



Saige

Author: *Shannon McFadden*

Category: Erotic, Romance, Adult, New Adult, Mc

Description: Saige Farrell is the Princess of the Renegade Vipers MC, as well as a patched member. Her dad is the president, and her brother owns his own custom bike shop. She dreams of owning her own bakery and becoming the old lady to the man she has loved for years. Cotton Larsen is the VP of RVMC, best friends with the president's son, and half owner of the Torque Wrench Custom Build and Bike Shop. He is in love with Saige but feels he isn't worthy of her because of his past. Right when he decides to commit and see if she will give him a chance, she is kidnapped by a rival mc. Will the Renegade Vipers get her back? Will she give Cotton a chance or will she walk away?

Authors notes: There is an attempted rape in this book, along with physical violence, foul language, and explicit sex scenes. Due to this, this book is recommended for readers 18 and up.

Total Pages (Source): 36

Page 1

Source Creation Date: July 9, 2025, 1:59 am

Prologue

Stone

Stone stood in the nursery waiting for the nurse to hand him his baby girl. His brother by choice, brother-in-law, and Enforcer, Cruz, was standing next to him holding his newborn son, Hoyt James Gomez. Stone looked out the nursery window to see that more of their brothers and their old ladies had shown up. Grange was holding Cooper up so he could see his sister. As the nurse handed the baby to him, Stone got tears in his eyes looking at how beautiful she was.

Cooper, or Tires as he was called, was so excited to see his father and uncle walk up to the window holding the babies. He exclaimed loudly, "That's my baby sister, Saige, and my cousin!" Everyone around him laughed, and the old ladies had tears running down their faces. Stone smiled. He had promised Cooper that he could help name his baby sister. Apparently when he said the name Saige, he had meant it.

So he looked at everyone and said, "Folks, meet Saige Noelle Farrell, and Cruz's boy, Hoyt James Gomez." He and Cruz got congrats from all their brothers and their old ladies. "Pres, I'm going to take Hoyt down to see Stella."

"Hey man, give her my love. I'll be down to see her in a bit. I need to get down and see how Tonya is. I guess..."

"Mr. Farrell? Excuse me, I am so sorry to interrupt you, but the young lady that came in and delivered your baby, your surrogate? She has signed herself out and left against doctor's wishes. She left this note for you."

"Yeah okay, thank you," he said as the nurse walked away. Stone laid Saige down in her bassinet and looked at Cruz. "What the hell, man?"

"Best read over the note, Pres."

"Dear Stone,

Please don't be upset with me, but I told the doc and nurse that I was your surrogate. You knew all along that I never really wanted to have a baby. I didn't get rid of it because you wanted it so badly. Nor did I want to stay with your club or be tied down. I have feelings for you. I always will. I know that you will take care of your daughter, for you are an amazing father to your son already. Please don't come looking for me. If for some reason in the future you need my medical history, I left a copy of it back in your room at the clubhouse. Please don't tell her a lie about me. Don't ever sugarcoat it either. She needs to know the truth, always.

Take care.

Tonya"

"What the hell is this?" Stone showed the note to Cruz, who shook his head the whole time he read it over.

"She doesn't want her own child, but doesn't want you to not tell her differently? Is the bitch on crack?" He looked up at his best friend and Pres. Stone had so much anger and disbelief on his face, he didn't know what to say to him. "Come with me to see Stella. You know she'll want to see her niece as well as her son." Stone just nodded and followed him down to Stella's room while the nurses followed with the bassinets.

Stella was sitting up in bed listening to Cooper talk about how he was going to

protect and teach his baby sister and cousin all kinds of things as they grew up, when Stone and Cruz walked in the room. "There's my fellas. How are you boys?" she joked. Cruz leaned down to kiss her. Stone smiled and moved to let the nurses bring in the babies.

Cooper jumped off the bed and ran to his father, hugging his leg. "Daddy, I was telling Aunt Stella that I am going to protect and teach Saige and Hoy all kinds of things."

Stone looked down at his son, and ran his hand through his dark hair, saying, "I know you will, Son. They'll be your best friends, just like Cruz and Stella are my best friends. You'll have a bond so strong, no one will ever be able to break it. There'll be times when you and your sister may fight and argue, but that's natural. But it doesn't mean that you won't stop loving or protecting each other. Trust me, Son, just because she's a girl and younger than you, doesn't mean she won't protect you too." Cooper looked at his dad with wonderment on his face, and then asked if he could hold his sister. Cruz quietly leaned in and told Stella what had happened with Tonya as Stone had Cooper sit down in a chair so he could help him hold Saige.

"Stone."

He looked up and Cruz took a pic of the kids and him as Stella said, "You know that I'll help with Saige, just as I do with little Tires. We are a family and we take care of ours."

"I know that, Stella. I appreciate it. I'll try not to put too much on you. You have your own little one now."

"James Lee Farrell, you're my brother, and they're my nephew and niece! Yes, I have my own child, but I'm going to help you with them. I won't have some skanky club whore coming in thinking that she can play mommy to them!" Cruz looked at his

wife and then to Stone, just smirking.

"Cooper, remember what I said about sisters protecting you even if they're younger? Aunt Stella is still protecting me. " He smiled at her.

Cooper just smiled really big. "I can't wait until Sissy and Hoy are big enough to have fun with." All three adults in the room just smiled at the young boy.

One

Saige

21 years later

I push a strand of my long, black, curly hair back behind my ear. Sighing, I stare at the bed, trying to pick between two bikinis. The clubhouse is throwing a huge birthday bash for Loki and me. Stella had gone out and bought me a brand-new wardrobe, one that was more grown up and a little sexier, as she put it. I laughed as I looked at some of the clothes now hanging in my closet. If that was a little sexier, I would hate to see what a lot sexier was. I would probably be dressed like some of the club hoes. Looking back at the bikinis, I realize I have to pick one. Finally picking the green one with the little skulls on it, I put it on, then a pair of cut-off shorts and a Renegade Vipers MC tank top. I put my hair in a Frenchbraid, put on a pair of sandals, and locking my room, head out to the common area.

As soon as I walk into the common room, Loki comes up and crushes me in a bear hug. "Happy birthday, BFF!"

Laughing and hugging him, I say the same back. "Now are we still on for tomorrow? I have everything set up, so if I have to sneak out I can."

Page 2

Source Creation Date: July 9, 2025, 1:59 am

"Yeah, everything is a go. I talked to Acer. He's closing up just for us."

"Yay! I'm so excited!"

Grange walks towards us saying, "Loki, Saige, you two need to be getting ready and getting your butts up to the lake. Stella is going to have a cow if you don't get up there soon. Everyone is already up there. Your dads are looking for you, the Nomads are here, and Pyro is going to drive Cotton or Tires to homicide. "

Laughing at Grange, we follow him out the door and get on the ATV with him. The clubhouse is set on over two hundred acres of land and we have a big lake on the property. The guys built a huge pavilion by the lake, with a large outdoor kitchen, bar, fridge, grill, and stove. It has it all. There are even enough picnic tables to fit everyone. Down closer to the lake are a couple of fire pits, and a beach area with sand for the kids to play and swim at. They set up a rope swing and a dock. It's one of my favorite places to go. I always go to the huge weeping cherry tree that sits down by the shore.

After a ten-minute ride on the ATV we make it to the lake. Laughing almost the whole way, because Loki and Grange are cracking jokes. That's nothing unusual. That was how Hoyt got the name Loki. Growing up, me, Hoyt, and Cooper were all inseparable. We were constantly getting into trouble, pulling pranks on some of the older brothers in the MC, and at school. But at school it was a different story. The boys still goofed off and I did when I was with them, but I was kinda quiet when they weren't around. It wasn't until Cooper turned seventeen and graduated that things changed up a little. He and his best friend, Cotton, began to prospect after their four years in the Marines, and it didn't take long before they were given babysitting duty

over me and Loki, who were in our senior year at high school. Cotton wasn't one to joke around much. He seemed to hate me from the minute he saw me. He was always short with me, and only talked to me when he had to. Which broke my heart. I was in love with him and had been since I was fifteen. I sigh.

"You okay?" Loki asks giving me a little nudge.

I look up startled. "Yeah, I guess I got lost in my thoughts there for a minute. Sorry, Loki."

We get off the ATV and he puts his arm around me as we look around. Everyone from the MC is here. Most of the Nomads, and even some of the Black Forest charter are here.

"Damn, Mom made sure they went all out for this didn't she?" he asks.

I barely smile as I look around. There're too many people here. I'll go crazy. I see our dads and Tires. Bumping Loki with my arm and nodding in their direction, we head that way, his arm still around my shoulders.

"There's my baby girl. Happy birthday, sweetheart!" Dad says as he kisses me on the cheek.

"Thank you, Daddy." I smile. Happy birthdays are given to the both of us by everyone in the group. Even Cotton. Loki and I thank them all. They are all talking and joking. I look over at Tires, asking, "Hey, do you need any help at the garage? I can do the books, answer the phone, inventory, help draw up some designs or paint, whatever."

"Are you serious, sis? I thought you wanted to make cakes?"

"Well, I can still make cakes and help you out. It's not like I'm going to open up a bakery or anything. I don't know how well one would do. I... "

He looks at me like I've grown horns. " Sis, you draw better than I do! Stella had you make your own birthday cake, but she decorated it."

"You make the best damn cakes, bread, cookies, pies, and candy I've tasted. You'd do great with a bakery," Cotton states.

Surprised, I stutter. "O-oh, th-thank you. "

"Why do you want to help out at the garage?" Tires asks.

"I just need to get a little more money saved before I can put the down payment on the building for the bakery that I really do want to open," I reply with a grin.

"Yeah, you can help out some." He grins back at me.

"Saige, my darling!" Pyro draws out a scream as he comes out of nowhere, picking me up and swinging me around. "You look beautiful, my birthday goddess!"

Laughing, I smack his arm. "Put me down, you great big oaf." Pyro laughs as he does, though he keeps his arm around my waist, holding me close.

He's another one that's close to me and Loki, causing a lot of mischief. He's great looking, tall, muscular, but not overly so, with blonde hair that he keeps dyed flame red in a faux hawk, and the deepest blue eyes you've ever seen. You could almost drown in them. Pyro got his name the old-fashioned way, of course. He loves to play with fire and anything that goes boom. So he's the go-to guy if there's ever any need for explosives. Which isn't often.

“Hey, are we all still on for tomorrow night? I went and bought a new outfit to wear just for you, my beautiful girl.”

I blush deeply.

Before I can get a word out though, Cotton asks, “What the hell do you mean, still on for tomorrow night?” Everyone looks at him. Loki and Tires are ready to step in if a fight breaks out, while Cruz and Stone exchange a knowing look.

I finally find my voice, but instead of answering Cotton, I look to my brother and dad, stating, “Loki and I were asked to go to Myst with Poppy, Lilly, and their guys. You know, the crew from school, to celebrate our birthdays. Loki is taking Sloane with him, and I didn’t want to be the only one without a date, so I asked Pyro if he would like to go with me. That way I still have the two full patched members with me that you like.”

Stone and Cruz both nod their heads. Tires is watching his best friend’s reaction to this.

“What’s it matter to you anyways, Cotton? You aren’t a prospect assigned to protect her at all times any more. She isn’t your girl or old lady. So why go off the way you just did?” Pyro asks, getting angry.

“I may not be assigned to protect her anymore, but I am VP of this club. Her protection is always important to me. She is my Pres’ daughter, my best friend’s sister, and my friend. And who the hell are you to question me?”

Page 3

Source Creation Date: July 9, 2025, 1:59 am

“Okay, guys. That’s enough. Pyro, if you keep this up, I won’t take you. I’ll ask Lynch to go with me instead.”

Cotton stands there smirking, while Pyro is looking thunderous.

Loki is grinning like he has won the lotto. “Sis, let’s go swimming before Stella hollers at us to come eat, yeah?” I nod and follow him down to the beach area.

There are several brothers and a few old ladies down here swimming, some of them watching kids, of all ages.

“Sai! Sai!” I look up as the cutest little girl comes waddling towards me as fast as her little legs will go.

“Hey, sweetpea! Have you been playing in the sand?” I pick her up and kiss her cheek, hugging her.

“Yeth. Momma saith that I can. I buil a cathle.”

“You built a castle? You’ll have to show me.” I put her down and we follow little Bethany over to her castle and her mom, Beth. Bethany had stolen my heart from the time she was born. Beth and I are good friends, her dad is another brother in the MC, and I babysat Bethany while she went to classes to finish up her schooling. We chat for a bit, then Tires and I go over to a spot by ourselves.

“There are just too many people here today, Coop. My anxiety is so high.” I melt into him as he pulls me to him and hugs me.

“That’s what I was afraid of. Did you take your meds to help ward off a migraine? I told Dad you may very well end up with one because of all of this.” He pulls back and looks into my green eyes, so much like his own.

I smile. “Yeah.” The last thing I want, or need is one of those vicious things to pull me under right now.

“Good deal. Hopefully it’ll keep you from getting one.”

“I don’t know, all the stress from Pyro acting like he is lately, Cotton acting like he hates me but still looking out for me, trying to get my bakery up and running. It’s getting to be too much.”

“I can talk to Cotton and Pyro for you.”

“Don’t you dare! I am a Farrell. I can handle them. If I feel like I need help, then I’ll come to you.”

He grins at me. “Yeah, okay. Let’s get in the water.” He already has his swim shorts on and waits for me to strip down to my bikini. “Holy shit, Sis! Where did you get that? Has Dad seen it?”

“Um, no, not yet. It’s part of the new wardrobe Aunt Stella bought me. What’s wrong with it?”

“Nothing really. I’m just not used to seeing you in something that revealing, and you know that Dad will probably go berserk on Stella. Hahaha. You look beautiful. You always do. It just shows that you truly are a woman now. And it means I might have to kick a few asses if these guys don’t put their eyes back in their heads!” I smile and run into the water with him following me.

Cotton

I'm about ready to break this little punk's hands if he doesn't get them off Saige! And who the hell is he to question me like that! I may not be assigned to protect her anymore, but I'll always protect her. Thank God Tires took her over to go swimming. Stone gives me a chin lift to follow him.

"What's up, Pres?" I ask when we are a good bit away from the others but can still see Saige and Tires.

"Care to tell me what that was all about back there?"

Sighing and running my hand through my hair, I look at him. "I honestly don't know. I have so many feelings going through me right now. The biggest one being rage when I see anyone touching her. I don't get it. I know I'm not good enough for her. I've done things I'm not proud of, and I know she deserves better than me. But I also know that she deserves better than that ass clown who is likely to blow himself up one day too."

"Cotton, I want to tell you something. God forgives us for our sins, all we have to do is ask. You must learn to forgive yourself as well and let go of this guilt, because it wasn't your fault, Son. There was nothing you could do. You have to believe that. Now as for not being good enough for my daughter, I must disagree with that as well. If you decide to follow your heart and go for her, I give you my blessing. But if you hurt her...."

I look up at Stone and nod. "Understood, Sir. Thank you. "

"Now let's go and talk to Cruz and Lynch about that run we have coming up.... What the hell is she wearing?"

I look over to Saige as Stone explodes and all I can do is stare. She is gorgeous. Standing there in a dark green bikini with skulls on it. She's covered completely where it matters, but oh man, her body is banging! Just looking at her I am instantly hard. I turn away and start counting in my head. Finally, I hear a splash and I know that she's in the water. I walk over to Cruz and we go get Lynch. I need to get my thoughts and feelings straightened out, and I sure as hell can't do it while staring at her.

Two

Saige

"I don't know how to thank you all for all these gifts. Y'all didn't have to do this. Just being here with us to celebrate was the greatest gift you could have given us," I say to the clubs that are present.

Page 4

Source Creation Date: July 9, 2025, 1:59 am

Loki gives my shoulder a little push, “Speak for yourself, Saige. Bahahaha, I’m joking. Really, we do appreciate everything. Y’all are the best family anyone could ask for. Thank y’all for being here. Like Saige said, y’all being here to celebrate our birthday was the greatest gift you could have given us.”

We have already eaten a huge meal and the cakes that Stella decorated. She did one with sugar skulls and butterflies for me. Loki’s had skulls and lightning bolts. Then they had us go through this massive pile of gifts. Clothes, gift cards to all kinds of stores, jewelry, stuff for our bikes, and other knick-knacks. I’m glad Dad brought the cage up here. It’s going to take it to get everything back down to the clubhouse and my room.

“Saige! Loki! We need you two to come over here please.” Stella has us follow her over to the end of the pavilion. Our dads and Tires are standing there with two ‘65 pan-heads, fully remodeled. Both have a custom paint job that my brother did on them at his garage.

“Happy birthday, kids. These are from us, Tires, and Cotton.”

We walk over and hug them. I have tears running down my face. I look at Loki’s bike. It is neon green with lightning bolts and a badass skull on both sides of the tank. Right by the gas cap is the Renegade Vipers emblem. The helmet matches the green and has the lightning on it. He walks over to look at my bike with me. It’s a deep purple with cream. Cooper didn’t go too crazy with the decorations on mine. Just a small butterfly on each side, and our emblem by the gas cap. My helmet is the same purple with a small butterfly on the back. I can’t believe the work that he did on these. He really did an outstanding job.

I look over to my brother and dad, and they both have tears in their eyes. I hug them both. “Thank you both so much. You didn’t have to do this. I love you.” I can’t seem to stop the tears.

My dad cups my face in his hands. “Baby girl, we did this because we wanted to. I love you. Now, let’s get all this stuff packed up and get it back to your room. Yeah?” Nodding, I follow my dad and we start getting everything loaded into his Ford F250 Harley Davidson edition truck. I love his truck so much, that I went and saved up the money to buy myself one.

Loki and I ride our new bikes down to the clubhouse, and after we get them parked Pyro walks over to us. “Listen, I wanted to apologize for earlier. I really do want to go out with you tomorrow night, Saige. Will you forgive me for being such an ass?”

“Yeah, I will this time.” I smile at him. “Goodnight, Pyro.” Giving me a kiss on the cheek, he says goodnight and heads off towards the bar.

“You going to go in and have a drink, or are you calling it a night?” Loki asks me.

“I think I’m going to call it a night. I need to take some more of my meds and try to catch this migraine before it gets bad. I really want to keep our plans for in the morning.”

Hugging me close, he says, “Yeah, okay. Get some rest. If you need me, text me. I’ll come running. See you in the morning. Acer is expecting us around ten.”

Nodding, I head into my room. I had Dad leave it unlocked for me. I see a little present on my bed. Hmmm, wonder who that is from? That’ll have to wait a minute though. I lock my door, take my migraine meds, get some clothes, and take a quick shower. Leaving my long hair loose, I towel dry it a little and then run a wide tooth comb through it. With my natural big loose curls, I never brush it. I go back into my

room and put everything up that I got today, and then sit on my bed looking at the present. I open it and gasp. It is the most beautiful necklace I have ever seen. White gold with a tanzanite butterfly. The little card only says, "Happy birthday, Cotton." Wow! Cotton got me this? No way! I grab my phone and shoot him a text.

Me: Cotton, thank you for the beautiful necklace. I love it. ~S.

Cotton: YW. Happy birthday butterfly

Butterfly? He's never called me that before. Maybe he's starting to feel for me what I feel for him? No. Not Cotton. He's a screw 'em and leave 'em type of guy. He never stays with the same girl for more than a night. He usually kicks them out as soon as he gets what he wants from them. Oh well. I can dream, can't I? I put the necklace in my jewelry box so that it doesn't get messed up and lay down to go to sleep.

The next morning, I get up and feel the twinges of a migraine starting. Great. I take my meds, hoping that it'll keep it at bay, get dressed in a Vipers tank top and cut off shorts, brush my teeth, and go out to meet Loki.

He takes one look at me and shakes his head, saying, "We're taking the cage and I'm driving. No arguing with me. That's if you even feel like going. I can call Acer and reschedule."

I shake my head. "No, we're going. I took my meds. But the cage and you driving is a great idea," I say. "I need to try to eat a small bite of something or it could get bad pretty fast."

"Okay. Want to stop and get a chicken biscuit?" I smile up at him. My best friend knows me so well. "Alright then. Let's get going."

I give Loki the keys to my truck. It's my baby. So he knows I really trust him to let

him drive it. It's a 2019 F250 Harley edition. I got the beautiful grey color. Everyone here has the black. I wanted something a little different. I got a specialty tag for it that says, I

We have several of each in our MC. It's how we can do what we do. We don't run guns or drugs or anything. We are legal in almost everything we do. Tires owns his garage with Cotton, the Torque Wrench Custom Build and Bike Shop. Ryker and Skip work there. Tripp was a marine and he now owns the strip club, Vipers Pit. Hawke usually helps him out if he isn't on call with the EMS. Tech is a computer genius and he does anything that's needed. Rubble, Lynch, Locke, Crow, Pyro, they are the Nomads. Barq, Mac, Gunner, and a few others are from Black Forest, they are our other charter. We help our community with whatever they need. Toy drives for kids, taking food and medicine to the shut-ins, working on homes, whatever.

Then there is the other thing we do. If we hear about drugs, kidnappings, sex rings, anything going on like that, we go in and bust it up. I say we, because I am actually a patched-in member. The first and only female. I have Cotton to thank for that too.

Loki and I had gotten into trouble, yet again. Rubble was passed out in the common room. We took some hair extensions that I had that were pink, purple, green, and blue, and put them in his beard and hair. Then Loki took all these empty hair dye boxes and bottles set them around us, then poured some water on Rubble. It woke him up. He was sputtering, then looked at us, asking what the hell we were up to. Loki showed him in the hand mirror. Rubble went berserk. He was cussing and screaming. Dad and the guys were in church and came running out to see what was going on. From then on, anytime there was church, Loki and I had to sit on a couch in the corner on opposite ends.

One day Cotton came in, he was angry already for some reason. "Oh, for fuck's sakes! Pres, if they're going to be here for church all the damn time, you may as well patch them in!" he'd yelled, banging the table.

My dad had looked at him, then smiled. “All in favor?” Everyone in the room said ‘aye’.

Cotton looked up shocked because he hadn’t meant it. Never had he meant for me to be patched in. Loki was thrilled. Me, not so much. I was shocked. I love helping others. I love the club. But I want to bake. I want to contribute in other ways. Like an old lady would.

“Hey, what do you want to drink with your chickenbiscuit? You want the Cajun fries with it?” Loki asks, pulling me from my thoughts. Thank God for him.

“Oh, my gosh, yes. And a large Coke.”

Loki grins. He knows that when we come here, no matter what we get, I always get the Cajun fries. Pulling through the drive thru, we get our order and head to Renegade Tattoo.

Page 5

Source Creation Date: July 9, 2025, 1:59 am

I am so excited for this. “So, is Acer going to do both of our tats? Because just the one you are getting is going to take at least six hours, if not more. That’s not counting our matching one.”

“No, I think he’s going to have Leilani do yours. You’ll have to have your shirt off, and I think since you know her so well, he thought you’d be more comfortable with her.”

Nodding my head in agreement I say, “Yeah, I will be. I just hope she doesn’t say anything to Dad before we get them done.”

“She won’t. Acer made her promise. Besides, you know she likes getting one over on your dad every now and then.” I laugh as I agree.

Leilani and Dad have been dating for several years now. She’s a feisty one and we love her. I keep hoping Dad will make her his old lady soon. Loki pulls up behind the shop like Acer told him to, and we knock on the door. Acer lets us in.

“Hey, guys, how’s it going? So, Loki, you drew up a matching tattoo for you and Saige?” Pulling the paper out of his pocket he shows it to Acer. It’s a skull with butterfly wings. I loved it when Loki showed it to me. We are going to get it colored just a little differently, but still have the same colors in it. “Okay, so tell us how you want these done, then Leilani and I will get y’all tatted.”

“Ladies first.”

I smile at them. “Okay, so we both want green and purple in the butterfly wings.

Purple is going to be my main color, with the green being the accent color. I want it on my right shoulder. Then on my left I want a cupcake with a sugar skull and heart.” Leilani smiles big and pulls me into the back room. “See you in a while, bestie!” I holler to Loki.

“Not if I see you first, bestie,” he laughs.

Leilani has me take my tank off and I pull my hair up into a messy bun. I had worn a strapless bra, so I was ready there. I straddle the chair and get comfortable while she gets everything ready. She shows me what she has drawn up, which I love, so she gets started.

“So, my keiki, your dad does not know about this yet?” she asks.

“No. I don’t know why, just a feeling I had, but I told Loki it would be best not to let anyone know what we were doing today, and he agreed.” She nods and asks if I’m okay.

“Yeah, that isn’t bothering me at all. The first few sticks felt like a bee sting, but now it’s okay. My head is hurting though. I took my meds and ate; I’m hoping that it kicks in a few.” Leilani looks at me. She had nursed me through a really bad migraine, so she knew how they could get.

“Okay, keiki. If it gets to where it’s getting bad, you let me know. I have a couch here you can lay on in the dark. Okay?”

I smile and nod. She talks to me some about the buildings I have been looking at for my bakery, and then Dad. They have a big date planned. Dad is taking her to Chez Rouge. It’s a new fancy restaurant on the other side of town. I smile at how excited she is. Leilani really does love my dad and us kids. She has really taken to the club too. She would make a great old lady. I need to let him know that Tires and I agree on

that. Maybe that's why he hasn't asked her.

Eight hours later, we are both done with our tattoos, and my head is pounding. "Loki, I need to get something to eat, I need to take something for this headache."

"Yeah, let's head over to the pizza place. That okay?" I nod. They have a buffet and the pizza is so good. We get inside and get a booth. "Two buffets please. With Coke for both of us," Loki orders for us.

"Sure, help yourselves. I'll be right back with your drinks. If you don't see a pizza you want up there, let me know and I'll have them make you one. My name is Sara, if you need anything."

I smile at her. "Thanks, Sara."

She smiles and heads off to get our drinks. We go up and make our plates. I get a couple of slices of their spinach alfredo pizza and a small salad. I head back to the booth and Loki comes back with a plate loaded down with ten different slices of pizza.

Loki looks at my plate. "Is that all you're eating, Saige? Usually you can out eat me when it comes to pizza."

I smile. "I know, but this headache is getting bad. My meds aren't helping. I don't think I'm going to be able to go out tonight." A tear runs down my cheek.

He reaches over and wipes it away. "Hey now, if you can't go, then we don't go. We'll just set it for another night. Come on. Eat what you can, and I'll get you back so you can lay down. Okay?"

I try to eat but can't get much down. Loki ends up eating my salad and a slice of my

pizza. I get my Coke to go, and he pays. I leave Sara a big tip and we head out.

Once we get back to the clubhouse, Loki returns my keys. “You go on in and go lay down. I’ll head off Pyro, talk to him, and I’ll call Poppy and let her and Lilly know.” He kisses me on the cheek, heading to the bar.

I slowly get out of the truck and lock it. I am heading around the building when I start to get violently sick. I hit my knees, and I throw up everything that is in my stomach. I am still dry heaving, tears running down my face when Cotton sees me.

He runs over to me. “Butterfly, you okay?”

“No. I was trying to get to my room to lay down, when this hit. I have a migraine, Cotton. I can barely see it’s so bad.”

“Okay, babe. I’m going to pick you up and carry you to your room. Is it locked?”

I hand him my keys. I feel his arms go around me. I gasp but I am hurting so bad, that I can’t appreciate how it feels to be in his arms right now. I lean into him and close my eyes. He is going fast but trying not to jostle me. We amazingly don’t run into anyone.

Page 6

Source Creation Date: July 9, 2025, 1:59 am

He gets me into my room and stands me by my bed. “What do you need me to do?”

“Can you stay here a second while I go to the bathroom, in case I need help?”

He nods. I cautiously make my way into the bathroom and brush my teeth. I pee right quick, wash my hands, take my hair out of the bun and put my pjs on. When I get back in the room, Cotton is sitting a cold Coke on my bedside table from my little fridge. He also has my cold eye mask that I use beside it.

He has my phone on the charger right beside it. “Okay, butterfly, what else do you need?”

“Just the lights out and to lie down. I have the AC set to sixty-eight, and that helps.”

He moves over and pulls my blanket back and tells me to lay down, then helps me to get my eye mask on. I lay on my right side facing the door and him, putting pressure on the side that hurts the worst.

“Get some rest, Butterfly, I’m going to take your keys with me, if you need anything call or text me. I can get back in here to you that way, okay?”

I agree to that and close my eyes. The last thing I remember is feeling a kiss on my forehead.

Three

Cotton

Walking around the building and seeing Saige on the ground sick like that scared me. Carrying her to her room, it felt so good to have her in my arms. Like she belonged there. Her scent of coconut and vanilla nearly drove me mad with want. Once I helped her get settled in bed, I stayed with her until I knew she was going to be okay and she was sleeping. I leaned down and kissed her forehead, smoothing her hair back. I hadn't seen her with her hair down in a long time. It's sexy as hell. Hell, everything about her is sexy. I could sit and just watch her sleep all night and be happy. I slowly shut her door making sure that it's locked and head down the hall to my room. Tires is coming out of his room as I walk by. "Hey, man, I gotta go get a drink. Want to go get one with me?"

"Not tonight, man. I just left Saige's room, and before you get the wrong idea, she's down with a bad migraine. She got sick outside and couldn't even stand up. I helped her in and got her settled. I told her to text me if she needed anything, but she was out before I reached the door. Besides that, I have to work on the books for the garage. I brought them home and am going to work on them in the room. I may be out later for a drink."

"Thanks for taking care of Sis. I know how you feel about her, so I know you wouldn't take advantage of her. Even if she would let you," he says shaking his head.

"What the hell do you mean by that?"

He looks at me shocked. "Really? Come on, Cotton. Saige has been in love with you since she was fifteen. That's why when she does go out with someone, she lets them know right away it's just as friends." I run my hands through my hair, looking at my best friend. "You really didn't know?" I just shake my head no. "Well what you do with that knowledge is up to you. Just don't hurt her."

"I won't." He punches my arm, taking off to the bar. Once I get into my room, I grab a drink from the little fridge I have in there and turn my laptop on. I pull up

everything I need to work on the books for the garage and get to it.

I look up from the laptop and realize that I have been working on the books for almost three hours, but at least they are done and done right. I shut everything down, getting up to stretch. It's going on eleven at night, and I am worn out. Saige hasn't texted so I am hoping that she sleeps throughout the night, that her migraine is gone in the morning. I decide to head to bed when there is a knock at my door. I open it up to see one of the club whores there. "What do you want, Dayna?" This bitch has been obsessed with getting into my bed since I got voted in as VP. She is trouble with a capital T, and I don't trust her. I also don't mess around with any of the club whores.

"Oh, Cotton, I was hoping that you wanted to have a little fun tonight. You have been working so hard and not playing any." She sticks her bottom lip out in a pout trying to look sexy.

"No. I don't want to have any fun with you tonight or any night. I've told you that already. And you know the rules. You're not to come back here to the living quarters unless someone brings you straight to their room. You do it again, you will be banned."

"You can't be serious, Cotton. I'm not doing anything wrong. I just wanted to spend a little time with you. We can get to know each other better." She is trying to put her hands on my chest to rub it, but I stop her.

"I am serious. Now get your skank ass back out to the bar where it belongs." She gives me a look that if it could kill, I would be dead. She starts to argue with me when I see a Prospect walking through. "Prospect take this whore to the front gate and don't let her back in here tonight. Make sure she leaves. "

"Yes, VP." She screams and fights him all up and down the hall. Ah hell. I get the keys out of my pocket and go open the door to Saige's room. I peek inside and see

that she's still asleep. Good. I lock her door back and head back to my room. Taking a quick shower, I get in bed and dream about Saige all night.

The next morning when I walk out to go to the garage, I see everyone going about their business. Saige is with Sloane at a table, talking about going out to Myst tonight. I overhear their plans and look up to see Loki smirking at me. He nods towards the girls and rolls his eyes. I laugh. Yeah, he can act like he doesn't want to go, but I know better than that. That boy has it bad for Sloane. I see Pyro making his way over to the table and all humor leaves me. I see the way that he is looking at Saige, and I don't like it. I think since they are going to go to Myst tonight, I need to let Tires know so that we can watch out for them. I just don't trust that little prick. I head on out the door to go to the garage to get some work in and talk to Tires.

When I get to the garage it is to find Tires in the back, painting a custom build we've done. It is amazing to see the details that are going into the design. It is black, with pin striping on it in blood red, the club emblem at the gas cap. It's bad ass. It's for Barq, the Pres of the Black Forrest charter. "Hey, Bro. It looks great, man. Almost done?" I ask.

He gives me a chin lift, "Hey, Bro. Yeah. Just putting the finishing coat on it. Should be ready for pick up tomorrow. What's going on? You have that look on your face, that things are going on that you don't like."

I laugh without humor. Yeah, he knows me. "Saige, Loki, Sloane and Pyro are going to Myst tonight. Pyro was practically drooling and eye fucking your sister at the table, I don't like how he has been acting. He's on something."

Tires looks at me shaking his head, "Are you sure that he is on something, and that you aren't just jealous that he is going out with Saige?"

I clench my fists and jaw. "Don't go there, man. You know how I grew up, what went

on. I know that look when someone is using.”

He throws his hands up in defeat, “Hey, man, I wasn’t meaning that. I know what happened. I guess we need to go, watch from the shadows.” I nod as I head out towards the front to answer the phone. It’s going to be a long day I realize, when I pick up the phone, and hear a long-winded customer.

Four

Page 7

Source Creation Date: July 9, 2025, 1:59 am

Saige

Club Myst. I really didn't want to be here tonight. But we promised Poppy and Lilly that we would hang out with them one night, as a late celebration of all of our birthdays. Poppy and Lilly are twins, very wild, and I know that they only hung out with us in school, and now because of who we are and the MC. Poppy wants to be a Charmer, working at the Vipers Pit strip club. She wants to be able to get ahold of a ranking brother and become an old lady, just like all the whores do, and thinks that I am going to help her with that, as if. Lilly, she is a little bit more laid back, but not much. The outfits that they are wearing tonight leave nothing to the imagination, and I know that some of the strippers at the Pit have worn more.

Pyro is already three sheets to the wind, and we have only been here a little over an hour. The club is pumping. Lights bouncing off the walls, the music loud and thumping, the dance floor packed. We're sitting up in the VIP lounge where Pyro just keeps downing shots. How the hell does he think he is going to get back to the clubhouse like that? He sure isn't driving. He is being loud and crude, making comments that are making my stomach turn. I am so thankful that I drove my cage with Sloane riding with me. She didn't want to ride the bike with Loki wearing a miniskirt and six-inch heels. They are out on the dance floor swaying to the music. I danced a little when we got here, but now I am sitting just watching everyone else. I'm so ready to go home, take a bath, just relax with my kindle. I went and one clicked a lot of books by several authors that I love. Most of them write MC romance. I look up, breaking from my thoughts when I feel someone sit beside me.

Pyro is leaning up against me. "Saige, you're so beautiful. I'm really glad I got to be here with you. Why don't we go dance, baby?" He is running his hand up and down

my arm, the other is draped around my shoulder.

“No thanks, Pyro. I just don’t feel up to it right now. In fact, I think I’m going to head out in a few minutes. I just want to let Loki and Sloane know.” I try pulling away from him. He grabs a hold of my neck, forcing me to look at him. He smirks at me, pulling me to him and tries to kiss me. He licks my lips, but I don’t give him what he wants. It isn’t until he grips my breast, squeezing really hard, that my mouth opens to scream at him, but he sticks his tongue in my mouth. I swear it’s like he is trying to lick my tonsils. I am gagging as he’s doing this, I finally get my arm up and smack him hard.

“What the hell do you think you’re doing, Pyro? You don’t touch me and try to force yourself on me like that! I will cut your damn balls off if you try something like that ever again!” I push him away from me and stand up.

I go to leave when he grabs my arm, “I’m not going anywhere, Saige, I’ve wanted and waited for you, for such a long time. I thought you felt the same! But you will not leave and make a fool of me! You’re mine!”

“Let me go right now. This is your only warning,” I say. He goes to say something else when Poppy and Lilly come back from the dance floor.

“Are we interrupting something? A little lover’s quarrel?” Poppy asks. I pull my arm from Pyro’s grasp.

“No, not hardly, Poppy. I was just coming down to tell y’all bye. Hope y’all enjoy the rest of the night.”

“Oh well if not a lover’s quarrel....” She goes over and drapes herself on Pyro, licking the side of his face. I take off, not wanting to see or hear what happens next. I make it down to Loki and Sloane and I tell them what happened.

Loki is so pissed off now, “Are you shitting me? Let me go have a talk with him. He won’t put his hands on you again, I can guarantee that!”

“No, it’s fine. I took care of it. I just want to go home. Are you okay with that?” He looks at me and nods. Sloane hugs me, then I walk out of Myst, taking a deep breath before I walk to my truck. I see Tires and Cotton leaning against it. I’m not one bit surprised, they’ve always followed me. Both look pissed, and Tires reaches for my arm, looking for bruises.

“Look, I’m fine, bubba. I just want to go home, soak in the tub, read a book. Please just let me go,” I plead with my brother. He finally leans in and kisses my forehead.

“Drive safe. We’ll follow you home.” I hug him and get in the truck. I don’t look back as I drive off.

Five

Cotton

“Tires, where is Stone?”

He looks up at me from the bike he is working on, taking his mask off. “I don’t know, man. What’s going on?”

“We need to call an emergency church. Get on the phone vine.” He nods and starts calling people. I go into the front part of the garage to see Saige on the phone talking to a customer. I make a motion with my hand for her to hurry, get off the phone.

“I can assure you that your bike will be ready by the end of the month, Mr. Howard. I just had a customer walk in, so I really must go. You have a great day. Bye, hun. Okay, Cotton, what’s going on, not that I really don’t appreciate the help of getting

off the phone with him.” She smiles at me.

I can’t help but to smile back, “We need to call an emergency church. We need to go. Did you ride out here?”

“No, I walked actually.” I hear Tires start up his bike and take off.

“Mind riding back with me? Will be quicker.”

“Okay.” We lock up the garage and go to my bike. I get on and lean it a little so that she can get on behind me. I give her my helmet. Saige puts her arms around my waist and her head on my shoulder. I am in heaven. Damn if I don’t get hard. I can’t stop the little shiver that runs through me and I hope that she doesn’t feel it. “You okay?” she asks. I nod as we take off. She tightens her arms around me a little and I feel a shiver run through her. Glad to know I’m not the only one affected. When we pull up to the clubhouse gate, a prospect lets us in and we park beside Tire’s bike.

Saige slowly gets off the bike, handing me my helmet. “Cotton, before we go in, I need to thank you. I haven’t had a chance to really thank you in person for my necklace you got me, then for what you did for me the other night. You don’t know how much that means to me. If you hadn’t helped me, it would have gotten so much worse.” Saige hugs me and again I am enveloped by her scent. I could drown in her. I hug her back, when she loosens up on the hug and starts to back away, I look down and see a mischievous grin on her face. She tiptoes up, kisses me on the mouth and walks away. So, she wants to play. I love to play. I start to follow her inside to church.

Stone is already at the head of the table. Cruz is to his right; I sit to the left. Saige is beside me. Loki beside his dad. Tires is on the other side of Saige. We wait for everyone to get inside before Stone starts. “Okay, sorry to drag everyone in here in the middle of the work day, but this seems to be pretty damn important. So Cotton,

take the floor.”

I look around at everyone. “Y’all may remember a gang that we have had a run in with a few times, Ghosts of Darkness. They have been seen in town a few times the past couple of days. They are causing havoc, breaking into places, vandalism, spreading word that they are coming for us. They’re still pissed that their last Pres and Sargent of Arms went to prison, where both were murdered by rival gangs. The new Pres from what little I have learned is the son of the old one. I’ve had Tech looking into all the cameras from town, including the traffic cams, to see if we can see where they are going or coming from, but so far, nothing.” I turn to look at Saige then back to Stone, silently conveying that she may be in danger. He gives me a chin lift, so I know he got it.

Stone looks at everyone before saying, “Okay, Tech, stay on the computer and cameras. Do whatever it is that you do. The rest of you, stay vigilant. We know what they’re like, what they’ll do. The last time we tangled with them, we had a couple get shot while we were busting up a sex trafficking ring. These are some sick sons of bitches, and if they want to come at us, they are more than welcome. But this club’ll continue to fight for what is right. For now, we’re going to go on a soft lockdown until we figure out what’s going on. If the women go out, I always want at least two patched members with them. Saige, that includes you. You go nowhere unless Tires, Cotton, or Loki are one of the patched with you. You got me, girl?”

Saige looks up, and nods yes to her dad. I look around the room. No one seems shocked by this. It’s always been this way during a lockdown, but the look on Pyro’s face, man, if looks could kill. I just stare back at him with a smirk on my face until he looks away. His black eye and busted lip look good on him, courtesy of Loki.

Page 8

Source Creation Date: July 9, 2025, 1:59 am

Stone looks from her to the rest of us, “Cruz, have Stella and Leilani make a list of everything we may need if we go on a hard lockdown. I want to be prepared. Tires, call Black Forest, let them know what’s going on. We may need them to come back down. Grange, I need you to also help Cruz to check the weapons and ammo. Lynch, will you and the nomads stick around for bit longer?”

Lynch looks up at Stone, “Yeah Pres, we’re here for as long as you need us. You fight, we fight.”

“Good.” Stone bangs the gavel, dismissing us all for now. I put my hand on Saige’s leg to still her for a minute. She looks at me, confused. When everyone is gone, I let her up, grab her by the back of the head and kiss her. I nip her bottom lip, then run my tongue over it. She opens up for me, and I push my tongue in her mouth, tasting her. She tastes of the little mints she loves and a taste that is purely her. Heaven. She is my heaven, I think. She moans a little, that’s when I pull back, look into her eyes.

“I forgot to give you your keys back. I did have a copy made to your room though, I also had a copy to my room made for you. Never know when we might need to go and help each other out.” I place the keys in her hand, kissing her again. A chair hitting the wall breaks us apart. I look up to see Pyro walking down the hallway. Saige doesn’t see him.

“What was that?” she asks.

“Not sure. But that is how you kiss someone,” I say as I walk out of the room grinning.

Six

Saige

Wow, that kiss still has me reeling as I head back to my room. I can still feel his lips on mine, still taste him. I put my fingers up to my lips, smiling. I'm at my room when I am grabbed and spun around, shoved into the wall, my arm wrenched behind my back, only to see a very angry Pyro. "What the hell was that about back in the office?" He is squeezing my arm so tight that I am losing feeling in it. I'm too shocked to fight back.

"What are you talking about, Pyro? And can you let up on your grip? You're hurting me." He looks down at my arm but doesn't loosen up any.

"I'm talking about you letting that asshole kiss you back there. You know that he's just playing with you, right? He's out in the bar messing around with the whores now as we speak. Cotton could care less about you. He doesn't love you like I do!"

I look up at Pyro. He seems out of control right now, and I have to try to diffuse this. "Look, Pyro, it was just a kiss. It didn't mean anything. And honestly, I don't care what he is doing with whom. I'm single, he isn't my boyfriend, neither are you. You are my friend, that's it. I'm not dating right now, nor do I want to be. That's why I asked you to the club as a friend. Now you need to let go of my arm and get out of my face."

Before I know what he is doing, he slaps me. "You are not single! I have claimed you as mine! So, don't try to act all coy with me. And you just try going out without me, see what happens!" He tries to kiss me, but I turn my head, his lips hitting my cheek. He slaps me again, letting me go with a shove, my head hitting the wall. He starts to walk away when we hear footsteps coming down the hall. I look up to see Tires. He sees the handprint on the side of my face.

“Sis, who the hell hit you?” he asks me.

Pyro looks at him, answering before I can get a word out. “One of the club whores. I believe it was Alivia. They were arguing when I came down the hall and ran her off.”

My brother looks at me then back to Pyro, “Hey man, Lynch is looking for you, that’s why I headed down this way. He’s at the bar. Said not to keep him waiting.”

“Yeah okay.” He walks off after giving me a warning glance. I stand ramrod straight until he is out of sight then lean into Tires. “So why did Alivia hit you? I thought you were friends.”

I look up at him, “She didn’t. Look at my arm.” You can see where Pyro had a hold of my arm, it’s red.

“Who the hell did this?”

“Pyro did. He caught me unaware, started screaming at me, saying that he has claimed me in front of the whole club, that I should watch and see what happens if I refuse him, or go out without him. He’s a basket case! I’ve never seen him like this before. His eyes look so weird. I was actually scared of him.”

Tires hugs me to him. “I’ll get this taken care of, sis. He won’t bother you anymore. If he ever lays a hand on you again, he’s dead!” I look up at him. He’s always been protective of me, but to threaten to kill someone, that’s a first.

“Coop, I just want to go take a shower and go to bed. I don’t want you to kill anyone, prison orange isn’t your color. I love you, thank you for being the best big brother anyone could ever ask for.” He just smiles. I kiss his cheek, then go into my room. I lock the door behind me, grab some pjs, then head for the shower. I need to find out what is going on with Pyro, see if I can get him some help. He sure isn’t the

same guy we grew up with.

Seven

Cotton

I'm sitting at the bar, a big smile on my face as I think about that kiss. Man, the zing I felt as I held her close to me. I feel it every time I touch Saige. I hear Tires yelling for Pyro, so I turn around. I see the look on his face, and I know this is going to be bad. I look for the little jerkoff and get up just as Tires punches him in the mouth. "That's for leaving a mark on my sister's arm, this is for slapping her!" Tires hits him again, this time sending him sailing over a table. "You ever come near her again, or so much as look at her, I'll kill you!" Tires is standing over Pyro, his eyes begging the shitter to get up and swing at him. I look to my left, Stone is standing there with Lynch. Both look pissed as hell, and if what Tires said is true, I'll kill the son of a bitch myself for touching her.

"What the hell is going on, Tires?" Stone yells. Lynch is looking at him too.

"That asshole attacked Saige when she was trying to go into her room. Her arm is red from where he was gripping it so hard, then he slapped her across the face twice, leaving a handprint on her. She is already bruising. I found them when I went looking for him for Lynch. He yelled at her, told her that he was claiming her in front of the club, and that if she refused him, she would regret it. I meant what I said, if he touches her again, I'll kill him!"

I'm getting angrier by the second. Pyro looks over at me as he is getting up. He has this look in his eyes that I have seen before, it isn't just anger or jealousy. He looks high. I remember that look well, having grown up with it.

"Pyro! Is it true? Did you hit Saige?" Lynch asks.

Pyro looks at him. “I had to remind her that she’s mine! She had no right kissing another man, when she belongs to me. He actually comes at me, I side step him, sending him head first into the bar. I pick him up off the floor, pushing him towards Stone.

Page 9

Source Creation Date: July 9, 2025, 1:59 am

“Pyro, you haven’t claimed Saige, even if you did, she doesn’t want to be with you. You need to pack your shit up. Locke, Rubble, I want you two to follow him, make sure that he leaves, get him to up Morriston. Then you can head back this way. Have Tonks watch over him.”

“Lynch, you can’t do this to me! You need me here! I won’t touch her again, so long as Cotton doesn’t touch her either.” They all look at me, but I keep my gaze on Pyro.

“Who are you to dictate who my daughter can or can’t be near? You heard Lynch. Go pack and leave, before I do something that you will regret!” Stone states in a quiet menacing tone.

Pyro looks at me, “She’ll never be yours. She is mine!” Locke grabs Pyro by the arm, dragging him from the room, Rubble following him.

“Pres, did you see the look in his eyes? He is doing something heavy. It has to be some hardcore drugs, because I know that look all too well.”

Stone looks at me and nods, “Yeah I saw. Still doesn’t give him the right to touch my daughter. I’ll talk to Lynch, see if they can find out what he is doing. Maybe we can get him into rehab. Now what is he talking about you touching her?” I look and see he is grinning.

“It was nothing. We were talking and I gave her a little kiss. He took it way out of proportion.”

He nods, “Okay. Well keep an eye out for her tonight. I have to take Leilani to go get

a few of her things that she needs from her place. Cruz is riding with us.”

“You got it. Stay safe, call if you need anything.” With that Stone turns to Lynch and they head out talking, Cruz meets up with them in the hall. I look at Tires, and notice that he is staring at me, grinning.

“Don’t say a word, Tires! It was just a little kiss, that’s all. You know where I stand.” He just grins bigger and looks behind me.

“Alivia, two beers please.” She grins at him as she sets the beers on the bar. He looks at me. “Saige has a building to look at tomorrow. I have to go get some parts, the garage is closed. You mind going with her, look it over? You know more about that shit than I do anyways.”

“Yeah, I’ll get Loki or someone to ride with us. Who is going with you to get the parts?”

Tires laughs, “I have Ryker and Skip going. Ryker is wanting to look at some bike the old man is selling at the parts store.”

I grin, I know why Ryker is really wanting to go. He has a thing for the blonde that works at the counter. I get up, “Brother, I’m going to go find out what time she has to be there, then I’m calling it a night.” He raises his beer at me, then starts to flirt with Alivia. I take off. I knock on Saige’s door, when she opens it a crack, I almost lose my cool. I’m ready to go hunt Pyro down and give him another beating. “Hey, Butterfly. Tires said that you have to go look at a building tomorrow, what time do you have to be there?” I ask as I walk into her room. She looks up at me.

“I have to meet the realtor there at eleven. If this building doesn’t work out, she has one more for me to look at. Both have massive kitchens and are on Main Street, so that is a huge bonus. Who’s going with me?”

I just grin, “You have me and Loki.” She smiles.

“Okay. I’ll be ready to go by ten. I know it’s only fifteen minutes away, but we have to get Sloane. She’s going to be the one to work the front of the business. I want her there with us.” I nod as I reach out and touch her cheek lightly.

“If Pyro comes near you again, it’ll be the last time that he does. I’m so sorry that he did this to you.” Saige leans into my hand.

“It’s okay. If I wasn’t so shocked when he grabbed my arm, wrenched the other behind my back, and went off the way he did, I could have gotten away with just bruised arm.” Smiling at her, because I know she can handle herself, I head for the door.

“Be ready to go about nine, we’ll go get breakfast at the diner.”

“Okay, goodnight.” I head out and go to my room. I need a cold shower for more than one reason.

Eight

Saige

I try to sleep after Cotton leaves my room, and I had texted Sloane and Loki to let them know the time we are leaving in the morning. I toss and turn for a bit, but I am wide awake. I need to bake. Some people turn to music, cleaning, drinking, whatever to calm them down, I bake. I get up, change into a pair of shorts and a tank top. I pull my hair back, then head for the kitchen. I have to go through the bar to get to it, and I am hoping that I don’t run into Pyro. Tires spots me as soon as I start through and comes over to me. “Pyro is gone. Lynch sent him away. Had a couple of guys follow him and deliver him to Tonks. What’re you up to?”

“Thank God he’s gone. I was dreading running into him. I can’t sleep. My mind is all jumbled up, so I’m going to bake.”

He just smiles, gives me a tight hug. “Make us something good.”

I laugh as I walk into the kitchen. I get all the things out that I need to make a lemon blueberry pound cake. It’s one of Dad’s favorites and I know several of the other guys like it. It’s simple to make, and it gives me the peace I need to get my hands covered in flour. I think about what happened with Pyro. What happened to him to make him act that way? He’s always flirted and joked around, but he’s never said anything about wanting to date, or anything like that, until Club Myst. Have I just missed the signs because I don’t think of him in that light? He knew how I felt about Cotton. Loki told him. He had a weird look in his eyes that I’d noticed. He had the same look in his eyes at the birthday party, at Myst too.

I mix everything together then gently fold in my blueberries. After pouring it in the bundt pan, I place it in the oven. Still needing something else to do, I make Bethany and the other kids some cupcakes. Then I start on a pecan turtle ice cream cake. I cover the pecans with caramel for an extra burst of flavor. I get that in the freezer and clean up the mess I’ve made. The pound cake and cupcakes are done, so I make icing for them both. Just a light blueberry glaze for the pound cake, and a vanilla icing for the cupcakes. I add a few drops of food coloring and swirl it to make it look tie dyed. It’s now a cute pink and blue. I set everything in the fridge, then finish cleaning up my mess. I’m still not sleepy. Maybe I should go back to my room and read some. I’ve several MC books on my kindle. I love them, they’re my guilty pleasure. I one-clicked so many books, by what are called indie authors. I turn the light off to the kitchen and head back to my room. The bar is empty now. Seems that the guys have finally drank all they wanted, I know a few of them were with a club girl.

I try to be quiet as I head back to my room. I turn down the hallway and see Beth at my door with Bethany. “Hey girl, what’s wrong?” I ask her.

“Oh, Saige, I’ve to go. My mom called, my aunt is in the hospital. They don’t think she’s going to make it. I was wondering if you would mind keeping Bethany for a couple of days? I really don’t want to drag her into the hospital and be around all that. She’s only two, I know she’ll want to run around and play.” Beth has tears pouring down her face.

Source Creation Date: July 9, 2025, 1:59 am

“Hey, calm down. Of course, I’ll keep her. I’m so sorry about your aunt. Who’s taking you to the hospital? I don’t think you should drive, also we’re to have a patch with us if we go out.” I hug her and take Bethany from her, trying my best not to wake her. Thank goodness she is a heavy sleeper.

Beth giggles, “Believe it or not, Dad said he would take me. I know that he and Mom don’t get along, especially since the divorce, but he really likes my aunt and they still talk a lot.”

“Okay, Beth. You go get ready. I have some outfits in here for Bethany. I promise to take good care of her. You call me if you need anything.” Beth hugs me again and takes off. I get Bethany in my room, lay her on my bed while I get changed into pjs again, and pull out her little toddler bed that I have. I get the sheets on it, then grab her favorite blanket of mine. I gently move her from my bed to hers, I get into bed, grabbing my kindle. I pull up the story I started on. It’s so good. I get a few chapters read before my eyes start getting tired. I look over to check on Bethany, then I go to sleep.

“Sai?Why is I in your room?” I look out of the bathroom at Bethany. I’ve already showered and dressed. I decide to leave my hair loose today. I rarely do that, but I know with all the stress today with going to look at these buildings, if I pull my thick hair up, it would help a headache along.

“Hey, sweetpea. Did you sleep well? Your momma had to go see your grandma and great aunt. So we’re going to have a sleepover for a few days. Is that okay?” She looks up at me and smiles. I knew she would like that. “Come on and let’s get you dressed. We’re going to go out for breakfast with Loki, Cotton, and Sloane. How does that

sound?”

“Yippee! Oh yeth. I wanna go!” I laugh as I get her dressed and fix her hair. There’s a knock at my door, and she runs over to open it before I can stop her. Cotton is there and he smiles down at Bethany but looks at me with a quizzical look.

“Beth had to go for a few days, so I have her.” He nods as he bends down to her level.

“Hey there, beautiful. Are you going out to eat with us?” She just grins really big, nods her head, her little braids bouncing off her shoulders. “Alright, I think they have those happy face pancakes you like.” I laugh as her eyes get huge. She is so excited. “You ready to go? Loki and Sloane are in the common room waiting on us.” I smile at him, grab my purse and her extra clothes, I know she gets messy when she eats, and we are off.

Bethany runs up and hugs Loki’s leg. “I go with you. I want thmiley face pancakes.”

Loki laughs as he picks her up. “You do? Wonder if they’ll let me and Sloane order those pancakes? Or are they just for special little girls?”

She laughs, “You too old.”

“Too old? Oh, man. I really want those pancakes.” He pouts at her.

“I thare. Don’t cry, Loki.” I smile watching the byplay. Loki will be such a great father someday. I sigh.

“What was that about?” Cotton asks. All of them look at me.

“I’m starving and whittling away to nothing, and y’all are just standing here talking

about pancakes. My stomach is gnawing on itself,” I say laughing. They all laugh too.

“Well let’s go. I can’t have you dying of hunger on my watch.” He winks at me. I grab Bethany’s car seat from the hall closet, as we head outside. Loki and Sloane are getting on his bike, as Cotton heads over to his truck. “Come on, I’ll drive.” Bethany takes my hand and we follow Cotton. He gets her seat in, helps her in and buckles her up. Then he opens my door. I look at him and as I go to thank him, he leans in and kisses me. Just a soft little kiss. Then he lifts me up, putting me in the truck, then shuts my door.

Nine

Cotton

Once everyone is situated, we head out to Mel’s Diner. Mel had started the diner up back in the fifties, and he was still going strong. His grandson worked there as well. Loki pulls up beside us, and we all go in to get a booth. “Hey Mel, how’s it going?” I ask as the old man makes his way over.

“Everything is going great, young man. How are you all doing? And how is my little Bethany over there? Are you wanting happy face pancakes?” We all laugh as Bethany claps her hands, bouncing in the high chair. “I’ll take that as a yes,” he replies, chuckling. After we all order, Sloane and Saige started talking about the bakery. So I look at Loki, he just has this big shit eating grin on his face.

“What’s with the look, brother?” He just grins bigger, looks from me to Saige to Bethany. Yeah, I get what he is saying without him saying a word. I shake my head no, grinning, but on the inside, I am falling apart. I want that more than anything. To have Saige as my old lady, watch her grow round with our kids. But I know that I’m not good enough for her, I need to back off some. I realize that I have been leading her on, I can’t do that to her. She deserves someone that is whole, that can love her

the way she is meant to be loved. We get our food and the conversation around the table stops for a bit. Saige is helping Bethany by cutting up her pancakes. God she is so beautiful.

I feel a shiver down my spine and know someone is watching us. I straighten up, give Loki a kick under the table, and we both start looking around. It doesn't take long for us to see who is staring at us. I notice her right away. She is watching Saige, Loki, and Bethany. When she notices that I am staring back at her she smiles. She looks familiar, but I can't place her right now. Short blondish hair, tall, slim. She walks by us with her takeout bag, stops, staring down at Bethany. She smiles at Saige, stating, "I'm sorry to disturb you, I just saw and heard that precious baby. Is she yours?"

Saige smiles, "No, she is my niece. I'm just babysitting today."

"Oh, well she is beautiful. Y'all have a great day."

I nod at her, as Saige says, "Thank you. You too."

Waiting until the woman is out the door, I look at Saige asking, "Do you know who that woman was?"

She shakes her head no, replying, "I feel like I should know her though. It's just an odd feeling I have."

"Yeah, I felt it too, like I've seen her before," Loki says.

I look to Loki, "Hey, let's go outside and wait. I know Bethany has to be cleaned up right quick. We really need to be going if we're going to meet that realtor in time." Loki and I head outside.

"Who and what was that? Did it not give you the creeps? I mean she stared at us like

she knew who Saige and I were. Then to come over and stare at Saige even more. Hell, she acted disappointed when Saige said Bethany was her niece,” Loki says. Yeah, he is getting worked up. All of us having a feeling like we should know the woman and not being able to place her is getting to him.

Source Creation Date: July 9, 2025, 1:59 am

“We’ll figure out who she is. Meantime, we keep a close eye on Saige. I don’t like the fact that we haven’t heard anything about the Ghosts of Darkness. We know that they’re still around here, but them being quiet like this, I know something big is going to happen.” Loki nods his agreement as the girls come out of the diner. I look over at them. Damn Saige looks so beautiful. I can’t help staring at her.

“You girls ready?” Sloane nods. She gets on the back of Loki’s bike, as I put Bethany in her car seat. “Let’s go.”

We’re looking at the second building with this realtor, and she hasn’t left my side, talking to me about the places, not Saige. I can see that Saige is getting irritated, I kinda like it, but I look at the woman and interrupt her spiel. “Look, I appreciate you telling us all about this place and the last one. But it isn’t me that you need to butter up. I’m not buying the place. Saige is.”

The woman turns red, but looks to Saige, “I apologize. I knew you were looking, but I thought that you were just going to be baking the stuff, that the club would own the building.”

Saige smiles, but it doesn’t meet her eyes, “No. I’ll be the sole owner and baking. Sloane’ll be working with me. The club has nothing to do with this.”

She nods, and goes back into her spiel, talking to Saige now. This building is a lot bigger than the other one. It was a bakery before, is right in the middle of town, and it has everything Saige will need. We go over to a corner to talk over the buildings. Really wasn’t much to talk over. The girls knew which one they wanted, and finally Saige is signing papers. Now to get back to the clubhouse. I need to get to

work in the garage.

Ten

Saige

A few weeks later...

The day was a great one, for the most part. Sloane and I worked our butts off to get this place open. We baked and decorated for two days straight. Saige's Sweet Treats is now open to the public. Most of the club was here to help out for the day. We did a huge grand opening, with door prizes, a cake walk, samples for people, and it was a huge success. We already have orders for a couple of birthday cakes, and a retirement party. The only thing that would have made today better was if Cotton wasn't acting so weird towards me again. I thought maybe we were headed towards a relationship, but after the day we signed papers for the bakery, he's gone back to ignoring me, or being snippy. I have no clue what I have done to set him off like that. I just know it hurts.

Loki is staying behind to be with me and Sloane as we close and clean up for the day. There was a prospect here too, but I told him to go ahead and leave, since Loki was here. Yeah, Dad will be pissed at me for not having the two patches and a prospect with me, but it's been almost a month, with nothing from the Ghosts. So I let the guy go home. He was so tired. I guess that was my first mistake. The second was letting Sloane and Loki take off a few minutes before I did. As I'm getting my stuff in my saddlebag and grabbing my helmet, I'm hit from behind. Everything goes black as I feel arms go around me before I hit the ground, passing out completely.

Oh my God my head is pounding, and I can't move my arms. I slowly open my eyes to see that I'm in a room with a couple of men staring at me. "It's about time you woke up, bitch!" a man snarls at me. I look at him and see that he's wearing a

President's patch on a cut. He is disgusting and evil looking, that's the only thing I can think, looking at him. He has greasy brown hair, an overgrown beard, a belly that is protruding over his pants. He has tattoos and a long scar on his face. It finally hits me; I am looking at Rancor.

"What do you want with me?" I ask.

Rancor sneers. "You're going to be my payback to your club. Stone never should've tried stopping us. Just because my old man got put in jail and killed, doesn't mean that we were going to stop. You're going to be sold to the highest bidder. You're going to make me a lot of money and it'll destroy your father in the process. I can't wait to see who buys you. I'm going to make sure that you're treated the way you deserve, bitch."

"You think you scare me? My club will find me, and they'll stop you! Your whole club will be put to ground!" He steps closer to me, then punches me hard. I see black again and hurt like hell, but I try not to show any emotion at all to him.

He laughs. "Oh, you're going to be so fun to break." He walks out of the room slamming the door behind him, locking it.

"Are you okay?" a small voice asks. I look towards the sound and see a beautiful woman, tied up about ten feet away from me.

"I think so, are you okay? My name is Saige, what's yours? How long have you been here?"

She looks at me, "I'm Bexley. I think I'm okay, just scared. I try not to let them see it. They took me from work a couple of days ago. Said they were going to sell me to the highest bidder and that I would make them a lot of money. He won't take pictures of us right now. Said they have to get the right clothes to put on us."

“Where are you from, Bexley? I really love your name by the way.” I’m trying to stay calm by talking to her. She is the only other person in here.

“I’m from Texas originally, but I moved here about a year ago for a job. I’m an accountant at the Jefferson Bank.” I nod. I know that bank.

“I just opened up my bakery. Today was our grand opening. I can’t believe I was so stupid in letting Loki and Sloane leave without me. I let my guard down. We knew that this club was around, but they hadn’t made a move or anything. They were quiet. I’ll find a way to get us out of here, Bexley. My dad, brother, and cousin will be looking for me. I’m not leaving here without you.”

“What was he talking about, your dad stopping them before?”

I sigh, “It was several years ago. Rancor’s dad was the president of the Ghosts of Darkness. He was running drugs and guns through our town, along with a sex trafficking ring. At the time, my dad was still working for the police department. He and a few others went in, busted up the gang at the time. Rancor’s dad, Snake, and his Sargent at Arms, Hellboy, went to prison. They were both murdered there. It wasn’t long after that, that my dad left the department. See our MC is mostly LEOs, former LEOs, military, firefighters, EMTs. Not all but most of them have worked or still work in those fields. I guess Rancor has been building up the gang and learning some new tricks since all that happened. I’m so sorry that you are caught up in it.”

Bexley smiles. “It isn’t your fault. And if we work together, hopefully we can get out of here soon.”

“Absolutely.” We talk a little bit more, but my head is hurting so bad that I can’t fight it anymore and fall asleep.

Eleven

Cotton

“Hey Loki, Sloane, where is Saige? Stone is looking for her.”

“What do you mean where is she? She isn’t here? We all left at the same time.” Loki is looking at me like I have grown horns. He takes off running outside to see if her bike is here.

Page 12

Source Creation Date: July 9, 2025, 1:59 am

“Sloane, where is she?”

Sloane looks out the door. “I don’t know, Cotton. She was putting her stuff in her bag and putting her helmet on when we started out of the parking lot. I thought she was right behind us, because I could hear another bike.” Sloane is crying, and Loki comes back in shaking his head.

“She was right behind us. I tried calling her, but it’s going straight to voicemail. What the hell, man?” Loki’s really upset.

“Come on, we need to let Stone know.”

They walk into Stone’s office with me. He looks up, sees Sloane crying, and Loki all upset. “What is going on?”

“Saige isn’t here, and she isn’t answering her phone. They said she was right behind them when they left the bakery, but she isn’t here, man.”

Stone pushes back from his desk, yelling, “Get out there and look for her!” Just as we are leaving his office a prospect runs in, the same one that was supposed to be watching out for her.

“Excuse me, Pres, some guy just dropped this off at the front gate, said it was important that you get it asap.” He hands over a letter to Stone.

I look at him, see that his hair is wet from a shower and ask, “Where were you this evening? You were supposed to stay with Saige, make sure she made it home safely!”

The prospect looks at me and actually grins at me.

“She told me to head back here. She saw how tired I was. I didn’t want to leave her, but she ordered me to.”

“You are to stay with her at all times if you are ordered by your presto watch her! Go get Cruz, have him and Tires get in here now! I will deal with you later!” Stone snarls. The prospect takes off down the hall. A few minutes later the guys come in. “Sloane, sweetheart, I need you to go to out with Stella and wait, okay?” She leaves the room; the door is shut behind her.

“What’s going on, Dad?” Tires asks. He looks to me also.

“We just got a letter from the Ghosts. Apparently, they have Saige. The note says if we ever want to see her again, we need to keep an eye out on the dark web. Cotton, I want you, Tires, and Loki to go back to the bakery, see if you can find anything. Check the security cameras from the buildings around hers. Cruz, you and I are going to go get Tech, see if he can find anything out on the computer. The man is a genius, if anyone can find out about this dark net, he can. I’m going to put in a call to Commander Thomas. See if he can find out anything too. I want my daughter home, now!”

Tires, Loki, and I ride out to the bakery. When we get there, we see Saige’s bike still parked at the back door. Her saddlebags are wide open. Loki opens the door and goes inside to check it out. Tires and I go to the buildings next door and ask for their security camera feeds. Loki comes running out and hollers for us to get inside with him. “You have to see this! Now!” He pulls up the video and we see a big man with the Ghosts cut come up behind her, hitting her on the head, hard. He is pulling her over to a dark SUV and damned if Pyro doesn’t open the back door to pull her in it.

“That son of a bitch! I’ll kill him when we find them!” Tires yells. He has his phone

out, dialing Stone. I'm just standing here, staring at the screen, feeling like my world is crashing down around me. I have to find her. I have to get her back, safe.

Tires breaks through my thoughts, saying, "Dad wants us back at the clubhouse. He said to bring the tapes and come straight to church. Tech found something also." I nod, grab the tape, and we head out. We have to find out what is going on, where she is and fast.

We get back to clubhouse, and Sloane runs up to Loki, "Have you found anything out, is she okay?" She is still crying.

Loki walks her towards his mom, stating, "Babe, I have to go into church. I'll tell you what I can, when we get out. Go sit with my mom, okay?" She goes to Stella, who is also crying, and we go into church.

"Stone, we need y'all to see this video."

"Put it in the player, Cotton." I set it up, then hit play. Everyone is watching it, holding their breath. When they see Pyro pulling her into that SUV, everyone yells out.

"What the hell is going on?" Lynch asks. "He was followed back to Morriston and left there with Tonks. Has anyone heard from Tonks?" Rubble grabs up his phone and dials him.

"It's going straight to voicemail, Pres."

"Son of a bitch!" Lynch yells. "Stone, if I'd known anything about this, I would've told you."

Stone replies, "I know, Lynch. It'll be handled, brother. Tech, show them what you

found, let us know what it means.”

I sit down next to Stone and watch Tech hook his computer up to the tv so we can see what he has found.

“The note said that if we wanted to see Saige again to look on the dark net. That’s what I did. I found her and some other girl on a site. They’re being auctioned off in three days, it says the auction will run for two weeks. Highest bidder gets the girls. I can’t find the IP address yet that this is posted from. It’s bouncing off a lot of towers. But I will find it.” The video that Tech found shows Saige and another girl huddled up together in their underwear. They’re tied together, it says bidding and more photos to come soon.

Stone starts delegating to us all, “Tech, I want you to stay on this site. See if you can crack that IP address. Also, if bidding starts before we find them, bid on them both. We aren’t leaving that other girl behind. Cotton, I want you to go with me and Tires to show all of this to Commander Thomas. He is expecting us. Lynch, you and Rubble, keep trying to get Tonks. If you have to, send someone to look for him. And try seeing if Pyro will answer you. Call him. Tech, try triangulating his cell phone. He may have a burner now, who knows, but try. Cruz, take a couple of guys with you and Loki, see if you can find any of those bastards out anywhere, and if you do, get them back here for a little chat.” We all leave to get to work on finding Saige and that other girl. I just hope we can get to them before anything more happens to them.

Twelve

Saige

Bexley and I have been stripped down to just lingerie they made us put on after we showered, and left tied up together. Now this slime ball is taking our pictures, adjusting his junk the whole time. It’s making me sick, but I won’t let them know it.

Bexley is trying to be strong and not show her emotions either. She is trying to draw strength from me, and I'm drawing strength from her. Rancor comes in, watching as the guy takes our pictures. He stares at me the whole time, as I glare back at him. "I'm not going to touch you yet, Saige. But if you don't pull in the amount of money I want, I may just keep you for myself or my brother. I would love to be the one to break you. You have so much spirit, and fight in you. It would be a pleasure to take that from you." He laughs. I just stare back at him, not saying a word, which pisses him off. "Let's go! You have enough photos for now." Once they leave the room slamming the door, I relax into Bexley.

Source Creation Date: July 9, 2025, 1:59 am

“Bex, we’ve to get out of here. I know my dad and club are looking for us. I just hope they find us soon.” She just leans into me. We’ve learned a lot about each other, and I really like her. Bexley has beautiful ginger hair, blue eyes, and a kickass attitude. We are quickly becoming friends, and when we get out of here, I’m having her brought into the clubhouse for safety. Sloane and Stella will love her. Just as I go to ask her a question the door opens again. I look up, only to see Pyro. What the fuck?! He comes in the room and sits right in front of me.

“Hey, Saige. See what happens when you don’t listen to me? If you would’ve just listened to me, you’d be safe. But no. You had to defy me, make me look like a fool, again!”

“Pyro, what the hell are you doing with them, here?”

“Hmph, that’s what you’re worried about? Well seeing as how you’re going to be sold, and I get a lot of money out of it, and you’ll not be seen or heard from again.... Rancor is my half-brother. Several years older than me, as you can tell. I found out from Mom when she was on her death bed. I reached out to him, we talked. Got to know each other. I saw what they were doing, the money that they were making. I wanted in. All I had to do was spy on the Vipers. Easy enough, seeing as how I am one. If you’d just go along with my plan, you would be my old lady, and we would be rolling in the dough right now, figuratively and literally. But now, I get to watch and hear you beg me to help you. And believe me, Saige, you’ll start begging soon enough.” With that he grabs me by the hair, smashing his mouth onto mine. I try to turn away from him. Pyro gets angry, and bites my lip, making it bleed, before he walks out of the room, slamming the door behind him, laughing the whole time. For the first time, I let my fear show a little.

“Saige, we’ll get out of here, somehow, together. Can you untie the knots behind me?” I look at Bexley and grin. She turns away from me and I get to work trying to undo the knot in the rope that had her arms tied behind her. She keeps listening to see if she hears anyone coming near the door. There’s a knock at the door, so we hurry and turn towards it, right as it opens. This is the first time someone has knocked. The blonde woman from the diner walks in, carrying food. “Saige, you look so much like your father. You’ve grown to be such a beautiful woman,” she says.

“Who are you?” I ask, as she unties us both. I notice the gun in the back of her jeans, so I don’t try anything yet.

She smiles and whispers, “I’m Tonya, your mother. Rancor doesn’t know, no one here does. I left you with Stone, I had to get away before anyone found out about you. You see, I wasn’t one of those women that was being abused that your dad and his club saved. I used them as a way out. I pretended to be scared and clung to your dad. I really fell for him, I knew I was safe there with him. That is until I saw Rancor one day. He didn’t see me, and I thank God for that. I was about ready to have you. I always told him I couldn’t have kids. I made up my mind then and there, that I had to leave to keep you safe. I never wanted to leave you, but I knew your dad could do it on his own. He was a wonderful father to Cooper already. So, I told the doctor and nurse when I went into labor that I was a surrogate for him. I left not long after you were born. I left town, went to a doctor who did a hysterectomy for me for the right amount of money, when I was healed up from that, I was going to leave, go west. But Rancor found me. I’ve been stuck ever since. I did what I felt I had to do to keep you safe.” I am staring at this woman, and I can see a slight resemblance.

“So, what was that at the diner, talking to me? Were you helping them to get me? And how did you know who I was?”

She gasps, “NO! I would never have helped them to get you. I saw you, I just had to hear your voice, see if that little girl was my granddaughter. My cousin is a member

of the MC and has sent me pictures of you throughout the years. Your dad doesn't know that Grange is related to me. I'm going to do my best to get you girls out of here. I found your phone in your clothes, and I called Stone. I told him where we were, that I was going to help. You're my daughter, I'll not see you sold or hurt by that bastard." Bexley looks at her, then at me.

Bexley gives me an encouraging smile, "I know this is a lot Saige, but I believe her. I see it in her eyes."

"Okay, Tonya, we'll take all the help we can get."

She smiles, her eyes teary. "How is your dad doing? Has he moved on?"

"Umm. Yeah. He's good. He is dating a wonderful lady that Cooper and I both adore. Cooper is great too. Owns his own garage, makes custom bikes and repairs."

Tonya grins. "He was always tinkering with things when he was little, and man could that boy draw. What about you? Do you have a special someone?"

I look at her. I'm still having trouble trusting her completely. "No. There is a guy that I like, but it isn't leading anywhere. And you saw the bakery." She looks at me. "Yeah, I saw you there, then you took off without coming in. You saw Dad, didn't you?"

"Yes, I couldn't let him see me. If Rancor saw or knew.... anyways, I'm going to go get you both some clothes, and try to get ahold of Stone again. Act the part they expect. I'll have you both out of here soon." She ties us up loosely, hands in front of us, after we eat, and with that she leaves the room.

"Bexley, I don't know if my head can handle much more today. I meet my mother, and to know that someone that I grew up with and cared about did this to me...." A

tear slips from my eye.

She hugs up against me close. “It’s going to be okay. I’ll help you out any way I can. I don’t have many friends; I hope we are for a long time after we get out of here.”

“Are you kidding? You and I are bffs always.” We both laugh. “Bex, I want you to come stay at the clubhouse with us when we get out. I want to know that you are safe.”

She nods. “I would like that. Maybe I can switch jobs to be closer too. Hey, are there any hot guys there?”

I laugh. “Hell yeah! I have a thing for Cotton. He has snow white hair, and the grayest eyes you have ever seen. I think my brother would try to go for you. And as for a job, I need someone to do my books for me at the bakery. You can even help baking or out front too, if you want to. I can teach you all the tricks.”

“That’s settled then. Let’s hope Tonya gets back to us to fast.”

I nod in agreement. This has been two long weeks from hell.

Thirteen

Stone

I look down at my ringing phone to see Saige’s number. I pull Tires, Cotton, Cruz, and Tech into the room with me, and put it on speaker. “Saige, baby girl, is that you?”

“No, Stone. But I can help you get her and that other girl out, but it has to be soon.”

My eyes go wide as I look at Cruz. “Tonya?”

Sighing she says, “Yes, it’s me. Rancor has our girl. He doesn’t know that she is my daughter, and in order to keep us all alive, it must stay that way. I need you to listen to me. They’re being held at the old Boston warehouse. He’s started the auction already, and the bidding is going crazy. I’m going to try to sneak them in some clothes and have them ready to get out of there. You have to go through the back. It’s not protected. The front is where the whole gang is. Hurry!” The phone goes dead.

Tech grins, “I got it, Pres. They’re at the old Boston warehouse like she said. I also have hacked into the camera on Saige’s phone. We can see and hear everything that the camera does.”

Source Creation Date: July 9, 2025, 1:59 am

“Okay, we need to get ready. Everyone get your shit together, meet in the common room in five minutes. We’re going to go get my girl back.” I look at Cruz as the others head out to grab their gear. “What the hell, man? Tonya?! I don’t know if we can trust her. You know what she did to me and the kids. Cooper adored her. And now suddenly, she saysourgirl? What the hell is going on? Saige has been missing for two weeks, she waits until the last minute to call?”

Cruz puts a hand on my shoulder, saying, “Calm down a little, Stone. Tech is keeping watch on the phone camera, and the site he found the girls on. It may be that she couldn’t find a way to get to the girls, or get a call out until now, but I also find it a little weird that she is involved.”

I look at Cruz, run my fingers through my hair, and sigh. “I just want to get my girl back and know that she is safe. I can’t let anything happen to her.”

Cruz pats my shoulder. “We’ll get her. Let’s go.”

Fourteen

Saige

I must’ve noddedoff a little after I ate the food Tonya had brought us and loosely tied us back up, so as not to raise suspicion. I startle as the door bangs open against the wall. Pyro walks in followed by Poppy of all people. I don’t know what the hell is going on, have all my friends gone crazy? Pyro pushes Poppy towards me. “Untie her, Poppy. Then you can go back out there and suck some dick with your sister.” She grins at him as she comes over to untie me.

“Hey, bitch. You are going to love what Pyro is going to do. He has the biggest dick I have ever seen and had.” She pushes me a little, and gets the rope undone.

I punch her as soon as my hands are free. She falls back, clutching her mouth and nose. “Go suck some dick with a few less teeth and a broken nose, bitch!”

Pyro pulls her to her feet and pushes her out the door, shutting it. “That was really funny, Saige. Now come here!”

“No.” That one little word makes him so mad, and he has that look in his eyes again. I look around for something that I can use as a weapon. I know I can’t take him on without one. I might make him hurt, but I can’t knock him out on my own.

Bexley is looking around too, but before she can do anything, Pyro handcuffs her to the pole in the middle of the room. “Can’t have you trying to interfere with my plans, now can I, Red?”

Now he faces me again and walks towards me. I try to stand my ground and show him no emotions whatsoever, but Pyro knows me. He grew up with me. Oh my God, why is he doing this? I trusted him with my life at one time. Now I feel so confused and totally petrified with fear. He grabs my arm, jerking me into his body. “You and I, we’re going to have some fun before Rancor closes the bidding. We’ve got two hours, I want to take as long as possible with you. I even have the winning bid on you so far.” He sneers. He pushes me down on the filthy mattress, and he takes his shirt off before getting on top of me. I start hitting and fighting as much as I can, I even scratch his face pretty hard. Before I even see it coming, he punches me, and everything goes black.

Fifteen

Bexley

I start screaming at Pyro to get off Saige, to come and take me instead, but he just laughs, “Don’t worry, Red, you’re next.” He jerks Saige’s bra off and licks her, then I see him bite her hard enough to make her bleed. I start yelling again. I am going to do whatever I can to try to keep him from raping my friend.

“Hey! Someone come help us! Help! He’s trying to rape her!!!! Someone Help!”

He gets up off of Saige and walks over, getting in my face. “Bitch, if you don’t stop yelling, I will knock you out! I thought you would like to watch, but I’m guessing not.” He punches me hard in the side. I fall to the floor, gasping. I see him undo his pants and walk back towards Saige, and I try to yell again, but he turns and kicks me in the temple before I can make a sound.

Sixteen

Saige

I slowly start to come to, when I hear Bexley yelling. Oh my God! Is he trying to rape her? I look around, only to see Bexley is now knocked out and Pyro is leaning over me, stroking his dick. He has me completely naked now, and I can’t move my arms. He has me handcuffed around a pipe that is attached to the wall by the mattress. “Ah, Saige, I see you’re finally awake. Are you ready to be mine? Because, I’m going to have you either way. You’ll be mine!” he says as he pushes my legs apart and tries to stick his fingers in me. I start twisting and kicking, trying to fight him off.

“Get off of me! Leave me alone! I never was, nor will I ever be yours!” He’s still trying to get my legs spread, and he punches me in the left side. I actually hear and feel my ribs crack. I stop moving for a second, because of the pain and I can’t breathe. He bites my thigh hard enough to draw blood, and I start kicking and screaming again. He sticks his fingers in me, and leans down to lick me, but he stops, just pumping his fingers in me. I am screaming again, tears running down my face. He

has bitten me in several places and drawn blood at each. He leans back on his knees, and the son of a bitch is smiling the evilest smile I have ever seen.

He starts to palm his dick again. “Are you ready for me, Saige? I could feel the thin web of your virginity, and I’m so ready to take it.”

I take the chance and pull my right leg up and kick him in the dick, screaming at him, calling him everything in the book. He falls over to the side, holding himself, red faced, cussing me. I’m still screaming at him when the door busts open. I look over to see Cotton lifting his gun, and I pass out from the pain.

Seventeen

Cotton

We are following the plan that Stone made, and I’m slowly making my way down a hallway with Tires and Loki at my back. We watch as Stone, Cruz, Lynch, Rubble, and a few others make their way down the back side of the building to go take on the guys we saw going into the front. There were ten that we had counted, and Rancor had Tonya in a death grip yelling at her. I bet he found out that she was trying to help. We start back down the hall slowly until we hear screaming, and I realize it’s Saige. We take off running towards the sound, finding the door that her screams are coming from behind. I try to turn the knob, but it is locked.

I look at Tires, saying, “It’s locked.” He stands beside me and we both kick the door, busting it open. I get in first only to see Pyro holding his dick on the ground cussing, Saige on a mattress naked, bleeding, and bruised. The red-haired girl is on the ground handcuffed to a pole, not moving. Pyro looks up and smiles at me. I pull my gun and as I reach for the trigger, Tires fires his Glock. Pyro falls back with a bullet hole between his eyes, still smiling.

I look at Tires, saying, “Search his clothes for the keys to those cuffs.”

Loki and I go over to Saige, blocking her body from anyone seeing her. Tires grabs Pyro’s pants, then throws me a set of keys. I get the cuffs undone, slowly lowering Saige’s arms. I see her side is bruised really bad. Damn, that asshole broke one or more of her ribs. Her beautiful face is covered in bruises. Then I notice her breasts. That son of a bitchin’ whore! He bit her so hard that it drew blood. I wish he was still alive so that I could kill him again.

Page 15

Source Creation Date: July 9, 2025, 1:59 am

I take my shirt off and I have Loki help me get it on her. Once she is covered, I look over to see Tires putting his shirt on the other girl. I pull out my phone and ring Stone. He said no matter what was going on, call him when we found her. I also call Doc to get him to the room.

“Where is she?!” We hear Stone yelling as he comes down the hall.

“Dad, in here!” Tires yells. Stone comes running in the room followed by Doc and Cruz.

“Oh, my baby girl! What’ve they done to you?!” Stone comes over to the mattress Saige is on, and I reluctantly move over so that he can be by her.

Doc starts checking her out. I watch him and say, “Doc, she has some bite marks on her, and there was some blood on the inside of her legs. Also, I think he broke a couple of her ribs.”

Stone gets up, goes over to Pyro’s body, and starts kicking it. “Wake up, so I can kill you myself you little bastard!” We all watch as Stone lets some of his rage out. Finally, he starts to slow down.

Cruz puts his hand on his shoulder. “Our girl is going to need you thinking straight, brother. Come on, let’s get these girls out of here and to the hospital. They both need to be checked out.”

Sighing, Stone turns towards us. “Doc, can they be moved safely, or do we need to call Commander Thomas, have him bring ambulances for the girls?”

Doc looks over the other girl and comes back to Saige. “I hate to say this Pres, but they both have a couple of broken ribs and possibly concussions. It would be best for them to go in the ambulance. Wolfe and Hawke are on shift today. I’ll make sure that they are the ones to take them. That way this stays in the club. I’ll call them now.”

I look at Stone, “Pres, we’ll still need to call Commander Thomas. He needs to know we found them.”

He looks around the room, “Yeah, I’ll call him. Let him know, let him know that Rancor and a few others got away. Tech found the computer, it showed that the auction was over and that both of them had been sold. So, we’ll have to find out to who, and keep them safe.”

Tires looks at his dad and states, “I’m the one that shot Pyro. I told him if he ever touched her again, I’d kill him. I’m going to ride with Saige in the ambulance.” Stone nods. Loki is still holding Saige’s hand, and he is just staring at her face. I know that he feels like it is his fault that she got taken. And in my mind, I blamed him too. But now that we have her back, I have to focus on her and let it go. It’s what she would want.

Wolfe and Hawke get the girls in the ambulance, with Tires riding with them. Stone wanted Loki and I to follow and stay with them. Doc is already waiting for us at the hospital. Cruz and the others stayed with Stone to talk to Commander Thomas. They’ll be coming to the hospital shortly. I just pray that what these two went through, that they come out of it okay.

Eighteen

Bexley

I’m awake, but I don’t open my eyes. I try to fight through the pain I am feeling. I

smell antiseptic and hear some beeping noises, so I open my eyes to see that I'm in a hospital room. I take in my surroundings and see that there is an Adonis with beautiful green eyes staring at me. "Hey, welcome back to the land of the living. What's your name?"

"Bex...Bexley. Can I have some water? Who are you?" He gets up, puts a straw in a cup, bringing the straw to my lips.

"Slowly. Take sips." I stare at him the whole time. I'm a little wary of him. "I'm Tires," he says.

My eyes widen. "Saige's brother? Where, how is she? How long have we been here? I tried to help her, but I was handcuffed and then he hit me, knocking me out." Tears are streaming down my face. I can't stop them as I think about what was happening to my friend, and I couldn't do anything to help her.

Tires sets the cup down, then looks down at me, "Hey now, calm down. She's gonna be okay. She wasn't raped. She was able to fight back a little, and we found you both in time. She has some bruises, has a couple cracked ribs, and a mild concussion. Speaking of, you're in the same boat. The doctor wrapped your ribs, put you on a strong antibiotic. They just want to make sure infection doesn't set up in the cuts and scrapes you have. You've been here for a few days. You've been in and out of it, mostly out."

"Thank you. How long will I have to stay here? I know Saige said she wanted me to come to the clubhouse with her. I would really like to see her."

He smiles at me. "My aunt already has a room ready for you at the clubhouse. Saige demanded it when she woke up. You both should be getting out of here today. I'll go check with the doc and see if we can get you both out of here soon. Also, they have a therapist coming in to talk to you both." He winks at me as he walks out the door. Oh,

dear Lord, that man is going to turn my world upside down. I can feel it. My heart is already skipping beats just from looking at him.

Nineteen

Saige

I've been home a couple of weeks. I wake up screaming at night from nightmares, some nights, several times. Loki is usually right there and calms me down. He really hasn't left my side. I barely make it to the bathroom alone. I know he feels like it's his fault, that he's trying to make it up to me. I've tried talking to him, letting him know that I don't blame him. I blame myself, as I should. I let the prospect leave when he wasn't supposed to, then I let Loki and Sloane leave out before I was ready. I was afraid everyone would crowd me in, but mostly everyone has been great, just letting me be.

Lynch came to me the other day and begged for me to forgive him for not taking care of Pyro before all of this happened. I remember telling him there was nothing to forgive him for. He had no control over what Pyro did. We had a funeral for Tonks, it was a beautiful send off. After the funeral, Dad had pulled me and Bexley into his office. He said that we would have to have at least two to three patches with us if we walk out of the clubhouse doors, that Rancor and a few others got away. I asked about Poppy and Lilly, he said that they were dead, that he was sorry about my friends. I told him about Poppy and said they were no friends of mine. I was glad they were gone. Then I asked about Tonya, only to find out she is missing. I reckon Rancor took her. He also said that Tech is still trying to hunt down who it was that bid on us.

Bexley has taken to a few of the folks in the club, which makes me happy. She is such a great person. She and I are going to the bakery later today to go over a few things. I can't wait to get my hands back to making cakes and creating new things.

Sloane has done such a wonderful job of keeping things going for me. Our customers that had the special orders? They're awesome. They said that they would wait for me to be home and safe, not to worry about their orders. So, I'm going to make a few cakes today to be delivered to them all. My bruises have faded some, I refuse to cover them with makeup. I dress in a club tank top and some jeans. I grab up a scrunchie, then lock my room. I'm supposed to meet Sloane and Bexley in the common room with whoever is going to the bakery with us. I know Loki is going. He still won't leave my side.

I walk in to see Bex and Sloane at the table talking and laughing. I'm so glad that she is fitting in, that everyone is accepting her. Loki, Tires, Cotton, and Grange are standing by the door ready to go. "Hey girls. Y'all ready to go get some sweet things made and sold today?" They both laugh and we head out to my cage. I give Tires my keys, the others follow on their bikes. Bexley and I both still have a lot of pain from our cracked ribs. I'll be so happy to be back to one hundred percent. The bite marks have pretty much healed up and are at the itching stage. I just want to put all of this behind me. Move on. I see how Cotton, Tires, and my dad watch me all the time. It makes my anxiety higher. He pulls us up to the back door at the bakery, I go to unlock the door. When we all get inside, the guys go check everything out, then sit at one of the tables I have set up out front.

Sloane and I had talked with Bexley, and we thought that we should add some tables in case someone wanted to eat a sweet in the store. We even set up Wi-Fi. So now we are a bakery and sweets cafe. I had pulled Sloane aside one day to thank her for keeping the place running while I was trapped and gave her an envelope with some extra money. She deserved it. We get everything turned on, the ovens warming, and I get to work setting up what I need to make my first three cakes. Bexley goes up front to take inventory for the things that we need to replace and make. Sloane starts up the coffee and unlocks the front door, turning the open sign over.

I get my hands into the batter and I instantly calm. Sloane is making the cookies and

turnovers that are needed out front, and Bexley is running the register and serving those that come in to sit. I'm on my third cake when Loki comes in the kitchen to tell me that there is someone out front that I need to see. "Who is it?"

Source Creation Date: July 9, 2025, 1:59 am

“You’ll see.” He grins, walking back out. I get out front to see that the guys are making a spot at their table for a man in a wheelchair, and Bexley is getting him some coffee. Recognizing him right away, I grin, then grab a plate of cookies.

“Mr. Bumgardner, how’re you?” I ask as I set the cookies down.

“Saige, girl. You are a sight for sore eyes, dear. You look a lot better.” He takes my hand, patting it. I lean down to give him a hug the best that I can and kiss his cheek.

“You look good. I’m so happy that you are out of the hospital.” I turn as the door chimes, to see Dad walking in with Alma, Mr. Bumgardner’s sitter. I give her a light hug thanking her for bringing him by. “Come sit, we’ll get you some coffee or tea. And try the cookies. I made them just like he told me.” Alma laughs as she sits down.

Earl looks at me, and after he swallows the bit of cookie in his mouth says, “Saige, these cookies are amazing, girl. Peanut butter with chocolate chips. Mmmmm. Now which one of these yahoos is the one that won’t man up and understand what a catch you are?” Loki chokes on his coffee, Tires busts out laughing, and Cotton looks like he’s going to combust.

“Oh, Earl. You hush. You know my brother and cousin. You met them at the hospital.” My face has to be beet red, lordy kill me now.

“Ah yes, I do seem to remember those two there.” Dad got Earl onto a different subject and I swear it was like the rest of us have disappeared. It was good to see him though. Earl was in the hospital room beside mine, and he has dementia. He never had visitors other than Alma, his sitter, so I’d go over and see him. Most days his

memory was good, but then the others it wasn't.

Alma looks at her watch saying, "Earl, we're going to have to go if we're to make your appointment on time."

He nods, turning to me. "I'll come back again, Saigegirl. I'm so happy that you're home and doing okay. Now remember, you come out to the house and see me anytime. You can sit on the porch swing I have, and we'll just visit."

"Thank you, Earl. You take care. Here, you take this box of cookies to tide you over until I see you again, okay?" I kiss his cheek and give Alma a small hug. "Be safe."

She holds me to her, saying in my ear, "We will. Thank you for all that you do for him. He just loves you. He has claimed you as family."

I smile as they leave. Once they are in the car and gone, I turn to go back into the kitchen when Cotton goes off. "Where did you meet that crazy old man? Are you sure you can trust him?" I see red, I'm so mad.

"That 'crazy old man' as you put it, was in the hospital room beside mine. He is a Korean and Vietnam War veteran, a retired LEO, and has no family left. He also has dementia, so for him to come in here today and remember me, is a huge thing! He's the sweetest old man. I enjoy his company and hearing his stories. You don't like it, you can leave." I stomp off into the kitchen and set to work on some bread dough. I need to get some frustration out, beating the dough sounds like a good idea since I can't beat on Cotton.

"He's gone," Loki says still grinning from earlier.

"Who's gone?" I ask even though I know.

“Cotton. He took off not too long after you ripped him a new asshole.”

“Loki, who all is out front?”

He looks at me, “Umm, Tires, your dad, my dad, Grange, Wolfe. Why?”

“Do me a favor. You’ve hardly spent any time with Sloane in almost a month. Since all this went down. Get her, go somewhere. Out to eat, to the park, y’all’s special place, I don’t care where, just go. And don’t come bother me until tomorrow sometime. I can get Cooper to stay with me tonight if I need to.”

“You don’t want me around?”

“Lok, it isn’t that. It’s just that Sloane needs her boyfriend. She feels like you don’t care for her anymore. It’s really taking a toll on her. She feels like you blame her or something. I want you two to be happy. Please?”

“Yeah, I get it. Okay. I love you, BFF.”

“I love you too, BFF. Now go get your girl and get out of here!” He kisses my cheek; grabs Sloane and they head out. I look over to see Bexley grinning. “What?”

“You are such a hopeless romantic.” She giggles.

I smile, “Yeah. Now I need to get you set up with someone. Perhaps that good looking brother of mine?” I ask as I wiggle my eyebrows at her. Laughing she shakes her head no, going back out front.

Twenty

Cotton

I leave the bakery in a hurry. At first, I was mad at Saige, then at myself. I acted like a complete ass. How was I supposed to know who that man was? The whole time she was in the hospital, I had to do all the business side of things for the club. I only got to go see her once, but she was asleep at the time. Shaking my head, I get on my bike, taking off. I head towards the garage but end up turning out of town and just riding. I stop at a couple little stores that I see on the way back towards the clubhouse. I need to apologize to Saige, but I'm just not good with words. I notice that they aren't back from the bakery when I pull in and park my bike. That gives me time to put things up. I walk in to see Tech sitting at the table, his hands in his hair pulling, looking at a computer. "Hey man, what's up?" I ask.

"Cotton, this isn't good, man. The man that bought Saige and Bexley has put out a bounty on them. He wants them. He isn't going to stop until he has them. He has a couple of bounty hunters looking for them and Rancor. I still can't figure out his IP address and it's driving me crazy!"

"Hey man, calm down a little. Go get you a beer, we'll talk to Stone when he gets here, yeah?"

Source Creation Date: July 9, 2025, 1:59 am

“Yeah, okay.” He closes the laptop down then heads to the bar. I head down the hallway, then use the key I have to open Saige’s room. I put the roses on the table by her bed. I got her yellow ones, I know they’re her favorite. I pull out the teddy bear and books, sitting them up against her pillow. Lastly, I put the gallon of sweet tea in her little fridge, then lock the room. I head down to the bar, hoping she likes everything, and accepts my apology. When I get to the bar, I see Loki and Sloane over in the corner all snuggled up. I give him a chin lift, getting one back. I get a beer, walk over to talk to Bear, Hawke, and Ryker.

“What’s up, fellas?”

Ryker gives me a chin lift, stating, “Not much Cotton. We’re just getting ready to play some pool. Want to join?” I nod, going with them. We have a few pool tables and darts set up, everyone here loves to play. We aren’t playing long when a couple of the club whores come over, they start talking to and rubbing on a few of the guys. I see movement out of the corner of my eye, as a pair of arms go around me, and I try to push away.

“Dayna, you know not to touch me. Now get away.” She does that thing where she sticks her bottom lip out trying to pout, thinking it looks sexy. It looks stupid to me.

“Cotton, don’t be that way with me. I know you aren’t screwing any of the other girls, so I know you need to have some fun. You know I’ll do anything you want to. You need me baby, I know you want me.” She tries to rub up against me again. Why can’t this chick get it through her head, that I don’t want anything to do with her? Why does she have this crazy notion in her head that I’ll ever want to be with her?

“Dayna, you need to go find someone else to lay you. Cause it sure as hell won’t be me.” I push her away. Bear, seeing how things are going comes over, grabs her hand and rubs his crotch with it. Her eyes light up and she goes off with him, only because he has a patch and is the Road Captain. Damn, I wish they would just get rid of her. She loves to cause trouble and is only here because she thinks she’ll get a brother to make her an old lady. Won’t happen.

Hawke is laughing. “I think I won the game while littleMiss Skank was trying to get you to fuck her. Want a rematch?”

I laugh. He had in fact cleared the board. “Nah, man. I’m good. I see Stone at the bar, and I need to talk to him. Raincheck.” I head over to the bar, get another beer. “Pres, need you to see something Tech found. It’s got him all worked up. I have to admit, it makes me upset as well.”

Stone looks at me, sighs. “Alright. Let’s go. Tires, Cruz, need you to come to my office with us. Tech, let’s go.”

We pass through the common room where the girls are setting up things for dinner. Saige and Bexley are helping Stella out, laughing at whatever she said. I can’t help but stare at Saige for a minute. She is just beautiful. Faded bruises and all. Sensing me staring she looks up at me, her smile fading a little. Yeah, she’s still mad at me. I wonder if she has found the gifts I got her, when I realize that she has flour dusted all over her still. So I know she hasn’t been to her room yet. I give her a head nod and follow the guys into Stone’s office. Tech goes over everything he has learned, also what he hasn’t learned with the others. Stone sits down behind his desk hard. This is taking a huge toll on him. “Cooper, call Commander Thomas, let him know what is going on. He wanted any updates that we found.” He nods, pulling out his phone, going into the corner so he can talk.

“I hope when we find this asshole, that you let me have some time with him. I want to

have some fun with him for sure,” Cruz says, his eyes dark and full of anger.

“You’ll get your time with him, brother. “

I sigh, “Guys, I hate to say it, but we just have to bide our time right now. Keep an eye on the girls still, wait for them to make a move on them. They’ll slip up sometime, and we’ll be there to catch them.” They all nod in agreement. I stay back when the others leave. “Stone, I want to apologize for how I acted today. I didn’t know that man, or anything about him.”

“It’s okay, Cotton. It’s not me you need to apologize to, even Saige knows what you meant. It wasn’t what you said, but how you said it.”

I nod as I think about what he just said. “Yeah, okay. Another thing, is there not something we can do about Dayna? That bitch won’t take a hint, a straight out no, or anything. I’ve told her numerous times to leave me alone. She bombards me in the club, tries to get into my room. I’m sick of her. I even had a prospect escort her off the property once. I’m sick of all the trouble she is trying to stir up too. She is trying to get with a high-ranking patch, and it’s not going to happen.”

“I’ll have a talk with her, if that doesn’t work, she’s gone.”

“Thanks, now let’s go get something to eat. The ladies were setting up when we came in here.”

Stone rubs his stomach, “Sounds good.”

I grab my plate, load it up with a steak, baked potato, and salad. I see that Saige brought some of her cakes and cookies home for dessert. I grab a few cookies then go sit down beside Tires. He’s laughing looking over in the corner. I follow his gaze to see Loki holding Sloane, and she is feeding him. “Sis kicked him out of her room.

She told him that he needed to focus on his girlfriend, not her. I think she is feeling suffocated with all of us hovering.”

“She probably is, but she knows why we’re doing it. Are you staying in there with her tonight?”

Tires shakes his head, “Naw, man. I’ll be in my room in case Bexley needs me, like always. She has nightmares too. I think Sis told Loki that she would have me stay, he bought it. I think she just wants some time to herself. We can get that prospect, Bacon, to stay at her door, like we do every night, and have her text someone if she needs them.”

“Yeah, that could work.”

We eat in silence and I watch Saige the whole time. She is picking at her food, barely eating. She looks up, smiling at something Stella says. Saige gets up, taking her plate to the kitchen. On her way back she hugs her dad, kissing his cheek. She walks over to the table we are sitting at. “Goodnight, guys. I’m going to go shower, read, savor the quiet time.”

“Goodnight, Sis. Text either one of us if you need us tonight okay?”

“Yeah, I promise.” She is staring at me as she hugs her brother.

“Goodnight, Saige. Enjoy your time.”

“Thank you, Cotton.”

I watch as she walks down the hall. Tires is smirking at me. I just shake my head.

“Talk to you later, man. A shower sounds great right about now.”

“I’d be glad to join you in that shower, Cotton. We can get even dirtier than we are.”
I look to see Dayna standing behind me.

“Look, I have told you repeatedly. I don’t want anything to do with you. If you don’t stop, you’ll be out of this clubhouse. Now go away!!” She reaches out to touch me and I push her away from me. She hits the table edge, turns and runs out of the room.
“Damn, I didn’t mean to hurt her, I just wanted her away from me. I’m so sick of her coming at me!”

Page 18

Source Creation Date: July 9, 2025, 1:59 am

Tires watches her leave the room, then says, "It's okay, brother. Dad is going to talk to her. He's even taking Leilani with him to do it. Go on. Go do what you have to do."

Shaking my head, I go to my room. I just get the door shut when my phone goes off. Looking at the screen I smile. Saige likes her gifts.

Twenty-One

Saige

I walk into my room to see the most gorgeous yellow roses on the table, a bear and books on my bed. I smile as I go over to read the card with the roses. I smell their sweet scent. I open the card and see a note written:

Butterfly, I'm sorry about earlier. Enjoy the books, flowers, and tea. Cotton

I smile as I pick up the books on my bed to look at. Oh my gosh! He just got me the new book by two of my favorite authors, that they co-wrote. The other two books are also by them. I grab my phone and text him a thank you. I need to hurry in the shower so that I can read these. Once I get out of the shower, I comb out my hair, brush my teeth, grab me some tea out of the fridge, get my tank top and boy cut panties on, then sit on the bed. Oh, it feels so good to be in these to sleep in, my favorite pjs. When Loki is in here, I sleep in t-shirt and pj capris. I get too hot wearing those, and get all tangled up in them when I toss and turn. I prop up my pillows, leaning back on them. I grab the bear Cotton got me to look at. It's so cute. It's white with a pink nose, holding a honey pot. I set it beside me, grab a book and start reading.

I wake up in a cold sweat gasping for breath. At least I didn't scream this time, I think. I can still see Pyro as the nightmare slowly fades away. I go to the bathroom and wet a rag. I rinse my face and arms off. I just want these nightmares to go away, maybe I should talk to the counselor. I just feel like I can't trust her, so that makes me clam up. Bexley has been talking to her. Turning back into my room, I see Cotton standing by my bed in a pair of basketball shorts, his arms crossed over his chest. Looks like I did scream out. "What are you doing in here?"

"I heard you screaming through the wall, also, Bacon came banging on my door when you screamed. Saige, have you talked to anyone about the nightmares? Or about what happened to you?"

I shake my head no, "I talked to the counselor at the hospital but haven't talked to anyone since."

Sighing he runs his hands through his white hair. His chest and arm muscles flexing as he does. I can't help but stare at him. That perfect v that he has, those washboard abs. "Come on. Get over here and sit with me. Talk to me about whatever you need to."

I slowly go over to sit on the bed. He's staring at me, I see his nostrils flare and notice he is breathing heavier. It's then that I remember what I am wearing. I hurry to sit down on the bed, covering my legs with my blanket. I feel the bed dip when Cotton sits beside me, putting his arm around my back pulling me into him. "Okay, is this alright?" he asks. I nod. "Alright, tell me about whatever you need to. You have to get this out and talk to someone, otherwise it will eat you alive. Trust me, I know." I look up into his beautiful gray eyes, wanting to drown in them.

Sighing I start, "I can feel him on me still. See him, smell him. I try fighting with all that I have in me. But I'm still handcuffed to that bar. I can hear Bexley screaming then suddenly she stops, so I know he has done something to her. Then he's standing

back over me, naked, rubbing himself. He tries to put his mouth on me, but I keep my thighs together as much as I can, twisting my legs. That's when he punches me in the side. It hurts so bad that I can barely get a breath. That's when he bites my thigh, forcing my legs apart, sticks his fingers in me. Telling me he can feel the thin web of my virginity, that it won't be his fingers that he takes it with. That's when he tries to climb on top of me. It took all the strength I could muster to get my leg up enough to kick him like I did. I was trying to think of something to do if he came at me again, because I knew he would, and that's when I saw you come in through the door. I knew that I was going to be okay, that I was safe. I knew you would be the one to find me. I think the hardest thing about all of this is the betrayal from people I considered to be friends and family. I've known Pyro since I was five. Poppy and Lilly were in daycare with Loki and me. How do you get past something like that?"

I'm crying, Cotton is stiff, but pulls me so that my head is on his chest and both his arms are around me, his chin resting on my head. "I'm just sorry that we didn't get there sooner, babe. I wish that I could take all this pain away from you." He squeezes a little tighter and I gasp in pain. "Oh God, Saige. I'm sorry, are you okay?"

I catch a breath, "Yeah. I'm okay. It's okay."

He relaxes a little, kisses the top of my head. "I've never meant to hurt you, in any way." I rub his arm lightly.

"Cotton, thank you for letting me talk to you. I just don't think I could've told any of that to Dad, Coop, or Loki. I don't know why I can talk to you about things, but I can." I try not to yawn but he sees it.

"Hey, why don't you try to get some sleep. I'll stay here with you."

"You mean like this?" I look up at him.

Smiling he says, “Yeah. Maybe this will keep us both from having nightmares.”

“Do you want to talk about your nightmares? I’ll listen if you want or need to.”

“No, butterfly. My nightmares, they aren’t something you need to hear. They... anyways no. You try to get some sleep.” He leans down, brushes his lips across mine. I lay my head back down on his chest, feeling safe, his heartbeat under my ear lulls me back to sleep.

I wake up and I feel like a furnace is on top of me. I am wrapped up in Cotton. My head is on his chest, my arm around him, our legs tangled together. He has both his arms around me. I look up at his gorgeous face, to see that he is still asleep. I take the time to study him. He looks so peaceful. I rub my fingers over the tattoos covering his chest. I love his big Marines tattoo on his left pec, the words Life after Death across the top of his chest. He has half a sleeve on his left arm. I am lightly running my fingers across the tat on his pec, when he says, “Saige, you are playing with a fire you don’t want or need right now.”

I stop and look up at him. His eyes are still closed but he has that damn smirk on his face that I love. “I’m sorry,” I say.

He smirks, “Don’t be. Just know that touching me like that, it does things to me that you’re not ready for, Butterfly.” He opens his eyes and kisses the top of my head. “How did you sleep?”

I push on his arm so that I can sit up. “I actually slept great. No more nightmares. How about you?”

He smiles as he sits up, slinging his legs over so that he is sitting on the side of the bed, his back to me. I study the tattoo that covers his back. The club emblem. The huge pit viper wrapped around a skull. “That was the best sleep I have had in a long

time, to be honest. I didn't have any nightmares. I slept through the night, for the first time in a long time."

I smile at him. "That's good. Thank you, Cotton. I think we both need to get dressed though. I have to get to the bakery. I have a special order that I have to get done today."

"Yeah, okay. I'll go get ready. I'm driving you today." I watch as he walks out of my room shutting the door. I get dressed in a tank top that has the bakery logo on it, Saige's Sweet Treats in purple with a cupcake that has a little skull that has a pink bow on top of it, and a pair of jean capris. I braid my hair, brush my teeth, and head out the door.

I go into the common room to wait on Cotton. It's unusually quiet this morning. The guys must've partied hard last night. Dad comes up to me, giving me a light hug, kissing my forehead. "Hey, Daddy. How are you this morning?"

Source Creation Date: July 9, 2025, 1:59 am

“I’m good, baby girl. I have a question to ask you and Tires about Leilani.”

I look up at him smiling, “Dad, are you finally going to ask her to be your old lady and marry you?”

He looks at me kinda shocked then smiles. “Yeah, if it’s okay with you and Coop. But by that smile on your face, I take it as a yes from you.” He laughs.

“Absolutely. Coop and I have talked, we both wondered if you would ever ask her. Hey Coop! Come here a sec, please.” He walks over to us smiling.

“What’s up, Sis? Dad?”

“Dad wants to ask Leilani, finally.”

Coop breaks out into a huge smile and does that man hug thing with Dad. “About damn time!” We all three laugh.

“Saige, I need you to make me a big cupcake that you know she likes, then put this ring on top of it. Then put it in a gift box. Can you do that for me?” I smile and nod yes, thinking of what flavor to do, then it hits me. Leilani loves pineapple and coconut. So I am going to make a pineapple cupcake with a coconut rum frosting. She said that those were her favorite when she lived in Hawaii.

“I’ve got the perfect flavor, Dad. Don’t worry. I got this.” He gives me the box with the ring, and I slip it into my purse. I hug them, then go get a bowl of cereal. I just get done eating my Cookie Crisp when Cotton finally comes in the room.

“Hey, are you ready to go?” he asks.

“Yeah. Sloane and Bexley are already there.” He nods as we walk out to his truck. The ride to the shop is a quiet one filled with tension. He’s gone back to snippy for some reason. I’ve no clue what happened when he went to his room this morning up to now, but I just have to brush it off.

Twenty-Two

Cotton

I was almost in my room when Dayna came around the corner, and ran over to me, putting her arms around me. “Oh, Cotton, you look so good with no shirt on. You know how you could look better? With those shorts off and me on you.”

I pull her arms off of me, shoving her away, yet again. “Didn’t Stone have a talk with you last night? One about leaving me alone, about causing trouble, and that if you didn’t stop, you would be out on your ass?”

She crosses her arms over her chest and sneers at me. “None of you will throw me out. I’ll leave you alone for now, but eventually, I’ll have you. You’ll love every minute of it too.”

“Don’t hold your breath, bitch.” With that I slam the door in her face and lock it. I need a shower. I grab some clothes, then turn the shower on. I get in letting the water run down my back, trying to ease the tension. I close my eyes and when I do, I see Saige curled up on me. God she is beautiful and felt so good in my arms. Her rubbing her fingers along my chest. Damn, my dick is rock hard at just the image, remembering how she felt. I grab my dick, giving it a squeeze, running my hand from base to tip. I keep my eyes closed, picturing Saige as I rub one out. I imagine her on her knees, my dick in her beautiful mouth. Her sucking on me, looking up into my

eyes, while playing with her clit. Holy shit! That's the fastest I have ever cum. I spray the wall in long spurts, moaning her name. Oh man. The tension I felt is slowly releasing. I hurry to get cleaned up, knowing that Saige is waiting on me.

I check in with Tech right quick before I go get Saige. "Hey, man, anything new?"

Tech looks up at me shaking his head. "Not really. Just the same stuff. I'm running a new program to see if I can't find this bastard. I'll let you know if it works." I give him a nod then head out to the common room.

Saige is sitting at a table talking to Coop and her dad, eating a bowl of cereal. Ten to none it's Cookie Crisp. She says she buys it for Bethany and the kids, but she eats it more than they do. They're all smiling, I hope she always has that look on her face. I wish I was the one putting it there. Dayna is standing in the corner watching me, and she sees me looking at Saige. She gets the ugliest sneer I have ever seen, before walking away. I see more trouble headed our way. I am so irritated that I am short with Saige again, and don't talk all the way to the bakery. Pulling in, I see that Loki and Wolfe are here, along with Bacon. He's been a good prospect for the most part, he takes his duties seriously. Especially since he has been assigned to watch over Saige.

"Hey since Wolfe and Loki are here, I need to run an errand. I'll be back in a couple hours."

"Oh okay. Thanks for the ride. Be safe." Bacon comes over, opens her door, helping her down, and I get jealous of his hands being on her. I want to rip them off his body and beat him with them. I drive away without looking back. Knowing that I've hurt her again. I could see it in her eyes when she looked at me. Damn it!

The cemetery is quiet. I walk in between the tombstones until I get to the one I am looking for. It has some leaves and little twigs on it that I brush off. I kneel down.

“Don, I sure wish you were here. Maybe if you were, I would feel like I was worth something, that I would be worth being with someone, could protect them without screwing up their lives. I miss you, bro! Why did things have to go down the way they did?” I stare at the tombstone for a bit, getting lost in my thoughts, after half an hour, I walk back to my truck. I just sit in it. It’s not until I feel something wet hit my arm that I realize I am crying. I wipe the tears from my face, start the truck, and turn to leave. I just drive around for a bit, then see the pizza place that Saige goes to. I call in, placing an order for several pizzas to be delivered to the bakery, and head back to it. I know that they’ll need something for lunch, and I am starving.

I walk in through the back and stop at the table Saige is working at. She has a pan of cupcakes that smell amazing and she’s putting coconut frosting on them. I see a ring box on the table, so I pick it up, opening it. “Who’s this for?” I ask.

“Oh hey, that’s going on top of this huge cupcake, then my dad is going to give it to Leilani. These others are going to be at the clubhouse for the party. I have a few boxes over there ready to go. Dad is going to ask her tonight.” I must have a goofy look on my face or something, because Saige starts laughing.

“What?” I ask.

She just shakes her head, “Here, try this. I can hear your stomach from over here. At least I hope it’s your stomach. Otherwise there is a bear in my shop. “

I take the cupcake from her laughing. “Thanks. I’m starving. I ordered some pizzas and salads for lunch. They should be here soon.” I bite into the cupcake. Wow, the flavor just explodes in my mouth. “What is this called? I think this is my new favorite cupcake.” I eat the other half in one bite, reaching for another one. Saige is still laughing at me.

“Those are the strawberry lime. I think you just ate the whole strawberry in the

middle without even knowing it was there.”

I nod. “So what other flavors are you doing for the party?” I ask around the bite of cupcake I just took.

Source Creation Date: July 9, 2025, 1:59 am

She points to the boxes, “The top one is Margarita, then there is Chocolate cherry coke, pina colada, kiwi lychee, and the dark chocolate bacon. For some reason you men want bacon in everything.”

“So pretty much doing the exotic Hawaiian type theme.”

Saige nods as I watch as she places the ring on top of the big cupcake, putting it in a box with a huge bow on top. She sets it on top of the others and then stretches. Doing so makes her shirt pull tight, and I see the outline of her breasts. Remembering how they felt pushed up against me last night, I nearly moan out loud. I hurry and turn away, reciting numbers in my head to get my dick to go down. Bacon walks in and sees her stretching, only he doesn't hide his moan. I move in between them blocking his sight of her.

“Hey man, there are all kinds of pizza and salads out front.” He is grinning at me sheepishly.

“Thanks, now get back out there and keep your eyes to yourself!” I snarl. He seems startled at my tone and goes. I turn to get Saige to go eat and she is looking at me funny. “He was practically eye fucking you, Saige! That isn't going to fly! Are you hungry? I got you a spinach Alfredo pizza and salad.” Her eyes are so big, but she follows me out.

“Thank you, Cotton. I appreciate it.” Damn. I need to stop this.

We go out front to sit at one of the tables. I have Saige sit with the girls, with her back to Bacon. Asshole is looking at her like he wants to take her on top of the table.

Just as I get my plate and go to sit down the door opens. In walks Tires, he has a huge scowl on his face. “Hey, brother, come get a plate. What’s going on?”

“Thanks, man. I finally got Mr. Sanders’ bike done, only he didn’t want to pick it up unless Saige was at the garage. I told him she isn’t working there anymore. He got all pissed. Hung up on me.” He is shaking his head. “He’s never been there when she was there to begin with. So, I’m thinking it wasn’t even him. Sadly, the number was blocked, and when I tried to call the number we have for him, no one answered.”

We share an unspoken look and sit down to eat. We’ll have to be even more vigilant now. Once the girls get done eating, Saige lets me know that we are closing early, so that we all can get back to the clubhouse and get it set up for Stone to ask Leilani. We help them get the place cleaned up, I get all the cupcakes in my truck. I help her in, and we go.

Twenty-Three

Saige

I haveno clue what is going on with Cotton. He’s hot and cold all the time, but I am beginning to think it doesn’t have a lot to do with me, just something he doesn’t want me to know. We’re quiet on the way back to the clubhouse. I am so ready for a shower. When we get there, Cotton helps me carry all the boxes in and set up. Everyone knows not to bother them until later. I run back to my room to take my shower. I turn the radio on and laugh. Will Smith’s ‘Getting Jiggy Wit It’ is on. I haven’t heard that song in a while. I turn it up, dancing towards the shower. I decide to leave my hair down, getting dressed in a club tank and shorts. I try to hurry as I lock my room. As I am going down the hall, I turn to go towards the kitchen, and I run right into Dad. “Sorry, Daddy. I wasn’t watching where I was going. I was tryingto get to the kitchen, make sure everything is okay and ready.”

Hugging me to him, he squeezes a little tightly. “It’s okay, baby girl. I know things will be great. Just watch yourself. We’ve had a few talks with Dayna. She won’t leave Cotton alone, and she’s on a roll trying to cause trouble. I told her if she starts anything else, she’s gone. One of the other girls said she was complaining about you earlier. Anything I need to know?”

“It’s okay, Dad, I can handle Dayna. I haven’t had anything to do with her, so I’ve no clue why my name was in her mouth.” I smile at him, then continue into the kitchen. Bex and Sloane are already there. “How’d you two get in here before me? I know y’all showered too.” I laugh.

Bex busts out laughing, “I have the closest room to the kitchen, so I hurried, and didn’t wash my hair, which, I didn’t have cake flour all up in it either.”

“That’s true.” I laugh. I get the steaks out of the fridge, put the spices they all like on them, as Sloane is getting the chicken marinating. Bex is cutting up things for the salad, while Stella comes in and gets the corn ready. We work great together. We have everything slammed out in no time. Loki walks in and kisses my cheek before going over to wrap Sloane up in a huge hug, kissing her like she is the air he breathes. I turn away from them and continue working, wanting that for myself and Cotton, but knowing it may never happen. Speaking of, he and Tires walk in, they start grabbing the meats that need to be grilled. I see Bex stare at my brother, I can’t help but smile. She has it bad for him.

“Hey, girls, we’re closed tomorrow and won’t open again until Monday. We need a girl’s day! I mean hair, manis, pedis, massages, the whole thing. We haven’t had one since we got away.” Sloane starts clapping her hands, bouncing up and down on the heels of her feet. Bexley is smiling so big. So I know that they’re down for it.

“So, that means you three need to figure out who is going to go with us tomorrow,” I say as I point to Tires, Cotton, and Loki.

Cotton speaks up, “Well it sure as hell won’t be Bacon. He can’t keep his eyes to himself.” I laugh as the others just look at him. Tires and Loki are sharing a smirk, and the girls are smiling. Cotton looks like he’s trapped, clears his throat, looking anywhere but at my brother and Loki.

“Y’all go get all that grilled. You can pick the guys that are going to follow us later.” They walk out of the kitchen with Bex and Sloane following them with more platters of meat, the corn on the cob, and pineapple to grill.

I wipe down the counters and start to head out when Dayna grabs my arm. “Bitch, you need to stop trying to get Cotton to go for you. You are always giving him the puppy dog eyes, and practically throw yourself at him. It needs to stop. You’re nothing compared to me, I know ways to please him that you could never imagine. You don’t want to come in between us. I’ll gut you.”

I wrench my arm free from her grasp, getting right back in her face. “You listen to me, Dayna, and I mean listen good! If Cotton wanted to be with you, he would be. Nobody here wants a loose hole to screw every night. The only thing going for you is your mouth, and I hear that none of the guys even want that. You’re on your way out of here. And if you ever so much as threaten me again, you’ll regret it. Now get out of here before I make you!” She glares at me before she walks out of the kitchen in a huff. I just lean up against counter and breathe. I wish she was gone. I may have to help that along.

After everyone eats, the girls and I bring out the cupcakes on platters. I give Dad the big box behind his back. When Leilani goes to walk over and grab a cupcake, Dad stops her by grabbing her hand. “Baby, I have your cupcake right here. Saige made you a special one.” She looks at Dad as he opens the box and holds it out to her. The ring he picked out is glinting in the light. Everyone hears her intake of breath.

“Stone, are you? Is that?”

“Yes, baby, will you do me the honor of being my wife and old lady?” You can hear her scream for miles.

Laughing she yells, “Yes” as she jumps into his arms and kisses him. Coop and I are the first to congratulate them. I’m so happy for them. Leilani hugs me close and kisses my cheek. Coop and Dad do that man hug thing they do, and then he kisses my forehead.

“Thank you, baby girl, and Coop. Y’all helped this to go off flawlessly.” I kiss Dad’s cheek, and then start to help clean up. I know that the guys are going to start getting rowdy soon. Most of the kids have been put down for the night or have a babysitter. So the club whores are starting to come out and mingle, except Dayna. She goes straight for my brother and Cotton. Loki is there holding Sloane up against his chest, and they’re all talking.

Bexley sees me watching Dayna. “What’s up, girl?”

I nod my head at them, stating, “She’s been making trouble for a while now with Cotton, then with me in the kitchen before the party, she starts yelling at me threatening me. Dad said that she’s getting ready to be thrown out. I’m just watching to see what happens.”

“Hmm mmm. You just want to make sure she leaves Cotton alone.”

Page 21

Source Creation Date: July 9, 2025, 1:59 am

“Maybe, but do you want her all over my brother?” I return.

She looks up at me shocked. “Um, no I don’t.”

I laugh a little. “Then I say we watch for a minute while we decide if we need to intervene.”

Twenty-Four

Cotton

I’m hangingout with Tires, Loki, and Sloane, just talking shit when Dayna comes up. “Oh hey, Cotton. I was wondering if you wanted or needed anything, like me?” She is trying to rub up against me and puts her hands up on my shoulders.

I grab her wrists to push her away. “No, Dayna. I still don’t want you.”

“Of course you do, honey. I know Saige isn’t putting out for you even if you were in her room last night. You don’t have a scowl on your face if you just got some unless it was bad. I can make you feel good.” Before I can get a word out of my mouth to tell the bitch off, she is spun around and is on the ground shrieking, blood pouring from her nose.

I look up from her to see Saige standing there, her hands balled into fists. “Get up or say something else, bitch! I’m sick of everyone just talking to you. The only way you are going to learn is to have it beat into you. I’ll gladly fucking do it!”

Tires tries to pull Saige towards him, “Sis...”

She breaks away from him, “NO! I’m sick of everyone treating me like I’m going to break at any second, and I’m sick of everyone just threatening to throw her out. It needs to be done, and it needs to be done now!” I’m standing there pretty much in shock.

Dayna gets back to her feet and shouts at me, “Are you just going to stand there and let her put her hands on me like that?” I throw my hands up to show that I wasn’t going to get into it, when Saige punches her right in the mouth, causing Dayna to hit the ground again. Several of her teeth are now lying beside her.

“He never has wanted you, and he never will. Nobody here in this club wants you, because they don’t want something that even AJAX won’t take off! You were warned, now you are being told, get the hell out! You are not welcome here anymore!”

Dayna slowly gets up off the ground and shrieks loudly, “He’ll never want you either you little perfect princess! No one will want you after what Pyro did to you!”

Tires grabs Dayna’s arms, pulling her over to Bear. He says something to him, and Bear takes off with Dayna, her screaming obscenities at Saige the whole time. Saige is standing in front of me, but she is looking at the ground trying to catch her breath. I’m so damned turned on that I don’t know what to do.

“Saige, look at me,” I say. She looks up at me, tears making her eyes shine, but she won’t let them fall.

“I’m sorry if I overstepped, but something had to be done.” Turning she goes inside, refusing to talk to anyone. A hand lands on my shoulder, I know right away it’s Stone. “Go to her, son. She needs you. And you need her.” I give him a chin lift and

go after Saige.

I get to Saige's room and the door is locked. I use my key to go in, only to see her taking her shirt off. Holy shit! I thought I was hard before. "Saige." She turns to look at me, covering herself, her eyes wide, tears running down her beautiful face.

"I'm sorry. I really am, Cotton." I lock her door, walk over to her, and pull her to me.

"You have nothing to be sorry for, my beautiful Butterfly." I lean down and take her lips with mine. She stiffens a little in my arms, as I run my tongue across her bottom lip, but she finally opens for me. She leans into me, and I deepen our kiss. Damn she tastes so sweet. I run my hands up and down her sides, getting closer to her breasts every time I rub up. Saige sighs into my mouth as I continue to kiss her. I finally rub right under her breasts and brush my thumb across her nipples. I pull back a little to see if she is alright with what I am doing. "Are you okay with this?" I ask her. Her eyes are hooded, as she nods her head yes. I bring my hands up to fully cup her breasts in her bra. I take my finger and thumb, then lightly pinch her hardened nipples.

"Oh my God!" Saige moans, and I capture most of it with my mouth as I lean down to kiss her again. I feel her hand tentatively touch me through my pants and I groan. Pulling back again, I look into her eyes.

"Saige if we keep this up, I'm not sure I can stop." She is rubbing my dick, and it feels so good.

"I don't want to stop, Cotton. I want this. With you. I know you won't hurt me." I shudder as I take my cut off, and lift my shirt over my head, then I kiss her again. Reaching between us, I undo her shorts button and push the zipper down. I lightly push them and her lacy panties down her legs. Saige steps out of them, looking at me, as she reaches back to undo her bra, letting it fall to the floor. "I think you are a little

overdressed, Cotton.” She laughs out breathlessly. Laughing I take my jeans and boxers off, pushing my boots off at the same time. I step over the clothes, grab her hand and pull her to me.

“Here, just us, I want you to call me by my name. Finnick. Okay, Butterfly?” Saige smiles up at me and nods. “Let’s lay down, baby.” I carry her over to her bed laying her down in the middle. I lie beside her, kissing her again as I slowly run my hand down her front over her mound. She moans into my mouth. God, I am loving the sounds she is making. I run my finger over her clit, and she arches her back up. “Does that feel good, Saige?”

“Yes.” I run my finger down and slide into her, and slowly start pumping in and out. Saige is mewling softly, as I insert another finger. I start to scissor them in and out of her.

“Finn, please! I need....” She is moaning and panting. I keep my fingers in her pumping them. I suck her nipple into my mouth lightly nipping at it, as I place my thumb on her clit, moving it in tight little circles. I know just what my girl needs. It doesn’t take long for her to orgasm, her pussy walls clenching tight on my fingers. I keep pumping the whole time she is coming. I lean down to kiss her again. I take my fingers and bring them to my mouth, I just have to taste her. I suck them in my mouth as she watches. Afraid that she will pull back, but she watches, sucking in a breath, her eyes hooded still.

“You like that, baby?” She nods. I smile as I climb on top of her. I take the tip of my dick, rub it up and down herslit. When she arches up again, I slowly push in her. I stop to let her adjust to me. Then I look into her eyes as I push all the way in. I stop again to make sure she is okay and let her adjust to all of me. I felt her thin web break, and I saw her flinch, as a tear ran down her face. I lean down to kiss it off her cheek. “Saige, are you okay, butterfly?” She starts to lift up. “Saige, wait a second, baby. I saw you flinch when I entered you. You need to adjust.”

She shakes her head. "I'm okay, Finn. I need you to move." I smile. I slowly start pumping in and out of her tight, wet, pussy. I lean down and take a nipple in my mouth. Laving it with my tongue, nipping it with my teeth. I do the other just the same. She is getting ready to come. I can feel it. I start moving faster, "Come for me, Saige! Come now, baby!" She does, screaming out my name. I keep pumping into her, and after several more thrusts, I come inside of her. Oh my God, I've never come that much in my life. I slowly pull out of her, watching her face to see if she's okay with what we did, if she is sore. She's smiling up at me. I go in her bathroom, get a rag to wash off, then I go out and clean her up. She looks up at me a little shocked. It's then that I realize that I didn't use a condom. But I look up and can picture her big with my child. So I don't say anything. I just smile back at her. I throw the rag in the hamper and lie down beside my Butterfly. I pull her close, kiss her forehead, and we fall asleep.

Twenty-Five

Saige

Source Creation Date: July 9, 2025, 1:59 am

I wake up feeling a little sore. I'm laying with my head on Finn's chest, and I notice that he's still asleep. I slowly move the blanket down to look at him. The tattoos are gorgeous, so is his muscular chest and that V. I bite my lower lip as I move my hand slowly down his body. I look at his dick and gasp. That thing is huge, how did it even fit in me to begin with? I scoot down the bed some to get a better look at it. The big bulbous head, the veins you can see in the long, thick shaft. I check to make sure he's still asleep, and I run my fingers over him. It's hard but almost velvety soft to the touch. I wrap my hand around him and run it up from the bottom of his shaft to his head, then I stick my tongue out to lick the top. Oh wow, he tastes amazing. I do it again and hear him gasp. "Saige, what are you doing, baby? Not complaining, it feels pretty damn awesome." I look up to see that he is watching me.

"I just wanted to see how you felt and taste. I want to pleasure you." I swear his dick feels like it grows harder in my hand that I'm still stroking him with.

"Baby, you don't have to do that."

"I want to, will you tell me what you like?"

He nods, "Keep doing what you are doing. Suck me into your mouth. Run your mouth up and down like you are your hand." I smile, as I take him in my mouth. I suck and lick him up and down, taking him as far as I can without gagging. He grabs my hair, pulling some. "Oh God, yeah like that, baby. Fondle my balls some." I lightly fondle his balls. He pulls my hair some more and lifts me off him. "Not going to come in your mouth this time, baby. I need to be in you." He pulls me up and turns me over so that I am on my back. Looking down at me he kisses me. "Are you wet for me, baby?" he asks as he runs a finger down my slit and sticks it inside me. "Oh

yeah, you are ready for me. But I want to taste your sweet pussy first.”

He kisses his way down my body, paying attention to my breasts, kissing my stomach, and then his tongue reaches out and licks my clit. I arch up, and he puts his arm across my stomach to hold me down. “Saige, spread your legs a little more, now watch me, baby.” I spread my legs and watch as he goes to licks my clit. He still has a finger in me and adds another. He pumps them in and out, then he smiles before he latches onto my clit. He sucks it in his mouth, licking it, and nipping on it some. It doesn’t take long for me to feel the pressure building up. I’m pulling his hair, then move my hands to the sheets, fisting them. “Come on my tongue, baby. Let it go. You are so sweet, and I want it all.” That’s all it takes. I come all over his tongue. He pumps his fingers in and out the whole time, and while I’m still having little shock waves from my orgasm, he climbs up my body entering me.

“Oh God, Finn!” He kisses me. I can taste myself on him, and it surprisingly turns me on even more. I arch up into him, he’s trying to go slow. “Finn, please. I need you to move.”

“I don’t want to hurt you, baby.” I look up into his eyes and smile.

“Finn, I’m not made of glass. I won’t break, I’m not scared with you. I know you won’t hurt me.” I lean up and kiss him. I lift my hips up, pushing against him. He starts to slide his dick in me a little harder. He pulls almost all the way out, teasing with just his tip, before slamming back into me, causing me to arch up into him. He does this several more times, before my orgasm hits hard. He starts pumping into me even harder and faster. It takes him several more thrusts before he is coming in me and another orgasm hits as he is having his. We are both breathing hard, as he leans down to kiss me.

He gets up, pulling me with him. “Let’s go shower, baby.”

After he sets the water temperature, he pulls me into the shower with him. Finn soaps up my loofa sponge and starts to wash my body. He is paying special attention to my breasts right now. “Finn, what’re we doing? Are we a couple, are we dating?” He stops what he is doing and pulls me into him. My arms go around his waist, as I look up into his eyes.

“Saige, I’ve wanted you for a long time. I just don’t know if I’m good enough for you. I’ve done and seen things that.... anyways, I’m saying we are together, see where this goes.” I smile as I tiptoe up to kiss him. I hug him tighter as he deepens the kiss. “Baby, as much as I would love to take you right here, right now, I know you are sore, and we both need to get going. You’ve a girl’s day, and I need to get to work soon.” I smile at him, then help him wash off.

I get dressed in a white summer dress that has little cupcakes on it. Leilani had seen it on some website and ordered it for me. Might as well wear it. It is really cute, and since it will be all us girls, I know we’ll take my truck. I put on a cute pair of sandals and leave my hair down. I have Finn help me put my necklace on that he got me, then kiss him again. I feel like the luckiest girl in the world, like nothing can go wrong right now. Too bad that doesn’t last for long.

“Oh my gosh, Saige. We need these girls’ days more often,” Sloane says. We’d gotten our manis and pedis, though I didn’t get my nails colored, then had a massage. Bexley is looking like she is just a limp noodle right now, after her massage. Sloane is laughing at her.

“Hey what’re you two having done to your hair?” I ask them. This is the last pamper spot we have, before we hit the stores. Poor Crow, Wolfe, Tech, and Bear have been looking more and more like they’re ready to drop. The two prospects are doing better than those four are.

“I think I’m just going to trim my hair up, maybe some blonde highlights and

lowlights,” Bex says.

Sloane and I both say, “Oh that will be gorgeous,” at the same time.

Sloane laughs, “I think I’m going to get a green streak or two and at least an inch taken off.”

“That will be cute. I am going to cut a few inches off, see if it helps with the migraines, get it thinned out some, and add some purple in it.” They both smile and we set off. Once we are all done, we tell our shadows that we’re going to get some lunch and then only go to a couple of stores. They seem to be okay with that. Especially the sitting down part. We go to the Chinese restaurant in the mall. I get chicken lo mein, a Coke, and I’m good. Bexley gets some kind of spicy beef dish that smells really good, and Sloane gets cashew chicken. The guys get their food and sit at the tables surrounding us, so that they can see everything. We talk and laugh the whole time. I haven’t felt this happy in a long time. When we’re all done, Wolfe and Crow grab our cups to refill to take with us. “Hey Bacon, will you take a picture for me?”

“Sure, Saige.” I hand him my phone and us girls stand together. We do a serious, I love my girls pic, then a silly one. Bacon hands me my phone back, and we look at them.

“Thanks, Bacon.” He nods as we head off to shop.

By the time we get out to my truck, I think Bex and Sloane have maxed out their credit cards. I couldn’t help but laugh at the big bad biker guys carrying Victoria Secret and Bath and Body works bags. Bacon didn’t seem to mind, nor did Bear. But the others that were with us, they refused to go into those stores and watched from the door. I had gotten a few things, I didn’t go overboard like those two. I unlock the truck and we get the bags in. It’s then that I get a creepy feeling like someone is

watching us. “Hey, Bacon, can you look around and see if you notice anything odd without being obvious?”

He looks down into my eyes, “Yeah, sure. You okay, Saige?”

He goes to put his arm on my elbow and helps me into my truck. I whisper to him, “I feel like someone is watching. It’s a creepy feeling.” He nods and laughs like I made a joke, as he shuts my door, then he walks around to get in the passenger side. He looks around while he does this and sends a text to the others.

Getting in and shutting his door, he states, “I know what you mean now. Felt like I was in the crosshairs out there. We need to get back to the clubhouse, okay?”

“Yeah, did you notice anyone?” I ask, starting the truck.

He nods, “We noticed a few, and we need to go.” I pull out of the spot, get behind Crow, as the others surround my truck, and we make it back home in no time. Bacon has watched the mirrors the whole time, and the guys on their bikes stay in tight formation around us. When we pull in to the club, Bacon has me pull up to the door. “Saige, I want you three to go straight inside. We’ll get your bags once we know y’all are safe.” Sloane and Bex nod as they both slide out the same door. Bacon has meslide over the center console to get out of the passenger side door. I get out and start for the clubhouse door. I’m almost inside when I hear the first gunshot, and find myself being pushed to the ground, Bacon on top of me. Then all hell breaks loose.

Twenty-Six

Cotton

“Tires! You want to come take a look at this?” He comes in the back and inspects the bike I just finished. It’s an old nineteen forties FL Harley. We had to rewire it and did

a new paint scheme on it trying to stick to the original as much as we could. She's a beaut!

Page 23

Source Creation Date: July 9, 2025, 1:59 am

Tires whistles, “Looks great, man! Old man Jensen won’t be here until tomorrow. I’ve all the parts ordered that we need, and the paints. We’ve nothing else to do today. Whatta’ ya say we go get us a beer while we wait on the girls to get back. We can grab Loki, order some pizzas. Maybe watch a movie.”

“Yeah, sounds good.” We close the shop and head back to the clubhouse. We pull in and head inside, finding Loki at the bar.

“Hey, man, how’s it hanging? We’re going to order some pizzas, hang out with the girls in the movie room or game room. You in?”

He grins, “Yeah, just let me get another beer. You guys want one?” We both nod. We all go into the common area. Sitting at the table, we’re just talking shit when I get a text. Looking at my phone, it’s Bacon.

Coming in hot, someone following us. Pulling up to door.

“Tires, Loki, we got trouble. We need to get to the door.” Bacon says that they’re being followed and coming in hot. “Cruz! We’ve trouble coming. Need to get out front to get the girls.” Cruz and Stone come running, along with Grange. We all get to the door as Saige is pulling up to it. Sloane and Bexley jump out of the back from the same side and run to us. Tires ushers them inside while the rest of us remain alert, unsure where the danger is coming from. As Bacon gets out of the same door as Saige and starts ushering her in, a shot rings out. Bacon pushes Saige to the ground and covers her with his body.

Stone and Cruz run over to the front of the truck and start looking for the target. The

guys that had been with the girls today start going for cover as more shots are fired. We can't really tell where they are coming from until we hear and feel a huge explosion. Looking towards the gate, there's a car just inside of it. The sound of a couple of bikes starting and taking off can be heard. They were in the tree line near the gate in order for us not to see them. I run to Bacon and Saige, afraid of what I might find. My heart is in my throat. "Saige! Bacon! Are you two alright?" He's getting up, helping her to sit up.

Bacon grimaces, "Yeah, we're good. I'm sorry, Cotton. I should've noticed the tail sooner. Saige and I both could feel eyes on us at the mall when we were leaving but couldn't see anyone. Saige, are you okay?"

She looks up at us and nods her head. "Yes. Oh my God! Bacon, you're bleeding!" Saige gets up and goes to look at his arm. I'm looking too. It's a complete through and through which is good.

"Stone, we need to get Doc, Wolfe, or Hawke to look at Bacon's arm and stitch it up. Anyone else hurt?"

Stone looks over at Bacon's arm, "Not that we can see. Cruz, Grange, and a couple of prospects are going over to get the car fire put out. See if anyone is still around. I already called Commander Thomas, they are on the way over. I need y'all to get Saige inside. Please. Baby girl, I will be inside in a minute."

Once inside, I pull Saige to me and hug her tight. I didn't realize how hard I was squeezing her until she pushes against my chest. I look down into her eyes and kiss her with everything I feel for her behind it.

"Wow! Finn, I'm okay. Thanks to Bacon." I look into her eyes and nod. She lays her head on my chest for a second before pulling back, and says, "I think that man has earned his patch, finally."

“Yeah, you’re right. I’ll talk to Stone, but I think everyone can agree with that. I need to kiss you again.” I take her mouth with mine, and she opens for me right away, our tongues dancing. I kiss her hard. We only pull apart to breathe.

“Mmmhmm. Can I hug my daughter? Then we need to get into church. Now.” Stone hugs Saige as he yells out for everyone to get to the table now. Saige grabs my hand and we follow Stone. Once inside at the table with her seated beside me, I finally start to calm some. What the hell would I have done if anything happened to my girl? Seats fill up fast as everyone hurries inside the room. Tech is coming in and going straight to the tv to hook up his laptop so we can all see what he found.

Stone hits the gavel to the table. “Y’all heard what happened outside. Now, we’re going to find out who and why. Then we’re going to get this taken care of once and for all. Grange and Cruz are taking care of a couple of folks with Doc, Wolfe, and Hawke. I’ll catch them up in a bit. Tech, could you see anything on the surveillance, who they were, where they went?”

Tech pulls up the feed and we all watch the tv. The guy that was aiming for Saige was someone we all knew, and the car that he is shooting from is the one that they blew up. He runs over to a bike and jumps on. Dayna is right behind him. He was a little punk that had prospected for us and was turned away, he couldn’t follow the rules, was crude to all the girls and women. His name was Matt something. He’s the one that left Saige at the bakery the night she was taken. He also screwed around with Dayna a lot. I’m so pissed at seeing Dayna on the back of that bike, knowing that she caused this.

“Stone, I want them both put to ground!” Loki and Tires agree by pounding the table.

“Boys, y’all know we don’t hurt women. The other pissants I’ve no problem with that.”

Saige straightens up beside me. “You may not hurt women, but that doesn’t mean that I can’t hurt her. I agree that she needs to be put to ground. What if they try something else, and someone gets killed because of her and her obsession with Cotton? I want her, and I’ll take care of her.”

“Saige...”

“No! I’ll do it, and not think anything about it later. I had to do it before, remember? When we had to go undercover, and I worked that strip club with Lynch. I shot that girl that was aiming a gun at his head ready to kill him. I’ll be fine.” Stone sighs then finally nods his okay. I grab her hand and give it a squeeze. We may be the good guys, try to stay within the law, but when someone messes with us like this, we take care of it however we see fit.

Stone sighs, “Okay, let’s get a few folks out and helping Thomas find these two. If he finds them, he’s bringing them here. Anything else?”

Saige looks at her dad then the guys at the table, “Yes, I think it’s high time that Bacon got his patch. He has proven himself many times, and he went and took a bullet meant for me, he protected me.”

Stone smiles at her, then looks to us all. “Does anyone second this?”

I second it along with Tires at the same time. “Everyone in agreement?” Fists pound the table all the way around. “It’s done. Saige, you get to give him his patch. But mess with him a little first.”

Twenty-Seven

Saige

“Hey, Butterfly, we ordered pizza and we’re going to have a night in with you girls. Want to go in the movie room?”

I lean into Cotton, “Yes, that sounds good. Let’s go give Bacon his patch, then we can get them and go.” He leans down, kisses me really quick before we go look for Bacon. We find him sitting in the bar with Doc, Wolfe, Hawke, Bear, Grange, and the other prospect that had helped. “Bacon, we need to talk.” He puts his beer down and looks up at me from his seat. “I have some news for you, and I was told I had to be the one to tell you, since you are my guard. Um, I’m not sure how you are going to take this. But... um....”

Source Creation Date: July 9, 2025, 1:59 am

Bacon has fear in his eyes, as he interrupts me. “Saige, I’m sorry, I know I should’ve seen the tail sooner. Is there any way I can get another chance? I mean...” I throw my hand up and stop him mid-sentence. Cotton glares at him for more of an effect to make him think something is about to happen that he won’t like. Tires and Loki are beside me, arms crossed and glaring as well.

“No, Bacon, I’m afraid once you get this, you can’t get any more chances to prospect.” We all finally break out in smiles and laughter as I hand him his new patches. “Welcome to the family, Bacon.”

He gets up and hugs me, relief flooding his face. I guess Cotton thought he was hugging me too long because the man growled and pulled me back into his chest. “I can’t thank you all enough. Damn, I thought I was being thrown out for sure. I won’t let you all down, I promise.”

“You took a bullet that was meant for my girl here. I think we all know that you’ve more than proven yourself.” Everyone comes and congratulates Bacon. Man hugs, chin lifts, and hugs from the girls.

They both come over to me. We all three hug in a huddle. “I’m so glad you two are okay. Cotton said that they ordered pizzas and stuff and wanted to have a movie night. Y’all in?” Sloane and Bex both say that they are. “I need to go change right quick. I’ll meet you in the movie room in a few.”

“Do you want a beer or anything, Saige?”

“No, not tonight. Thanks though.”

I unlock my room and the first thing I do is go to my medicine cabinet. I take a pill to hopefully ward off the migraine I can feel coming on from what happened. I take all my clothes off, putting my dress and bra in a pan with cold water. I hope that when I can get it in the wash, that the blood and dirt come out. Bacon bled a lot on me. I get a hair bow and throw my hair up into a messy bun then get in the shower. I wash off the dried blood and dirt that's on me. I'm about to get out when the door opens and Finn steps in behind me, pulling me to him. He leans down kissing my neck, hugging me close. I can feel his hard on, and I am immediately wet. I lean my head to the side as he sucks on my neck, leaving his mark. His hands come up and grab my breasts, his finger and thumb pulling and pinching my pebbled nipples. I moan out his name. "Saige, I can't be too gentle right now. It needs to be hard and fast. Are you okay with that? If not tell me now."

"I need you, Finn, any way you want me, you have me."

He groans. "Turn around, baby. Hands on the wall and bend a little for me." I do as he says, as he rubs his hands down my back, gripping my ass. I feel him press up against me, and he rubs his bulbous head against me. "You're dripping wet, baby. Do you want me to take you hard?"

"Yes, Finn, please." I moan out as he lines up with my hole, and slams into me hard, balls deep. He pulls almost all the way out and does it again. I'm already so close to my release. He's slamming into me over and over.

"Play with your clit, Saige. Use your hand like I do, baby." I move one hand from the wall to do what he says. I take my finger and run it over my clit, using the rest of my hand to rub him as he goes in and out. A few more thrusts and I am coming so hard, I see stars. He lets loose and moans my name as he kisses then bites my shoulder. "Damn, baby, are you okay? I think I about passed out." He pulls out of me, turns me and pulls me in his arms.

“I’m great.” I smile at him and kiss him.

“The water is getting cool. Let’s clean up and go meet the others for a bit. We’ll cut out early if you want to. And by the way, I like the purple.” I smile at him.

We get to the movie room to see that the others have been waiting on us. I blush at the looks Sloane and Bex are throwing at me. Cotton has his arm around my waist. He kisses me on top of the head, and we sit on the couch. Loki brings me a plate and I thank him. “I need to talk to you later about something. It can be tomorrow. Just the two of us.”

“Okay, Loki. Thank you for getting my plate.” Tires gives Cotton a whole box of pizza and our salads.

“What movie do you all want to watch? We have Jigsaw, IT, and on the pay per view is the Annabelle: Creation,” Sloane asks. We all decide on the Annabelle movie, and Tires orders it. We are almost ready to cut the lights out when Aunt Stella walks in the room with three huge bowls of movie theater popcorn.

“Oh my gosh! Thank you, Aunt Stella. I can’t believe none of us thought about popcorn. Usually I’m the one that gets it.”

“It’s okay, baby girl, y’all had a lot happen today, and I reckon your mind is on other things.” She looks towards Cotton. I know I’m blushing again. She just smiles, and says, “Alivia is bringing in a small cooler with beers and sodas for y’all. Have a good night.” We all thank her and then Alivia when she comes in. “Do you want to join us, Alivia?” She smiles at me.

“I appreciate it, Saige, but I have to get back to the bar. Maybe next time?”

“Definitely.”

The movie is starting, and Cotton throws his arm around me. I snuggle into him and laugh a lot when the others jump during the movie. This is how it always goes. Sloane loves scary movies as much as I do, but she jumps throughout the whole thing while watching them. I always laugh. I can't help it. As soon as the movie is over, I help the girls clean up, and then hug them all goodnight. Loki holds me to him a little tight.

“Goodnight, BFF. I love you.”

“I love you too, BFF. I hope you sleep good.” Cotton waits for me at the door and we go back to my room. He already has a couple of changes of clothes in here. I go to change into a tank and panties to sleep in, when he grabs my hand.

“Baby, I would just end up taking them off you. Just come on to bed when you are ready.” I kiss him quick and go to the bathroom to do what I need to do. When I go out to the bed and lay down, he pulls me to him, I snuggle up to him, laying my head on his chest

“Butterfly, we need to talk. We've made love three times now, and um, I didn't wear a condom. I'm clean, you don't have to worry about that. It's just, what if we made a baby?”

My hand goes straight to my stomach, and I look up at him. “Finn. I'm not on the pill because of my migraines, and you know I'm clean. I...I would love to have your baby. I'm okay with it if you are.”

He smiles at me, “Okay, we'll just let nature take its course.” He kisses me deeply. “Get some rest, baby, you had a really rough day. I'll be right here if you have a nightmare or migraine. Goodnight, Butterfly.”

“Goodnight, Finn. I love you.” I whisper, but I know he heard me. His arms tighten

around me as I relax into him, falling asleep.

Twenty-Eight

Cotton

I can't believe she just whispered that she loved me. I bet she thought I wouldn't hear her. I didn't say it back, but I do love her. Have for a long time. I hold her close to me as I think of all the things that we need to get done as a club. We still haven't found the guys that bid on Saige and Bexley. We still haven't found Rancor and the guys that got away with him, nor have we found Tonya. For Saige's sake, I hope that Tonya is okay. Stone said that Rancor had a hold of her arm, so we know he took her with him. And now we need to find Dayna and Matt. This is getting out of hand; I want it all over with. I guess we need to get with Tech in the morning to see if he has found any hints of them. I also want to tell Saige about my past, but I'm so afraid that she will leave me, never to talk to me again. I know that she'll hate me, and I won't blame her one bit. It's with that thought that I fall into a restless sleep.

"Finn! Wake up, Finn!" I come to, squeezing Saige so hard she can barely breathe. I'm panting trying to catch my breath. I loosen up my grip on her. "Are you okay? Finn, you were screaming for Donovan in your sleep." I run my hand through my hair.

"I'm sorry, baby. Try to go back to sleep," I tell her.

Saige sits up and looks at me. "Finnick Casey Larsen! Do not do this to me. I told you everything that happened to me, when I was having the nightmares, and they aren't that bad or come as often anymore. Just knowing that you are here with me, that I can tell you anything, is a huge deal. Let me help you. Please?"

I sigh and sit up, then pull Saige over to sit between my legs, pulling the sheet back

over us. I wrap my arms around her, and she holds onto my arms.

“Saige, this isn’t pretty. Cooper knows about how I grew up, and your dad. A few of the older guys too. But it’s because they were the cops that came to the house and found us, and Coop is my best friend, he was there to see a lot of it. You know Donovan was my twin brother. Our parents, ha, if you can call them that, they liked to party. Drugs were more important than we were. Dad liked to use his fists to get his point across, and he did it a lot tonot only me, but Mom and Don until I got big enough to fight back. He was a mean son of a bitch. I had come home from the gym to find Mom bloodied and lying on the floor, she wasn’t moving. Dad had a gun pointed at her and Don. Don was up against the sink, his face swollen, bloody, bruised. I saw red. Dad didn’t hear me come in, but Don saw me and shook his head no. That’s when Dad knew I was there, so he turned towards me. He actually shot Mom as he turned towards me. He said if I made another move Don was next. I stood still and he started laughing. He said I was weak, he wished that they had never had us. He turned to Don again while cocking the gun. I tackled him. The gun went off, and I just stayed on top of him beating him. Taking out every ounce of anger and pain he had ever put us through on him. It took your dad and Cruz to pull me off him. I saw a paramedic working on Don, and I realized that when the gun went off, it hit him in the leg. We were seniors, and he couldn’t play football that year. It destroyed his scholarship, and he blamed me for it. I had killed Dad, wrecked his scholarship, and Mom was gone because of me. I was going into the Marines and shipping out for boot camp. Don stayed with some friends of his. Your dad made sure everything went down as self-defense. But Don, he never really forgave me. He said football was all he had ever wanted, and I took that from him. He even said in the last phone call we had, that he hoped I diedwhile on tour. I only told him I loved him, and he hung up on me. His friend Tate kept me up to date on him, letting me know what was going on. He got into drugs and starting drinking. On top of that he started street racing while high and drunk. I called your dad and told him what I knew, but one night, it all came to a fiery end. Don was high and racing when he lost control of the car. He ran head on into a tree. I may as well have killed my brother that same day as I killed my dad.

Cause he surely didn't live a day after that." A sob escapes me, and it isn't until I feel her hands on my face that I realize I am crying or that she has turned in my arms to face me.

"Finn. You didn't kill your brother. You tried to help him, and you even saved him. I know you were in the Marines, deployed with Coop overseas, so there was nothing you could do about what he was doing. I have loved you since I was fifteen, I'm not going to stop now."

I pull her closer to me and kiss her. Can she really love me? She says she does, I want, no need to believe her. "Saige, I...thank you. I don't deserve you."

"No, you deserve someone better. You keep thinking because you had to kill someone that I'm going to cut and run. You forget that I killed someone too. Lynch was in the crosshairs of that girl that was kidnapping the strippers at that club we went undercover at. I shot her like it was nothing. I did what I had to do to protect my family. You did the same. You were trying to get Don help. It's not your fault. I know that there's more that you don't want to tell me right now, and that's okay. But I want you to know that I'm not going anywhere. If anyone walks away from us, it'll have to be you. You need to put the past to rest. I don't care what you did, or where you come from. I know you. I know your heart." She presses into me and kisses me.

"I'll try to think of it your way. I mean I know I didn't kill him with my hands, but him getting shot because of me, then being put on those painkillers, is what led to the stronger drugs."

"Finnick, it was his choice to abuse his pills to try to numb not only the pain but his mind. It was also his choice to start the harder stuff. It becomes an addiction, I know, but it starts with a choice. And Don made that choice. You didn't force him to drink or take whatever it was he was taking. You were overseas. He could have gotten help, his friend that he stayed with could have gotten him help. I know it has to hurt like

hell, and I'm so sorry. I wish I could take all the pain from you, but I can't. The only thing I can do is help you to carry the burden of it, by always being here for you." Damn, this woman is something else. I hold her to me for a while, just holding her, soaking up her light and love. I actually fall asleep, with her in my arms.

I wake up to Saige kissing my chin, working her way to my mouth. She is straddling my legs, moaning as she grinds her pussy against me. I pull her closer, holding her with one arm while kissing her. I rub her clit and stick two fingers in her. My God, she is so wet. Saige licks my chin, down my throat, over to the side of my neck, where she sucks on me. She is grinding down on my fingers and I'm hard as hell. "Finn, I need you, please." She licks down my throat to my chest, and licks my nipple, then bites down on it. Holy shit that feels good! I moan as she does the same to the other, and I lift her up, helping her line up with my dick. I watch as she slowly lowers herself down on me. I have her watch as I suck her juices off my fingers. She sucks a breath in, and starts to slowly move up and down, swiveling her hips. Oh shit! I squeeze her breasts together and suck on both nipples, then run my tongue over them, nipping at them. Biting just enough for it to sting, then lick them again. Saige is getting close, I can feel it, so am I. I grab ahold of her hips and start pumping into her hard. It doesn't take long until we both are screaming out our orgasms. Saige leans into me, trying to catch her breath. I hold her to me, lift her chin so that I can kiss her.

"Thank you, for loving me," I tell her. I lay her down beside me and go get a rag to clean us up before I lay back down beside her, pull her close, and fall into a deep sleep.

The next morning, I wake up and Saige isn't in the room. I see a note on her pillow. I grab it and read

"Finn, you finally got into a deep sleep, and I didn't want to wake you. I'll be with Loki for a bit, and I'll see you soon. Thank you for trusting me last night. I love you. Saige."

Damn this girl is going to be the death of me. Thinking about something that has been on my mind a few days, I make my decision. Smiling to myself, I get up to take a shower. I need to talk to Stone and Tires.

Twenty-Nine

Saige

It's been a couple of weeks since everything happened at the clubhouse. Loki is spending more time with me again. I know he is worried about me. Not only with what is going on, but he is worried that Cotton will hurt me. I told him Cotton wouldn't intentionally hurt me. He seems to think that if I stay with Cotton, that we will lose our time together. I tell him it would take death to tear us apart. We are on our way right now to get some ink done. I know what I am going to get. I'm so excited. Loki is talking about the tats he is wanting on his arm. He's working on a sleeve. I laugh when we get inside, and Leilani grabs me. "Tell your BFF bye for now." Laughing Loki and I do our, "Bye, BFF, see you later."

"Not unless I see you first, BFF." Acer and Leilani laugh. I follow her into her area and give her a hug really quick.

"I have a question for you. Coop and I both have talked about it. You have been the biggest mother influence in our lives, except for Aunt Stella. Would you be okay with us calling you mom or makuahine?"

Leilani bursts into tears, hugging me to her. "Are you sure? I would love for you two to do that, you're like my own kids."

"We're sure. Now dry those tears. I need to see if we can do the tattoo that I want." She laughs and we work up a stencil of what I want to get done. I get my shirt off so that she can get it on my left ribcage. I can't wait to show it off.

It's been a couple days since my tattoo. I haven't shown it to Cotton yet, he's been gone on a parts run with Cruz. I haven't felt too good the last few days either.

We are at the bakery, and I am covered in cake flour. I just dropped a bag and it's gone everywhere. I can't help but laugh. Bexley has gotten covered too. Loki walks in from the front and when he sees us starts laughing too. "Oh, dear lord. What a mess! Want me to send the two prospects in here to help clean up?"

"Yeah if you will. I need to run to the bathroom," I say as I take off running. I barely get the door shut and locked before I start throwing up my breakfast and lunch. I'm still dry heaving when there is a knock at the door. "Just a minute," I call out.

"Saige, are you okay?"

"Yeah, Lok, I'm okay. I'll be out in just a second." I splash cold water on my face and clean up. Walking out of the bathroom, Loki is right there, arms crossed with a look of concern on his face. "Really, Loki, I'm okay. Sloane had a stomach bug the other day and missed work, I must've caught it from her. Ugh. I can't ride my bike back home feeling like this. Anyone in a cage that can give me a ride? Sloane and Bexley can handle things for a day or two. We don't have any special orders." Putting his arm around my shoulder, he leads me to a chair. He goes to talk to Sloane and let her know that he is taking me home.

She comes into the back and looks at me. "Well you look like I did when I was sick. Oh hun, I'm sorry. Bexley and I have things covered here. Love you."

Source Creation Date: July 9, 2025, 1:59 am

I smile at her, “Love you too.” We blow each other a kiss, and Loki takes me out to my cage. His bike is loaded in the back, and I see Bacon on mine. Damn, that was quick. I can’t help but giggle a little to see Bacon who is big and muscular, sitting on my purple bike. Loki must’ve called as soon as I started running for the bathroom. He helps me up in the truck, I lay my head against the window. The coolness feels good against my flushed skin. The next thing I know, my door is being opened and Loki pulls me out, carrying me into the urgent care. He fills out the forms and pays my co-pay. He comes back to sit with me, putting his arm around my shoulder.

“Why’d you bring me here, Lok? I just need to rest, and I’ll be okay in a couple of days.”

“Hush. You’ve been sick for a few weeks. Yeah, I’ve noticed. You were sick before Sloane got her stomach virus.” He is looking at me, and says, “Saige, is there a chance you are pregnant?” I look at him in shock, and think back, I haven’t had a monthly since Cotton and I got together.

“It’s possible,” I tell him. He squeezes my hand. It doesn’t take long for my name to be called, and Loki goes back with me. The nurse has me go into the bathroom and pee in a cup, then she draws some blood, just in case. She keeps checking Loki out, smiling, flipping her hair over her shoulder. She even licks her lips. I can’t help but giggle. Loki just ignores her.

After she leaves the room to run the tests, Loki looks at me. “I need a favor.”

I look at him, “Yeah okay, anything I can do you know I will.”

“I need Sloane’s ring size. I want to ask her to marry me.”

“Oh Loki, I’m so happy and I know she’ll say yes. Her ring size is seven. We share rings all the time.”

He smiles, before asking, “Will you help me to pick it out? You know her tastes for stuff like that better than I do. And I can’t think of anyone better than my BFF to help me.”

“Absolutely. As long as you do me a favor.” He looks at me.

“If I am pregnant, you can’t tell anyone. Not even Sloane. I want to tell everyone in my own way at one time.”

“I promise.”

There’s a knock at the door, and a man walks in. “Hello, my name is Dr. Holmes. It looks like congratulations are in order. You’re definitely pregnant. I’m going to have Sydney come in and do an ultrasound, to see just how far along you are. I’m also going to write you prescriptions for prenatal vitamins and nausea meds to take. I promise that they won’t hurt the baby. I’d like to see you back in a month, unless you have any problems. I’ll send Sydney right in.”

“Thank you, Dr. Holmes,” Loki says, as I’m sitting here in shock. “Saige, are you okay?” I nod. I look up as there is another knock at the door and a woman comes in pushing a machine.

“Hi there. I’m Sydney, and I’ll be doing your ultrasound. I’m going to try on your stomach first. If I can’t see anything, then we’ll have to do a vaginal. So just lie back and pull your shirt up a little and your pants just a tad bit down. Dad, do you want to stay in here?” We both laugh, and she looks at us funny.

“I’m sorry, this is my cousin and best friend, but yes, he’s staying unless you have to do the vaginal.”

She smiles. “Okay, I have to put some gel on you, but it’s been in the warmer.” She squirts it on my stomach and spreads it out with a wand thing. “You’re in luck, I can see great. Would you like to hear the babies’ heartbeats?”

“What do you mean babies?” Loki asks. I think I went into shock again.

“It looks like you are having twins. Do they run in your family?” Loki tells her no. Then a wonderful sound fills the room. I look at Loki and even he is crying. You can hear both heartbeats, and it’s completely breathtaking and magical. “I’m going to take some measurements and then I’ll print you out some pictures.” I smile at her and watch as she does this and that on her screen. “Okay, it looks like the babies are measuring at thirteen weeks. Everything looks great with them so far. I’ll let Dr. Holmes know. Here’re some pictures of the sonogram, and the receptionist will have your next appointment set for you. Dr. Holmes may want to see you a little more frequently since you’re having twins. He also sent your prescriptions electronically to the pharmacy. Take care.”

“Thank you, Sydney.” She smiles as she hands me a few wet wipes and paper towels and leaves the room. “Loki, remember, don’t say a word to anyone. I need you to take me back to the bakery.”

“Saige, it’s closed now.”

“I know. You want to help me? I’m going to copy these sonogram pictures into my machine and print out edible images. Then we are going to make a cake and some cupcakes. We’ll be at the clubhouse in time for dinner.”

He smiles big liking my idea. “Let’s get to it!”

Loki and I pull up to the clubhouse a few hours later. He stopped and got my prescriptions and I took one of the nausea meds as soon as we got them. We walk in and everyone is getting ready to eat.

Cotton walks over to us, “There you are, baby. I was getting worried about you two. Sloane said you left the bakery early.”

“Yeah, I wasn’t feeling good, so Loki took me to the doctor. It was crowded so it took a while before I could be seen.” We walk over to the table that Loki sat the bakery boxes on.

“Dad, Mom, Coop, Aunt Stella, Uncle Cruz, Sloane, Bexley, I need y’all to come up to see these cakes before everyone else. Please?” They all walk up to the table.

Dad walks up to me and gives me a hug, “Whatcha got, baby girl, a new flavor or design?”

“You could say that. Cotton, why don’t you open the big box for me?”

“Okay, Butterfly.” He looks at me, then lifts the lid off the big box. He looks at it for a minute, then turns to me, “Saige, is this for real?” He has tears in his eyes. I nod.

Page 27

Source Creation Date: July 9, 2025, 1:59 am

“Yeah.” He lets out a whoop and everyone looks at him.

“I’m going to be a dad!” he yells. He pulls me to him and kisses me.

“Yo, Cotton, did you notice that it says baby a and baby b in that picture?” Loki asks.

“What?! Really?! Twins?!” He is so excited.

“Damn, sis, you always have to go big on things when you do them don’t you?” Tires hugs me close, then does the man hug, back slap with Cotton.

Dad and Mom envelope us between them. “You two, making us grandparents two times over on the first try. I love you both.”

“I love you too, Daddy.” We get congratulations from everyone, and the guys go pull out the alcohol, turning this into a party.

Cotton makes a plate for us both and has me follow him to a table. He pulls me down beside him and kisses me. “You have made me so happy. I love you, Saige.” I look up at him, a tear sliding down my face. It’s the first time he has said the words, though I know he means them, he shows me every day. I can’t eat much, but I did get a Gatorade and drink it. Even with that medicine for nausea, I’m still feeling sick.

Thirty

Cotton

I was starting to get worried. Sloane had told me that Loki had taken Saige home a few hours ago, but they never showed up here. Neither of them were answering their phones. I was getting ready to go talk to Stone when they walked in the door, Loki carrying a couple of boxes from the bakery. Opening that box when Saige asked me to, and seeing the sonogram saying twins, has to be one of the greatest things to ever happen to me.

After we get congratulations from everyone, I fix Saige and I a plate, having her sit down. She looks exhausted. Her dad, Leilani, Tires, Loki, Sloane, Bex, Stella, and Cruz sit at the table with us.

“I can’t believe I’m going to be a great auntie,” Stella says, tears streaming.

“Yeah, and I’m going to be a papaw. Baby, you will be a mamaw,” Stone tells Leilani.

Leilani looks at him, “Umm no, I will be Tutu. That is grandma in Hawaiian. It can also be used as grandpa too.”

“Tutu. I really like that, it’s so cute,” Saige says. I look at her plate to see that she hasn’t eaten much, then I notice that she is looking even more pale. She is sipping on a Gatorade.

“You ready to head to the room, butterfly?” She nods and we say goodnight to everyone. I grab a few of the cupcakes, and a couple of slices of cake and wrap them up to take with us. I’ll put them in the fridge in the room.

As soon as I unlock the door, Saige takes off running to the bathroom. I shut the door and put the desserts in the fridge. That’s when I hear her getting sick. I go in with her, pull her hair up, rubbing her back. When she gets done being sick, I get her a cold wash cloth, and fix her toothbrush for her. Once she is ready, I walk her back into the

room. “Baby, going to undress you, get you ready for bed,” I tell her. She kicks her sandals off, and I lift her shirt up, then reach around her to undo her bra. I let it all fall to the floor. I drop to my knees to kiss her stomach. It’s then that I notice some new ink on her side. I look at it. “Butterfly, is that what I think it is?”

She smiles at me, saying, “Yes. It’s a cotton blossom and a butterfly. I thought it would be better than the actual words written on me. This is my property tattoo for you.”

I run my fingers over it gently and kiss it too. I pull her pants and panties down and pick her up. I kiss her holding her close, then carry her over to the bed. I pull the blanket and sheet back, laying her down. I go to the bathroom, come back, strip down, and slide in beside her. I pull her into me, and she lays her head on my chest. I pull the blanket up. “Do you want to watch tv until you fall asleep?”

Saige yawns, “Yeah, that’s fine. You pick us something. I don’t care what we watch.” I laugh and kiss her. I grab the remote and look through the channels. I finally see something I know we both will like and put it on it. Saige giggles a little when she sees that I’ve put it on True Blood. She has all the books, and we both like the show. She snuggles in closer to me, and by the third episode she is out. I turn the volume down and watch it for a bit longer, not really paying attention. My mind is on the woman in my arms. The mother of my children. Twins. Wow. I want to talk to Stone again about that house I want to build up by the lake for us. I know Saige will love it. I have it all planned out, and I’m hoping now that we can get it done before we have the babies. I have her ring in my room. I’m going to propose tomorrow. I’d already planned everything out with Stone and Loki. They are helping me set it all up. I know Saige loves that big Japanese weeping cherry tree. I’m taking her there. I just hope she knows I’m not asking because of the babies. I lightly rub her belly. I can’t believe I didn’t notice the little roundness that is there before. I fall asleep with my hand on her stomach.

“Saige, dress comfortable. We are going to go up to the lake,” I tell her. She is just now getting out of the shower.

“Okay, babe. Be ready in a minute.”

“I have to run into my room to get my trunks, I’ll be right back.” I rush out and go get her ring. I hide it in my pocket and go back to see if she is ready. Loki just went up and set out a huge blanket with a picnic basket for me, along with a cooler and radio. Walking back into her room, I see her throwing a dress type thing over her bikini. “You ready, butterfly?”

“Yeah, I think I have everything I need in my bag here.” I take the bag from her and grab ahold of her hand, walking out to the ATV that we are going to take up there. I love these things. The seats with the seatbelts, the windshield, the top that can be taken off. When we pull up to the pavilion, I park, and help her out. I hold her hand as I walk her down the path to the tree and picnic. Loki even went ahead and set up a few pillows to lean back on. Or lay on. Saige gasps when she sees everything. “Finn, did you... you didn’t have to do this. It’s beautiful.” She smiles at me.

“Come on, baby. Let’s go sit down. Stella fixed some of your favorites for us for lunch.” I help her settle against one of the pillows under the tree. I set all the food out. Chicken tenders, potato salad, strawberries, grapes, cheese cubes, even little cups of ranch. I see her looking at everything smiling. Deciding I can’t wait, I get on my knee beside her. I grab her hand, “Saige, my beautiful butterfly. I had this planned before you surprised me last night with the second of the best things to ever happen to me. You are the first. I’m sorry that I’ve been hot and cold with you, but you’ve helped me with that. I do love you with all my heart and soul, I want to spend the rest of my life with you. Will you please do me the honor of being my wife and old lady?” I hold my breath waiting for her answer. I look and see tears running down her face.

“Yes! Yes, Finnick! I love you so much!” I slip the ring on her finger and kiss her

until we are both breathless.

We spend the day at the lake just the two of us, talking about anything and everything. Swimming, it's in the nineties. I tell her about the house that I am going to build for us up here, on the other side of the lake, and point out the spot to her. I love the look of excitement she gets about that. We talk about how many rooms we want in it, and I tell her that I have Ryker and his crew ready to start on it. We talk about the babies and think of some names. Early I know, but I'm so damn excited about this. I feel like the luckiest man in the world. I've got everything I need in my arms right now. We eat our lunch, and when Saige gets to feeling bad, I take her back to the clubhouse to get some rest.

We barely get in the door, when Stone yells for us. We head to the common room where he is. He's smiling as we walk in and he sees the ring on her hand. But he stops when he sees how pale she is. "Congratulations, baby girl. We have an engagement dinner and party planned for tonight for you two. Why don't you take my grandbabies you are carrying, and go rest up a little?" He hugs her and kisses her forehead.

"I'll walk you back to the room, then I need to come back out and talk to Ryker and your dad, okay, baby?" She looks up at me smiling. I walk her back to the room and help her get comfortable. I kiss her as she lays down, saying, "Call or text if you need me." She barely nods before she is out, so I walk quietly to the door and lock it on my way out. I find Ryker and Stone in the bar with Tech, and none of them look very happy. "Ah, hell. Let me grab a beer then tell me what's going on." Cruz chuckles a little, coming up beside me getting a beer.

Source Creation Date: July 9, 2025, 1:59 am

Tech looks at me, “I finally cracked that IP address. It’s bad, Cotton, like really bad.” I look at Tech and the others.

“Shall we take this to my office, boys? We are starting to get a crowd in here. I want to talk this over before we add any of the others,” Stone says, walking towards his office.

“Okay, you all may remember Bexley talking about an ex-boyfriend that she’s been hiding from? She said that he was crazy, abusive, and nearly killed her a couple of times choking her. Well, I believe it was his brother that put the bid in on the girls. At least that is what the IP address is saying. He’s one of the senators of our state. His name is John Simms, his brother is Michael Simms. And they come from old money. John worked hard to get where he is, but he’s a bribe taker, and lets things slide in the direction he wants them to. Michael has always been spoiled, he follows his brother, who put him in a job right under him, that isn’t really a job. It’s one that is made just for Michael. John likes to keep him close, so that he can cover for him quickly when he does something,” Tech explains.

“How in the world did Bexley get hooked up with these guys? And how’d she get away?” Cruz asks.

“Those are great questions, and she’s going to answer them when we go to church. Gather everyone up, and let’s find out,” Stone says.

I walk back down the hall to Saige’s room. We both have been living in it, might as well say our room. She isn’t on the bed when I walk in. So I check the bathroom when I hear water running. She’s washing her face off. “Butterfly, are you okay?” I

go up behind her and rub her back.

“Hmmm, yeah. Your kids decided lunch should come up.”

I laugh at that. Turning her in my arms I look into her beautiful eyes, kiss her forehead. “We have to go to church. I know you probably don’t feel like it, but Tech found out something big. Also, Bexley must be in there, it’s all connected to her.” I see her go pale, but I try to reassure her everything will be okay. I take her hand and we walk down the hall to church.

Thirty-One

Saige

“Bexley, we need you to tell us about what happened and how you know Michael Simms,” my dad says.

She is shaking like a leaf and looks shocked that Dad knows about him, but she nods her head, ‘Well, I started dating Michael when he came into a bar I was working at. I did the books for them and helped serve if I had to. Michael was so sweet at first. He would bring me dinner and flowers, he would take me out to these fancy restaurants, a couple of the Panthers football games and he even took me to a few of the ballets and operas. I hated the drive to the games, but he loved going into North Carolina all the time. Especially around the Charlotte area. He talked me into moving in with him within just a couple of months of dating. As soon as I moved in, he changed. He didn’t want me to be alone ever, so he put a bodyguard on me. After a couple more weeks, I wasn’t allowed to work anymore. I was glad that I had my money saved and not in my name. I had kept my mom’s checking account that I had power of attorney over and stuck all my money in it. The bank owner was my uncle. So, he helped with that. Then one night, Michael came home, messed up out of his mind, and he forced himself on me. The more I fought, the more he hit me. He finally beat me so badly

that I could hardly move. He would keep a pillow case full of oranges or bars of soap to hit me with. Didn't show bruises as badly, but you police officers and medical guys know what damage it can do. He was gone for a few days when I found out I was pregnant. I was excited, a baby. I thought maybe he would change back into the man I first met, but when I told him, he threw me down the steps. Once I hit the bottom, he came running up to me and started hitting and kicking me. My bodyguard, Brennon, is the one that got me to the hospital as soon as Michael left. We were supposed to go to John's party that night. Brennon got me to the hospital, called my uncle to cash out my checking account and get to me as fast as he could, then he helped me leave. He gave me some of his money too. He told me to get as far away from them as I could. So, I ran, and I made it here."

Tears are streaming down my face. I can't help it. I want to kill this son of a bitch for everything that he has done to my friend. Bexley is crying also, and I see her looking at me. She is trying her best not to look at Tires, and that is breaking my heart. I know how much she likes my brother, and I know that he has feelings for her. But he won't follow through on them, thinking that Bex is just pushing her feelings on him, hero worshipping. He can be an idiot sometimes. I smile at her, "Dad, may I go with Bexley? Cotton can catch me up on what y'all decide to do. I need to get to the restroom also."

"Yeah, baby girl, you can go." I give Cotton's hand a squeeze and Bexley runs over to me. I put my arm around her and lead her down to my room. I go into the bathroom and I am violently sick. I think the twins are as upset as I am. Bexley runs in and gets me a wet rag then helps me up.

"Saige, you need to talk to the doctor again, I think. You keep getting really sick. It worries me." I smile at her, well, more like a grimace.

"I go back in a few days. I'm going to let them know. I think Cotton called and set up the appointment. Are you going to go into the bakery with me later? I need to get

some things made up for tomorrow. I so appreciate you pretty much taking over the place for me right now. I can get in and make the special orders, and then help with some of the other stuff. It just makes it easier to be parttime right now, but it pisses me off at the same time. I feel like I'm not doing what I should be doing."

Bexley gasps, "Saige, if you weren't pregnant, I would hit you. You're not doing this to just laze about. You're doing what you have to, to take care of those babies! Now, I've hired Beth to help out, and I think Alivia is keeping Bethany for her while she is at work. You know she wants to open up her own daycare? She is a natural with kids. The bakery is staying steadily busy, and everyone is excited for you. And to answer your question, yeah, I'm going in with you. I need to get away from here, at least for a little bit."

I hug her. "Cooper'll get his head out of his ass soon enough." We both giggle at that image, and then we get ready. I have to change into some more comfortable clothes, which is maternity shorts and a tank, and I go wait out in the common area. I know Cotton will want to talk to us, and I have to wait on Bacon, Loki too, most likely. Bexley makes it out before the guys, and she goes to get us some juice.

Alivia comes over with Bethany. "Sai! Sai! I is pwaying with Awivia. Her is wots of fun!" she says as she throws her little arms around my stomach, kissing it. "Hewwo babies!"

I want to cry at how sweet this little girl is being. I love her so much. Beth asked me the other day to sign papers that if anything were to happen to her, that I get custody of Bethany, and she even made me promise that we would adopt her. It made me nervous and I've worried about Beth ever since, but I promised and did everything she asked. All this happened after she started dating a new guy, that none of us have met. He picks her up from the bakery, and he usually parks down the street. I have caught one glimpse of him, and that was it. I couldn't pick him from a line up if I had to. "Aww, thank you, sweetie. I'm so glad that you're having fun with Alivia. She is

a really good friend of mine. I just hope that you're good for her all the time."

Bethany is nodding her head vigorously. "I is awways good, Sai." She giggles, and Alivia has her hand over her mouth to keep Bethany from seeing that she is laughing. "Can I go ober and pways in the pit?" Alivia and I both tell her yes. We have a little playpen that is a ball pit. The smaller kids love it.

"Hey Alivia, do you think you would want to babysit the twins for me when I have them and I'm able to go back to work? I want them to be with someone I trust, and I love how you are with Bethany."

She smiles, "Are you sure, Saige? I thought you would have Stella keep them. I would love to, you know that."

I smile at her, "Liv, as much I love my aunt, I would rather you keep them. I've a feeling that they will be in great hands with you, and Stella has been acting a little off lately. I'm trying to find out what is up with her. I know she has been busier here lately, what with a few guys being sick, and trying to help Doc. I know she'll come in and help you with them." Bexley comes back with a glass of juice for each of us, and a sippy cup for Bethany. Bethany, seeing the sippy cup comes running over to us. She crawls up in my lap and I hug her close. We're sitting at the table laughing and talking for quite a bit when we hear the footsteps of a bunch of big footed men, wearing boots.

Loki gets to us first, "Hey girls. How is my best friend, and this sweet little girl? Liv, how are you?" I watch the byplay between Loki and Liv as she blushes.

"Hey, Loki. I'm good. Saige, I know you need to talk to them. I'll take Bethany and let her play a little more before her nap." Bethany hugs me one more time, hugs Loki and follows Liv.

“What was that about, Loki? I have never seen Alivia blush like that before.”

Loki actually blushes a little, “Oh um, she walked in on me and Sloane having a fight last night. She didn’t know how to take it. I think she thought I might go off on her, especially after Sloane verbally attacked her. Anyways, Cotton is going with our dads to talk to Commander Thomas, so you have me and Bacon.”

“Okay. I reckon we should go while I feel like I can.” They laugh and walk Bexley and I out to my truck. I sit up front with Loki. Bacon gets Bexley to talking about some banking stuff with him. I’m glad she is helping him out with that.

I look over at Loki, “Okay bestie. What’s going on?”

Source Creation Date: July 9, 2025, 1:59 am

He sighs. “Saige, I honestly don’t know. Sloane has pulled back from me a lot, and then I hear her and Mom in a heated argument, but I couldn’t make out all they were saying. Mom refuses to talk to Sloane now. I asked her to marry me, but she is pissed about the ring for some reason, and I don’t get that. I got her a ring that I feel suits her, but she says that if I really loved her, I would have used my grandma’s ring. I told her that I do love her, and I thought that she would rather have a ring that was all hers. Man, she went off, that’s what Alivia walked in on because we were in the kitchen. Sloane went off on Alivia for walking in, accusing her of wanting me and trying to get in between us. Saying shit like she knew we were screwing. Then she stormed off. I’ve no clue where she went, she didn’t come into my room last night. Saige, I don’t get it. I know she isn’t using drugs that I know of, and she wasn’t drunk. But I also know it can’t be about a damn ring. She is hiding something from me.”

“Oh, Loki, I’m sorry. At least this explains why Stella has been acting weird lately. You know that she won’t give you Grandma’s ring for Sloane. She feels that you two aren’t meant for each other. And for Sloane to go after her like that about a ring? That’s crazy. Doesn’t sound like Sloane, but honestly, it seems like everyone is going crazy right now.”

He nods his head, “Yeah, I had asked Mom what she thought about me proposing to Sloane, and her words were ‘I don’t’.” We both laugh at that. It’s just like Stella to be blunt and say what she feels, whether we like it or not. We pull into the bakery and I get to work on a special-order cake while Bexley takes inventory and starts on cookies and turnovers. I’ll be making cupcakes and muffins shortly, and then we both will kick out some pies and cakes. Loki stays in the back with me. Beth comes back to let us know if Sloane needs something or if she needs me to come out front. At one

point I finally walk out front to find Sloane. She's standing by the cappuccino maker.

"Sloane, look at me. What's going on? You know you and Loki need to talk about this."

She looks at me, and her eyes fill with tears. "Saige, I had quit taking my birth control a while back, not letting Loki know. He doesn't want kids right now, and I haven't told him. I'm trying to get the money for an abortion, that way he doesn't find out."

I look at her shocked. "Loki would want a child, especially y'all's child together. You just need to tell him."

"NO! And I refuse to let you tell him. I have most of the money, and I'm going to do this. My body, my choice!" She slams down the rag she's holding and walks out of the bakery, getting in her car, squealing tires as she leaves.

"Loki!!" He comes running out front with everyone else.

"What is it, Saige, are you okay?" He has his gun drawn.

"Yeah, put that away. We need to find out where Sloane is staying. She's going to do something so stupid, and we need to stop her, talk sense into her." I'm crying and losing my breath.

Loki pulls me over to a stool, "Saige, sit and calm down. Tell me what Sloane said to you."

"Loki, let's get the video and watch it, Saige is too upset right this second," Bacon says. They go in the back leaving me out front with Beth and Bexley.

A few minutes later I hear Loki scream, "That fucking bitch! The hell she will kill my

kid!” Both girls look at me shocked. I nod and tell them what she told me quietly. They both start crying too. Loki and Bacon both come back out front with us.

“Loki, call her, go find her, stop her.” He comes over and hugs me.

“Saige, I had Tech ping her phone, she’s already headed to Camden. By the time I get y’all back to the club and catch up to her, who knows where she’ll be or what she’ll be doing. I ...” Loki’s phone starts ringing. Looking at it to see who is calling he answers, “Whatcha got Tech?” He is pacing back and forth. “Yeah, okay man, thanks for trying.”

“Hey, man, what’s up?” Bacon asks.

Loki looks at us. “She has turned her phone off and ditched her car. She spotted the prospects, went into a diner, and they waited but she never came back out. When they went in to look for her and asked the waitress where she went, she said she went out the back and got in a truck with some guy, taking off. So we’ve lost her for now. Tech has a thing set up that if she turns her phone back on, we’ll know where she is instantly.”

I get up and hug him to me.

“Saige, I never told her that I didn’t want kids.”

I look up at him. “I know.” Loki has always talked about being a dad. He loves kids, so this has me thinking maybe it wasn’t his baby or she wasn’t pregnant at all and wanted the money for something else, like meth. Especially since her pupils were dilated some. And she has been acting differently, I just didn’t notice it or put it all together until a few minutes ago.

Loki looks at me shocked, “You honestly think that?”

Oh shit, I said that out loud, damn pregnancy brain! “That’s the only thing I can think of, Loki. You said once that no matter what, you’ll use condoms until you are married. And here she is wanting to get rid of the baby. Either it isn’t yours, or she is making the whole thing up, just trying to get more money. And if it is drugs like I suspect, then she is going to go through a lot of money. No wonder she wanted Grandma’s ring. That ring is worth several grand.”

He starts pacing again, “Ya know, she has been asking for money a lot lately, and saying that it’s for this or that. But I never see anything come of it. She even went to Mom and Dad for money once. And I know she asked you for more, right after you gave her that thousand when you got out of the hospital, as a thank you for all she did.”

I nod.

“She’s asked everyone for money that is in this room that I know of. Tires told her to fuck off when she asked him,” Bexley tells us.

“Guys, as much as I hate what is happening, especially since it is happening to my bestie, we need to get things cleaned up and close. I’m hungry and exhausted.” They all agree to being hungry.

Bacon goes and calls in a huge order of pizzas, cheese bread, and salads for us, with lots of extra ranch dressing. I crave it on most everything now. That and cheese. Cotton has even teased that if they were both boys, he was naming them Colby and Jack Ranch. I had laughed. After placing the order, Bacon texts Tires, Cotton, and Liv to let them know that we have dinner coming to the clubhouse, and we’ll be there about the same time. I have Beth get some cookies and cupcakes to box up to take home. Dessert is taken care of. Bexley and I clean up in the back, the guys lock up, and help us out to the truck. Beth is having to ride home with us, her dad had dropped her off this morning. It’s been one wild, crazy, earth-shattering day, and I feel like

there's more to come before we can get to sleep. I rub my stomach, vowing in my mind and heart to always love and protect my babies.

Thirty-Two

Cotton

I got a phone call from Tech telling me what was going on with Sloane, asking for permission to put the trace on her. I sent the prospects after her, but they lost her. Saige is upset, and even more upset for Loki. She is still upset over the things that Bexley has gone through and told us this morning. After church and talking to Commander Thomas, I went straight to the bar and got a couple of shots of Jack. Tires was right beside me. We talked for a bit, trying to figure out exactly what to do. Commander Thomas wasn't exactly sure how to go about it yet. There was no proof to back up Bexley's story of abuse, except maybe the hospital records, and the word of her bodyguard. But she only knew his first name, not his last. Also, they're across the state from us. So unless someone actually comes here after the girls, then there was nothing to do, except stay vigilant.

Source Creation Date: July 9, 2025, 1:59 am

I look at Tires, “Hey man, when are you going to get your head out of your ass?”

He looks up at me. “What the hell do you mean by that?”

I smirk at him. “Bex.”

He shakes his head. “She just clung to me, because I was the first one there when she woke up in the hospital, and I’ve helped her and taken care of her here.”

“Fucking dumbass. That girl is in love with you. Just like Saige is with me. Don’t waste years like I did, man. Grab on to her and don’t let her go.”

He looks defeated, “I can’t man. Not until I know for sure.” He gets up to walk away when both of our phones ping. Looking down I see a mass text from Bacon, telling us that dinner has been ordered for delivery and they should be here about the same time. Good, I’m starving, and I know my girl has been craving ranch and cheese badly, so I bet you anything it’s pizza. Twenty minutes later they all walk in the front door, and I immediately go to my girl. She looks so worn out.

“Come on, Butterfly, let’s get you settled at the table, and you eat. I’ll rub your feet and back when we go to the room.” She smiles up at me and I kiss her. Getting her to sit, Bacon and Loki lay everything out. I grab the extra cup of ranch that has Saige’s name on it, laughing, and I sit it in front of her. It’s a large drink cup full of ranch. I make her a plate and give it to her. I get her a big glass of sweet tea, and then I make my plate. I sit beside her, and after everyone has their plates fixed, Bethany comes running up to the table, hugging everyone, and instead of sitting beside her mom, she sits between Saige and Loki. Beth just laughs. She sets out the cookies and cupcakes.

I look at the girls, “Okay y’all. Commander Thomas is pretty upset. Basically, there’s nothing he can do, unless someone comes after you here. Even with the proof of the IP address, any good attorney can say that they were hacked. It would be hard to dispute. So, we just always have to keep guys with you both. I know you get tired of it and feel suffocated. But it’s for your safety.” Bexley looks like she is going to cry, and Saige just nods her head sighing.

She reaches her hand out and grabs Bexley’s, stating, “We get out of this together! We are stronger together.” Bex smiles and agrees.

“Momma, I eats. I wants cookies and cupcakes!” Bethany screams. Everyone laughs. Alivia gives her a cookie and a cupcake with Beth’s approval. Tires doesn’t really say anything much, once he got through eating, he kissed his sister’s head and left, saying goodnight to everyone. Beth takes Bethany to give her a bath and get her ready for bed. Bexley and Alivia decide to watch a movie. Loki goes to talk to Tech, and he kisses Saige on her head goodnight as well.

“Come on, baby, let’s go get you ready for bed. We’ll relax and I’ll rub you down. Bacon, can you get a couple of the prospects to clean up?”

Bacon laughs, “Sure thing, Cotton. Y’all have a good night.” We both laugh like crazy when we see that Saige has grabbed two boxes of cheese bread, a spinach pizza, and her cup of ranch to take to the room.

“Hey, I get hungry a lot with these two. And this keeps you from hunting down my cravings or leaving to go get them.”

I raise my hands up in defeat. “Let’s go, Butterfly.”

Once in the room, I put the food in the fridge. Saige goes straight to the shower. I follow her in and wash her off. I’d love to bend her over and take her right here, but I

know how tired she is. So I hurry to wash off, get us some towels, and dry us both off. She climbs into bed and waits on me. I get her a bottle of Gatorade to keep by the table, and then I climb in beside her, after I get my drink as well. “Put something on tv, baby, I’m going to rub your legs and feet.” I give her a kiss, stop and kiss her stomach, then lay at the bottom of the bed. Her feet have taken to swelling a lot, especially when she is at the bakery. I ordered some special rugs for her, that are supposed to give her feet support but be soft at the same time.

“Oh God, Finn, that feels so good. I love you,” I hear her murmur.

“I love you too.” I look up at her and she is out with the remote still in her hand. Laughing softly to myself, I rub her other foot. I pull her down in the bed some, so that she is comfortable, and I get in beside her. She snuggles into me as much as she can, and I hold her, rubbing her back. I’ll be glad when we go to the doctor in a couple of days. I worry about her.

It’s been a few weeks since we went to Saige’s appointment. The doctor said everything looked fine, and that the swelling, tiredness, and vomiting are normal. The swelling and tiredness will probably just get worse as the pregnancy goes, especially since she is carrying twins. We’re getting ready to go back to the doctor today to find out what we’re having if the babies cooperate. I’m excited. Saige is at twenty weeks now, and to me she just gets more beautiful. I help her out to the truck and help her up in it, and we drive to the doctor with Loki, Bacon, Stone, and Tires following us. They know that they won’t find out until tonight at a family dinner. Saige is burning up, so she has on another pair of maternity shorts and a tank top. The receptionist looks up when we all walk in. Bacon stays outside to keep an eye out. She smiles. She knows most of us. “Hey y’all. Saige, Dr. Holmes will be with you soon. Are they all going back with you?”

“No, just Cotton.”

The nurse calls us back and Saige has to get weighed, get her blood pressure taken, and pee in a cup. I wait in the room for her.

When she comes in, Dr. Holmes is right behind her. “How are you feeling, Saige? Anything different since last time?”

“No, it’s pretty much the same.”

He is looking at her chart, “Okay, well your blood pressure was up just a tad, not enough to worry about it yet, but we’ll have to keep an eye on it. With most multiple pregnancies we have to keep a really close eye on it. Sydney will be in to do your ultrasound in just a minute. See you in a month, unless you need me before then.”

“Okay, thank you, Dr. Holmes.”

I reach my hand out to grab a hold of hers. I give it a light squeeze and bring it up to my lips for a kiss. “Are you as excited as I am, Butterfly?”

“Yeah, I am, just a little nervous also.”

“Me too, to be honest.” We both look up as Sydney comes in the room with the sonogram machine. “Hey guys. How are y’all doing today? Are you ready to see if these babies will cooperate?”

I smile as Saige talks to her. “We are good, excited and nervous both. How are you doing?”

Sydney looks up a little surprised. “I’m good. Thank you. Hardly anyone asks me how I am. Okay, hun, you know the drill.”

Saige lays back and pulls her shirt up and then her shorts down some. Sydney takes

some towels and folds them under and over her clothes. She squirts some kind of gel on her stomach and uses a wand to push it around. After she pushes a couple of buttons on the machine a sound fills the room, and I tear up. It's the most beautiful sound I have heard. I grab my phone out of my pocket and hit record. I want to remember this sound forever. She pushes a few more buttons and on the screen a picture shows up. She points out the body parts and does measurements. "Okay you two. Want to know the gender of the babies? Both are being good and showing me." We both say yes.

Page 31

Source Creation Date: July 9, 2025, 1:59 am

“Okay, baby A..... is a boy. And baby B..... is a girl. Congratulations, mom and dad. One of each.”

I kiss Saige and thank Sydney. She laughs as she prints pictures off for us. She even prints one off for us to give to Stone. She leaves the room, and I help Saige clean the gel off her. Once she is ready to go, we head out and make her next appointment. Stone, Loki, and Tires all stand up as we get to them. We have the pictures put up in Saige’s purse.

“Y’all will find out at the family dinner tonight at Casa Bella. So no trying to get it out of us before then,” Saige tells them. Stone gets a pout on his face, it’s so funny that we all burst out laughing.

“You can wait a few hours, Daddy,” Saige says as she hugs him. We get back to the clubhouse and we go to the room to get ready for our dinner. Saige is taking her clothes off and goes into the bathroom to wash off. She hates that gel, and says it feels like it is still on her. I get her a dress out of her closet that she hasn’t seen before. It’s white with little sugar skulls on it, and ties at the neck. I lay it on the bed for her. I got it the other day when I had to go on a short run. I change into somedarker jeans, a black tank, and a black button up shirt, rolling the sleeves up to my elbows. Saige comes out of the bathroom and whistles at me. “You look good enough to eat, babe.”

I look at her and smile, then kiss her forehead. “I can definitely say the same thing about you right now. I laid you out a dress. I know it will be more comfortable for you.”

She walks over to the bed and squeals. “Where did you get this? I love it.”

“I got it the other day on the way back from that run I did with Cruz. I’m glad you like it, Butterfly. Let’s get it on you and get out there so we can meet everyone so we can go. I want to get back and slowly peel that dress off you.” Her eyes become hooded. I kiss her and help her get the dress on. She wears her sandals with it. She looks amazing with her curly hair down. I can’t wait to tell the others what we are having. We already have the names picked out and will let everyone know them as well.

Thirty-Three

Saige

The family is all together at the restaurant and we have all placed our orders. I have Cotton on my left and Loki on my right. Dad and Leilani are across from us, with Tires, Bexley, Stella, and Cruz there as well. We have an empty chair at the table, and I can’t figure out why. Cotton stands up, and pulls the chair out, for Tonya to sit down. “What are you doing here? Don’t you know that you could’ve brought Rancor right to Saige and Bexley?!” my dad asks with venom in his voice.

Tonya looks at him, not backing down. “I was invited to be here. Like it or not, Stone, Saige is my daughter, and she and I are trying to get to know one another. She told me that she explained everything to you about why I did what I did. I had to keep you all safe. As for Rancor, he’s gone. Crashed his bike head on into a truck while in a shootout with the cops up in Johnson County, killing him instantly. I just want to be here for Saige and Cotton.”

He goes to say something else to her, but I interrupt him. “Daddy, please not tonight, not here. This is a happy occasion, I have you and Mom, my brother, best friends, aunt and uncle, and Tonya all here. This is what I wanted. Cotton and I agreed. Tonya

is my biological mother, and she put herself in harm's way to get to you, to help Bex and me. I believe her and would like the chance to get to know her. I'm not trying to replace anyone."

He looks at me, and sighs. "Okay, baby girl. Tonya, I'm sorry. Saige did explain everything to us. I know it couldn't have been easy for you."

"Thank you, Stone." I introduce Tonya to Leilani, and it's then that the food is brought out. Tonya even has a plate. Cotton looks at me.

"I ordered for her, she told me what she liked. I love you, baby."

I smile really big at him, "I love you too." The table gets quiet for a minute. Cruz says grace, then we all start to eat, talking and just enjoying being together. Leilani and Tonya are talking, and I watch as Dad listens and smiles here and there. I'm glad that they are at least trying to get along, though it seems the women have hit it off pretty well. Once everyone is done eating, Cotton hands out envelopes to everyone. We fixed the photos of the babies so that each was personalized to how the person was related to them.

I watch as Dad and Leilani open their envelope. Their picture says 'Hello Papaw and Tutu.

I look around at everyone and when I look up at Cotton, he nods his head and smiles. "Okay y'all. I think we have kept y'all in the dark long enough. Baby A is a boy, and baby B is a girl. We have names already also. Joseph Donovan and Nellie Marie Rose. Joseph is Cotton's grandfather and you know Donovan was his brother. Nellie Marie was his grandma, and Rose, well Leilani, I had to name her after you as well."

Leilani gets up from her chair and comes around the table to hug me, crying. "Thank you, my baby girl. It is an honor." Everyone is congratulating us, and we are so

caught up in the moment, that we don't see Dayna come in and up to the table for a minute.

“Well isn't this all nice and cozy? Are you kidding me? I don't believe it, Cotton! You're supposed to be mine! I know for a fact that those aren't your babies, I know she was screwing Pyro and Bacon! She's just trying to pass them off as yours, just to keep you away from me! I won't let you do this, Saige! You're nothing but a bitch! You'll do anything to cut me out of his life, but no more! I'm taking what is mine!” She pulls a gun and aims it at me. She has it aimed at my head, her hands are shaking like crazy, as she fires at me. I move just in time for it to hit me in the shoulder.

Bacon runs in and calls out her name. “Dayna!” As soon as she hears him, she turns and fires at him. Bacon fires at her. She misses him, her shot hitting the wall, he gets her in the chest. The police are coming in at the same time, people are screaming and running trying to get out of harm's way. Bacon shows them his badge and hands his gun over. Lt. Grady comes over to us. I'm sitting on the ground, Cotton holding me to him, with a napkin pressed hard to my shoulder, trying to stop the bleeding. Dad and Leilani are huddled around me too, with Tonya behind Cotton, getting another napkin for him. I'm watching all the chaos going on around us. Police officers are everywhere, trying to get people to clear out, taking statements and pictures of everything, gathering evidence. EMS is finally allowed to come in, and they check Dayna's pulse, but we all know she is gone.

Wolfe is one of the EMTs tonight and he rushes over to me. Taking the napkins from my shoulder, he looks at it. “Damn, Saige, we are going to have to get you to the hospital. The bullet is lodged in your shoulder somewhere. They'll have to surgically remove it. Come on, sweetie. Let's get you in the ambulance.” I start to stand up with help from Cotton, but I get dizzy and the last thing I remember is Cotton and Wolfe yelling my name as I go down.

I wake up and realize I'm in the hospital recovery room. I'm groggy and hurting like

hell. I can't move my left arm at all. "Oh good, you're awake. I'm Britt, and I'll be your nurse until you get up to your room. How are you feeling?"

"I'm hurting like hell. I can't move my arm."

She smiles at me. "What would you rate your pain on a scale of one to ten, ten being the worst?"

"A twenty," I say, wanting to knock that grin off her face.

Her smile seems to get bigger, "I'm going to give you something for the pain. I promise it won't hurt the babies. It'll probably make you sleepy. Go ahead and rest. Dr. Atlas will be up to check on you later. We're just waiting on them to get your room ready upstairs. Your family is waiting for you up there. Okay here take this. This is a hydrocodone five."

I look up at her, even in my groggy state of mind I ask, "Isn't that an opioid? Aren't they bad for babies?" She smiles down at me, nobody should be that cheery in a recovery room, I think.

Lil Miss Britt who is happy as a buzzing bee says to me, "Short term use is okay, and you'll probably be on them for a week at most. It's safe. Dr. Atlas wouldn't give them to you if they weren't." I nod and take the pill. I lay back against the pillows as she takes my blood pressure and temperature. "I'll be back in a few minutes to check on you."

I close my eyes and the next time I open them, Cotton is sitting beside me, my hand in his, his head laying on the bed beside me. I move my hand a little, and he wakes up. "Hey, Butterfly. You scared the hell out of me. Are you okay? Do you need anything?"

Source Creation Date: July 9, 2025, 1:59 am

My throat feels like it has a desert in it. “Water,” I croak out. He gets the cup on the table by him and tips the straw towards me. I take a couple of sips, then lean back. “Did they get the bullet out?”

“Yeah, baby. It went in and ricocheted off the bone and hit your carotid artery. That’s why there was so much blood and you passed out. The doctor got the bullet out, stitched your artery, then stitched up your arm. You have to keep it in a sling for a while. They are going to keep you for a couple of days to watch for infection. The babies are fine. They did a sonogram just to make sure.” A tear slips from the corner of my eye, and he kisses it away. “You feel up to a little company? They won’t stay long, they just want to see you before they head back to the clubhouse. Leilani wants to know what clothes you want her to bring back tomorrow.” I nod and he goes to the door to let them in.

Dad rushes to me, stating, “My beautiful baby girl. You gave us such a scare. How are you feeling? Do you need anything?”

“I’m okay, Daddy. Just hurting.” He leans down and kisses my forehead. “Leilani is going to get you some clothes to bring with us tomorrow. Anything in particular you want?”

“I have several different maternity summer dresses. If you could just bring me one of those. My underthings are in the drawer. I can’t think of anything else, except my deodorant and toothbrush and toothpaste.”

She is typing everything into her phone, so she doesn’t forget. She leans down and kisses my forehead, saying, “Okay, baby girl. We’ll get it. I’ll let the others know that

you're okay and we'll head home. Bacon is refusing to leave. He'll be outside your door if y'all need anything. We love you."

"I love you both." After they leave, I look at Cotton. "Finn, I'm getting hungry. Will they let me eat?"

"I'll find out, baby." He pushes the button on my bed and lets the nurse know that I am awake. She comes bustling in the room a few minutes later, and I instantly think of my Grandma Farrell.

"Hi, there sweetheart. I'm Ila. I'll be your nurse this evening. How're you feeling?"

"I'm hurting a little, about a five right now. And I'm getting hungry, is it okay if I eat? I want to get some cheese bread with ranch," I say rubbing my stomach.

She smiles as she bustles about, "I believe you can eat, there isn't anything in your chart stating that you can't. Just be warned where you were under anesthesia, you may get an upset stomach. Would you like a menu for the cafeteria or a list of places that deliver? After you eat, I can give you something for the pain if you need it."

I smile at her. "I already know what I want and that they deliver. I'm not worried about the sickness, these two have kept me sick. Whoever calls it morning sickness, must not realize that it happens all day long."

She laughs. "Okay, sweetheart. I'm going to take your vitals, then I'll let you do your thing."

"Thank you, Ila." After she leaves the room, I look at Cotton, and he is already on the phone ordering my pizza, his pizza, cheese bread, salads and extra ranch. I get his attention and tell him to get Bacon something too. He smiles at me and orders one for him. I'm sitting the bed up to where I am comfortable when I hear him say ten extra

pizzas for the nursing staff. I smile at him. He is the sweetest guy when he wants to be. After he hangs up, we talk about the house and how much longer it'll be before it's ready. He talks about anything and everything, except what happened earlier. I run my hand through his long white blonde hair.

There's a knock at the door and Bacon pokes his head in. "Sorry, Saige. But Lt. Grady's here, and he needs to get your statement. Is it okay to let him in?"

"Yeah. Oh Cotton ordered us all some food. It should be here soon." He grins at me and lets Lt. Grady in the room.

"Saige, I'm so sorry to have to do this now, but I need to get your statement about what happened earlier." I tell him everything that happened, and he writes it all down. "Well, your statement matches everyone else's. But why would she try to do this to you? You two have a history?" I explain everything with Cotton's help about Dayna's obsession with him, the fight we had, her being banned from the clubhouse, and about the shooting and explosion.

"Y'all have that shooting and explosion on record. Bacon out there was injured in it, protecting me. She had a guy with her then. What was his name, Cotton?"

"Matt Rivers. He was with her tonight too, he and Bacon fought, and Bacon got him cuffed to a bar. That's what took him so long to get in the room. But he got there in time to save you."

Lt. Grady looks down at the papers he has. "Okay then. If you'll read over this and sign it, I'll get out of your hair." I take the paper and read it, then sign at the bottom. "Thank you for your time. I hope you heal up fast. Good night." He leaves just as the food gets here. Thank goodness, I am starving. It feels like it has been days since I ate something instead of nine hours.

I push myself up with my good arm, and Cotton sets my boxes on the table and slides it over me. He hands me a huge cup of sweet tea, too. We turn the tv on and find a program that we both like. A few nurses come to the door to thank us, and a lady comes in with a cart full of flowers, stuffed animals, and balloons. “All of these are for you, hun. I’ll just leave the cart in here, and this handsome fella with you can read the cards to you. How is that?”

“Thank you so much. Would you like some pizza?”

She smiles. “No thank you, hun. I just ate. Have a good night.”

“You too. Oh my gosh, Finn, what in the world is all that?” He laughs and grabs cards and reads them and puts them back with the item they came with. Flowers from Finn, Bacon, Tonya, and half the clubhouse. Bears from Loki, Beth and Bethany, and there is a card on a bear dressed in sexy lingerie, it’s from Michael. It says, ‘Sorry that you were hurt, but I know it won’t deter your beauty. See you soon. Michael’

“How the hell does he know that you are in the hospital? Bacon, come in here!”

Bacon comes running into the room. “What’s going on, Cotton?”

“Bacon, we need you to call Stone and Tech. Tell them to get up here asap. Also keep your eyes open. Saige just got a bear from that Michael Simms. We need to find out how he knows where she is and what happened.”

I am sitting in the bed just listening to what all is being said, getting sicker by the second. I get up and make it to the bathroom just in time. I get myself cleaned up, and I’m walking back to the bed, when Bacon asks, “Saige, why are you out of bed?”

“I got sick. I ran to the bathroom. It’s okay.” Cotton comes over and helps me back into bed.

“I’m sorry, Butterfly. I should have noticed and helped you.” He kisses my cheek.

Source Creation Date: July 9, 2025, 1:59 am

“It’s okay. You and Bacon are doing what you need to be doing. Please, once you show Dad and Tech, get that thing out of here and toss it in the trash where it belongs.”

Cotton holds me close to him. “I will, baby. You rest some or as much as you can, because you know when your dad gets here, he’ll be a little loud,” he says laughing. We both rub our hands over my stomach, and he kisses me.

Thirty-Four

Cotton

Stone, Tech, Tires, and Loki all come barging in the room, and I hear Saige giggle. They all stop and look at her. “I knew you two would come with them. I had a bet with Bacon. He now owes me. He has to help me cook at the bakery since I can’t use my left hand.” They all bust out laughing, breaking the tension, just as my girl wanted.

Stone goes over and kisses her forehead. “We’ll find this guy, baby girl. We all refuse to let anything happen to you.”

“I know, Daddy.” Loki sits beside Saige, and Tires stands by me.

“Okay, Tech, set up at that little table over there, and let’s figure out how this guy knew Saige was here. Stone, this is the bear and card that he sent her.” Stone’s face goes red as he looks at the bear and card, Tires reading over his shoulder.

Stone goes off, “What the hell? This guy is one sick bastard! I want to know everything about him. Also, Tech, see if you can find out anything about that bodyguard, Brennon, he might be able to help. He had to have some type of feelings for Bexley if he helped her leave.” Saige, Loki, and I all see Tires tense up at that.

“Make sure we can trust the asshole before you bring him in,” Tires growls.

Stone looks at him and smiles. “I think you need to talk to the girl, son. Before any competition shows up. We all see how you look at her, and how she looks at you.”

Tires shuffles his foot a little before answering. “Yeah, I will.”

I smirk at him. “Good, now we need to know what to do about keeping them both safe. I have to go to the garage with Tires tomorrow to finish a custom bike. I know Bacon isn’t leaving her. I just think we need someone else here too.”

“I’m staying. I’m not leaving here until she does,” Loki says. I give him a chin lift. I knew he would be staying. He had a bag with him and a bag for Saige.

“Now we also need to amp up the bodies around Bexley. She’ll be at the bakery most of the day tomorrow. Maybe we should have Hawke and Wolfe there and maybe Skip and Gunner. I think that would work until Tires can get back to the clubhouse the same time as her. Also, Stone, I went ahead and called the Nomads in. We are going to need their help. I’ve a feeling this is going to get a lot worse before it gets better.”

Stone looks at me, while rubbing his hand through his short hair. “Good, thank you. I’m glad that you called them. We may end up calling the Black Forest crew up too. Matter of a fact I’m going to put the call in to Barq. I want them on standby. I’m with you, Cotton. We’re going to end up going to war before this is over. Oh, not to change the subject, but Ryker said the house should be done by the weekend. They’re putting down the floors and doing the painting now. Then he is going to start our

house out there. Loki is building one too. We'll all be close, but still have privacy."

"That's great. Have you found anything, Tech?" We all look at him expectantly.

He grins at me, "Yeah, I found out that Brennon Lewis is ex-military and has left the employment of Michael Simms. Last credit card use shows him to be here in town. I honestly think he is leaving crumbs for us to find him."

I had started pacing while he was talking, but now I have stopped right in front of him, "Wait a minute, you said Brennon Lewis? We served with a Brennon Lewis, he was a helluva guy. He was ranked up there with us and left when we did. Tires, you had his number saved. Give it to us and let me try calling him. We can meet him on mutual ground and see what he knows." Tires looks through his phone and pulls up Brennon's old number. I notice Loki looking at the bear, and then he puts his fingers to his lips. I look closer at the bear and see the camera. Tech kills it easily. He then points to Saige's phone. I hand it to him, and he pulls up a program. Son of a bitch! Her camera was hacked which is how he found her.

Tech kills it too. "Okay, guys, I already checked everyone else's phone in this room. They're clean. He has hacked Saige's and Bexley's phones. He knew where they were at all times, and he knows everything that was said in this room up until a few seconds ago. I'm so sorry, I should've checked for all of this sooner," Tech says.

"No man, we all should've thought about it, and Bacon and I both looked at that bear. We never saw anything. How did you see it, Loki?" I ask.

He looks at me, "I saw the eye move, like the camera was scanning the room. I figured it had to be a camera, and if it could see us, it could probably hear us." Loki is sitting by Saige and she is looking paler by the second.

"Tires, you have got to get ahold of Bexley. Tell her not to go anywhere unless you

are with her. This could very well be a ploy to get you all here, and away from her,” she says.

Tires is on the phone in no time talking to Bexley, explaining what happened. I can hear her crying and Stella talking to her in the background. “I’ll be back soon. Just stay with Stella or in my room. Don’t let anyone in, okay? Saige sends her love.”

He hangs up and Tech is dialing Brennon’s number.

“Hello?”

“Lewis, is that you?”

“Cotton? Damn man, about time you all found me and called. Where are you? I’ve some information you are going to need asap.” I look at the men in the room with us, and they all nod.

“Hospital, room three twelve. Get here.”

Brennon laughs, “Be there in ten.” We hang up and we wait.

Source Creation Date: July 9, 2025, 1:59 am

Bacon walks in the room ten minutes later and has Brennon with him. The same red headed man I remember from the Marines. He was ruthless when he had to be, and the three of us got along great. He walks up to me and shakes my hand, turning it into a man hug. He does the same with Tires. We introduce him to everyone, and when he sees Saige, he smiles really big. “Wow! Way prettier than you ever made her out to be.” I punch his shoulder. “Okay, look. I know I should’ve gotten to you sooner. It’s been rough making sure that I had no tail, and that I wasn’t caught. Michael did bid on and win Bexley and Saige. I had walked in one night and saw what he was doing. I confronted him about it, and he went off. Saying that if I hadn’t helped her to leave, then Saige would be safe. But because of Bex, he was going to make sure that she suffered doubly, by hurting Saige in front of her. He tried to have me killed, but I got away. He is still up in Madison County right now, but he is having hackers and bounty hunters keep eyes on them at all times. I just want to make sure my cousin lives and Saige too. I refuse to let him hurt Bexley ever again.”

Tires looks up at Brennon, and asks, “Bexley is your cousin?”

Brennon nods. You can see some of the tension leave Tires. “She doesn’t know it, though. Her uncle is my dad. He never stuck around when he found out Mom was pregnant. She was his mistress, and he kept telling her he was going to leave his wife for her. It never happened.”

Stone is now pacing, “Okay, Brennon, why don’t you come back to the clubhouse, you can stay with us there if you like. You can talk to Bex.”

“Yeah, I appreciate it.”

Before they head out of the room, Saige says, “If he’s been listening in, then he knows the schedule for the bakery, and he knows how many men you plan on having with both of us. You may want to up them both.” Stone and I both look at her, she’s right.

Stone nods, “Good thinking, baby girl. I’ll be back tomorrow. Loki, you good?” He nods, and after Stone and Tires both kiss Saige on the forehead, they leave, Tech and Brennon calling out goodbye and taking the bear with them. Bacon checks on everything and goes back to guarding the door. I walk around the room trying to relieve some of the tension in my shoulders and neck. We have got to catch this guy soon.

It’s been a hectic two days with Saige in the hospital, everyone having to work, and Bexley finding out Brennon was her cousin. She and Tires seem to have finally gotten on the same page too. That’ll make Saige happy. I’ve pulled the cage up to the door, and Bacon has brought down all the flowers and gifts, putting them in the back. Loki is with the nurse, wheeling my girl down. She’s so happy to be going home. And by home, I mean our house. Ryker finally got it all done, and all the furniture that she and I ordered has arrived and been put in place. She can have me rearrange it how she wants later. For now, Loki and Bacon will be living with us in the downstairs bedrooms. It’s not exactly how we want things, but how they need to be for now. She can have the girls over anytime. Loki thanks the nurse, as I help Saige up into the truck, and he and Bacon follow us on their bikes.

When we pull up to the house, Stone, Leilani, Tires, and Bex are all there waiting on the porch. Saige gasps when she sees the house. It’s a two-story log mansion in a way. It has a covered porch with a wraparound deck upstairs. There are ten bedrooms, eight bathrooms, and a kitchen made out of her wildest dreams. The master bedroom and bathroom are my favorite rooms, and I think they’ll be hers too. The shower can fit almost ten people, and it has a bench going around half of it, with shower heads spraying from every direction, a sky light, and even little shelves with

succulents that can thrive in there. A huge whirlpool tub with jets, his and her sinks, heated towel rack, and a private toilet off to the side make this a bathroom any woman would envy. The master bedroom has a California king bed, doors leading out to the deck, his and her closets, and a huge tv on the wall over the gaslog fireplace. I did everything I could to make sure that this was her dream home. I look over and she has tears pouring down her face.

Stone comes over to help her out of the truck. “Welcome home, baby girl.” He hugs her close. He helps her up onto the porch and she’s taking in the porch swing, rocking chairs, and all the hanging baskets of flowers. Along the front of the porch railings I planted a bunch of yellow and orange roses for her.

“Thank you all for this, and for being here today. I’m so blessed to have y’all as my family. I love y’all.” Everyone is smiling at her and trying to get to her to hug her.

“Hey, Butterfly, you want to go in and look around?” I ask her. When she nods her head yes, I pick her up and carry her over the threshold, kissing her. “Welcome to our forever home, baby.”

“I love you so, Finn. This is amazing. I can’t believe Ryker and his crew did all of this.” She goes crazy over each room she sees, but the kitchen shocks her. “Oh my gosh, Bexley, I can cook from home and send stuff to the bakery. I won’t feel so useless now,” she says laughing.

Bexley laughs with her, reassuring her that she isn’t useless. “You’ve been shot, and you’re almost twenty-one weeks pregnant. You need to rest and take it easy. You can do things a little at a time. I want you to take care of yourself and do what the doctors say. You need to take care of my niece and nephew you are cooking up.” We all laugh at that, and Saige hugs Bexley to her. Next, I take her upstairs and show her the rooms there. I had one fixed up in little girl stuff that I knew Bethany liked for when she stayed over, and then I had the nursery set up beside our room. I haven’t

decorated it yet, except above each crib. I have each of their names painted overhead. Saige starts crying again.

“I love it.”

“I left it bare so that you can have it decorated how you want.” She smiles, and I take her into the master bedroom and bathroom. She’s taking her time looking around at everything, and then turns to me.

“You know, it’s going to be so much fun christening these rooms, the tub, the shower, the kitchen.... we may need to get started soon.” I laugh and hold her to me, kissing her.

“We will once company leaves, and the tub and shower as soon as you get released from the doctor.”

We get back downstairs to see the kitchen counter covered in food. There’s everything from Chinese to fried chicken, pizza, salad, and cheese bread. Looks like we are having guests for dinner. Leilani looks at us as we walk into the kitchen. “I have everything taken care of. Paper plates, plastic utensils, and you won’t have to clean up. Bexley brought some of the cookies and cakes from the bakery, and after we eat, we’ll head out and leave you to it. Loki and Bacon said they’ll hide in their rooms or go down in the basement to the playroom down there.”

“Playroom?” Saige asks.

“Yeah baby. There’s a room down there with a pool table, darts, card table, and a minibar. Then off to the left is a room that has an indoor pool and plants, that looks out over the lake. It’ll stay locked, especially when kids are over.” I watch as Saige smiles, then goes over to grab a plate.

“Let’s eat y’all, I’m starved.” We all laugh and fix our plates.

After we eat, Leilani and Bexley clean up the kitchen, and everyone leaves. “Hey baby, why don’t I show you the playroom, then the room I have set up for us down here for when you get further along and won’t be able to go up the stairs much.”

“You’ve thought of everything haven’t you? But I just don’t understand why you made it so big. I love it, don’t get me wrong about it, but ten bedrooms and eight bathrooms, babe?”

I take her hand, pulling her into my arms. “Butterfly, I’ll be honest, I wasn’t going to make it this big, but your dad weighed in on the build. He said that one day I’ll be Pres, and I’ll need the room for lockdowns, or guests. I don’t like thinking about the time I’ll take over the club, but I knew he was right, so I did as he asked, all while still making this our dream home.” She is smiling at me as she thinks that over. Finally, she tiptoes up to kiss me. I lead her down to the playroom.

Saige looks around it, then says, “I know where you and the guys will mostly be when here.” I laugh as she opens the door to the pool room. I had the pool go from mere inches to ten feet deep. I have floaties and noodles for any of the kids or adults that want to use them. There are some potted plants in here, and like I said earlier this room will stay shut up when kids are here unless we are in here with them. After Saige looks around, I take her back up to the room I have set up for us, for when she can’t get up the stairs. I open the door and watch her face when she sees the bed. The look of shock and awe is funny. The “bed” is a king size bed, with a couch like back. It has a built-in full body massager on the side with shelves and speakers built in. Everything you need or want is right there. “Cotton, this bed is pure genius! I love it!”

Laughing I say, “I knew you would, butterfly. You ready to head up and call it a night?”

“Yeah I am.” We walk back out to the living room to head upstairs, and I set the alarm. Loki and Bacon are watching a movie on the huge tv, and we call out goodnight.

I help Saige get up the stairs, and she goes into the bathroom to get ready for bed. I turn the tv on, waiting for her to get done, and I go get ready also. When I come back out of the bathroom, Saige is laying on the bed, naked and she smiles when she sees me. I get rock hard when I see her. “Finnick, I don’t feel like watching tv tonight. I feel like making love with my man.” She sits up and crooks her finger telling me to come here. I waste no time getting to the bed and her. I lean down and kiss her hard.

“Baby, where is your sling?”

Source Creation Date: July 9, 2025, 1:59 am

can take it off for a while, it's okay. I need you, Finn. Please?" Saige is stroking me as she leans forward and takes my cock into her mouth. She swirls her tongue around the head and then takes me all the way in, sucking as she does. I throw my head back moaning as I pull her hair and fuck her mouth some. Before I blow in her mouth, I gently push her back on the bed. I kiss her, nip her neck, working my way down her body. I suck, lick, and nip at her sensitive breasts. They've become so sensitive that I can get her off just playing with them, but I continue to work my way down. I have to taste her, I need her to come in my mouth. I slip a finger, then another into her. She is so wet. I lick her clit, and then suck it into my mouth. I latch on like she is my last meal. I lick and suck her clit hard.

"Come on, Saige, you know what I want, baby. Give it to me." It doesn't take her long to come in my mouth, and I love it. I move and sit up against the headboard. "Baby you are going to have to ride me, only way we can assure we don't hurt your arm." She gets on her hands and knees, and licks my dick, sucking it into her mouth again. She licks up and down a few times before she climbs on up and slides down on me. She is so wet and tight, I am holding on by a thread. I have her stay still for a minute and kiss her deeply. She moans, she loves when I eat her, and she can taste herself on my mouth. Slowly she starts to move up and down. I squeeze her breasts together, sucking both nipples into my mouth, biting down just the way she likes.

Saige throws her head back, moaning, hands on my shoulders, and she is moving faster, swiveling her hips. "Oh God, Finnick, I'm so close." I place my hands on her hips and start moving her down harder. She screams out her orgasm as I suck on her nipple and pound up into her harder and faster. Finally, I let go and spill all my seed into her. If she weren't pregnant already, she would be now, I think. She is leaning her head onto my chest, breathing hard. "Finn, it just keeps getting better. I love you

so much.”

I lift her head up and kiss her. “I love you too, butterfly. I’ll never let you go. I need to get you cleaned up and you need to get your sling on before you go to bed.” I go to lift her off me, but she is clinging to me.

“Saige? You okay, butterfly?”

“Yes, the babies are kicking. Put your hand here.” She places my hand on her stomach, and I feel a little push. I look into her eyes, I know I am crying. It is an amazing feeling to have. I kiss the woman I love more than anything, the mother of my babies. The more we kiss the more it becomes sexual again. God, I love pregnancy hormones. I am hard as a rock instantly and I hold onto her hips. She is rocking back and forth, moaning. Finally, not being able to take it anymore, I pull her off me and have her get at the edge of the bed, leaning over. I get in behind her and ease into her. “Finn, I don’t want easy. I need it hard,” she says. I hold onto her hips again, pull out and slam back into her. I hold for a second, pull out til only my tip is teasing her tight hole, then I slam balls deep in again. I do this several times, until she convulses around me so tight, I can’t help but blow my load again. We both are exhausted now. I slowly pull out and carry her into the bathroom. I set her down on the sink and clean her up. I use the wipes the hospital gave her to bathe with until she can shower tomorrow, and then I clean off too. I carry her back to the bed and give her the sling she has to wear. Saige puts it on as I put on some boxers to go get us something to drink. When I get back to the room, she is laying back in the bed waiting on me. I hand her a bottle of water, and she takes a drink before turning on her side. I take the boxers off, chug my water, and climb in behind her. I pull her close and fall into a deep sleep.

Thirty-Five

Saige

We are a week away from Halloween, I am as huge as our house, and I'm sitting at the kitchen table with Bethany. Alivia went to go finish packing up Bethany's stuff from the clubhouse. Beth and her dad have been missing for a couple of days, and I'm not taking things lightly. He was taking her to the bakery so that she could help Bexley, but never showed up. I don't know what is going on with them, but I'm fulfilling my promises to Beth, to take care of this baby girl, to protect her with everything I am. Bethany is scared, and she's been clinging to me. She loves her room that Cotton fixed up for her, but she isn't sleeping in there. She wants to be with me. She loves on Cotton, Loki, and Alivia, but if I'm anywhere around, she is right on me.

Right now, we are frosting cupcakes. I've found that the busier I keep her the better. These are new flavors to try out before we send them to the bakery, so with it being family trying them, I don't care what the icing looks like. I smile at her as she frosts a rainbow sherbet cupcake. She has her little tongue stuck out of the corner of her mouth, holding the small spatula in a death grip, and slathering frosting just on the top. The flavors of the cupcake are raspberry, orange, and lime swirled, just like rainbow sherbet, so we made a buttercream frosting in each flavor. This way all the cupcakes will have a frosting that is already incorporated to a flavor that is in it. We made all kinds of mini bundt cakes in different flavors, mini fruit tarts, and I'm trying to figure out if I want to do the desserts in jars, and down the road, maybe add salads in jars as well.

Bacon has called Dad and the others to come over for dinner tonight. Cotton and I are going to let them know about the papers that I signed for Beth and let them try all these new desserts. I had asked Bethany earlier what she wanted for dinner, she said lasagna, so that is what we are having. I asked Bacon to help me make it, then we made a huge salad and some garlic bread. I know that Dad has a lot going on. He is trying to help plan the wedding with Leilani, keeping an eye out for Michael and his goons, plus all the businesses the club owns, he is running himself ragged. I know that with this news about Bethany he'll worry more. My blood pressure has been a

little more elevated lately, so I'm having to rest as much as possible. "Hey Sai, looks at my cupcakes!"

I look at Bethany and smile. "You are doing great, baby girl. Look at how pretty those are! I bet everyone eats those up fast." She giggles.

"Can I has one now?" I let her have one. I know that I am probably going overboard with the spoiling right now, but I want to keep her calm.

"Sai, I think the babies wants one too. Here they want this one." Bethany hands me a chocolate cupcake with peanut butter and banana buttercream frosting. It's actually really good. I had crinkled my nose up when Bacon asked if I would make it.

I laugh as I take it from her, "Thank you, baby girl. This will make them happy. How is your cupcake?"

"Is so yummys! I wants more."

"Not until after dinner, you need to have room to eat your lasagna. Why don't we clean up some, and watch something on tv, while we wait for everyone to get here for dinner?" She nods her head, taking off for the living room.

Loki walks in the kitchen, "Damn, Saige. Let me help you into the living room with her, Bacon and I'll clean the kitchen. Sorry we were gone for so long. Alivia has all of Bethany's clothes and toys. There isn't much. Beth's room was kinda bare, except for Bethany's stuff. I don't know what is going on at all. Alivia is taking her stuff upstairs to her room. Bethany stopped her in the living room, grabbing her bear you had gotten her for her birthday two weeks ago."

I wipe a tear from my face, trying to calm myself before I go sit with Bethany. "I don't know either, Lok. I just know that I'm going to do everything that I promised

Beth. Ughh, I feel like a house is living in my stomach.” I get up with Loki’s help, get my sweet tea, and let him help me into the living room. “Oh yeah, when you clean the kitchen up, Bacon knows what can go in the dishwasher, and what has to be hand washed.” I sit on the couch beside Bethany who has Paw Patrol on. She looks at me smiles, kisses my belly, and then snuggles up against me, holding her bear. I put my arm around her, holding her close. It doesn’t take long until we both are asleep.

I feel someone pushing on my stomach as I am waking up. “Sai, the babies are kicking my head. They wakes me up!” I look at Bethany, and have to hide a grin, she has the cutest little pout.

“Oh, sweetheart, I’m sorry. They didn’t mean to wake you up or kick your head. They were just saying hi andthat they love you.” I hug her to me, and she hugs me back, kissing my belly. “Is okays, I fogives them.”

I look up and see Loki sitting in the recliner, and he is hiding a grin himself. “You know, BFF, you have this mom thing down already. I couldn’t be more happy or proud of you.”

“Thank you, BFF. I hope I do justice to all these kids. I know I want to be there for everything they have going on. Dad did his best for us, and Aunt Stella gave me a huge female figure to look up to, and then Leilani came along. So hopefully I won’t screw them up too bad.” I laugh a little.

Loki looks at me shaking his head, “You will do great. You have a huge family behind you to help also. Saige, we got you. We got Cotton. You know what Uncle Stone says. It takes a village to raise a child. You have a village behind you.” Damn it, he has me crying. He gets up and kisses my forehead.

“Thank you.”

“Anytime. Looks like everyone is pulling in. Need help up?” I laugh as I nod, and Bethany tries to help me up too. I waddle as fast as I can to the bathroom before I try dealing with dinner and the family.

Thirty-Six

Cotton

I sit back and listen to Saige explain everything to her family, best friend, and Alivia. So far, they all seem to be handling it all well. We need to make sure that we put these kids first, along with the girls. I always want them watched. Stone looks over to me, giving a slight nod. He agrees with my way of thinking. It looks like Loki and Bacon are definitely going to be staying with us for quite some time. At least they both are willing.

Tires looks over at his sister, asking, “Sis, are you sure you want to do this, especially with the twins on the way? I know you love her, we all do, but are you biting off more than you can chew? I don’t want you to overdo it.”

Source Creation Date: July 9, 2025, 1:59 am

Saige looks up at him, smiling. “Coop, I love you, and I know you are worried, but I got this. I was pregnant with the twins when I promised to do this. I have Alivia to help, and y’all. I’m worried about everything that is going on. But I know we’ll all pull through all this, we’ll find out what is going on, and we’ll be the stronger for it.”

“Sai, Sai, can we have desserts now? I want them all to try what we made. Do you think the ice cream juice is turned to ice cream now?”

Saige smiles, agreeing that we can, saying, “I’m sure it has sweetie.” Bacon brings a couple of trays to the table with all kinds of desserts, and you can definitely tell a sweet little girl helped to make them.

I smile really big. “Okay, sweetheart, which one do you think I should try?” Bethany grins really big and goes around the table telling everyone which dessert they should try. We spend the rest of the evening telling her how much we loved what they made and laughing.

Bexley and Saige are going over a couple of recipes for the bakery while I sit in the living room with the guys. Alivia took Bethany up for a bath and to read her a bedtime story or four. Stone, Leilani, Cruz, and Stella all took off a couple hours ago.

“Tires, has there been any news about Michael lately, or Tonya for that matter? She hasn’t answered her phone the last couple of times Saige has tried to call her, and y’know, she never came to the hospital or here for that matter to see Saige. Also, has anyone heard anything about Beth and Buck?”

Tires shakes his head as he sighs, “No, man. Michael seems to be laying low right

now. Last anything showed on him was he was at his brother's mansion in the capital. Tonya was arrested for trying to rob the store next to the bakery. I have no clue what the hell she was doing that for, I know the last time we saw her, she was acting weird, wouldn't even look at me. And when I called her name out, she took off running like the Hounds of Hell were after her. That was two days after Saige was shot. And as for Beth and Buck, we can't find them or his car anywhere, and no one has seen her boyfriend lately. Maybe we should look at the tape footage from the bakery and see if we see anything or anyone suspicious on there. Commander Thomas has a BOLO out for them. How long are y'all going to wait to go through with adopting Bethany?"

I look up to see Saige and Bexley walk into the room. She answers before I can, "We're going to go to the courthouse next week to get married and do the adoption all in one day. I'm going to sit and explain everything to Bethany in the morning with Cotton before he goes to work."

Bexley is smiling and hugging her best friend, Tires looksstumped. "Does Dad know you aren't having a big wedding? I thought that's what you wanted."

She shakes her head, replying, "I never wanted a big wedding, and if Dad hadn't of insisted on it to Cotton, we wouldn't be living in a castle either. He knows that's what we're doing. We want the immediate family there, and we'll do a reception at the clubhouse. Bexley is doing the cake for us, Stella and Leilani are making a dinner, though I wanted to have it catered by Chez Rouge." I take her hand and pull her down on my lap, hugging her close. Tires seems to finally have everything out that he wanted to, and after another hour, he and Bexley head home for the night.

Epilogue

Cooper

I'm standing nextto my best friend in the court chambers as he and my sister say their vows. She may be about ready to pop with the twins, but she has never looked more

beautiful. I'm very excited for them both, and I know he'll protect her and the kids with the very last breath in his body. They finally kiss, then the judge goes straight into the paperwork for them to adopt Bethany. She looks so adorable in her little pink frilly princess dress, as she called it. She has been so excited about this. She gets a whole big family all her own. To be as little as she is, she is taking this really well, better than I thought she would. I thought she would be confused about it all. I guess Saige found a way to tell her that she understood.

I look over at Bexley standing next to Saige. God, I love that woman. She is so beautiful, my Gingersnap. She has awakened things in me that I never knew I wanted or needed. I realize that everything is done, as the judge announces the Larsen family to us all. We all leave the courthouse to head back to the clubhouse. Cotton helps his girls into his truck, 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 towards 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 funny, 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.

The end...for now