



# The Mountain Man's Muffin

**Author:** *Lyssa J. Cole*

**Category:** Romance

**Description:** She's back in Appleridge to run her grandma's bakery. He's smitten with more than just her muffins.

I came back to my hometown of Appleridge, Vermont, because I refused to let my grandma sell her bakery. It's my whole childhood, full of sweet memories.

What I didn't expect was a huge rainstorm with mud so deep, my tiny car had no chance.

Until a gorgeous mountain man with a tow truck saved the day.

Yet he didn't just want to help me.

He wanted to own me. And all of my goodies.

**Total Pages (Source):** 12

# Page 1

*Source Creation Date: July 14, 2025, 3:44 am*

## CHAPTER ONE

Ruby

I heard the first rumble of thunder as I pulled out two trays of chocolate chip muffins. With only two more trays to go, I'd finish up in plenty of time to beat the storm home.

Even if I didn't, it was fine by me. This bakery, Appleridge Sweets, felt like a second home. I'd crash in the small bedroom tucked away in the back like I'd done many times before. But I knew Gran wanted me home. She was making her famous meatloaf, my favorite meal of hers, and I'd cross oceans not to miss it.

I popped the last two trays in the oven, this batch blueberry, and set the timer. I clapped my hands as I did a little dancey dance. I did it! All ten trays of muffins were finished. I rewarded myself with a chocolate chip cookie. Or two. Gran always said I had a sweet tooth from the minute I was born. She was right, like usual.

One of the locals in town ordered five dozen muffins, and I planned to stop and drop them off on my way home. If our bakery was known for anything, it was our muffins. Especially the apple-cinnamon ones.

I danced my way over to my phone and turned up the music. The best way to clean was with some good tunes. At least that was what Gran always said. I agreed. I put away the muffin ingredients and brought the dishes to the sink, all while shaking my ass to Biggie.

Above the sink was a large window looking out the back of the building. The view was stunning, especially now, during the fall season. I forgot how much I missed this view while living in the city. The oranges and reds of the trees as the leaves changed color were sprinkled throughout with the perfect mountain backdrop.

Growing up in Appleridge, I never found an apple orchard too far or a mountain you didn't want to climb. Why I took so long to come back is beyond me. I was comfortable in the city where I earned my college degree, but I knew I wouldn't be comfortable losing the bakery.

So when Gran said she planned to sell it because she could no longer manage, I knew it was time. I was only twenty-three and had plenty of energy to take over. Not to mention a degree in business. I knew it would come in handy one day.

More importantly, this bakery was a big part of my childhood, and my memories were irreplaceable.

A loud crack of lightning flashed through the sky, and I jumped. The sky became dark within seconds, and the floodgates opened. Rain poured down.

Guess I won't beat the storm after all.

With more pep in my step, I finished the dishes, pulled the muffins from the oven, and did my morning prep while they cooled.

My phone buzzed on the table, and Gran's name flashed on the screen.

"Ruby, dear! Please tell me you're almost here," Gran asked before I had the chance to say hello.

I cringed, not wanting to lie but not wanting to upset her either. "Almost! I'll see you

soon, okay, Gran? Love you.”

“Love you more, sweetie,” she answered.

When the muffin order was packed, I headed for the door, making sure all ovens and lights were off. When I stepped onto the front porch, that was when I saw it.

My car’s back tires had sunk at least a foot deep in the thick mud.

Think, Rubs. Think.

Okay, I’d dealt with storms like this before. I’d handle it. I hoped.

But after several unsuccessful attempts, it was official. My car was stuck in the mud.

“Oh no.” I sighed. I couldn’t call Gran. She’d only get upset. I wasn’t about to call Lena, my best friend, who lived a couple of miles from here. Her car wasn’t much better than mine. And her cute niece kept her busy.

I sat there, unsure what to do. I tried one more time to free my car, but I’m pretty sure I made it worse. Seemed like my only option was to stake out in the bakery.

After I opened my car door, flashing lights stopped me. I looked up at a large truck. A large tow truck, to be exact. It was my lucky day.

An even larger man got out, and the first thing I noticed was his beard.

Okay, well maybe not the first thing.

There was just so much to look at.

His tall, huge frame. His broad, beefy shoulders. The outline of muscles defined beneath his tight flannel. Holy shit.

## Page 2

*Source Creation Date: July 14, 2025, 3:44 am*

I couldn't catch my breath.

Nor was I able to because the next thing I knew, a large Labrador dog barreled over to me, climbed onto my lap, and covered me with mud.

"Kane! Bad boy! Get over here now!"

I was laughing so hard as the dog licked my face. He must've tasted the remains of all the cookies I ate.

"I'm so sorry. I should've kept him in the truck," the burly man said as he walked toward me. As soon as our eyes connected, I felt my world tilt. He must've felt it too because his mouth snapped shut, and he looked me up and down like I was his snack. He held out his hand.

When I slid my tiny one into his big paw, a feeling of home flooded through me. My heart raced. What was happening?

"Here, let me help you out of the car. I promise I'll pay the dry-cleaning bill. Kane here can get a little crazy."

I laughed as I stood. Kane sat in front of the door of the bakery, wagging his tail without a care in the world. "It's okay, don't worry about it."

"I'm Austin, by the way." He scratched his long beard, and my knees weakened. Damn, I needed to get ahold of myself. Maybe going without sex for months was a bad idea.

“I’m—”

He cut me off. “I know who you are. Ruby Bellamy.”

The way my name fell from his lips in his deep, burly voice made my panties wet. It also made me lose all train of thought. I blinked up at him without saying a word.

Rain pounded down all around us. It was like we didn’t notice.

“I know everyone in town. Besides, your gran loves to talk about you. Why don’t we go inside and dry off? There’s no way your car is going anywhere tonight.” He placed one hand on the small of my back and used the other to lead me back inside.

I had a feeling he could easily tow my car back to Gran’s, but I wasn’t about to question him. What did I know about mud and trucks?

Besides, I was pretty sure a night with him would be anything but boring.

## CHAPTERTWO

Austin

Ruby Bellamy.

She now belonged to me.

I knew as soon as I laid eyes on her that she was mine. All mine.

I’d heard through some town talk that she was back and taking over the bakery. I was curious to see how much she’d changed since she left, and goddamn, I was glad I did.

She might've been ten years younger than me, but I didn't care. Ruby was one beautiful woman from head to toe. From her long brunette curls to her full hips and curvy ass I couldn't stop staring at, my cock was as hard as a fucking rock. I wanted to throw her around my bed. I wanted to dick her down so good, we'd break the frame.

I was pretty confident she was in agreement with the way her eyes didn't stop roaming all over me.

My life was fine with only Kane and me. I owned my own towing company and was proud of my cabin tucked away in a secluded section of Appleridge Mountain. I helped with all sorts of towing needs in and around the mountain and surrounding towns, and while I was perfectly content alone, I laid eyes on her, and suddenly, I wasn't.

Instantly, there was a hole in my heart that had never been there before.

One I knew without a doubt only Ruby could fill.

How could I convince her of that without scaring her off?

"You're such a silly boy with all that mud. C'mon, let's go to the kitchen and clean up," Ruby said to Kane as we walked inside the bakery and she flicked on the lights. He ran in so fast that he almost knocked her over.

"Kane, slow down buddy!" I called after him as the sweet smells of cinnamon, sugar, and delicious baked goods made my mouth water.



## Page 3

*Source Creation Date: July 14, 2025, 3:44 am*

From the kitchen doorway, I watched Ruby gather a few towels from a cabinet. She laid one on the floor in front of the sink. She used another to wrap up her dripping wet hair. I stared like my life depended on it. I couldn't get over how gorgeous she was.

"Want a towel?" she asked me with a big smile on her face. How she was still in a good mood after getting wet and covered in mud is beyond me.

I nodded, and she tossed me one. I wiped myself off but kept my eyes on her.

Ruby stripped off her jacket and placed it on top of the towel on the floor. She then wet one of the towels and washed Kane's paws. He sat like a good boy and let her work. I would've too.

Once his paws were clean, she dried him off.

"What a good boy! Can he have a little treat?"

"Sure. How about me? Did I do a good job?" I teased her. She laughed and grabbed a few cookies from a container on the counter. She tossed a couple to Kane, popped one in her mouth, and handed me the last one. It was peanut butter oatmeal and soft and chewy. Amazing.

"Of course you did." Ruby smiled again as she patted herself dry and looked out the window. "Doesn't seem like this storm is letting up any. Gran didn't mention a storm before I left this morning."

“It wasn’t predicted to be this bad. But now, there’s a flood and mudslide warning. It’s best to stay off the roads.” I crossed my arms over my chest and stood tall, hoping it made me sound more believable.

She turned and faced me. “And what were you doing out? The bakery was already closed.”

“I was on my way home from work and saw your car. Thought you might need some help.” The fib dropped from my mouth. She didn’t need to know that her gran sent me here. What did it matter?

I winked and swallowed the last bite of my cookie. Kane stared up at me and watched for any stray crumbs.

“You have a tow truck, yes?”

I nodded.

“Then how are you not able to pull my car out?”

“I’d run the risk of getting my truck stuck. It might drive through mud on its own easily enough, but not when it’s hauling something.”

I could take her home in my truck and worry about her car tomorrow, but did I really feel like driving through torrential downpours and mudslides?

Not particularly.

Especially not now, knowing she’d be my company for the night.

A hushed moment stretched between us. I kept looking at her lips, plump and full,

and how they begged to be kissed.

This was stupid. She didn't want me. An older, secluded mountain man who planned to never leave this town. She was young, wild, and free. She could find someone to run this place and take off. Who was I to stand in her way?

But then she took a step closer.

And another.

My heart thumped. My palms sweated. I swallowed hard and prayed my dick would behave.

Ruby unraveled the towel from her head and dropped it on the floor as her wet curls spilled down around her face and her back.

Fuck, she was killing me.

I dug my fingernails into my palms to avoid reaching for her.

Kane lay down on the floor at our feet and sighed.

Ruby took another step.

I leaned forward. I wanted to kiss her. So badly.

## Page 4

*Source Creation Date: July 14, 2025, 3:44 am*

Then the bakery went dark, and Ruby yelped.

“Oh no! The power must’ve gone out!” Ruby said, and I reached for her hand in the dark.

I clasped it tight. “Lead me to the electrical panel. I’ll see what I can do.”

“It won’t help. We don’t have a backup generator,” Ruby answered but kept her hand in mine. I threaded our fingers together and squeezed. She squeezed back.

“Okay, then lead me to your flashlights and candles.”

“Now, that I can do,” Ruby said before pulling me in the opposite direction of where we came in. Kane followed like I knew he would.

He was just as smitten as I was.

He just wouldn’t admit it.

## CHAPTERTHREE

Ruby

After we located flashlights and candles, which there were plenty of since Gran was always prepared, we set ourselves up in the spare back bedroom. It had only one twin bed, but two extra cots served for backup. A small armchair was on one side of the bed with a nightstand on the other. A small flat-screen TV sat on a tall dresser, but

unless the power came back, it looked like we'd be entertaining ourselves with small talk.

Or maybe...

I shut down the thought and ignored the heat pooling between my legs. It wasn't my fault he oozed sex appeal, and he kept looking at me like he wanted to eat me for dessert. All night long.

Another rush of heat set my skin on fire. I needed a distraction, so I went in search of supplies. I found plenty of extra blankets and pillows in the closet and began setting up the cot.

"You don't have to do that, Ruby." His voice was low, an almost growl.

I smiled wide in hopes I didn't start panting. "Did you think I'd make my guest sleep on the cot? You've got the bed tonight, silly."

"That's nonsense. I couldn't take the bed from you. My mama raised me right, manners and all." Austin sat in the armchair next to the bed. Kane lay down at his feet.

My cheeks flushed along with the rest of my skin. "If you're sure..." I sat on the bed and pulled out my phone. "I need to text my customer real quick. Unfortunately, they won't be getting their muffins tonight." I quickly typed out a text and sent it. "I'll have to make all new batches in the morning. I can't give day-old muffins out even though they'll still be good. It's just not how Gran likes things done around here." I slammed my mouth shut when I realized I was rambling all of my thoughts out loud.

"Are you saying you now have extra muffins?"

I laughed. “Well, I could sell them for half off tomorrow. But if you’re hungry...”

He nodded and licked his lips. “Muffins are my favorite. And I haven’t eaten dinner yet.”

I stood and so did the dog. “Okay, I’ll go get them.”

Austin took my hands in his, and I pulled back in surprise, the spark when our fingers touched unmistakable. I gasped and looked away. My cheeks burned something fierce. What the hell was this man doing to me?

Austin grinned, which didn’t help one bit. I only swooned harder.

“You sit. You worked all day. I’ll get them.”

Warm fuzzies exploded inside me. “Okay, they’re in the box on the counter.”

Of course, Kane followed him and back. I laughed as he jumped on my lap and licked all over my face.

“Kane, get down! She doesn’t want your slobber all over her face,” Austin said, and Kane listened. He hopped off and laid down at my feet. Instead of the armchair, Austin took Kane’s place and sat next to me. Our elbows bumped, and my arm vibrated.

I heard him breathe. Felt him move. Smelled his after shave. Saw his strong physique next to me. Now, I just needed a taste...

“Wow, this is delicious,” Austin said around a mouthful of muffin. “Dare I say better than your gran’s?”

## Page 5

*Source Creation Date: July 14, 2025, 3:44 am*

“Shhh, don’t you dare let her hear you say that!” I picked up my own apple-cinnamon muffin and bit into the soft, sweet cake-like pastry.

“She’d be proud of you, Ruby. These muffins are really good. Actually, I’m pretty sure she already is.” He jabbed me in the side as he popped the last of his muffin in his mouth and grabbed another. Kane stared at both of us, ready for any possible crumb. “Do you like being back?”

“I do. I didn’t think I would, and honestly, I don’t know why. I think I got comfortable in the city. A good job, cheap apartment, and a nice group of friends. But I missed home. I missed Gran and the friends I grew up with. And there was no way I was letting her close down the place.”

“I get it. Probably why I never left my dad’s cabin after he passed. It’s my childhood. The place I last spent time with both of my parents before they were gone. I thought about selling the place, packing my shit, and getting the hell out of here. My mom’s been gone for years, so there isn’t much left for me here. But for some reason, I never worked up the courage to actually do it.”

“I’m sorry about your parents. I know how you feel.”

His warm hand covered mine. “I know you do. More so than me.”

I didn’t like to talk or think about the accident that stole both of my parents from me in one single moment. One single second of time and both were \*poof\* gone. Dead from a head-on collision with a semitruck. “It hasn’t been easy. I’m so thankful for Gran. I don’t know where I’d be without her.”

His fingers traced mine, and when our eyes met, I felt as if I was suspended in time. Only me and him. Him and me.

“She’s something special.”

“She sure is,” I whispered.

“I think her granddaughter is pretty spectacular, too.” His gaze dropped to my mouth and back up again. Slowly, very, very slowly.

My breath caught in my throat.

This wasn’t happening. It couldn’t be.

I barely knew him. Maybe my gran knew more, but basically, all I knew was what he just told me.

When his family moved to this town, they were quiet and kept to themselves. People talked. Small-town folks always did. But by then, I was lost in my own teen world and ignored town gossip. I didn’t pay any attention to who he was. I was too focused on moving to the city.

But now, here he was.

Smoking fucking hot.

And he was about to kiss me.

A sexy, fuckable, strong, buff mountain man.

My insides went haywire. My mind went blank.



Austin moved another inch closer.

My heart pounded so hard I thought my rib cage would break open.

His lips touched mine, and everything around us melted away. The pouring rain, the rumble of thunder, and the cracks of lightning.

All of it disappeared as our mouths molded together into one.

It made no sense, but I didn't care.

Because it felt so right.

## CHAPTERFOUR

Austin

Ruby tasted how I imagined, but better. Sweet, so fucking sweet. My hand found its way up the back of her neck and into her hair. I fisted a handful and tugged her head back. I broke our kiss and exposed her creamy skin to me. Her gasp and moan only spurred me on.

I kissed the delicate skin before my tongue took over. I licked and sucked, breaking away before leaving a hickey though I desperately wanted to. She was mine, and I wanted to mark her as such.

## Page 6

*Source Creation Date: July 14, 2025, 3:44 am*

But then I thought of a better spot. I just needed to get there first.

The intensity between us grew stronger as our mouths and hands explored.

Ruby reached for the buttons on my flannel, and I helped her undo them. It was like I couldn't get the damn thing off fast enough. She tugged it down past my shoulders and reached for the bottom of my T-shirt. When it was off, her hands roamed down over my defined chest and ab muscles. "Wow," she muttered as her fingernails trailed along the ridges and plains.

She stopped when she landed at my belt, and when her eyes saw the very large bulge in my pants, she smirked. "Oh, you're big in all the right places, aren't you?"

"Guess you just need to see, hmm?" I pushed back a lock of her hair behind her ear before I kissed her gently.

When she reached for the clasp of my belt, I covered her hands with mine. Our eyes met, and I hoped she could read my sincerity. "Are you sure about this? I don't want you to think you need to do anything you wouldn't want to."

She placed a hand on my chest. "If I didn't want to, I wouldn't. I know this might sound crazy, but there's something about this that feels so...so..."

"Right?" I interrupted.

Ruby nodded. A loud crack of thunder vibrated through the air, and more lightning flashed. Kane whimpered and slid himself underneath the bed.

“He’ll be okay. He hates thunder. Now, back to us...” I leaned over and blew one candle out. When I turned back, she had removed her blouse and was left in nothing but a lacy black bra. Her milky-white tits spilled over the top, and I wanted nothing more than to hold them in my hands and taste every damn inch. Every inch of her body was full of voluptuous curves, and I loved them all. Especially her sexy-as-fuck hips and ass.

As she reached around her back and unclasped the lacy material, my mouth watered as her tits tumbled out. I couldn’t waste another second. I gripped her waist and pulled her onto my lap. I buried my face between her perfect, delicious breasts and lost myself. Every touch, every kiss, every taste left me wanting more and more.

Ruby’s hands pulled at my hair as I sucked on each nipple, and my tongue flicked over the hard peaks.

When I’d had my fill, I lay her down on the bed and kissed the soft skin of her stomach until I reached the waistband of her jeans. I worked quickly in removing them, my desperation building, the primal urge to see her panties uncontrollable.

They didn’t disappoint.

Black lace covered the front, and a thin wisp of material held the two pieces together. If you could even call the back a piece, considering none of her curvy ass was covered. I leaned down and inhaled her sweet scent, and my cock wanted to explode out of my pants.

“Did you just smell my pussy?” Ruby asked with a laugh.

I grinned up at her. “I sure fucking did. I’m gonna do it again.”

This time, I slid both hands under her ass cheeks and lifted her gorgeous pussy up to

my face. I buried my face in the lace of her panties before tearing them off with my teeth. “Don’t worry, I’ll buy you plenty more,” I grumbled.

Then I had my first taste.

Goddamn, it wasn’t what I expected. It was even better.

Ruby groaned as I licked up and down her seam. I slid my middle finger inside her while using the other to spread her pussy wide open. I sucked her clit while finger fucking her at the same time.

She went wild. She gripped and tugged at my hair and cried out in pleasure. Her hips bucked off the bed, and I used my free hand to caress her ass cheeks.

“Shit! I’m going to come!” Ruby cried out as a bright spark of lightning lit up the sky outside. Rain battered against the small window, and another crack of thunder was heard. I didn’t stop, wanting her to reach climax and know I brought her there.

Her legs squeezed the sides of my head, and her fingernails dug into my scalp. Goose bumps scattered across her thighs, and she screamed my name as she came. I kept going, wanting to taste her delicious cream, wanting to bring her to orgasm again and again.

After another round, she lay there with a look of sheer pleasure, a smile stretched across her red, swollen lips.

“I can’t move. My arms and legs feel like spaghetti,” Ruby said breathlessly.

“You know I’m not finished with you yet.” I hovered above her and rubbed my hard bulge against her.

“More like I’m not finished with you.” In a flash, she pushed me onto my back and undid my belt. My jeans were practically ripped off me. Ruby wasn’t wasting a second.

Her small hot hand reached inside my boxers and pulled my hard cock out. Without bothering to remove my boxers, her full attention was on my dick. She began stroking, slowly at first, as she explored every inch.

When she brought her head down and her lips wrapped around the tip of my dick, I was afraid I’d come right then and there. I gripped the sides of the mattress and willed myself not to come yet.

## Page 7

*Source Creation Date: July 14, 2025, 3:44 am*

It was so fucking hard.

Ruby was amazing at sucking cock. Of course she fucking was. Her luscious full lips and her soft, swirling tongue sent me into a damn tailspin. As warm drool dribbled down the side, and she didn't once let up with her sucking game, I was done for. "Fuck, Ruby, I'm gonna come."

"Mmm, yes," Ruby said as the vibrations of her voice added to the convulsions of my dick. My hot cum poured down her throat, and she drank every last drop. It was so fucking hot.

It was like I had no control of my body. My cock stayed hard; no five-minute-break needed. I was ready to bury myself inside her and never come back out.

I reached down and lifted her onto my lap. It was like she read my mind. She lifted one leg over and straddled herself above my dick.

"I need to be inside you, Ruby. Now."

"No condom?"

"Shit, let me grab one. I was too caught up in the moment..."

Ruby placed one hand on my chest and another on my cheek. "I'm clean and on birth control."

"I'm clean, too. But are you sure?"

“Something tells me I am.”

“Then sit on this dick, baby, and ride the fuck out of it.”

Ruby laughed and did exactly what she was told.

This woman would be mine.

Forever.

## CHAPTERFIVE

Ruby

We spent the night talking and laughing between rounds of sex. We might've eaten a few too many bakery treats as well, but no one needed to know. It was our little secret. I was confident we burned most of it off, anyway.

When I woke up the following morning, Austin's large, warm frame was wrapped around me. I didn't want to move, but I needed to pee. I also saw the clock on the nightstand was flashing. Our power had come back.

Good. I needed to start on those muffins.

I had no idea what time it was, and I hoped I didn't sleep half the morning away. But first, I needed coffee.

Lots and lots of coffee. Not only were the muffins on my to-do list, but the every day stock and orders.

I slid out from under Austin as quietly as I could and tiptoed to the bathroom. But

how quiet I was didn't matter when a sixty-pound Labrador heard your every move.

Kane was up the second my feet hit the floor, and he followed me to the bathroom and then the kitchen. He probably needed to go, but one look out the window told me it was nasty out there. It was still drizzling, and the mud was worse than last night.

Ugh. Looks like it'll be a slow day.

Oh well, gave me plenty of time to make more muffins.

As I made a pot of coffee, I looked at Kane who sat by the back door. When I turned away to pull out a couple of mugs, he barked. I laughed.

"I know you need to go out, boy, but where is your leash? I don't know if you'll run off, and I don't want your father being mad at me."

Kane whimpered. Man, this dog was good.

"I could never be mad at you." Austin's deep voice floated my way as he entered the kitchen. Kane was already at his feet, running in circles and wagging his tail. "Relax, boy. You'll go out in a minute."



## Page 8

*Source Creation Date: July 14, 2025, 3:44 am*

When our eyes met, my heart kicked into high gear. “I wasn’t sure where his leash was, or I would’ve taken him out.”

Austin strode toward me, purpose in his step, and desire, so much desire, in his gaze. I gripped the counter so I wouldn’t melt into the floor.

Swoon and swoon and more swoon.

All I thought about was how sexy I knew that body of his was under all those clothes. Stupid clothes. Covering up all the good parts.

Austin stopped in front of me and dipped his head down. His lips touched mine, and all of the same explosions from the night before went off again.

How is every kiss so damn intoxicating?

“Morning. Did you sleep well?” Austin asked while tucking a strand of my hair behind my ear. Something I’ve noticed he liked to do often. I didn’t mind.

“Mmm, I did. When we weren’t...you know.”

He nuzzled my neck, and goose bumps scattered along my arms. “Oh, I know. But I’d love to be reminded.” He grabbed me by the hips and pressed me against him. I felt his bulge, and heat flooded between my legs.

“Me too,” I whispered. I’d love for him to lift me onto this counter and fuck the shit out of me. But I have muffins to bake and a business to run. So I placed my hands on

his chest and broke free from his grasp. “But we’ll have to be patient. I need to bake first.”

Austin groaned, but a grin spread across his face, and he winked at me. My heart went on a spree. “Let me take Kane out for a walk, and I’ll help. Looks like it’ll be a while before the mud dries up some. Save me a cup of coffee, please.” He kissed me once more and disappeared out the back door, Kane already ahead of him.

I chuckled at the dog and shook my head. How had so much happened in less than twenty-four hours? It was insane. But I couldn’t focus on that. I had people to call and things to do.

I called Gran to check in, but she didn’t answer. Afterward, I sent Lena a text.

Ruby: GURRRLLLLL. Tell me everything you know about Austin Delaney.

Lena: Austin Delaney?? The older guy who runs a tow truck company, right? He seems nice, kind of quiet, keeps to himself. Total hunk, though. Why?

Ruby: Well, you’re never going to believe this, but he showed up here last night. We ended up stranded from the storm, and we kind of hooked up.

Lena: Kind of?? What does kind of mean??

Ruby: LOL. We had wild sex all night.

Lena: OMG! Yahhhhsssss girl! Get it! Please tell me the sex was hot as fuck. It must’ve been.

Ruby: Unbelievable. I lost count of how many times I orgasmed. And you know your girl has never orgasmed during sex before.

Lena: AHHHH! I want all the deets! I'll stop by later! I also have some tea to spill- not my own but even better- my brother Graham's, haha

Ruby: Oh God, what's he gotten into now? Can't wait to hear. Ttyl, love u xoxo

Lena: love u more, xoxo

I put down my phone and turned on some music. I felt giddy, like a little kid at their birthday party. I danced as I grabbed what I needed for the muffins and sang like no one was watching.

Or I thought no one was watching...

"Please. Don't stop because of me," Austin said from where he stood in the doorway.

"My show isn't free," I teased.

Kane trotted over to me, and I nuzzled his snout and gave him a cookie.

Austin laughed as he rolled up his sleeves and washed his hands at the sink. He dried them on a towel and helped himself to a cup of coffee. "Tell me what to do, and I'm on it."

"You got it."

## Page 9

*Source Creation Date: July 14, 2025, 3:44 am*

We worked side by side and whipped up the batches of muffins in no time. Austin surprised me with how well he worked in the kitchen, and with the music and good energy flowing, we were having a ball.

That was, until Austin tossed a handful of flour at me.

What ensued was quite the messy flour fight.

But it ended with us in a heap on the floor, laughing uncontrollably which then turned to frantic kissing.

Clothes came off as the muffins baked in the oven, and when he slid his cock deep inside me right there on the kitchen floor, I knew my life had changed forever.

This man had wormed his way into my heart already.

It was intense.

Too intense.

And it happened so fast. Too fast.

When we finished, Austin took my face in his hands and kissed my lips softly. “I know this is crazy, Ruby, but move in with me. Be mine. I want to marry you and fill you with babies. I want a life with you. I knew it the moment I laid eyes on you.”

His words took my breath away.

It was crazy. It was all so unbelievable. But I was feeling it too. As if we were just made for each other. “Austin...”

“I’m tired of being alone, Ruby. I was perfectly content before, with it just being Kane and me. But something inside me changed when I met you. I know you must think it’s wild because I think it’s crazy too. But isn’t love supposed to be that way?”

I didn’t know how to answer.

Instead, I stood and ran to the bathroom.

## CHAPTER SIX

Ruby

How was this possible?

How did this insane situation feel so right?

I barely knew this man.

Yet I could see myself living with him. Married to him. Pregnant with his babies.

I’d always wanted to get married and have kids. I just didn’t expect it now. That didn’t mean it was a bad thing, though.

But did I want Gran to be alone again? I just got back.

I sat down on the closed lid of the toilet, rested my elbows on my knees, and dropped my head into my hands. My head spun.

I thought about reaching out to Lena or Gran and asking for their advice. Yet I knew deep down inside this was something I needed to figure out on my own.

After a few deep breaths, a few sighs, and several minutes later, I'd decided. When I placed my hand on the doorknob, a knock sounded from the other side at the same time. I cracked a smile. It felt like a sign.

I opened the door, and Austin stood there with his shoulders slumped, yet still as handsome as ever. His eyes searched mine frantically. "Ruby, listen, I'm sorry. I never should've rushed you like that. We can take it slow. Go on a proper date. I just want to be with you." He stepped forward and the look on his face told me he was asking my permission to move closer. Kane didn't care, though. He pushed through Austin's legs and danced between us, lifting his paws, wagging his tail, and licking our hands.

Austin ignored him. His eyes never left mine. My heart pounded in my ears.

"I wasn't so lucky in love the first time. She broke my heart, and I believed love wasn't in the cards for me for a long time. But looking at you, all of my fears melt away. I can't explain it. Hell, I don't understand it myself. But I promise to love you every day. And help you make muffins while also eating half of them at the same time."

I laughed, and we kissed.

*Source Creation Date: July 14, 2025, 3:44 am*

And then I smelled it. A burning smell.

“Fuck! The muffins!” I yelled. Austin’s eyes grew wide. We scrambled out of the bathroom and into the kitchen. I ran to the oven, but when I pulled the door open, it was too late.

Smoke came out along with burned muffins.

“Oh no!” I cried as I set the pan down next to the sink. “All of these are wasted!”

Austin stood next to me. “Shit, I’m so sorry, Ruby. It’s my fault. The flour fight, the sex—dammit. I won’t go to work today. I’ll help you with everything.”

Hope filled my chest, and the stress eased. “You would do that?”

“Of course. If I hadn’t thrown flour at you?—”

“No, I should’ve set the timer.”

“Again, I distracted you. I’m sorry.”

I loved how easy conflict felt between us. I was confident we’d survive the ups and downs as long as we had each other.

“Don’t apologize. We’ll figure this out. We’ll figure it all out.” I lifted onto my toes and wrapped my arms around his neck. I kissed him and said, “I want to go on all the dates with you. As long as you always promise me dessert.”

His arms slid around my hips, and he hugged me close. He buried his face in my hair and inhaled. I chuckled against his chest. I loved how he enjoyed smelling me. “Dessert? Is that all?”

“Mm-hmm, but not of the food variety.”

“Ruby, you’re the sweetest thing I’ve ever had the pleasure of tasting, and I plan on feasting every day. You sure you can handle it?” His strong arms moved under my ass, and he lifted me with ease. I wrapped my legs around his waist and seared my mouth to his.

I kissed him with everything in me. Everything I felt, everything I wanted to feel, how happy he made me, how turned on I was. We kissed and kissed and kissed until our mouths were swollen, and we lost our breath.

When we broke apart, Gran stood in the kitchen, one hand clutched to her chest, and the other covered her mouth. Her eyes were as big as saucers.

We sprang apart, and I raced over to her. “Gran! What are you doing here? It wasn’t safe for you to go out.”

Kane was sniffing her and trying to say hello. Gran took a second to pat his head before she turned her attention back on me. I wished she had taken longer with the dog. I hoped she wasn’t too upset.

The place was a mess. Flour everywhere, burned muffins, dishes galore, and Austin and I only half dressed. I hoped she wasn’t too upset.

But that thought didn’t last long. Out came a snort and I quickly covered my mouth with my hand. I couldn’t help it. It was like the cherry on top of the sundae. Guess there wouldn’t be any awkward meeting of the grandmother.



I heard Austin snicker behind me, and that was all it took for my laughter to break free. “I’m so sorry, Gran,” I said through giggles. “It’s been a disaster of a night and morning.”

“I’ll say. Nice to see you again, Austin Delaney. I figured I’d come check on you two since Austin never brought you home last night, and I heard you two camped out here.”

Of course Gran knew everything already. Her phone tree had many, many branches.

“Nice to see you, too, ma’am.” He tips his head toward her. “I was just about to call you.”

I laughed harder. No he wasn’t. He was kissing ass, and I was here for it.

“Oh, were you? To let me know you held my granddaughter hostage?” Gran winked in his direction, and I wonder what that was about.

“Well, I wouldn’t use the word hostage. She didn’t seem to mind. Actually, I wanted to ask you if I could take her on a date.”

I flushed and held my hands up. “Okay, okay. We’re fine, Gran. I’m sure you can tell. Except for burned muffins and being way behind. But Austin promised to help me out, so we’ve got it covered.”

“Just close shop for the day. The roads are terrible. If it wasn’t for the sheriff outside and his big truck, I would never have made it. Now, you two behave yourselves. And maybe clean up a bit?” She smiled at us both with warmth. “Or maybe just have fun. Life is short. I’m going to see if I can manage to get into some trouble with the good ole sheriff outside. Toodle-oo.” Gran waved goodbye and disappeared almost as fast as she came.

Laughter flowed out of me like a damn river. “Wow. That’s all I can say. Wow.”

## Page 11

*Source Creation Date: July 14, 2025, 3:44 am*

“Your gran is fucking awesome.” Austin came up beside me and wrapped an arm around my shoulder. “I have a hunch she set us up.”

“What makes you say that?”

“Well, I wasn’t completely honest yesterday. I fibbed a tiny bit.”

“Huh? When?” I didn’t know if I should be mad or what.

“When I said I saw your car here and decided to stop, that’s not the full truth. Your gran actually called me and asked me to check on you. And that if I couldn’t possibly get my truck out, then I should spend the night. She ended with- I don’t see why such a handsome man is still single, and my lovely granddaughter needs to give me some damn babies before I die. Owe you one, Austin.”

“Are you kidding me?” I burst into laughter again. I’d laughed so much my sides ached.

“Nope. I must say...I was quite curious to meet this goddess in person. This Ruby Bellamy her gran talked so much about. And I’m fucking glad I did. Because you’re better than I ever could’ve dreamed of.”

Swoon. Swoon. Swoon.

Damn him. He’s good.

“And so are you.”

Austin lifted me up again. “I’d like to get back to my dessert now. I’m rather hungry.”

“I’m all yours to devour.”

## EPILOGUE

Austin

One year later

I put a ring on Ruby’s finger a couple of months later.

We were married in less than a month. I couldn’t wait any longer to call her my wife.

Now she is seven months pregnant with our daughter, and I couldn’t keep her from working at the bakery even if I tied her up in bed.

A memory rushed through my head. It was so much fun when we took turns tying each other up in the bedroom. She went wild beneath me as I had my way with her.

My dirty thoughts didn’t help suppress my hard dick as I watched her scurry around the bakery, her cute belly round and plump with my baby. The floral sundress she wore with the spaghetti straps made it unbearable. My cock was so fucking swollen, and I wanted to shove my face between her ass cheeks.

If only she’d accept my help. I offered it earlier, but she refused.

The bakery was closed for the day. All that was left were a few orders to be dropped off on the way home. Which is why I was here. I took her to and from work since I didn’t want her driving anymore. She was growing precious cargo. Not to mention,

she herself was precious cargo. I'd protect her forever.

"Why don't you sit and let me finish packing the orders? You've worked all day, muffin." I started calling her that after we moved in together. She loved it, so it stuck.

My place was big enough that we moved Gran in, too. Now she rented her cottage out to a young woman.

Ruby wiped her hands on her apron. "Thanks, babe, but it's easier if I do it. I already know who ordered what. Besides, I'm done." She stacked the boxes and I loaded my truck. About a month ago, I upgraded to an extended cab. Now, I had room for our daughter and for bakery orders. Of course, Kane had his own spot in front. He was still and always will be the number one fur baby.

I helped her close up shop and walked her to the car. Kane was already waiting in his spot. He'd spent the morning at the groomer's and came home smelling clean, with a fresh haircut and a bow tie.

"Aw, what a good boy," Ruby said to Kane. He licked her face as I helped her into the truck. "Ew!" She laughed.

She thought I was only going to hold her hand, which I usually did, but tonight, I lifted her and placed her on the truck seat. I nudged her legs apart with my knee and stepped between them. I took her face between my hands and kissed her soft red lips.

I ran my hands over her plump curves. She'd filled out more since carrying our baby, and fuck, it made my dick hard.

"Is it bad that I want to fuck you right here, right now?"

## Page 12

*Source Creation Date: July 14, 2025, 3:44 am*

She grinned up at me, her eyes dark and only half open. “Is it bad if I let you?”

I didn’t wait for her answer.

“Kane, go run around,” I growled, and the dog immediately listened. I wasted no time.

I kissed her mouth, my tongue swirling inside as I pushed the straps of her dress down. The tops of her creamy breasts begged to be licked, but it could wait until later. I wanted to be inside her. Now.

In one swift move, I hiked up her skirt, pulled her panties off, and lifted her up. I gently turned her over and caressed her round, perfect ass cheeks. I kissed each one while I pulled my cock out of my pants.

I lined my cock up at her entrance and dipped the head inside. I groaned at the warm wetness that beckoned me in.

“Fuck me, baby.”

“What was that, muffin?” I slid the tip in a bit farther and back out again.

“Please, baby. Fuck me.”

I thrust deep inside, and we both cried out. I slapped her ass cheek, and she ground her ass against my pelvis, my cock so fucking deep I couldn’t see straight. And then we moved. In and out. Perfectly in sync.

All I heard was the slapping of skin and our moans and whispers of desire.

When we both came together, it was fucking pure, utter bliss.

“I love you so much, Ruby.”

“And I love you so much. Now feed me. Your wife and daughter are hungry.”

I laughed as I helped her stand and straighten her dress. “Don’t worry, muffin. Already ordered our takeout.” I grabbed her panties and tucked them in the back pocket of my cargo shorts. “You’ll get those back later. If you’re a good girl.”

Ruby ran her hand through my beard. “How did I get so lucky?”

“More like how did I?”

I kissed her again for the millionth time with the promise of a million more kisses to come.

THE END

\* \* \*