ebb.

She blinked and looked at him.

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"Oh godâ I just almost fucked you."

He smiled at her, kissing her more gently this time.

"That's something we can fixâ next timeâ!"

She bit her lip.

"I don't know Coltonâ this was much more intense than I imagined."

He nodded.

"Me tooâ but it just makes me want you all the more."

She felt that way tooâ until she remembered why she shouldn't because they weren't really lovers were they?

Could she really handle it when he fucked her for real, because he had come at her so hard and fastâ and yet there had been a gentleness to him. But right now what she needed was some time to be alone and think about what they had doneâ what would happen next.

But first as he backed away and put her back down where her shoes rested on the floor, she started to pull her clothes back onâ butâ!

"Do you like have anything to clean myself off?"

He nodded, heading for the safe. He deftly did the combination and it opened with a click. He reached inside and brought out some wipes, which she gladly used to clean herself up before slipping on her clothes.

She looked at him.

"I'd better goâ!"

He nodded, reaching for her and kissing her on the mouth again.

"Happy Halloweenâ!"

She smiled and stroked his mouth with one finger.

"The bestâ!"

They headed towards the entrance and as they stood on the platform together. He stroked her hair out of her face and looked at her thoughtfully.

"I'll see you tomorrowâ!"

"Well yeah when we're both working."

He shook his head.

"No I mean tomorrow nightâ here at the tree house."

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She blinked her eyes.

"Oh I don't know about thatâ this was nice but I have to think about it."

He looked at her and the emotions struggling for control of her face.

"Okay then we can just meetâ and talk."

She just laughed at that.

"Yeah rightâ okay I'll meet you and I don't think we're going to do much talking but I definitely want to see what else you've put inside that safe."

He arched his brows not so innocently.

"Oh thatâ play your cards right Charlie and you'll definitely find outâ and I think you're going to like what's in storeâ!"

Well that teased her all the way down to her throbbing pussyâ yeah she would definitely be back meeting him at the tree house.

After all, it was a pretty large safe.

Chapter 3

Charlie had a pretty good idea what Colton had in mind, after that steamy interlude they had enjoyed in his childhood tree house. She knew whenever she saw it again, she'd never look at it in quite the same way.

And if he wanted her to meet him there, she definitely would be more than up for a little fooling around. After all, she knew that he'd stocked it up as a pleasure palace of sorts ahead of time—after all, why keep wipes in a safe and what else was inside there? She could only imagine—trying to reach into her memories for any clues. It passed the time while she worked on cleaning out the stalls in the barn where the yearlings had lived before they'd been transferred to the local auction house to be sold. She knew her mom would be happy with having the extra income to pay off the bills and part of the mortgage. Running the ranch had been a real struggle after her daddy died some years ago.

But right now, the gloves rubbed against her sweaty palms and the dirty straw and manure she scooped up, well some of it dropped back on her clothes. Mostly because she'd been so distracted by visions of Colton and—her that had popped inside of her head—but after last night, who could blame her?

The way he had pressed her against the wall and dry humped her into a most intense climax. There were times when she wanted to tear off his briefs and see what they sheathed and beg him to do the same for her, so it'd be skin upon skin, right up to the point he slid his cock inside of her.

But then that'd complicate matters because then they'd be fucking and as much as she'd like that, she didn't know where that'd leave them. Yeah she knew what she told him in the pumpkin patch on Halloween but now—her but since none of them were seeing anyone else, then why not?

Only until one of them wanted to hook up with someone else and they could just end the sexual part of their relationship still leaving them their friendship. What could be so complicated about that? That was her libido speaking, trying to drown out her rational side that told her that their friendship might not survive breaking up with each other.

The barn heated up and with the smell of old manure, she had to step outside to take a breath. God, she really just had to stop overanalyzing things with him. Last night, she had felt intense pleasure and she wanted more of that. She knew that he did too at least for right now.

And maybe that'd be enough for the both of them.

Colton rode his horse across the meadow, prodding a couple stubborn yearlings back towards the barn area where they'd be placed in the corral. A horse dealer was coming out to look at them and if they could pen a deal with him, they could avoid the auction fees. Every dime counted in his parents' operation and doing it this way would help a lot. He clucked to his gelding and managed to keep them from straying, they were two beautiful pintos, stocky bodied and amazingly strong and swift, a tribute to their bloodlines.

He thought about what waited him at the end of a day. A hearty dinner and then shower and get ready for his meeting with Charlie—if she showed up. She hadn't looked too sure to him when they'd parted, saying yes but the lines on her forehead. He knew she had her doubts. But if what they did together made them feel so damn good, what was the crime in that? He was single and so was she, what better way to spend their fallow time than making each other happy?

If he had to convince her of that, he'd find a way because when he'd thrust against her last night in the tree house, it hadn't been sex but it'd been almost as hot. He'd spent most of his lunch break sitting under a shaded

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area eating his sandwich and thinking about how sweet it'd been to slide his cock across the entrance of her pussy even with their underclothes in between them. The friction had nearly driven him crazy and the way she grabbed him harder, unable to really let herself go and cry out her pleasure.

Maybe she'd felt too self-conscious to show him how much she had enjoyed it but she couldn't hide it. The way her body relaxed after she climaxed, the flush in her skin and her uneven breathing—he knew he'd gotten her rocks off damn good. After all, he knew how to handle himself with women, in bed and in more imaginative places. Soon enough, she'd know that as well. He knew that inside of her existed a wilder side than she showed him last night.

After all, Charlie had always been fearless since she was small about most anything. She got on the orneriest broncos and rode as good as he did—she drove like a fiend—and had raced horses and ponies, winning prize money. No, she definitely wasn't afraid to ride—at least not horses.

But a man—he didn't know how much experience she really had—except for the one guy who'd taken her virginity a couple years back in the hayloft. They hadn't lasted very long but she'd dated other guys at least—and when he looked in her eyes as he ground his hips against her last night, he saw how badly he wanted him.

He reached the corral and one of the ranch hands stood by the open gate as the yearlings trotted on inside and then he shut the gate. The pintos didn't mind being hemmed in the corral but settled down to try to pick at any stray hint of grass.

"That's the last of them—!"

The hand, Chet, glanced up at Colton.

"I'm glad—it's been a long haul with this crop of them."

Colton couldn't argue with that at all.

"I guess that's it for the day."

"You going out," Chet asked, "There's country western at the bar tonight."

Colton shook his head, getting off of his gelding.

"Already got plans—!"

Chet's eyes gleamed.

"With a lady friend—!?"

Colton just looked at him as he led the gelding back into the barn to unsaddle him. The horse seemed happy enough to be put away for the day and after hanging the tack back up, Colton headed back to his house to shower and get ready to meet with Charlie.

Charlie had thought about dressing up in something nice for him, but after some thought, she reached inside for some brown slacks and a soft cream white sweater with short sleeves. Curling her hair a bit at the ends and putting on a touch of makeup and she was ready to go after grabbing a quick sandwich.

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She'd loved getting in the lukewarm shower to shed the dirt and manure off of her, soaping up her body and imagining that he had gotten in the shower with her. She thought maybe she'd like it if he took the sponge and worked up a creamy lather on it before rubbing it over her, caressing her skin as it cleansedâespecially if he gave a lot of attention to her breastsâand the juncture in between her thigh, nestled in soft curls that buzzed at the thought of him rinsing the soap off of her. Slowly, and deliberatelyâeach inch at a time.

But she thought, it wouldn't work out very well if he was too behaved, at some point he had to decide that there were other things a man and a woman who were naked in a shower could do together. If he picked her up and planted her against the tiles, parting her legs to wrap around his how thighs before he thrust his engorged erection inside of her waiting pussy. The water no doubt would add to the sensations of his penis sliding in and out of her each time he bucked his assâand if he kissed her with his mouthâher legs weakened at the thought and she had turned off the water and grabbed a towel to dry herself.

She felt wired after she dressed and even as she left the house and walked over to his house, towards the area where she'd find the tree house. He met her there, dressed in casual wear and kissed her softly on the mouth.

Too nicely, when she wanted naughtyâbut she knew that he'd wait until he had her alone up inside the structure.

"Are we going to," she asked breathlessly.

He smiled his eyes on her face.

"We're going to have ourselves some fun but when we do it, it's not going to be here," he said, "a tree house is a good spot for fooling around but not for making love."

She furrowed her brows at him.

"Is that what we're doingâmaking loveâI thought it was sex."

He shrugged.

"We'll find out won't we," he said, "There's no rush."

She folded her arms.

"Coltonâthere's no reason why we can't just climb up there, take our clothes off, engage in some heavy petting and then just do it."

He looked taken aback at her methodical listing of parts of the most enjoyable act that had their due order.

"Why you in such a hurryâ?"

"I'm notâI just don't need all thisâif it's not what you want."

He appraised her, seeing a lot of emotions churning underneath her matter of fact expression. He knew how to read people, not as well as horses but well enough to know that the woman in front of him didn't want him to know how she really felt about all thisâthe reality that they'd be crossing some serious boundaries which had stood between them for quite a while.

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But he didn't view it as such a big deal. She was sexy as hell even when she didn't make the effort and last night, he had discovered how it could be between them, they could scorch the sheets together if given the chance. And he wanted to take that chance, but he read so much on her face.

"What I want is to enjoy you a little bit at a time," he said, "after all, I'm not in a rush here—so if you'd like, we can take it up to the tree house."

She looked at him and she nodded.

"Okay—let's go—!"

She climbed up after him and when they reached the top, he went inside first and turned on the light. She smiled as she walked around.

"What do you want to do first?"

He just arched his brow and gestured for her to walk to the safe. He knelt by it and did the combination.

"What have you got hiding in there?"

"Something fun—but you got to go take off some of those clothes you got on."

She just stared at him and he widened his smile.

"Come on get a move on—I'll be there in a sec."

She moved to the other end of the room and started taking off of her sweater, almost hesitating to ask if that's what he really wanted but she thought, what the hell. So she shimmied out of her sweater and put it aside, just wearing her white lacy bra. When he locked up the safe and turned to look at her, he almost froze.

"My—I had no idea."

She just licked her lips at him.

"I guess not—what about you," she said, "I'm not removing anything else until you take off that shirt."

He unbuttoned his shirt one button at a time, grinning and she took a gander at his chest, and his muscular frame, sprinkled with whorls of hair. Then there were the two coppery nipples of his she just wanted so badly to sample—just a little bit.

"What have you got behind your back?"

"First you take your bra off—it's very pretty nice but I want to see what's underneath more."

She just shook her head and took a deep breath as she reached down to unsnap its front and when Colton saw her breasts liberated from their confinement, his mouth went totally dry. Cream colored, nicely rounded and firm, with the rosiest nipples he'd ever seen—and soon he would taste them.

But first she wanted to see what was in his hand.

"What are you hiding—it's not dangerous is it?"

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He whipped it out and she narrowed her eyes to take a closer look.

"Is that what I thinkâ!"

He smiled, taking off the cap, squeezing a little on his finger. Walking closer to her, she realized what he had removed from the safe.

Body paintâ!scarlet red and it smelled likeâ!strawberries.

He took that finger and gently dabbed her mouth with it.

"Try itâ!because you had dinner right?"

She nodded.

"I just grabbed something easy."

"Me tooâ!but now it's time for dessertâ!me first."

She just looked at him, as he squeezed more of the delectable scented paint on his fingers and reached over to smear it softly on her front, including her breasts, tantalizing them with his touch, taking special care when he reached her nipples, which peaked in anticipation. Her breath became uneven as she realized what he had in mind.

"Come on down hereâ!!"

She knelt on the floor and so did he but he pulled her on top of him so that she wrapped her legs around his waist. It felt strangely intimate even with most of their clothes still on, but when he lowered his mouth to her breastsâ!and she felt the first strokes of his wicked tongue across themâ!she nearly jumped off of him.

"Shhhhâ!sit still," he said, taking the tube and rubbing more paint on her breasts, before his mouth returned to licking it right off of her skin. The slivers of pleasure that shot through her breasts as they hardened beneath his mouth shot down to her pussy and because it pressed against him above the waistâ!it felt the pleasure buildâ!as he mouthed her breasts, he slowly and deftly lifted her up with his hands on her waist to better sample her nipplesâ!licking them with repeated strokes before inhaling them inside of the moist heat of his mouth. She gasped and wiggled in his embrace even though he cajoled her to be still for him. How in the hell could she do that when the ecstasy that shot through her body, moistening her pussy nearly drove her out of control?

She mewed instead, and he sucked in each nipple again, one at a time, giving them the lightest pressure of teeth which stung even as it drove her excitement higher. She sighed, wishing he'd push her against the floor, remove her pants and just fuck her, her pussy tingled with each stroke of his tongue on her breasts and when he had her raised up, he pulled her towards him, frustrating the part of her that wanted his cock burrowed inside of it, punishing it as his mouth did her breasts.

"Oh godâ!I can't do thisâ!I wantâ!!"

He stopped mouthing her and pushed her back on the floor, Yes, she thought, the clothes would be coming off and she'd actually get to see the erection that she'd felt sheathed by his briefs the night beforeâ!she wanted his body on top of hers, snug between her legs even with their clothing on but he sat beside her looking down and he started stroking her crotch with his thumb...slowly at first, brushing the surface of the seam of her

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pants but she could feel himâthen she arched her pussy against his finger, lifting her hips up, breathing hard. Damn, him she didn't want his hand on her pants, she wanted it inside, stroking her beneath her panties.

He almost seemed to read her mind, and slipped his hand in her waistband and inside her damp slip of silk and lace.

"Ohâ!"

He smiled as he heard her bite down on her lip to suppress her criesâall the way as he dragged her up the spiraling stairway towards releaseâthe tension building inside of her, her pussy dampening his fingers with her arousal. If he wanted toâhe could fuck her with his fingersâoh god, please want toâshe told herself as she writhed.

And so he did, thrusting a finger up inside of her stroking the walls of her pussy as she squeezed around himâbefore he could pull out. She wanted his cock so badly but if she only had a fingerâshe'd take that as long as heâended the agony that threaten to shake through her.

He thrust his finger inside of her, then added a second one, stretching her pussy further as she swallowed to get rid of the lump in her throat, his thumb scraped along her clitoris. And she finally bucked when she couldn't take it anymore and then her body finally spasmed, sending shards of pleasure through her, she felt so lost in the sensation, she didn't even feel his fingers withdraw until she realized they were gone.

"You want a taste?"

She greedily licked the fingers he had thrust inside of her, tasting herself and a trace of strawberries. He lay down beside her while her breathing returned to normalâwhen it finally did, she rolled to her side and looked at him.

"Okay bud, it's my turn, hand over the paintsâ!"

He did just that and she did what he did which was rub it gently on his abdomen, the muscles twitched, circling his aureoles with her finger dipped in strawberry paint. As he waited, she dipped down her face and with her mouth delivered her own sweet brand of torment.

Chapter 4

Charlie woke up the next morning tangled up in her bed sheets wondering if last night had been just another dream. She had returned home really late after having spent hours with Colton up in his childhood tree house.

He had turned the confined quarters nestled up in the huge tree into his own passion palace or at least one hell of a bachelor pad. She had lain there as he had licked the passion paint off of where he had spread it on her breasts. Remembering the sensations that he had elicited through that tongue action made them tingle. She sighed trying to remember how many times she had climaxed up in that tree house until he allowed her to reciprocate. The strawberry flavor accentuated his earthier flavor of his skin, including around his nipples which she paid careful attention to after she cleansed the paint off the rest of his chest. His breathing hitched when she carefully traced circles around his aureoles, and then traced the dribble of the paint towards where his chest hair tapered to his navel.

She had wanted so badly to unfasten his pants and pull out his cock and rub some of the paints oh so carefully up and down his shaft and more liberally on his purplish head. Then she would take that tongue of hers and lick the flavor right off of his erection, before taking him inside of her mouth to finish the job. God she'd love to taste the salty flavor of him mixed with the tang of strawberries.

But Colton had stopped her before she could move further down and had pulled her on top of him into his capable arms instead. She could feel his erection against her, even with his clothes on and she longed to feel its heat against her bare skin. It might be wrong to want her best friend so badlyâbut the guy was seriously hotter than she ever would have guessed.

Now she knew and she'd gotten just a little taste of what he could deliver. Enough to make her leave with panties drenched with want for him, because she had hoped for some oral action from him too. She sighed now the next morning, knowing that it would just have to wait.

She had to get up and go feed the horses on the ranch, because school was off for a teachers' conference. That meant working from sunrise to sunset beginning when she saddled up her horse and headed out with the other hands. She'd probably run into Colton on the way somehow because even though his parents had money, they still expected their son to work hard.

But after she pulled on her clothes and her boots, she headed down the stairs to get some breakfast, just one of the egg and hash brown wraps her mother made that along with some juice would fill her up until noon. She walked to the barn and saddled up her horse to head on out.

Her friend Lois who was the daughter of one of the hands rode on over to her, her auburn braids bouncing behind her.

"What's upâ!?"

Charlie shrugged.

"Got to go feed the horses on the other barn on the far side," she said.

Lois nodded.

"I'll help you," she said, "Then maybe later you can help me patch up some fence for my dad."

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Charlie knew she would because that's often how it worked in the neighboring ranches. People helped each other when one ranch fell short of hands and Lois' dad had just lost one to a broken wrist in a riding accident.

"I was out with Tim last night," Lois said, "Where were you, didn't see you at the movies."

They both rode side by side down a trail, the sunlight warming their backs.

"I was somewhere else," Charlie said, "You and Tim back together already?"

Lois sighed.

"Yeah I know I should have made him beg a little longer but I missed him."

"But he went out with Talia behind your back," Charlie said, "You should have kicked his ass."

"Well he dropped by the diner last night and we got to talking and he said he was sorry," Lois said, "and I believe him."

Charlie just wanted to shake her head knowing that her friend was a sucker for some guy's alibi about why he cheated on her.

"So when you were somewhere else, were you alone?"

Charlie fell silent, thinking about pretending she hadn't heard that but Lois didn't lose her train of thought easily.

"Hey, I know you were with a guyâ confess upâ who is he?"

Charlie shortened her horse's rein.

"Okay, it's no big deal but it was Colton."

That didn't impress Lois because after all he was her friend and they hung out together often enough.

"Soâ why's that such a big secret?"

"I didn't say it was oneâ you asked a question and I answered it."

Lois shrugged like she hardly cared as they ducked their heads to avoid getting hit by overhanging tree branches thick with leaves.

"So what'd you doâ just hang out and listen to music or watch TV."

Charlie smiled.

"Not exactlyâ we were doingâ other things."

"Like what?"

"Oh, trying out some of those new body paintsâ you know the strawberry kind."

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Lois nodded.

"I like tequila flavored myself but the strawberry's not badâ!"

And then Charlie said finally hit her.

"Youâ!whatâ!with Coltonâ!oh my godâ!"

Charlie bristled a little at the stunned response from her friend until she realized she couldn't blame her given that she and Colton had never done anything wild together before.

"Whatâ!did he like it?"

Charlie nodded.

"Oh yeahâ!and he sure knows what to do with body paint. He put some you knowâ!on my chest and then he licked it all off and I almostâ!"

"You almost cameâ!wowâ!I'll have to try that sometime," Lois said, "I mean I like having my girls handed by guys but I don't knowâ!maybe the body paints will spice things up."

They stopped by the stream and led their horses to a spot, through the thick grass where they could tie them to a shady tree.

"Did youâ!you know suck him?"

Charlie shook her head.

"Oh no, we haven't gotten to that part yet," she said, "but that's where I need some work. I mean I've never been all that good at going down on a guy."

Lois looked at her friend critically.

"Okay so how many guys have you sucked off?"

Charlie almost didn't want to fess up to her friend.

"Oneâ!one and a half," she said, "It didn't quite work out with the second guy."

"Ohâ!"

"Oh?"

Lois sighed, as they reached the barn.

"Well you might have a problem there," she said, "I mean it took me quite a few times with different guys before I got better at it."

Charlie reached for some flakes of alfalfa.

"Greatâ!well I guess I can figure it out," she said, "I mostly know what to doâ!I just want to mix it up a bit."

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Lois brightened as they started feeding the hungry horses.

"Well that's not too hard, come over to my place tonight and I'll see if I can't give you some tips."

Charlie folded her arms as they returned to the hay stack.

"You're not a guyâ!"

"I know but I've gotten plenty of feedback from them and some of it helped."

Charlie sighed as they kept working, because she really kind of knew the basics. She'd researched it online and when she'd had some field experience as she called it. But Colton, he had much more experience with receiving blow jobs than she had in giving them and damn, he'd know the difference right when she started.

"Really, Charlie it's not hopeless," Lois said, "There's exercises you can tryâ and someâ training films we can watch."

Charlie's eyes widened.

"You mean porno movies don't you," she said, "Where'd you find them?"

Lois shrugged.

"My parents DVD collectionâ they just label them something else."

"Won't they notice?"

"Nah, they haven't yet," Lois said, as they finished up feeding the horses and began watering them.

Charlie just shook her head, as they moved onto the next chore before they could head back for lunch.

Colton had saddled up his horse and had gone out to check on some old geldings that grazed near a fence line that always seemed to be leaning. They hadn't nudged it down in a while but it to be dealt with.

He had another hand help him with that but as the sunlight steamed down on him hard enough to make him perspire by late morning, he found his mind wandering. Damn it shouldn't be so hot this time of yearâ the valley still acted like it was summer not late autumn. At least the nights cooled down enoughâ and that alone caused him to think about Charlie.

She had said she couldn't see him tonight because she had been sleeping over at Lois to help her work on a school project but he'd see her soon. Damn he got hard just thinking about her, and that damn body paint she had licked off his chest, until he nearly couldn't contain himself. He had wanted to take her into his embrace and kiss her hard while they fiddled with the rest of each other's clothes and just got down and dirty. His cock had throbbed with each moist touch of her tongue on his skin and when he'd gotten back home, he had to jack off in the shower just to get the edge off. He'd been doing that since he turned 14 and even with the girlfriends he had, there were a couple dry spells in between so he remembered the mechanics. But what he wanted was for her to lay there looking up at him, her lips curled up in that special smile while she opened herself up for him. Colton had often felt older than his years because of the responsibilities heaped on him from birth.

So much had depended on him with the ranch and even though still not out of his teens, he had to make decisions that most of those his age hadn't and he knew Charlie understood that. Her mother had done most of

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the rearing of her and her siblings, and Charlie had helped her. How she did all that, helped run the ranch and still kept her grades high enough to put her near the top of the classâhe just marveled at all that defined her.

Didn't mean he didn't want to tug down those panties of hers and finish what he started last night. Her pussy had felt slick when he had thrust his finger inside, and he knew she had enjoyed him fingering her.

He wanted to do much more than that, and if not tonight then soon. They had started down this road together maybe on a whim that Halloween night but there was no turning back.

Chapter 5

Lois had the tequila waiting when Charlie headed over to her house for a sleepover. Her parents were out of town again and it hadn't been hard for her to get into the liquor cabinet.

She rolled her eyes as she handed Charlie her glass.

"Parents put a lock on it that a chimp could undo. I grabbed the tequila because they've been counting the scotch bottles."

Charlie took a sip of the liquor which seared her throat the way she liked it and followed her friend into the living room. A flat screen television and expensive sound system including a stereo system that could shake the building awaited. Lois sunk on the couch and picked up the remote.

"Already put the movie in."

Charlie settled beside her.

"What's in it?"

Lois just looked at her pointedly.

"Some below the belt action," she said, "You know, giving head and all that."

The film, which looked a bit grainy came on and Charlie watched as a woman who must have been a wig of black hair that tumbled onto her shoulders as she licked her lips up at some hulk of a man standing naked in front of her.

"How'd he get there," Charlie asked, "Did she invite him over?"

Lois just shot her eyes upward and shook her head.

"It's porn, no plot just action," she said, "She's going to suck him off in a moment."

Charlie watched as the woman did just that, she got on her knees on the carpet Charlie guessed and then maneuvered herself so that the man's cock penetrated her mouth.

"How does she do that without wanting to throw up?"

Lois smiled over at her.

"I heard they take something that numbs out that part of their throat so they don't feel it."

Sounded a bit extreme to Charlie. She just wanted to know how best to use her mouth to get Colton off. The woman on the film who did all kinds of things with her mouth and hands to the faceless man made it look so much easier. The last guy that Charlie had sucked off had been so damn impatient, and he kept trying to press the back of her head with his hands to get her to take more of him inside her mouth. She'd wanted to show him some teeth after not so long but a few more thrusts and he had shot his wad, leaving his raw flavor inside her mouth.

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She had never gone out with him again.

"Here's where he give it to her," Lois said, sipping her drink, "That must take some getting used toâ did you see his cock?"

Charlie watched the action on the screen. Yeah she'd seen it and no guy she had been with had been that hung.

The woman reacted suddenly and Charlie knew that he had climaxed. She deftly swallowed every drop of him and then looked up to his face offscreen. Okay, so if that were the way to get it done, then Charlie figured she didn't have a prayer with Colton. The women in these films, did they ever cramp up their jaw muscles or bruise their knees?

The woman didn't even have a hair out of place and her body, well Charlie didn't think she'd ever look like that.

"Want to watch another?"

Charlie shook her head.

"I think I can handle it," she said, "as long as I can pace myself."

"Some guys will let you," Lois said, "Some guys will want to call the shots. I've seen both."

Of course she had, Charlie thought. She knew that her friend had more experience with guys than she did. But she wondered what Colton would be like. That night with the body paints, she wanted to move the trail of her kisses and licking his skin further down past his navel. She had wanted to stroke his erect cock with her tongue, circling the tip then down its thick shaft. The woman in the film had done things with her tongue that Charlie hadn't thought possible but she'd like to try themâ as long s Colton didn't tease her about it.

"So when you going out with him again?"

Charlie shrugged.

"It's not like that," she said, "We just meet up. Neither of us is going with anyone right now."

Lois nodded approvingly then reached for the bottle to fill up her glass again.

"That's just the way to do it," she said, "After all, next year everything will be all different."

Yeah, they'd be in college and Charlie had applied to schools far away from here. She knew that Colton had his own plans. His daddy had wanted him to go to business school to learn all he could absorb before returning to learn how to run the family business.

The two of them wouldn't see much of each other for quite a while except perhaps on school breaks. That thought sobered her because she'd grown up used to him always being there.

"After all no sense getting to attached to himâ i"

Charlie looked over at Lois who slugged another glass of her tequila down her throat.

"I don't plan on it," Charlie said, "We'll always be tight but right now, he's just too damn sexy."

Somewhere Inside the Tree House

"I'll bet," Lois said, "I take it that when the two of you knock the bedboards you'll be using."

Charlie flashed her an irritated look.

"Hell yeah," she said, "I'm not looking on getting knocked up."

Lois shrugged.

"Wouldn't be the first time it happened," she said, "Look at Delia."

Charlie reached for the tequila bottle.

"I'm not her, look I know how to take care of myself," she said, "I'm just looking to have a good time that's all

"Whatever anyway I'm hungry," Lois said, "Let's go cook up something. How about Nachos?"

That sounded good to Charlie and she followed her friend into the kitchen.

Colton had hit the shower before going out to go to a tailgate party near the lake. The weather had cooled down a lot and the air might be nippy but there would be plenty of beer around a warm fire.

He and the others who lived on the ranches around would hang out and swap stories, over some food and drink. Not much to do in this part of the valley on the weekend nights but hang out.

A couple of the guys had played football with him and they had told stories about their final season which had ended some weeks earlier, much more so than they had wanted.

Colton liked hanging with the guys but his mind wandered back to Charlie, and how much he wished he were up in the treehouse with her now. She had begged off choosing to spend the night with her friend to discuss some girl issues. So he'd gone off to do some guy things but as he watched the flames crackle and spit into the night air, he imagined how her face would glow softly from the light. She'd be sitting on the floor by a fireplace with him, looking at him with those sexy eyes of hers while unsnapping her lacy bra.

In the front where all clasps should be. Her breasts, pale white would spill over and into her hands while she displayed them for him. Then she'd move closer to him using her hands and kiss him on the mouth, tantalizing him slowly with those lips and sliding her tongue across his own mouth.

The same tongue that had slid over his skin, lapping up every trace of body paint from his chest. He had wanted her to take that mouth of hers and move even lower. Aching to feel her slide her lips over his cock, ever so slowly, maddeningly as he wanted to push it past them. He new her mouth would be tight and it'd be firm, her teeth sheathed while she nursed his erection.

He tried to refocus on the conversation going around him, but his body tingled and he knew he'd be feeling his jeans tighten in a second if he weren't careful. The way she'd look up at him through her eyelashes as he felt his cock disappear inside of her mouth.

And his balls would tuck under tightly the more she worked him, because he knew that's what she'd do if she ever got her mouth between his thighs.

"Hey Colton, you going to the bonfire next weekend?"

Somewhere Inside the Tree House

He looked up and saw Carl looking over at him, from where he had seated himself next to the icechest.

"I don't know," he said, "It's the day before a dispersal sale so I might have to pass."

Carl shook his head.

"Natalie's supposed to be there," he said, "and her sister Paulette, they're supposed to be hot."

Colton shrugged, he'd heard that before whenever newcomers showed up in town.

"Like I said, I got work to do."

Carl turned to another guy wearing a letter jacket named Tyler.

"See, I told you he's got a piece on the side already."

Tyler and a couple of other guys laughed at that but not Colton. He didn't consider his whatever he'd call it that he had going with Charlie fodder for some joke.

"Yeah I heard Lorie's looking to get back with you," Tyler added, "She's told everyone that anyhow."

Colton reached for his beer and sipped it slowly.

"It's over between us," he said.

Tyler and Carl looked at each other again.

"Oh so you've got someone else lined up."

Colton took another sip of his beer, not willing to answer either way. He didn't want his best friend to be caught up in some gossip mill. He just couldn't wait to spend more time with her.

Around him, the party continued but inside his mind lingered to the treehouse where a certain woman would be waiting.

Charlie and Lois sprawled out on the floor eating Nachos with melted cheese and salsa. The tequilla hadn't settled too well in Charlie's stomach so she hoped that eating some food would make up for it.

Lois had begun to giggle from the alcohol so it was too late for the Nachos to soak up the booze before it made her silly.

"So what's it like when he goes down on you?"

Okay, they had discussed blow jobs and now had moved on to the other side of the coin.

"No, we're still mostly above the waist, but I hope he goes for it," Charlie said, "Some guys don't."

Lois shrugged.

"They will if you bribe them to do it," she said, "When I was with Nathan, it was two blows for every muff diving."

Somewhere Inside the Tree House

Charlie frowned.

"That hardly seems fair."

"Maybe not, but Nathan wasn't bad with his mouth," she said, "Though his breath wasn't always great. Down there that doesn't matter."

Charlie sighed as she wondered what it'd feel like to have Colton's mouth on her pussy. It made her wet just thinking about it, oh man if he'd tongue her clit, it'd drive her crazy. None of the guys she'd been with had been nearly as keen to put their heads between her thighs as they had their cocks. Hopefully Colton would break that mold.

She thought about what it'd be like when she'd meet with him tomorrow night. She had a couple of surprises for him and no doubt he'd have some for her.

Maybe something else from inside that safe.

Chapter 6

Charlie had taken the lessons she had learned from Lois' impromptu course on oral action to the tree house where meeting her was Colton dressed in his jeans and chambray shirt. Damn he looked handsome no matter what he wore but she liked him in his working uniform.

She had worn shorts and a tee-shirt because she hadn't felt like dressing up either, not if the clothes were coming off soon enough anyway. Besides she had a surprise for him underneath, which he would find soon enough.

"You ready to get started?"

He sounded like he wanted to get up there and after she nodded; they climbed up to the tree house. Some might think it was kinky to get it off with a guy in a childhood hangout but it had space, was certainly private enough and what they did up there wasn't anyone's concern except them. They walked into the main room and he pulled her into his arms, after turning on the electric lantern. His mouth tickled her own when he first pressed it to her lips. He hadn't shaved and his stubble tantalized, even as it traced along her soft skin during his succulent kissing.

He ran his hands all over her as if he couldn't wait, and she did the same with him, unbuttoning his shirt even as they kissed. His fingers slipped under her tee-shirt and her skin flinched when she felt him caress it. Her breasts hardened beneath her lacy top that sheathed them but ended just below them. Lois had helped her pick it out saying that it would drive a man crazy. It came with a matching thong and though Charlie wasn't partial to that type of lingerie, she knew with most guys the less covering the better.

Finally he broke the kiss and still holding onto her he looked at her in a way that made her melt. She just didn't know he had this passionate side to him or maybe she did, but it had always been shared with other women, never her.

Not his buddy.

She had always stood to the side and watched him with those lucky women he turned his seductive powers on but now things had changed and her body shivered underneath his gaze now.

"So what do you want to do?"

She tilted her face, licking her upper lip as if thinking about it. The truth is she wanted him to do everything and didn't care in what order as long as he had her writhing on the floor when he was done.

"I want to taste you."

He stroked the area around her mouth with his thumb.

"Where?"

She just looked at him.

"You know where I thought you guys went for all that."

He suppressed a smile.

Somewhere Inside the Tree House

"You meanâ!"

She nodded and gestured over to the safe.

"Go get some of the strawberryâ!"

He smiled getting her meaning and walked over there to get some of the tasty paints out of the safe. When he returned with it, he handed it over to her.

"You really up for this?"

Her mouth curved into a smile.

"Yes I am, the question is, are you?"

He chuckled.

"Charlie, you are really somethingâ!"

"Yes I am Colton," she said, "took you long enough to figure out. Now how are we going to do this?"

His mouth quirked, as he considered it.

"I don't care," he said, "Just do what feels good."

So she bit her lip for a moment and then she nodded and then she wrapped her arms around him and kissed him hard on the mouth, almost taking him by surprise. His hands stroked her back and moved down to her denim clad ass. But before he could get to into it, she released him and while looking directly into his eyes, her hands moved to the snap on his jeans and she undid it.

The zipper came down next and he closed his eyes in anticipation. That made her feel a bit heady. She pulled down his pants and then his briefs and man, she got a gander of what they covered and she wanted to close her eyes for a moment.

She opened up the container of body paint and gently dabbed it on him. The thick veined shaft that led to his dark pubic hair and then back up to its rosy hued head that she wanted to take inside of her mouth

He sighed just from her layering the flavor paint on him and his hands clenched into fists, and then she slid downward to the floor so that she could finally taste. Her tongue darted out and lapped gently at the strawberry flavoring around the mushroom shaped head and around the crown, which made him gasp.

Then she continued tormenting him as she savored how the strawberry intertwined with his musk as she stroked his shaft, the entire length after placing her hands on his body. Before reaching his balls, she cupped them in one hand, reveling in their weight while her mouth moved up to the tip and she wrapped her lips around it. He nearly bucked from the sensation, and she started sliding further over him, bit by bit. She took it slowly allowing her mouth to get used to surrounding his cock.

She could feel the tension in Colton as she went down on him. He had to fight to keep from pushing his cock down her throat, in order to release the heat he felt building up inside him. She withdrew slightly then took him inside again, trying to taste a little bit more of him. From her position, she couldn't do too much but based on his fervent movements clearly she did enough.

Somewhere Inside the Tree House

With each stroke of her mouth, she tasted less of the strawberry and more of the man. But that made the excitement build in her as well. She'd never imagined she could be so turned on by her effect on someone else. Finally, she felt him tense and spasm and then she felt the warmth of his semen in her mouth, as he groaned above her. Salty sweet and she swallowed without thinking.

She released him and he just stood there, breathing more quickly and his eyesâ highly charged. Her own heart skipped a beat when she looked at him.

She clenched the mattress as one delightful stroke of his tongue in a very sensitive spot nearly sent her airborne. After she had given him his orgasm, he had wanted to return the favor and so she had slipped her shorts off of her hips with some help with him. His eyes widened when he saw the thong and then he tugged at the band and off with that as well. Her pussy nestled in soft dark curls waited for him, as she lay back on the mattress, hearing the springs creak and then his mouthâ oh god, she had wanted to scream even before he even got started.

His mouth suckled gently at her rosy colored lips which he lavished attention on, and her nervousness slipped away. She hadn't really believed that guys were even that into pussies except as receptacles for their cocks. Lois had told her in a clinical way that most women shaved these days or got what were called bikini waxes which sounded dreadfully painful. Charlie wondered why guys couldn't just accept a woman's body as being desirable the way that it was, and no, she wasn't going to change her body to suit anyone else.

But Colton clearly liked doting on her pussy, playfully tugging at her curls, which had dampened just from his touch and when he moved down to lick her, she shivered, as his tongue flirted with her clit by circling around it, untilâ she arched her back in response right there and lifted her hips to bring herself closer to his mouth. Damn, she wanted to scream when his tongue played with her clit, sending shards of pleasure and urgency through her body. She never knew what it really felt like to have a guy go down on her because the one guy who really even bothered had rushed his way through it to the main event. Colton took his time and she wondered why he didn't seem awkward like others his age.

She had felt that way with him like she hadn't known what to do but he hadn't laughed at her over it. No wonder he attracted a flock of girls with more than just great looks. She wondered what it'd be likeâ but no she should focus on the here and nowâ and she felt her pelvis rock beneath his tongue, when it darted inside of her pussy. A few more times doing that and she wouldâ she bit her lip.

"Oh come on Charlie," Colton cajoled, "Just let yourself go."

"I can'tâ!"

"Oh yes you can," he said, and he continued to torture her with that damn tongue.

"Coltonâ!"

And then she felt the tension release itself sending waves of something beyond elation, beyond giddiness through her body. She closed her eyes feeling so much emotion that her eyes burned.

When he finished, he stroked her pussy gently with his fingers. She just let him, her breathing coming fast and hard and every muscle in her body relaxing.

After a while, they got dressed because Charlie had to get back to her house in 30 minutes but she still felt the sensations that his mouth had elicited and his taste still lingered.

Somewhere Inside the Tree House

Just like she tasted herself when she kissed him afterward and the realization turned her on. What did that make her, that she would feel so much for him

"I had a great time tonight," she said, knowing how inadequate that sounded.

Colton buttoned his shirt.

"So did Iâso you free tomorrow night?"

She nodded; thinking whatever else she had planned could be rescheduled. There was no way she was walking away from more pleasurable experiences with him. Even if it weren't a relationship they shared, but that had been the terms of their agreement.

Besides what they shared just made her feel hot.

She thought about that as she left him at the bottom of the tree house and headed home.

Chapter 7

Charlie looked over at Lois who had tried to hoist up a part of a fence by herself before she had gone over and helped her. She hoisted it up with her body weight while Lois pounded a few nails in it.

"Damn this thing keeps falling down," she said, "and you know Brad isn't good at pounding these kind of nails."

Charlie caught the bemusement in her friend's voice. She knew that since Tim was out of the picture, Lois had her eyes on her father's best hand but she also knew so far, Brad had kept his boss' daughter at arm's length. He knew not to mess with fire and likely had it rammed into him when he'd been hired, that Lois' young nubile body was off limits. She also knew that Brad didn't know Lois very well and how deep her determination to get what she wanted existed inside of her.

"He's good at other things right?"

Lois smiled.

"Well yeah sureâ he's good with horsesâ best rider I've ever seen and the way he ropes and wrestles cattleâ mmmâ makes me wish he'd try that with me."

Charlie pushed up the fence a bit as Lois went to get a couple more nails.

"You know he's not going to do anything."

Lois snorted.

"Course notâ my daddy would take a shotgun to him and he knows itâ but I'm still going to get into his pants."

Charlie saw the glint in her eye but wondered how the hell she would pull that off. After all, it's not like Brad had a death wish nor needed to turn to Lois for some action. There were plenty of women in town he could go after to fulfill his needs.

"How are you going to do that?"

Lois smiled, running her hands along the smooth surface of the fence after she finished.

"It's not going to take much," she said, "It's not like he gets out much."

Charlie knew that to be true because Brad didn't go out drinking with the other hands after the sun set instead heading back to his cabin.

"Lois, your father would kick his assâ before he filled it with lead."

Her friend pursed her lips.

"That just makes it betterâ that my father would kill him if he lay a hand on me."

Charlie just rolled her eyes at Lois.

Somewhere Inside the Tree House

"Maybe Brad needs this job."

"Maybe he needs to get laid."

"He's never going to risk losing his job when he can get it in town plenty of it."

Lois folded her arms.

"But he never goes to town you notice maybe it's because I don't either."

Charlie shrugged.

"Maybe he's just into quiet after working outside all day."

Lois shook her head.

"Nah all guys want it and so does he!"

Maybe, Charlie thought as they went to get back on their horses and head back to the barn where standing by the corral fence had been the man in question. She had to admit that he was impressive. Tall, ruggedly muscled and in his mid twenties, with sandy brown hair and a mustache and a silvery scar above an eyebrow from what she had no idea.

He looked up when he saw them approach.

"You done with the fencing?"

Lois threw him a grin.

"Why of course Brad we told you we'd get it done and it's done."

He nodded approvingly then looked over at Charlie.

"You done here for the day?"

She nodded as she got off of her horse and held onto the reins.

"Yeah got to go start dinner up and finish up some homework."

He looked at her a moment and then started heading to the barn. Lois shot her a smile.

"See?"

"He doesn't sound that interested," Charlie said, "I think you should just drop the whole thing."

Lois tilted her head.

"Oh so you're saying I can't have any fun?"

"Of course not!"

Somewhere Inside the Tree House

"Because you have broken this sacred vow you took never to mix it up with Colton?"

Charlie remembered whenever it had come up, that maybe she should get it on with Colton, she had just answered back that they were too close friends to mess it up by pretending otherwise. She'd told Lois what if she and Colton did knock bedposts and then something happened—so that the fallout was that they wouldn't be good friends anymore? She didn't even want to think about that and besides she'd had this good thing going with Jake—lor so she thought.

But so quickly everything had changed and her body tingled in anticipation of tonight when she would be meeting Colton again.

He drove his truck into town thinking that if Trina was leaving messages on his voice mail, he must want to get back together with him again. Not going to happen, he'd decided as he drove down the highway on his way to the general store.

Chet had given him a list of items for the barbecue later in the week, the one they would host for most of the ranchers in the area.

Including Charlie's family next door—

He blinked his eyes noting the pastures blurring by on both sides of the truck and the signs which signaled the town's approach ahead. Not very big in people or property and only one main drag down the middle, with most of the town's businesses located there.

After passing the welcome signs, he headed down the strip to where the store sat at the end of it. Plenty of places to park because most of the people were still finishing their work day and in an hour or so, there would be vehicles clogging the street. He parked his truck and went inside the store where Marie looked up from where she read a magazine at the register.

"We got the new half and half in this morning—might as well get some before it sells out again."

He went to go get a couple cartons, most of the hands added it to their morning coffee to steep some of the bitterness. He'd also get some of the steeled rolled oats because they'd been eating cream of wheat for so long.

"Hey what you doing here—?"

He looked up to see Trina standing there with her own basket dressed in a flowery summer dress and wearing her hair up. She didn't spend her days working and riding on a ranch. She did part-time work as a shampoo girl at the beauty parlor when she wasn't in school.

"Picking up some things—"

"I can see that," she said, "You in town for any other reason?"

Trina was certainly attractive to look at both with clothes on and without them. Plump breasts that ached to be fondled and a curvy body always adorned in something feminine. He'd fantasized a long time about doing her before they'd wound up in her bedroom when her parents hadn't been there. But he'd moved on after she broke it off with him and the time he'd spent up in the tree house with Charlie—that made his pants tighten. When she had gone down on him after spreading the luscious strawberry paint on his engorged cock, he had thought he'd bust a wad as soon as her lips tightened around its head.

Somewhere Inside the Tree House

He'd been blown off before including by Trina but somehow it'd been a new experience when the lips that slid down his shaft, oh so slowly at first after she'd sucked gently at the tip of his cockâhe closed his eyes briefly just remembering. Not to mention looking at her, and his erection sliding in and out of her mouth, sliding deeper untilâdamn he felt his body harden where he didn't want toâat least not right now.

"Oh Coltonâ!"

Trina purred at him and he wondered if she knew..and if so believed it had been about her.

"I really think we should get back together don't you?"

He just stared at her, a splash of cold water couldn't have been more effective at bringing him back.

"I know we disagreedâon a few things but I do thinkâ!"

She kept talking but his mind kept slipping away at how it had felt when his cum had shot down the warm snugness of Charlie's mouth and she'd taken in every bit of it as if it were golden. Not like Trina standing her in front of him who had wanted him to pull out and then ejaculate into a towel. Damn, if he'd only known what it could be like Charlie.

And while Trina kept saying something to him, he wondered if her pussy would be that snug. He ached to find out, to slide his cock inside her wetness, while she welcomed him in between her naked thighs. But would she want that too? She'd been eager enough so far when they'd gone to the tree house but would she change her mind about fucking him?

"Colton have you been listening to me?"

He just looked at her standing there with her arms folded.

"Well have you?"

He sighed rubbing the back of his neck.

"Yeah I have and like I said, I'm not getting back together with you," he said, "You just need to move on."

Her lips curled and he knew his response hadn't pleased her but the thought of getting back with her just left him cold.

"Oh come on Coltonâ! I said that I'm sorryâin the voice mails."

She'd left about a half dozen of them in the past several days but he hadn't returned her phone calls. Hadn't seen the point of doing that.

"No Trinaâ! look it's over."

She shook her head.

"I can't believe you wouldn't get back with me."

"Believe it Trina because it's not going to happen."

Somewhere Inside the Tree House

She spun on her heel and stomped away with him with her basket. He watched her go, but felt a wave of relief fill him. Now with the two of them moving on, he could focus his attention on Charlie and what they were doing together. His body ached just from thinking about her and as he finished shopping, he looked forward to later on that night when he saw her again. He went to pay for his groceries and Marie just looked at him as she rang them up.

"She left upsetâ what'd you say to her?"

He watched her bag his items.

"Nothingâ!"

He left the car and headed back to his truck. He figured that when he headed back to school, Trina would have moved on to her next boyfriend and wouldn't look back. But Charlie occupied his thoughts like she hadn't before and he wondered what that meant. Sure she was his best friend but she wasn't his girlfriend. They were just having some fun for a little while.

Still, as he drove back down the highway, he started to wonder if that would be enough.

Chapter 8

Charlie found the envelope in her mailbox the next day. The one that stood on the curb in front of the houseâ too early for the mailman she thought. But it had been addressed to her in nice script, she saw. She opened it up and saw that it was a simple sheet of paper.

"I've seen you aroundâ just to know I think you're one hot number that I want to get to know better."

Just that and nothing more, as the other side was blank. No one had left a signature either. Definitely mysteriousâ until she thought it must be Colton. Yes, after all they'd just gotten each other off in the tree house. They were supposed to meet last night but Colton had an emergency on his ranch with one of the horses. His daddy relied on his help but he'd make it up to her.

She took the envelope back with her in the house and left it on the dresser of her room. She had to get dressed to go into town with Lois. They'd both done their chores on the ranch and Lois' daddy said that she could go. Her father, Duke and Brad the other hand would be heading off to pick up some loads of feed at the plant.

The truck warmed up right away and she went to go pick up her friend. The days had been getting cooler as autumn would soon turn to winter. But today, the sky shone blue and the sun warmed up the valley. Lois was waiting by her house when she stopped by.

"Hey you ready?"

Lois nodded and got into the truck as they drove to town.

"You think they'll be any dresses left at the shop?"

Charlie shrugged.

"I hopeâ I want to get something on sale for the Snowflake Festival."

Lois grinned.

"You mean the dance," she said, "Yeah I was going to go with Tim but now that I've set my sights on Bradâ I"

Charlie gave her friend a warning look.

"Your dad would kill you, then he'd get sent to prison and my aunt would be out her top hand."

Lois pouted.

"But he's so fucking gorgeous," she said, "All muscle in the right places but mysteriousâ I"

Yeah Charlie had wondered about his past when he'd first applied for the job. His working history had been scattered, with him moving from one ranch to the next. Maybe he'd been a seasonal worker but maybe it was more than that. My aunt assured me that she had been impressed enough by his work ethic to hire him. Duke had been impressed with his new hand too but then he still thought Lois was his little girl.

"You get him into hot water, my aunt will be mad at me for knowing you."

Somewhere Inside the Tree House

"I'll be careful," she said, "I'm very discreet. It won't be like with Tim."

Charlie hoped not. The two had a couple of rip roaring fights in public when she found out he'd cheated on her on top of everything else. But then she knew what that was like, no doubt Jake had been two-timing her while telling her they needed to see other people. Now that she had Colton to keep her warm in the tree houseâ

Speaking of whichâ

"He sent me a note."

"Whoâ?"

"It didn't say but it must be Colton."

Lois brightened.

"That seems romantic, what did it say?"

Charlie turned onto the main business street.

"Oh just that I was a hot number."

Lois chuckled.

"Sure he addressed it to the right person?"

That irritated her.

"Hey I can be hotâ"

"I'll believe it when I see it," Lois said, "Face it Charlie, you've always been moreâwhat do they call it? Goody goody?"

"I have notâ"

She didn't finish because if only Lois had seen Colton and she licking body paints off of each other, she'd say differently. But some things weren't to be revealed even to good friends. Especially those with loose lips like Lois. Some details to keep her happy but not all of them.

"Okay but when you've got Colton wrapped around your finger, get back to me."

Charlie sighed.

"It's not like thatâwe're mostly friends but neither of us is with anyone else."

"So I get it, friends with benefits that'll work."

Charlie shrugged.

"Whateverâwe're there," she said, "Hopefully there's some stuff left on the rack."

Somewhere Inside the Tree House

"There should be," Lois said, "She's got more stock in back."

Charlie parked the truck on the street and they both got out to head to the boutique. She intended to leave with her dress in hand. Hopefully it wouldn't take all day to find it.

Colton rode his horse on the line between his family's property and that belonging to Charlie's aunt. He knew that Duke and Brad had gone to get feed and that they'd finish the fencing that kept falling down. He saw a stretch of aged wood that tilted. He got off his horse to take a closer look.

Suddenly he heard more hoof beats and looked up to see the two men heading towards him. They stopped when they saw them on their side of the line.

"We put in for the wood for new fencing," Duke said, "Price went up but we found a place that offered a discount for bulk."

Colton nodded, knowing times were getting tough for the ranchers.

"No rush. My daddy's going out of town," he said, "I'll put in some time this weekend if you're available."

Duke looked at Brad.

"That'll work," he said, "Lois and Charlie can give us a hand. They were splitting wood the other day."

Colton knew about that.

"How is the horse doing?"

Colton frowned.

"It's colic for sure," he said, "Last time I checked, he seemed better but you never know for the first day or so."

Duke nodded.

"Yeah bad breakâhope it works out."

Colton sighed.

"He was one of the top roping horses we had," he said, "I'm hoping it's not that new grain that did it."

"You think so," Duke said, "We just bought a couple loads."

Colton shrugged.

"I guess we'll have to wait and see."

Brad nodded towards the fencing.

"We can get that done in one day if the girls help us."

Duke smiled.

Somewhere Inside the Tree House

"I'll make sure that my daughter's out here," he said, "and Charlie's always been good at pitching in."

Brad rubbed the back of his neck.

"Her aunt's been ailing. But she's supposed to be up and around in a day or so."

Colton had known that Charlie's aunt had experienced health problems with her heart for a while now. But she had been able to keep her hands on the reins of the ranch.

"I'm sure she'll be fineâshe's a strong woman."

Duke nodded.

"Well we'd better head on back," he said, "See you later Coltonâand tell your daddy hi."

"I willâ!"

He watched as the two men rode away. Then he headed back to the barn. He had to do some more work and then get ready to meet with Charlie later. He had missed not seeing her last night but intended to make up for it.

Charlie liked the blue dress, with the sequins. She displayed it in front of her for Lois.

"That's pretty hot," Lois said, "You sure you're up to wearing it?"

The cut was low on top and the hemâwell it was definitely a party dress but it'd be good for the dance. Give the older crowd something to talk aboutâif nothing else.

"Try it onâ!"

So Charlie did and she loved the way it hugged her body. She ran her hands over it and felt sexyâthe way she wanted to be. She couldn't wait to see Colton tonight at the tree house.

"He'll like itâ!"

"Oh you mean Coltonâ!"

Lois rolled her eyes.

"I still am surprised he actually sent you a note."

Charlie arched her brows.

"Whyâhe's just being romantic."

Lois frowned.

"I just never thought of him as a writer," she said, "A man of action maybe but not exactly words."

"He's smart Lois," Charlie said, "He's always been smarter than most guys."

Somewhere Inside the Tree House

Lois sighed.

"That's not what I meant," she said, "Are you sure it's him?"

"Who else would it be," Charlie said, "Else it'd be Jake and since we broke up, he's been into different girls."

"Yeah he's definitely a man whore."

Charlie didn't want to think about that or him.

"Anyway, I think it's almost sweet," she said, "And I can come up with more ways for him to realize I'm hot."

"That'll work I guess if someone like me can help you."

Charlie felt exasperation.

"I don't need any help," she said, "We're enjoying each other and that's what matters."

Not what everyone else thinks, Charlie wanted to add but she didn't want to get into it with her friend.

"Well as long as you're happyâbut I still don't think he wrote the noteâ!"

Charlie wished she hadn't told Lois about the note. But she put that out of her head, intent on focusing on tonight when she'd see Colton.

That's all that mattered to her as her heart began to race in anticipation.

Chapter 9

She loved the way it felt when he slid his callused hands up her dress, easing the fabric up slowly inch by inch baring her skin. The afternoon breeze licked the back of her legs, a hint of the monsoon that would hit the valley once the temperature reached the breaking point.

"Oh damn you feel hotâ!"

They were in the barn, his barn and had just returned from a party that had been held at the auditorium in town. He'd taken her there and they'd done some dancing on the floor. Not much of it slowly in each other's arms, not at first. But when the lights finally dimmed and the music softened, he'd taken her right into the middle of it and held her close enough to himself where she could feel his heart beat inside his chest.

But it hadn't been enough for either one of them. She'd wanted him to do what he was doing to her right now, which was sliding his hands over her thighs and reaching for her panties. She knew how wet she'd felt since even before they reached the barnâhe'd know in a matter of inches and seconds.

"Godâ! I can'tâ!"

His voice sounded amused.

"Can't what Charlie?"

She bit her lip not sure she could get the words out now that she felt his fingers brush the lace that hugged her pussy.

"Can'tâ! ummmâ! Iâ!"

His capable fingers slid underneath her panties, feeling her slickness, feeling how much she wanted him right now. She moved her own hands towards his pants to unsnap them but they shook with her eagerness.

"I want you Charlieâ!"

He broke his own words by kissing her on the mouth, stroking her lips with his own and then adding a bit of tongueâjust the tip of it teasing her mouth, trying to get her to open it. His hands now moving from her pussy to the smooth globes of her ass, squeezing them.

"I want you tooâ!"

She felt so breathless right nowâthinking was too damn hard so she just concentrated on feeling his hands, his mouth and what hardened beneath her fingers beneath his zipper.

"On the hay bale Charlieâ!"

His voice sounded forced.

"Whatâ!?"

"Just do itâ!"

Somewhere Inside the Tree House

So she backed up, so ready for this and ready for him. The anticipation raced through her body as she felt the prickly hay pinch her skin. He helped her lifting her body to set her ass on it and slid his hands on her thighs, nudging them open for him.

She was all for that and sighed as he reached to tug her panties down. Then both of them heard the creak of the barn door open and they froze, listening to see if someone had joined them in the barn. But they didn't hear anything.

"Damn last thing I want is an audienceâ!"

She straightened out her dress and slid off the bale. She didn't want anyone watching them eitherâespecially not anyone who might blab back to her uncle and aunt about her being with Colton.

"Maybe I'd better leave," she said, "My uncle and aunt should be back now and wondering why I'm not home."

He nodded, stroking her hair back off of her face before kissing her softly on the mouth.

"OkayâI'll see you tomorrowâ!we got some more fencing to doâ!.is Lois going to be there?"

She sighed, brushing some strands of hay on her shoulder.

"Yeahâ!hopefully in a better mood than tonight."

He frowned.

"She seemed happy enough at the dance with Luke."

Charlie nodded, having seen her dance with the football player most of the night but knew what that had really been aboutâ!and it had to do with Brad.

"Yeahâ!but she'd been upset earlierâ!"

The two of them left the barn and saw Brad standing there with Duke. Charlie ran her hand to smooth out her hair looking at them.

"What are you doing here?"

Brad smiled.

"We dropped by your spreadâ!your aunt's looking for you and she didn't seem too happy. You'd better get back home before she sends out a posse."

Damn, Charlie thought, she'd hoped she wouldn't be missed.

"Iâ!we were just seeing to the horses," she said, "Clover picked up a stone."

She didn't much like lying but she couldn't talk about what they'd really be doing, no she had no desire to become the talk of the ranching community. But Brad just nodded and she didn't know if he believed her.

"Better head on back then," he said, "Coltonâ!see you tomorrowâ!"

Somewhere Inside the Tree House

She watched him narrow his eyes at the older hand.

"You coming out with us?"

"Yeahâsome of those fences border the other ranchâwe got to do our part."

Charlie sighed, glancing over at Colton and knew she had to head on back home before her aunt and uncle put out an APB on her.

Lois groaned as they got ready to take their horses out. They'd be meeting up with Colton and the other hands soon enough.

"Sorry I oversleptâgod I feel hung over," she said, "Shouldn't have hit the cognacâtotally not my drink."

Charlie looked at her, knowing that she must have hit the booze after returning from the dance. After all, her spending time out on the dance floor had been for show.

"He didn't even look my way," Lois said "not once."

I knew she meant Brad but he'd been there with some older girl named Lucy. Not that he'd stayed very long.

"Maybe that's why he left early," Lois said, "because he couldn't handle watching me with someone else."

That couldn't be true but Charlie didn't feel like ruining Lois' day by telling her that. Then she'd spend it sulking instead of working and it'd take longer to get the fencing done. Besides Brad just hadn't seem that interested.

"Maybe he just knows he'd be playing with fireâscrewing the boss' daughter."

Lois chuckled liking the image of that.

"That makes it so damn hotâbesides his body," she said, "I know he'd like me if he just took some chances."

Charlie snorted.

"And risk getting his balls cut off or shot offâI don't think so LoisâI think you should move on."

Lois frowned, as she opened the stall door to get her horse.

"I don't want toâhe's just too damn tempting and I know he can do me goodâ!"

Charlie sighed, no talking her out of something which looked pretty damn futile. What Lois wanted, she thought she would get.

"Okay but I'd think if he were interested, he'd tell you."

"I think he just needs some convincing, that's all and I have just the way to do it."

Charlie shook her head as she watched Lois saddle up her horse as if she were in a rush to get started with whatever plan she'd worked out inside of her head.

Somewhere Inside the Tree House

Brad might not know what hit him but then again, Charlie figured he was more than an equal to her friend.

Chapter 10

Charlie had to recover from the erotic experience with Colton in the barn. Damn it'd been so hot, when he had her against the hay bale, her dress hiked up while she unfastened his pants. A couple more movements, a couple of seconds and he'd slide his cock inside of her and she'd finally know what it was like to fuck him.

All the days spent in the treehouse had been buildup for this moment when the two of them finally came together in more ways than one. The initial coupling where their bodies intertwined while they fucked on the bail and then when they reached the abyss of exhilaration and toppled down it. She'd had her hands on him, his mouth on her claiming her just as she'd been wanting.

Untilâ ;

A simple noise of perhaps someone approaching had broken the mood and then Brad had come up saying she'd better get home before her uncle and aunt came looking for her. So home she went and she crept up the stairs while they were busy after announcing her arrival.

Inside her room, she stripped off her clothes, still feeling raw and edgy after coming so damn close to what she wanted. Colton in between her thighs and his cock, hard and thick and full of raw power inside her pussy.

Her mouth had tasted it, now her pussy wanted to grab hold of it, while it rocked inside its walls. She felt the familiar heaviness of wanting something to fill it, ease the ache inside her with the delicious sliding of his shift against the friction, the buildup until he exploded inside of her.

Damn she had to stop imagining what might have been and take a shower. She walked naked into the bathroom and turned on the water, lukewarm.

She closed her eyes as it cascaded over her body, still tingling from what happened in the barn. It wouldn't fix what was wrong with her but maybe tomorrowâ ;

But they had just spent that day sitting inside while it poured outside. Colton had been in town doing some business for his father so Lois had brought over a couple bottles of tequila, they raided Charlie's cabinet to make nachos and they'd been talking about men.

"So you and Colton were that close to doing it in the barn?"

Charlie sighed.

"Iâ ;wellâ ;we were still getting undressed just enough to you knowâ ;"

Lois laughed.

"I knowâ ;I wish I had Brad in that position. I'd love to peel the jeans off of that hard bodyâ ;get a good look at that ass of his. See if it's good enough to hold onto when I do him."

Charlie shook her head.

"He knows it's his job if he does you. You're playing with fire and he knows it."

Lois snorted.

Somewhere Inside the Tree House

"He works for my daddy but he does such damn good work that I don't think he'd get firedâ if we were discreet about it."

"You? You'd probably announce it to half of town if you seduced him."

Lois shrugged.

"Maybe part of the town but not half of it. God, I want a piece of thatâ he looks like he rides his women damn hard like his horses."

Charlie just listened to her go on about the foreman. I thought about Colton and how I wanted to do himâ next time without being interrupted.

"You know Trina's going to try to get him backâ!"

Charlie rolled her eyes.

"Well mail should be hereâ got to go check it."

She went out to fetch it in the pouring rain and scanned it when she got inside. The usual stuff. Bills, a couple of flyers to events in town and a plain envelope addressed to her.

Puzzled she opened it up and it was a sheet of paper with some writing on it.

"I'm out riding my horse today but I'd rather be riding you. Hard and wet just like me right nowâ!"

What theâ but then she hadn't seen Colton today and he'd had to do some roping out in his ranch with the male hands, Duke, Cassidy and Brad. God, so hot of him to send her a note so she'd be thinking about him and wanting him.

She felt wet just reading it. God, she wished he'd come by tonight but he hadn't phoned or texted her. Probably why he dropped off the note.

She took it upstairs to Lois.

"Look what Carlton dropped off. Is he hot or what?"

Lois read it and sighed.

"Some girls have all the luckâ!"

Damn Carlton missed spending time with Charlie today. After being interrupted just before they were about to go at it on the hay bale, he's had the worst case of blue balls. He'd hoped they'd meet up today someplace more private and move from being friends to being lovers.

He sighed. He'd been paired off with Duke and Brad who'd been collecting strays and they took shelter in an old hunting cabin eating some food.

"Hey this storm will let up before tomorrow right?"

Carlton looked at Duke.

Somewhere Inside the Tree House

"Don't knowâ I hope so because we got to hit the fencing and we know Lois and Charlie want to get out tomorrow and do some work."

Brad chuckled.

"I bet they do. Probably sitting at home drinking up and talking about usâ Well Charlie will be talking about you of courseâ I"

Colton felt a bit warm.

"I think they got other things to talk about than usâ I"

Brad sipped his iced tea from the bottle.

"So how's Charlie anyway? You two getting along okay?"

Colton shot the older hand a look.

"Why you asking?"

"No reasonâ you two looked happy together that's all. Now me and Loisâ I"

The other men laughed. Colton narrowed his eyes at Brad.

"You be careful with her. She's a bit younger than you and her daddy won't fancy you hanging around her."

Brad shrugged.

"He got no say in it as long as I do my work well. Besides she's not really my type. I do like them young but I like them quiet meaning not going about telling everyone our business."

Colton nodded.

"Sounds smartâ better job security and her father won't take it out of your hide."

Brad smiled.

"I'll find myself a sweet thing soon enough, one who's willing. Makes the season go fasterâ to have someone in your bed."

Duke agreed.

"We work hard all day, we should be able to relax and play hard at night."

Brad nodded.

"I like to court a woman a little first. More fun that wayâ wouldn't you agree Colton?"

Colton didn't say anything to him in response knowing when Brad was needling him. But the other men just chuckled.

Somewhere Inside the Tree House

Duke looked at the rest of them sitting there listening to the rain patter on the roof over them.

"So any of you going to the Lonely Rider tonight?"

A couple volunteered but Brad said that he had some tack to clean inside the barn. Colton declined as well hoping that he could spend some time with Charlie in the treehouse.

Charlie kept her tequila drinking to a minimum but Lois had gotten pretty sloshed lying on the floor.

"God I'm going to be sick I just know it and I was going to the Lonely Rider tonight. I'm hoping Brad will be here ready to do some dancing."

Charlie ate some remaining chips dipped in salsa.

"I was thinking of seeing Colton tonight for a spell. Pick up where we left off."

Lois obviously approved.

"Damn girl. You don't waste time."

"I want him Lois. God if only last night. This time no one will come between us."

"I hope not. You really look like you need some. Since Jake."

Charlie hesitated.

"Jake. He wasn't all that. He. Well. He jumped the gun so to speak?"

Lois rolled over on the floor to look at her.

"You're kidding right? He came too fast? Well did you have any fun with him?"

"Not really. We only did it a couple times and he blamed it on me," Charlie said, "I didn't even know what it was like to have a guy make me come until Colton."

Lois shook her head.

"Poor girl. At least he got your rocks off and when you finally do it. Well it'll last longer than."

Charlie recoiled.

"Fifteen seconds?"

"Ouch. Yeah I'm sure Carlton will last much longer than Quick Draw McGraw. I mean Jake who would have guessed."

"A jerk if you ask me."

"You don't have to worry about that with Colton," Lois said, "He's as nice as they come."

Somewhere Inside the Tree House

Charlie knew that and nice was good enough for herâ but sometimes like when she saw that other side of him that obviously existed through his written notesâ she thought she could use some of that too.

Charlie waited for him in the treehouse taking the initiative to climb up herself when she didn't see him waiting for her. So she'd surprise him, she'd worn some nice lacy panties and a bra beneath her clothes she planned to model for him before theyâ

They fucked each other for the first timeâ oh god, just imagining it right now made her hot. No more waiting, no more delays just getting down and dirty with each other.

But time passed and she wondered what kept him from showing up at the doorway ready for action, to give her a night neither would forget.

She heard her phone vibrate and figured that had to be him.

"I want 2 fuck you so much right nowâ I acheâ !"

She frowned as her phone's light wasn't greatâ but Colton...she smiled. He'd be here soon she knew. She texted back.

"I want you tooâ waitingâ !"

"Not 2 much longerâ I promiseâ !"

She smiled reading it.

"Goodâ I'm so wetâ I need uâ !"

"Hardâ want 2 fill you upâ !"

Oh god, she couldn't wait to see him but where the hell was he? The rain had let up and Colton said he'd be coming from town.

So she stayed in the treehouse and waited.

Chapter 11

Charlie waited in the treehouse another hour, hot and horny especially after texting with Colton but he still hadn't shown up in person with his hard on to fill her up as he'd promised.

What the hell had happened to him?

Finally the phone vibrated and she picked it up.

"Charlie?"

Relief filled her with a small dose of irritation.

"Colton is that you?"

"Yeah? Sorry I couldn't make it," he said, "My dad had to rush out and help at Tom's ranch with some paperwork to get signed on the land deal. Then he got had an emergency and had to tend to it so he sent me instead."

The back of her neck prickled. Tom was one of the most prominent bankers. He was also Trina's daddy. She sat down with the phone in her hand.

"So you're still there or on your way back?"

"I'm ready to go but it's getting late. Trina and I spent an hour doing an assessment calculation on another payment plan."

"Trina?"

He cleared his throat.

"Yeah? She's got the head for numbers after all. But it's all done with but we've all got an early morning so I thought I'd head on home."

"Okay? I guess you're right but I was so ready for this. For us to finally be alone so we could?"

"I know Charlie and I'm sorry. I'll make it up to you. I promise."

She clicked off my phone and went to leave the treehouse to head back to her house in the darkness. She walked past the barn and thought she'd go inside it. It seemed deserted and she walked inside of it hearing the soft sounds of a row of horses in stalls setting for the night.

She felt so damn frustrated, all this restless energy and need coursed through her. Her skin tingled, the familiar low ache in her belly. She needed what Colton was going to give her tonight. Instead he'd been called off on business and had spent time working with his ex-Trina of all people. Charlie knew the girl wanted him back since dumping her last boyfriend.

Pacing around the barn didn't do much for her so she decided to climb up into the loft and just spend some time alone before heading back to the house. So she went up there and lay on the mattress, sighing as she felt it cushion her.

Somewhere Inside the Tree House

Tonight should have been spent in the treehouse with her thighs open to accept the weight of Colton's body between them, clinging him to her as he moved against her, opening up her pussy so his cock slid in slick and smooth before he started thrusting in his rhythm against her.

Just thinking of that woke up every fiber in her body and her hands moved of their own volition. One hand caressing her nipples riding them, teasing them to harden beneath the touch of her fingers, the other sliding beneath the hem of her panties, to where the slickness awaited, for her own loving. Closing her eyes, she rode her fingers, parting her rosy lips, tugging on them, before tracing the seam in between them.

She gasped, she'd been so engorged with desire that it didn't take much to get her breathing harder, little mew sounds slipping from her mouth.

Pinching her nipples, she imagined Colton's hot wet mouth caressing them, nipping at them just enough to sharpen the pleasure with a trace of pain. Her legs splayed open as she rode in between the lips of her pussy teasing the opening. God, she wanted, no she needed to be penetrated by a man's cock right now, stretching her wide open, sliding deliciously rubbing inside of her. Her pelvis arched out as a sharp cry escaped from her as she brushed her clit with the side of a finger.

She rubbed her clit and bit her lip to keep quiet until she realized there was no one here to hear her cry out in pleasure. Her hips rising higher, faster daring her fingers to thrust inside of where she'd needed Colton earlier.

"Oh godâ !fuck meâ !god I need itâ !oh godâ !godâ !"

She gasped in delight as she thrust one finger then two inside her pussy, slick with her own desire. Her hips gyrating to meet each thrust of her fingers in heady anticipation.

"Fuck me harderâ !fuck me hardâ !god I can'tâ !noâ !."

Her breathing quickened as did the heart beating inside her chest. Harder, faster, hips moving, legs cramping with each thrust upwardâ !faster, harder and thenâ !she closed her eyes as she felt shards of pleasure bursting inside herâ !almost unbearable.

"Oh god yesâ !yesâ !yessâ !.."

Convulsions and ripples beginning in her pussy and undulating outward spreading through her body. She sank back down, sated, her muscles turning to jelly as the pleasure intensified in waves before the inevitable ebbing.

She sighed and felt elated but thenâ !oh god what had gotten into her? She had been excited when she'd been with Colton and he'd done things to her and she to him but thisâ !had been differentâ !wild and yet exciting.

Colton would love this side of her if she'd share it with him. She couldn't wait until they were back together in the same place alone.

She'd adjusted her clothing and gotten up to go down the ladder of the loft. The barn remained as dark and quiet as it had been so she slipped out of it into the night.

Walking back she heard some talking in the distance and saw Duke and Brad standing by the fence where a small group of horses grazed in the pasture.

"So you going to go through with it?"

Somewhere Inside the Tree House

Brad looked at Duke.

"Yeahâ just picking the right time. Got to be careful. Don't want to get into trouble."

Duke laughed.

"You live dangerously my friend. I don't know if I'd make a play for her."

Charlie frowned, wondering what they were talking about and then remembering Lois. Damn it looked like her feelings for Brad just might be mutual after all.

"I hope she knows what she's in for with me."

More laughter. Charlie rolled her eyes, thinking some men just liked to brag like that about what they could do to a woman. Maybe all talk no action. She smiled, Colton was all action and she couldn't wait to be with him again.

"Hi Charlieâ!"

She looked up and saw both men looking at her.

"Hiâ I'm just heading back to the house."

Brad nodded.

"Heard Colton got called out on business. Tough break."

She bristled but hid it.

"That's part of being on a ranch. We'll see each other tomorrow."

"He still heading to the stock auction coming up?"

She nodded.

"It's only four daysâ!"

Brad licked a lip.

"Four nightsâ!.I'm sure you'll find some way to pass the time."

She narrowed her eyes not knowing what he was getting at. Sometimes he acted in a way to rile her up but she didn't take the bait.

"I willâ!Lois will too. We're planning on some girls' nights anyway."

He didn't seem perturbed by her dropping her name like that.

"I see you left the barn. Everything all right in there?"

She nodded nonchalantly.

Somewhere Inside the Tree House

"Everything's just fine. I'll see you both in the morning."

She walked away thinking she might need to have a talk with Lois about Brad's intentions towards her. Her friend might have her hands full with that one.

Charlie got up and got dressed in her work clothes grabbing some breakfast before leaving the house to meet the others. Outside her door she found some flowers wrapped in plastic wrapping and picked them up. She smelled their heavenly scent and smiled.

Colton, how sweet of him, was this his way of asking for forgiveness last night? She'd do that, no problem. She hadn't liked the fact that Trina had been working with him but she wasn't the jealous type.

An envelope came with it.

"Sorry I couldn't be up there with you last night. You are seriously hot and damn fuckable. I'll make it up to youâ and that sweet pussy soon."

She put the letter back in the envelope feeling warm all of a sudden. He was certainly feeling amorous this morning. Obviously she wasn't the only one getting worked up.

After putting the flowers in water in the kitchen, she went to the barn and met up with Colton who stood with Lucy while the other hands were talking in a group not far away.

"Charlieâ great to see you. I'm sorry about last night. I'll make it up to you."

She smiled.

"It's all right. Maybe we can go out tonight to the Lonely Rider beforeâ you know going someplace private."

He stroked her arms before kissing her softly on the mouth.

"Sounds like a planâ!"

Lois chimed in.

"I'll be celebrating getting through this weekâ I invited the hands to join us there so we can all have a big party."

Charlie glanced at Colton.

"Maybe we can just leave it early."

He smiled.

"Definitely sounds like a plan."

They all got on their horses to face another day of working the ranch.

The sunlight streamed down through the throngs of trees, heating the meadows as they rode across them spending the morning tending to worn fencing.

Somewhere Inside the Tree House

Marking the areas that needed repairs or replacement with fresh wood. Then they stopped for lunch which they unpacked from a couple of the saddlebags. She sat down on the bank near the stream that wove through this corner of the acreage.

Colton joined her while Lois did her usual flirtatious banter with the other hands. The two of them ate lunch chatting about the work done, whether or not the monsoons would be worse this year and then the topics grew more personal until he brought up the subject of tonight.

"I could get us a room at the motel," he said, "If you don't want to go back to the ranch."

She shook her head.

"It's no secret that we're seeing each other is it? I mean we could use an empty cabin if you don't feel comfortable inside your houseâ"

He considered that.

"I don't know if the one cabin left has been cleanedâsince Hank moved out."

She shrugged.

"What's a little dust as long as the bed works? I want to be with you Colton. I want to know what it's like to make loveâI mean we've been building to this right?"

"Okay thenâwe do the Lonely Rider thing and then head to the cabin. I got to go out of town pretty soon on the auctionâI definitely want to know what it's like with us before I leave."

She smiled.

"Okayâ"

He sighed.

"We'll have to leave soonâI'd better check on that last fencing."

"I'll meet you back at the horsesâI just want to enjoy sitting here a little longer."

He left and she sat there listening to the stream, flowing through the rocks, bubbling and churning in a soothing way.

"Hey Charlieâ"

She turned around and saw Brad standing there, looming large, more ruggedly built than most ranch hands.

"Can I sit with you?"

She shrugged so he sat down next to her.

"Nice day isn't it?"

She nodded.

Somewhere Inside the Tree House

"Not too hot, not too windy," she said, "My favorite day for ridingâ!"

"I imagine. You've always been a good rider, nice seat and strong but gentle handsâ!"

She shrugged again.

"I learned from the time I walked. Nothing magical about that."

He paused for a moment. I focused on the stream and the rest of the day's work, what I'd wear to the club tonight.

"Oh you're a talented rider all right. You just need the right horse between your legsâ!you know one that's responsive to direction and a light touch on the reins."

"Yeah whateverâ!look I know what you're up to with Lois," she said, "Be careful with herâ!she's got some thing for you and I don't want to see her get hurt."

"I can handle Lois."

"You sure about that? Because her father will kick your ass if you screw with herâ!"

He turned to look at her.

"I'm not planning on fucking her if that's what you're thinking. I can pick my own woman that I fuck and I'll tell you what I like since you're here."

"Brad I don't thinkâ!"

"That shouldn't be a problem then. I like woman who are pretty, curved in all the places I like to place my hands on and who aren't afraid to get down and dirty whenever and wherever. I like woman who know how to use their bodies to please a man all night long and can handle what happens. I like woman who aren't afraid to talk dirty and cry out when they come rather than holding it inside. Nothing's sexier than a woman's voice when she's climaxing either at her own hand or from me."

She felt her cheeks flush with heat. Oh god, he loved to give details of exactly what he wanted from a woman.

"But then again you know all about that don't you Charlie?"

His voice, lower with a husky tone.

"You see Lois doesn't fill that tall order I gave you. So I'm not playing with her. I find a woman I do want to play with, she'll know firstâ!before I make my move."

"I seeâ!well let her down easy then won't you?"

He chuckled.

"Oh she'll get the picture. Youâ!are really something else. I hope Colton appreciates you. I did last night."

Her mouth dropped.

Somewhere Inside the Tree House

"Whatâwhat are you talking about?"

He sighed, a smile curving his mouth that didn't reach his eyes.

"Don't worry your secret is safe with me," he said, "I was in the barn last night when youâwere in the loft getting yourself off."

Now she really blushed. She thought since it'd been so dark and quiet, she'd been alone in there.

"Heard the whole thingâman you're really enjoying it. That's good. Like I said I hope Carlton appreciates it."

She didn't know how to respond to that. Soon enough Carlton came back to tell everyone lunch was over and it was time to get back to work.

Brad got up first and headed to his horse. Charlie lingered behind him not knowing what to make of the whole conversation.

Chapter 12

Charlie went to Lois' house to get ready for the night out at the Lonely Rider. She picked a nice short red dress that clung to her body, and some short heels.

Underneath she wore matching black silk panties with her lacy bra, because she knew that she and Colton wouldn't be hanging out there with the others very long.

Lois wore some blue number and swore at the mirror as she brushed her hair.

"I don't know if I can ever get it right," she said, "I want to look perfect when I see Brad at the club. Maybe away from the ranch we'll have a chance."

Charlie bit her lip not wanting to tell her that Brad wasn't pursuing her. She hoped he'd do that on his own at some point before this went much further. He'd been so graphic when he talked about what he did expect from his women and it'd left her feeling on edge. Uncomfortable that he shared all that with her and yetâexcited in some strange way. She imagined he'd be what Lois might call a hell of a ride. But she figured he'd pick his woman out soon enough and keep himself quite busy with her.

"So you and Colton going to hang around or head on out for some serious horizontal action?"

Charlie smiled.

"Head on outâhe's got a spare cabin on his property."

Lois smiled.

"I imagine it's going to be so hot, you've waited so long."

"I hope soâI think he's really eagerâwith the notes and the texts latelyâand the flowers."

Lois's mouth opened.

"Yeah so he's sending you texts? What do they say? So I can get some ideas with Brad."

She felt self-conscious talking about them suddenly as they were personal and very intimate. But she implored her further.

"Just that he wants to fuck me in the worst way, can't wait until it happens. We did some sexting."

Lois sighed.

"How cool and sort of romantic. Well tonight you'll both get what you want."

"Yeahâgod I can't wait. I'm so damn hornyâ"

Lois chuckled.

"Well, at least one of us will get it. I really wish Brad would treat me like that."

Somewhere Inside the Tree House

Charlie just didn't know how to respondâgod, it'd been embarrassing enough that Brad had known she'd gotten herself off in the barn. She'd have to be more careful for sure.

"We'd better get going soon," she said, "I'll ride with you but I'm going home with Colton."

Lois nodded and after some final touches, they headed to the car.

The club was crowded with couples dancing on the floor and others hanging near the bar. Colton and Charlie found a seat not wanting to stay long. Just do some dancing, a little drinking before heading back to the cabin.

"I'll go get us some drinks."

She nodded and she watched as Lois went up and did some dancing. All alone at first but then a local guy joined with her. I knew she hoped that Brad was watching her but he was busy drinking whisky and talking with the other hands in the corner.

Lois walked on over.

"Man it's crowded out there tonightâbut great music. I couldn't see Brad anywhere."

Charlie wanted to roll her eyes. Lois had the man on the brain. It was going to get rough for a while when she realized he wasn't into her.

Her phone vibrated. A text appeared.

"I'm so damn hornyâI want to fuck you so badâ!"

She looked for the ID and phone number but it said "Unavailable". Was it Colton eager about tonight and doing some more texting?

Lois continued talking.

"So I'm thinking if I just ask him to dance with me is that too forward?"

Charlie frowned.

"Hmmmâ!"

She typed back.

"Colton u texting me?"

A short delay.

"You wearing panties underneath that dress?"

She smiled. It had to be him playing a joke on her. Who else would be sexting her? It's not like she had a wealth of guys in her life wanting to get into her panties.

"Wouldn't you like to know?"

Somewhere Inside the Tree House

A response.

"I'll find out...soon enough !"

A smile crossed her mouth while Lois continued oblivious.

"I really want to get him to want me," she said, "I think he's just worried about my father."

Charlie frowned.

"I doubt it. Nothing seems to faze Brad."

Lois frowned back at her.

"How do you know?"

Charlie sighed.

"I just doâ !"

She texted back.

"I imagine you willâ !I can't wait until we're out of here."

Another popped up.

"I can't wait until I have you all to myself and I can fuck you all night longâ !"

Charlie smiled and then felt herself getting wet. Another text popped up.

"You need a lot of good fuckingâ !"

A moment later Colton headed towards Charlie with both of their drinks and handed one to her. She slipped her phone back in her purse. She sipped her beer.

"We'll stay for a bit, listen to some music and then head on back."

Charlie nodded, drinking her beer.

"Sounds great. I can't wait for us to be alone. It's getting pretty warm in here don't you think?"

Colton scratched the back of his neck.

"A bitâ !lots of people here," he said, "We'll stay a little longer and then head on out."

She nodded sipping her beer as she watched the people milling around. Lois went to talk to some friends and to do more flirting with Brad who stayed with his crowd.

Colton sat looking deep in thought. She wondered if anything were on his mind.

"What is it? Something bothering you?"

Somewhere Inside the Tree House

He shook his head.

"Nah just got to handle a bunch of invoices on bills due on the ranch," he said, "I'm getting more and more responsibility until I go to school in the fall."

She smiled.

"Ah collegeâthat'll be cool. And we're only going to be two hours apart."

He hedged.

"My daddy wants me to go to Univ. of Wyomingâranching management program there with a minor in Marketing."

Charlie bit her lip.

"But that'sâdamn are you going to do it?"

He didn't look too happy.

"Thinking about itâlook I know it's going to put us further apart Charlie but it's a great program."

She swallowed my disappointment.

"Noâyou need to go for it. Do it if it's what you wantâyou are running the ranch someday."

He sighed finishing his beer.

"Guess we can go now."

She wished he sounded more thrilled. But damn she felt on edge all night and horny, wanting to get her hands on him at last. Once they got to the cabin and were alone together.

But first things first. She wanted to freshen up a bit.

"I'll be back in a momentâ!"

She kissed him on the mouth, slowly and teasingly before heading off to the restroom. He watched her go and his own excitement started to build.

Charlie freshened up in the bathroom, her makeup what little she wore and ran a brush through her hair. She liked how she looked and headed back to Colton who'd be waiting for her and hopefully eager to head back to the ranch for a night of loving in between the sheets.

She came out of the room fast and smacked into a hard bodied man walking. He gripped her arms and for a moment, she felt molded to himâall hardness to her softness and the smell of musk mixed with aftershave.

"Charlie?"

She knew she'd ran smack into Brad and pulled away from him.

Somewhere Inside the Tree House

"Sorry wasn't lookingâ!"

He chuckled.

"No harm doneâ! guess you're in a hurry to get back to himâ!"

"What?"

"Colton, he brought you here for some liquor and some foreplay and now you're heading home for the main event."

She bristled. God, he was so crude, had he always been this way or was it some new behavior he used on her?

"Whatever Brad excuse meâ!"

He blocked her path with his body.

"You in a hurry to get back to him?"

She just started at him, wondering what he was up to now.

"Well yeahâ! now get out of my wayâ!"

He moved out of her path and she just narrowed her eyes at him.

"What's with you? I mean Lois says you need some...butâ!"

He tilted his face looking at her.

"Need some whatâ! just what is it that I need Charlie?"

She grew a bit flustered.

"I didn't say itâ! she didâ!"

He leaned against the wall.

"But you're the one telling meâ! so what is it I need? I don't think you really have any idea do you?"

She didn'tâ! she wouldn't take the bait.

"I have to goâ! Colton's waiting for meâ!"

Brad smiled easily enough.

"Run along thenâ! like I told you I hope he appreciates it."

She left Brad and a bit unsettled, she tried to compose herself by the time she got back to where Colton sat at the table waiting for her.

"I've been waitingâ! what took you so long?"

Somewhere Inside the Tree House

She shrugged and then smiled at him. They went outside into the cool summer night, the moon starting to shine overhead. His truck waited and they got inside to head back to the ranch.

He started his truck to head back to the ranch and turned the corner. The truck skidded to a stop to avoid hitting a truck that had crashed into another car in the middle of the road.

Chapter 13

Colton got out of the truck to rush to the scene of the accident. One car had spun out and collided with another and the drivers in both were complaining of pain. He whipped out his cell phone to call for the EMTS and firefighters to come out and render first aid to the injured.

Police officers in cars with lights flashing showed up to put barriers around the disabled cars and to begin talking to people about the accident.

Charlie watched Colton interact with the emergency personnel directing them to a young man sitting slumped on the twisted fender of his car who looked as if he might have a huge headache, the way his hands were placed.

She got out of the truck and walked over to where Colton was standing. She saw that the wounded man was his football buddy Dylan. He glanced up at Charlie.

"I think Dylan's going in to have some tests done to make sure he didn't fracture his skull," he said, "I'm going to need to go with himâuntil they get a hold of his daddy."

Charlie nodded, knowing that he needed to help his friend.

"Okay...if you can drop me off at the ranchâ!"

He sighed.

"All rightâwe'd better get going thenâ!Dylan's on his way to the hospital."

They got back in the truck and drove back to the ranch where they parked in front of the house on her property.

He parked and she didn't feel like leaving right away. If it hadn't been for the accidentâthey'd be at the cabin alone in the darkness making love all night long. Something she'd been waiting for months it seemedâ!she felt so frustrated right now wanting him so badly.

"Coltonâ!I wanted us to spend the night togetherâ!"

He stroked her face.

"I know Charlieâ!soon I promiseâ!"

She sighed.

"You've got the auction coming upâ!"

He nodded then brightened.

"Tomorrow nightâ!"

"God I hope so Coltonâ!I really want youâ!so badâ!like thisâ!"

Somewhere Inside the Tree House

She moved closer in the front seat to wrap her arms around him and draw him close. She wanted to feel his body against her, doing all kinds of pleasurable thingsâ right now she settled for kissing him on the mouthâ gently parting his lips with her tongue. He gasped and she thrust it inside his mouth skimming the inside of his mouth delicately.

"Oh god Charlieâ!"

His own hand moved, palming her breasts covered by the fabric of her outfit.

"I want you too Coltonâ you really have to go?"

He sighed, his hands still making circles on her breasts.

"Yeah I have to goâ I'll call you laterâ!goodnightâ!"

She got out of the truck and started walking back through the darkness towards her house. Her phone vibrated.

"I want to be your loverâ kiss you all overâ!"

She looked at her phone. She couldn't figure out if that were Carlton texting her why his phone number's not showing up. After putting her phone away, she started heading to the house, through the darkness lit up by the moonlight shining through some trees.

If not for the accident, she and Colton would be inside the cabin alone together all night long making love in the bed there, wrapped in the sheets going at each other. It'd been too damn long sinceâ and every hour they had spent together in the tree house had left her wanting so much more. She wanted him holding her, touching her and she wanted to feel him inside her while she wrapped her legs around him.

She sucked her breath in just at the thought of it. In a couple of days, he'd be off to the auction for a few days and she wouldn't be able to see him at all. So yeah she wanted to know what it felt to be with him before he left.

Well tomorrow night would work. They'd find a way to spend it together. She sighed thinking of that moment when they'd be able to shut out the rest of the world for a while and give into what they'd been building up toâ since they'd decided to take their relationship outside the boundaries of platonic friendship.

As she neared the house she remembered, she'd had to pick up some paperwork inside the tack room office in the barn. So she changed direction and headed to the building which looked like a shadow in the night.

She opened the door and noticed the light was already on.

"Who's there?"

A familiar drawl and a pair of boots clicked on the floor as Brad walked towards her. She frowned at him.

"What are you doing here?"

He smiled.

"I had to drop off some grooming supplies. You're short on hoof picks."

Somewhere Inside the Tree House

She remembered that, nodding.

"What about you? I didn't expect to see you hereâ!"

"Paperworkâ for tomorrow. Colton's going to need it before heading to the auction."

He digested that.

"Ahâ the one that will take him out of town for three days and three nights."

She pursed her lips.

"Yepâ then he'll be back hopefully with more cash in handâ!"

"To spend any on you?"

She shrugged, not knowing why he'd ask.

"I don't knowâ most of it goes back into the ranch. That's how it works with a business."

He ran his tongue over his lips, leaning against a post.

"I'm a bit surprised like I saidâ I thought you and heâ you had plans tonight."

She bristled under his words and the way he appraised her.

"There's an accident on the highway. One of his friends was involved. He went to check on him at the hospital."

"Hope everything's all right."

She nodded.

"It isâ he might just need someone to take him homeâ!"

Brad sighed.

"I suppose that's good enough of a reason to pass up spending time with his girlfriend. To help out a friend."

She nodded again, feeling irritation creep through her.

"Yes it isâ Carlton's a good manâ loyal to his friends. I wouldn't have it any other way."

Brad chuckled.

"Oh I'm sureâ but where does that leave you?"

She shrugged.

"I'll see him tomorrowâ now I've to get the paperworkâ!"

Somewhere Inside the Tree House

"Sure thingâ!"

She walked into the office where the light was on and searched for it in the drawer. What a mess of papers of all sizes and folders but she finally found what she wanted.

"You find it?"

She hadn't heard him enter the room. Turning around to face him she saw him right there.

"Yes I didâ!"

He smiled at her again.

"You know he's never gotten over herâ!"

She arched her brows at him.

"Whoâ!who are you talking about?"

"You knowâ!Trinaâ!the one he used to go withâ!"

Charlie sighed.

"She's his ex nowâ!and he's moved onâ!he's been spending his time with me."

Brad put his hand up.

"Hey I didn't mean to make a deal about itâ!it's just that sometimes it's hard to let one like her goâ!and well, someone from her daddy's ranch is going to that same auction and if it's herâ!"

Charlie shook her head.

"Noâ!it's someone else that's goingâ!that's what Colton said. Her father or one of her brothers."

He smiled.

"You sure about that?"

She nodded, suddenly not so sure. Did Brad know something she didn't know? No he was just messing with her.

"I'mâ!sureâ!what's it to you anyway? What would it matter? Colton and Trina are overâ!"

He nodded, seemingly in agreement.

"I'm sure they areâ!but you never know what might happenâ!especially if they're booked in the same flea bag motel off the stripâ!"

Charlie gritted her teeth not answering. Yeah he was most definitely messing with her.

"Colton's not like thatâ!"

Somewhere Inside the Tree House

Brad shrugged.

"Maybe he isâ maybe he's notâ but it'd seem to me you're smart enough to find out yourself and too good a woman to ever be second bestâ!"

She bristled, her fingers itched at her side. The nerve of the manâ even implying Colton still wanted anything to do with Trina.

"On the other hand if that's trueâ and he and Trinaâ rekindle old feelingsâ you might have to deal with that."

She started to say something but thought better.

"You might have to just walk away from a guy like thatâ!"

"I don't think that's going to happen with usâ!"

"Like I said, maybe it won'tâ but Charlieâ you're a very pretty womanâ I bet you're real sexy too and all I'm sayingâ is that if it doesn't work out with himâ there'll be other guys out there that can give you what he won'tâ who know how to satisfy a woman and have her coming back for more."

Her eyes widened, her mouth smirked.

"Oh and I suppose that'd include youâ!..right?"

He stepped forward then and before she knew it, reached a couple of fingers out to stroke her face, his thumb brushing her lips.

"Yeah it doesâ if you're interested. I can do you so good Charlieâ just the way you've been wantingâ!"

She shivered a bit but pressed her lips together moving away from him and his touch.

"Noâ!..Brad I'm with Colton and I'm not interested in anyone elseâ!"

He paused.

"I think he's going to break your heart because in the real world, men just aren't like that about womanâ and you don't want to be second best do you?"

She looked straight at him.

"I don't want to be with anyone but himâ!so this conversation is overâ!now excuse meâ!"

She started to leave but he grabbed her wrist causing her to glare at him.

"What?"

He stared back at her.

"Be sure what you wantâ!it might not be what he wantsâ!"

Somewhere Inside the Tree House

"I don't believe youâ!"

"We'll see won't we?"

She pulled away from him and walked out of the tack office leaving him in her wake.

Somewhere Inside the Tree House

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