

MIDNIGHT RODEO

Midnight Cowboys 1

Luxie Ryder

MENAGE AMOUR



Siren Publishing, Inc.

www.SirenPublishing.com

A SIREN PUBLISHING BOOK

IMPRINT: Ménage Amour

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Copyright © 2008 by Luxie Ryder E-book ISBN: 1-60601-327-0

First E-book Publication: December 2008

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PUBLISHER

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DEDICATION

To my sister – fighting the biggest challenge of her life. You make me very proud.

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LUXIE RYDER

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Chapter 1

'A couple more beers over here, darlin'.'

Talia bit down a snappy retort. The cowboys at the end of the bar had been calling her names all night, albeit affectionate ones and it was beginning to wear on her nerves. She'd told them what she liked to be called with a tight smile more than once, but they seemed determined not to use it.

'There ya go.' She placed the drinks in front of the two men, one as dark as the other was fair.

'Thanks, sweetheart,' the blonde one said.

'The name is Talia,' she repeated through gritted teeth as she walked away to get their change. By the time she returned, two pairs of eyes were anticipating her arrival.

'I guess we're bugging you?' The darker one smiled, dimples appearing in his unshaven face. 'We really don't mean to, it's just that we meet so many people out on the road, we tend to forget they have names.'

Talia smiled back, remembering that it wasn't their fault she was so irritated. Since the Rodeo and Wild West Show had arrived in Chelwood the day before, her little bar had been insanely busy. One of the staff had called in sick too, leaving her to cope with the evening shift alone.

The lighter of the two men stood, taking off his hat. 'My name is Reb. This here is Cody. Pleased to make your acquaintance, Ma'am.' His friend got to his feet briefly, tipping his head in greeting. Both men looked to be in their mid- thirties and stood a little over six feet, towering over her by about ten inches. They were dressed alike in t-shirts and jeans along with their hats, but that is where any similarities ended. Reb had a long, rangy body made brown from too many hours in the sun and an easy smile he seemed to have trouble keeping under control. Cody was paler but still very tan with a strong, broad frame and penetrating dark eyes.

'So, what do you think of our little piece of Colorado?' Talia asked, trying to move the conversation forward and divert their attention from the fact she'd been such a grouch. A couple guys further down the bar were hollering for more beer, but she ignored them.

'Beautiful,' they said, almost in unison.

'You own this place?' Cody asked, gesturing toward the rest of the building.

Talia nodded. 'I inherited The Watering Hole from my father when he decided to retire and take my mother back home to Mexico.'

'Well, you are doing a fine job,' smiled Reb. 'It looks great.'

'Thanks,' she smiled as she turned away to grab a couple more bottles from the cooler. 'Here, these are on the house,' she said, feeling the need to make amends. Cody's watchful gaze was still on her body as she turned and he showed no embarrassment or remorse when he realized she'd caught him.

'Thank you—Talia,' he said, allowing his eyes to linger on her as he took a long swallow of his beer. His gaze went through her,

causing a tightening between her legs that she was almost sure he could see.

Damn! She wanted what he was selling. Talia knew her reaction to the sexy cowboy was caused almost entirely by a self imposed sexual drought. Her crotch got moist at the invitation in his eyes and the sensation increased as she watched his tongue lick a stray bead of beer from his lip. Things were far worse than she'd realized if a handsome stranger could make her so hot without even trying.

She dragged her gaze away, moving back down the bar; sure she could still feel his eyes on her. She'd been told many times that her ass was her best feature and she got a lot of comments on it. Men seemed to like her long legs and small tight butt. Personally, Talia felt she was a little too skinny, but she did like her long, black hair. Her features, like her name, came from her mother's Mexican heritage.

Despite her aroused state, Reb and Cody were the last things on her mind for the next hour or so. The bar filled to capacity, forcing her to shout over the noise of the chatter to hear what the customers wanted. A small crowd at the other end of the room was beginning to get rowdy, shouting for more beer constantly as they laughed and hollered to their buddies.

'Hang on,' she yelled back as they called for service again. A sudden movement behind her caught her eye and she turned just in time to see Reb running passed toward the end of the galley. Next thing anyone knew, the young reveler who had jumped the counter to grab some free drinks for his buddies, found himself being thrown back over the bar to land in a heap on top of his friends.

The guy regained his balance and took a step forward, ready to retaliate. 'I wouldn't if I were you.' A strong hand held him back by the shoulder as Cody appeared behind him as if from nowhere. The kid thought better of it, shrugging off the restraining touch and storming from the building, followed by his friends.

'Sorry about that,' Reb said as he squeezed passed Talia on his way back to his seat on the other side of the bar. 'Looked like you could use a hand.'

'Yeah, thanks,' she said, a little taken aback by the turn of events and the casual ease with which he had touched her, seemingly unmoved by the full body contact. Talia could still feel his hands on her hips. The earlier arousal caused by Cody slammed through her anew.

Cody retook his seat, slapping Reb on the back with a laugh. 'Can you warn me next time?'

'I knew you'd be right behind me,' he said.

Cody turned to her. 'You want us to watch the door? In case that guy wants back in?'

Talia began to shake her head before looking around and realizing she was hopelessly overwhelmed. 'I could use a little help,' she smiled, 'but I pay my way. Your drinks are on me, ok?'

Closing time came with no further incidents. True to their word, the guys kept an eye on the crowd, shutting anything down before it could escalate and limiting the amount of people through the door.

Talia's attention returned to them fully as the last few stragglers fell out into the night. They'd come back to sit at the bar about an hour earlier as the crowd had begun to thin out. Every time she'd looked their way, they'd been looking at her. A couple times she was sure she caught them talking about her, but she had no way to be sure.

'Another beer guys?' she offered.

'Only if you join us,' Reb said, making a space between him and his buddy. Talia locked the door then sat down nervously.

'Thanks so much for your help. I don't know how I would have coped without you both.'

'Not a problem,' said Cody.

'Don't mention it,' said Reb.

'So, are you guys with the rodeo?' she asked.

'I just take care of the horses,' Reb replied, nodding towards his friend. 'Cody here is the superstar.'

'You're a rider? Isn't that a little dangerous?'

He nodded. 'Can be. You just gotta take precautions.'

'Sounds like an exciting life, travelling from town to town. Have you done it long?' she asked, unnerved by the way both men had turned toward her, each placing an arm along the back of her chair as their knees bumped with hers.

'Me and Reb have been working together about ten years,' Cody answered.

Reb nodded his agreement. 'We're like an old married couple,' he laughed. 'Eating, sleeping, partying—you name it, Cody is always right there with me. Get sick of the sight of him sometimes.' Mirth twinkled in his light green eyes as he teased his friend.

'You do everything together?'

'Everything,' Cody said after a pause, staring into her eyes. Talia heard Reb laugh as he took a pull on his beer and she stared from one to the other, wondering what it was she had missed that was so funny.

'Ok, well thanks again,' she said, trying to make it clear she was waiting to close up.

She wriggled to her feet, barely able to get out of her seat with the two large men trapping her between them. 'Excuse me,' she said to Cody, gesturing that she wanted to get passed.

He took his time getting up but he moved out of her way, smiling as she hid her eyes when she got level with him. 'Thanks,' she mumbled.

'Don't mention it.'

Talia hovered next to them, unsure why Cody continued to stare at her so intently. The tension was broken when he turned to his friend and patted him on the shoulder. 'Come on, buddy, the lady wants us out of here.'

Reb drained the last of his beer, smacking his lips in appreciation as he got to his feet. 'Thanks for the free drinks,' he smiled warmly.

'It was the least I could do,' she said, moving toward the door in the hope they would follow. 'I really appreciated your help.'

'Cody's a sucker for a maiden in distress,' he teased, elbowing his friend in the ribs and ignoring the dark look he got in return.

'Well, I'm grateful there are still some gentlemen around.' Both of them seemed to preen a little at the compliment, making her smile. Men were so easy to please.

'Are you coming to the rodeo?' Cody asked, seeming reluctant to walk through the door she was now holding open for them. He pressed a ticket into her hand after she shook her head. 'Drop by and see us if you get the time.'

Talia promised she would, mostly due the fact Reb scooped her against his hard body and wouldn't let her go until she did. 'Put her down, Reb,' Cody said, taking his hat off to kiss her cheek as he finally left the bar. His friend did the same on her other side, trailing a casual hand over her hip as he strolled out of the door.

Talia slid the bolt home before turning to lean back against the wood, releasing a shaky breath. She'd handled many a horny cowboy in her twenty nine years, but never two at the same time.

They both seemed aware of the other's attraction to her and neither seemed to mind. She wondered what would have happened if she'd encouraged one of them over the other?

Chapter 2

Talia spotted the pair of them the next afternoon as she approached the rough stock ring. Reb was barely visible inside the chute as he worked on the horse Cody sat on.

She took a seat in the stand, feeling the adrenalin from the ring below seep into her. The noise was immense as impatient horses and indignant cattle making their voices heard, competing for volume with the announcer shouting into a microphone.

Reb looked her way and stopped what he was doing to give her a wave, directing Cody's gaze toward her by poking him in the thigh. She saw him scanning the crowd for her so she waved nervously, hearing the murmurs of the people around her as the rider removed his hat and waved back at her with it. Talia looked around nervously; hoping that nobody had seen her flirting with some guys from the rodeo or could tell that she had spent much of the previous night masturbating at the thought of having them—both together and individually.

Ignoring the answering throb in her groin, she took a baseball cap from her large purse, and pulled the brim down over her eyes to shield them from the bright afternoon sun. The horse Cody rode seemed to be getting skittish, kicking at the sides of the stall as if trying to get out.

She saw Reb leap to the side, clambering out of the way moments before the chute gate opened. Cody's horse leapt forward, kicking his legs out even before he was clear of the bars.

Cody clung on, one hand threaded through a taut rope, his body jerking around in the saddle as he tried to stay on top of the bucking

horse. She could see the concentration on his face and the way the muscles of his thighs contracted as he tightened them around the animal.

Talia couldn't tear her eyes away, despite being sure Cody would fall and be trampled at any moment. The noise of the announcer became a muffled distraction and she stood in her seat to get a better view, screaming a little as the horse finally won, unseating his tormentor before lashing out at him with an angry kick.

She covered her eyes then as she waited for the screams of the spectators, but they never came. Peeping through her fingers, she found Cody on his feet, brushing the dust from his chaps with his hat as he waved at the crowd. Turning her way, he gave her a deep bow, before laughing at her still shocked expression.

Talia dropped her hands, smiling back in relief as she saw the exhilaration on his face. He seemed to glow with excitement and she got a brief insight into why he would put himself in so much danger.

Cody gestured over his shoulder, using his arm to give her directions out of the stand and around to the side, inviting her to come down and join them. A few of the other young women in the crowd started giggling with excitement; sure the invitation included them, too.

By the time Talia reached the spot she'd been directed to, she was at the back of a very long line of people—men, women and children among them—all waiting for autographs or asking for photos.

Cody had clambered up onto the railings, taking the items handed up to him by Reb, signing them quickly and handing them back. He spotted Talia at the back of the throng and smiled, shrugging his shoulders in apology. Reb turned her way after a kick in the ribs, looking as if he meant to come get her until a kid thrust a camera into his hand and asked him to take a picture.

Talia waited as long as she could without feeling like a groupie herself. Pride eventually forced her to walk away once she realized she had no idea why she was actually waiting to see them. A loud

whistle made her turn around and she saw Cody raise his hands as if asking where she was going.

She pointed at her watch, trying to tell him she had to get back to work. Cody nodded that he understood and then mimed drinking a bottle of beer and gave her the thumbs up when she got what he was saying. They would drop by and see her later.

Despite her excuses to Cody, Talia didn't go straight back to work, taking her time instead to walk through the fair. Years had passed since she'd allowed herself some real time off and she was in no hurry to get back to the dark, lonely bar.

Settling down in the shade of a large oak, she kicked off her shoes and leaned back against the trunk, resolving to enjoy the giant candy floss she'd just bought.

She was regretting the decision a few minutes later as the sticky sweet fluff clung to her fingers, refusing to come unstuck. Talia could feel some on her chin and tried to wipe it away with the back of a hand, realizing too late that she'd dragged the candy floss across her hair in the process.

About to get up and toss it in the trash so she could free herself up from the pink hell she was in, she stopped when two large shadows blocked out the sun. Cody and Reb looked down at her, suppressed laughter making the corners of their mouths twitch as their eyes roved over her hands, face and hair.

'Don't just stand there, help me,' she said, laughing as they both put a hand under her armpits and dragged her to her feet.

Chapter 3

They were still laughing at her as they walked into her bar again later that night. 'If you wanted to be covered in candy floss, you only had to let us know,' Reb teased. 'We'd be happy to oblige.'

'Oh God, don't remind me,' she groaned, face a little flushed as she remembered what she'd looked like when she got home. The light pink fluff had begun to dry out, turning a bright red. Talia had been forced to scrub her hands, her chin and the tip of her nose to get the color out of them before washing her hair twice. 'What the hell do they make that stuff out of?' she asked on a laugh.

'Nuclear waste,' Cody drawled, smiling as she slapped him on the arm.

Talia got them both a beer before leaving them to each other's company as she focused her attention on the growing crowd. At least she had some help tonight, she thought as Cindy rushed in through the door, apologizing for being late.

As the night wore on, Talia got the distinct impression that Cody and Reb were waiting until she was free to get another round of drinks. Cindy had been hovering all night, her pretty blonde face lighting up hopefully every time they looked her way.

'It's not fair.' She pouted later, cornering Talia by the till. 'I been flirting my ass off all night long and neither of those dudes at the end of the bar are taking a blind bit of notice.'

'I guess they're just here to drink, that's all,' Talia offered, knowing from her own experience that it wasn't true. Tonight, as they had been the night before, Cody and Reb were watching her constantly. And their eyes had rarely been on her face.

At first, she'd smiled back at them each time she found they were looking her way. Eventually, she'd tried to ignore them, feeling the skin on whatever body part they were staring at start to tingle as she noticed their eyes on her again. Talia was no longer in any doubt that they were talking about her intimately.

'Talia,'

She walked toward Cody, stopping on the way to grab a couple more bottles, assuming it was why they were calling her. Her nipples contracted painfully as the cold air from the chiller blasted them, her body already sensitized from the heat building inside her.

Any hopes she had that they hadn't noticed flew out of the window when she saw Reb's hand freeze in mid air, his bottle half way to his lips. He gathered his wits as she got nearer, finally taking a slug on his beer, but unable to drag his eyes away from her.

'I wasn't asking for more beer,' he said, voice sounding a little hoarse. 'But thanks.'

'Oh, sorry, what was it you wanted?' she asked innocently, regretting her choice of words as she watched him bite back a retort. If the expression on his face was anything to go by, he'd been about to tell her in no uncertain terms, but thought better of it.

His eyes dropped to her chest for the briefest moment before he hid them under the brim of his hat, gesturing over his shoulder with a nod of his head. 'That jerk from last night just walked in. Do you want us to get rid of him?'

Talia scanned the room, spotting the small group in a corner. 'If you can do it without causing a scene, I'd appreciate it,' she said, deciding that the kid and his friend's money weren't worth the risk of the damage they could do if a fight broke out.

Reb was off his chair before Talia finished speaking, walking toward the young men with his arms outstretched, guiding the group in the direction of the door. Talia could hear a few of them cursing before one stepped forward, about to square up to Reb. She turned to alert Cody, only to find he'd already moved, crossing the room to

stand firmly in front of the trouble maker as if daring him to make a move.

The kid dropped his gaze, turning around and walking back out, shouting over his shoulder that the place was a dump anyway. Reb went to follow him out of the door until Cody held him back with a strong hand. 'The lady said not to cause a scene,' he reminded him, patting him on the shoulder as he saw the tension ease out of him.

'I guess I owe you another drink,' she offered as they retook their seats.

Reb shook his head, fixing his green eyes on hers, unusually serious for a moment. 'You can pay us back later,' he said mysteriously, holding her gaze.

Talia fought the urge to groan aloud, walking away from the intense heat emanating from the two men, almost breathless from the burning throb between her thighs. What the hell were they trying to do to her?

Cindy went home an hour later, taking her time gathering her things as she realized the cowboys intended to stay a while longer, finally leaving Talia alone with them.

'I'm starving,' Cody said, dragging her attention back to them and away from loading the glasses into the dishwasher. 'Is there anywhere to eat around here?'

Talia smiled. 'Not a chance at this time of night. Welcome to small town USA.'

'I'm so hungry, I could eat my hat.' Reb laughed, winking at her as he dropped a hint as big as a boulder.

Despite the late hour and how tired she was, Talia knew the only polite thing to do after they'd been so helpful was to at least offer them a meal. 'I can rustle something up,' she offered.

'Are you sure you don't mind?' Cody said, relief flooding his face.

'Of course not. Give me a minute to shut up properly and we can go through to the kitchen.' She slipped from the room, relieved to be out of the highly charged situation for a moment.

'Damn, that was good,' Reb exclaimed ten minutes later after wolfing down the burger she'd prepared.

'Do you want some more?' Talia asked.

'No, that was more than enough,' Cody answered, giving Reb a look that dared him to continue nodding his head. 'Thanks.'

She felt his smile right down to her toes, beginning to blush. 'No problem.'

'So, do you live here?' Reb asked, placing his elbows on the table. Talia nodded. 'I have an apartment upstairs.'

'What does your guy think about you working so late?' Cody said.

'There is no guy,' she said, feeling defensive. 'It's just me and my cat.'

Reb and Cody looked at each other again, an unspoken conversation passing between them.

'You and the cat?' Was Reb laughing at her?

'Yes. Is it that hard to believe?'

Cody interrupted. 'What he means is it's hard to imagine a pretty thing like you living all alone.'

'Not so hard if you knew my ex.' She laughed, unwilling to explain that hell would freeze over before she let a man into her life again. Well, at least not any time soon.

Again, the conversation died, leaving her sitting between the men. Both of them seemed content to simply stare at her as if enjoying her discomfort. 'I usually have a hot drink before I turn in for the night, do you want one before you leave?' she hinted, hoping they realized they couldn't stay in her kitchen much longer.

'Yes, please,' Reb said, getting to his feet. 'I'll be right back, gotta visit the head.' He smiled, walking from the room.

'Cody?' He hadn't answered her, just continued to stare into her eyes. 'Are you having a drink?'

He nodded, getting to his feet to stand beside her. 'Here, let me get that,' he offered as she reached above her head for the cookie jar. His body bumped hers gently and he grasped her hips to hold her steady. Talia put down the jar, unnerved by his nearness and the fact he still hadn't let go of her. She swallowed hard as she realized he intended to kiss her.

Cody's lips met hers as she stared up at him mutely. Her body reacted as her brain warned it not to, and she found herself returning the kiss, not stopping him as his hands dropped down to cup her ass. 'I've been dying to touch this all night,' he mumbled against her mouth as he pulled her closer, pressing his hard cock into her.

Talia raised her hands to push him away, but instead, clutched the fabric of his t-shirt, pulling him nearer. She'd wanted to touch him since he'd first made her wet and she didn't allow herself time to question what was happening.

Cody slid a hand up to her torso, chuckling in the back of his throat as he allowed his palm to brush over her taut nipple before closing over her breast. Talia groaned at the contact, feeling a pulse begin in her pussy. He wrapped his free hand in her hair, tugging her head backward gently to allow him to bite into her neck before bringing his mouth back to hers.

Talia felt another body press into her back. Jumping away in surprise, she found Reb staring down at her, lust making his eyes seem darker. The boyish grin had been chased away by a look of intense concentration. 'W...what are you doing?' she asked, surprised by Cody's lack of reaction to the interruption.

'I told you we do everything together...'

Chapter 4

Reb smiled, smoothing a finger over her cheek before allowing it to trail down to the nipple poking through her top.

'Whoa, guys. I don't know if I can do this,' she said, taking a step back. Cody wrapped a hand around her wrist gently, stopping her flight.

'Why not?'

'Why not?' she repeated feeling cornered. 'Well, I barely know you for a start.'

'We both want you, Talia,' Reb said, running a hand down her other arm. 'We've been watching you all night,' he breathed, pulling her closer, 'watching your lovely dark hair brush over your body and that sexy little ass swaying back and forth under our noses.'

'And we know you want us,' Cody said, sliding his hand across the small of her back, urging her closer. 'I saw the way you looked at me earlier and how you reacted when Reb touched you. Your nipples got hard instantly, just like they are now.'

Talia laughed nervously. 'Look, guys. It's not that I don't find the idea appealing—but it's just not my kind of thing, ok?'

'Why, because you're a good girl?' Reb teased, running a hand over her ass. 'Or is it because you are afraid people will find out.'

'A bit of both,' she said, her resolve starting to weaken as the men pulled her between them, pressing her forward into Cody's body as Reb slotted his behind. Her head began to spin as they continued to persuade her, taking turns to speak.

'It's ok to be a bad girl if you want to be, Talia,' Cody said, bunching her hair to one side to mutter hotly into her ear. 'Nobody will ever know.'

'Let us make you feel good,' Reb whispered, rubbing his erection against her ass as he moved closer. 'You know we can.'

'Don't be scared to take what you want,' Cody said, as she stared at him uncertainly. 'But if you want us to leave, just say so.' Both of the men froze, their heated breath wafting over her face and neck as they waited for her reply. 'Do you want us to leave Talia?'

The blood rushed in her ears as her heart skipped a beat at the prospect of the pleasure that could lie ahead if she could just reach out and grab it. She dropped Cody's gaze, shaking her head. 'No, I don't want you to leave.'

'You won't be sorry, baby,' Reb said, allowing his hand to slide between her legs. 'Fuck, Cody, she is so hot and wet I can feel it through her jeans.' He gasped, sinking his teeth into her shoulder. Talia's legs shook as Cody grasped both of her breasts, biting down gently at her lip as he sucked it into his mouth.

'Where's the bedroom?' He groaned, forcing himself to end the kiss. Talia whispered her answer, barely able to find her voice.

Reb walked away without warning, as if knowing that Cody would follow. Talia was scooped into the larger man's arms, and placed on the bed mere moments later. By the time she and Cody had reached the small room, Reb had discarded most of his clothing. He pulled her to her feet instantly to begin taking her t-shirt off as Cody quickly disrobed and then started on her jeans.

Both men stroked and kissed at each inch of skin they exposed, dropping onto their knees on either side of her as they helped her out of her trousers and panties. Reb stood behind her to unclasp her bra, kissing the skin of her back. Cody remained on his knees, sliding his eyes and his hands over her body, slipping his fingertips under the cups of her bra to caress her nipples.

'Fuck man, your body is beautiful,' Cody said.

'I told you it would be,' Reb replied over her shoulder, brushing Cody's hands out of the way as he filled his hands with her breasts.

Talia let her head fall back on Reb's shoulder as she watched Cody parting the curls at her groin. 'Oh God, I can see how wet you are,' he gasped, staring at her for a moment before running a finger over her swollen clit. She bucked, falling harder against Reb as Cody lowered his head, flicking his tongue over her. 'You taste so fucking sweet, baby.' He lifted her legs from the floor and placed them over his shoulders.

Reb held her firm, stepping back to increase the angle as she lay suspended between the two men.

'Hey, I wanna see,' Reb complained until Cody helped him lift her onto the bed, parting her legs for his friend. He groaned as he took over the task of teasing her clitoris, adding a finger to her torture as it slipped easily inside. Cody had moved to lie at her side, caressing her body as his warm lips kissed hers.

Talia didn't know where to focus her attention. The tightening in her pussy was no more due to what Reb was doing than it was to the sensation of Cody's mouth on hers and his fingers on her breasts. She reached down to where she could feel his erection bumping against her thigh and wrapped her small hand around it. Her thumb caressed the top, finding it wet with his arousal.

'Yes,' Cody said at her touch, thrusting gently into her palm. His large hand closed around her throat, holding her head firm as he deepened the onslaught of his mouth on hers.

Reb groaned against her skin as her pussy began to quiver a warning around his fingers. 'That's it, baby,' he said against her, increasing the pressure of his mouth. 'Let it go.'

Cody's tongue began to plunder her mouth, mimicking the action of Reb's. Talia started to come, biting down on Cody's lip until he pulled away to watch as her head fell back and she began to moan and shake beneath him.

'When Reb's done, I am gonna fuck you so hard you will scream,' he whispered into her ear, making a new wave of electricity spear through her at his words.

Reb kissed her thigh, crawling up the bed to lie beside her as Cody made his way down. 'Turn over,' he ordered, guiding her movements with a strong hand at her hip. Talia did as she was told, her body feeling heavy. On her knees, she began to quiver anew as she felt the tip of Cody's cock begin to push inside her cunt just as Reb came to kneel in front of her, inviting her to take his penis into her mouth.

She flicked her tongue over the head, careful not to have him in her mouth as she anticipated Cody's first, devastating thrust. He didn't disappoint, almost lifting her from the bed as he rammed his cock home. Talia gasped, letting her head drop in euphoria as wave after wave of sensation began to ripple through her, caused by the man filling her pussy.

Reb gave her a gentle reminder that he was waiting by lifting her chin, smiling at her with heavy lidded eyes and biting down on his lip as she opened her mouth and let him in. Cupping a fist halfway down his shaft, Talia allowed the pounding of her body to determine the speed and depth of her sucking, closing her lips around Reb's cock as Cody pulled her back, ready to accept his next thrust.

'How does her pussy feel?' Reb asked, voice breaking as she worked on him.

'Amazing man - fucking amazing,' Cody said, sounding near his peak.

'Ah, you've got a sweet mouth, baby,' Reb said, running a caressing hand down her face to hold her chin steady. 'I can't hold out much longer.'

'She's gonna come again,' Cody warned. 'I can feel her cunt sucking on me.' He reached under her hip, dropping a hand to her clitoris, biting the flesh on her back as he felt her reaction to his touch.

Reb bunched her hair in his hands, piling it on top of her head as he increased the speed of his thrusts into her mouth. 'Fuck...I'm coming,' he moaned, his thighs beginning to tremble as she removed her mouth and began to pump him frantically. Reb fell back against the wall, legs splayed, abdomen trembling as his semen pulsed onto his thigh, his gasps filling the air.

Talia felt Cody's reaction to Reb's orgasm—the hand at her clit rubbing her briskly as his fucking began to lift her body from the bed. Reb looked up from his stupor, smiling as he saw how near she was. Pulling her head onto the bed between his knees, he leaned over her back. Reb scooped her breasts into his hands, squeezing and pulling at her nipples as he rained kisses along her spine. 'Better give him what he wants,' she heard him say. 'Cody won't stop till he makes you explode.'

Talia sank her teeth into his thigh, gripping the flesh as she began to come. Reb used the hands on her breasts to hold her still as she instinctively pulled away from the source of a pleasure she could not bear. Her loud cries echoed off the walls, not quite a scream, but the sounds of a woman experiencing about as much as she could take. Cody's fingers and thrusts became more and more erratic until he followed her orgasm with his own.

She heard him growl in his throat, body jerking into hers, the way his cock slammed into her again and again almost painful until finally he fell away, releasing her.

For the first ten minutes after it ended, Talia could do no more than lay where they'd left her, panting and sweating. Eventually, muscles began to protest and the urge to move was unbearable. The moment she lifted her head, the men made way for her, clearing a gap in the center of the bed, and encouraging her to lie between them.

She lay on her front, feeling exposed without the cover of lust to chase away her inhibitions. Reb rolled onto his side, turning away after kissing her cheek. Cody caressed the skin on her back, tracing idle circles with his fingers and smoothing her hair.

The last thing she remembered before she fell asleep was Cody whispering into her ear. 'I didn't want to share.'

Chapter 5

Talia woke in the cold light of day, relieved to find she was alone. The two men must have left sometime in the night. Someone had covered her with the blanket and drawn the blinds, too.

She rolled onto her back, giggling like a naughty kid as she remembered what had happened the night before. The memory caused a small spear of desire to trickle through her, chasing away any embarrassment. She threw back the covers as she spied the clock, realizing she'd slept much too late. Her thighs, back and shoulders screamed in protest, making her pause. Talia laughed as she got up carefully. She'd forgotten what a night of lovemaking could do to you.

Feeling more human after her shower, she got down to work on the bar. Cleaning away the plates and cups from the kitchen brought back a memory, making her smile. Knowing she would spend all day catching up but not caring, she took her coffee over to the table, giggling once more as she sipped the fortifying brew.

She couldn't feel sorry or ashamed over what had happened. Two horny cowboys had devastated her, shaking any beliefs she'd had that she was a 'good girl'. The memory brought back Cody's words—including the last thing he'd said before she had fallen asleep. What had he meant?

As the day progressed, she caught herself smiling secretly every time she remembered the previous night. Certain parts kept playing over and over in her mind, like some old movie. Most of them involved Cody.

Customers began to drift in to the bar in the late afternoon and she resented their presence. She wanted to be left alone to reminisce; sure she would never experience anything so unique again. But as is so often the case, real life got in the way, and it was almost closing time before she thought of her lovers again.

'I'm just closing up,' she called over a shoulder as she heard footfalls crossing the floor of the bar.

'I sure hope not,' Reb drawled, smiling broadly as she turned around.

Cody rolled his eyes at the corny line. 'Is it ok that we are here?' Talia nodded with a shy smile, knowing he was asking so much more.

The night was a carbon copy of the one before, save for one important detail—Talia called the shots. By the time Cody dropped to his knees in exhaustion and Reb rolled away from her later that night, she'd demanded they'd take her in every way, while denying their satisfaction until the last moment.

She'd gotten away with it for a long time too; she smiled, as she thought back on it after they'd left. At least until Cody's frustration had shifted the balance of power.

Talia had relished the control she'd discovered she had over them, at one point leaving them standing over her, sweat coursing from their heaving bodies as she forced them to watch her masturbate. Cody had kept his distance, eyes warning her that she would pay for such teasing. Reb had begun to pull on his dick as he watched, his desire erupting over his hand as they climaxed at the same time.

'Turn over,' Cody had ordered her, pushing Reb out of the way and putting a large hand on the flat of her back, forcing her to rest her palms on the bed. Talia had complied, juices coating the inside of her legs as she quivered in anticipation of his touch. But he'd taken his time, lining himself up carefully before pulling her head back by the hair he had bunched in his fist and ramming his cock into her as hard and fast as he could.

And, that time, she did scream.

* * * *

The following night, Reb turned up alone halfway through the evening. Talia looked over his shoulder expectantly.

'Cody's not coming,' he said. 'He had a bit of a fall. Horse banged him up pretty bad.'

'Oh God. Is he ok?' Talia was genuinely distressed at the thought.

'He's in the hospital. He broke his arm, but they are only keeping him in for the night due to the fact he was knocked unconscious.'

'What do you mean 'only'?'

Reb laughed. 'I thought you were gonna pass out, I just wanted to reassure you it wasn't anything serious.'

'Oh, poor Cody,' she said.

'Poor me, you mean. Man, that guy has been like a bear with a sore head since the accident. Anyone would think I pushed him off the damn horse.'

Talia felt a little guilty; she hadn't considered Reb's feelings at all. 'Are you ok?'

'A little shaken up. Thought he was a goner for a moment back there. The horse damn near fell on him.'

'Here, drink this,' she said, putting a shot of whisky in front of him.

'Thanks, I could use it.'

She poured one for herself, raising a toast to Cody's good health before knocking it to the back of her throat and swallowing on a grimace.

'You're an interesting woman,' Reb said appreciatively as she slammed her empty glass onto the counter. She smiled benignly, thoughts elsewhere.

'I'm so glad I didn't see him fall yesterday,' she said, thinking back to how scared she had been for him.

Reb laughed. 'Yeah, he told me you were watching him through your fingers.' He shook his head as he imagined it. 'You do realize you can still see what's happening when you do that right?' She punched him in the arm as he continued to tease her by peering at her through his own fingers from time to time; not stopping until he'd made her laugh.

'Do you think he would mind if I visited him?' she said, worry for Cody sobering her quickly.

'Who the hell knows, but I doubt it.' He laughed. 'I'll warn you though; he can be difficult when he wants to be.'

'Why is he so mad at you?'

Reb shrugged. 'Beats me. We were talking about how long it would take for his arm to get better. Then I mentioned you and that I was gonna come over tonight and let you know. That's when he got all bent out of shape.'

'Because you were coming over here?'

Reb nodded. 'I guess so.'

Talia fell silent. Was Cody jealous at the thought of her spending time alone with Reb? She rejected the idea.

'So, you got anything planned for tonight after you close up?' Reb asked.

Talia could see the hope in his eyes and, for the first time, she realized she wasn't remotely interested if Cody wasn't involved. 'Not tonight.' She smiled to soften her words. 'The last couple of days have taken it out of me. I could do with turning in early.'

'Ok. Sure.' He looked a little disappointed, but she didn't feel bad. Plenty of women had been eyeballing Reb from the minute he'd walked in. Guys who looked like he did only slept alone if they wanted to.

'Hey, Cindy,' she called, gesturing to the pretty blonde behind the bar that she should come join them. 'Have I introduced you to Reb yet?' she asked as the woman approached shyly.

Cindy shook her head, smiling up at the tall man in awe. 'Hi, Cindy,' he said, throwing a look at Talia that told her he knew what her game was, but he was gonna let her get away with it. 'Can I buy you a drink?'

Chapter 6

'What do you want?' Cody barked as Talia entered his hospital room early the next morning.

'I...I came to see how you were,' she said, wondering both at her own sanity and at what in the hell he was sore at her about. He looked pale and drawn. Maybe he felt as bad as he looked. That would explain his mood.

'Well, as you can see, I am fine.' His face set into a hard line as he fixed his eyes on the TV screen above the bed.

Talia fought back the urge to cry, determined not to show Cody that he'd upset her. 'Ok, well I didn't mean to annoy you. Reb told me last night that you'd had an accident—'

'So you guys still got together?' he interrupted harshly.

'I just told you, he came over.'

'Did he stay the night?'

For the first time since she'd walked in, his attitude made her angry. Who did he think he was? 'How is that any of your business? You don't own either of us.'

His usually warm brown eyes went hard and dark, making Talia glad he was confined to bed. 'You're right. It's nothing to do with me if you want to fuck each other's brains out.'

'Why do you care? You were the one who seduced me without telling me that you had a thing going with your buddy. One minute I was kissing you, the next you and Reb were talking me into spending the night with both of you.'

'You didn't take much convincing, lady.'

Talia's cheeks burned. How dare he treat her this way? 'That's because I thought I could trust you,' she said, tears making her voice tremble.

Some of the anger left Cody's face. 'Aw, shit, Talia. Don't cry.' He reached out a hand to grab hers, but she jumped away as if scalded. 'It's just that Reb—'

'Don't touch me,' she hissed, rubbing an angry fist across her face, wiping away tears she hadn't wanted to give him the satisfaction of seeing. 'In fact, don't ever come near me again.' She ran from the room, hearing his voice calling her back, but desperate to get away from the derision in his eyes.

Talia spent the rest of the day trying to figure out what his problem was. It was Cody's idea to seduce her, or at least it had seemed that way. Maybe Reb was the instigator and just left his buddy to do the ground work? Either way, he was the reason anything had happened at all and his attitude now beggared belief.

How many times had they done this kind of thing? From the way they had driven her crazy almost without words, they seemed very practiced at the art of sharing a woman. Talia got hot as she remembered Reb helping Cody when he put his head between her legs and the way they had swapped positions so that one could fuck her as she went down on the other.

But she also remembered the way Cody had said that he hadn't wanted to share. What had he meant? Maybe she got stuck in the middle of some macho game between them. Talia had no idea what his problem was, but she was damn sure it wasn't her.

The realization that it actually mattered to her what he thought didn't sit easy. They'd only known each other a few days but Talia knew that he was the only reason she'd been interested in their proposition that night. It was all about Cody for her. Just her luck that he didn't feel the same way if his earlier attitude was anything to go by.

Reb didn't help things by turning up again later that day. 'Did you go to see him?'

'Yes.' Her tone was curt. It wasn't Reb's fault that his friend was such an arrogant prick, but she just couldn't help directing some of her anger his way. Her head hurt from spending all evening thinking about the pair and she needed somewhere to vent her frustration.

He smiled, taking off his hat to run a hand through his hair, blowing out a long breath. 'Do I take that to mean it didn't go well?'

'What I don't get,' Talia said, ignoring his words, 'is why he's so damn mad at me. Last time he was here, he seemed happy enough. What happened?'

'What did he say to you?'

'He wanted to know if you had spent the night. When I told him it was none of his damn business, he got really mad.'

Reb looked around the bar, giving the few remaining patrons an irritated look. 'We need to talk, but it's too busy here. Can you come by my trailer after you get off work?'

'I won't finish till late, is that ok?' Talia didn't know what she expected to hear, but her interest was piqued. Reb left after giving her directions, kissing her cheek in a very chaste way considering what they'd already shared.

She locked the bar a couple of hours later and made her way through the quiet streets. Reb's trailer was easy enough to find and she knocked nervously on the door.

Voices approached from the other side and she realized he wasn't alone. Before the thought could form in her mind about who he was with, Cody opened the door.

Chapter 7

'Is he always that rude?' Talia asked after Cody had brushed passed her without saying a word, leaving her staring at an empty doorway.

'Not usually. I don't know what's got into him.' Reb took her hand, guiding her up the steps before closing the door and offering her a seat.

Talia could tell she was in male territory. Clothes were strewn over every surface, fighting for space with empty beer cans. A dog-eared calendar featuring naked girls hung from the wall of a kitchen containing a sink piled to the top with dirty dishes. Saddles, ropes, boots and gloves seemed to have pride of place on a fold down table, nestled between torn seating covered in mountains of papers, magazines and books.

Reb took a seat beside her after balling up some clothing and moving it out of the way. 'Sorry,' he said, looking around. 'We don't get visitors very often.'

'We?'

He nodded. 'Cody and I share this trailer.'

'You live like this all the time?'

'Only when we are on the road. Do you want something to drink?' he asked, gesturing toward a refrigerator. 'I'm pretty sure we only have beer.'

Talia shook her head quickly. 'No, I can't stay. What is it you wanted to talk about?'

'Why can't you stay?' Reb asked, crestfallen. Talia's stomach hit her boots. Had his intention in inviting her over tonight been to

seduce her? She hoped not. She had no intention of allowing either of them to get that close again.

'I just can't,' she said, letting the silence hang between them as she hoped he would get to the point.

The smile returned, never absent for long. 'I think I know why Cody is so mad at us.'

'Mad at us? Why?'

'Just before he had his accident, we'd been talking about you.' Reb dropped his head, slight color flushing his cheeks. 'I told him I didn't want him seeing you anymore.'

'What?' Talia shook her head, showing him she didn't have a clue what he was getting at.

'I told him that I was, you know, interested in you and wanted to see where things could lead.'

'Oh God,' she said, running a hand through her hair. 'Look, Reb—'

'I know it sounds arrogant. I mean, I have no reason to believe you'd want me. I just needed him to back off and give me a free run.'

'Look, Reb, I'm not really interested in anything more serious.'

'Is it me?' His smile got shaky at the corners. Talia felt awful and rushed to reassure him.

'No, it's not you. I told you both; I don't need a man around to complicate things for me.' She gave his hand a squeeze to take the sting out of her words. 'I mean, look how this has turned out. Besides, you barely know me.'

He didn't return her laugh. 'Shit, Talia. I'm not asking for marriage, just a chance to see where this leads. Cody wasn't pleased when I asked him to back off, but at least he understands what I am feeling.'

'What did he say?' Talia didn't have time to question why she cared. All she knew was she was desperate to hear Cody's thoughts.

'At first, he tried to talk me out of it, said we weren't going to be around long enough for anything to happen. I told him I'd find a way

to make it work—maybe come back to town in between runs. That's when his attitude changed and he said he didn't give a fuck what we did.' Reb looked as confused as she felt.

'Maybe he doesn't want things to change. He seems happy to live and work with you, as well as the other things you guys do together.' Talia felt her cheeks go red. How did she ever think she was sophisticated enough to handle a situation like this as casually as they seemed to? Despite what Cody had said, she was really a good girl at heart.

'It's not like it's the first time this kind of thing has come up,' Reb said, rejecting her words. 'I fall in love at the drop of a hat. Sorry, I wasn't talking us,' he said quickly, laughing when she rolled her eyes. 'All the other times, he didn't care either way.'

'How many times were there?'

'That I fell in love?'

'No, that you—you know—shared.'

Reb blushed again as if knowing she wouldn't like his answer. 'All the time.' He rushed to explain as he saw her shocked reaction. 'Hell, we've been hanging around the rodeo since we were kids and we both had our fair share of women. Even that can get boring when you do it too much. Then one night last year in Texas, a hot senorita took us both back to her place and blew our freaking minds. We been doing it ever since, but only when we meet someone we both want to —you know.'

'Fuck?' she asked, arching an eyebrow as he left the sentence hanging. 'And how often do these women agree to go along with it?'

'We haven't struck out yet.' He smiled before realizing it was the wrong thing to say. 'What I mean is -'

Never mind,' she said, getting to her feet. 'I was crazy to get anywhere near you two.'

Talia slammed her way out of the trailer, ignoring Reb's voice as she ran through the fields, back toward Main Street.

Chapter 8

Talia didn't plan to open the bar when she got up the next day, so she pulled on a jogging suit and flopped down in front of the TV, intent on enjoying a few hours of mindless soaps. She knew it was insane to lose the money that the extra trade increased by the Rodeo's last day would bring in, but she didn't care. Cody and Reb would be leaving town tomorrow—if not for good, then at least until the next County Fair—and her life could return to normal. But normal didn't seem so appealing now and, deep down, she knew why.

She was falling for Cody. Talia prided herself on her smarts, but this time they had let her down badly. Falling for a guy so jaded with life that he wasn't even looking for love anymore was crazy.

Falling for a guy who wasn't interested enough in her to want to make love to her alone. Even Reb, with all his boyish charm and happy demeanor, had tried to take things further than that when he mistakenly misread her reactions, assuming the chemistry was between her and him, not her and Cody.

At least she was consistent, she thought ruefully. Her ex hadn't wanted her either, but for an altogether different reason. Once she'd shut off the supply of money and free booze he thought her owning a bar entitled him too, he'd lost interest. Brett had never really loved her, Talia knew that now.

By late evening, the walls in her apartment had started to crowd in on her, so she wandered down into the bar, intent on doing some of the cleaning that was long overdue. The wooden counter was crying out to be treated with oil, and the floor behind it needed to be buffed.

She hoped the extra exertion would help her to sleep better than she had the last few nights.

She'd just dragged her cleaning kit out of the small cupboard at the end of the bar when a she heard a knock on the window and looked up to see Reb peering through it.

'That's all I need,' Talia said under her breath as she moved to open the door, jumping back as he almost fell into the bar, hand pressed against his face. 'What the hell happened to you?'

'Cody,' Reb said, walking passed. 'He slugged me.' His eye was starting to close and the bruising around it was red and angry.

'Have you had that looked at?' Talia guided him down onto a kitchen stool as she tilted his face up to the light.

'It only just happened.'

'Why the hell did he hit you?' she asked angrily. Violence appalled her.

'You,' he said, giving her a mock hurt look.

'Me?'

'Well, sorta. He saw me with Cindy after the show. Came right up to me, asked where you were and what in the hell I thought I was doing. I told him to get lost.' Reb smiled as he took the ice pack Talia gave him. 'Guess that wasn't such a good idea huh?'

'But why hit you?'

'Damned if I know. I've never seen him raise a hand to anyone before.'

Talia dabbed at the small cut on his brow with a wet cloth. 'This looks bad, Reb. You may need a couple of stitches.'

'Nah, I've had plenty of knocks over the years dealing with the horses. This will heal in a day or two.' He grimaced as she applied an alcohol swab, pressing down on the wound a little to make sure it was clean. 'Besides, it could have been worse. He could have hit me with his cast.'

Talia laughed, despite herself. 'You nut,' she said, mussing his hair before slapping him across the back of the head as a thought hit

her. 'Hey, what were you doing with Cindy? Got over me damn quick, didn't you?'

He shrugged his shoulders. 'You made yourself pretty clear last night, Talia. I guess I didn't think you'd mind, especially as you were the one that introduced us.'

'Don't be silly. I'm pleased you and Cindy are getting on. Will you be seeing each other again?'

'Probably not,' he said, the humor leaving his face. Reb ran a finger down her arm, bringing her eyes back to his. She could see the invitation in his gaze, but she moved away, unwilling to give him the wrong idea. Reb sighed, but didn't push it further, staring at her for a moment longer before reaching for his hat and getting to his feet.

'I guess I better get going,' he said, moving towards the door. 'We're leaving town tomorrow, gotta get an early start.'

'Well take care of yourself,' Talia smiled, unsure what to say to someone she'd been so intimate with, but barely knew.

'Thanks for—you know,' he said, pointing to his eye.

'No problem.'

'Ok, I'll see you soon,' he said, kissing her cheek as they reached the doorway.

'Not that soon surely?' she said, wondering what he could mean.

'Oh didn't I tell you? Cody's staying in Chelwood for a while. Just as well seeing as he wants to knock my head off. The boss says the insurance won't cover him so he has to stay here till the doc says he's fit to travel. We are swinging back round to pick him up next week.'

'Oh,' Talia said, thoughts crashing through her head as she took in his words. Shutting the door on Reb moments later, she tried to suppress the butterflies in her stomach, certain there was no point in feeling excited at the news that a man who despised her was staying in town.

Chapter 9

'Why the hell didn't you tell me nothing happened?' Cody said as he stormed through the door as soon as she'd opened the bar the next afternoon.

Talia was taken aback, both by his presence and the tone of his voice. Why was he always so angry at her? 'You never gave me a chance.'

'Well, that's as may be but I sure wish you'd told me.'

'Why? What difference would it have made?'

Cody dropped his head, hiding his eyes under the brim of his hat. 'I wouldn't have hit him for one thing.'

Talia put her hands on her hips. 'That was an awful thing to do. Poor Reb didn't deserve it.'

'I know, I know,' he said, his voice dropping to a reasonable volume. 'But it wasn't entirely my fault.'

'And how do you figure that one out?'

He took off his hat, wiping the sweat from his brow with the back of his free hand before putting it back on. 'I thought he was running around on you.'

'That's crazy. There was nothing going on between us.'

'I know that now,' he ground out, embarrassment making him cranky. 'But the last thing I knew was he'd asked me to back off and give him a chance to show you how he felt.'

'Yeah, he told me,' she said.

'And then at the hospital, when you said you'd seen him alone the night before, I figured you felt the same way.' Cody's eyes searched hers, looking for clues as to how she was reacting to his words.

'Anyway, by the time he told me you were coming to his trailer Wednesday night, I was convinced you guys were an item.'

Talia could see the confession was hard for him. So, he'd hit his friend and he felt like a fool. What did he hope to achieve by telling her? 'Well, I hope you apologized for hitting him.'

'Oh, I have,' he said. 'He came to me this morning and made me listen to him. Reb is the reason I am here. I owe you both an apology.'

'Yes, you do,' she said, unwilling to let him off the hook so easily. 'I have a question though. Why do you care if he was fooling around?'

Cody smiled and the tension eased from his face as he took a step towards her. 'C'mon Talia, don't make me say it.'

'I think you better,'she said, beginning to smile herself. Talia moved away as he approached, backing up until the wooden counter stopped her progress. 'I want to be real clear that I understand what you are saying.'

His gaze dropped to her mouth as the space between them narrowed to mere inches. 'I hit him because he took you away from me, then it seemed like he didn't want you at all.'

'He took me away from you?' Talia tilted her head, not allowing him to kiss her until he'd finished explaining.

Cody nodded, flicking his tongue out to catch her top lip as he breathed his words into her face. 'I wanted you for myself.'

Her insides began to coil as his heat seeped into her. His groin brushed against her as he moved closer still, placing a free hand into the small of her back to press him against her. 'Then why involve Reb at all?'

'I let him talk me into it that first night. I should have held my ground, told him he wasn't welcome this time.' He stole a kiss, smiling as she gasped in surprise and held him at bay with hands pressed against his chest. 'Then, when he beat me to the jump and asked me to back off, I thought I'd missed my chance.'

'Why didn't you tell him how you felt?' Talia laughed, realizing what she'd said. 'Scratch that, why didn't you tell me?'

Cody's eyes got darker, and his voice dropped to barely a whisper. 'I saw the way you reacted that night. Jesus, Talia, you were on fire and for all I knew, you wanted more of the same.'

'I did want more, but not of Reb,' she whispered, breath coming fast as her body reacted to both the nearness of him and the memories brought on by his words. 'The only thing I really remember about that night was you, everything else was a blur.'

He kissed her then, crushing her body with his, using his good hand to hold her head steady as his tongue teased her lips apart.

Someone cleared their throat from the direction of the doorway. 'Err, excuse me Miss, are you open?' An elderly couple hovered nervously, seeming unsure they should be there at all.

Cody took a step back as Talia pushed him away with a laugh. 'Yes. Please, come on in.'

'I better go,' Cody said after she'd served the customers. 'I gotta see the doc.'

'Are you coming back later?' she asked, trying unsuccessfully to hide the promise in her question.

'For a smart woman, you ask some damn fool questions,' he said, laughing as he strode out into the street.

Chapter 10

As it turned out, he hadn't come back. Instead, Talia went out on a date.

A phone call later in the evening from Cody informed her of his change of plans. 'I'm staying at the Wenger. Can you get someone to cover for you and come join me for dinner?'

Talia simply shut the bar. The trade had died almost as soon as the Rodeo left town. Her regulars would just have to understand.

As she walked into the foyer of the small hotel an hour later, Talia waved to the desk clerk, smiling secretly as she realized the news she'd met the cowboy there would be all over town by daybreak. Chelwood was way too small to have any kind of private life, but she didn't mind. She loved the place.

Cody stood as she entered the restaurant. Dressed in a t-shirt and jeans, but without his hat, he looked like a younger version of the man she'd seen earlier that afternoon. His broad smile made her insides tingle, but that was nothing compared to the reaction of her body when he let his eyes do a long, slow tour of her dress.

'Talia...wow,' he said with difficulty, his voice catching in his throat. 'You look amazing.'

Thrilled that she'd worn the only dress in her closet, Talia smoothed out invisible creases in the strappy black Lycra shift cut to mid thigh. The night was a warm one so she'd kept her arms bare save for a silver bangle that matched the choker at her neck. 'Thanks, you look great, too.'

'Yeah, sure,' he said, as he stood behind her to push in her chair. 'That's the problem with living on the road; you can't bring a lot of

stuff with you.' He brushed her long hair out of the way to drop a light kiss on her bare shoulder before taking his seat.

'Well, I think you look fine,' she smiled, touched by his nervousness. Talia felt a little edgy herself, but the thought of finally being alone with him outweighed any doubts she may have had.

Cody poured her a glass of the wine already open on the table. He didn't look to have touched much of his. 'I want to keep a clear head,' he told her when she asked why. Talia's hand shook a little as he watched her lips close around the rim of her glass, eyes narrowing as she swallowed nervously.

'Are you ready to order,' the waiter asked, appearing out of nowhere.

'Give us a moment,' Cody replied, never taking his eyes from hers. 'Are you hungry?' he asked her when the waiter left. Talia nodded, leaning forward. 'For food I mean?' he asked with a slow smile, looking at her parted lips. 'Me neither,' he said, as she shook her head.

She surprised him by standing up suddenly and grabbing her purse. 'Bring the wine with you,' she ordered, picking up their glasses and striding from the room. Cody threw some bills on the table, and rushed to catch up to her.

Talia helped him unlock the door to his room when his injured arm gave him trouble. 'Are you sure you're ok?' she asked, watching as he rolled his shoulder as if to ease the pain.

'Yeah, just don't expect any acrobatics,' he warned, taking the glasses from her hands and placing them on the dresser with the wine as he kicked the door shut with a foot. He wrapped his good arm around her waist, pulling her to him roughly.

'You'll have to let me do all the work this time,' she smiled after he'd kissed her. Talia brushed her lips against his neck as she helped ease his t-shirt over his head, careful to avoid knocking his arm. She threw the garment across the room, dropping to her knees before him

to open the belt of his jeans. The denim bulged forward invitingly and she couldn't resist grazing her teeth over the hardness it contained.

Cody groaned as she slid the zipper down, moving his pants out of the way to let his cock spring free. 'Baby, I love your mouth,' he said, as her lips closed around him. Talia moaned in the back of her throat as she took him as deeply as she could, eyes fixed on his reactions. The muscles of his abdomen quivered each time she pulled him out almost to the tip and then allowed him to slide in again. 'I gotta sit down.' He laughed as he started to sway above her.

Talia helped him out of his jeans and boots before getting to her feet and reaching for the zipper of her dress. 'I can do that,' he said, turning her around. Cody ran his tongue down the skin he'd exposed as he opened the garment, smoothing the straps from her shoulders and allowing the fabric to pool at her hips before turning her around.

He eyed her breasts, running his thumb over her nipple and then sliding a flat palm down her abdomen, letting it disappear inside her bunched up dress. Talia watched him expectantly, smiling as his eyes narrowed and he sank his teeth into his lower lip when he discovered she wore no underwear. 'I thought I'd make things a little easier for you,' she explained innocently, delighted by his reaction. 'Oh!'

Cody's fingers had wasted no time, sliding knuckle deep into her pussy. 'That's what happens to bad girls,' he said, as her head fell back, forcing her to clutch at his shoulders to steady herself as he continued to plunge in and out of her.

'Bed,' was all she was able to say, as she used her body to push him toward it. Cody's fingers slipped out of her and she groaned at their loss. Waiting until he'd scooted into the middle of the huge divan, Talia kicked off her dress and crawled over to kneel beside him.

'What do you want me to do?' she asked, smiling as he ran a hand through her hair, twisting the dark tresses around his fingers.

He pushed her head down towards his cock. Talia took him into her mouth immediately, bracing her hands on his thighs as she felt

him lift one of her legs over his body before dragging her groin up toward his face. The bristles on his chin grazed the tender skin of her inner thighs seconds before his tongue flicked over her clit. She groaned and spread her legs further, welcoming the feel of his hot mouth on her.

She sucked him in, over and over again, using her hands to help hold him steady as his hips bucked beneath her. Talia had to lift her head when his thumb pressed into her vagina without warning, making her cry out and wiggle against his tongue, still lapping at her bud.

'Cody...Cody, I'm gonna come. Oh, I'm gonna come. So hard, so fucking hard,' she gasped, digging her nails into his thighs when he threw his arm over her ass, pinning her against his mouth. He sucked her clitoris between his lips, moving his head rapidly from side to side.

Talia took as much as she could before scrabbling away, too sensitive to allow him to go on. She fell onto the bed in a breathless heap, legs splayed across his abdomen and torso. 'Jesus,' she said as she stared at the ceiling in shock, laughing a little at the sheer intensity of her orgasm.

'I thought you were gonna do all the work,' Cody said, trying to drag her back on top of him with one arm. 'Come over here and fuck me, will ya?'

'Sorry,' she laughed, straddling him. His eyes burned into hers and he bit his lip again as he watched her hold his cock upright, wriggling her hips as she placed him at the entrance to her pussy. Her eyes flared when the first, thick inch of him stretched her wide and she held her breath as she pushed down, sheathing him completely.

'God, you're so wet.' He groaned hoarsely, using his good hand to hold her still as he shuddered inside her. 'So tight and wet.'

Talia leaned forward, bracing her hands on his wide chest as she began to rock against him, moaning a little with each thrust. Cody reached up, bunched her hair in his hand and used it to drag her body

down to his, kissing her as their faces met. He took over, holding her against him with a strong arm across her back as his hips left the bed to plunge his prick into her over and over again.

She slipped her own hand between them, pressing her fingers against her mound, increasing the friction caused by his abdomen. Her other hand burrowed into his hair, anchoring her body against his thrusting.

'Are you gonna come?' he growled into her ear as her muscles began to pulsate around him. 'I can feel the spasms deep in your cunt.'

Cody's words tipped her over the edge and she lifted her head to push down against him, impaling herself on his shaft. She began to whine, unable to make any other sound as the breath left her lungs.

'Fuck,' he shouted as he exploded violently, digging his fingers into the skin of her ass to hold her close as he jerked into her. 'Fuck,' he said again as his body slumped back down to the bed, the last of his orgasm making him tremble beneath her.

Cody winced as his penis slipped out of her and Talia jumped away in alarm, mistaking the reason for his pain. 'Did I hurt your arm?'

He laughed, pulling her back against him to drop a kiss on her forehead. 'I was buried so deeply inside you, it took my breath away when I pulled out, that's all.'

Talia didn't need to be reminded - her own muscles were still adjusting to his withdrawal, taking a moment to get used to the loss. 'Is *that* what I could feel poking me in the back of my throat?' she giggled, jumping as he pinched her butt in reply.

By the time the dawn came, they finally managed to fall asleep after making love to the point of exhaustion.

And Talia was right—she and the cowboy were the talk of the town.

Chapter 11

By the time Reb rolled back into town a week later, Cody was living in Talia's apartment. They'd both agreed it was silly to spend the time apart, especially as he'd be hitting the road again soon.

'How are you gonna make this work?' Reb asked, when Cody told him, in front of Talia, that they intended to keep seeing each other.

'We've only got two more months till the end of this run, and then I'm hanging up my spurs.'

'You're quitting the Rodeo?' Talia asked, as surprised as Reb by the news. 'When did you decide this?'

'Couple days ago,' he smiled, looking from one to the other.

'What are you gonna do?' Reb demanded, annoyance masking his handsome face. 'This is all we know.'

'Yeah, which is exactly the reason why it's time to move on,' Cody said, putting a hand on his friends shoulder. 'Don't know about you buddy, but I think it's time I put down some roots.'

Reb smiled, throwing his arm around Cody. 'I guess you know what you want,' he said, casting a warm look at Talia, 'but it won't be the same without you.'

'I'll miss you, too, Reb. We've been together a long time.'

Talia started humming the theme to 'Love Story', jumping out of the way with a laugh as Cody threw a bar towel at her. 'See what I gotta put up with?' he asked Reb with a smile.

'You look like you can handle it,' he replied, giving Talia a wink, holding her gaze just a moment longer before turning back to this friend. 'So, are you ready to hit the road one last time?'

'Just gotta get my stuff and say my goodbyes.'

Reb took the hint, bidding Talia farewell and telling Cody he'd wait in the truck.

'Don't be too hard on him,' she said as she watched Reb walk away. 'I don't think he ever meant to come between us.'

'I'd trust him with my life,' Cody assured her, pulling her into the gap between his legs as he leaned against the bar. 'I backed off because he asked me to and I know he'll do the same for me.'

Talia wrapped her arms around his neck, forcing his dark head down to hers to kiss him. Cody picked her up from the floor, bringing their faces level, groaning as a horn sounded in the street reminding them both that he had to leave.

'Are you really coming back?' she asked five minutes later, as he walked toward the door, needing to hear him say the words despite his earlier conversation with Reb.

He laughed, pulling his hat down over his eyes. 'What is it with you and stupid questions?'

THE END

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

I live in a beautiful part of the Southwest of England with my fiancé of 15 years and our dog. We have our own small business which allows me to work from home and leaves plenty of free time for my hobbies. My first experience of writing was creating what is known as 'fan fiction' on the Internet forum of one of my favorite artists. Lots of my readers gave me really positive feedback and encouraged me to write more and take things further. Without them, I would never have had the confidence to submit a manuscript. I enjoy the process of writing and creating characters I would like to meet and situations I would love to be in.



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