



Assembling with the Mountain Man (Heroes of Apple Falls #2)

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Category: Romance

Description: An unexpected storm forced them together. Little did they know, they'd find their forever.

I finally joined my best friend in Apple Falls after landing a job at the new flower shop in town. On my first day, disaster struck already. A big storm rolled in out of nowhere and my crappy car got stuck in the mud at the town's garden center.

A city girl like me had no clue what to do besides cry when suddenly, a sexy, handsome mountain man came to my rescue.

Until he got stuck in the mud, too.

We waited out the storm together and grew closer at the same time.

In the end, Lucian wanted me in his bed and in his heart.

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CHAPTER ONE

Chevelle

“I can’t believe we’re doing this in person.” I held up my champagne flute, filled with the most delicious mimosa, and toasted with my best friend, and now once again brunch buddy, Leighton.

After we both downed half of our drinks, Leighton grinned. “I know. Took your ass long enough to get here.”

“Hey, a girl needs to detangle her life when she’s lived in the same place forever.” I took a bite of my apple cinnamon muffin, the delicious flavors bouncing on my taste buds. “Wow, these muffins are yummy. You weren’t lying when you told me how good they are.”

“Nothing like an apple cinnamon muffin from Ruby’s bakery. The drive is worth it. Everything she makes is delicious. I’ll show you all the good spots.” Leighton sipped more of her mimosa.

“How far away is it?”

Leighton chuckled. “It’s in the next town over, Appleridge. Maybe ten to fifteen minutes but be prepared for others to say it’s way too far.”

“Ah, the small-town way of thinking?”

“Pretty much. Better get used to it. Everyone around here knows everyone else’s comings and goings.”

“I figured.” I finished my muffin before grabbing a bowl of cut up fresh fruit. “Won’t be any sneaking around with a sexy mountain man.” I wiggled my eyebrows.

“Watch out. I’m telling you, there is totally something in the water around here. Love sneaks up and bites you in the ass. They call it the Appleridge love bug. Next thing you know, you’re falling in love with a mountain man and pregnant with his love child.”

I stared at my best friend, Leighton, my muffin forgotten before I burst into laughter. “You can’t be serious. It’s not like mountain men are just falling from the sky.”

“No, but they’re still around.” Leighton winked. “Watch out, they’re wild.”

We both dissolved into infectious laughter.

“Speaking of mountain men, where did your hubby take the kids?”

“Cash said they were going to burn some energy off at the park. I don’t know how he does it. I’m exhausted by the end of the day. Plus, Maddie isn’t sleeping through the night quite yet, so the sleep I get is restless and interrupted.”

“Must be tough with the two littles. How does Sammy do through the night?”

“He’s great. Sleeps through the night without an issue. He’s such a sweet, charming little boy. I can’t believe he’s almost three! I feel like we were just celebrating his second birthday.”

“Oh, I remember you calling me during that bash. It looked like a lot of fun.”

“It was. And soon we’ll be planning Maddie’s first birthday, thankfully we have a few months left until she’s no longer a baby. How does it go by so fast?”

“It seems to go by faster the older we get.”

“You can say that again. Especially when watching children grow. It’s like they grow overnight or something.”

I laughed. “Maddie is your twin. It’s adorable. Do you want more?”

Leighton nodded. “Yes, at least a couple. Cash wants a lot.”

“He’s not the one birthing them.”

“That’s what I said!”

We both dissolved into laughter and moved on to discussing her wedding planning and the job I scored in town at the new flower shop. Right now, I rented an Airbnb cabin down the street from Leighton, while I looked for a more permanent place.

“You’re gonna add so much amazingness to Amara’s flower shop.

I stopped in there last week and she’s up to her ears in orders.

She probably didn’t expect to be so busy, but I knew this town needed a flower shop, so I’m not surprised it’s a hot commodity.

She’s running the show all by herself, so I’m sure she’ll be grateful to see you. When do you start?”

“Actually, today at two. Amara set aside the afternoon to show me around, do

paperwork, the whole new hire thing.”

“That’s awesome! I can’t wait to hear how it goes. Want another mimosa before the kids get back and you need to go?” Leighton stood up and walked over to the fridge, grabbing the champagne and orange juice.

“You know it, girl. Fill me up!”

My shitty old car protested as I drove to the garden center in town. Some roads weren’t paved well, more dirt than anything, and my car looked like it was one bolt loose from falling apart.

I pulled into the parking lot and parked my car just as a loud crack of thunder exploded in the sky. “Oh shit, a storm is coming.” I said as I took in the dark clouds forming in the sky. It was getting darker by the second. I needed to hurry and get back to the shop before the rain started.

Amara was very nice and so happy and grateful for my help. I showed her some of the custom arrangements I’ve done in my portfolio binder, and she sent me on my first assignment, which was hitting up the garden center for the flowers needed for the afternoon’s orders.

She explained she’s been looking for a wholesale retailer for flowers but hadn’t found one that was affordable yet. So, for now, we used the garden center in town. She also told me again and again how thankful she was I answered her job ad, as it had been only crickets for months.

I killed the engine, grabbed my list, and hurried inside.

The flower selection was in the back, a greenhouse set up with lots of lush plants and vegetation.

Filling up my cart, I got everything on the list, plus a small basil plant for me to bring home.

I needed to start an herb garden, having gifted my last one to my mom before leaving the city.

She couldn't believe I was taking the leap, a city girl with no concept of small-town mountain life, but she loved my herbs.

I promised to visit her and check in on the herbs.

But they would be fine, as my mother's green thumb was passed down to me.

Back at my car, I loaded my back seat with the flowers and scrambled inside just as a streak of lightning flashed through the sky. "Ah!" I jumped as loud thunder pierced the sky. Seconds later, the sky opened up and rain poured down.

"Great. My car's gonna love the mud." I muttered. I waited several minutes, in hopes of the rain slowing down, but it was only getting heavier.

With a deep breath, I backed out of my parking space and turned onto the road.

As I drove, I noticed the dirt was already turning into mud, the street growing thicker by the second.

My car began sputtering and slowing down until I came to a complete stop. I tried pushing the gas, but my tires spun, mud flying up from behind me.

Shit, shit, shit!

The first storm on this mountain and my shitty car couldn't handle it.

What do I do? I can't call Leighton, she's busy with her children. Maybe Cash can help me.

I texted Amara, letting her know what happened, and she immediately called and said she'd find a tow truck for me.

Once again, I tried pushing the gas, but it was no use. My car wasn't going anywhere.

With a defeated sigh, I rested my head on the steering wheel and did what I did best- I cried.

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CHAPTER TWO

Lucian

“How’s the new job going, son?” My father clapped me on the back, a smile plastered across his face. It wasn’t genuine, though, not in the way he used to. A roll of heavy guilt pulled at every part of me, making my stomach and heart hurt.

“It’s good, Dad. Thanks for asking, but we don’t have to talk about this if you don’t want to.”

“Don’t be silly, Luc. Of course, I want to know how my son is doing.”

I nodded, but none of my guilt eased. If anything, I felt worse. My father was such a nice guy, had been there for me through thick and thin, every growing pain there was, every shitty day or every girl who crushed my heart.

“I really like it. Putting things together and then taking a step back to realize it was you who made it. It’s a good feeling. But I miss it around here.”

“How so? You’re still here every day.” Dad teased.

“Hey, I’m bringing some business, right?”

“That you are kid, that you are. But listen, you can stop feeling bad about joining the construction crew and leaving your job here. Do I still want you here taking over the business when I can’t anymore?”

Sure, I do, but I want you to be happy. I want to see my children happy.

That's all that matters in the end. Besides, I've still got your sisters. ”

We exchanged the same look we always did when talking about the girls taking over. Yeah right, not gonna happen.

But maybe we're not giving them enough credit. “I hope for your sake, Dad, they cooperate.”

“Eh, I've dealt with your mother for so long, it's like a walk in the park.” He scratched at his beard as his eyes traveled to the sky. Dark clouds filled the sky, a storm ready to rage. “Better get going, Son. Looks like a storm is brewing.”

“Yeah, I gotta deliver the load of wood in my back truck to the new site we're working at, then I'll head home. If you need anything, you know the drill.” I hugged my dad, and before leaving, I found Mom in the back office, knee deep in paperwork.

“Luc! It's always a pleasure to see your handsome face.”

“Just stopping in to say bye, Ma. I grabbed the wood order and need to drop it off before the storm comes in. Call me if you need anything.” I hugged her tight and kissed her cheek.

“Love you, Luc.”

“Love you more, Ma.” With a quick goodbye to my sisters, Carina and Journey, I was back in my truck.

But before I could put the car in reverse, the heavens opened up and the rain poured down, soaking the bundles of wood in the truck's bed. “Fuck,” I muttered.

There was no use stressing over it now. I needed to get them to the site before Thane called, looking for me.

He took me under his wing as his apprentice, giving me the opportunity I'd always wanted but was always too afraid to take the leap for.

I couldn't let him down. I needed this to work, needed to show my parents I was capable of something other than the family business.

Rain poured down so hard I could barely see out of the windshield. But just up ahead, I spotted a small car stuck in the road, the hazard lights blinking on and off.

I pulled up beside the car and saw a woman behind the wheel, her head hanging low, her shoulders visibly shaking.

Without another thought, I threw my truck into park and jumped out, not caring that I was about to be soaked.

I knocked on the window, and when she turned to face me, a cloudy expression came over her face.

“Are you okay?”

She shook her head as she rolled her window down. Instantly, her beauty made me pause. Holy shit, she's the most beautiful woman I've ever seen.

I swallowed hard, unsure what to do with these emotions flooding my system.

Her face was red and blotchy, her eyes puffy, but her beauty wasn't diminished. She was still so fucking beautiful.

“No,” she hiccuped as more tears streamed down her face.

“My car is stuck. I need to get back to work. It’s my first day and my boss is probably going to fire me now.

I have no clue on how to get unstuck, who to even call in this town, and I can’t get not even one bar of service!

” She pushed her blonde hair out from her eyes and sighed.

“Maybe I’m not meant to be here after all. ”

“Hey, it’s alright. You’re definitely not the first person to get stuck in the mud around here. The storms get bad quick and with a lot of unfinished roads, mud becomes a problem. I’ve got a tow on my truck. I’ll help pull you out.”

“Really? You would? Oh, thank you. Thank you so, so much.”

“Not a problem. Stay buckled and behind the wheel. When it’s go time, I’ll have you shift the car into neutral. Got it?”

“Yes.”

As I ran back to my truck and climbed inside, all I could think about was what it would be like to kiss her. Taste her. Touch her. I needed to stop before I had a noticeable bulge in my pants.

I pulled my truck in front of hers and backed up close. Then I got out my tow supplies and worked quick to get her hooked up as the rain pelted me sideways. I gave her a thumbs up. “Shift into neutral!” I yelled through the window before climbing back into my truck.

Once I shifted my truck into drive, I slammed on the gas, needing the extra boost, but her car didn't budge. I tried again and again, finally getting her car moved a little, only to slip down into the mud farther.

After several minutes, we weren't getting too far, but I wasn't giving up. I floored the gas pedal to the metal, revving the engine as much as I could.

But nope, nothing.

No movement.

My own tires started spinning, mud flying up from behind me.

Shit!

Now we're both stuck.

CHAPTER THREE

Chevelle

The handsome mountain made my heart race in a way I'd never experienced before.

He came out of nowhere like a hero waiting to jump into action, ready to rescue a crying stuck in the mud city girl.

I didn't even know his name, and yet I wanted to know everything about him.

My car inched slightly forward as he slammed on the gas in his truck, mud flying in the air behind his large tires and splatting on my windshield. The car rocked back and forth and soon his truck was no longer moving, his back wheels spinning.

Oh fuck. He was stuck too!

My stomach fell to my feet as I watched him walk back over to me, a concerned look on his face. When he reached my window, I rolled it down, water and mud trickling down the sides of his head, yet my attraction for him didn't waver in the slightest.

"Now I'm stuck. The mud is a lot deeper than I expected. I called for a tow, but we might have to wait it out a bit. With only a few tow trucks around here, storms can really back things up."

"Okay. I'll wait right here." I tried to joke about the shitty situation we were in and thankfully, he chuckled. "I'm Chevelle, by the way."

“Lucian. Nice to meet you, Chevelle. I can keep you company if you’d like.” He grinned and, holy shit, he grew ten times hotter.

Say no to a sexy mountain man? I think not!

“That would be nice, thanks.”

A flash of lightning lit up the sky, followed by a loud boom of thunder. I jumped and immediately my cheeks flushed. Dammit, I was like a little girl with a crush around him. Was this what it was like when Leighton first met Cash? I’d have to ask her.

“Man, it’s only getting worse. I gotta grab my phone. One second.” Lucian sprinted back to his truck and before I could blink, he was standing outside my passenger door.

I hit the unlock button, and he climbed inside with his phone, a towel, and a t-shirt. What did this dude have in his truck? A closet or something?

Lucian towel dried himself off, starting with his hair and face and down over his arms before peeling off his wet t-shirt.

My mind short-circuited as I took in his sleek, muscular form. He really was too good to be true. Who the hell was breeding these men around here?

He caught me blatantly drooling, no staring at his hot bod and my cheeks flamed even hotter. I must look like a damn tomato.

Lucian shot me a wink as he wiped down his chest and abs, his shoulders, arms, and back. My knees felt weak, though I was still sitting. The effect he had on me was crazy.

I couldn't believe it, didn't believe it.

"Sorry. I can't stand sitting in wet clothes." Lucian informed me as he slipped his t-shirt back on. He tossed the towel and shirt down at his feet. "I could've changed in my truck, but then I would've gotten soaked again."

"Oh, it's totally okay with me. I mean, if you want to go shirtless, that's okay, too." I rambled and then promptly clamped my mouth shut.

Lucian laughed, and I loved the sound, wanting to hear it again and again. "Okay, I'll make you a deal. I'll go topless, if you do." A wolfish grin spread across his handsome face.

"Nice try," I quipped. "But that at least takes a date or two."

"I think I could manage that."

"Are you asking me on a date?"

"Maybe. Would you say yes?"

"Maybe."

"You're cute. And sassy."

"Guess it's just that city sass."

"What's a city girl doing in this small town, anyway?"

"My best friend moved here, fell in love with a mountain man, and lived happily ever after. I figured, why not I try?"

He looked at me like I couldn't be serious.

"It's the truth. But really, I missed my best friend a lot. Plus, I landed a really cool job. Which as you can see, my first day isn't going so well. My boss was great. She called me right away and said she'd find a tow truck. But last I heard from her, there was a three hour wait for one."

"Doesn't surprise me. Where are you working?"

"Hmm, should I be telling a stranger so much about me?"

"Trust me, we won't be strangers by the end of this." Lucian said with so much confidence, I squeezed my legs together.

"I work with Amara at her new flower shop." My eyes flicked over to his. I wanted to run my fingers through his beard. I wanted to kiss his lips and see if he tasted as sweet as I imagined he did.

"That's awesome. I heard she was looking for some help after her store seemed to grow in popularity overnight."

"I've always enjoyed making custom floral arrangements. And for a long time, it was hard finding a good-paying job doing what I loved. So, when this opportunity came up, I took it as a sign to finally take the leap and move here."

"That's admirable, Chevelle. Few people take chances. I recently took a chance myself and I still feel guilt around it."

"Why guilt?"

"My family owns the garden center in town. The one I imagine you bought all the

flowers from?" Lucian pointed at my back seat, and I nodded in response.

"I've worked there, spent countless hours there, and it's like a second home.

But it's not my passion. Not like my father's anyway.

I've always been interested in construction, so with the new construction crew in town, I jumped aboard.

Luckily, the foreman took me under his wing as an apprentice.

But leaving the family business..." He blew out a breath as his shoulders sagged.

"I don't want my dad disappointed. He says he's not, but I don't know...

I wonder if he's only saying that to spare my feelings. "

"I'm sure he wants to see you happy. And if that's doing construction, then so be it. Sure, he'll probably always wish you stayed with the family business, and that's okay. Parents can expect and want for their kids, but they're going to grow into their own person, no matter what."

Lucian fell silent as he studied me. Did I say too much?

"I'm sorry, did I overstep? I didn't mean to."

He shook his head. "Not at all. I enjoyed hearing what you had to say."

"I understand how you feel. My dad is a lawyer, retired now, but he wanted me to follow. Law was like a foreign language to me. He got over it, but I always wondered if he thought differently on the inside. Eventually, I let the guilt go. He was happy for

me, and I needed to be happy for myself. You'll get there. ”

Lucian's eyes held mine in a locked gaze. Silence fell between us as time slowly ticked by, the rain pelting the roof as the sky lit up and crackled.

I wanted to ask him what he was thinking. Feeling. Wanting.

What I wanted was loud and clear, at least in my mind.

Kiss me.

Kiss me.

KISS ME!

Lucian leaned forward. “I think I know what might make me happy...kissing you.”

Yes!

His lips found mine in the small space of my car and the rest of the world, the wind, the rain, all of it melted away as I lost myself in his kiss.

Down, down, down, I fell for the mountain man.

And I loved every second.

CHAPTER FOUR

Lucian

I wasn't the type of guy to be forward with girls. I took the more shy, slow approach, or maybe I just didn't find anyone I really connected with. So, I didn't bother.

But it wasn't like that with her. Chevelle.

She was something else. She made me want to explode from desire, to veer off course from any rule I'd ever set for myself, to open up and flirt and talk. And kiss. I desperately wanted to kiss her.

When I couldn't stand it anymore, I took what I wanted, and she responded like I hoped. She fucking loved it.

We kissed and kissed; the windows fogging up around us, but I didn't care. I couldn't get enough. Like a sweet treat, her lips were addicting.

Chevelle kissed me once more before leaning back, her breath coming out in small spurts. "Wow." She mumbled under breath, and a thrill ran through me. She felt the same way as me. How could she not?

"Wow." I echoed. I couldn't stop staring at the gorgeous woman, her eyes still puffy from crying earlier, which only made me like her more.

Her long blonde hair cascaded down her back in waves and her sweet blue eyes were

as deep as the ocean.

When she told me she just moved here, I figured as much because I would've remembered seeing the likes of her around town. How could you not?

Her short, petite, curvy frame sent my mind into overdrive, fantasies hitting me from out of nowhere. Throwing her around the bedroom, lifting her onto my shoulders as I devoured her sweet pussy.

I shifted in my seat, my dick already responding. A few flower tattoos scattered along each of her arms, and it only made her sexier. Not to mention the tiny diamond stud in her nose. I wanted to peel back every one of her layers and discover everything about her.

I'd never felt like this before about a woman.

But I was about to embrace it. Because I wanted her.

And nothing was going to stop me.

"I don't care if we ever leave this car." Chevelle said after we stopped kissing for the millionth time. We'd kiss and talk, kiss, and talk some more, like two teens who snuck away to the make out spot.

I wanted to get to know her but at the same time, I wanted to rip her clothes off and fuck the shit out of her in my back seat.

As we rolled into the third hour, tow truck lights flashed in the distance.

"Is it horrible to say I wish the tow wasn't coming yet?" Chevelle bit her bottom lip. I wanted to take it between my teeth and suck the pain away while inflicting more of

my own.

“No. I was thinking the exact same thing.”

“Kiss me before he gets here.”

I took her face between my hands and kissed her, softly at first, slowly deepening the kiss, until our tongues twirled and our kiss got carried away. I wanted to touch her, but I didn't out of respect and the tow truck now nearly in sight.

When the flashing yellow lights were right next to us, I pulled away, my lips tingling as I looked at hers, plump and swollen from our passion. “This is far from over.” I said before I climbed out of the car and back into the rain.

After twenty minutes, the tow truck driver got Chevelle's car out pretty easily, while struggling a bit with my truck. But the big, power diesel truck managed and soon I was free, too.

“The mud's really bad on the roads. Do you live nearby?”

“Yeah, a couple miles up the street. Think I could make it?”

“In your truck, yeah. Probably not this car.”

I scratched my chin while I thought of a quick plan. “Okay, how about you tow this car to my place, and I'll head there in my truck.”

“Sounds good. Lead the way.” He saluted me before heading back to his tow truck.

I knocked on Chevelle's window and motioned for her to get out. She shot me a puzzled look and rolled the window down. “You're going to ride with me. I only live

down the street. We can tow your car there.”

“Tow my car to your place? But I need to get back to work.”

“The roads are closed. It’s dangerous to drive anywhere.”

Chevelle hesitated but then she nodded and rolled her window up before getting out. I walked her over to my truck and opened the passenger side door for her. “But I really should try to get back to work. Or at least to my place.”

“You’re coming home with me.” I said, the words coming out more demanding than I intended. I closed the door and ran around the side, throwing the door open and sliding behind the wheel.

I cleared my throat, reached over and took her hand in mind. “It’s not safe for you to drive anywhere. Please stay with me. I have plenty of room, including a guest bedroom suite you can use.”

“But Lucian...we hardly know each other. I’m sure I could call Leighton and have Cash come pick me up. I don’t want to put you out.”

“We hardly know each other?” I swallowed down the hurt I felt. She’s right. I had no clue who she was a few short hours ago. But why was that thought so painful? “We might have only just met, but we certainly didn’t kiss like two people who just met.”

She rubbed a hand along her still swollen lips. When her eyes met mine, so much reflected back. Her hesitation, indecisiveness, thinking about everything I said, all of it wrapped up into one anxious glance.

“That’s true.” Chevelle bit her bottom lip again.

“Think about it like when you have a one-night stand. You go home with the person you only just met, right?”

“I mean, yeah...”

“I take it you haven’t?”

“Not really my style.”

“Good, it’s not mine, either. But for each other, in this moment, we’re making an exception. And something tells me it’ll be worth it.” I squeezed her hand and slowly made our way to my cabin, the tow truck following behind.

CHAPTER FIVE

Chevelle

Lucian was bringing me to his place.

He. Was. Bringing. Me. To. His. Place.

Inside, I was freaking out, but I tried to remain cool, calm, and collected on the outside.

How we went from meeting to kissing to him bringing me to his house in such a short time was almost mind boggling.

But that's how stuff like this happened, right?

Leighton didn't mean to meet Cash when she stumbled into his orchard.

I certainly didn't mean to meet Lucian while simply trying to complete a work errand.

But life put people in your path for a reason. I firmly believed that.

While it was only a short distance away, it took almost twenty minutes to navigate through the thick mud. I never saw roads get so muddy before and it worried me. My car couldn't handle the tough mountain terrain.

The rain finally let up as we pulled into the driveway of a very large log cabin, a picturesque cabin if I ever did see one. Cement filled Lucian's driveway, smooth and wet from the rain. Anything was better than mud.

I waited in the truck while the tow driver dropped my car off behind Lucian's truck. I hopped out when he finished and offered to pay, but Lucian wouldn't hear of it. He pushed my money away and told me it was on him. I'd leave a few twenties on his counter at some point.

"Let's get inside. I'll light a fire. The rain brought on a chill." Lucian took me by the hand and led me to his front door.

He was right. The air was considerably cooler, and the sun was gone, no longer bothering to even try to poke some rays through the clouds.

"Your cabin looks gorgeous."

"Thank you. It was in the family. I took it over when my uncle moved out and I fixed up some things, remolded some others, and added a pool in the backyard." Lucian said as he pushed open the door and the smell of cinnamon filled my nose.

"Is that cinnamon? Do you bake?" I teased and Lucian laughed.

"Yes, it's cinnamon and no I don't bake. Trust me, you don't want to see that disaster. My mother loves loading my place with candles and air freshener. She always said, a happy home is a good smelling home."

"Your mom sounds like a smart woman."

"She's amazing. Like you."

I flushed from head to toe. How did this man always make me feel so damn good?

“C’mon, I’ll give you the tour.” Lucian closed the door behind me and took a left into the living room, signaling for me to follow.

His cabin was stunning from top to bottom, with large bedrooms and walk in closets filling the second floor, the guest suite with its own bathroom, and a master bedroom suite as well. A third bathroom sat amid the bedrooms.

The first floor consisted of the living room, an eat in kitchen, a dining room, and a sliding glass door leading onto the patio and out to the fenced-in backyard with a large inground pool.

“Wow, Lucian. How do you ever leave?”

He chuckled. “No choice if I want to pay the mortgage. But every second I’m here, I enjoy.”

“I would too. My Airbnb cabin is nice, small, cozy. Definitely nothing like this, but it’s enough for now until I can secure a better place.”

“Well maybe you won’t have to.” Lucian said as he came up behind me and slid his arms around my waist. He pressed his front against my back, and I could easily feel his hard on pressing against my ass.

Was this man really suggesting what I think he was?

I didn’t answer as his mouth found my neck. I wanted to enjoy the here and now and the way his body felt against mine.

I gave my ass a little shake, wanting the friction of my ass against his hard cock. He

groaned and reciprocated the friction back as his mouth worked on my neck with skill, leaving my entire body broken out into goosebumps.

A low growl erupted from Lucian's throat.

"I can't resist you much longer, baby. I want you so fucking bad.

" His hands gripped my waist hard before one slid upwards and wrapped itself around my neck.

No pressure was applied, but he couldn't stop murmuring about how beautiful I looked. How sexy I was. How turned on he was.

I spun around, unable to control my urges, all of my willpower gone, and pulled him against me as I slipped my arms around his neck. I crushed his mouth with mine and slipped my tongue inside, moaning and groaning as I explored in a way I never had before.

Without breaking our kiss, Lucian scooped me into his arms and carried me to his bed. When he placed me down gently, we slowly undressed each other and fell back onto the bed, a tangle of naked limbs. I wanted him inside me so bad I was ready to fucking explode.

Lucian's hands and mouths explored every part of me.

I moved my hands to do my own exploring, but he pushed them away.

"This is all about you, baby." He climbed on top of me, took each one of my arms and placed them above my head, holding them there with one hand. "Can I trust you to keep them here?"

I nodded even though I knew I couldn't trust myself. He was too damn sexy not to. I wanted to trail my tongue along every inch of his skin and taste his saltiness. I wanted to wrap myself around him and fuse into one like it was something we did all the time.

But I held them there. As his tongue trailed over my breasts and swirled around my nipples, I cried out in pleasure, sensations running through me I'd never felt before.

He moved down over my stomach and when he reached between my legs, he dipped his head into my pussy and licked and sucked the life out of me. My wet pussy juices soaked his beard as I rubbed my clit and he kept up his special tongue moves, performing magic on my sensitive nub.

Pleasure built up inside me, spreading through every part of me, until I came so hard, I saw stars, my entire body shaking, as my legs clasped squeezed his head. But he didn't stop.

Oh, no. Lucien kept going until I came so many times I lost count. And when he sunk his hard, thick cock into me minutes later, I was ready to combust all over again.

And we did. Several times.

Until we passed out, naked and spent, in his bed together.

CHAPTER SIX

Lucian

We didn't leave my bed until the next morning.

I served us dinner in bed, followed by dessert, and a night of lovemaking, until we fell into a deep coma of some of the best sleep I'd ever had.

Chevelle woke in a panic.

"Shit, shit, shit! What time is it?"

I groaned, peeked one eye open, and looked at the clock on my dresser. "Six thirty."

Chevelle laid back down, her breathing beginning to slow. "Phew. I'm not scheduled until ten."

I smiled at her from beneath my pillow. I loved sleeping with one over my head, blocking out the noise and distractions keeping me from sleep. "It's Saturday. I'm off the hook."

"Lucky." She snuggled up next to me, her eyes slowly drifting shut. "Guess you're on breakfast duty, then."

"I'll make you breakfast every day of the week, sweet girl."

Her eyes fluttered open once more and a whisper of a smile stretched across her gorgeous face. “Is that a promise?”

“Mmmhmm,” I mumbled as sleep pulled me under again. “Be my girl, Chevelle. Please.”

A sharp intake of breath. A small blip of silence.

“Yes. The answer will always be yes.”

A couple of hours later, I woke to the morning sun shining through the curtains and the picture-perfect sight of my beautiful girl sleeping beside me.

Life happened quickly, usually while waiting on the sidelines. I didn’t expect love, nor was I looking for it.

But it fell into my lap, and I wasn’t about to let it pass me by.

I slipped out of bed quietly while Chevelle slept and cooked her a breakfast of eggs, toast, bacon, and coffee. I kept everything warm in the oven as I made my way upstairs to wake her. What I had in mind might take a bit and I wasn’t about to let her meal go cold.

Quickly undressing, I slid under the covers and snuggled up next to her. I kissed her soft skin, my hands beginning to roam her sexy curvy body, a body I wanted in my bed every night going forward.

Chevelle’s eyelids fluttered open, and she smiled lazily before kissing me back gently. Before I could protest, she ducked under the covers and moved downwards. When her mouth wrapped around my now hard dick, my hips bucked off the bed in response.

Her warm mouth, soft lips, and swirling tongue drove me crazy, and I lost myself in the pleasure as she sucked my dick like a fucking champ. Up and down, fast and slow, it was hot, messy, and wild. I loved every fucking second of it.

My orgasm was building quickly, but I wanted to save my orgasm for her sweet, tender pussy.

I reached down and lifted her up, setting her down on my waist, my hard dick lined up against her stomach.

She rubbed herself along the shaft while the blanket fell around her shoulders, revealing her gorgeous naked form, her breasts ample and full and so damn sexy.

“Ride me, baby.” I said, my voice rough.

Chevelle lifted onto her knees and lined up my cock at her entrance after stroking it a few more times.

Then she sunk onto my dick, slowly absorbing every inch until her pussy rested against my pubic bone, balls deep inside her tight pink walls.

She moved up and down, slowly at first, as she grew wetter and more sped up, using her knees to keep her steady.

She leaned forward and rested her hands on my chest as she twerked her ass on my dick, my hands slapping each cheek again and again.

Again and again, the sounds of slapping skin filled the room along with the delicious scent of our arousal.

Several minutes later, we exploded together, our orgasms releasing at the same time

as I cried out her name and buried my face in her hair. She collapsed onto my chest and sucked in deep breaths, both of us spent and delirious with pleasure.

I took her to the shower, and we washed each other before I turned her towards the wall and fucked her from behind. I sat her in bed when we finished, wrapped in a fluffy towel, and fetched our breakfast to enjoy in bed.

And that was only just the beginning of our love story. Because every day I promised I'd show her love, and I would deliver on my promise.

The first week together was a blur. All of our time spent together was in bed, between meals, showers, and our workdays.

Chevelle went off to her job at the flower shop while I worked my construction, having the occasional run in at the garden center.

I'd sneak her away for a stolen kiss, but soon I wanted to introduce her to my parents and sisters.

She didn't deserve to be hidden away in the shadows. She deserved to be shown off.

After she spent the entire first week at my place every night, she agreed it was time to check out of the Airbnb. Why pay for a place when you're never there?

Two weeks later, I introduced her to my family, and she introduced me to her friends Leighton and Cash. We were officially a couple, and I couldn't be happier. I wanted to make her my wife soon. It might be crazy fast, but she was it for me. I'd known the very first day we met.

Carina and Journey loved her, and they all became fast friends, inviting Leighton to join their little get togethers. They were all moms and while Chevelle tried hard to

hide it, I could tell she wanted a child, too.

One day, baby. One day I'll fill you with as many kids as you want.

But first, I need to marry you.

I went ring shopping with my sisters and Leighton a few weeks later and when I got down on one knee a week later, underneath the starry sky, I asked Chevelle to marry me.

She said yes.

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Source Creation Date: July 30, 2025, 6:42 am

Chevelle

Six months later

“Yes, that one is good to go. I’m putting the finish touches on the orchid order.

” I said to Amara as we worked side by side, both of us cranking our arrangements out in a steady rhythm.

I was in over my head with orders at work while finalizing all of the flower arrangements for Leighton’s wedding at the same time, but I promised I wouldn’t let Leighton down.

“Oh, I forget to tell you. I’m interviewing someone tomorrow.

Name is Phoenix, just arrived in town. She’s more experienced with gardens, indoor and outdoor ones, she designs them herself, and I thought that might be a cool feature to offer in the store.

But she said she can make basic arrangements, so at least she can help with the small orders or the bundling of the baby’s breath. ”

I breathed a sigh of a relief. “Gardens are still flowers. Bring her on. We need her.”

Amara laughed. “Well first let me interview her. Don’t get your hopes up too quickly.”

“You’re right. But maybe she’ll be awesome like us. And we can warn her about the love bug that bites you fast and quick.”

“It’s crazy, isn’t it? The way it all happens so fast. I remember when I first saw Thane. The sparks were insane. They still are. Hope they stay that way when we bring kids into the picture.”

I gasped and my eyes went wide. “Don’t tell me you’re pregnant now!”

Amara laughed again. “No, not yet. We’re waiting a bit longer. But promise you’ll cover me on my maternity leave when it does happen?”

“You know it, girlfriend. Okay, there’s only two orders left. Are you good with them while I pack up Leighton’s flowers?”

“Yes. Are you excited for her wedding tomorrow?”

“I am. I take my maid of honor duties very seriously.” I grinned.

“And have you and Lucian set a date yet?”

“No, not yet. If it were up to Lucian, we’d be married already. But I’m still debating what season to get married in, never mind the month and day.”

“I’m sure this advice doesn’t help, but it doesn’t have to be perfect. Nothing ever is. I do think fall weddings are beautiful, though. Especially around here.”

A surge of excitement buzzed through me. “Yes, that would be gorgeous.”

“Take your time. There’s no rush.”

“Very true. Thanks, Amara.”

Later that night, Leighton called me freaking out. She was pregnant. I calmed her down and reminded her it was so early, she wouldn't be showing. So, she couldn't drink, big deal?

“But I don't want to be nauseous and bloated!

This is a disaster.” Leighton cried but, in the end, I got her to see the positives and talked her through it.

Just like she had done for me when I called her freaking out about Lucian.

“Oh, the love bug hit you hard and fast, girl!” I remembered her saying.

It seemed like everywhere I turned, a woman was pregnant or just had a baby. While I wanted to be a mother badly, I wanted to wait and spend time with my husband, before bringing such a big responsibility into the world.

The next day, Leighton and Cash were married in a gorgeous ceremony, and no one knew she was pregnant except for Cash and I.

Okay and maybe I told Lucian, but her pinkie promised me he'd stay quiet.

While dancing beneath the moonlight, we set a date for our wedding, for this coming October, underneath the fall sunset and surrounded by the colorful, eye-catching foliage.

“I love you more than life itself, Chevelle.” Lucian whispered in my ear before gently nipping at my earlobe.

“Mmm, but I love you more.”

Lucian slapped my ass and my cheeks flamed red as I yelped and laughed at the same

time, hoping no one around us saw. But thankfully, everyone was lost in their own dancing worlds, oblivious to others around them. “Say that again and you’ll be spanked harder.”

I grinned, a hint of slyness underneath. “Is that a promise?”

“You bet it is.”

“I love you more.”

Lucian chuckled and slapped my ass once more.

And when we finally said I do on a breezy, fall night, surrounded my friends and family, with tears in my eyes and running down my cheeks, my world clicked into place.

I had my happy ending.

THE END