



Cooper

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Description: Cooper "Tires" Farrell has always been protective of his family, especially his sister, Saige. When she kidnapped, they found her and another woman. That woman stole his breath away just looking at her. Bexley Donahue started to fall for Tires just hearing Saige talk about him while they were held together, waiting to be auctioned off to the highest bidder. Little did she know when she saw him her heart would run away. Now they are fighting to be together, to keep Bexley safe from an old flame who wants her back at all costs, no matter who he hurts along the way, and a new adversary they never saw coming. Will Tires and Bexley get their happily ever after? Or will things rip them apart, right when they are getting on track?

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Prologue

Cooper

I can't believe the year we've had. Saige getting kidnapped, Pyro turning on us the way he did. Getting Sis and Bexley back from the Ghost of Darkness. Cotton and Sis getting together, getting pregnant. I just got through watching Saige and Cotton get married and adopt lil Bethany. Poor Bethany, I hope we can find out what happened to her mom and granddad. We're all going to meet back at the clubhouse for a little party. It won't last too long; Saige is getting tired so fast carrying the twins. Cotton helps his girls into his truck while Bexley and I head to my Mustang. We leave after they do because I need to stop by the bank and get a little cash out. As soon as I pull out from the ATM, a car comes barreling toward us. I slam my Mustang in reverse and hit the gas, trying to keep it from hitting us. I swerve out of the way, looking up to see that it is Buck's car. He and Beth are both in it, but they look almost like they are made of wax or something. After it goes past us it hits a column a few car lengths from us, exploding. I throw my body over Bexley, the explosion drowning out her screams. I had hit Dad's number on speed dial right as the car went by us, I don't know if he can hear us, but I know he'll have Tech triangulating where we are and get help to us fast.

One

Tires

Two weeks later

I walk into the common room at the clubhouse to see that Bexley is handing over the security tapes from Saige's bakery to Tech. Commander Thomas had said that Beth and Buck were both dead when the car they were in came barreling towards us. Bexley and Saige have been combing the tapes to find the guy that Beth had been leaving with sometimes before they disappeared. It was while they were combing through them that Saige had screamed out in anger. Rancor was standing right outside the bakery, waving at the camera. Tonya had lied about him dying in a shoot-out with the cops in another county. Now we need to find out why. She is still locked up in jail from when, she tried robbing the store by the bakery. We've no clue if she is actually working with Rancor or not. My bet is that she is. Stockholm syndrome or she really does love him, I don't know, I just want her away from my sister and my woman.

Bexley sees me approaching and she smiles. She didn't like me calling her gingersnap, so now I need to find another pet name for her. I may just have to mess with her until I find the right one. She puts her arms around me when I get to her and tiptoes up for a kiss. I hate that I wasted so much time. I had my head up my ass, but I'm trying to make up for that now. "Hey honeybunch. Are you okay?"

Bex crinkles her nose up, "Honeybunch? Um no! That's as bad as gingersnap. I gave Tech the security tapes. He's going to make a copy of them before he turns them over to Commander Thomas. He said he doesn't want the tapes to disappear or us not know what's on them. He's setting it up, so that the live feed will come here to his huge computer system. I need to head to the bakery and open soon. Saige has some things at her house that I need to pick up to take with me. She made some new pies, and several desserts in jars to try. I'm going to do a poll for a few days to ask about salads in jars, or maybe sandwiches."

I smile at her enthusiasm, "I like that. But I think you and Sis are taking on so much right now. I know y'all want to stay busy. But don't you think some of that should wait until she has the twins and they're in daycare so that she can be there to run the place?"

Bexley looks at me indignantly asking, “Do you think I can’t handle it? Saige made me manager for a reason. I’ve hired a couple of the teenagers that applied to work that passed background checks and I have Saige. Some of the guys actually help out while they’re there. Wolfe makes a mean turnover. I need to be independent as much as possible Coop. You know what I’ve been through, well most of it. I need to be able to stand on my own two feet so that I know that no matter what comes at me I can do what needs to be done.”

I look down at Bexley smiling. I get where she is coming from. I really do. Sighing, I give in. “Okay, who all’s with you today? I’ve got to work on the bike that a lady wants done for her man’s birthday. Is Loki on shift at the fire department or is it Bacon’s shift at the police station? I need to know someone is there with Saige since Cotton will be working today too.”

We are walking outside, going over to my bike as she answers me. “I know that Loki is on shift, so it’ll be Bacon and Lynch with Saige and Alivia. I have Wolfe, Crow, Brennon, and Hawke. They’re all going to be there. I think your dad said that he’s going to drop in too. He’s already placed an order. He’s going to go have lunch with Leilani at the tattoo shop.”

Nodding while I think she tiptoes up and kisses me really quick. “I’ve got to go Coop. I’m going to be late. Love ya.” With that she is walking away talking on the phone before I can say anything. I just shake my head. I need to get to the garage. I get on my bike that I built from the ground up, put my helmet on and fly down the road.

Bexley

I’m so going to be late. I call Saige, “Hey girl! Is there any way that Cotton can drop off the desserts and stuff on his way into work? I’m running so late. If not, I can send Crow over to get them. That’ll leave me with the three patches that Stone wants. I’m so happy that he and the guys patched Brennon in.”

Laughing Saige replies, “Yeah that’s fine. It may take Crow coming to help though. Some little princess asked me to make some cupcakes so I’m sending some of those too. They are the cherry-limeade. I made the icing lime, so she added pink sprinkles on top. They look cute, so they should go when the school crowd comes in. Just set them on the little pedestal that we set up for Bethany’s Concoctions.”

I grin as I think about that little table set up just for Bethany. She was so excited when we did that. Any money made from sales off that table go to Bethany. She is putting them in a piggy bank, and she’ll decide later what she wants to do with it. She’s already said something about toys for kids in hospitals. “Yeah, okay. Thanks Saige. Tell my little princess that Auntie Bex loves her and that I’m going to buy the first cupcake that it sounds so yummy!’

Laughing Saige says, “I sure will. I’m going to get her breakfast ready in a little bit. Alivia’s getting her dressed. Y’all be careful going in. If you need anything call me. Love ya.”

“Love ya too. I will.” I hang up the phone as I get in the truck with Brennon. Hawke and Wolfe are on their bikes following us, as Crow takes off to get the desserts from Saige.

Two

Bexley

When we pullup to the back of the bakery, Brennon takes the keys from me and goes in to check out the shop. He comes back out giving the all clear and the rest of us walk in. Brennon had turned on the lights and the ovens on his way back out, so I turn on the radio I have here in back smiling as the rock music fills the air. I set my stuff in the office then walk out front to turn the coffee pots on and check the inventory. I have a few things made in advance that I had put in the freezer. All I have to do is

pop them in the oven. Saige and I have experimented with what would do good being made up beforehand then baked later. The turnovers, pies, some of the breads, and a few of the cookies work really well this way. After writing down everything I need the guys turn the open sign over as I go back in the kitchen.

I walk in to see Wolfe already popping some muffins in the oven. He has the ingredients and pans out to make a couple cobblers. He is a great help, as he loves to cook. Brennon is watching for Cotton and Crow to help them carry stuff in, Hawke is watching the front with Destiny, a sweet girl that quit school, got her GED, and is a very hard worker for a teenager. Hawke has really taken a liking to her but won't say anything to her. I overheard him telling Wolfe that he wished she were a couple of years older. But with the way she watches him, I don't think it will be long before they are dating.

Cotton and Crow pull up about thirty minutes later. Brennon helps them carry everything in as Destiny and I set everything up out front. "Cotton, will you have Cooper call me and let me know what he wants me to bring back to the clubhouse? He said he wanted something to snack on. I know I'll take a couple of Bethany's cupcakes." I can't help but notice that he looks a little pale. "Are you feeling okay Cotton? You look pale."

He grins really big. "Yeah, though I can tell you that the lemon cookies, cupcakes, the tarts, and lemon bars, are his favorite. He and Stone both love lemon. My stomach has been hurting. I think I have an ulcer. It's fine, I'm fine."

I laugh. "Well, now I know how to butter them up if I need to. Thank you, Cotton. You need to get that checked if it keeps up."

He laughs and gives me a thumbs up as he heads out to the garage. I get busy baking. There is a special cake order that I've got to get done that Commander Thomas ordered. One of the officers that's been there for over forty years has decided to

retire. I get to working on it, while Wolfe is experimenting with something new. I love this group of guys. The family that I've made here sure makes up for the one I grew up in.

Tires

I look up when I hear a noise to see Cotton enter the garage. I'm almost done painting the frame of this new bike then it'll be time to wire it. "Perfect timing, Brother. She's ready to have the wiring and everything done. I have the gas tank, fender, and helmet in to be painted and detailed. Hey, also, some magazine called wanting to do a spread on us and our bikes."

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Cotton looks at the bike, then me. “She’s looking good. I’m ready to get this done. What magazine called? Was it Customs US?”

I think a second. “Yeah, that’s it. How’d you know?”

He smirks. “Because, jackass, I was the one that had Saige and Bexley, along with the guys call and nominate us. It was a contest about custom made bikes and the men who build them. If they called it means we won.”

I run my hand through my hair. “Did I not know about it, or did I forget?”

Cotton laughs. “You probably forgot. I told you about it, but that was back when Saige was in the hospital, so it probably slipped your mind with everything going on.”

“Yeah. It’s been crazy. Can you believe that Saige and Loki’s birthday is coming up? And she could have the twins any day now. Tech’s still trying to keep an eye on Michael, but apparently, he’s keeping a low profile. His brother John just had a huge party in the capital, but he never showed up. And he’s watching for Rancor too. Dad is going to go talk to Tonya. See if he can get any truth from her.”

Cotton doesn’t look happy with that piece of knowledge. Hell, I’m not happy about it either. Just means we have to keep our eyes and ears open even more. It’s hell on the nerves for all of us. He shakes his head and sighs, stating, “I hate this. I hate it more for the girls. They feel so suffocated. Oh, by the way Bex wants you to call her before you leave. She said she needs to know what desserts you want her to bring home to the clubhouse. I told her she could never go wrong with lemon.”

I laugh at that. Yeah, I love lemon. “Hey, man, you go call that magazine back. I’ll finish this last little bit so that you can wire it.” Cotton gives me a salute as he walks out front to call Customs US back. I can’t believe I forgot about that. But Cotton’s right, with all the stress going on, it’s not a wonder that I did. I shake my head, turn back to the bike, and get to work.

Three

Tires

I stretchout my back and arms, Cotton is doing the same. It’s been a long day, but with Ryker’s and Skip’s help, we got this bike together, running, and ready to go. The lady that ordered it will be here in the morning to pick it up. It’s a beautiful work of art, painted a bright blue with chrome accents. I look over at the guys, saying, “Great job y’all. This beast is beautiful! I know that the customer will love it. Let’s call it a day. We’ve been going at it nonstop and we don’t have anything else to do. Tomorrow, Ryker, I need you and Skip to drive up to Richmond, Virginia to pick up three bikes there. We’ve got a lot of work we’ll have to do with them when you get back. Take the big trailer to put them in.”

Ryker nods at me. “Will do boss. We’ll head out by nine at the latest in the morning.” Skip agrees as they head out to go do whatever it is, they’re going to do tonight.

I look at Cotton. “You and Saige have anything planned tonight? I thought I might bring Bex over to visit, see the progress that has been made on our house out there. I know Ryker said that he was waiting on a few supplies to be delivered tomorrow evening before they can finish up.”

Cotton stretches again. “Yeah, it’s looking good so far. I swear they all look like little cabins compared to our house. I still wish Stone hadn’t had me make it so big, but I get it. As far as plans, we don’t have any. Saige is on bedrest mostly until the babies

come, and if she goes into the kitchen, she sits to do any work. She doesn't stand for long. I can't wait for the twins to be here."

I laugh. "Yeah, I know sis can't wait either. She told me last night when I talked to her that she felt like a beached whale."

Cotton shakes his head, "Yeah she says that a lot. Let's get out of here. You and Bexley come on over when y'all are ready."

I give him a chin lift as we head our separate ways once we both pull into the compound. I park at the clubhouse; he rides on out to the lake and their house. As I walk in the door, I hear laughter coming from the bar. I walk on back to my room so that I can get a shower. Bexley will be back soon and I know she'll shower before we head over to see Saige. I can't wait to give her the outfits that we found for the twins; we even got a couple for Bethany.

I'm walking into the room with a towel around my waist as Bex walks in. She just stops staring at me. We've made out some, and she gives me hand jobs, but she won't let me do much to her. I think it may be her past with Michael that is screwing with her head, not letting her go further in our relationship. She smiles as she comes toward me, then tip toes up to give me a quick kiss. "I've got to get in the shower. I got covered in strawberry jam that was supposed to go into the strawberry cloud cake. When I opened the jar, it went everywhere. Cotton must've tightened the lid good, because it exploded," she says laughing.

I can't help but laugh too. I move so she can get her shower. "Hey babe, when you get done, we're going to Saige's for a bit. I thought we could take the outfits we got over to them. And y'all could talk shop for a bit." Bex nods as she grabs some clothes and shuts the bathroom door. I hate how she feels she has to hide herself from me. Maybe I can get Sis to talk to her. I shoot Saige a text and get dressed.

Four

Bexley

I hate how I feel right now. I feel so down on myself. Michael hurt me so bad when we were together, and I hate that I am pushing Coop away some. I just don't know how to talk to him about it without feeling like a freak. I'm having to wash my hair twice to get all the jam out. I hope Saige doesn't get upset about it. Wolfe had a great laugh when it happened. At least he did until I threw some on him. It shocked us both that I did. I get out of the shower, dry off, and get dressed. Leaving my hair wet, I comb it out, brush my teeth, and I'm ready to go.

We take the ATV out to Saige's house, and see Bacon sitting on the porch. "Hey y'all what's up? Bex, you don't have any strawberry jam on you to throw, do you?"

I laugh, "No, I don't have any on me. I plan to get some more from Saige though. How did you find out?"

He holds his phone up, "Hawke caught it on video when you threw it at Wolfe. He sent it to everyone. I love the look of shock on both of y'all's faces. It's hilarious. But it's also great to see you coming out of your shell."

I just smile at that. "Thank you, Bacon. I'm trying to get back to the old me. It's slow going. I'm having to relearn who I am all over again. "

Cooper puts his hand on my back, "Babe, you are doing great. We're all here to help if you need us to." Bacon nods his head in agreement. Cotton is standing in the doorway listening and he gives me a thumbs up. I grin at him as he nods his head for us to come in.

"Saige is in the room we have set up down here. She's watching tv. Bethany just

finished her bath and will probably show up in there in a few. You go ahead, go see her, chat. I know she'll enjoy the company. Come on Tires, lets get a beer and head down to the playroom. Lynch is down there waiting."

I walk down the hall to the room that Saige is in. I love the bed in here, and I have already told Coop that I want one when we get the house. Saige looks up, smiles really big when I sit down beside her. I lean over to give her a hug. "How're you feeling?" I ask her.

"I'm ready for these kids to be here. How're you? I see that all the jam came out of your hair." She laughs. I can't help but laugh too.

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“Yeah, I had to wash it twice to get it all out. I was so sure you would be upset. Did you see the video?”

Saige nods her head “Yeah. Hawke sent it to everyone. I also saw you cringe and back up a little after you threw some on Wolfe. I hope you know that none of the guys here would ever hurt you.”

I lean back against the cushiony backboard. I sigh. “I want to believe that Saige. But it’s hard to. Michael was so sweet when we first got together, then after I moved in with him, he became the most horrible monster I’ve ever seen, Rancor was a picnic compared to him. Not that he isn’t horrible, but he didn’t touch us, ya know. I’m having a hard time with Cooper. How do you do it with Cotton? How do you let him have sex with you, knowing how much it’s going to hurt? I want to let Cooper have his pleasure, but I’m so afraid to go through that pain again.” I’m crying now. Saige looks at me, and I see the sadness in her eyes.

“Oh Bex. Sex isn’t supposed to hurt. Especially if it is a loving relationship. Did you ever have an orgasm with Michael? Did he not get you excited beforehand? If not then he didn’t care about your pleasure at all, and he was even more of a monster for doing so.”

I look at Saige, “No, I’ve never had an orgasm in my life. Michael was the only person I’ve ever been with, and when he wanted to have sex, he would just go for it. He never kissed me or anything, he just pushed me down on the bed, did what he wanted, he even said I was the worst he’s ever had. That if it hurt it was my fault for not knowing how to please him. He even hit me and choked me a few times during it. The last time, he choked me until I passed out. He was smiling the whole time and I

thought he was going to kill me. It terrifies me, Saige. I feel like Coop would be better off finding someone else. I love him enough that I would leave if that would make him happy.”

“Please don’t cry Bexley. My brother loves you, he’s patient. What Michael did was just flat out rape. There is no other way to say it. You need to know what pleasures you. Have you not ever pleased yourself?” Saige asks. I shake my head no. “Oh Bex. What you need to do is next time you take a shower, feel yourself. Touch with different pressures. You’ll find out what you like and don’t like. When you are ready, use a vibrator, see what you like that way. Then you can work up to letting Coop help you, then the next step. Do what feels right and good to you. You know if you told Coop what you just told me; he would work with you. It would help y’all’s relationship, showing that you trust him.”

I lean my head on her shoulder as I mull over the everything she just said. Why did I not realize that Michael was raping me? It was my first real relationship, and I’m now seeing that all the feelings that I had at the beginning, what I thought was love, was infatuation. Not love. “Thank you. I’ll try that, try to talk to Coop about it. I guess I’ve been pretty blind about a lot of things.” We sit in silence for a bit. I love that I have a best friend that I can talk to about anything and not feel like a freak. I’ve never had that in my life. I feel so lucky and blessed to have Saige. I hate how we met, but I’m glad to have her and her family in my life. We both laugh when the door busts open and Bethany comes bouncing in the room. Alivia pops her head in to say hi, then goes to take her shower.

“Auntie Bex! How did my cupcakes do today? Did I sell any?” she asks as she plops down on my lap. I take the comb that she is holding and lightly start to comb her hair.

“Hmm let me think. I know that there was twenty-four when your daddy brought them to the bakery. When I left there was only four left. So you sold twenty. That’s really good Baby doll.” She grins really big.

“Mommy, I sold twenty of my cupcakes. That means I can get more toys for the kids that don’t has any.”

“I’m so proud of you Princess. I think we’ll have to make some more in a few days. How does that sound?” Saige asks her.

Bouncing in my lap, Bethany says, “Oh yeth. The more we makes and sells the more toys I can gets.”

I hug her close as I grab the bag beside me to show her the new outfits we got her. She loves her princess dresses. I found a pink outfit that says ‘I’m a Princess’ in glitter. It’s a shirt that has a frilly tutu sewed onto it, the other is a purple slip dress with unicorns on it. The outfits we got the twins is really cute. I reach the bag over to Saige to look at. She pulls out the three outfits that are left in it. Joseph’s is a white onesie that has a little vest on it. It says future Renegade Viper on the back, Nellie’s is pink with a vest that says Renegade Viper Princess. She pulls out Bethany’s last. It is a pink t-shirt with a little vest that she can wear over anything, it also says Princess on the front with property of Cotton and Saige on the back. Saige looks at me with tears in her eyes. “Thank you so much. I love them. Look Bethany, you now have a vest like mommy and daddy.”

Bethany grabs the vest and puts in on over her pajamas. “I loves it. Thank you Auntie Bex. I’m going to wears it always.” She kisses my cheek and hugs me tight. I hug her back, kissing her cheek.

“You are so welcome Baby doll. I have a new book for you too.”

I hand her the book just as Alivia shows up in the door. “It’s your bedtime Princess. I hear you got a new book, I’ll read it to you.” Bethany gives us both a hug and says. “Night night mommy and Bex. Love you both bunches.” We say the same to her as she takes Alivia’s hand. They head upstairs to her room. We can hear Alivia telling

Bethany that she loves her vest.

I look at Saige and see that she is getting tired. I tell her to get some rest and that I'll call her tomorrow. I then walk downstairs to the game room to find Coop. We haven't eaten anything and my stomach is growling. He is leaning up against the pool table when I walk in. "Hey babe, whatcha doing down here?" he asks.

"Saige just went to sleep; Bethany is being read to and going to bed. Saige loved the outfits. I'm starving and I know you haven't eaten. I figured I could order us a pizza or something, and have it delivered to the clubhouse."

"Yeah that sounds good. How about a Philly cheese steak and fries from Primos?"

"Yeah that sounds good. I'll order it right quick. You want everything on yours?" I ask. He nods his head yes, as I pull my phone out and call it in. We say our goodbyes to everyone then head out to the ATV. It takes about ten minutes to get back to the clubhouse and the delivery guy is pulling in the same time we do. Cooper pays for our food then we go straight to our room.

Five

Tires

I carry the bag of food back to the room. Bex looks so lost in thought as I unlock the door, letting her go in. "Babe, are you okay?"

She turns to face me as she sits down on the bed. "Yeah, just going over some of the things Saige and I talked about. It was just eye opening for me. Can I ask you a question? I've always wondered but never really asked. Where did all of y'all's money come from? I mean, um, you don't have to answer that. Just forget I asked." She stutters, looking down.

I sit the bag down beside her, and cup her face in my hands, tilting it up so that she is looking at me. “You never need to be afraid to ask me anything. As for the money, our grandfather and great uncle live out in Wyoming. They’ve got over four thousand acres of land, that they found a huge amount of oil on. They’ve been pumping from there for years and are still getting oil. So, granddad set up savings accounts for Saige, Loki, and me. He and our uncle still have money going into all three accounts, plus since our uncle never married or had kids, he has his will set up for the money to go to the three of us evenly. Dad and Aunt Stella get their own dividends from it as well. That’s how I was able to build the shop, get my car. Saige was able to buy her truck and the shop, build the house. She went in with Cotton to build it and get the furniture. Loki bought his car with it. And Cotton got the life insurance from his mom’s and brother’s policies. That’s why his dad was going to kill them. He was going to leave and come back to find them all dead and the house ransacked when Cotton came home that evening. None of us have to work, but we love what we do.” I watch her as she absorbs all this information. I know that it has to be shocking to her. “Is there anything else you want to know?”

Bex looks at me, “Can you tell me about your mom?”

I sigh, “I can tell you what I know about her from everyone else. She died while having me. She hemorrhaged out. Dad said that she was his high school girlfriend. She had short brown hair, hazel eyes, petite. She was shy. Aunt Stella and she were close friends. Marilynn. She didn’t have a middle name. Her parents died in a car crash when I was two, so I don’t remember them. They left everything to me in their will, which is in my savings. Dad sold the little house to some flipping show. It was falling apart and wouldn’t be standing by now if he hadn’t. He said mom hated that house. Her dad was a pastor, and very controlling. She ran away in order to be with dad. They got married, built the clubhouse with Stella and Cruz, then she died having me.” I look up to see Bexley is crying. “Don’t cry babe. I have pictures of her, Stella or dad will talk to me about her from time to time. Stella says that I’m more like dad, but that I have mom’s attitudes or mannerisms in certain things. Stella helped to raise

me, and I think I came out alright, don't you?" I laugh.

"Yeah, I think you came out pretty great. Let's eat, the food is getting cold." Bex says as she hands me my sub and fries. I grab us both a paper plate from the shelf I have, and I get us both a Coke from the fridge.

"You know, I don't think you've ever mentioned your folks." I say as I hand her the plate and Coke.

Bex fixes everything how she wants it, takes a bite of her sub, then looks at me. "My childhood was great up until I turned eight. My dad was a pilot, he did the crop dusting from his plane for the three big ranches around us, as well as piloting a private jet for one of those ranchers. Dad was my everything and I was his. Mom was ready to leave dad, and she only had me because he wanted me. He said that he had bought all the books on babies, read them all, sang to me, talked to me. He was exhilarated when I was born. Dad had bought the best of everything he could for me. He was the one to name me. Bexley means woodland clearing or meadow of box trees, it was also my great grandma's name. Ann was my grandma's name; it means Eagle in Greek. Mom never had much to do with me, I ruined her figure and took her freedom. I was dad's shadow. I loved flying in the plane with him. He was flying the Henson family to some cattle convention when they hit a bad storm and flew into a mountain that they couldn't see. They said that dad had a photo of me in his shirt pocket over his heart. He always kept it with him when he flew. Mom was never the same. Neither was I to be honest, but mom became abusive towards me. You've seen Cinderella, well it was like that without the stepsisters, fairy godmother, or prince. I left when I was sixteen after she died. She despised being sick and me having control of her money, but I showed her receipts to everything I spent it on. Met Michael. You know the rest."

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“I’m so sorry sweets. You haven’t had an easy life at all.” I say as I kiss her forehead. “Who gave you the red hair and blue eyes? I bet it was your dad.”

Bexley smiles at me, “Yeah, he was Irish through and through. Lachlan Thomas. He talked with an Irish brogue, I loved it. He moved here from Ireland when he was eighteen. There’s one more thing I want to ask tonight, and then we can watch our shows or whatever.”

I nod at her as I finish off my sub, to let her know it’s okay. “Saige mentioned something about her going undercover once. Can you tell me about that? Is it something that she or any of you do a lot?”

I take a huge drink of my soda, “That’s another thing I can only tell you what I was told. See, Cotton and I had just been sent overseas with our platoon. Saige and Loki were seventeen and had just graduated high school. She was in love with Cotton even then, so she never really dated. She might go out to a club with Lynch, he taught her a lot of dances, or Pyro. They knew the deal, friendship only. Barq, the Black Forest chapter Pres bought the strip club in Hampton. He kept the manager there, she was a nasty work of art. She was efficient at her job, kept the girls in line, so he let her stay on. After a while, he noticed a turnover in the girls. So, he asked Lynch and a few of the nomads to come in as bouncers. Lynch talked them into having Saige come in as a maid type girl. She was too young to bartend, but she could clean the tables, floors, the changing rooms, and could keep an eye out in there, talk to the girls. And to keep suspicion down, Lynch and Saige pretended to be dating. From what I heard; Lynch fell for sis. Then one night they heard a bunch of noise behind the building. Saige took a bag of trash out back. There was a van with someone behind the wheel that couldn’t really be seen, the manager woman, a man holding one of the Charmers. Sis

said she was sorry for interrupting their argument that she was going to go back inside. Lynch came around the side of the building and stopped Sis at the door, saying loud enough that he was gonna steal a kiss before she went back in. He pushed her against the door, and they whispered to each other about what was going on, he told her he had a gun in his waist band, the van took off, so they actually started kissing, kinda making out, when that woman came up and put a gun to Lynch's head. Sis grabbed the one from his waist band, hid it in hers, and the woman told Lynch to turn around and get on his knees. He did. Sis was begging the woman to stop, that they had no idea what was going on. They were just stealing a moment of time to be together. The woman raised her gun towards Sis, Crow saw what was going on in the surveillance room, went around the side of the building, but he tripped, the woman turned towards the noise, Lynch went to move, she turned back towards him, whipping her gun around, and Sis shot her right in the middle of her forehead. Neither she nor Lynch will talk about it much. Sis will say it is something that happened, she protected her family, and if you want to know more, ask Lynch or Barq. Both are tight lipped about it. What I know, Crow told me. Dad was against her doing it, but she did it anyways. They found a couple of the girls. There was several arrested, but I don't think the ones that was over it was caught. But going undercover isn't something we do a lot, but if we need to, we do."

Six

Bexley

I lookat Cooper in almost disbelief. No wonder Saige seems older than she is. She has an old soul to begin with, and then going through everything she has. She really hasn't had it easy either, lately. I get up to throw my plate away, my food only half eaten, so I put that in a container and in the fridge. "I won't mention it again. I bet it was hard for both of them."

"It was, but they did what they felt they had to do to protect each other and those

girls. Are you okay?" Cooper asks me.

"I'm okay. Just tired. It's been a long day, and then to hear all that.... well I now understand Saige more, and I know why she and Lynch are close. I'm gonna change into my night clothes. Do you want to watch "Who's Line is it Anyway" or something else?"

Cooper throws his plate away and grins at me. "Yeah, I got that new Annabelle movie, I thought we could watch it if you want to."

I grin really big, "Yes, that sounds great to me." I go into the bathroom and shut the door. I hurry to change into my tank top and shorts, brush my teeth, use the bathroom, wash my hands, and put my clothes on the counter for tomorrow. I only wore them for a few hours today, nothing dropped on them to get them dirty. I head out to see Cooper looking at his phone, and the look on his face scares me, I haven't ever seen him that mad. "Coop is everything okay?" I ask tentatively.

He turns to look at me and smiles a little. "Yeah Foxy, it's all good. Just got a message that I didn't like." He turns back to his phone and types something, then heads over to me. He's already changed into his shorts. He kisses my forehead, then laughs. "You didn't say anything about that nick name."

I shrug, smiling I tell him, "I kinda like that one."

"Okay then, Foxy it is. It suits you, ya know? Come on, I popped some popcorn, and have your favorite candies on your side of the bed. I already set you a huge cup of sweet tea on the table, and I think that's all we need."

I smile as I get in the bed, he already had the pillows propped up, and pull the blanket up over me some. Coop turns the overhead light off and climbs in beside me. He starts the movie, and I snuggle into his side, as he puts his arm around me. He laughs

as I jump or hide my head during the movie. He never jumps, just like Saige, I think. Once the movie is over, I go to the bathroom again, rebrush my teeth, use the restroom, wash up. He gets up to go do the same, as I lay down. I fall asleep before he comes back out to bed.

Cooper

I can't believe the texts that I had gotten from Saige, to know that the son of a bitch raped Bex the whole time they were together, no wonder she pushes away when it comes to intimacy. I have to figure out a way to let her know that it isn't like that in a loving relationship. I don't know how anyone could treat her that way, but I damn sure know that I will kill someone if they ever try again. I need to get up with Tech after I go with Dad tomorrow to see Tonya. I watch Bex walk out of the bathroom and lay down. I go in and do my business. When I walk back into the bedroom, she is already asleep. I lay down making sure I delete the texts from Saige, plug it up to the charger, and curl into Bex. I kiss her forehead, then close my eyes.

I look at Bex laying in the bed, as she is starting to stir. I've been up for a bit, and I'm about ready to head out with dad.

"Mornin Foxy. I've got to go meet dad, and head out. Are you going to be okay? You have your regular guys to take you to work and hang out. I'll come by and bring you some lunch." I kiss her slowly, then nip her bottom lip. When she gasps, I deepen the kiss. I end it before it gets out of control. Bex is trying to catch her breath. I smile as I head out the door.

I walk into the common room to see dad ready to go. "Tires, do you have your phone so that we can facetime Saige while talking to Tonya?"

"Yeah dad, I have it. You ready to go now?"

He sighs, “As ready as I’ll ever be.” We walk outside and get on our bikes, then head out to the jail.

We get to the jail, and dad stops me by putting his hand on my shoulder. “Son, you are going to meet someone, that I’ve known for a very long time. He’s been undercover for a long time, and he had to do what he could to stay there. If he had been found out, he would’ve been killed, and not in a very pleasant way. Keep your mind open when we get in here. I know your first instinct is going to be to kill him.”

I look at dad, see the weariness in his face. “Yeah, okay dad. Does Sis need to be on the phone when we meet him too?”

“Yes, she most definitely needs to be on the phone.” He says as we walk into the jail. Commander Thomas meets us at the door. He and dad chitchat for a minute, and I pull up the facetime on the phone, calling Saige. “Hey sis, how are you?” I ask when she answers.

“I’m good. Are you okay? You look like you are trying to figure out a really hard puzzle.”

I laugh, “Dad just said that we were gonna meet someone, and that you had to be on facetime before we go talk to Tonya. And he said that I have to keep an open mind, that this guy has been undercover for years. That I’m not to try to kill him.”

Saige looks at me thoughtfully, “I wonder who it is?” I shrug my shoulders as dad leads me into a room. I turn the camera so that Saige sees what we see. I don’t know who this man is. He is tall, thin, has brownish hair. It isn’t until Saige gasps and whispers “Rancor?” that I finally realize that it is him.

Dad goes over to the table where the chairs are and indicates that he wants us all to sit down. “Duke, it’s been awhile. How are you? Does she really believe that you are

dead?”

Seven

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Duke

“Stone, good to see you. Saige, Cooper. To answer your question, yes, she really believes I’m dead. We couldn’t arrest everyone and get out from the undercover job without her thinking that.”

I look at the phone at Saige. “You’ll never know how sorry I am to have done the things I did to you. I never knew what Pyro did until your dad told me. Tonya is the one that told the guys to get you, not me. When I found out from another undercover in the group, I had to make it look like it was my idea. I had it out with her, and she said she did it for me, so that I could have my revenge for my father. Snake wasn’t really my father, but with all the work that went into the job, it appeared that he was. He thought I was his son by one of the club whores. Anyways, I took over the club with a few other officers who went in with me. It didn’t take long to find out who all was doing the sex trafficking. She was over it all, Stone. She was the one driving that van the night Saige killed that woman outside the Vipers Pit. She was Tonya’s partner. That’s why she wanted Saige, she thought she saw her that night. Even when she knew she hadn’t, she didn’t want to take the chance. Saige was to go to Michael with Bexley. He is in on it too, but he is making it look like his brother is part of it. John is clean of this, but where he takes bribes, and bribes others, it was easy for them to blackmail him to cover it all up.”

Saige looks like she is about to pass out. “But your appearance? How did you pull it all off? You’ve completely changed.”

I give her a small smile. “Prosthetics. They are state of the art prosthetics. I slowly built up the stomach with them, the scar, contacts, it was all carefully done. I had to

look and play the part. There were times when I felt I really was this dirty, evil man. I was undercover for nearly twenty-three years. We had to build up and go down on things over the years. I had to do things I'm not proud of, and the biggest regret I'll ever have, is you getting hurt. Your mom, man, that's the real monster. I have some info on the guy Beth was dating and why she and Buck were killed. Richard. He's working for Michael. He tried getting Beth to help him get close to everyone. That way he had an in to get to Bexley or Saige. He knew if he got to Saige, Bexley would give herself up to save her. He's one crazy son of a bitch. Buck must have figured it out, he talked to Beth about it. She didn't believe him completely, but she did enough to make sure her kid was taken care of. I don't know why Buck and Beth were killed unless Buck confronted Richard. It may look like Michael is laying low, but he isn't. I hope you have guys watching over both Bexley and Saige at all times."

Stone is taking everything in stride. He knew I was undercover and who I was. He was still on the force at the time. "I'm thankful for you letting me know that you were coming in and letting me get the other guys out."

He looks at me and nods. "You've sacrificed a lot over the years, and to learn you have a little brother and lose him all in the same month, I know was hard. But he had to go."

I look at Stone, then Cooper and Saige through the phone. "I know, and I am sorry for what he did. I wish I could take it all back, but I can't." I sigh and run my hand through my hair.

"I can't say that I'll forgive you, but I do understand what you are saying, and I'll work on it. I get that you were doing your job and trying to protect the ones that needed to be. "Saige says.

Cooper looks at me, "I agree with Sis. I get that you were doing your job, but that doesn't mean that I am going to trust you right off the bat. I know dad trusts you,

but...”

I nod as I sit back in the chair, “I get it, honestly. Just whatever you do, don’t let anyone know about me right now. I have to be dead.”

Cooper

We all agree to Dukes request and go into another room where Tonya is being brought in, her hands handcuffed in front of her. She starts crying when she sees us. “Cooper, Stone, you have to help me, get me out of here.”

I look at her and hold the phone up so that she can see Saige as well, as she is told to sit at the table. Tonya lets the crocodile tears flow. “Saige my baby girl, Stone, I need one of you to bail me out, and let me move in with you. I’m not safe in here. I thought I might be, that’s why I broke into the store, that I thought was yours. It was dark, so I got turned around in the back alley. Please you have to help me!”

“Who are you needing protection from Tonya?” dad asks her. She looks at him like he has grown horns.

“I need protection from the man that Rancor sold Bexley and Saige too. Since Rancor is dead, and he didn’t deliver the girls to him, he is demanding that I do it, or he’ll kill me! I don’t know what else to do, except move in with y’all! You have protection all around the clubhouse, and I know Saige is protected at her house. Baby I should move in with you, you are about to have the twins, and I want to be with you and them.”

“Oh, I don’t think so Tonya. You don’t need to be with the twins or Saige if that man is after you too. You would be leading him right to her. I think you are in the safest place for you right now. Let me see what we can do about having you in a private cell, with men that I know and trust that work here to watch over you for now?” dad

says as he is staring daggers at her.

“Tonya, do you know who the man is that is after Bexley and Saige?” I ask.

She looks at me, “Why yes. His name is Richard. Richard Tedder. He has blonde hair, skinny but built. He is mean, and always gets what he wants. As for leading him to Saige, he already knows where she is. He isn’t stupid, he’s just bidding his time.”

Saige looks at Tonya, “Did he kill Beth and Buck? If he did, why?”

Tonya looks at the phone, staring at Saige, “Does he have to have a reason for killing them? Yes. He killed them because they wouldn’t bring him to the clubhouse to get close to y’all, and to show me what he is capable of. He is ruthless. He would have killed Bethany too if you didn’t have her.”

I just watch the expressions that cross Tonya’s face, the look in her eyes. You can tell that she is angry, and she is trying to hide it for all that she’s worth. I agree with dad, her staying here where we know she is, is the best thing for her. It isn’t until Saige talks again that I realize that I’ve been staring at her.

“Look mom, I agree with dad. If we get you in a private cell, have guys here that he knows and trusts to watch you, you’ll be safe. I don’t want anything to happen to you, maybe Grange can come down and watch over you too. That way you have someone you know here. Will you please do this for me? For your grandkids?”

Damn Saige even has tears running down her face. Maybe she’s better at the acting stuff than I ever gave her credit for. Tonya just sits and stares at the phone screen where Saige is crying. She finally gives in, slumping forward some and nodding her head. “I’ll do it for now, so long as Grange can stay here as much as possible. Cooper, maybe you and your dad can come stay some too?”

I look at her then dad. I nod to agree. Dad motions to the guard who is standing outside the room along with Commander Thomas. Dad asks for the private cell for her and for a couple of guys he knows to watch her. He tells Thomas that she's a suicide risk as well as in trouble on the outside. He would explain the rest to him later. Tonya never looks up, but she has a slight smile on her face. I get up from the table and walk outside. I need air.

"Sis, you okay with everything we learned today?" I ask her, looking at her face.

She sighs, "I'm not really. I need to process everything. But Tonya has been all over the place personality wise since I met her. I honestly think that if she could, she would try to sell the twins and Bethany. I have no clue what to do. I know that we need to get a few guys to watch her, even when Grange is with her. You know that he sent her photos of me, my whole life. So, who's to say he isn't helping her somehow?"

"Damn Sis! That thought never entered my mind. I know he's related to her and sent her pics, but do you really think that he would turn on the club and help her?" I ask.

"Yes, I do. I had talked to dad about that last night. I didn't know she was over everything until today, but I knew she was up to something, I just didn't know what. I think everything she does is a signal to someone else to know what is up. After talking to Ra, I mean Duke, I really think that Michael is close, and Richard is closer. It terrifies me, not for me to be hurt, but for Bex and my kids." Saige says crying.

"We won't let it come to that Sis; I promise. I won't let any of you get hurt. I'd die first. As would Cotton and all the guys." I say, thinking about what she said. It's aggravating to know that the enemy is so close.

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Dad finally walks outside; we both tell sis bye and we love her. We ride back to the clubhouse and call church. We have a lot to talk about.

Eight

Bexley

A few weeks later

It's been a couple weeks since Coop and his dad went to talk to Tonya. When Coop told me everything, even about Duke, I thought I would pass-out. It's been different trying to gauge who might be helping her. I walk from the back to the front of the shop and see Natalie sitting at the counter wiping tears from her face. I notice a duffle bag and bookbag at her feet. I walk up to her putting my hand on her shoulder. "Nat, are you okay? Is there anything I can do to help?"

Natalie looks at me, "My stepdad just kicked me out of the house. When I told mom that I was pregnant, and that it was my stepbrother who raped me, she called me a lying whore and slapped me, saying that she knew I had been leading him on, and got what I asked for. That's when my stepdad walked in, said that he won't have me defaming his son's name, or having a bastard child in his home. That he refuses to take care of another kid that isn't his. My mom just agreed with him. Told me to pack my stuff up and get out. I have nowhere to go. I don't know what to do. I plan on having the baby and putting it up for adoption. Killing it by abortion is not an option."

I pull her into a tight hug, when Coop comes in with lunch, I have Nat eat with us.

When she goes to the restroom, I tell him everything she just said. Coop gets just as mad about what happened to her as I am. “Coop, the house is finished, we planned on moving into it tonight. We have the room. Can she stay with us until she figures out what she wants to do? That way too if her stepbrother or anyone was to come looking for her, we can keep her safe.”

He looks at me smiling, “Yeah Foxy. She can stay with us. Let her know, see if she is okay with it. I have to get back to the shop.”

“Okay, thank you. Please be careful.” I say as he pulls me into a hug kissing me. “Love ya.”

“Love ya back, Foxy.” He says as he heads out the door.

Natalie is coming back to the counter, holding a wet paper towel to her mouth. “Are you okay?” I ask her. She nods yes. “Nat, I need to ask you something. Would you like to stay with Cooper and I? You can stay as long as you want. You’ll be under club protection, and nobody will get to you. We would be more than happy to help you out.”

She starts crying, “Are you sure? I mean I have nowhere else to go. I...yeah. I’ll stay if you are sure?”

“We’re sure.” I say as I hug her. Just then the little bell over the door chimes, and I see this smug little punk walk in. When Nat sees him, she tenses up. “Hi, how are you today? May I help you with anything?”

He smirks, “Nah Red, I came to make sure that bitch keeps her mouth shut and stays away.”

So, he must be her stepbrother. “I think you need to leave. She is upset enough as it

is.”

“What do I care if she is upset. She’s the one spreading lies saying I raped her, when she damn well asked for it. Always wearing short shorts, tank tops, bikinis when she was sunbathing or swimming. Always giving me a look and smile. She wanted it. She’s nothing but a whore.” He says

I walk up to him, “You need to leave now, before you are made to. And for the record, just because a girl wears certain clothes, does not mean she is asking for it! You raped her, and you should be in jail.”

I turn away from him when he grabs my arm. “Bitch, you’re just like her. You’re leading me on now by being all sassy, wearing tight jeans and a tank top. Your nipples are hard, and everyone can see it. You’re turned on. How about I bend you over that table there and screw you in front of everyone here. I bet you would like that.”

I wrench my arm back from his grip and punch him in the nose, when he starts yelling at me, I say “Listen here you little dildo! Your dick isn’t big enough to be getting an attitude with me. You better check yourself and get the hell out of here, before I make you. If you don’t leave, I’m going to have to do something you won’t like.”

“Like what you damn bitch?” He asks. He gets back up in my face. He goes to slap me, but I block his arm, grab it, and twist it. Bacon walks into the shop and sees what’s going on. He’s in uniform so I know he’s working today. I just hope he’s still on shift. The guys that were in the back walk out front too. Brennon has been out front the whole time, but he let me be, and I know he will jump into it if I need him. He’s letting me handle things where some of the others just take over.

“Bacon, I would like to press charges for assault and harassment on this guy. He

walked in making trouble and it just escalated to this. I won't have our employees being harassed. Natalie is pregnant and doesn't need the stress either." I say.

Bacon puts the guy in handcuffs and looks at Nat, "Are you okay?"

She nods. "Bacon, is it too late to press rape charges against him? He's the one who raped me and got me pregnant."

"How long ago was it? There is a statute of limitation. Though I would love to go ahead and press those charges as well." He says.

Natalie looks at Bacon, "He's been raping and beating me for the last three months. He got me pregnant, my stepdad and mom kicked me out."

"You're good on pressing those charges, and a few more will be added I'm sure. How old are you Natalie? Also, we'll need you both to come down to the station, get your statements on record."

"I just turned eighteen last month." She says.

Bacon looks murderous right now, but he's not the only one. I'm ready to kill this little punk right now with my bare hands. I start to move towards him, but Brennon grabs my arm pulling me over to the table next to him, as Bacon turns the punk away from us.

"Brennon bring them both to the station when y'all close up. Natalie, do you have a place to stay?" Bacon says.

"Yes sir, I'm going to be staying with Bex and Tires." Nat looks so tired, as she replies.

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Bacon nods, and pulls the guy out, puts him in his cruiser. He walks back and pokes his head in the door, “Bex, can you get me a couple of the pumpkin muffins?” He reaches me the money. Nat bags them, putting in a couple extra along with a medium cup of cocoa, and I hand him his change. I smile at her, as he leaves.

“I’ll pay for the extra muffins and cocoa. I know he loves them, and he is doing me a huge favor by arresting him. Why did you call him a dildo? I thought his eyes was gonna bug out when you told him his dick wasn’t big enough to catch an attitude with you.” She laughs.

“He isn’t real enough to be a dick. He’s just a little dildo.” I say. She and Brennon are both laughing. He pulls me into a side hug.

“I’m so proud of you for standing your ground, using the self-defense we’ve been working on. And the sassiness that came from you, I want to say welcome back cuz!”

I grin up at him. We get back to work. Thank goodness there was only one customer in here at the time this all happened. He was ready to jump in if needed also, and he recorded the whole thing on his phone. He sent it to Bacon so that he had it, along with the surveillance cameras here.

Bexley

Brennon takes us straight to the police station after we close up. He has a copy of the tapes with us to give to Bacon. We walk in and see him talking to Cooper. They both start laughing. When they see us, Coop comes up to me, “Foxy, you are one sassy lady. I’m so proud of how you handled yourself. You’re amazing, you know that?”

I just smile and walk into his arms, laying my head on his chest, breathing in the scent that is him. I feel relaxed and safe. I lean back and look at him. “Thanks. I just couldn’t let him talk to Nat like that. He needs to rot in a cell, her mom and stepdad do too. They had to know what was going on.” I say.

He just hugs me tighter, “I agree. They should all be thrown under the jail. It’s disgusting what they did to her. Okay, Brennon gave them the tape, the customer sent his video to Bacon, so he’s going to have you go in a room and record your statement. He’ll do the same with Natalie. Then we can go home. Tomorrow, I’ll take you two shopping so that we can get her whatever she needs. I have dinner going in the crockpot on low. It’s the crockpot lasagna you liked that Stella made. There’s a salad already fixed; all I’ve got to do is throw the garlic bread in the oven for a few minutes.”

I smile at him, “Wow, that sounds amazing. Okay see you in a bit.” I walk back into the room and give my statement to Bacon, then he calls Natalie back. She comes back out about thirty minutes later, and we get in the car to head home.

* * *

We get to the house and Natalie gasps. “My goodness that’s huge, and Saige’s house looks like a castle compared to y’all’s.” We just laugh as we lead her in. The front porch is wrap around, with swings, rocking chairs, and flowerpots hanging everywhere. I’m going to plant some roses and hydrangeas next weekend. The house is open floor plan, and basically, we took Saige’s house and compressed it into a little under half, five bedrooms with seven bathrooms. Each bedroom has one, and then two downstairs. The living room furniture is light gray, I think it will go with anything that way. We can paint the walls whatever and it would look good. All the walls are done in a cream color, and the kitchen appliances are done in blues, with black bears and honeybee hives. I love it.

I take Natalie upstairs to the bedrooms and take her down the hall to the one further from the master. I just feel she will want privacy and I know we will. This room is done up in greens and mauves. The quilt on the bed has blocks of flowers and solids. “This is so beautiful! I’ve never had anything like this in my life. It has a nightstand on both sides of the bed, a dresser, and a closet. Oh my gosh, Bexley! There’s a bathroom through this door, connected to this room!”

I’m getting teared up over her enthusiasm. “Didn’t you have anything in your room at home, Nat?”

She turns to me, “No. I had a chair that I could sit in at my little desk, a closet and that was it. I had to share a bathroom with Nick, and he broke the lock on the door. I didn’t get to take baths, and the showers had to be quick. I had a little bitty mirror in my room that I used to fix my hair. Any money that was spent on me after mom married Hank was for school or necessities only.”

“Nat, I’m going to let you get settled, I’m going to go take a shower and then we can eat dinner. Tomorrow we are going shopping, you are to get what you need, and we will get some things we don’t need, but want. How does that sound?” She goes to say something, but I throw my hand up, “Don’t worry about money. I’m doing this. I want to. And yes, I’m sure.” I laugh.

“Thank you so much Bexley. If you don’t mind, I will shower after dinner, or I might soak in that jacuzzi tub.”

“Girl you do whatever you want. As long as you clean up after yourself. This is your home for as long as you need it to be, and even after that, if you need us.” I say, as Nat hugs me and thanks me. I hug her back. “Okay hun, get ready for dinner then. We usually eat in the living room on trays as we watch tv, but if you would rather eat at the table we can.”

“Living room is great. I don’t mind the table on special occasions, or if you have guests, but we were forced to eat at the table, and it was torture.” Nat says.

“Living room it is. I’m gonna go take a shower. Feel free to do whatever. See you in a bit.”

Nine

Cooper

I watch my Foxy lady take Natalie upstairs to the bedrooms before I go into the kitchen to check on dinner. The lasagna looks great, I set the garlic bread in the oven, and get the salad out. I grab all the dressings we have; I don’t know what Natalie likes, and Bex changes it up every now and then. I get the plates, utensils, and trays out, setting them on the counter also. The timer rings for the bread so I check it, since it’s done, I sit it on top of the stove and cover it with foil. I decide to head upstairs, check on the girls when Nat walks down. “Bex is taking a shower. Is it okay if I explore? She said I could.”

I’m kinda taken back, “Yeah go ahead, Nat you don’t have to ask. This is your home now, for as long as you want.”

She smiles and heads down the stairs. I go on up and into our bedroom. Bex did it up in blues and browns, and I love it. I shut the door back and lock it. I strip out of my clothes, put them in the hamper, and walk towards the shower. I hear some of the hottest noises coming from my girl. I look and she is on the bench, one leg bent, the other on the floor. She is playing with her clit with one hand, the other pinching her nipple. I’m so turned on my dick is rock hard. I slide the door open and walk over to her. Damn, I’m glad she wanted this just like Saige’s shower. There is water coming from every direction, a bench, and a skylight.

I get down on my knees in front of her, and kiss her, as I insert one finger into her tight hole. She gasps and her eyes open. She looks at me and stops what she is doing. “Cooper, what are you doing?”

I move my finger back and forth slowly, “I heard the most delicious sounds from you, and I had to see. Then I had to help. Bexley, let me do to you what you were doing. I promise not to hurt you.”

She must see the truth of that in my eyes and nods giving me permission. I haven’t stopped moving my finger in her and she is squirming some. I kiss her, then work my way down to her beautiful breast. I lick it, and suck the nipple into my mouth. She gasps but grabs my head, holding me to her. She moans and makes these little sounds that turn me on even more. I nip at her and then lick again. I release her nipple and kiss down her stomach. She is watching me the whole time. I get to her pussy and I lick her clit. My God, I could live off her. Her taste is immediately addictive. I lick her again and she moans, throwing her head back. I suck her clit into my mouth and add another finger. I pump them in and out as I consume her. I scissor my fingers, stretching her, preparing her. She is so far gone, that she is panting and making this little mewling sounds.

I can feel her start to convulse and I lick her, loving the taste of her, and hearing her scream out her first orgasm. “Cooper, I want more. I need it, I need you. Please.”

“Bex, are you sure? Because I’m not sure I can hold back if we do.”

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She pulls me to her and kisses me, “I’m sure, please.”

I sit on the bench and pull her over to me. “Okay baby, you are going to ride me, that way you control everything.” I line her up and she slowly sinks down on my dick. “Oh God, Bexley, you feel so good baby.” I latch onto her nipple, slowly swirling my tongue around it, then sucking. She arches back some and slams me in balls deep. She stops for a second to get accustomed to me, then she slowly starts to move. With each downward move she is swiveling her hips. I bite down on her nipple just a little, then lick it. I move to her other breast and do the same. Bex starts to move and breath faster. I can feel her walls start to flutter and tighten. She screams out as she orgasms again. She leans into my chest, and I grab her hips, I start to lift up and pull her down onto me. I do fast, hard thrusts. “Bexley, give me another one. I know you can. I want us to go together. “

“I can’t, oh Cooper, I...” She gasps as I move a hand to pinch her clit. She ignites like a rocket as I cum into her at the same time. I moan her name and pull her close. I kiss her.

“Are you okay? I didn’t hurt you did I?” I ask. I’m a little worried that she will think I forced her.

“I’m great. Oh wow! Who knew it would be like that? I was going to ask you if we could try some things tonight. I had already made my mind up at work today. But this was so great! I want to go again.”

I laugh as I hug her to me, “We will have to wait a little bit babe, we need to go eat and check on Nat.”

I slowly lift her off me, then stand. I wash her off really fast, and then myself. I turn the water off, grab a towel and dry her off, then myself.

I watch as she goes out into the bedroom to get dressed. She puts on a dress and nothing else. She gives me a smile as I slip on my boxers and a pair of basketball shorts and a tank top. I follow her out the door, and we head downstairs to eat dinner. Nat is sitting on the couch as we come through the living room and watching Live PD. I grin at her, and motion for her to come on to eat.

She fixes her plate, barely putting a spoon of lasagna on it, and maybe two forkfuls of salad, one piece of bread. “Natalie. I know you may have been forced to eat very little at your old home for some reason, but here, you eat. Get more food. You need it, not only for you but for the baby.”

She lifts her head up, “Thank you. I was the last to eat. It went my stepdad who got the biggest of everything, then Nick, then mom, and I got what was left. It usually wasn’t much.” I clench my jaw to keep from saying anything that might upset her.

“Here you eat, whatever you want, when you want. You want a sandwich at three am, you fix it. It’s all good.” I tell her. I see her and Bex both smile.

We all get out plates fixed, drinks, get our trays and head to the living room. Bexley sits beside me on the couch, Nat sits in the round chair. “Y’all want to watch a movie while we eat?” I ask

Bexley looks at Nat, “Do you like scary movies?”

Nat grins, “I love them.”

Bex looks at me grinning. So I pull up the demand movies to see what’s on there. When she sees the Curse of La Llorona, Bex squeals, so I hit the button for it. We eat

dinner and I take the girls trays and clean up the kitchen right quick. I put the dirty dishes in the dishwasher and get it going. I grab everyone another drink and hand them out. I sit back down beside Bex, and she curls into me. Hiding her head at the scary parts and jumping. I can't help but laugh, and Nat is laughing too.

Once the movie is over, I tell them that I am heading to bed, that the Customs US is coming to the shop tomorrow, and I need my beauty sleep. They laugh. Bex gets up too. We both tell Nat goodnight and to stay up, watch what she wants. Once we get upstairs, Bex goes straight to the bathroom. I give her a few minutes to do what she needs to do. I go in and do my thing. Brushing my teeth, etc.

When I walk back into the bedroom, I see Bex laying naked on the bed. I stop just looking my fill of her. She is so beautiful, all creamy skin with a spattering of freckles. Her perfect breasts, her blue eyes all come hitherish. I walk over to her, palming my dick the whole time. She smiles as she lifts her arms up to pull me down. I kiss her like she is the air I breath. I know I love her, and I tell her as I slowly enter her. She lifts up, "I love you too, Cooper." I knew she did, or she wouldn't have let any of this happen. I try to go slow, but she is lifting up, moaning. I thrust in and out, kissing her neck working my way to her breasts. I notice that she starts quivering as I suckle her. Her breasts are so sensitive I could just suckle her and she get off. I bite down on her nipple and she screams out my name as she cums. I'm not far behind and I groan out her name. I kiss her as I pull out. I go get a wet washcloth to clean myself off, and then I go clean her up.

"Oh shit! Bexley, we just did it twice with no protection. I'm clean, I know you are, but what if.... you know, you get pregnant?"

She looks at me with tears in her eyes, "I can't have kids." She whispers.

Ten

Cooper

I'm floored by what she just said, "Bexley, look at me, I love you. If you can't have kids, then we will find another way to have them. Adoption, fostering, surrogacy, we have a lot of options Foxy. We can even talk to Nat about adopting her baby, since she is going to put it up for adoption. Whatever you want to do." I say as I hug her close.

"You're the best boyfriend ever! When Michael beat me and caused my miscarriage, it caused one ovary to rupture, and the other went into torsion, meaning it twisted and cut off blood flow. They had to do a complete hysterectomy on me. I was devastated." She cries.

I pull her to me and hold her close. "I'm so sorry Foxy, but I promise there will never be a day that I live that I will raise a hand to you. I have a temper, but I've never hit a woman, and I don't plan to start now. Let's talk to Nat in the morning about her baby. We'll see what she thinks. I'll even pay for all her appointments and stuff that she needs. Didn't you say you are going to take her shopping tomorrow?" I ask as I rub her back.

"Mmm, that feels good. Yeah, she is going to need some clothes, personal hygiene stuff, prenatal vitamins. I should talk to Saige; she may have some things that she can let Nat have." She snuggles closer to me, "What time are they coming from the magazine place tomorrow?"

"They are supposed to be there about four. Cotton and I have had some of the prospects cleaning up. I'm not sure what we'll do until then. We have a few bikes that are finished to show them, and a couple that we are working on. Hopefully the interview goes great. This could bring in a lot of new business for us." I say. I see my phone light up on the bedside table. I start to ignore it, but I see that it's Cotton. "Hey bro, what's up? Really? NOW? We'll be right over. Stay calm. Is the Dr Holmes

there yet?" I ask. I mouth to Bexley 'now' and she jumps up throwing clothes on. She is running out the door to let Nat know as I get dressed and try to keep Cotton calm. I finally hang up on him and meet the girls downstairs. We rush over to my sister's house, seems my niece and nephew are coming tonight.

Bexley

When Coop mouthed now, I just knew Saige was in labor. I hurried to get dressed and ran to get Nat. I knew she would want to be there too. As soon as Coop comes downstairs, we run over to her house. Bacon meets us at the door to let us in. "Bacon, who all is here? What do I need to do?" I ask him.

"I honestly don't know Bex. Dr Holmes and the midwife are upstairs, and they have Saige sitting in that huge bathtub of hers full of water. She was asking for you. None of the guys but Cotton can go in, she's naked." I nod and head upstairs to their room. As I pass Bethany's room, I see that she is still asleep. I hope it kinda stays that way, but I know when Saige screams out, it may wake her. I make my way into the bathroom to see her in the tub, leaning back doing her breathing.

"Saige, what do you need me to do?" I ask as I grab one of her hairbows and lean down to pull her hair up in a messy bun. She doesn't need her long hair to be in the way. I ask the nurse that is there to hand me a wet washcloth and I wipe down Saige's face. I have Cotton go to her other side and hold her other

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* * *

We were in the bathroom for three hours before both babies were born. Both are healthy, and the nurse is going to be staying for a couple days just to make sure. I can't believe how strong Saige is to have birthed both babies at home, no drugs, in a bathtub. She and I had researched the water birth and she really liked it. I'm so glad that Dr Holmes and the nurse came out to the house. The guys felt it was the best way to keep them all safe, and we had the guys here with the ambulance just in case. I helped the nurse clean up the babies, and Saige. Once she was back in bed, I went downstairs to let everyone know that mommy and babies are healthy.

I'm leaning up against Coop on the couch when Leilani and Stone come in. They are carrying a huge basket full of baby clothes, bottles, and formula. Saige said that she will breast feed the first time, then she was going to bottle feed, that way folks could help out.

"How are they? Has anyone been up yet?" Stone asks.

I smile, "They are perfect. Nellie was born first, and she weighed in at five pounds even. Full head of blonde hair. JD weighed in at six pounds and eight ounces. He's got a head full of black hair. Saige said that Papaw and Tutu could come up with us, and then we are going to head out."

We walk upstairs with Stone and Leilani. Saige is sitting up in bed holding Nellie, Bethany leaning up against her side, staring at the baby in awe. Cotton is holding JD and walking the room.

“Auntie Bex, Uncle Coop, Papaw, Tutu, look!! I’s a big sissy now! I’s so happy!” Bethany says. I pick her up and hug her tight.

“You’re going to be the best big sissy in the world too. I just know it. Do you want to go shopping with me and Nat tomorrow if mommy and daddy say it’s okay? Alivia can come too.” I smile at Alivia, and she smiles back.

“Oh yeth!!! I can use somes of my monies to buy my babies something. Mommy is it okay?” she asks Saige. Saige just smiles and nods that it is. “Oh yippee!!! Girls shopping trip.”

We all laugh. We take turns holding the babies. As I’m handing JD to Saige I ask, “Do you think some of your maternity clothes would fit Nat? We are going to buy some things she needs tomorrow. But if you could let her buy some or have them, I think that would help.” Saige looks at me stunned. “She is going to give it up for adoption, she was raped by her stepbrother.”

“So that’s what Bacon was talking about. He was so upset when he got home. He was going on about how sick it was that a girls own mom threw her out. I hate that for her. Of course, she can have all the maternity clothes. We aren’t going to have any more for quite a while. Three is plenty. I also heard how you stood up to that little punk. I’m so proud of you Bex.” She squeezes my hand.

“Thanks. Cooper and I are going to ask her about letting us adopt the baby. She wants to put it up for adoption. I can’t have kids, and this will allow us to become parents. I know you are exhausted, so we are going to go. You need to rest, call if you need us. I’ll come by and get Alivia and Bethany later.” Cooper and I head out of the room and go to get Nat to head back to the house. We tell everyone good night. It’s a little after two am. We walk into the house, and I go into the kitchen to get a glass of orange juice before going back upstairs.

“Bex, can I talk to you and Cooper at breakfast about a few things?” Nat asks.

“Of course, you can. Say about eight thirty, nine. That will give us all some time to get a little sleep.” I say. Nat nods and heads upstairs to her room. I finish my orange juice and do the same. Cooper is getting undressed and turns to me as I close the door.

“Thank you for helping Sis. I know that meant the world to her. I love you, Bexley.”

I smile. “I love you too Cooper. And it meant the world to me to help her.” I say as I get undressed and climb into the bed. I snuggle up against Coop and instantly fall asleep.

Natalie

I am so nervous; I barely got any sleep. I really hope that Bexley and Cooper will be happy with what I want to ask them. I know that they would be wonderful parents. I get up and shower, knowing that I won’t be able to sleep anymore. I dress, then make my way quietly down to the kitchen. I get a glass of sweet tea, then pull out everything I need to make breakfast. I make biscuits, sausage, scrambled eggs, and gravy. I’m pouring the gravy into the bowl and finishing up the eggs when they both walk into the kitchen, Bex groaning as she takes a big whiff of the smells. I set everything at the table as they get their drinks. I eyeball the coffee that Cooper is drinking, but everything has to be decaf. I’ve even been drinking decaf Pepsi. Bex has her orange juice, and she takes a bite of biscuit that is smothered in the gravy.

“Oh my God, Natalie! This is amazing. You didn’t have to get up and fix breakfast, but I thank you for it.” Bexley smiles at me. I smile back.

“It’s nothing. I couldn’t sleep any longer, so it just made sense. About what I wanted to talk to y’all about. I uh.... uh... damn. I was wondering if y’all might want to

adopt the baby? I know y'all will take great care of it. I hope I'm not being too forward by asking that. I just want him or her to go to a great family that I know will take care of them. And I promise not to be a bother in their life. I want to go to college. I got a couple scholarships, and it's definitely what I need to do for me."

I look up to see them both smiling and Bex has tears in her eyes. "We were talking last night about asking you if we could adopt the baby. We'll pay for all the doctor's appointments, things you and he both needs. We'll even help you with school. What your scholarships doesn't cover we will. Will you lose your scholarships if you wait until next year? Or can you do computer classes now, that way you are up to date on everything?"

I look at them both a little shocked. "Um, y'all don't have to do all that." I say, but when I see the looks on their faces, I know it's going to be no good arguing. I laugh, "I can do a lot of the classes online for now. But I'll have to go to campus for a couple of the clinical classes. I'm going to be pediatrician one day. So, I can get the basics done online. I can't thank you both enough for all that you are doing for me."

Bexley reaches over and grabs my hand, "Natalie, we can't thank you enough either. I'm not able to have children, so you letting us adopt your baby is a dream come true. So, we are truly a family helping each other out. We've adopted you too. You're ours."

I smile. It's nice to belong to a family that actually cares for you. We finish eating breakfast, and Cooper tells us to go get ready for our shopping day. He cleans up the kitchen, then heads upstairs to get ready for work.

Eleven

Bexley

This shopping triphas been so much fun. I wish Saige could have been with us, but next time she will be. Alivia, Nat, and I have laughed so much at Bethany's antics. She demanded the guys call her Princess, and they have complied. Loki especially. I notice that he watches Alivia like a hawk, and I think there might be something developing there. She sure keeps watching him to. Bacon sits down beside me, with Bethany on the other side of me, as we eat lunch at the big cafeteria the mall has. "So how are things going Bacon? Any news on Natalie's family?"

He grins at me. He knew I wanted to say something else, but we all watch our mouths around Bethany. She has become a sassy little parrot, repeating things that she thinks is innocent when they aren't. "Yeah, they are all locked up with no bond. The parents are actually being charged with the same charges along with aggravated child endangerment. He is being charged with aggravated rape, harassment, and statutory rape. They will be in jail for quite some time. I don't think Nat will have to go to court even. With all the pictures she took and saved of her injuries, the videos we found on his computer of what he did to her, and her mom and stepdad confessing, along with the video from the bakery.... They are done for. Most of the charges are class A felonies. Nat may have to go into a room with the judge and a closed jury to testify, if she has to all. But they are looking at up to sixty years in prison or more with the other charges, and a fifty-thousand-dollar fine each. I'm just glad that she is eighteen. She didn't need to go into foster care on top of it all."

I nod as I take a bite of my chicken lo-mein. "That's a blessing for sure. And she wouldn't have went into foster care. We would still have taken her in." He nods.

"Auntie Bex, are we still going to stop at the baby store? I need to get bubba and sissy something. I also want to get mommy something too. Maybe if I have enoughlibert monies I will get daddy something too."

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I smile at her, “Yes sweet pea, we will go there next. I promise.”

We finish eating and head to the baby store. They have so much cute stuff in here, but some things are really expensive. Bethany pulls me straight to the toys. We look at several things, and she finally picks up a motorcycle pillow and a unicorn pillow for her siblings. Then she goes over to the knick knack section. “Auntie Bex!” she squeals. “I think this is what I want for mommy.” I look at what she is pointing at. It’s a beautiful water globe with a sentiment about moms being angels. It has a place to put a photo inside it.

“That’s perfect Bethany, and I can print out the picture of you and the babies I took last night to put in it.” I help her pay for her stuff, and we go over to the kiosk to print out the picture. She asks me to do a couple more, because she wants to give it to her daddy and one to papaw and tutu. So I take her to get a couple frames to put them in. Once we are done we head out to the trucks. Loki drove one with Alivia and Bethany in it, and Bacon drove the other one with me and Nat. Both are full of bags by the time we are all done shopping. I give Bethany a great big hug and slip some money in her purse. I want her to still get toys for the hospital kids like she has been wanting to. Loki and Alivia give us a hug and we head home.

Cooper

I’m ready for this day to be over with. We have been interviewed already, and the reporter is now talking to Crow about the different bikes. He said that his camera guy wasn’t feeling good this morning and asked if he could come back tomorrow to take pictures of everything. We told him that was fine, and Cotton looks at me, “You’ll have to make sure you pretty yourself up really good. We don’t need you breaking

the camera.”

I laugh, “You’re one to talk. You look haggard. Did you and Sis sleep any at all last night?”

He runs his hand through his hair, “Yeah a couple hours. I tried not to move in bed, I was afraid that I would hurt her by jostling the bed. We were up a couple times to feed and change the twins. Things are definitely different now. It’s a great difference, but it’s an adjustment. I’m loving it. I just know that we are going to miss sleeping some.” He laughs. I can’t help it, I laugh too. Cotton runs his hand through his hair and puts it up in his man bun. “They don’t cry too much. I thought babies cried all the time. What’s funny is they already seem to be a Daddy’s girl and Momma’s boy.”

I laugh. “Hey man, I was going to wait to say anything, but Natalie is letting us adopt the baby. Bexley can’t have kids because of what Michael did to her, so we are over the moon excited. We are going to help her with her schooling too. She is wanting to be a pediatrician, and she has several scholarships. She is going to do the classes online that she can, then go to campus next year. I’m going to get her an apartment near campus, and make sure it’s in a safe neighborhood.”

“That’s awesome news brother! I commend her for doing that. I feel that some girls would have went another direction and end up regretting it. I’m sure Bex has already told Saige. She texted and said that Bethany bought us all a gift while shopping today, and Bex got Bethany more princess and unicorn things.”

I laugh. I knew Bex would go all out and get Bethany anything she wanted and then some.

* * *

Bexley is with us at the garage to hang out and watch the photographer. I’m going to

cut out as soon as he's done, and we're going to spend the day riding, just be together. A van pulls up to the garage near where we are standing. I get a tingling sensation going up my spine and before I can say or do anything there is an explosion from behind us. We both are thrown from it, and Bex lands a few feet from me. There's a loud ringing in my ears, and it's like everything is going in slow motion. I look back at the garage, as I try to crawl to Bex. I see Crow laying on the ground, debris all over him. His head is at an odd angle and it hits me he's dead. I get to Bexley and see that she is breathing, just knocked out. I let out the breath I was holding and look up when a shadow falls over me. "Tsk, ts. You can't be awake right now buddy." I feel something hit the back of my head, and everything fades to black.

Twelve

Bexley

I wake up and try to focus on what's going on. I remember talking to Coop when a van pulled up and then an explosion from behind us. Crow had been in the garage opening the big door when it happened. I try to move but I can't. I'm tied to a chair. I try to pull my hands from the ropes, but they are tight. I look around the room and see that Cooper is tied up to a pipe hanging from the ceiling. His shirt is off him and there is blood on his neck that looks like it ran down from his head.

"Cooper. Cooper. Please wake up. Answer me babe. Please." I plead for him to wake up. He comes to after a few minutes of me calling to him.

"Bex, you okay baby? Can you get loose?" He rasps. I struggle with the ropes some more, and they are just digging into my wrists, cutting them. I can feel the blood running down my fingers.

"No, I can't. Where are we? What happened?" I ask.

“I remember the explosion. I crawled to you, to make sure you were okay. I saw Crow and he was dead. Either the explosion or the way he landed when he was thrown broke his neck. Once I got to you someone came up and said I needed to be asleep for a while, hit me hard on the back of the head. Thank God Cotton was running late, or it could have been him too. We need to get out of here. I can’t see anything much except for you. What all can you see?” Cooper asks.

I take a look around the room we are in. I can see Cooper hanging in front of me, a table to the side of me with all kinds of tools, knives, pipes on it. A door to the far right of us, I tell him. I can’t see behind me no matter how much I strain to turn. I keep working my wrists and rest them. I’ve got to get out of these ropes. I feel the blood running down my wrists to the rope and dripping off my fingers. But the ropes are getting a tad bit looser. I stop moving when I hear the door open, and gasp out, “Michael!” I feel like I’m about to pass out, but I try to stay strong. I am strong! He’s not going to tear me down again, and I refuse for him to kill us.

“Ahh there’s my pet. How are you Poppet? Are you comfortable enough?” Michael asks as he walks to stand between Cooper and me. He reaches out runs his finger down the side of my face and tries to run a finger across my lips, but I bite him hard. “You fucking whore!” he screams as he slaps me. “You will not be so gutsy in a few minutes. I’m going to let you watch as I tear your boyfriend apart slowly. You’ll cry and beg me to stop, but I won’t Poppet. Not until he is dead, and you learn that your place is here beside me always.”

Cotton

I pull up to the garage and see some smoke coming from the side where the bay door is. I pull out my phone and call nine one one as I assess the damage. It’s when I actually get to the side of the building that I see debris everywhere, the whole side of the building gone, and Crow laying on the ground. I rush over to him and check for a pulse, but he’s gone. I look for Tires and Bexley but don’t see them anywhere. His

bike is here, so where are they? I start to panic, I know my brother is strong, he's proven that time and again while we were deployed. I hang up with the dispatcher as a firetruck, a few police cars, and an ambulance pull in. Loki is the first to make it to me, "What the Hell happened? Where's Tires and Bex?" He hasn't seen Crow yet.

"I don't know Lok, but Crow is dead. He's buried in the rubble, looks like his neck is broke. I checked for a pulse, and there isn't one. I couldn't do CPR with half a wall laying on his chest."

Loki looks at me, nods and goes with his crew to check for fire or anything they can do. Hawke and Wolfe are the paramedics and I see them walk forward with a body bag as the officers take photos. I hate to be the one to make this call, but I have to let Stone know what is going on, and that his son and Bex are missing.

"What the hell do you mean they are missing? Have you found the prospects that was supposed to be there to help open? The photographer? Anybody that might can help?" Stone asks.

I can hear him moving around and the sound of his keys. I hear the truck door shut and him starting it up. I look around at the people moving around here. There is no other bike besides mine, Tires, and Crows. "Stone, I have no clue. I'll call Tech, see if he can pull anything up on video from the security cameras here. I don't see any bikes except Tires and Crows. No other vehicles were here when I pulled in."

"I'll be there shortly. Don't tell Saige yet. Let's see if we can figure out what is going on first. Son of a bitch!" I hear the screeching of brakes and Stone slamming the door. "Saige, what the hell do you think you are doing flying in front of other vehicles? Just where do you think you're going?" he yells at her. I hear her yell back, "I'm going with you to the garage. My brother and best friend are missing, and I want to know how. We all know who!"

“Stone, put her on the phone, please?” I ask.

“Yeah, you might have better luck than me.” He grumbles.

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“Saige, my beautiful butterfly, I need you to stay there. If you insist on trying to help, go inside and get Tech. Help him watch the security tapes from here. Maybe y’all can find something out that will break this wide open. Please?” I ask her.

“Cotton, okay. But if we find anything, or find out where they are, I’m going!” she hangs up the phone and I can’t help but laugh. Lord help Tech or anyone else that gets on her bad side today. I walk over to Loki who is standing by the firetruck, and we watch as Hawke and Wolfe put Crow in the bag as carefully as they can, lay him on the gurney, and roll him past us to the ambulance. We bow our heads as they go by, paying our brother our respect.

I look at Loki once they have gone by, and see the same fire burning in his. It’s time to make someone pay for Crow and find Tires and Bex.

Thirteen

Saige

Lynch walks into the kitchen on the phone, “Yeah man, hang on, here she is.” He hands me the phone, as I put the dirty bottles in my hand into the sink.

“Hello?”

“Hey BFF, I have some news that you need to know, and I know that everyone will try to keep from you for a bit. But you need to know. Cotton got to the garage to see it on fire, and called nine one one, the whole side of the building has been blown apart, Crow is dead, the prospects aren’t here, and Cooper and Bexley are missing.

His bike is here, so we know they were here, but not now.” Loki tells me. I reach for the counter horrified, just as Lynch catches me to keep me from hitting the floor. He pulls me over to the table and pulls out a chair for me. I sit down hard.

“Was it Richard? We know that he will take them to Michael. I need to be there.” I say as I hang up on Loki, getting up from the chair. I look at Lynch who looks like he’s about to say something and hold my hand up. “I have to be there to help them look for my brother and best friend. I won’t sit here at home worrying and not doing anything Lynch, I can’t.” I cry.

He pulls me to him, hugging me tight. “It’s gonna be okay, we’ll find them. I was gonna say, why not let me go with you. Stella is here. Let’s see if she will stay and help Alivia with the kids. Brennon and Bear can stay here with them. It’ll be alright. I’ll call the other nomads in to help. Let’s get crackin’.” He kisses the top of my head, and we head to get our gear and let the guys know Stella is staying with Alivia to help her.

I kiss all three of my kids, hug aunt Stella who is now crying, and Alivia. “Thank you for staying with the kids. I have to help out anyway I can, and I know they’re all safe here with y’all.” I head out the door to my cage. Lynch is already in the passenger seat and he has started the truck. I climb in and hit the gas. We are almost past the clubhouse when I slam on my brakes to keep from hitting dad. He yells at me and hands me his phone where I talk to Cotton.

After I hang up the phone with Cotton handing back to dad, I let him out and pull into the parking spot he just left. Lynch and I walk into the clubhouse and we go to find Tech. I go towards the rooms, and he goes towards the bar. I bang on Techs door, and he answers. Lynch comes around the corner at the same time. “Tech we need to pull up the security cameras from the garage for last night through this morning and see if we can find out what happened.”

Tech runs his hands through his hair. “Can this wait an hour at least? I need to shower and get some coffee.”

Lynch gets in his face, grabbing his shirt, “Fuck no this can’t wait, brother! Crow is dead. Tires and Bexley are missing. Do you think that can wait an hour?” He says as he pushes him away.

“No, I don’t think so. I’m sorry, come on in. I’ll pull the tapes up.”

“Good, Saige and I can go over them while you go take a shower and get coffee. I know how to run your system.” Lynch tells him as we walk into the room and sit at the huge computer system that Tech has. Lynch shews him away and pulls up the footage himself. Seeing that he does know how to run the system, Tech goes to shower.

Lynch waits until he is out of the room, then taps my leg to get my attention. He signs to me, ‘I don’t trust him, why does he want to shower and get coffee? He knows it’s important if we ask about tapes.’

I nod. ‘I agree. We’ll just have to keep watch on him.’ I sign back. He nods. He gets to the time we need to start watching from, and we both intently watch the screen. It’s to the three am point when we see a figure dressed all in black, pick a lock and go inside. Once inside the figure uses a headlamp to see what they are doing. They are carrying a large duffel bag and walking straight towards the bay area where the guys work on bikes and a few cars. I can tell it’s a guy, and I sign that to Lynch. He nods yes. We continue to watch while the person seems to be wiring a brick and sitting it on one of the shelves by the bay door, then running the wires to something that is then placed up high on the door, sticking to it. The guy then leaves, locking the door behind him. Nothing else happens until Crow shows up. He goes in and turns the light and computers on. Cooper and Bexley show up, and are walking around to the bay doors where Crow is starting to open them. He has it part way up when a white

van pulls in and a blonde headed guy is getting out just as there is an explosion, throwing everything outwards even Crow, knocking Coop and Bex down. The guy is watching everything happening with a huge grin. He watches Coop crawl over to Bex, and then walks up to Coop hitting him on the head with a rock. Then he pulls the van up closer and pulls Coop and Bex into it.

Lynch taps my leg again. ‘That is that Richard guy. We need to go talk to Tonya. She knows more than she is saying.’ He signs to me.

‘Let me call Cotton, let him know what is on tapes. Did you make copy incase anything happens?’ I ask in sign.

He nods. We get up to leave the room yelling to Tech in the bathroom that we are leaving. Once we get outside in my truck, which I let Lynch drive towards the jail as I call Cotton. “Hey babe. We watched the tapes. It looks like that Richard guy did all this. So that can only mean Michael will have them soon if he doesn’t already. I’m on my way with Lynch to talk to Tonya. She has to know something more that she isn’t saying.”

“Saige, I don’t like that you are doing this, but we need to know. Maybe she will talk to you. Come back to the clubhouse when y’all are done. Gonna have church. I love you, be safe, please.” Cotton says.

“We will be. I love you too.” I say as I hang up.

Fourteen

Saige

We pullup to the jail, and Commander Thomas comes out the door. He walks up to the truck as we are getting out. “Saige, it’s good to see you and I know why you’re

here, but I can't let you in right now. I have an investigation to launch, and I can't let anyone get into my crime scene. I."

I interrupt him, "What do you mean crime scene? Is Tonya dead?"

He hangs his head, "Not just Tonya, but Grange also. He was there to keep her company like y'all talked about. I don't know what happened yet. I can't get my surveillance system to come up. I thought about getting Tech to come try."

"NO!" Lynch and I yell at the same time. Thomas looks at us startled. "Why not let Lynch see if he can figure it out? He's even better at computers and electronics than Tech."

Thomas nods his head and has us follow him into his office. Lynch pulls up a bunch of files, typing away. He mumbles a little, and I see him getting angry. It takes a few minutes and he gets everything pulled up. We watch as we see Tonya and Grange talking. Grange on a chair outside the cell. Tonya is sitting on the edge of her bed, her knees up against the bars, leaning forward. They both turn towards the door that is always kept shut. It's the one that leads to the solitary room. Grange stands as the guard approaches them. He looks at Grange says something, making Grange angry, and he rushes the guy only to back up holding his stomach, looking up in horror. The knife that the guard has is huge, and now dripping blood. Grange falls in the corner of the hall, and the guard pulls a key out and unlocks Tonya's cell. She has nowhere to go. He grabs her by the hair, and she is fighting for all she is worth, but he is stronger, and he slits her throat. I stand back and watch in horror as all this happens. My biological mom, my cousin both murdered. The guard has kept his face away from the camera the whole time, but his blonde hair can be seen. He turns and makes sure that Grange is dead by slitting his throat. It's then that he looks up at the camera and smiles. Richard.

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I look at Thomas, “How did that man get in here disguised as a deputy, and kill both of them? You do know that is the same man that killed Crow and kidnapped Cooper and Bexley, right? So how the hell did this happen?”

He shakes his head, “I don’t know Saige. I just don’t know. I was gone to lunch with the mayor, came back to all of this. I must get in there with the coroner. Lynch do you know who hacked into the system to where we couldn’t get into it?”

Lynch looks at me, “It needs to be kept to ourselves until we can find out why, sir. But I will tell you as soon as we talk to Stone.”

Commander Thomas looks at the both of us, knowing that if it has to go to dad, it has something to do with the club. He nods as we walk out of his office. “I’ll call dad now, get him here so that we can go over everything with you. He needs to know about all of this.”

I call dad as soon as Lynch and I get outside, and he says he’ll be here shortly. Lynch and I sit on the tailgate of the truck and wait. He looks at me, “It was Tech. We were right not to trust him. I wonder why he is doing this?”

“I have no clue. It seems like the club is falling apart. Reading their lips in the video, Tonya and Grange were talking about breaking her out. I couldn’t catch everything they said, but that was the gist of it. And when Richard went into the room, she was begging him to let her go, that she knew he had gotten Cooper and Bexley to Michael. That she was sorry she couldn’t help being locked up. That’s when he slit her throat. So, I guess they are tying up loose ends so to speak.” I say. I watch as dad pulls up beside us, and we tell him everything that has happened.

“We’ll handle Tech. Could be he was blackmailed into it or something. Let’s go see what we can figure out.” Dad says.

We follow him back into the station.

Fifteen

Cooper

I’m so damntired and weak. This asshole has beaten me with a baseball bat, made little cuts all over me, little burns on my arms and chest, and now is reaching for a larger knife. The thing that has gotten to me the most is hearing Bex begging him to stop. She has sobbed, begged, and screamed and it is echoing in my head. Talk about psychological torture. Michael is standing in front of me laughing. “It’s fun to hear her beg isn’t it? You know, Tonya saw her in the bar where she was working? Bexley was supposed to be taken and given to some guy from overseas who wanted a red head. But when I saw her, I knew I had to have her. She would be my prize possession. I would own every inch of her and do with her what I pleased. So I took her. She was mine until her damn cousin helped her escape. But I got her back. And she won’t get away this time.” He turns and grins at Bexley. But his grin suddenly turns to anger when he sees that she has gotten loose.

“What do you think you are doing Poppet?” He raises his hand and slaps her. I try to kick him from behind but can barely lift my leg. I look over him to see Bex is standing her ground.

“Michael, you have hurt me and everyone I love for the last time. You will never own me!” Bexley swings a baseball bat that she had grabbed off the table and whacks him in the side of the head. It makes a sickening sound and he makes a gurgle sound as he hits the floor. Bexley then grabs the handcuff keys from his pocket, along with a gun from the back of his pants and pulls the chair she was in over to me. She stands on it,

gives me a quick kiss, then unlocks one the cuffs. I fall to the floor with an oomph escaping me as I land. Bexley jumps off the chair and rushes over to me. She helps me to sit and is hugging me tight. “Are you okay? Do you think you can walk? I would give you that bottle of water on the table, but I just don’t trust that he hasn’t poisoned it.”

“Yeah me neither. Just give me a second, I’ll be able to get up. I love you, you foxy lady you.” I say as I put my forehead against hers and kiss her. We both hear movement and a groan coming from Michael. Now I’m even more pissed. He has held us here for two days, and it has been constant torture. Mental and physical. This man caused my woman to be hurt in more ways than one, and it’s time he pays. I slowly get to a standing position and take the gun from Bex. I wait until he has rolled over onto his back and he sees us standing before him, Bexley curled into my side, my arm around her, the pointing the gun right at him.

“This is for kidnapping us.” I say as I shoot him in his left knee, “This is for tying my woman up and hurting her.” I shoot his right knee. Michael is screaming and cussing now. I point the gun at his stomach, “This is for making my woman have to save me and go through everything you put us through.” He screams even louder and grabs his stomach. I move the gun to in between his eyes. “This is for being a scumbag who thinks he can take my woman from me and live. Bexley is with me, not owned by me. You will never hurt anyone ever again.” I say as I shoot for the last time, killing him. Bexley puts her arms around me squeezing tight.

She reaches me the cell phone that she had gotten out of his pocket as well. Both of our phones were destroyed in front of us by Michael. I dial dad’s number and I pray silently that he answers. “Hello?”

“Saige is that you? Why do you have dad’s phone? Never mind, can you get Tech to triangulate this cell that I’m using?” I ask. I can hear her talking to someone beside her. “Sis?”

“Yeah, Lynch is on it. Are y’all okay?” Saige asks

“Yeah, a little beat up, but we’re okay. Just want to get out of here. Why is Lynch doing it? Where’s Tech?” I ask pulling Bexley with me through the door and seeing that it leads outside, and that there are no guards. I close the door and notice we’re in the woods. I pull her over to the nearest tree and sit down, pulling her onto my lap.

“Um Tech is something we’ll talk about when we get to y’all. I’m bringing water and blankets. Wolfe and Hawke are going to follow us in their cage. We’ll be there shortly. Keep the phone on.” She says hanging up.

“Well hell, I reckon something is going on back at the club for Sis to be coming to get us. Are you okay Foxy?” I ask as I look her over.

“I’m okay Coop. My wrists are pretty raw, cut, and sore from trying to get loose from the ropes. My head hurts, but I’m okay. What about you? He did so much to you.” She cries as she leans into me, her arms going around my neck. “I love you Cooper. Do you think this is finally over?”

I run my hand up and down her back trying to calm her. “I’m going to be okay. I’ll need some antibiotics and antibiotic cream for all the cuts and burns so infection doesn’t set in, and my ribs wrapped. Other than that, I’m good. I love you too Bexley. I think that for the most part this is over, but I don’t know what’s going on back home, or what has happened to Richard. So I guess we just wait for Saige to get here with help.” We sit in this position and I hold her as she nods off a little. I’m exhausted but I won’t sleep until we are home, and I know for sure that she is safe.

I hear the trucks before I see them. I rouse Bex up and have her help me stand. I barely get straightened out when I am pretty much tackled by a barnacle that is hugging me tight. “Saige, we’re okay. Sis, loosen up please, my ribs.” She eases up and look up at me tears pouring down her face. I hug her, “We’re okay. Broken ribs

and cuts, but okay.” She nods as she backs up a little then she and Bex hug, a crying mess, both of them. I look over to Lynch, “Brother, what the hell is going on?”

He signs to me, ‘Tech is helping these guys. We aren’t sure why, but he hacked the computers at the police station and blocked them from seeing what happened. Tonya and Grange are dead. Richard killed them. He’s also the one that placed the bomb at the garage and took you two.’

I look at him in disbelief. I sign back, ‘Why would Tech be helping them?’ He shrugs his shoulders. Wolfe and Hawke come up and get me and Bex into the back of the truck they have stocked with supplies. I watch as Lynch puts his arm around Saige and helps her up into her truck. It dawns on me, he’s still in love with her. I let Wolfe look me over.

“We’ll need you to shower as soon as we get you both back to the clubhouse, then I can help tend to your cuts, and wrap your ribs. I think they may just be bruised but we have the x-ray machine in the back room, I can get Doc to check them. Bex, I’m going to wash your wrists now with some saline solution, then I will put some antibiotic cream on them, wrap them up.” She nods and hisses a little as he cleans her wrists. We head straight to the clubhouse, Lynch and Saige following us.

“Hey Coop, what were you and Lynch doing with your hands?” Bex asks me.

I smile, “It’s American Sign Language. Lynch’s mom is deaf. She came to the clubhouse once for a party we were having, and Saige told Lynch she wanted to be able to talk to her when she was there. So he taught her, and she taught me. It comes in handy.”

Bex nods her head, as I lead her back to our room here. I lock the door and we head to the shower. We both are tired as hell. I wash her off as easy as I can so that I don’t hurt her wrists any. Then Bex slowly washes me off. Once we are rinsed off, we

towel each other dry. I pull her to me and kiss her. “Bex, I love you. I know you feel like this is over with Michael dead, but it’s not. We still have to find Richard and worry about what John is going to do about his brother being murdered. I still want patched members with you at all times.”

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She sighs and I can feel the wetness of her tears as they run down her face onto my chest. “This has to end soon Cooper. I want to be free from him and everything he has put me and the ones I love through.

As for John, wasn’t he being blackmailed by Michael? Maybe if I can talk to him? He was always nice to me.”

I hug her tight and step away to grab some clothes. I put them on, and then walk back to Bex, kiss her forehead, “Foxy, we need to go let Doc check us over. We’ll see what dad says about it in church. He has asked that you be there.” She nods as she gets some clothes to put on. I wait until she is ready, and then we walk down the hall to Doc’s exam room. Wolfe and Hawke are in here already. They are laying out some of the stuff that Doc is telling them that he needs. He looks up when he hears us enter.

“Good Lord, what was done to you?” he asks me as he looks me over.

“Oh, not much. He cut me, burns from a lighter, hit with a baseball bat, strung up like a damn pinata. Nothing that I couldn’t tolerate, except for Bex crying and screaming.” I tell him as he has me stand up against the board for an x-ray.

“Hmm, seems to me, that you’ll both be needing someone to talk to. And don’t hand me that shit like you did before about Marines not needing to talk. You’ll need to. PTSD is serious Tires. I don’t want you to regress to how you were when you first came home from your tour.” I look up at Doc and finally nod.

“I’ll talk to someone. Bex already has someone she talks to. I will see if she can work me in.” I say, Doc gives me a look, and then turns to the picture of the x-ray.

“Well you’re in luck. Your ribs aren’t broken, just bruised. Now let me put some ointment on your cuts and burns, and then we can all head to church.”

“What about Bex’s wrists?” I ask.

“Wolfe done took care of them. They were both cleaned out from where she twisted the rope and got loose. They cut her pretty good, but she won’t need stitches. He wrapped them up after putting ointment on her.” Doc says as he finishes with my cuts and burns. I put my tank top on, and we head to church.

Sixteen

Cooper

Bexley, Doc, Wolfe, Hawke, and I walk into church to see Tech being tossed into a chair. I start when Cotton jumps in front of me and gives me a hug. I hug him back. “Brother, I’m so happy that you weren’t at the garage when this happened. We would be having a funeral for two.” I whisper in his ear. “Do we know why the prospects weren’t there?” Cotton looks at me and shakes his head no. I nod. “We’ll talk about fixing it up later. So, what’s up with Tech?” I ask.

“I think we are all about to find that out, Bro. He is in some kind of trouble though according to what Saige and Lynch found.” He says. I nod and we head over to the table. I sit and pull Bexley into the chair beside me. Dad stands at the table, gives me a look over and nods, then bangs the gavel.

“We’re here because of what happened to Tires to Bexley. Michael is dead. I feared we were going to have trouble with his brother John the senator. But he sent this message to me, it is being reported to all the news stations that he died in a hunting accident, and he also said that there will be no retaliation on his part. He also said to give Bexley his apologies for all his brother has put her through and for not stopping

it. He has money from Michael's account transferred to you for compensation, he says that he knows it will never be enough to cover what was done to you, but to do with it what you will. Now let's get to this other business. Tech! Would you like to explain to me why you have betrayed for us?"

I look from my dad to Tech who is now squirming in his chair. The door opens and Commander Thomas walks in with two other officers. Tech squirms even more. "I'm so sorry Stone. I had no choice. He has my niece. I was to hack into the cameras at the garage and the police station, make sure he wasn't seen, I was to ghost him if he was on film. I tried to keep Lynch and Saige out of my room for an hour so that I could do so, but they pushed their way in. They got to the station and that system before I could get completely done, and Lynch kicked me out of the system. I don't know if Richard knows about this yet. If he does, he will kill my niece! She is only ten!"

We all sit in shock for a moment. To take a child hostage, threaten to kill them is horrendous. But how did he know about Grange being with Tonya? That wasn't something that wasn't disgusted with the club. "Tech, how long have you been doing things for him?" I ask.

He looks at me, "Since we got Saige and Bexley back. Richard sent me videos of my niece. I had to do it to save her. I hacked into yours, Saige's, Stone's, Cotton's, and Bexley's phones. I knew everything that was going to happen and when. I called off the prospects at the garage. Told them you decided not to open, that you were sick. They believed me. I set them off to do some measly task. I also had to find a place for him to take y'all too. I'm so sorry. My niece, he'll kill her." He cries.

I look around the table and see mixed emotions. "You knew he was going to kill Tonya and Grange. You knew he was going to kidnap us. Why not come to us about your niece in the first place? You know we would have done everything in our power to save her. It's what we do! Why not come to us!?" Stone pounds the table as he

asks. Tech looks at him, tears running down his face.

“Because I don’t trust you to help me get my niece back. All you have cared about is your precious daughter and son. You believed me at every turn and never questioned me about anything. All I had to do was erase the tapes and I would have her back. Michael would have Bexley and I would have my niece.”

I look at him pissed and I stand up, “You would let that man murder me and Bexley?”

Tech looks at me, “I would let him murder everyone here, so long as I got my niece back alive!”

I watch as dad punches him. “You damn fool!!! Did you really watch the videos that he sent you of your niece? Did you even analyze them? Because Lynch did. They are pieced together. They aren’t real! Commander Thomas went to your sisters house. Your niece is home with her sick with the flu. They are now in protective custody until we get Richard. As for you, you will be stripped of your cut. Your belongings will be left with your sister. Your computer system wiped completely clean, and you will be serving time in jail. You will never be a part of this club again; you will not be addressed by any of us. As far as we are concerned, you no longer exist.” Dad says to him, in menacing tone.

Tech looks up at the table and no one will make eye contact with him. Commander Thomas walks forward and takes him into custody. As they are walking out the door Tech shouts at us, “You will never see him or me coming at you! You made a huge mistake today!” We all watch as Tech is lead out of the room. Cruz follows to make sure they get him in the cruiser and taken away. I look at Bexley and see that she is crying.

Saige stands up, “Father, Lynch has asked you to transfer here. Why don’t we let him clean up the computer system, and take over the technical stuff? You know we can

trust him.”

Dad looks at her then to Lynch. “Do you think you can get it done soon, erasing everything he has done?”

Lynch looks at Dad, “Yes, in fact I had started it after we left the police station and I had copied everything. Once it’s erased, I will destroy his hard drives. Nothing will remain. I think everyone here should all get new phones. It would be the best bet. Destroy the ones you have now. And the best news of all, I know where to find Richard.”

With that everyone cheers. Saige smiles and signs to me, ‘Love you brother. We will get this man, and everything will be right again. Bex will be safe.’ I smile at her. Saige is a lot smarter than people think. I don’t know if she asked Lynch to stay here, or if he asked to transfer on his own. I’m glad though.

I sign back to Sis, ‘Who is going to be over the Nomads now?’

‘Lynch has asked Bear to take over. He took it.’ She signs. I nod. Bear will be good leader to the nomads. I look over to Bex by my side and see that she is barely holding her eyes open. I know how she feels. Dad calls end to church and I take Bex back to our room here. I lock the door, strip her clothes off then mine. I lay her down on the bed, kiss her, pull the covers up, and we are both out as soon as I pull her to me so that I can hold her close.

Seventeen

Bexley

I wakeup refreshed and needing to hit the bathroom. I slide out of bed, and tiptoe so as not to wake up Coop. I do my business, wash my hands, brush my teeth and head back into the room. Coop is laying on his back, his hand on his dick slowly stroking up and down. He looks like he is still asleep and he just muttered my name. I'm so turned on watching and my mouth is watering looking at him. I lay back down in the bed, my face level with his cock. I slowly move his hand and replace it with mine, as I swirl my tongue around the tip. I take him in my mouth as far as I can. I hear him hiss. His hand goes to my hair and pulls gently. I moan. Doing so makes him hiss again and he murmurs my name again. I give a light squeeze and move my hand down and I suck him and move my head up. I do this for a few mins before he pulls me off him and up his legs. "Bexley, that is one hell of a blow job baby, but I'm going to cum in that sweet pussy of yours. Now ride me!" I ease myself down on him slowly. I love how I can feel myself stretching to take him in. I slide all the way down and stay for a second. Then I slowly start to swivel my hips as I go up and down. He leans forward and kisses me. A kiss so deep and sensual that I feel it in my soul. He kisses from my mouth to my neck, then to my breasts. They are my erogenous zone, along with my neck. He takes a nipple into his mouth sucking it, as he rolls and pinches the other. I start to ride him faster. I can feel my orgasm coming on. He bites down on my nipple just as I reach my orgasm, and I scream out his name. I lean into his chest, kissing his shoulder. "On your hands and knees Foxy." I climb off him and do as he says. I get on my hands and knees, and as soon as I do, he slams into me. He pulls all the way out and slams in again, one hand holding pushing down on my back, the other has my hair wrapped around it, pulling. He does this until I scream out with

another orgasm.

“Oh God, Cooper!” He slows down a little, but still going all the way out then back in. He reaches around and pulls me up to on my knees. He is holding me to him, and starts to kiss my neck, he runs his hands up my sides to my breasts where he starts pinching and pulling at my nipples again. I feel like I am so close to orgasm number three, and my knees are shaking as he continues to pound into me. I’m so close, I feel him starting to swell. He moves one hand down to my clit, and pinches it. I detonate as does he. I lean back into him, but he is still playing with my clit, and nipple. He bites my neck a little. “I’m not done yet baby. Lay down.” He pulls out of me, and I lay down. He kisses his way up my body and stays on my breast, suckling, biting as he enters me again. He is pounding into me as I wrap my legs around him. His movements are starting to get erratic when he reaches down and pinches my clit again, rubbing his thumb over it and pinching again. We both orgasm together again and he lays down on me kissing me.

“Damn baby, did I hurt you? I shouldn’t have done any of that.” He says. He starts to move when I grab his face, making sure he is looking at me.

“Cooper, you didn’t hurt me. I would have told you if you had. I was so turned on, and that just added to it. I love being dominated by you. I know you love me; you see me as your love, not a possession. In fact, maybe we can do it again later at home.” I say as I kiss him. “I love you.”

“I love you too, Foxy. Let’s get showered and go get some breakfast, see how Natalie is doing, and find out what the plan is for Richard.” He says. He helps me up and we get in the shower, washing each other off, kissing and rubbing. Using just his fingers, he gets me off again before we get out of the shower.

“You know, that wasn’t fair. You didn’t get another release.” I say as I dry him off.

“You can have all the fun and time with me tonight baby.” He says as he kisses me and dries me off. I comb my hair out, then go choose an outfit to wear. I get a tank top that has Renegade Vipers on it, and a tight pair of jeans that have a two inch cutout filled with black lace running down the side of each leg. After Coop pulls on a tank and jeans, we head out to the common room.

Natalie is sitting at a table with Bacon, Alivia, and Bethany. As soon as Bethany sees us she takes off running at full speed to us. She slams into our legs, an arm around each of our legs, and is crying. I kneel down to be on her level and wipe the tears from her face. “Hey baby doll, it’s okay. We’re here. Are you okay?” I ask her.

She nods and starts sniffing some. I hug her to me, and kiss her hair, forehead, cheek, then tip of her nose, making her giggle a little. She looks up at Cooper and lifts her arms up to be held. He lifts her up and hugs her tight, doing the same pattern of little kisses as I had done. She giggles more. “Unka Coop, Auntie Bex, you can’ts leaves again. It made everyone bery sad and scared.” She says as she lays her head on Cooper’s shoulder.

I look at her and pull her hair back from her face. “We aren’t going anywhere baby doll. And if we have to leave we’ll let everyone know, okay?” She smiles as she nods. Cooper goes to put her down but she tightens her arms around his neck. He grins and we walk over to the table she left. I see smoke where Bacon and Natalie are concerned, and where there’s smoke, there’s fire. We shall see. Natalie jumps up and hugs me tight, while Bacon and Coop do that man hug thing.

“Hey, y’all sit. Dad is bringing breakfast out to us.” Saige says as she joins us. She is holding Nellie, and I take her from her. Saige hands me a bottle and I grin. “Girl, this is Nellie’s first of the day, JD is already on his second. I swear he eats like his dad and Uncle Cooper!” We both laugh as I sit beside Natalie, and kinda bump shoulders with her. As soon as I get comfortable, I start feeding Nellie.

“How are you doing, Nat? I was terrified that something was going to happen to you.” I say.

“I’m good. Bacon stayed with me the whole time, not letting me out of his sight. He’s been really nice. A little hoverish, but nice. He took me to my appointment and the baby is doing great. You and Cooper will be parents yourselves in almost six months.” She laughs. I see her look over at Bacon and then look down blushing. I can’t help but smile.

I’m happy. Things are looking up. We are home, we’ll have a baby soon, Michael is dead, John took care of things on a great way from his end. The only thing we have to worry about is Richard and possibly Tech. We need to find out what’s going on with him. There is no way he could really believe those tapes that were sent to him. Lynch showed them to us in church right before Tech was taken out in cuffs. I know nothing about things like that, and I could tell that they were fake. Cooper sits down beside and watches me feed Nellie. He throws his arm around my shoulder, kissing my forehead. “I love you, Foxy. You look really good holding her. I can’t wait for ours.” I smile at him. Yeah things are looking up.

Eighteen

Cooper

5 monthslater

“Sis, are you sure you can get this made without her knowing anything about it?” I ask Saige as I show her the design I made up for this cake for Bex. It’s three tiers that get smaller as they go up. The top and bottom tiers have black filigree work around the words, and the middle orange filigree. All three tiers have the Harley logo on them. The top and bottom done in orange the middle black. The top tier says Ride, the middle says With Me, and the bottom says Forever. I have a little motorcycle sitting

on top of the cake. It will have her engagement ring on the seat of it. I'm excited about this, and I hope that Bex loves it and says yes.

"I promise she won't know. I'll make it at the clubhouse, and it will be brought out at the bar-b-que when you give her the cut you had made. I can't wait for her to see it all. I know she and Natalie are finishing up Lachlan's room, so yeah. It's our secret." Saige laughs.

I grin. We went with Natalie to all her doctor appointments and found out we were having a boy. We decided to name him Lachlan after her dad, and James after mine. We have been getting clothes, diapers in all sizes, wipes, blankets, and bottles stocking up. Natalie is ready to have the baby, and has gotten several classes done online that she needed for her college courses. She starts at Anders University in about ten weeks. We already got her a furnished apartment in a brand new building close to it, and have gotten everything she is going to need that the apartment didn't come with, and she is stocked up on supplies for home and school. All she will need is groceries that goes in the fridge the day she moves in. She is super excited about that.

Dad and Leilani got married a couple months ago. It was family and club only here at the lake. We had a cookout and quiet little ceremony. It was then that Leilani said she was pregnant and hoped that it didn't upset Sis and me. There was no way we could be upset. Dad's still young at forty-four. Leilani's nearing thirty-eight, so who are we to deny them kids? A lot has happened in the last five months. Most of it good, some sad. We had the funeral for Crow. He will be missed. Ryker has been a lot more quieter since Crow's passing. Losing his best friend like that has been very hard on him. Tech went to court and was sentenced to forty years in prison for evidence tampering and aiding in a kidnapping. The judge gave him the maximum penalty for both. I think dad has tried to talk to him a couple times, but Tech just stared at him and never said a word.

Natalie's family, if you can call them that, went to court as well. Natalie wanted to go, and she wanted to testify which she did. Bacon stayed with us throughout it all. Bexley and he had to testify as well. The judge gave them all the maximum sentence too. Her mom seemed shocked to be getting all that time, especially since she turned evidence for the state, but the judge said that anyone who could allow that to happen to their child, and not try to stop it, is as bad as the person doing it. Natalie walked out of there with her head held high, and the happiest we had seen her in months. She told the judge that we would be adopting the baby, and the judge was nice, said he would have the papers drawn up by our attorney and sign them. Now all I have to do is get a ring on Bex, and Cotton and I reopen the garage. It should be ready to go today, just waiting on it to pass inspection.

"Okay, Sis. Thanks. I need to head into work. The inspector is supposed to be there today, and I want to make sure we pass everything. I know Cotton is there, but I need to be there too. I love you. Kiss the babies for me."

"I love you too. Tell Cotton to call me if he is still hurting. I think he needs to go to the doctor, but he won't do it if I say anything about it. Maybe he'll listen to you." Saige says hopefully.

"Yeah, I'll check on him. Hopefully he is feeling better." I say as I head out the door.

I get on my bike and head to the garage. I truly hope that Cotton is feeling better. I pull into the bay, park, and walk inside to see him sitting on a stool drinking Pepto.

"Yo brother, how you feeling?" I ask as I sit beside him.

"Oh man, this ulcer is really getting to me." Cotton says. He's holding his stomach and takes another swig of Pepto.

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“Uh Cotton, hate to say it, but you need to go to the doctor. You have chugged so much Pepto that your tongue is black. You need to make sure it isn’t a bleeding ulcer.” I say as I study his profile.

“Already ahead of you there. I made an appointment earlier. I go next week. I know everyone is worried, but this is just an ulcer, I’ve had them before.” Cotton says. He sounds so adamant. I pat him on the back and let it go. He’s made an appointment. Saige will be happy. We both look up when the bell over the door rings and the inspector walks in. We both get up and shake his hand, then take him through the building.

“You guys have added a lot on, made it bigger. I read the reports from the electricians, went over the wiring, and everything looks good. I say you boys are ready to reopen. Good luck fellas.” He signs off on the papers, hands them over, and leaves.

“Thank goodness that’s done with. I’m so damn nervous about tonight.” I say.

Cotton looks at me and smirks. “What are you nervous about? You know that Bex loves you, and she will say yes.”

I punch his arm, “Dude you were worried when you asked Sis and you knew she would say yes. Give me a break. You ready to get everything locked up and head out. Grand reopening next week.”

Cotton grins. “Yeah, I’m ready.”

We close up shop and ride back to the clubhouse.

* * *

The bar-b-que has been a blast. Bexley and Natalie have been talking about the baby with Saige and mom. She is really starting to show now. She and dad went the other day and found out they are having a girl. Veneda Marie. Named for her grandmother who raised her. Saige has been giving her clothes from Nellie that she has outgrown or never even worn where she had so many. Veneda will not need for anything. Sis has been giving us clothes from JD as well. Lachlan has everything he will need for the first year of his life. At least I think he does. Saige and Bexley both laughed at me when I said that. They both said I was in for a huge surprise.

I look at dad and see him motioning to me, so I know that it's time. I go grab up the cut I have for Bex and Cotton brings the cake out of the kitchen sitting it up on the table behind her. I stand between her and the cake blocking her view. "Bexley?" I ask.

She turns around to see me on one knee, the cake showing over my shoulder, and me holding her cut. "Will you do me the honor of riding with me forever, being my wife, and whole life?" I watch as she starts crying and she is on the floor in front of me on her knees, hugging the life out of me.

"Yes, yes, I will marry you. I love you Cooper."

I pull her to me and kiss the breath out of her. Everyone is hooting and hollering. I hear the alcohol being popped open. I get up bringing Bex with me, and show her the ring on top of the cake. Her intake of breath can be heard over the noise in the background. The ring I got her is special made. A carat diamond heart, with little ruby foxes on the side holding the heart up. I take it off the cake and slide it onto her finger as I kiss her again. "I love you Foxy. You are my world, and so is Lachlan,

even though he isn't here yet." About this time, we hear Natalie cry out and a light splashing sound. Holy shit, her water just broke!

Bexley runs to her side and starts to help her out to the car. We already have a bag packed. I heard dad and mom, Sis and Cotton run out behind us. Alivia and Loki are staying behind with the kids. We all get into our vehicles, Bexley helping Natalie breathe and stay calm. I floor it out of the driveway and head to the hospital.

Nineteen

Bexley

We pull up to the hospital emergency entrance, and there are two nurses with a gurney waiting. I help them get Natalie on it, and she has a death grip on my hand as she screams out from another contraction. "They're three minutes apart now." I tell the nurses as we roll Natalie up to the birthing floor.

"Bexley, it hurts so baaad!" She screams through another contraction. This labor started fast and is moving fast. I'm hoping that is a good thing for Natalie. We get into the room and the doctor rushes in, checking Natalie out.

"Natalie, I'm afraid that we can't do the epidural. You are already crowning. Next contraction, I need you to push. Ready, now push!" He says.

A few pushes later, and a screaming baby boy enters this world. The nurse takes him to clean and weigh him. He weighed in at eight pounds and ten ounces. Twenty inches long. He is a chunky lil thing. Natalie doesn't want to hold him, just passes him straight to Cooper and me. I make sure she is okay. "Yeah, I just want his first contact to be y'all. He's your son. Bond with him." Natalie says.

I kiss her forehead. "Thank you Natalie." She smiles as I go over to Cooper and hold

our son.

6 weeks later.

“Natalie, are you sure you have everything you need?” I know I have asked this a dozen times, but I want to be sure she has everything she could need or want.

“I’m sure, Bex. This apartment is stocked with all the food and junk food I could ever want. I have all my clothes, school things, and then some. Thank you and Cooper so much for all of this. I don’t know what I would have done without y’all. Lachlan has gotten so big and just adores you. And I can see the love pouring out of you for him.” Natalie says.

I pull her into a huge hug. “I can never thank you enough. You have given us the greatest gift ever. Can I ask you a question? You and Bacon seemed to be on the way to a relationship, and now he never comes around, nor do you talk about him. What happened

Natalie sighs as she pulls out of the hug. “We were supposed to go on a date, and I was to meet him at the clubhouse. When I walked in, I found him at the bar with a whore bent over the pool table pounding into her from behind. He looked up and saw me, pulled out, tried to talk to me about it, but I left. I haven’t talked to him since. He really hurt me. Not only did he do that, but the way he talked to me about how I was with Lachlan, not holding him much and all...He was so hardheaded and wouldn’t listen to how I felt.”

“I’m so sorry hun. Let’s change the subject then. I know you know Mitch. He is the prospect that is going to school here also. His apartment is next door to yours, so if you ever need anything let him know. You have your car, money, and can go where you want. Just let someone know, just until Richard is caught.”

Natalie nods at me in agreement. I stay just a little longer, then head back home. It's going to be weird with her not around anymore. The occasional weekend, parties, the wedding. I head back to the house as fast as I can. I promised to help with the kids tonight. Alivia and Loki are going out on a date. The guys are having a little bachelor thing for Coop tonight. So it will be Saige and I with the kids. I promised my lil princess to help cook something yummy.

Twenty

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Saige

I can't help but laugh at Bexley and Bethany as they frost the mini cakes and decorate them. Bethany has her little tongue stuck out, and is concentrating so hard. Bexley is being very patient. Nellie and JD are sleeping, and I am walking as I rock Lachlan. He's been fussy where he is gassy. I've given him some drops, and now trying to get him to sleep.

"How did Cotton's appointment go with the doctor? Are they giving him anything for the ulcers?" Bex asks me.

I look at her, "I'm not entirely sure. They did a couple x-rays and an ultrasound to be sure. He goes back tomorrow to find out what all they saw. I'm hoping it's just ulcers. But I worry."

"Girl, I understand. I would be even more worried if I were in your position. It's scary to see someone you love in pain like he is." Bex replies.

I nod, "Yeah. So what do you think about Loki and Alivia dating?" I say as I lay a sleeping Lachlan in the bassinet.

Bexley smiles, "I think she is going to be so good for him. She knows the club and the life, she understands his job as a firefighter and isn't going to be one to try to make him quit to be with her all the time. She is selfless, beautiful inside and out, and is such an amazing person."

At this Bethany pipes in, "Livia is perfect for my uncle Loki! And if she hurts him,

I'll bake her into a cake!"

We both crack up at this, and it causes her to laugh too. Bethany is a trip. I get some more ingredients down and we start a new batch of pies.

Twenty-One

Cooper

I'm drinking my beer and sitting at the bar with Lynch and Cotton. I think we are the only three not paying attention to the stripper, but it's okay. Ryker is all over her.

"So how did your appointment go yesterday Cotton?" I ask him.

He takes a big drink of his milk. "I go back tomorrow for the results. Should be all good, just ulcers. How did Natalie like her apartment? I know she had a rough send off from Bacon. Man, why he did what he did with that club ho is beyond me. He knew what time it was and that she was going to be there. So it was purposely done." Cotton is shaking his head.

I am too. Lynch is looking out over the bar and spots Bacon in the corner with the same club ho. "I'm not sure why he done it, but I'm sure he is paying for it. Take a look. She has been like a leech on him ever since it happened."

Lynch sees a lot. He looks at me and grins. "So doing the court house thing huh?"

I laugh. "Yeah. We are finishing up the adoption papers then too."

It's at this point that Cotton grabs his stomach and groans. Sweat pouring down his forehead. I reach into his jacket and grab his pills handing him one. He takes it and after a few minutes he eases up. "Boys, I think I need to head home. Y'all have a good night." Cotton grabs his coat and leaves.

I wait until he is out the door and sign to Lynch, 'I think it's more than ulcers. I think something else is wrong.'

Lynch looks at me and nods his head in agreement. We both look out the window and see Cotton getting in his truck. It takes a few minutes, to where I'm ready to go check on him before he leave. I can't help but to worry that something is really wrong with my best friend.

Epilogue

Loki

My awesome date with Alivia last night is still playing through my head as I drive Cotton to his appointment. He said that he wanted someone there with him that when they promise something they mean it and do it. That worried me. That's why I called Lynch to stand outside the door. He'll be able to read the doctors lips through the window hopefully. We get to the office and Cotton signs in. We don't even get to sit down; they take us straight back to a room. I see a shadow follow us but Cotton didn't see. Thank goodness. They weigh Cotton, do his blood pressure. The doctor comes in checks the vitals and sits down. He nods to me.

"Cotton we need to have a serious talk. Do you want your friend to stay?" Cotton nods yes, "Okay then. It's always good to have a friend or family member with you when you get this type of news. Cotton, I'm afraid it isn't ulcers causing you all this pain. You have cancer. The tumor looks like it started in your pancreas, but it has spread to your stomach, intestines, and liver. From the biopsy we did, you are at stage four. Now pancreatic cancer is not curable at this time. We can do chemo and radiation to help slow it spreading from other areas of the body, we have meds that can help keep you comfortable. I'm afraid that without the treatments, you may only have a year to live, maybe less. The treatment can give you another six months possibly. I hate to be the bearer of this news. Please, don't do anything rash. Take a few days, talk with your family, pray over it. Then let me know how you want to

proceed.” The doctor shakes our hands and then leaves the room.

“Cotton... What... Fuuuck me!” I yell. I stand up and start pacing back and forth.

“Loki sit down, I need to talk to you.” I look at Cotton who seems calm, and sit down. “Now the reasons I brought you are these. One, I beg that you promise not to tell anyone what the doctor just said. I will talk to others about it when I’m ready. Two, I just signed on as a volunteer fireman. Don’t treat me any different than the others. I need you to treat me like you always have. Now get Lynch to come in here.”

I go to the door and call Lynch. “How did you know he was here?” I ask.

Cotton grins. “I know when someone is tailing us.” I grin too.

Lynch walks in the room and goes straight to Cotton giving him a man hug.

“Loki, give us a minute, please.” Cotton says. I nod and shut the door behind me. Five minutes later the guys come out of the room. Cotton smiling, Lynch looking very concerned. It’s on the way home that we come up to a burning building and see a woman hanging out a window. I hear sirens as I pull in.

“Ma’am hang on, we are coming to get you. We’re firefighters, I hear the others coming.” I grab my extra suit out of the back of the truck put it on in record time and run into the house, Cotton right beside me.

The end for now.....