

Ashleigh & Megan *Book I: Friendship*

Thursday, April 12
Being Left on
an Island

Day 14 of Book I
(Six Days since Ashleigh's Family Arrived in Florida)

Part One of Six



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I hope you enjoy this pioneering format I call, "A Story Cast."

What the term "Story Cast" means; is this story is designed to be read in small to medium intervals. This particular story is broken up into "days." These portions are broken up into part or all of a particular fictitious "day" of the story. Each day surrounds the characters lives, relationships, adventures, struggles, mishaps and triumphs. This story is very different from a Novel or conventional story in many ways. Again, THIS IS NOT A NOVEL AND IS NOT WRITTEN IN A CONVENTIONAL NOVEL FORMAT. Instead; as the reader you are following the characters thoughts and actions during the course of this "day." This fiction story is set up like a TV series and or a third person journal. It always starts with one or more character getting up and ends with one or more characters going to bed; while during the day you experience the Characters actions, feelings, and their thoughts. On a large overview; there is a beginning, a middle, and an end to this "Story Cast"

R. P. Voght

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April 12 Being Left on an Island Day 14 of Book I

(Six Days since Ashleigh's Family Arrived in Florida)

Megan reached over and turned off her alarm.

Megan was a twenty-eight year old with long dark blond hair. She stood up, stretched her nude athletic body, she blinked her dark blue eyes open; they were so dark they sometimes appeared plum. She disliked her inverted triangle shaped face and her long celestial nose. She hated it's bend to the left and it's natural bump just above her nostrils. The shape of her nose was created after braking it during a NCAA girls volleyball game. She felt the way her nostrils curved up and almost out were unappealing. In reality; a reality outside of Megan's over critical judgment of her looks, her nose fit her facial shape. Her nose blended well with her high cheekbones, her long jaw line, and her long chin with its rounded point. At this moment her dimples, which brightened her face and helped her look attractive, were just lines outside her long thin lips.

She was: six feet tall, with long legs, a noticeable rear end, and her shoulders and arms had girl muscles. These muscles were developed by hard work and participating in athletic events through out her life. Her legs and buttock were the evidence she was dedicated to aerobic type of exercise. She was pleased with herself for keeping in shape after playing collegiate sports. She wanted to exercise more but there were only so many hours she could devote to working out. She was grateful her jobs kept her physically active. She believed her 34b sized breasts were hideous looking. She felt, what made them unsightly were her large aerosols and her pointy nipples. What was embarrassing to her was how her round breasts were uneven in size. She wished her smaller left one was the same size as her right one. To her this size difference was very noticeable. In reality, because of the shape of her breasts, this size difference was difficult to notice. She felt an anxiety any time she imagined her wedding night.

She hoped whomever her husband would be would pay attention to her breasts; but she would understand if he would ignore them. Her lower region was shaved into a landing strip. She shaved this area and her legs regularly because she disliked a lot of hair on her legs and in her private area.

Her dimples flashed.

She proceeded to her galley. She: stepped passed her large closet, opened the door to her cabin, and stepped into a small hallway. On the starboard side of this hallway was the head. On the port side was a linen closet and her combination washer and dryer; the dryer was on top. She passed her linen closet; when either the linen door or the head door were open this blocked the passageway. Megan visual inspected the blinds. Seeing they were tightly closed, she turned on the galley light, and stepped in front of her coffeemaker.

She loved her twenty-four hour programmable coffeemaker; she received this as a Christmas gift. Without her sister-in-laws dragging her to the mall she would have never known this type of coffeemaker existed. Megan loved having her coffee brewed and ready as soon as she woke up. She opened a cabinet and grabbed a brand new University of Florida Seminole Travel Mug; the Seminole insignia was easy to spot.

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She leaned against the counter and contemplated her day.

She was looking forward to the morning charter paid for by her best friend Ashleigh. She was happy the weather was cooperating today, after three days of thunderstorms everyone would take fair weather. Ashleigh scheduled the charter for her: sister, her sister's friend, and herself. Originally Ashleigh's foster parents were going; but they decided they would rather spend the morning with Megan's parents. Megan again debated about giving Ashleigh her money back. Megan recalled how Ashleigh, even before they discussed the fee, insisted on paying the full amount. Megan felt Ashleigh would be upset if she never charged her.

She felt a deep sense of accomplishment at the growing popularity of her business. With the increased business she was paying off both her school loan and her business loan. There were many years of both these loans to go, but she believed with how hard she was working, she'd have the business loan paid off sooner than expected. The most important item on this loan was her charter named the *Dolphin Queen*.

The way she supplemented her income was working part time at the Y. She would be putting in a four hour shift after the charter.

After her shift was over her plan was to go bowling and have dinner with her current boyfriend Christopher.

Her dimples flashed.

She took a sip of her coffee.

She blankly stared at the floor of her galley.

What caused this blank stare was the severe doubts she felt. She believed their biggest issue was communication. She was frustrated Christopher was outgoing and communicative in a group but when they were alone his tongue was locked. She immediately recalled Ashleigh and Bob's costume party. During the party he was involved in many of the activities and held great conversations with many of the people in the party. She found his Roman Gladiator costume to be exciting and arousing. She was surprised people wearing costumes could be arousing. What annoyed Megan when they took a walk along the pier and gazed upon the river he was again silent.

She kept feeling something was bothering him and he was reluctant to tell her. She believed he found someone else. If this was the case, Megan automatically assumed this other woman was more feminine and prettier than she was. Her reluctance to bring it up, caused her to be frustrated with herself. She was able to admit to herself, her reluctance to speak up was a problem.

She believed he resented the fact she was more athletic than she was. The reason this annoyed her was his fake acceptance of her winning in different contests. This included; mini golf, pool, table tennis, darts, and football. The only physical activity he won was bowling. He often won when they played Canasta; a card game Ashleigh taught her. In these instances she felt he was gloating too much, while showing restraint; she wondered how much gloating he wanted to express.

She was beginning to believe the reason he was a virgin was due to his disinterest in sex. Unlike herself, the reason she was a virgin was because of her faith and morals. She was dedicated to being a virgin until her wedding night. She expected there to be a learning curve. This was the reason she was looking for a husband who was open to improvements and wanted a fulfilling sex life. She wanted to marry a guy she could discuss her desires with, make suggestions, and he would respect her boundaries. Just as she wanted to hear what her husband's desires were, what suggestions he would make, and she would respect his boundaries.

She would be overjoyed if her husband wanted to explore the kinkier side of sex. She understood if a partner was uninterested in some of her fetishes and would gladly compromise. Worst case, she prepared herself for a love interest to brake up with her because of her desires. She had the feeling; Christopher believed the only reason to have sex was to have babies. She was beginning to feel the only position he would agree to was missionary. Their communication was so poor this was only speculation; but she felt it was accurate.

She strongly believed communication was the key to a fulfilling bedroom. There was no way she would ever experiment with a partner before being married. This was the reason she felt the need to address the topic of sex as soon as possible. She considered different ways of bringing up the subject.

Her dimples flashed.

She wondered if he could handle the conversation.

She: set down the cup of coffee onto the kitchen table, she stepped in front of her linen closet, she opened the door, pulled out a wash cloth and towel, she shut the door, she turned on the light of the head, she shut the head door, she set the towel and the washcloth on a black

three tiered stand, she did her business, washed her hands, dried them, she grabbed her washcloth, and stepped into her rectangular shaped corner shower. She appreciated the outstanding job: her Daddy, her brother Jimmy, and her nephew did on installing this shower; she especially liked the sliding door. Megan loved the feel of the water hitting her six foot athletic body.

The only chance a man would ever see Megan nude was if he loved her for who she was. A second requirement she took very seriously; before she would allow a guy to kiss or touch her private parts was if he asked for permission. Being a woman of traditional values she was of the persuasion the first time she would give a guy permission was on her wedding night.

While taking her shower she was contemplating her views on what was a gentleman. She was beginning to feel there was a balance between being a gentleman and being completely closed off. She was feeling a man who was attracted to a woman would want to hold her hand, give her hug, lightly kiss her, and even want to touch her private parts. She was prepared for a man to initiate sexual touch; she believed a gentleman would respect her wishes. The balance belief here was, she felt it would be wrong for the woman to lead a guy on; especially if this was on purpose. She felt a woman should be clear on what her expectations were.

This caused her some self reflection. This self reflection convinced her, she needed to address the issue of sex today.

She: turned the shower off, slid open the shower door, stepped out onto a shower mat, grabbed her towel, stepped back into the shower, dried herself, tightly wrapped the long towel around her athletic nude body, stepped out of the shower, and stepped in front of the sink. She gazed at her reflection in the mirror above the medicine cabinet and made a face to get a look at her teeth. She quickly brushed her natural straight teeth with fluoride free toothpaste and quickly flossed them. The next item she inspected was her skinny dark blond eyebrows. She yanked out a hair. She took one more quick glance at her face and decided everything was fine.

Megan: turned off the light, stepped out of the head, turned to her right, turned on the cabin light, and stepped in front of two French closet doors. Her brother Jimmy and herself removed the bunk beds. Nicole and herself transformed this space into a very nice closet. Hanging on the wall next to the closet was a framed family photo. This was taken after the annual Memorial Day Picnic. Her three older brothers, their wives, and all of their children were standing behind Ma and Captain. All were showing their smiles. As she opened the French sliding doors she glanced at herself standing among her family. As a twenty-five year old woman she was showing her big dimple smile. The current Megan hoped one day she would have a family beside her. She was beginning to believe this dream was like sand flowing through her fingers. She was starting to feel she would never find a man who wanted to marry her or a man she wanted to marry.

She was standing in front of the elaborate system Nicole and herself installed. This system used: wire shelves, wooden shelves, shelf boxes, drawers, plastic bins, and hanging racks. The only item somewhat out of place was the brown hamper on the right side of her closet. She pulled open a large drawer. In this drawer her pants were neatly folded and organized by type. She easily selected a pair of green colored cargo pants. She closed the large drawer and opened a medium sized drawer. Out of this drawer she grabbed a woman's red colored polo shirt with her Dolphin Tour symbol embroidered on the right shoulder. She shut

this drawer and opened a smaller one. She took out a pair of boyshort panties and a bra. She set all of these items onto her bed. Knowing the blinds were shut tight she dropped her towel.

The cabin was on the bow side of her houseboat. A long window faced the bow of the boat; the tight blinds prevented Megan from looking out this window. On the port side of this window was a door that opened to the porch like bow. Underneath this window was the inside wheel of her houseboat; another wheel was on the top deck. On the window shelf above the wheel was a slow growing cactus and a flowering plant. Her bed was against the portside of the houseboat. Above the bed was a window. Secured to her bookcase head board was: a small digital alarm clock, a small lamp, a ship in a bottle trinket, and hanging on a bent nail was her colored coded keys; she added this nail after her keys slid and landed on the floor.

Hanging on the wall above her headboard was a personal signed framed poster of Dan Marino. She felt he was the greatest quarterback to ever play. To the right of this poster was a wooden plaque of the 1972 undefeated Miami Dolphins. This plaque highlighted the teams record and above this record was a picture of the team. To the left of this plaque were two framed pictures of the 1973 and 1974 Superbowl stadiums. Attached to these prints were small pictures of the Superbowl MVP's and the final scores of the games. As a life long Miami Dolphin fan, Megan hoped the Dolphins would win another Superbowl. Directly across from her bed on the starboard side was another long window; these blinds and the new curtains she received at Christmas matched. She was grateful her Momma made all of the curtains hanging in her houseboat. Above this window was a framed print of a beach line and a series of small framed light house prints. On the wall between the entrance of her cabin and her walk in closet was a framed painting of a pirate ship.

The custom painting depicted what historians believed the pirate ship looked like before the Spanish sent it to the bottom of the ocean. This painting was an exact replica of the ship her Daddy discovered. It took her Daddy countless hours of research and many failed attempts to find the wreck. Captain found the ship near an island every local knew. In all the years Europeans lived in the area no one, except for a fanatical Spanish Captain, ever bothered to include this island on a map. Without this Spanish Captain's preoccupation with mapping, and her Daddy's personnel determination in finding this shipwrecked pirate ship; this pirate ship would still be undiscovered.

Megan was now dressed.

She went back into her closet and panned her shoe shelf. She longed for a shoe caddie where every pair of shoes had a specific place. Currently her shoes were neatly lined up like soldiers; the toe of the shoe was pointing toward her and the heel was facing the closet wall. Every type of shoe was grouped and organized in her preferred order. Below these shoes was a boot rack just as organized. A third set of shoes were in a long skinny bin underneath her bed. She dreaded getting rid of her shoes.

Megan: grabbed a new pair of red swim shoes with a zipper on top, she quickly put them on, zipped them up, she opened a small drawer, she pulled out a simple hair tie, she put her long dark blond hair into a pony tail, she reached up into her closet and grabbed what the catalog called a brown straw cowgirl hat. She did some bending and curled up the sides to make it fit snug. She looked up at her old siesta hat. She decided she would start looking for another siesta hat. She longed for the day where she could afford hats with her emblem on them. She opened another drawer and grabbed a red and cinnamon colored hued knit inspired two piece swimsuit. The top was a halter with three round beads on either side of the

neckline. The bottom was matched by a low rise boyshort with moderate front and back coverage. An accessory to these boyshorts was an attached fringe belt. She felt this suit went well with her frame, she liked the feel, and she felt for a fashion type of suit it was conservative. She shut this drawer and opened another one.

Megan took out what she considered a purposeful two piece swimsuit. The top was padded, it was decorated with a white and brown flower print, and the bottom was a plain brown boyshort with a white belt. She decided to bring a matching print Cabana pant. She set these suits onto her bed.

She recalled the time when Bob spotted her wearing this brown separate two piece suit. It was on a Saturday and he was sitting on the top deck of the yacht eating a sandwich and drinking an iced tea. She admitted to herself she was so focused she missed the fact he was up there. If she had, she would have slipped on a pair of shorts and one of her charter polo shirts. While getting the charter set up she felt as though she was being watched. When she looked up Bob turned and pretended he was looking out at the beach. Before she could yell at him, he quickly grabbed his plate and drink and headed back into his office. Based upon his look she wondered if he was aroused. She hated to think he went back into his office and masturbated.

Originally this offended her. What caused her to think of the situation differently was considering: her research into sex, what Nicole taught her about sex and men, what Ashleigh taught her about sex and men, and what her college friend Krissy taught her about sexual desires. She thought about a time when she enjoyed herself after a group of professional football players scheduled a charter. She recognized Bob was fully clothed when he stood up and had control over his member. He never said anything rude, even looked embarrassed, and went into his office. From this moment she always glanced up at the third deck.

She often wondered why he would find her attractive wearing this simple conservative two piece. Then; to be so aroused he needed to masturbate. In one way this made her feel awkward. In another; it was somewhat flattering. A guy, even though it was Bob, found her to be so attractive he needed to get himself off. She never would have imagined any guy needing to masturbate by observing her in a swimsuit. No matter how flattering this was, she would take action if he ever did anything inappropriate.

She opened another drawer and took out a pair of green cargo shorts and set this pair on her bed. Based upon the weather report she believed she would need to change into shorts. She shut all of the open drawers, she opened another small drawer, she picked out one of her favorite pairs of sunglasses, she secured these glasses on top of her hat, shut the small drawer, she grabbed a small duffel bag, she stepped back, turned around, considered if she needed anything else, and when she felt everything was squared away she shut the french doors.

She stepped over to her single bed: she set the items on her bed into the bag, she set the bag onto her red and black trunk, made her bed, grabbed her color coded keys from off the nail, she clipped them onto her cargo pants, she opened all her blinds, seeing the sun rise encouraged her, she grabbed the small bag, she turned off the light, stepped out of her cabin, she turned on the head light, stepped in, she glanced at herself in the full length mirror that hung on the back of the head door, she felt she looked fine, this was when she turned to her mirrored cabinet, she opened the cabinet, grabbed an open bottle of sunblock, she shut this cabinet, put this into the bag, turned off the light, stepped into the small passageway, opened the door to her linen closet, just in case the girls forgot sunscreen she grabbed two, instead of selling these to them she would just give them away, she made a mental note to order another

case, shut the linen door, stepped into her galley, grabbed the University of Florida Seminole Travel Mug, quickly left her houseboat, locked it, and headed to her charter.

She waved at Julie who was locking her bike at the end of the Yacht's wooden pier. Megan heard Nikita howl; this quickly stopped. Julie headed up the pier. Megan stopped at the gate in front of her charter, quickly found the key, opened it, changed the metal sign, and stepped onto her charter. Soon after her first mate Jake arrived.

Ashleigh woke up to her dog howling.

She yelled through her suite door, "Nikita! No Howl!"

She heard Felicia say right after, "Yeah. No howl."

Nikita stopped.

She heard Felicia open the door to her cabin, heard Felicia moan, heard Nikita run up the stairs, heard the head door open, and then close.

Ashleigh who just turned twenty-four a week earlier: sighed, and reluctantly got out of bed. She: was five one, had long blond hair, dark green eyes, a heart shaped face, her roman nose fit her small soft cheekbones, her smile was neither long or short, but when she smiled her cheekbones were noticeable. Her thinner upper lip along with her more pronounced lower lip gave them a cupid look; these lips and her rounded jaw line gave her a cheerleader appearance. To Ashleigh's dismay, her pointed chin was a reminder she was the daughter of Ashley Vindavane.

Since working out with Julie and Megan she was getting toned. With the way she was working out her buttock was just as noticeable as before; but her cheeks were less flabby. Her legs were putting on some muscle tone and for the first time in her life very small girl muscles were forming on her upper arms. She always felt her breasts were the perfect size for her frame. They were large enough to be a focal point but if she wanted to be modest she could conceal them. She was wearing a: plaid pajama set, the colors were pink, white, and light blue. Mixed into this plaid pattern were pink hearts. The top was a regular short sleeved sleep shirt with matching boxer short bottoms. She was currently without a bra. With Felicia and Annette staying over night she was thankful she purchased this pajama set a couple weeks earlier.

At this moment, she wondered why she purchased them a room at the resort; they only spent two nights there. Her plan was to go back to bed as soon as they left with Julie.

She quickly grabbed a hair tie from her nightstand, while walking toward the suite door she was able to get her frizzy hair into a nice pony tail, she took a deep breath, opened the door, stepped into the hallway, and announced, "If you wanted to go with Julie she's here."

Annette in a mumble, "Is she always this early?"

At the moment Julie was stepping through the yacht door and heard Ashleigh say, "Monday through Saturday. At the same time. She never misses."

Julie took this as a compliment.

Felicia replied, "We've noticed."

"You've told me you wanted to walk with her. If you want to. You have to get a move on."

Ashleigh added with a tone, "You've missed the other days she's been here."

Both Felicia and Annette cringed at the tone.

Julie headed toward the galley.

An excited Nikita was already tailing Julie, she was waiting for Julie to set down her backpack. In the backpack was the thing called "leash". Nikita ran toward the hallway on the starboard side of the yacht. Favorite Male was walking toward the galley from his suite.

Julie stopped and looked toward Ashleigh's suite. Julie spotted Ashleigh in her pajamas. Julie thought she looked cute.

Julie yelled, "I'll wait a few minutes."

Annette yelled through her cabin door, "I'll be out in ten."

This is when Ashleigh heard Felicia throwing up in the head.

Julie set her backpack down in her usual spot in next to the china cabinet. After greeting Favorite male Nikita ran to Walking Friend and sat next to her. Her tail was a weapon and she shook. She expected Walking Friend to go to what was called *Nikita's Closet*, she would get the thing that picked up her markings, Walking Friend would make human noises with Favorite Male and Best Friend, then they would take a walk. Nikita became agitated when Julie went to where Best Friend was. Nikita laid down in front of Julie's backpack and whimpered.

Julie made a face when she heard Felicia throwing up.

Ashleigh whispered, "This is why you wait until your married."

Julie made a face. She would conceal her thoughts on this.

She did yell to both gals, "I'd like Y'all to walk with me. And If Y'all would like you could hang with me today. Momma said it'd be okay. I just don't feel it'd be right keeping Nikita waiting."

Hearing the word walk caused Nikita to: run to Julie, sit down, whimper, and her tail was a weapon.

Ashleigh and Julie heard Annette answer, "I'd like that. But we wouldn't be able to hang out until after the charter."

Felicia yelled in an odd tone, "Maybe she could go with us."

Julie was game, "I'd have to ask Momma. Would Y'all mind if I asked Bette and Hanna?"

Felicia suggested, "Zoe could come too."

Ashleigh stood there listening.

"She's hanging out with her family today."

Annette asked, "What are they doing?"

Julie looked at Ashleigh, Ashleigh answered, "I don't care"

Julie stated, "The family is spending a few days at a nudist colony."

They heard Felicia throwing up again.

Annette asked in an odd tone, "Zoe goes?"

Julie answered, "The whole family goes. Zoe's been going her whole life."

Annette answered, "Oh."

Ashleigh asked, "Their nudists?"

Julie made a face, "When no one else is at the house they parade around naked. It's why they have such a high fence."

Ashleigh found herself asking, "Did you ever go?"

Julie answered honestly, "Momma would never approve."

Ashleigh answered, "I'd never do it."

A tired Ashleigh mentioned to Julie, "We're planning on swimming. So if Nicole says it's okay for you to go with us I'll take you home to get your suit. Have Hannah and Bette meet us at your house. In the meantime I'm on vacation. I'm going back to bed. Tell me what she says after walking Nikita."

This excited Nikita and she whimpered fairly loudly.

"Yes Ma'am."

Julie watched Ashleigh step into her suite and close the door.

Ashleigh headed back to her bed, made herself comfortable, and laid there. She listened to Annette open the door. Ashleigh heard loud whispering. What irritated Ashleigh it was impossible to hear exactly what was said.

She heard Julie make a noise

Annette said, "She does that every morning."

Felicia yelled, "It's called morn..."

She had to stop.

It bothered Ashleigh she heard nothing through the door.

Annette broke the silence by asking loud enough for Felicia to hear, "Are we running?"

Ashleigh heard Nikita's collar jangle as she ran to Julie's backpack.

Julie replied loud enough so Felicia could hear, "We all wouldn't need to?"

Felicia yelled, "I ain't in the mood..."

Again the sentence cut short.

Ashleigh cringed.

The only thing Ashleigh could hear were whispers.

She heard Annette ask loud enough for Felicia to hear, "Did you even want to walk Nikita?"

Ashleigh heard Nikita's collar jangle, Nikita run back down the steps: Ashleigh pictured her standing next to Julie.

"I don't think I should."

"You mind if I go?"

"No."

Ashleigh heard an excited Annette say, "Let me put on some shorts and a better top."

Julie announced, "Shorts?"

"It's hot."

Julie said, "Y'all it's only seventy degrees?"

Ashleigh sighed.

Annette answered, "That's hot to me."

Julie followed Annette into the bedroom.

Ashleigh heard Julie say, "I can't imagine what the winters are like."

Nikita tried to follow Julie but she shut the door.

Nikita immediately whimpered.

The door opened and Julie said, "It's alright. We'll all be walking soon."

Annette said in a sweet encouraging voice, "Nikita come on in. You such a good girl."

Nikita rushed in because she would receive attention.

Ashleigh heard the door shut.

It was quiet.

Ashleigh was unsure of the quiet. She glanced up at the digital alarm clock and reluctantly made the decision she would sleep until Julie arrived from walking Nikita. Ashleigh was grateful she placed her backpack and clothes on her chair the night before.

The silence really started to bother Ashleigh. She expected to hear Felicia leaving the bathroom and going into her cabin. She watched the minutes on her clock turn. She: sighed, quickly flipped over her bed sheets, left her suite, as soon as she stepped into the hallway she heard Felicia crying in the bathroom, she quietly closed her suite door, as she did this Annette's cabin door opened. They realized their friend was crying.

Annette and Julie looked concerned.

Ashleigh whispered, "Go on. I'll see if she's okay."

Annette closed her cabin door.

Ashleigh stepped into the head and shut the door behind her.

She heard Annette, Julie, and Nikita walk passed the door; then Nikita's collar jangle and run toward the galley.

Felicia was sitting on the floor, her back was against the tub, and she was sobbing. When she was presentable she was an attractive young woman. Sitting on the deck she looked disheveled and stressed. Her long face was a blend of oblong and square; with a tendency toward oblong. Her long dark brunette hair was a mess, Felicia needed to move her hair to look at Ashleigh, her dark eyes were bloodshot with crying, her trimmed eyebrows stopped at the outer part of her eye. The facial feature she despised was her long bridged nose with a roman style end. This nose matched her blended cheekbones and rounded jawline. Her average length cupid lips added to her looks.

Her body was what every young man admired. This was the very thing the father of her baby craved. Her breasts were large without ever getting in Felicia's way; at one time she enjoyed the attention her breasts gave her. She now wished she would have appreciated being modest. Currently they were bloated, were developing little bumps, and they hurt. The two things she disliked about her body was her flat rear end and her short fingers. She could tell she was gaining weight and was already feeling fat. What added to this feeling, were the numerous women who recognized she was pregnant; without any of them being told.

Ashleigh: stepped over her legs, turned around, sat on the cover of the toilet, and looked down upon her sister.

"He's telling people he isn't the father."

Ashleigh asked, "How do you know?"

"Iris called yesterday. She spotted him with Stacy Stabnowski."

"Oh."

Tears started to fall, "She's so easy."

Ashleigh kept her opinion on whom was calling whom easy.

"I guess I'm a slut too."

Tears fell.

"I wish I wouldn't ever had sex with him."

Ashleigh wanted to say, we warned you; but she remained silent.

"I'm so stupid."

This was something Ashleigh would not stand for, "You're not stupid."

"I'm preg..."

Felicia commanded, "Move."

Ashleigh stood up and lifted the cover of the toilet.

Ashleigh cringed seeing her foster sister throwing up. She turned away and let her finish. She heard Felicia grab toilet paper and wipe the toilet, heard her flush the toilet, and heard the water of the sink turn on; this is when Ashleigh turned toward her foster sister. Her breasts were noticeable through the long pink sleepshirt with a dogie print. This shirt was a reminder Felicia was young, but her disheveled look made it obvious she was facing adult choices. Felicia pulled the hair behind her ears. Ashleigh felt Felicia looked so pale. She observed Felicia wash her hands, Ashleigh handed her a washcloth, Felicia used it, she set it down, and then whipped her hands and face dry.

Ashleigh and Felicia looked at one another.

Ashleigh grabbed a stool and stood upon it.

This caused Felicia to giggle.

Ashleigh answered the giggle, "I hate being short."

Felicia answered through tears, "But it's who you are. I'm so sorry I'm a failure."

This caused Ashleigh to tear and hug her sister.

"I feel like I'm on some stranded island."

This angered Ashleigh, she pulled away, pointed, and with a tone stated, "You're not alone."

"He's probably going to brake up with me."

Ashleigh was unable to help herself, "Assholes like him always leave. But I'm not going to leave you. Mom and Dad aren't going to leave you. Annette hasn't left. Iris hasn't left."

"Iris hates me now."

Ashleigh moved from the stool and sat up on the counter, "She doesn't hate you. I suspect she's angry. But she doesn't hate you."

"Why would you say that?"

"Didn't she call and tell you what was happening?"

"She did to prove me wrong."

Tears.

Ashleigh said very sternly, "Iris isn't like that. You should know better."

"She's never liked him."

Ashleigh very sternly stated, "None of us did. We're all a little frustrated you didn't listen to anyone."

She started to cry, "But I loved him."

Ashleigh rolled her eyes.

Ashleigh stated, "I just don't believe Iris would call you to ridicule you."

"She used an angry tone."

"Did you consider she was angry at your boyfriend?"

This made Felicia feel better, she pulled her hair back, "No."

"She might be angry at you. But. She called because she was worried about you."

Felicia started to tear, "She said she didn't want to ruin my vacation."

"There you go."

Felicia started to cry, "He's going to leave me."

Ashleigh, stepped back onto the stool and hugged her sister.

This is when Felicia whispered, "He took me to an abortion clinic."

"What?"

Ashleigh pulled away.

"Don't tell Mom."

In a panic Felicia stated, "I don't want her to know."

"You obviously didn't do it."

"I couldn't."

Ashleigh said with a tone only a big sister could use, "I'm proud of you."

Felicia with an odd face answered, "Why? I'm a mess."

"You didn't take the coward's way out."

"Some believe it's brave to have an abortion."

Ashleigh made a face, "Your taking responsibility for your child. Inside of you is a child. A life. Do you know how many women regret having an abortion?"

"Did you have one?"

Ashleigh answered honestly, "No. I always used birth control."

Felicia started to cry, "It didn't work."

"It's hard for me to believe you were on the pill?"

More tears.

"Honest. I was."

Felicia nodded her head and pulled her hair back, "They told me there was a two percent chance of it not working. The dummy didn't know how to work a condom. It fell off inside of me."

Felicia cried uncontrollably for a few minutes.

Ashleigh waited.

Suddenly Felicia stopped her tears and spoke with a frustrated tone, "You know what it was like to feel him look for it?"

Ashleigh answered, "Unfortunately yes."

They looked at one another.

In the silence Ashleigh handed her sister a Kleenex and Felicia blew her nose and wiped away some tears. She tossed the Kleenex out.

She pulled herself together and in adult tone answered, "I believe this is when I became pregnant."

All at once Ashleigh felt lucky she never ended up pregnant.

Felicia stated, "I could never have an abortion."

Ashleigh could tell she was holding back the tears and was trying to be an adult.

"I'm scared. What happens if I can't give it for adoption? I know it's best. But it's my baby?"

Ashleigh answered something her brother told her since she was little, "Don't be scared. Be smart."

Felicia answered, "Bob says that."

Ashleigh stepped down from the stool, she set it where it belonged, and said very sternly; "That saying has got me through this move. It helps me every day as a vice president. And it helped me face all the things I needed to. Don't you think I was scared going into treatment?"

"Yeah."

"Or when Ashley was trying to take me away from you guys?"

"I never thought you were scared."

Ashleigh gave Felicia a surprised look.

"Ashley beat me. One of her boyfriends touched me. My own stepdad tried to have sex with me. I was really scared."

Felicia teared.

Very sternly, "Without Mom, Dad, and Bob who knows what type of person I'd be? I might have been beaten to death or died of some drug overdose."

Felicia never thought about this. It stung to think her sister would have died of a drug overdose.

Ashleigh commanded, "After you and I change clothes lets have breakfast together."

Felicia made a face.

Ashleigh gently grabbed her hand, "At least have a piece of toast and some fruit."

Felicia mentioned, "The fruit is so good here."

Ashleigh winked, touched her sisters arm, "It really is."

With this Ashleigh turned, stepped out of the head, and went back to her suit.

Felicia loved her sister and wished with all her heart she lived in Wisconsin. During the trip she wanted to convince her to move back. Victoria overheard Felicia and Annette their plans on how to convince Ashleigh to move back to Wisconsin. Victoria intervened by having a very serious and intense conversation with both. This conversation convinced them to stop any plans of manipulation. Felicia left the head and went to her cabin, grabbed her things, went back into the head, she took a shower, and looked forward to spending time with Ashleigh.

When Ashleigh stepped into her suite she allowed herself to cry. She stopped herself and prepared herself for the day. While getting ready she prayed for her sister. She imagined mutilating Felicia's boyfriend. She repented of these thoughts and asked for help to forgive him. She decided she would make a phone call to Mr. Shelby's office. Mr. Shelby was the lawyer her brother used and was the companies lawyer. His firm was one of the most powerful lawyer firms in the state of Florida (some claimed in the south eastern region of the country).

*A*nnette followed Julie toward the galley.

Annette felt Julie would be an excellent athletic model. She overheard Ashleigh and Bob talk about Julie being an athletic model (they never spotted Annette in the lounge reading a book while they talked in the galley). Annette had no idea Bob's company owned an advertising company. The advertising firm needed a model for an athletic catalog and for a companies advertising campaign. Ashleigh and Bob believed Julie was exactly what the advertising company was looking for. Annette was surprised at the money Julie could make for the advertising company. They decided they would never offer Julie the gig and would stop Bob's firm from hiring Julie. Their decision was based upon how the fashion industry treated models. Annette felt they were being fair when they decided if Julie was already a collegiate athlete they would help her.

Annette was envious of Julie's adult frame. Annette admired Julie's very adult looking frame and was envious of how tall Julie was. She wished her legs were like Julie's. Annette would have given anything to have Julie's breasts. Julie's breasts reminded her of the famous classic actresses of the forties and fifties; a time period Annette romanticized and admired.

Besides admiring Julie's body, Annette felt Julie was a very attractive brunette. She felt Julie had very beautiful greenish blue eyes and wished her hair was like Julie's.

Annette would have given anything to be able to wear the white and pink athletic outfit Julie was wearing. Annette was jealous Julie needed to wear a very expensive sports bra and a very supportive pink sprint tank. Annette loved the white crop athletic pants and the matching white jacket with it's pink pipping. Annette was surprised Julie needed to wear what Annette felt was a "spring jacket." Annette felt the sunglasses Julie was wearing made her look like a cool girl; the type Annette always wanted to be.

What Annette was unaware off: Julie was frustrated her breasts were growing again, was concerned her breasts would be as large as her Momma or her friend Bobbi-Sue, her breasts were an obstacle while participating in sports, Julie and her Mother spent a lot of money on bra's and supportive athletic shirts, Julie was often times embarrassed at how she was stared at while playing sports, she disliked how her areolas were growing faster than her breasts, she disliked how hard her breasts became, and how puffy her nipples could get. Julie was amazed at how many guys fixated on her breasts when she was aroused.

What Annette admired about Julie was how smart she was. Earlier in the week she went shopping with: Julie, Nicole (Julie's Mom), Diana (Julie's aunt), Hanna (Julie's Friend), Zoe (another friend), Victoria (Ashleigh's foster mom and Felicia's mother), Felicia, and Ashleigh. Based upon how quickly Julie could math and how quickly she could assess things, Annette assumed Julie was very smart; she wondered if Julie could be qualified as a genius. Annette both admired and disliked how Julie tried to cover up the fact she was so smart.

Annette was surprised Julie would want to hang out with Felicia and herself. Without knowing Julie, Annette would have believed Julie would have been in some elite crowd and would have belittled girls like herself. Annette easily pictured Julie being the leader of the jock type of girls, preppy girls, or the snobby elites. Instead; Julie's best friends were Hannah and Zoe. Her other friends were Monique and Belinda.

Annette really liked Hannah. Hannah and herself enjoyed talking about books. It broke Annette's heart and drove herself crazy to remain silent about Bob being the author Robert Heart. Due to the respect Annette had for Bob and Ashleigh she would never tell. It was obvious Zoe was very artistic and was very liberal. Even so; Annette really liked her. What Annette admired about Zoe was, she was who she was, she never told anyone else who they should be, and she liked how no nonsense she was. Annette surprised herself when she found herself telling both Hanna and Zoe about her female struggles and how relieved she was to finally be growing boobs. Even so; she was having difficulty stopping herself from comparing herself to Julie. Julie had the type of body Annette always wanted.

While standing next to Julie she felt she looked like an eighth grader. This was disappointing because they were only a few months apart.

Annette was trying to look feminine by wearing what the store called hot shorts. These were tight athletic charcoal and orange trimmed athletic shorts. She matched it by layering a charcoal colored cross-back tank and a lightweight orange scoopneck tee. She tied up her long dark hair with an orange and white flowered hair tie, she felt her orange socks were awesome, believed her matching orange and white shoes were perfect. She purchased all of these items during the shopping trip. She wished her braces were off and hoped all of the pain she went through would be worth it. She reminded herself she was finally becoming a woman. She

hoped with all of her heart she would no longer be mistaken as a boy; she so desperately wanted to appear feminine.

Annette spotted Bob sitting at the table eating cereal. This was the first time in her life she was ever a guest at a place Bob owned. When Felicia and herself were on the yacht; he went up to his office or was at work. There were two exceptions. These where; when he bought all three of them pizza and when they all played board games. Both times Ashleigh invited Bob to spend the time with them. Annette was never a fan of playing games, but she played them because Felicia and Ashleigh liked playing them. She knew Ashleigh liked playing board games because Bob played board games with her. Ashleigh in turn played board games with Felicia. This was the reason Annette played board games with Felicia. Annette was surprised she won a game called *Settlers*. She mentioned how she wanted to purchase the game for her family; she believed her step-dad would love the game and believed her Mom would even like it. What surprised both Felicia and herself. The next day new versions of the game were on the kitchen table along with Visa gift cards taped to the tops. Bob had purchased these things for them.

Annette appreciated the fact Ashleigh was always close by anytime Bob was on the yacht, but never once felt Bob would have done anything inappropriate to Felicia or herself. Annette knew of Dads and older men who would have acted creepy. There were many men who would have expected sexual favors with how much money was on the gift cards. Annette believed with all of her heart Bob would never ask any woman for sexual favors.

Annette was surprised when Julie asked “Mr. Bob did Y’all like my review of the movie Rollerball?”

Bob looked up from his box of cereal, pushed up his glasses, and commented; “It was very insightful. Both you and I agree the part with the scientist could be a for shadowing of what is to come.”

Excited Annette jumped in, “Bob I liked that part too. I could see a time when history is deleted because they dislike books.”

Julie reminded herself the customs of the north were different from the south.

“This was the same point Julie was making.”

Bob calmly pushed up his glasses, “Have you two ladies ever read a book titled *Fahrenheit 451*?”

Julie said, “No sir.”

“No.”

“I would encourage both of you to read it.”

An excited Annette asked, “What’s it about?”

Bob answered calmly, in the hopes Annette would calm down, “It’s about a time in the future where firemen burn books.”

He immediately turned toward Julie, “Ms. Julie I’d be interested in hearing what you’d have to say about it.”

“Yes sir.”

There were times, since she began her monthly, when Annette was incapable of noticing when she was emotional, “Don’t you want to hear what I’d say about it?”

Julie gave her a look. A look both Bob and Annette missed.

Bob pushed up his glasses and smiled. The reason Bob was patient with Annette was knowing the Annette before she started her monthly and a compassion for what Annette had gone through.

“Most certainly.”

Bob answered, “If both of you are able to finish reading the book before Annette goes home. I’d love to hear what the two of you think of the book.”

Annette was disappointed, “I don’t have a copy.”

Nikita yelped, she ran from Julie’s backpack to the closet everyone called Nikita’s closet.

“After walking Nikita both of you can grab a copy off the book shelf.”

This excited Annette, “Oh thanks.”

Julie again gave her a look.

Annette being excited stated, “Maybe we could read it together?”

Overall; Julie liked Annette and considered her a friend, but when Annette acted as her excitable self this annoyed Julie. Julie figured out a quick redirection would often times settle her down.

Julie mentioned, “I speed read.”

This excited Annette, “Would you teach me? I’ve always wanted to learn. It’d help me with school. I wouldn’t have to spend so much time reading.”

“You’d want me to teach you?”

“I can tell you’re smart. I don’t feel you like people knowing you’re smart. But I’d love to learn to speed read.”

This encouraged Julie, “I’d love to teach you.”

Bob smiled. Bob admired how patient Julie was being with Annette.

Nikita yelped and ran back to Julie’s backpack.

Bob pushed up his glasses, “Why don’t you ladies get a move on. Nikita is growing impatient.”

All at once Annette felt sorry for Nikita and bent down, talked in a soothing voice, and pet her.

Julie looked over at Mr. Bob: he nodded his head, picked up the empty bowl, stood up, grabbed the bowl, set it on the sink, went back to the table, and again began to read the newspaper.

Julie felt the need to say, “Mr. Bob.”

“Yes.”

“We’ll get the report done before their vacation is over.”

“I’ll look forward to reading it.”

Julie turned toward Nikita, “Want to go for a walk?”

This excited both Annette and Nikita. Annette was looking forward to walking with them.

An eager Annette asked, “Should I get the popper scooper?”

Julie answered, “It’s over in the closet.”

While Annette rushed over to the closet, Julie hooked the leash onto Nikita, and stepped over to the refrigerator.

Bob was observing how patient Julie was, he was certain Annette’s erratic behavior was a challenge to Julie.

“I’ve went with Ashleigh when she’s taken her out.”

Julie used a calming voice, “It’s good Y’all know where she takes her.”

Attached to the refrigerator was an appealing wooden holder with a laser cut picture of a husky on it. In this holder were laminated maps Ashleigh and Julie created. Each map had a title and a highlighted a route Julie would walk Nikita. This same holder and maps were on her Mother’s refrigerator. The only way Nicole would agree to Julie walking Nikita was if Nicole and Ashleigh knew where Julie was walking the dog. These maps were the solution. At the beginning there were four paper maps; now there were at least a dozen.

Julie correctly believed if she was deceptive or ignored the map she attached to the refrigerators her Momma would stop her from walking Nikita. A few times Nicole had “showed up” to drive Julie home or to an appointment. It was obvious Nicole took this as an opportunity to check on the maps. More than once Nicole would call and ask Ashleigh what map Julie had chosen. Julie would never give her Momma an excuse to stop her from walking Nikita.

She wanted to show Annette both the lighthouse and the pier. She selected one of the routes passing the lighthouse and the pier. This particular route: went across the street, straight onto the beach, went along the beach to the lighthouse, down to the pier, turn around at the pier, and walk back along the beach. This was the map she placed in the metal clip on the refrigerator next to the wooden sleeve. Julie wanted to just set it in front of the other sleeves but her Momma insisted she separate the route she was taking; Ashleigh and Julie decided they should do the same with Ashleigh’s map.

(A few days prior Ashleigh asked Brittany to make more professional looking maps. Brittany was Bob’s secretary and an assistant to Ashleigh. Ashleigh then asked one of the guys on the production floor to make two wooden sleeves with magnets. She then took the sleeves to the art department and had them laser cut the picture of the husky. After seeing how they turned out; Bob was considering adding these to their growing wooden products they sold.)

Julie pulled two water bottles out of the refrigerator and slipped them into her backpack.

Nikita became agitated when Walking Friend stepped over to her. Nikita was confused when Friend was carrying the thing that ate her markings, usually Walking Friend or Best Friend carried it. Either way Nikita was delighted when the two female humans made noises and led her out of the territory called “yacht.”

Annette noticed she was being hyper. She calmed herself down. Both her Mom and Victoria were pointing out to her when she was acting excitable. She was trying to figure this out herself. This was difficult with nature pumping her full of hormones. Her Mom and Victoria believed nature was now trying to make up for the time her hormones were dormant.

Annette felt the need to stop Julie, “I’m sorry.”

This shocked Julie, “For what?”

Nikita growled at her bike.

Annette asked, forcing herself to remain calm, “Dogs don’t like bikes.”

“They don’t?”

Annette forcing herself to control her excitement stated, “I’ve never known a dog to like bikes. My Step-dad says it’s because they make noise and they appear big to dogs.”

Julie liked this calm and mature Annette over the excitable one.

Julie answered, “Makes sense.”

"I thought so."

Julie stated, "I'm assuming Y'all would like to see the lighthouse?"

"Felicia and I went to it the other day."

Julie answered, "It's one of my favorite places. I like to play fetch with Nikita."

This caused Nikita to stand up, look at the backpack, and whine.

"Come."

Both Annette and Nikita followed Julie.

Annette mentioned, "Does it work?"

"No. But Mr. Bob and Ms. Ashleigh are trying to force the Village board and the mayor to fix it."

"Why wouldn't they want it fixed?"

"They'll want everyone to visit the new one on the south side of town."

"Why can't people visit both?"

"Town's folk have been asking the very question for years."

With confidence Annette said, "If Bob is passionate about it. It'll get fixed."

Nikita liked it when they stopped next to the fence. She made her markings. Julie hid the scooper behind the thing that made smells. They crossed the road and headed to the beach.

Nikita waited for a noise she knew.

Julie asked, "Y'all believe so?"

"Yup."

"Y'all mind running?"

"I'd love too."

Julie stopped.

Annette did as well.

Nikita was excited. She spotted Walking Friend take the thing from her pocket and play with her fur. Nikita waited for one of her favorite commands to be spoken.

Annette watched

Julie put her hair into a pony tail.

Julie commanded, "Let's fly."

Both took off.

Annette was amazed at Julie's long strides. Annette started to run and believed Julie would be miles in front of her in a short time. Annette spotted a muscular guy running on the beach. She felt guilty for wondering what his cock looked like. Since she started her monthly she was curious on what a real cock looked like. When she was in sixth grade her Mom gave her a book on human sexuality; in this book was a drawing of a penis. The only other place she ever saw a cock was the same drawing in health class. Lately she had a fascination with how they looked, how they felt, and how they worked.

She quickly focused forward.

Annette appreciated the fact Julie allowed her to catch up.

Julie's pace was much slower pace than normal.

Julie commented, "Y'all kept up in my Auntie's aerobics class."

Annette answered, "I like aerobics and biking. Not a fan of running but I force myself to run."

Both ladies spotted two guys running on the beach.

Annette mumbled, "He's cute."

"Which one?"

Annette blushing answered, "The dark haired guy."

Julie answered, "I liked him too."

They ran in silence for a while.

Annette broke the silence by stated, "I prefer biking."

"Y'all bike far?"

"Felicia and I like to bike in the summer. When her family goes on camping trips we like to take long bike rides. The longest we did was fifty miles. There are some wonderful biking trails in Wisconsin."

The miles they biked impressed Julie.

"Y'all like camping?"

"It's okay. I like the campfires and being out in nature. I feel it's creepy sleeping in a tent. I'll do it if someone's in there with me."

Julie never considered this.

Felicia mentioned, "Ashleigh likes camping."

Julie mentioned, "She says she'd like to take me."

"Between Dad and Bob they've taken Ashleigh to just about every Wisconsin State park."

"Y'all must be close to Felicia's Daddy?"

"I love him more than my step-dad."

She caught her breath.

They ran for a while without talking.

During this time Annette felt her last comment sounded awful, "I love my Step-dad too. I've always considered Blake my adopted Dad even before Mom married my Step-dad."

She added with affection, "No one ever told me I couldn't call him that."

Julie respected this.

"Y'all mind sprinting?"

"Sure."

Nikita was overjoyed when Julie took off.

Annette tried.

Annette quickly started to fall behind. What temporarily slowed Julie was needing to yank at her top and make a quick adjustment. Julie quickly was at full speed. This was the first time Annette recognized there could be challenges to having larger breasts. She immediately remembered Victoria's advice. Victoria pulled her aside after overhearing an emotional Annette talking to Felicia about being so late in developing. Victoria mentioned how large breasted women often disliked having large breasts. She pointed out women with small breasts often wanted to have bigger breasts. Victoria encouraged Annette to focus less on her breasts and concentrate on being a good woman. At the time Annette felt Victoria was just trying to make her feel better. At this moment Annette would consider the wisdom of Victoria.

Annette still wanted noticeable ones. Because of her fascination with old classic movies she hoped her breasts would be shaped like Julie.

She observed Julie stop running when she reached the lighthouse. Annette again observed Julie yank and pull at her bra and top. When Annette reached her; Julie had an awful look on her face.

She made a noise of frustration and stated, "I hate buying new bra's. I wish they'd stop growing."

Annette under her breath said, "It's better than not having any."

Because Annette was breathing heavy Julie missed what she said, "What did Y'all say?"

"It's better than not having any boobs."

Julie with frustration in her voice said, "Y'all know what it's like to be stared at when I'm running or playing a sport?"

With some tears said, "No."

Annette's reaction surprised Julie.

"I've been called a boy. I ain't a boy. I'm a girl."

Annette's emotions took over. She was unable to control herself and started to cry.

"I just had my first period two months ago. You know what that's like? To be called a boy. To be laughed at. Then. They were going to run tests. It's horrible. I'd give anything to have boobs."

Julie had a lot of compassion for Annette.

She said with a soft tone, "I imagine it caused some worry."

Annette recognized how emotional she was being. She calmed herself down. She wiped away her tears.

"I was the last girl in our high school to get my period. Most of the middle school girls had it before me."

She repeated herself, "I'd give anything to have boobs."

Julie being encouraging said, "Having big ones ain't fun. I hope they don't get as big as Momma's. If they get any bigger I'm quitting."

Immediately the tears stopped.

Annette again became emotional but this time in a stern way

"Quitting what?"

"Playing sports."

Still stern, "Do you love playing sports?"

"More than anything."

"Then you should continue playing. You are so fast and so athletic it'd be a shame if you quit."

This was similar to what her Momma and Megan said to her. It was encouraging to hear it from someone her own age.

Annette finally recognized she was being completely emotional. She did her best to calm herself down.

"Bette. Who Y'all meet today. She has real tiny boobs and my brother finds her attractive."

This was encouraging.

"She has tiny boobs?"

Julie said with a face, "They are. But my brother doesn't care."

Julie added, "Y'all are a good gal. If Y'all end up with big ones or small ones Y'all should be knowing Y'all are still a gal."

This reminded her of what: Ashleigh, Victoria, and her Mom told her.

Annette answered, "Thanks for reminding me. I'm finally getting them."

"I'm wishing mine would stop growing."

"I'm sure guys like them."

Julie liked Annette so much better when she was calm.

Julie sighed, bent down, opened her backpack, found Nikita's ball, and threw the ball.

Annette was impressed with how far Julie threw it.

Nikita was excited.

"Why would Y'all want breasts like mine?"

Annette blushed.

"You have breasts shaped like famous movie stars."

Nikita dropped the ball, Julie picked up the ball, she made a face, and really threw the ball; Nikita went running after it.

Annette was surprised at how far a girl could throw a ball.

Annette was again slightly animated, "Many of the old time famous actress had banana boobs."

Julie glared at an animated Annette.

"Back then the actresses weren't sticks. I'd have been popular in the sixties."

Julie smiled, "I guess I'd have been popular in the forties and fifties."

Annette made a face, "You must be popular now."

"I ain't into being popular anymore."

She picked up the ball and again threw it far. Nikita went running after it.

"Being popular ain't everything."

Annette answered, "No it isn't. I'd rather have a few great friends than a bunch of acquaintances. Felicia and Iris are my best friends. I don't need a whole bunch of them."

Julie felt the need to say, "I consider Y'all a friend."

"Me too."

Annette making a joke said, "As a friend could you give me some of your boobs?"

Julie with a smile replied, "If I could I would."

In a funny voice Annette said, "I'd take them."

They both laughed.

Nikita ran toward Julie until she noticed a crab.

Julie first gave a loud whistle, then yelled; "NO!"

Nikita looked, picked up the ball, and ran it to Julie.

"She's a good dawg."

Annette thought the way she said dog was funny, but kept this to herself.

"Y'all like Florida?"

"I love the ocean. I'm looking forward to the trip to Key West."

"Y'all will love it."

Annette animated again stated, "The yacht is as big as a house."

"Y'all will see bigger yachts than Bob's."

This caught Annette by surprise.

Julie again threw the ball.

Annette stated, "The ocean is so big."

"She's both beautiful and dangerous."

Julie mentioned, "We'll better get a move on."

She commanded, "Drop it."

Nikita did so.

Julie picked up the ball and wiped it off and this time placed it into a small pocket of her backpack.

She asked, "Y'all want a water."

"Yeah."

They both took drinks and Julie put them back into her backpack, she secured it, and asked, "Y'all want to run to the pier or should we head back?"

"I don't care."

Julie glanced at her watch.

"We better get back."

"Are we running?"

"We wouldn't need to."

Annette stated, "Lets walk back."

They started to walk back.

Annette mentioned, "I liked your churches Easter service."

Julie mentioned, "Momma was happy Y'all went with us."

"Victoria liked the woman's group."

"Momma and Ma like her."

Annette said, "I believe God healed Victoria. It was looking really bad for awhile. She shouldn't be alive."

"Ashleigh believes this too."

As they were walking Earnest ran by.

Julie mentioned, "I think he's cute."

Annette yelled, "Earnest!"

He glanced back and stopped, "Annette?"

"Yup."

Julie observed Annette run up to him and give him a hug. With how sweaty Ernest was, Julie was impressed Annette would hug him.

Julie was attracted to Ernest: she liked how tall he was, his blue eyes (they were now behind his big plastic athletic glasses with the green strap), and his blond hair. She preferred guys with a muscle tone but it was clear he was designed to run. Rumor was, he was being scouted for track scholarships. What she liked about him: how quiet he was, she felt he was one of the most mature guys in the whole school, he had one best friend, only hung around a few guys from track, he never treated any girl poorly, was known to care about his mom, and he was smart.

She took note of the print on of his sweat stained blue T-shirt; it advertised a marathon held in a Wisconsin town. It was impossible for her to pronounce the name of this town. She could have done without his red shorts, his white socks that were pulled up to his knees, and what she felt were ugly red athletic shoes; she took note they were made for running long distances. She felt if he could be disciplined to train and have the stamina to finish a marathon; he might have stamina for other things.

Annette immediately became her excitable self, "I'm so surprised to see you."

He smiled, "I like to run everyday."

"I heard you moved here."

“Mom was given a promotion. Plus, she was tired of winter.”

This was the most words Julie ever heard him say without being asked by a teacher.

He asked, “What brings you here?”

“I came down with Felicia and her family. Felicia is visiting Ashleigh.”

He asked, “Ms. Ashleigh?”

Julie stepped into the conversation, “Yes.”

Nikita was sniffing him.

Annette calmed herself down, “This is my friend Julie. And Ms. Ashleigh’s dog Nikita.”

Earnest mentioned, “We’ve been in many of the same classes.”

“Really.”

This was confirmation on how smart Julie was. Back in Wisconsin he was in all accelerated classes.

He put his hands on his sides, “I enjoyed her take on the Berlin Wall.”

Julie asked, “Y’all did?”

“It was a very thought provoking angle. It’s nice to see a woman who is politically conservative.”

Annette on purpose stated, “Earnest is friends with Brian. Brian is dating a friend of ours named Angie. Earnest and I have been in the same classes forever.”

Julie noticed he quickly glanced at her boobs. Julie appreciated how he turned his eyes back to Annette. She noticed he was becoming hard. He quickly gained control and stopped it. Julie believed he was slightly below average or averaged sized. What she appreciated was his control; something she believed few guys her age could maintain.

He said in his monotone voice, “Angie broke up with him.”

Annette answered in her excitable self, “I’m surprised. Angie was in love with him.”

It was both refreshing and disappointing to find out, the same drama happened in Wisconsin as it did in Florida. Julie expected to hear what he stated next.

Again in his monotone voice, “He believes she’s dating another guy.”

Julie made a face.

An excited Annette asked, “Who?”

“He isn’t sure.”

Julie rolled her eyes.

Julie noticed he quickly glanced at her boobs. He turned his eyes back to Annette. Julie liked how he focused on Annette; while being sly on the way he was checking her out. What surprised her was how he was keeping his penis under control. To many of the guys her age would have needed to cover themselves.

Annette suggested, “Maybe it’s just a rumor.”

“Maybe.”

They both made faces.

What he said next caught Julie’s ear.

“How’s Felicia?”

“She’s okay. Her boyfriend is saying he isn’t the father.”

“It’s difficult for me to believe Felicia would have slept with someone else.”

Annette answered, “She didn’t.”

“He was always irresponsible.”

This really caught Julie’s attention.

Annette answered, "She loved him."

Ernest answered, "I tried telling her he was lying to her."

This surprised Julie.

Annette added, "We all tried to tell her."

In disgust he stated, "I'm sure he'll never pay support or take responsibility. I hate it when guys don't pay support."

Both ladies were impressed with his statement.

Annette said, "I don't think he will."

He made a face.

Julie could tell this angered him.

"I hope Felicia gets the help she needs."

"She's planning on giving it up for adoption."

"I'm surprised he isn't wanting her to have an abortion."

Julie and Annette glanced at one another.

Julie asked, "Y'all don't agree with abortion?"

"I'm not sure if God is real. My science brain is having difficulty believing in things. But I want to believe in those things. I'm just struggling with the faith part and the science part."

They all stood in silence.

He broke the silence, "It's obvious a fetus is a life. No one should be allowed to kill someone. Even if it's not born. I know Felicia would be against it."

Annette stated, "She is."

Nikita was wagging her tail and wanted to greet this male human.

He stated, "Annette I'm glad to see you."

"Me too."

She said excited, "You could reach me on Facebook."

He answered, "I've been thinking about joining it."

Annette encouraged him, "I'd love to talk to you."

Julie could tell Annette liked him. It occurred to Julie how nice Earnest was to her.

In his monotone voice answered, "I'd like that."

Annette trying to hide her braces answered, "Me too."

He stated, "I have to finish my run."

"Okay."

He looked over at Julie, "It was nice talking with you."

He looked over at Annette, "I hope it goes well for Felicia. Enjoy your vacation."

He then took off.

Nikita was disappointed he ignored her.

Annette and Julie watched him run down the beach.

Annette wanted him to find her attractive but understood why he would find her unappealing. She felt he liked Julie. Annette understood why. She felt they would be good together.

Julie confirmed, "He's not a Christian?"

Annette gave a disappointed look, "His Mom goes to our church."

"Did he?"

"He used to talk about Jesus all the time. He's struggling with the idea if evolution is true then God doesn't exist."

Julie made a face and answered, "Evolution is so dumb."

"Our church did a seminar on the proof of creation."

Julie said, "They did?"

"Oh yeah. It was interesting."

Julie asked, "He seems to be a good guy?"

Annette put her disappointment to the side because she liked Julie, "Oh yeah. He really is. He's so smart."

Julie remained silent.

Annette added, "Before he moved here he applied at an engineering school in Milwaukee."

"They have an engineering school?"

"It's one of the best in the country."

Julie and Annette looked at one another.

Annette reluctantly stated, "He would be a good guy to go out with."

Julie encouraged Annette by pointing out a fact, "Even if Y'all liked one another it be difficult to date."

Annette latched onto this, "It would. Wouldn't it?"

"If he ain't a Christian your parents wouldn't approve would they?"

Annette's eyes lite up, "Oh no. They wouldn't."

"I'm sure there is a guy for you back in Wisconsin."

She became disappointed, "Not really."

"If guys our age are to stupid to see what a good gal Y'all are. Let them be jealous when Y'all end up pretty and you get a hot guy in college."

Annette teared up. Annette was unsure if this would happen or not; but it was nice to hear it from someone her age.

Julie trying to be encouraging said, "Look at those guys."

They both pretended to be clueless as they observed four guys putting up a volleyball net.

Annette said in a desperation voice, "Guys don't look like that in Wisconsin."

Julie smiled. It was obvious Annette was turned on.

Annette snapped out of her trance, "We better go back."

"Lets run back."

Annette felt this might help her, "Good idea."

Julie smirked.

Julie looked down at Nikita, "You ready?"

Nikita stood on all fours and her tail became a weapon, "Lets fly."

This was Nikita's favorite command. She immediately ran with Julie.

Annette smiled and started to run after Julie.

Julie slowed to Annette's pace.

Annette thanked Julie, "Thanks for going my pace."

"Next time Y'all come down we'll should go biking."

Annette said, "I'd like that."

They ran to the yacht.

April 12th, Being Left on an Island

Part One of Six

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Ashleigh & Megan *Book I: Friendship*

Thursday, April 12
Being Left on
an Island

Day 14 of Book I
(Six Days since Ashleigh's Family Arrived in Florida)

Part Two of Six



Authored By: R. P. Voght

Posted on ashleighandmegan.com on:
April 27, 2025

I hope you enjoy this pioneering format I call, "A Story Cast."

What the term "Story Cast" means; is this story is designed to be read in small to medium intervals. This particular story is broken up into "days." These portions are broken up into part or all of a particular fictitious "day" of the story. Each day surrounds the characters lives, relationships, adventures, struggles, mishaps and triumphs. This story is very different from a Novel or conventional story in many ways. Again, THIS IS NOT A NOVEL AND IS NOT WRITTEN IN A CONVENTIONAL NOVEL FORMAT. Instead; as the reader you are following the characters thoughts and actions during the course of this "day." This fiction story is set up like a TV series and or a third person journal. It always starts with one or more character getting up and ends with one or more characters going to bed; while during the day you experience the Characters actions, feelings, and their thoughts. On a large overview; there is a beginning, a middle, and an end to this "Story Cast"

R. P. Voght

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April 12 Being Left on an Island Day 14 of Book I

(Six Days since Ashleigh's Family Arrived in Florida)

Shelly was looking forward to the day.

The thirty-one year old single mother: opened a cupboard, grabbed a box of variety flavored oatmeal packets, she selected one, placed the box back into the cupboard, prepared the packet, set the bowl into the microwave, and waited.

Her past lifestyle took a toll on her looks. This being stated; she was still a very attractive woman. She was: five foot eight, a natural red head, with a diamond shaped face, her light colored greenish-blue eyes had a gentle quality to them, her reddish eyebrows went with her light skin and freckles. These freckles were on her forehead and her high cheekbones, her long aquiline shaped nose went perfect with her facial shape, her pearlike lips added to her overall look, her jawline was very noticeable, and her pointed chin gave her a seductress feel. When she smiled her lips stretched out, her upper lip moved up, and her high cheekbones became very visible; she was forever grateful for very straight teeth.

She was wearing: a red t-shirt, a new maroon colored hoodie, it was unzipped and the sleeves were rolled up, she wore matching jogging pants, and green socks. She liked the white stripe on the side of the pants and the embroidered flowers on the right side of the hoodie. With it just being herself and her son, she was content to go without a bra and showed little concern for her wider hips. She would change before leaving the apartment. She would wear a modest outfit to try and cover up her 36d breasts and would wear clothes to slim her hips. If she was allowed to live her life over she would have kept her breasts hidden until her wedding night; she cringed at how she flashed and used her body to make a living. The one saying she took from the friendship she had with Bobby was, *you can't change yesterday but you can*

change today to make tomorrow better. She was very conscious of dressing in a way to make the world know she changed. She was without makeup and was without any jewelry.

She: stopped the microwave from beeping, opened a drawer, grabbed a spoon, closed the drawer, opened the microwave door, stirred the oatmeal inside of the microwave, left the spoon in the bowl, let the bowl cool down, carefully took out the bowl, with her elbow she shut the microwave door, and set it onto the table. She took a calming breath, pulled a chair out from the table, and sat down. She flipped the text book over so she could read it.

Her plan for the day was to: finish reading the chapter she was on, wake up Little Bobby, drop her son off at the tech college's day care center, attend two of her classes, pick up Little Bobby, drop Robert off at her mother's (Shelly's Mother hated it when Shelly called him Little Bobby), go back home, change clothes, go to her cousins house, they would wait for her fiance to show up, the three of them would go out for dinner, she would pick up Little Bobby at her mother's house, and then come home.

It took a lot of work to turn her grades around in the two classes she was struggling with. She was grateful for the day care center at the technical college. It made her life easier and Little Bobby enjoyed it. She was grateful her Mother was watching Little Bobby after her classes; she was hoping to avoid visiting with her Mother today. The last few times they were together it took effort on both their parts to avoid arguing. She felt this short visit with her Mother was worth spending time with her cousin Naomi and Naomi's fiance Levi. It was a long time since she was involved in an activity with just adults.

The assistant manager who was causing Shelly so much trouble was moved to a different store. She was encouraged to apply for the position but it would interfere with her school schedule. She accepted a small raise and would work more hours when her Son was with Bobby (Little Bobby's Father). She was completely grateful for her job, to find a job after being incarcerated was difficult; her goal was to make a career in manufacturing.

She heard her son's bedroom door open; she always kept it slightly open. She wished she would have kept him in a crib for longer than she did, but this prepared him for staying at his Daddy's house.

She heard her nineteen month old boy's feet and felt his hands on her legs, he said, "Went pee pee."

She turned to her son, and smiled, "Lets go potty before I change you."

He said, "Be big boy."

"Yes you are."

She smiled, stood up, and took him to the bathroom. Spending time with the men in his life was helping him become potty trained. She knew: being around his Uncles, her Step-father (who Little Bobby called Pa-pa), and around his Daddy was encouraging her son to want to use the bathroom like a "big boy". Both her Mother and herself were using this to their advantage. Even though he was picking up the skills to use the bathroom he was very inconsistent, so both her Mother and herself were using diapers at night, and often used pull ups when in public. They both hoped within a few months he would be down to pull ups during the night.

After she changed him, she dressed him in: a blue t-shirt with a whale print on front, a long sleeved sweatshirt with an embroidered cartoon moose on the front (his favorite sweatshirt), brown pants he could easily slip on and off, and new white socks. These items

were purchased by his Auntie Ashleigh. She felt this would be perfect for a sunny but forty degree day in Wisconsin.

Shelly teased and talked to Little Bobby as he was eating cereal; she made sure he wore a bib. After he was done she set him into the living room and let him play.

While he played she changed into: clean undergarments, a pair of light blue five pocket boot-cut denim jeans with beaded sequencing on the left leg, she slipped on a white v-neck t-shirt to give herself support, and added a ruffled lace blouse. She liked how this blouse was comfortable, feminine looking, and it came passed her hips. She wanted to be an example to the younger women who were attending the tech college; without appearing old. She added a pair of asymmetrical scrunch booties. She wished she could have worn a nice pair of wedges, with the ground still wet and the temperature being in the low forties she was avoiding cold feet. After she set her long red hair, she applied a light amount of makeup, a pair of short dangling earrings, and attached her watch to her wrist.

The doorbell rang.

She heard her son yell, "Get it."

She stepped out of the small bathroom and spotted her son at the door. When she reached the front door she looked through the peep hole. Standing there was Holly; her Mother.

Holly showed her fifty-one years of life. Her face was a combination of wisdom, intensity, and caring. Her dyed long blond wavy hair was set to look as nice as possible. Holly: had a diamond shaped face, tight skinny lips, a medium length mouth, high cheekbones; wrinkles were around her lips and eyes. Her dimples were now set in. What added character to her face was her long bumpy nose. When her light brown eyes scanned the world the wisdom of life experience helped her make assessments.

Shelly believed her mother was finished with her deposition or it was canceled. She was wearing a brown colored lightweight tweed trench coat, a linen blazer, wide leg linen pants, a white button blouse, it was impossible to miss her brown beaded extra long necklace, she was wearing an expensive pair of dress shoes; as always she was carrying her purse. Her earrings matched the necklace. As always she carried herself with elegance and grace. Phillip, her husband, was delighted with her large breasts and was sexually attracted to her. She felt differently. She was fighting what she called, "*the curse of gravity*" by taking walks and eating healthy; after nursing three children she felt the best thing was to hide her breasts as best as possible.

Shelly's impulse was to: grab Little Bobby, run out the back door of her apartment, run down the outside stairs, rush into her car, and drive away.

Shelly witnessed Holly ring the doorbell and heard, "Are you home?"

This excited Little Bobby, he screamed, "Na-na."

"Is that you Robert?"

He pointed to the door and made a noise.

Shelly's immediate thought was: *so much for reading the rest of the chapter*. Shelly decided she could finish reading the chapter between her classes.

She unlocked the door and opened it.

As soon as Holly stepped inside she bent down and hugged her Grandson. Shelly shut the apartment door. It amazed her on how every child adored Holly and how great she was with other children. What troubled Shelly was how strained their relationship was. They were

putting in the effort to mend their wounds, this was sometimes easy; most times it was like dragging a heavy boulder up a hill.

Shelly asked, "Why are you here?"

Holly turned toward Shelly, stood up, pulled her purse up on her shoulder.

They stared at one another.

Holly chose to answer in a polite manner, "I apologize. The deposition finished early. I have an open schedule today. This was the reason I was able to watch Robert. On the spur of the moment I felt I could help you out by picking him up early. I know I should have called."

Shelly as nice as she could answered, "Next time please call."

"Na-na."

Robert as she called him was yanking on her long coat.

Holly promised, "I will."

Holly bent down and looked at her grandson, "Honey. What did you want to tell your Nana?"

Shelly was suspicious.

He turned and pointed to a framed picture on the wall, in this picture was Shelly, his Aunt Ashleigh, and himself; he was in the middle. Near this picture was a picture of Bobby and Robert.

"Ash-wee."

He then pointed to the other picture, "Daa-da."

Holly smiled, "You take such a nice picture. Where's Robert?"

This of course excited Robert, he pointed, "Me."

With a facial expression, "Daa-da."

Holly answered, "That's nice."

Shelly disliked the tone. What added to her annoyance was the glance she received from Holly. It took great restraint on Shelly's part to refrain from saying what was on her mind.

Shelly managed to say, "Little Bobby lets get your coat on."

She purposely called him this because it irritated her Mother.

"Your going to Nana's house."

He went over to his animals and grabbed a lion, lifted it up and showed his Nana, "Grrr."

Holly excited stated, "You might turn out to be a veterinarian."

Shelly ignored this.

Shelly commanded, "Come here Little Bobby."

Carrying his lion he ran over to his Mommy; she had his coat open.

Holly mentioned, "I see you've been painting."

Shelly was surprised it was actually a nice tone, "Yes. I really enjoy it."

"I like this one of the park."

Little Bobby stated, "Walk park."

Shelly answered, "You are going over to Nana's. Isaac will be there."

He liked this, he showed Shelly his lion, "Grrr."

"I'm sure you'll play with your animals."

Holly mentioned, "He sure has a lot of them."

Shelly caught the tone. She showed patience by ignoring it.

But Holly added, "Spoiling a child isn't a good way to raise a child."

Shelly crunched her teeth together. She managed to gently zip up her Son's coat.

Holly commented, "You've managed to keep the apartment fairly nice."

Shelly managed to answer, "Thank-you."

While Shelly was putting on his coat. Shelly was observing her Mother inspecting her living room. This irritated her a great deal. Shelly correctly believed her Mother was inspecting it for drugs. Shelly somewhat understood this. What hurt Shelly was the idea she would hide drugs where her son could reach them. More important; she wanted to believe she was showing the world she was no longer using. When Holly lifted up a candy dish to see what was in a candy dish; Shelly almost lost it. In the dish were flavored jelly beans.

Shelly managed to say, "They're the brand you like."

Little Bobby pointed to the embroidered polar bear on his coat, "Bear."

Shelly smiled, "That's right."

Holly took a few of the jelly beans and put the cover back on.

Shelly: grabbed his lion, put on his gloves, gave the toy lion back to him, she reached over and grabbed his shoes, because he wanted to go over to his Nana's he quickly sat down and raised his foot. If he wanted to stay home there would have been some resisting; this was always futile because Shelly made sure he would listen. She was trying to brake him of his stubbornness.

Shelly was keeping an eye on her mother. It was difficult to stay quiet as Holly inspected the living room for drugs.

All at once Holly asked, "May I use your restroom?"

Shelly showed restraint and said, "You can hang your coat on the rack."

Holly hung her coat on a free standing coat rack, she set her purse on a chair, and headed to the bathroom.

What irritated Shelly was the fact her son was almost dressed to go outside. Before putting on his hat she encouraged him to pick up a few more animals; she placed them in a plastic handled bag she prepared for him the night before.

She told Little Bobby to stay there.

He said, "Hot."

"Stay right here. Nana will be taking you soon."

He listened.

Shelly walked through the living room, the kitchen area, and put her head to the bathroom door; all the while watching her son. What she heard was her mother opening and closing drawers and cabinets.

This hurt Shelly a great deal.

She crunched her jaws together; she was about to bang on the door and yell.

She glanced over at her son. He was in his winter clothes, excluding his hat, his red hair was slightly a mess, his daddy's eyes were looking back at her, his pale skin was easily seen because of the small amount of sunlight going through the living room window. Her son and her faith were the two reasons her Mother's search would yield no drugs.

Shelly took a deep breath and managed to say in a nice tone, "Are you alright?"

"Where's the hand soap?"

Shelly was sincere, "I'm so sorry."

Shelly was surprised when her mother answered, "It's alright. I'm the one who emptied the container. I wanted to fill it before I left."

Shelly replied, "On top of the cabinet."

Holly asked, "Why up there?"

"The big container was on sale. It was either put the soap up there or the toilet paper."

Shelly asked, "Little Bobby is getting warm. Should I take him to your car?"

"The keys are in the purse. I'm parked in the lot."

"I'll take him out."

"You don't have to move the car seat Phillip and I bought our own."

Shelly answered, "Use my keys to lock the door."

Holly added, "I'll give them to you downstairs."

"Okay."

Shelly turned, went to her mother's purse, grabbed the keys, quickly slipped on a pair of shoes, slipped on her jacket, she put on her son's winter hat, grabbed the bag, she made sure his winter boots were in the bag just in case he went outside, and led her son to Holly's car.

Holly filled the soap container with liquid soap, put the big container of hand soap back on the shelf; she felt foolish for not looking there. This is when she heard the front door shut.

Her impulse was to start an intense search of the apartment.

She liked the towel hanging off a simple metal stand and shelf; it was obvious Shelly added the shelf.

She started to open one of the cabinets, it occurred to her she already went through every drawer and cabinet in the bathroom. She turned, opened the bathroom door, and stepped out into the apartment. She glanced into her Grandson's room and her daughter's room. Both were clean and in order. This reminded Holly of her daughter before she started using. It seemed like it was only yesterday, when Shelly's room went from a young teenage girls room with order and promise, and turned into something dark and a mess.

Holly turned and headed to the living room.

While she was putting on her coat she glanced at the picture of the father of her Grandson. She dreaded the idea Robert Waller would ever be her Son-in-law. She believed if this happened it would send her daughter into a tail spin.

She made one more glance; she disapproved of the art corner and all the toys laying around. She felt if she mentioned this it would hurt their relationship. Something she was hoping to improve.

She grabbed her purse, the keys Shelly left for her, went up to the candy dish, took a few of the gourmet jelly beans, quickly ate them, stepped out of the apartment, and locked the door. She hated: the stairs, hated the fact her daughter was living where she was, and hated the fact Robert was paying for it. She was thankful: her daughter appeared to be clean and sober, was holding down a job, was dedicated to school (even if it was a technical college), and her grandson was safe.

She was careful on the upper section of the stairs, she complained out loud to herself while turning on the landing, and focused on the bottom set of stairs. As she pushed open the door to the street she wondered why Shelly liked this place.

With Issac being home on spring break Holly decided she would make macaroni and cheese and mashed potato's. This was something Phillip brought to the family after they were married. This was a favorite meal of Robert.

Felicia stepped out of her cabin. She was wearing a pair of bright yellow Chino shorts; she rolled up the bottoms. She matched the shorts with a yellow and white striped polo shirt; this was a size larger than she normally wore. Underneath was a yellow spaghetti strapped halter. She was carrying a cloth touristy bag with a sunset and the word Florida printed on the side. Inside was: a green and yellow t-shirt with a sunset print, a one piece swimsuit, sunglasses, a beach towel, a hoodie, pants matching her swimsuit, sunblock, swim shoes, and motion sickness pills.

She stepped over to Ashleigh's suite and knocked on the door.

She heard, "I'll be out in a second. I'm braiding my hair."

Felicia answered, "I'm hungry."

"Just fix yourself something. I'll be right there."

Felicia rolled her eyes.

The least thing she wanted was to help Ashleigh braid her hair. Anytime Felicia helped Ashleigh braid her hair: Ashleigh ended up complaining, they would have a tiff, and Ashleigh would demand doing it herself. Felicia turned and headed toward the galley.

Bob stepped out from the hallway. He was dressed in: a gray business suite, a dark purple shirt, he matched the shirt with a purple tie with a white and black musical note design, he added purple socks, and plain gray dress shoes. This was the first time she ever spotted him in a suite. The majority of the time he wore business casual.

She set her bag next to Julie's backpack.

He opened a suitcase he left on the table; near the suitcase were two piles of file folders.

He smiled at Felicia, "Good Morning."

"Hi. I like the tie."

He looked at her, pushed up his glasses, and said with a smile; "Thank-you."

He stopped filling the suitcase with the file folders and asked, "Are you okay?"

She lied, "I'm alright."

He pushed up his glasses.

He asked, "You have a lawyer?"

This was the least thing she thought off.

She was unsuccessful in holding in her tears, and answered, "I believe Mom and Dad have one."

"Tell them I have a lawyer for you."

The idea of a lawyer was overwhelming to her. She recalled the wisdom of her Mom warning her she would need to make adult decisions.

She sucked in her tears, "I'm going to give it up for adoption."

He pulled a card out of his briefcase, "Even so. I suggest you call this gentleman. I have him on retainer."

“Okay.”

She stepped over to him and took the card.

“He’s in Wisconsin. He’s worked with the lawyer firm I have down here.”

Felicia knew to ask, “How expensive is he?”

This impressed him.

He answered, “I heard you were seeking a part time job?”

She answered truthfully, “I feel like I should.”

“If you stay in school and graduate. No matter if you give the baby up for adoption or not. That will be payment enough.”

It took great effort to hold in her tears, but managed to say, “I have to graduate.”

He said, “I trust Annette and yourself are able to refrain from telling anyone I’m paying for the lawyer.”

She nodded.

He said, “I’m assuming you’ve learned a great deal from this experience?”

“I wish this never happened.”

He smiled, “Your baby appreciates you letting it live. No matter if you keep it or give it up for adoption.”

She teared.

He pushed up his glasses, “Remember. You can’t change what happened yesterday. You can only make better choices today to make tomorrow better.”

With a sort of a sob, she answered, “I won’t forget.”

He smiled, shut his briefcase, and stepped toward the front door.

She heard the front door open and Julie say, “Mr. Bob you look handsome.”

Annette replied in her excitable self, “Your tie is so cool.”

Felicia rolled her eyes. She again considered her Mom’s theory the reason Annette was acting oddly was due to her sudden development. Victoria suggested her body was overloading her with hormones all at once.

Bob replied with a smile, “If I have to wear a tie. I want the tie to be exceptional.”

Felicia spotted Nikita run into the galley and head for her bowl.

Julie asked, “Why are Y’all wearing a suit?”

“Susan suggested I wear suits to important meetings.”

Annette was unable to contain herself, “Did she pick out the tie?”

With a fun tone, “Most certainly not.”

Both Julie and Annette answered, “Oh.”

Bob with a smile demanded, “You ladies have a good day.”

Annette as her excitable self, “We will.”

Felicia rolled her eyes.

Felicia felt starved but was afraid to eat.

This is when Felicia heard Ashleigh step out of her suite and Bob close the door.

Felicia looked down at the card. It represented everything adult. At this moment she wished with all of her heart she was still a virgin. She was unsure on how to face everything ahead of her. She felt like she was on a deserted island; but she did have family and friends around her. In the back of her mind and in a small spot in her heart she was reminded God was there too. She was unsure of what she thought or felt about this.

She focused on what she should have for breakfast, this is when she spotted Ashleigh step into the galley.

Ashleigh set her bright orange duffel bag next to Felicia's bag. She set a pair of white oversized white framed sunglasses on the shelf of the China cabinet. She kept her white news boy hat on; on the right side of the hat was an embroidered anchor. Ashleigh felt braiding her hair went with the hat. She was wearing a pair of vintage looking blue and white plaid shorts, she matched the shorts with a white halter t-shirt, over it was a light blue polo shirt, and a white pair of strappy sandals with stud detail and a quarter inch heels. She added simple stud earrings, a cross necklace, and a watch with a white band.

She heard the excitable Annette say, "You look so cute."

Julie snickered.

Remembering what Diana told her about being cute and Megan telling her to make this comment into a positive.

Ashleigh managed a smile, "Well thank-you."

Julie added, "I like your shorts."

Ashleigh responded, "You do? I just bought them."

An excited Annette announced, "I almost bought a pair like that when we went shopping."

Julie asked, "Are you taking me home?"

Ashleigh touched Julie's arm, "No problem."

Annette recognized she was feeling excited about everything, calmed herself down, "I'll quickly get ready."

"Don't be too long."

"I won't."

Julie and Ashleigh smiled when they watched her step into her cabin, step out, and go into the head in between the two cabins.

Ashleigh asked Julie in a whisper, "You have a change of clothes?"

Julie made a face and answered, "Wasn't planning on showering here."

Julie noticed her smell, "I'll be back."

Ashleigh winked.

Julie grabbed her backpack and the popper scooper.

Nikita followed Julie. Nikita watched Julie open the door where he treats and food was. Nikita watched Julie put away the thing that ate her droppings. She followed Julie into the hallway and step into the place where people left their droppings. Nikita went back to the galley and onto her spot.

Ashleigh stepped into the galley. She spotted Felicia standing against the first Roman style pillar near the refrigerator. Four of these pillars separated the kitchenette from the galley. Two were on top of the island and attached to the ceiling and the other pillars were on opposite sides of the island; these went from deck to ceiling. It was obvious Felicia was in deep thought.

Ashleigh asked, "What's the matter?"

"Bob is going to pay for a lawyer."

Ashleigh believed this was the lawyer she was planning on calling; she would ask Bob about it later.

Felicia added, "He gave me a card."

Ashleigh with some confidence said, "Keep the card."

"Okay."

"You know how you could help me today?"

Tears started, "No."

"As best as you can. I want you to enjoy the friends around you and the people who love you."

Felicia and Ashleigh embraced.

When Julie spotted this she stopped at the edge of the hallway. They pulled apart and Ashleigh spoke softly to Felicia. This reminded Julie of those times when she encouraged her younger sister Ester. Julie believed Ashleigh and Felicia really missed one another; Julie felt Felicia would have done just about anything to have Ashleigh move back to Wisconsin.

Julie stepped into the galley when she spotted a clean and showered Annette. She was carrying the same type of bag as Felicia with the same exact print; the difference being Annette's was a bright orange.

When Felicia spotted Annette she stated, "You look really nice."

Annette looked down at herself.

She was wearing a light green, blue, and white plaid halter; the trim was in dark blue. She matched this with green Bermuda shorts, her green colored flats matched the shirt. She added a light amount of makeup, two bracelets, and a wide headband that matched her halter top.

Julie liked the wide headband.

Ashleigh added, "There isn't any question you are a young woman."

Her eyes went large, "Really?"

Felicia being her friend answered, "You fill in the top."

Her eyes became large and asked in an excited tone, "I do!"

Julie smiled.

Julie added, "Y'all fill it nicely. There isn't any doubt Y'all are a girl."

This excited Annette. Then she teared.

Ashleigh stated, "Let's head over to Julie's house."

This helped Annette to focus and stopped her from crying.

Julie mentioned, "I'm sure my Momma will make Y'all breakfast."

Annette answered, "You've told us she makes a great breakfast."

Julie answered, "She makes a great eggs Benedict."

Ashleigh added, "Her scrambled eggs are good too."

Ashleigh turned and commanded Nikita to come over to her.

Nikita quickly stood up and went to her.

Julie asked, "Where is Nikita staying?"

"I'll drop her off at work."

Annette asked, "Won't we be late for the charter?"

Ashleigh answered, "I'm just dropping her off. And I'll get Bob to switch vehicles. I'll take her back here after Megan and I have lunch with our parents."

All three young ladies glanced at one another.

Julie suspected this was Ashleigh's way of checking up on how the Company was doing. Ashleigh asked, "What's the look for?"

Felicia stated, "Since when is one of your stops quick?"

Ashleigh glared and stated, "Let's go."

Everyone collected their things and stepped out of the yacht. Ashleigh asked Julie to lock up the yacht. Julie quickly caught up with the group headed to the garage.

Nicole was finished getting ready.

She was thankful she cleaned the house the night before, and was thankful Ester stayed over night at Danielle's house. Nicole planned on picking up Ester after the woman's meeting. Jeff was helping out at his friend Sal's farm. Jeff was planning on arriving home after dinner.

She was looking forward to spending the day with Victoria and her Mother-in-law. The three ladies were planning on meeting Ashleigh, Megan, Captain, and Blake for lunch at Lucy's. Then Ashleigh, Victoria, Mary, and herself planned on attending a women's church group. Captain and Blake planned on visiting the local VFW.

She was impressed with Ashleigh's foster mother Victoria. About a half hour earlier, Victoria called Nicole asking if her Mother-in-law believed Christian women should wear skirts or dresses. This was the very reason Nicole chose a cream colored flowered print surplice dress; the flowers were in greens, browns, and white. This dress gave her breasts support, was perfect for when it became warmer, and was similar to what many of the ladies would be wearing in the women's group. She added: a silver cross necklace, brown bracelets, simple earrings, wore very little makeup, and added leg wrapped platform sandals; the wrap had a similar pattern as her dress. She felt she looked conservative, was comfortable, and she felt it was perfect for the spring Floridian weather. Until it warmed up she would wear a cream colored blazer.

She stepped into the kitchen and hung the blazer on one of the kitchen chairs.

She glanced up at the clock and mentally prepared herself for teenage girls to invade her house. She believed Ashleigh and Megan were capable of handling the six teenage girls that were going on the charter. Nicole believed this because she felt they were all good girls. She was happy Bette was spending most of the day with them instead of another spring break day with her son. It was obvious to both Nicole and Sherry their children were in love. The two mothers discussed their concerns they were sexually active; Sherry (Bette's mother) was delighted Nicole was just as concerned as Sherry was.

She was about to prepare herself a simple breakfast of toast, yogurt, and a grapefruit.

This is when the door flew open.

"Momma!"

She stepped in front of the hallway.

"I'm taking a shower and getting dressed."

Nicole shook her head when Julie went running up the stairs.

Nicole watched as Felicia and Annette stepped into the house.

"Howdy girls."

Annette said, "Hi."

Felicia nudged her.

"I forget that."

Annette turned to Nicole, "Hi Ma'am."

Felicia replied, "Yes Ma'am."

This is when Ashleigh stepped in and asked, "Would it be alright if I left the girls here while I drop off Nikita at the Company and switch cars with my brother?"

Nicole smiled, "No problem. Bette and Hanna haven't arrived yet."

"Thanks."

Ashleigh quickly turned back and shut the door.

"Y'all have breakfast?"

Annette said with a face, "No."

Julie repeated herself by yelling down the stairs, "Momma makes a great Eggs Benedict. And she makes the best grits."

Annette as her excited self stated, "I've never had grits."

Felicia mentioned, "I'm not that hungry."

Julie volunteered her Momma, "Momma will make whatever Y'all like."

Even though Nicole preferred not to, she went with her daughter's suggestion, "You gals want to try grits?"

They looked at one another and Felicia lied but Annette was excited to try them, they answered at the same time; "Yes."

Nicole walked to the door.

Nicole was inspired by a receipt she read online, "Would Y'all like me to mix some cheese in it?"

Julie who never made it to her room stated with a questioning tone, "Y'all never put cheese in your grits?"

Nicole turned and looked up at her daughter, who was at the top of the stairs, "I read a receipt for southern style cheesy grits. I was feeling our northern friends would like grits if I put cheese in it."

Annette proclaimed, "Everything tastes better with cheese."

Julie smiled, "She said it."

Felicia looked at Annette and said, "It shows we're from Wisconsin."

They all laughed. Julie and Nicole could tell they were from Wisconsin because of the way they pronounced their C's and every syllable.

Julie stated, "Y'all will like Momma's breakfast."

Julie turned and stepped into her room.

Nicole politely motioned for them to follow her. The two girls followed Nicole into the kitchen.

"It's nice having Y'all over."

Annette answered, "Thank-you."

"What would Y'all like?"

Annette using everything within herself to remain calm said, "If it isn't any trouble I'd love to try your eggs Benedict."

"Sausage or ham?"

"I'll take sausage."

"Spicy or non-spicy?"

"You can make it spicy?"

“Yes Darling.”

Annette asked, “Would it be as hot as your jambalaya?”

“It wouldn’t have to be.”

Excited Annette answered, “Then I’ll take medium spicy.”

Nicole smiled, “No problem.”

She turned toward Felicia, “Honey; what would Y’all like?”

“Something simple.”

“Does oatmeal and toast sound alright?”

Felicia was honest, “Yeah. That sounds good.”

Annette asked, “You need help?”

“No. Y’all are my guest. Just sit and relax.”

Both selected two kitchen chairs; both avoiding the chair with the blazer hung over it.

Nicole started by, putting on an apron, then opening the refrigerator and asked, “Y’all want some orange juice?”

Annette answered, “That’d be great.”

Felicia smiled in agreement.

Nicole took out a pitcher of orange juice, set it on the counter, pulled two glasses from the cabinet, filled the two glasses with orange juice, she set the glasses in front of them, then set the pitcher on the table, the two girls thanked Nicole, Nicole responded in kind, and stepped back to the refrigerator.

The two girls took a drink and studied the kitchen. Decorating the walls were wooden plaques with scripture versus printed on them.

Annette pointed to one of them, “Your Mom has that one.”

Felicia mentioned, “It looks different.”

“The one at your house has butterflies.”

The plaque Annette pointed to was the same exact style with the same exact verse but Victoria’s was decorated with flowers.

“Oh yeah.”

Silence filled the kitchen.

They both took drinks of their orange juice and sat quiet watching Nicole prepare their meals.

Nicole broke the silence, “Have Y’all ever been on a charter before?”

Felicia answered, “No.”

An excited Annette answered, “I’m looking forward to it.”

Annette being her excited self, but with a compassionate tone for her best friend stated, “Felicia’s worried about getting sea sick.”

Felicia made a face.

Annette answered the look, “What?”

Felicia answered, “You shouldn’t tell people.”

Annette suddenly felt bad.

Nicole smiled as she was preparing the meals.

Nicole stated, “Honey. I have motion sickness pills.”

This made Felicia and Annette feel better.

Felicia responded, “I bought the ones Megan’s doctor suggested.”

The microwave beeped.

"Y'all want anything in the oatmeal?"

"Brown sugar?"

She was about to request toast but Felicia witnessed four slices pop up from a four slot toaster. Felicia wished her family had one like that, theirs was old and beat up.

Nicole set the toast on a plate and gently set the oatmeal in front of her. Nicole already set out utensils and butter on a serving dish. A serving dish Annette liked because of the flower print on the side.

Felicia responded, "Thank-you Ma'am."

Nicole smiled at her Wisconsin accent, "Y'all are welcome."

Annette managed to say calmly, "Everything is smelling really good."

"Thank-you. Yours will be up in a second."

This is when the doorbell rang.

Nicole yelled so Julie could hear, "I'll get it."

Nicole: set the burner on low, took off her apron, headed to the door, and opened the door.

Both Bette and Hannah were at the door.

"Howdy."

Hannah answered, "Hi Y'all."

Bette smiled, "Hi Ms. Nicole."

Nicole smiled and let both in.

Nicole understood why her son was attracted to Bette. She felt Bette's heart shaped face was darling. Nicole suspected Jeff liked her very luscious lower lip and her skinny upper lip. Nicole was impressed with Bette's outfit. Anytime she came over she dressed feminine and appropriate; Nicole's only concern was she would catch a cold. Nicole felt her olive colored cargo shorts was at an appropriate length. With Bette being five four Nicole felt she looked cute in them. She also liked her conservative green colored eyelet blouse and felt her green charmed thong sandals went with the outfit. She was removing the dark portion of her glasses; Nicole felt her magnetic clip sunglasses were clever. Nicole liked seeing what she felt were Bette's pretty greenish blue eyes. Her very dark wavy hair was pinned up nicely, she was wearing a green colored wide headband. Her dark eyebrows were trimmed equally. She was without makeup. Nicole was disappointed she was without the homemade jewelry she normally wore but was wearing stud earrings.

Nicole was equally impressed with how Hannah was dressed. Hannah was wearing a lightweight light blue zipper jacket; it was unzipped. Nicole liked her two toned V-neck tunic, the top portion was hot orange and the bottom was white, underneath she was wearing an orange colored t-shirt tank. She matched the layered look top with gray cargo pants with horizontal zippers at thigh level; currently the legs were attached to the upper portion of the pants. Hannah's plan was to remove the bottoms when it became warmer. She was wearing orange and white flowered slip on canvas shoes. Nicole felt this was smart because they were ending up on a boat.

Nicole said politely, "You may set your bags on the table."

Hannah right away said, "Yes Ma'am."

Bette stated, "Yes Ma'am."

Bette was putting in the effort to respect Floridian culture and followed what Hannah did. She was especially putting in the effort around Jeff's parents; even more so around

Nicole. They set their bags, their sunglasses, and hats on the long table next to the stairs. Hannah took off her light jacket. When Nicole could see they were ready, Nicole led them into the kitchen.

Hannah mentioned, "We invited Monique and Belinda."

Nicole was unaware they were coming too.

Nicole asked, "What about Bobbi-Sue?"

Many times during the week Bobbi-Sue and Billy found themselves at her house; it was obvious Bette and Bobbi-Sue were best friends.

A disappointed Bette added, "They can't make it."

Nicole asked, "Why?"

Bette answered, "Bobbi-Sue and Billy are helping his Momma."

Nicole was happy to hear Bobbi-Sue was willing to help.

Hanna added, "Monique was forced to watch her siblings."

Bette added, "Belinda is tired of boats and fishing."

Hanna explained, "Her Daddy bought a boat before break. He's been fishing every day."

Bette added, "But he's insisting everyone enjoy it with him."

Nicole understood the situation.

Nicole asked, "Did Y'all have breakfast?"

Bette answered, "We had a piece of toast and some fruit."

Felicia and Annette waved at them when they entered the kitchen.

Bette surprised Nicole, "Do you have coffee?"

Nicole smiled, "I'll fix Y'all some."

Hannah asked, "May I have a glass of orange juice?"

Nicole took out a glass from the cupboard.

Hannah said politely, "I'll pour it."

Nicole gave her the glass.

Annette being her excited self stated, "The orange juice is so good here."

Bette mentioned, "But the milk is real expensive here."

Nicole looked at Bette, "It is?"

"It's what my mom is complaining about. My Dad was shocked on how expensive a steak was."

Hannah poured herself a glass of orange juice.

Felicia mentioned, "Ashleigh says the seafood is both better and cheaper."

Bette rolled her eyes, "My dad is so excited on how inexpensive shrimp is."

Nicole set Annette's Eggs Benedict on the table.

Hannah and Bette selected the tall chairs at the counter. With how short Bette was, everyone was surprised on how easily she was able to get into the chair.

Nicole asked again, "Are Y'all sure you don't want anything?"

Hanna pushed up her glasses, "I'll take one Eggs Benedict."

Annette calmed herself down, "Ms. Nicole it's really good."

"It isn't to spicy?"

"It's just right."

Nicole turned to Hannah, "Sausage or Ham."

"Ham."

"Spicy or non-spicy?"

"No spice."

"Okay."

Bette asked, "I'll take a yogurt and toast? What type of jelly do you have?"

Julie stepped into the kitchen and opened the refrigerator door, "Grape jam and blackberry."

Betty answered, "I'll take blackberry."

Annette mentioned, "Hannah I like your top."

She pushed up her glasses and smiled, "I bought it when we went shopping."

Julie noticed Hannah's pants. Julie owned a pair just like this; the only difference it was camouflaged. She outgrew this pair of pants in four months, she could have kept them for the shorts; instead she donated her clothes to the community center.

Hannah mentioned, "I felt it'd be great after swimming."

Annette was trying to show restraint but failing, "Ashleigh was telling us there is a small lagoon on one side of the island."

This even excited Felicia, "We never swam in a lagoon before."

Right away Nicole asked, "Megan isn't taking Y'all to where there are salt water crocodiles?"

Julie rolled her eyes.

Bette's facial expression went with her tone, "Crocodiles?"

Annette and Felicia were wide eyed.

Julie reassured everyone, "Momma she's taking us to the family island."

Nicole answered, "Oh."

Julie tried to reassure everyone, "No one has ever spotted crocodiles there."

Annette asked in a fearful tone, "What about sharks?"

Julie answered, "We ain't swimming on the deep side."

Nicole mentioned, "Would Y'all mind shutting the door?"

Julie finished filling her glass with water and shut the refrigerator door.

Hannah mentioned, "I love your shorts."

Julie was wearing plaid colored trouser shorts in red, white, and blue. She liked how they came down to her knees and the big pockets. The top she was wearing was a dark blue t-shirt with a white number seventy-six printed on it, underneath she was wearing a light blue bra top tank, and underneath this she was wearing a sport bra. She was wearing red white and blue sandals. When she passed the table by the stairs she set her: bag, hat, and white sweatshirt top with pink highlights next to her friends bags.

Nicole served everyone their breakfast.

Annette studied Bette. It was obvious she was done developing and was no longer growing any taller. She recalled what Julie mentioned on how tiny Bette's breasts were. Even though they were tiny, Bette carried herself with a feminine confidence. Annette all at once appreciated the size of her own breasts and recognized the reason people accused her of being a boy was partially in the way she carried herself. Encouraging to Annette was Bette dating Julie's brother.

Nicole asked Annette, "Are Y'all finished?"

"Yes Ma'am."

Felicia mentioned, "I'm done too."

Nicole winked at Felicia and took her plate.

The girls started to engage in a variety of conversations.
Nicole looked up at the clock and wondered where Ashleigh was.

*A*shleigh was moving as swiftly as she could.

She pulled up to the arm of the security shack.

Bubba-Joe, the security guard was both surprised and delighted to see Ashleigh. He believed Ashleigh looked amazing. He loved: her hat, her sunglasses, and the way she braided her hair. With Ashleigh wearing casual wear he was able to see more of her breasts than ever before. He believed they were the perfect size and shape. Because he was a gentleman, and because she was the Vice President, he managed to keep his infatuation of Ms. Ashleigh to himself. She was the only older woman he ever wanted to be with; she was almost five years older than he was.

Bubba-Joe gave Ashleigh a strange look, "Ma'am."

Nikita jumped to the front. She hoped for a treat.

Ashleigh first scolded, "Get back. No treat today."

Nikita whimpered and went to the backseat.

Ashleigh asked, "How's school?"

"Getting good grades."

He became serious, "Ma'am. Ain't Y'all suppose to be on vacation?"

"Yeah. I'm needing to drop off Nikita and I'm switching vehicles with Mr. Bob. But I wanted to check on how you were doing?"

"I have a three point five average."

She winked, "See."

"Your Daddy was a big help."

"He was helpful?"

"Yes Ma'am."

Ashleigh winked, "He's a smart man."

"Did he like the tour?"

Ashleigh smiled, "It's been his favorite part of the vacation."

"He seemed to enjoy it."

She looked at him, "If you don't mind I need to get going. Would you lift the gate?"

"Oh sure."

He quickly hit the button.

"You have a good rest of the day."

"Yes Ma'am."

She was unaware Bubba-Joe quickly sat down, turned to the new monitors in the shack, and watched her step into the building; he felt she looked wonderful in shorts.

Nikita missed her treat. She lost focus on this when she felt the moving territory stop. She quickly went to the back to this moving territory. This is where her leash was. She liked it when Best Friend put on her leash and allowed her to jump out of the back.

Ashleigh shut the back door of the Jeep.

They walked around the Jeep and toward the building. She again admired the: wide blue, white, and green wavy stripe that was painted on the front of the building. She believed this made the building appear much better. She waved to one of the maintenance guys

mowing the grass in front of the building. She acknowledged a crew working on flowers and bushes near the entrance of the door. She was grateful Jimmy suggested this landscaping company; she felt they did a great job. By the time she reached the first sets of glass doors she had her badge out, she swiped the gray box, the door buzzed, then opened, she quickly stepped through both sets of glass doors; as usual there were people in the waiting area. As always there were people filling out applications. She could tell two of the people in this room were salespeople; they were likely from the same company. She noticed a guy wearing: a cowboy hat, jeans, a western style shirt, a western style tie, and leaning up against the chair was his portfolio. One of their new artists was painting a pod of whales on the wall with the island.

By the time Ashleigh reached the door; Andrea buzzed her in.

Nikita always liked Woman with the Loud Noise.

Andrea said with a smile, "Y'all look wonderful."

Ashleigh took off her sunglasses and slipped them into her purse, "I do?"

Andrea winked, "It looks like Y'all are having a wonderful vacation."

"It's been good."

"Your Daddy was so excited taking the tour."

Ashleigh repeated herself, "It's been his favorite part of the vacation."

Nikita was delighted she was being pet by this woman.

Andrea gave Ashleigh a look; Ashleigh shook her head. Ashleigh was trying to stop her employees from giving Nikita so many treats.

Andrea became serious, "He seems like a good Daddy."

Ashleigh smiled, "He was and is."

Ashleigh was checking out Andrea's desk; Ashleigh noticed all of the things her boyfriend had given her were gone. She hoped this meant she was no longer seeing him.

Someone buzzed the front.

Ashleigh stated, "I'll talk later."

"Okay."

Ashleigh headed down the hallway toward the office. She greeted more than one employee. All took notice of how casual she was dressed. She made a point on letting everyone know she was on vacation and making a quick stop.

Haley spotted Ashleigh talking to employees. Haley shook her head in disapproval.

Ashleigh tried to make it passed Haley's desk.

Haley snipped, "Aren't you supposed to be on vacation?"

Ashleigh stopped, "I'm making a quick stop."

"Really?"

Ashleigh gave one of her best friends a look, "We're switching vehicles and I'm leaving Nikita here. I'm actually in a hurry."

"Wait there."

"I was going..."

With a very stern voice Haley interrupted her, "You are waiting right here."

Ashleigh watched Haley hit a button.

With Ashleigh standing at the side of Haley's desk she watched her hit Bob's extension. The one person who could talk to Ashleigh this way was Haley.

Nikita's tail was a weapon.

Ashleigh looked through the glass wall. She was about to rush herself into her office and see why she had so many posted notes hanging off her computer. What stopped her was her brother stepping out of his office. She immediately could tell he was upset she found a way into the building. She was shocked her brother was in a suite. She somehow concealed the panic she felt. She believed the only reason he would be in suite was if something horrible happened or he was announcing he purchased another company.

Ashleigh noticed, to the left of her desk, was an exact replica of her desk. This was a surprise. She believed she picked out a one of a kind desk. She reasoned another batch of furniture came in and in this batch was a desk like hers. The plan was, at the end of the month, whatever office furniture and extra office supplies were left would be donated to charities and the school system. Ashleigh surmised this desk was for Brittany.

Haley set her headset on the counter and hit a button; this button allowed her to hear the phone ring without the headset. She opened one of her drawers, talked to Nikita, and grabbed a treat.

Nikita knew what was in this drawer.

Ashleigh knew it was useless to tell Bob's executive secretary to stop giving Nikita treats.

Bob opened the glass doors.

Ashleigh immediately asked, somewhat in a panic, "Something terrible happen?"

Haley stood up and stated, "He looks nice doesn't he?"

Bob pushed up his glasses and stated, "Nothing horrible has happened. Susan suggested I should wear a suite for important meetings."

Ashleigh quickly reviewed who this would be and believed this was one of three organizations.

Ashleigh commented, "Haven't I been telling you for years you should do so?"

Haley interjected, "So have I."

They stared at him.

In a matter of fact tone he answered, "I just needed confirmation."

If they were in the office he would have received some push back; because they were in the open he received piercing glares.

Bob stated, "Why are you wanting to switch vehicles?"

Ashleigh answered, "Julie invited a couple of her friends. Not everyone would fit in the Jeep. Plus I decided it would be better for Nikita to be here."

"You could have decided that this morning."

Ashleigh somewhat lied, "I didn't believe I'd need to switch vehicles this morning."

Both Bob and Haley knew this was a half truth.

Bob stopped Ashleigh from proceeding into her area by handing her the keys, "Here."

He commanded, "Nikita come."

Without letting Ashleigh say a word he opened the glass door and led Nikita into Ashleigh's area.

He stopped with the door open.

He demanded, "Ms. Ashleigh it's time for you to leave."

She wanted to argue, but Haley mentioned, "Andrea dumped her boyfriend."

Ashleigh turned to her, "Let's hope it lasts this time."

"I agree."

Haley reassured Ashleigh, “Nothing major is happening.”

“Promise me you’ll tell me if something does?”

“Yes.”

Ashleigh mentioned, “Brittany starts on Monday.”

“I know.”

Ashleigh then spent the next ten minutes asking her work questions; what stopped it was a phone call and Haley insisting she leave.

This is when Ashleigh glanced at her watch.

Haley recognized the face she made. She shook her head when Ashleigh rushed down the hallway toward the entrance of the building.

April 12th, Being Left on an Island

Part Two of Six

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Ashleigh & Megan *Book I: Friendship*

Thursday, April 12
Being Left on
an Island

Day 14 of Book I
(Six Days since Ashleigh's Family Arrived in Florida)

Part Three of Six



Authored By: R. P. Voght

Posted on ashleighandmegan.com on:
June 29, 2025

I hope you enjoy this pioneering format I call, "A Story Cast."

What the term "Story Cast" means; is this story is designed to be read in small to medium intervals. This particular story is broken up into "days." These portions are broken up into part or all of a particular fictitious "day" of the story. Each day surrounds the characters lives, relationships, adventures, struggles, mishaps and triumphs. This story is very different from a Novel or conventional story in many ways. Again, THIS IS NOT A NOVEL AND IS NOT WRITTEN IN A CONVENTIONAL NOVEL FORMAT. Instead; as the reader you are following the characters thoughts and actions during the course of this "day." This fiction story is set up like a TV series and or a third person journal. It always starts with one or more character getting up and ends with one or more characters going to bed; while during the day you experience the Characters actions, feelings, and their thoughts. On a large overview; there is a beginning, a middle, and an end to this "Story Cast"

R. P. Voght

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April 12 Being Left on an Island Day 14 of Book I

(Six Days since Ashleigh's Family Arrived in Florida)

Ashleigh felt the island was beautiful.

Everyone except Jake was standing on the starboard side of the charter.

Megan temporarily anchored the charter on the east side of the island. The charters starboard side was parallel of the island. On this side of the charter it was at most four feet deep but on the port side there was a drop off. It was possible to see the bottom but to reach the bottom a person would have to be a practiced diver; most would have needed scuba gear. After some distance it was no longer possible to see the bottom. Looking in a south east direction on the edge of the horizon a light house was visible. Before arriving at what Ashleigh called Megan's Island, Megan took them passed this light house. Megan explained this marked the edge of the gulf stream. West of the lighthouse and southeast of Megan's Island was a popular island. Megan explained this was the northern most island, of a chain of islands, connected to the Florida State Park system. Looking west the tallest buildings of Miami were barely visible. Looking North West the Florida coast line seemed to go on forever. North and South the vast ocean dominated the horizon. Directly East was the island.

Ashleigh felt the Atlantic Ocean was less intimidating when a vessel or an animal crossed the horizon.

Megan was explaining. Because of the islands location it avoided being swallowed up by the ocean, but because of where the island was situated, it would likely never increase in size. This was possible because of the ocean bottom and the reef surrounding the island. She proceeded to name the birds that made the island their home, she mentioned the sea and land animals that sometimes visited the island, and all of the plant life on the island.

This is when Felicia asked about salt water crocodiles.

Megan explained the family never witnessed any on the island, but it was possible this species made its way onto the island.

Megan informed everyone with the island being small and because of its location it was never a popular island to visit. Megan was delighted to tell everyone this was one of the reasons the pirate ship eluded discovery. It was her Daddy's persistent searching and a Spanish captain's insistence on mapping which led her Daddy believing the pirate ship was lost near this island. The belief was the pirate ship went down in the Keys or in the Bahamas but Captain insisted the ship came further north. By finding the wreck on the northern edge of the island he was proven correct. When archaeologists inspected the wreck they agreed with Captain, a storm and the jet stream moved the ship north, the ship tried to anchor on the island. Megan proudly announced with the money the family made from this find they were able to purchase the island.

Bette asked if the family was planning on making this island a tourist stop. Megan wondered who she heard this from. Megan avoided asking. She went on to explain, from time to time there was talk about placing a series of small huts on the island and opening it up for tourists. Megan announced her displeasure at this idea and went on to say the person pushing this idea was her brother Timmy; a day like today was the reason the family was reluctant to follow through on these plans.

Ashleigh was delighted Megan's family left the island the way it was. She was amazed at: the small tree like shrubs, the grasses, insects, spiders, and birds that made this island their home. She wondered how this life ended up on the island. She felt this about all the islands they passed today.

The only man made structure on the island was a concrete pier on the southwest corner of the island; it was currently out of their view. The family removed the pier and dock on the northern end of the island. On the pier still being used was a sign announcing the island was private property; it warned against trespassing and littering. It was impossible to stop someone from visiting the island, but it gave the family the legal right to chase someone off of the island or to take action against someone if they were destructive. Even with the warnings, as long as visitors were respectful, the family left visitors to enjoy it. What angered the family was when people left garbage on the island. Ashleigh was just as upset as Megan when they would find evidence of party and no one cleaned it.

She enjoyed visiting this island. Any time they visited the island Ashleigh always helped Megan inspect it. After inspecting the island, Megan took her swimming, sometimes fishing, and often times they sat on the lagoon talking. Ashleigh especially enjoyed visiting the island at dusk. She felt the island and the horizon were awe inspiring. At night Ashleigh felt the island was creepy; especially if there was a full moon. Even still; Ashleigh felt the light on the ocean water was pretty.

Neither Ashleigh nor Megan told anyone they went here alone. They felt if anyone knew Megan brought her here, especially during sunset or at night, this would increase the rumors they were lovers. Ashleigh recognized this rumor was rampant when Bob asked Ashleigh if she was bisexual. Ashleigh reassured her brother this was just a rumor and she was indeed straight; Bob quickly believed her.

The reason sex with a woman was so unappealing to Ashleigh was the lack of penetration. Ashleigh clearly enjoyed foreplay. She would never again put up with a guy trying to drive it in without her being ready, but to have sex without penetration would have been

disappointing. She felt closest to her partner during penetration. Besides the sex, the idea of having a romantic relationship with a woman seemed; awkward. So this persistent rumor of the two of them being together was getting tiresome for Ashleigh.

Even if Ashleigh was bisexual or a lesbian it would have felt strange to have sex with Megan; Megan was her best friend not a lover. They both wondered and laughed at their height difference. Ashleigh believed if she was bisexual the type of women she would have wanted a relationship with was someone much older, glamorous, and sophisticated. The type of woman Ashleigh believed she would have liked was Valerie; the woman who owned *Pirate Books*. Even if this woman would have shown interest in Ashleigh there was zero chance Ashleigh would have acted on it.

Megan pointed to a barracuda and a sea turtle. The variety of fish always amazed Ashleigh.

Annette being her excited self stated, "Let's swim in the lagoon."

This was agreed upon by the rest of the girls.

Megan smiled and called to Jake who was on the bridge. He brought up the anchor and navigated the boat to the pier.

Megan jumped off the charter onto the pier.

Ashleigh threw her the rope.

Jake navigated the boat.

Megan tied the bow of the boat to the pier. Megan and Ashleigh then tied the charter's stern to the pier.

While they were doing this the young ladies were in different areas of the vessel changing into their swimsuits. After they tied the boat Megan and Ashleigh waited on the stern of the boat discussing their plans for the day. Their plan was to change into their swimsuits once the young ladies were done. Their conversation ended when Julie hurriedly stepped out of the living quarters and rushed over to Ashleigh and Megan.

The two friends did a double take.

Julie was wearing a red cutout one piece and green athletic shorts. This one piece was split in two with a very long plunge keyhole neckline; what held the fabric together was a string with gold detailing at the end. Ashleigh assumed correctly the bottom of this suit was designed similar to a teddy with rings holding the sides together. What concerned both Megan and Ashleigh, if she claimed to be over eighteen not a single person would have questioned it. Ashleigh surmised with a good ID she would have been admitted into any bar or club.

Megan asked immediately, "Has your Momma approved the suite Y'all are wearing?"

She rolled her eyes, "It's a one piece."

Ashleigh mentioned, "A bikini would be less seductive."

Julie tried, "This suit supports my breasts."

"Maybe it should conceal the sides a little more."

Julie answered both, "I could be wearing a far more revealing suit."

Ashleigh pointed out, "I never said revealing. I said seductive. Sometimes wearing more is more provocative than wearing less."

This statement hit Megan. She never considered this before.

Julie was learning the depth of this truth.

Ashleigh reassured her, "We're saying this because we care."

Julie answered with a sigh, "I know."

Megan added, "Y'all are looking good. But maybe Y'all should wait until your married to wear such a suit."

Julie understood where Megan was coming from.

Ashleigh noticed Julie's concern look, "What's the matter?"

Julie stood there for a second with her tongue locked. Felicia's troubles caused her to consider the rumors about her.

Megan jarred her out of her own thoughts, "Unlock the tongue Tell us what is happening?"

Julie stated with concern, "Felicia is having a meltdown."

Ashleigh rolled her eyes and said with a tone, "Where is she?"

"The head of the Master Suite."

Ashleigh again sighed and rolled her eyes. With intensity she headed into the living quarters. They heard shouting when Ashleigh opened port side door to the living quarters (there were two doors to the living quarters).

Ashleigh was tired of Felicia's behavior.

She was just as tired of Annette's as well.

She understood both girls were filled with raging hormones. The difference to Ashleigh was Felicia was using her condition to play the victim. In comparison, Ashleigh felt Felicia was trying to get a handle on her erratic emotions. Every woman and girl who knew what Annette went through was delighted she was finally developing; even if this was causing her to act erratically. Just about every person who knew Felicia was disappointed in her. At the same time, the people who loved her were supporting her. Ashleigh believed Felicia was missing out on the fact they were there for her; instead she was focused on the father of her child. Ashleigh understood why Felicia was feeling this way, this understanding in no way hindered Ashleigh's frustration.

Felicia looked down at her brown colored one piece.

When she envisioned visiting Florida she imagined the trip to be completely different. She pictured herself in a colorful bikini, enjoying the weather, enjoying the very charter she was on now, enjoying the company of her best friends, and even imagined her boyfriend being with her. Instead the father of her baby was telling everyone he was not the father. This hurt a great deal because he was the only person she ever slept with, a person she loved at the time; now she was unsure of why she loved him in the first place. What irritated her was the fact the condom fell off inside of her twice and she felt cursed to be one of the two percent who ended up pregnant while on the pill. She allowed herself to question the possibility he was never faithful to her. It was painful to admit to herself everyone she knew was correct about the father of her child. Because of her behavior while dating the father of her baby; only one of her two best friends came down for the trip.

She never imagined how humid Florida would be. Even with the motion sickness pills she threw up three times; the last time was after removing all of her clothes.

She gazed at her reflection in the large mirror above the vanity.

She rushed in front of the toilet and threw up. She unfortunately threw up again.

She teared.

Through the door she heard Hanna and Annette talking. It was annoying to hear their joyful voices.

She stood up. She moved slowly in front of the mirror. She washed her face and hands. She looked at herself.

She mumbled, "You look like shit."

She pushed her long black hair out of her face.

She stood up turned to her side and studied the bulge. It was far from large but it was there. She turned toward the mirror and cringed at how awful her boobs looked. Her nipples were sore, her areolas were turning color, they were getting puffy, and her boobs were changing shape.

She again rushed in front of the toilet and heaved.

She believed it was over; at least she hoped so.

She: stood up, she again washed her face, her hands, and again stared at her reflection.

She mumbled again, "You still look like shit."

She stared at the one piece swimsuit sitting on the counter. She purchased this suit while shopping in Florida. The bright blue and red tankini swimsuit she brought down with her was in her suitcase back at the resort. The reason. When she wore the tankini on the yacht she could clearly see the small bulge. So when they went to the mall a few days later she was determined to find a different suit. Most people never noticed this bump; unless of course you were once a mother or new Felicia was pregnant.

The brown one piece was neatly laying on the counter. She suddenly resented it. Her impulse was: to put on her regular clothes, tell everyone she was sick, lay down on the queen sized bed of the suite, sulk, and feel sorry for herself.

Annette knocked on the door.

Felicia answered, "What?"

Felicia cringed at her own tone.

Hannah and Annette looked at one another.

Annette asked, "Are you okay?"

"I'm doing great. I'm an unwed mother who looks like shit. I just threw up again. The father of my baby says he's not the father and I'm a fat slut."

Hannah and Annette cringed. Then they stared one another looks.

Annette answered with a pitiful, "Okay."

Hannah pushed up her glasses and whispered into Annette's ear.

Felicia became enraged at the whispering.

Annette mentioned, "We'd understand if you decided to stay on the..."

Felicia quickly rushed to the door and flung it open.

They were surprised to see Felicia standing there naked.

"Do you see me?"

Annette with a what the hell are you doing face said, "Yeah."

Hannah pushed up her glasses.

"Look at how awful my boobs are. You see them?"

Felicia cringed but managed to answer, "Yeah."

"They hurt and my nipples are changing colors? You know what that's like?"

Both stood there in silence.

Yelling she grabbed her small bulge and said, "You see this?!"

Hannah managed to say, "See what?"

"My baby bulge. I'm showing early. You know what this means?"

They looked at her belly.

Felicia answered their odd stares, "Every woman I meet can tell I'm pregnant. But my friends can't tell?"

She made a big circle with her arms, "I'm going to be as big as a house. I'm already a beached whale."

Annette answered, "You don't look that pregnant."

Hannah pushed up her glasses and gazed at Annette. Annette looked at Hannah and shrugged her shoulders.

Felicia yelled, "Stop being nice! I'm a fat slut. My babies Dad is saying he isn't the father."

A slight pause, she glared at Hannah for a second, "As you say around here. He's a snake in the grass."

She turned toward Annette, "I'm sure your happy I'm admitting he's an asshole. Right?"

Bette quickly finished by slipping into her cover up and rushing into the suite. She was surprised to see a naked Felicia. It was obvious she was all out of sorts.

Hannah tried, "You ain't ugly."

Felicia burst into tears, "I'm fat. And I'm a slut!!"

She turned, stepped into the head, and slammed the door.

Hannah, Annette, and Bette were at the door hearing Felicia throwing up again.

This is when Julie arrived.

The four girls gave one another looks.

They all heard Felicia sobbing.

Julie looked at them, "I'll get Ashleigh."

The three other girls nodded their heads.

Bette said through the door, "You aren't a slut."

Hannah nodded her head and gently touched Bette trying to encourage Bette.

Felicia sobbed, "You don't understand."

The three girls looked at one another.

Felicia was tired of: feeling nauseated, was tired of throwing up, was tired of feeling hungry but being careful on what she ate, she hated the fact every food she used to like tasted different, she hated how she was craving every green vegetable, and most of all she hated what was happening to her boobs. She used to love her breasts. She believed they would never be the same. The worst feeling in the world was how alone she felt. She knew this was foolish because she was surrounded by both new and old friends; the truth of this felt miles away. The one thing she was happy about was visiting her older sister.

She suddenly became angry at this.

With an angry voice in her head, if it was verbal it would have sounded demonic, *How dare she move?*

Julie made sure to get ahead of Ashleigh, she rushed into the suite, and pulled the girls from the door.

Ashleigh tired of her sisters behavior pounded on the door and yelled, "What the Fuck is the matter with you?"

The girls huddled near one another. This was the first time Hannah ever heard a woman use the F-word.

Annette heard this tone before, not from Ashleigh, but from Victoria. The only difference was Victoria would never swear; much less use the F-word.

Julie knew this was in Ashleigh but it was surprising just the same.

Bette pulled her round glasses down to the edge of her nose. Ashleigh's actions added to the admiration she felt toward Ashleigh.

Megan crossed her arms and produced her big dimple smile. When she noticed she was smiling she put her hand over her face. Ashleigh's actions interested her a great deal.

Felicia snipped, "What do you care?"

Ashleigh opened the door stepped into the head and slammed the door shut.

Felicia was standing to her side looking at her reflection in the mirror.

Ashleigh in an angry tone asked, "Why aren't you dressed?"

Felicia picked up her one piece bathing suit, she held the suit in front of her, and stated very factually; "I look like a beached whale in this."

"You liked it at the store. And you looked good in it at the yacht."

With a tone she said, "I don't like it now."

"Well deal with it."

Felicia with a loud tone answered, "You aren't pregnant!"

Ashleigh with a tone answered, and tapped her finger on the vanity, "NO I'm not."

"What's that's suppose to me? I suppose you believe I'm a slut."

"We've talked about this before. No I don't."

"Then why the tone?"

"I'm angry you didn't listen to anyone of us."

"If it makes you feel better. You were right. He's an asshole and was only after sex. And I gave it to him."

Ashleigh tried to calm herself.

"Look."

With a tone Felicia answered, "What?"

With a tone no one at the door ever heard Ashleigh use, nor did Felicia ever hear before, "Young Lady. I don't give a rats ass if the condom fell off or if the pill didn't work. As you admit you gave it to that asshole."

Slight pause.

"It's about time you admit he's an asshole. But that asshole is the father of your baby. My niece or nephew is in there."

The women outside of the door looked at one another.

She continued by repeating herself in more detail, "We all told you he was an asshole. Mom warned you. I warned you. Dad warned you. Annette warned you. Iris warned you..."

Felicia interrupted, "So what?"

Repeating herself, "Now you are carrying that assholes baby. But I'll love that baby because it's my sister's baby. I'm it's Auntie. You understand that?"

Felicia through angry tears shouted at Ashleigh, "It's my baby."

"That's right. So start taking responsibility for being a mother and start acting like the good mother I know you can be. Deal with everything and get that suit on."

"What happens if I don't want to?"

Felicia felt Ashleigh's glare was scary, "I don't care if you want to or not. And I don't give a rats fuck if you have to pretend to enjoy yourself. Or if you believe you look like a whale. You are pregnant. You are going to put on that suit and go onto that island."

The girls looked at one another.

Annette whispered, "Rats fuck?"

Julie whispered, "I believe we just heard ourselves a new phrase."

Megan put a hand over her mouth and held in her laughter.

The four girls shrug their shoulders.

Ashleigh continued, "At least try and enjoy this fucking vacation. Even if you have to fake it."

"Why should I?"

Still intense, "Because you are my sister and you need to grow up. That's why."

Ashleigh turned, opened the door, and managed to shut the door without slamming it.

Ashleigh stated loud enough for Felicia to hear, "This is why you should wait until your married to have sex. Obviously the pill and a condoms don't always work."

She paused took a deep calming breath. It was so loud Felicia heard it through the door.

"Never date assholes. I'm lucky I wasn't like my sister."

Ashleigh turned toward the door and yelled, "You hear that?"

Very meekly Felicia answered, "Yes."

Ashleigh in a very stern tone pointed at the door, "I never want to hear you call yourself a slut again. You hear me?"

"Alright."

"You made a mistake. Billions of us women have made. Like Bob says. I hate quoting anything Bob says. But. He says you can't change yesterday..."

With tears Felicia interrupted her, "He told me that this morning."

"It's good advice. Don't forget the second part. Do better today so tomorrow is better."

Sheepishly, "Okay."

In a demanding tone Ashleigh only begun to use when she became the vice president of her brother's company, "Megan and I are going to change into ours suits. You will be done before us. We'll wait for you up on deck. Be out in ten minutes."

Felicia answered in a pathetic voice, "Okay."

Ashleigh with a different tone, it was less intense but still a tone, "You are going to look fat from now on until you have your baby. It's because you are pregnant. You understand?"

"Yes."

"We all love you."

Annette answered, "We do."

Julie added, "Y'all were talking about this trip on Facebook for months. I'd like for Y'all to swim with us. The lagoon is amazing."

Annette agreed, "It's all you talked about."

Hannah said, "I'd like for Y'all to see the island with us. I don't care if your pregnant or not."

Bette jumped on this, "Me too. Everything happens for a reason."

Annette said, "You my best friend in all the world. Don't forget I'm going to be in the delivery room with you."

Sighs from the teenagers.

Ashleigh and Megan were touched but held in their emotions.

"I feel like I'm on a deserted island."

Ashleigh yelled, "If you'd like we could leave you on this one? Would you like that?"

The ladies looked at her.

Felicia looked at the door and answered, "No."

"Be on top in ten minutes."

Ashleigh pointed and led the way.

Megan smiled her big dimple smile and pushed the girls out of the suite. Megan chose a cabin near by to change into her two piece.

Felicia believed her sister would never leave her on this island; but the point was made. She picked up her very conservative looking brown colored one piece. Besides the bulge, the other reason she purchased this one piece, was the two piece felt wrong to her. She was indeed a mother. No longer having the desire to be admired for her looks she picked this suit. If she was ever to be with a guy again, he would have to like her for who she was; more than this he would have to like her baby too. She believed, she needed to put her baby before anything else; this included many of the things she wanted to do.

Any mother she ever respected, this included her own mother, wore a one piece. She slipped it on. It had: a flattering wide neckline, pleated front detail over the breasts, and a line along both sides of her body; this was attached to the inch wide straps over her shoulders. She felt she could have picked a different color but the suit felt right. She admitted to herself she looked alright in the swimsuit. She added the cover up skirt; something she almost left back at the yacht. She felt this was fitting of a mother but was cute at the same time.

She again washed her face, she grabbed a mint from her bag, she put her dark hair into a pony tail, slipped on the Florida print cover up she bought the same day as the bathing suit, she slipped on a matching Florida print baseball cap, she buckled up her brown sandals, grabbed the beach bag with the Florida print on the side, she put on her sunglasses, and stepped out of the head.

She glanced at the queen sized bed. What came into her mind was the voice of her mother, something she heard thousands of times growing up; "*As a mother I have to do many things I don't want to. One day you'll have to do those things you don't want to do because you love your children.*"

If she kept the baby or not, she decided at this moment she would be a good mother. By stepping out of the suite she acknowledged her inner pledge.

This changed her forever.

Annette felt the ocean and the lagoon were beautiful: the water was clear, the ocean floor where she stood was soft, the trees on the edge of the beach were amazing to her, she felt the flowers on the right edge of the beach were beautiful, she liked the fish, she could see where the drop off was, she was ignoring how frightening this could be, but the best were the friends around her. Annette felt Bette, Hannah, and Julie were true friends of hers. This was

important to her because she only had two in Wisconsin. She hoped after the vacation they would keep in contact with one another.

With everything she went through it was impossible for her to avoid comparing her body to the women around her.

It was obvious Megan and Ashleigh were watching over them while they stood on the edge of the beach.

She admired Megan's confidence. Megan's breasts were far from large, they had a rounder shape, and her nipples were pointier. Her confidence encouraged Annette. If a woman with breasts like Megan would wear a bikini top, even if it was a push up, she should feel confident in the one piece she was wearing. She liked Megan's white and brown flower patterned top. What made Megan's two piece conservative was the plain brown boyshorts; Annette felt the white belt was a good touch. Before Megan entered the water she was wearing a Cabana print pant. Something Annette wished she thought off. Megan was the first woman Annette ever met who openly carried a gun with her, it was currently strapped around her waist. Annette felt Megan was intimidating even without the gun. She felt this way because of her powerful legs and her toned body.

Annette believed Bob liked Megan. She wondered if Bob liked Shelly or Megan more. With Shelly being the mother of her son, Annette believed Bob would choose Shelly. She wanted Bob to pick Megan. Annette admired how Megan made sure everyone wore sunblock. Annette believed Megan would be strong enough to get Bob to listen.

This was the first time she ever witnessed Ashleigh wear a two piece. She liked the island sunset print. This colorful scene appeared painted on. The scene included: palm trees, green trees, light blue water, and the outline of a shifting beach. Annette was surprised she was wearing a low rise bottom, with a moderate back, and a minimal front. She acknowledged within herself, when Ashleigh left the boat she was wearing a wrap. She could clearly see the size and shape of her breasts. They were far from large but with her being petite they looked larger than they were. Annette liked their rounded shape. Annette correctly surmised it would be easy for Ashleigh to highlight them or conceal them.

She turned toward Julie teaching Hannah a take down move. Annette was grateful Hannah's one piece was as conservative as hers was.

Annette picked out her suit while shopping a couple days earlier. The suit was a blue and white striped nautical one piece with red trim. Embroidered on the front of the suit was a small white life preserver around a red anchor. It was cut out on the side and the U-shape neckline showed a small amount of cleavage. Annette wanted to show the world she was indeed a lady. The bottoms were held together by rings on either side. She was grateful Victoria allowed her to purchase this suite. Annette suspected her mother would have disapproved because of the cut out sides and the small amount of cleavage she was showing. Even though this was true, she wanted to honor both Victoria and her mother by picking out a one piece.

Her mother would have approved of Hannah's suit. It was a cross-back tank with what Annette felt were cute V-shaped stripes down the center of the suit. These stripes were a combination of thick and thin. They were colored: pink, yellow, brown, white, and black. Even though the suit was very conservative Annette felt Hannah was attractive. Annette would have given anything to have her medium sized breasts and her very girly hips. The suits full coverage bottom helped her flat backside.

Bette inspired Annette. Annette, until she wore the suit she was wearing today, only wore padded suits. Bette's way of dealing with having such tiny breasts was a take it or leave it mentality. Annette felt a great admiration for this. Annette admired the fact Bette picked a bikini set without any padding. This red and black embellished bikini fit her artistic personality. Annette liked the shells, the velvet, and thread detailing on the straps of the halter top; the cups were connected by a string at the bottom. On the sides of her dark red micro scoop bottoms was the same detailing as the top. She added a hand made small shell necklace and beaded bracelets. This added to her feeling Bette was feminine, wise, artistic, and confident.

Annette felt the person with the best shape was Julie. Because Annette admired the actresses of the forties and fifties she would have given anything to have the torpedo shaped breasts Julie had. Annette felt Julie was a very beautiful. The reason for Annette's girl crush was because Julie was friends with: Hannah, Bette, Felicia, and herself. Annette felt it would have been easy for Julie to be a snob. It was obvious Julie was: athletic, smart, pretty, and had sex appeal. She could see why girls would be jealous of her; but it was difficult for girls like Hannah and herself to be jealous because of how she treated them.

Annette admired her friend Felicia for choosing a conservative one piece and for allowing herself to have fun. Julie was now showing Felicia a self defense move. Bette was observing closely.

Earlier all of them enjoyed snorkeling.

Annette concerned on what she was seeing leaned over to Hannah, "You think she'll hurt Felicia?"

Hannah mentioned seriously, "She helped Ms. Megan teach self defense classes."

They both glanced over at Megan and Ashleigh.

Hannah added, "Ms. Megan will stop Julie if she goes to far."

Annette asked, "Can anyone stop Julie?"

"You ain't whistling Dixie. It ain't easy stopping Julie."

Slight pause.

Annette commented, "I'm believing it's difficult for Julie to stop Julie."

They gave one another concerned looks.

Annette broke the silence, "She says she doesn't drink or take drugs."

Hannah answered, "This is true."

Annette gave her a look.

Hannah leaned over, "I'm afraid she's addicted to sex."

Annette in a panicked look said, "I never heard of that."

Hannah because of this look wanted to make sure Annette understood the situation, "I don't believe she's gone all the way. But she's playing around and she's a chronic masturbator."

This caught Annette off guard. About a week after her first period she discovered masturbation. She felt an overall anxiety over this activity. She was concerned she was doing it to much. Her other worry was being caught in the act. The impulse to engage in this activity was caused by her super charged hormones. The need to masturbate was sometimes so strong she was avoiding laying on her stomach; especially a couch.

She felt terribly guilty about the previous day. Twice she locked herself in the head of the yacht and laid down on the deck. If someone would have walked in on her it would have

been obvious she was humping her hands. During this vacation it was difficult keeping this activity a purely physical one without any fantasies. She felt the guys in Florida were so much hotter than the guys in Wisconsin; especially the ones at the YMCA Ashleigh took them too. Overall she was feeling guilty for wondering what a real penis looked like. She appreciated the drawings she viewed in health class and the ones in the human sexuality book her mom gave her. These drawings never cured her curiosity on what a real one looked like. Her mother gave her permission to ask her any question related to sex. Annette asked a few questions about sex and relationships; but it was way too awkward for Felicia to ask her mother about her own masturbation concerns.

Hannah added, "I ain't criticizing her for doing it. It's just she shouldn't be doing it in public places or in front of people."

For the first time in her life Annette stated, "Mostly everyone does."

Hannah and Annette looked at one another and blushed.

Hannah mentioned, "It's better than ended up pregnant."

Annette became serious, "That's the truth."

Hannah asked, "Is it true?"

Annette looked at Hannah, "What?"

"She was on the pill?"

Annette's eyes went big, "I went with her to the doctor. I warned her. Our friend Iris warned her. He's such an asshole."

Hannah rolled her eyes.

An excited Annette managed to whisper, "She called me right after he left. She told me how he was digging for it."

Hannah said, "Oh my. How awful."

"You should have heard her on the phone."

Hannah answered with a face, "Eww."

Annette added, "He told her he loved her."

Hannah shook her head.

Annette's silence was an agreement.

Then they were splashed.

Annette heard Julie's voice, "Take a breath."

She was forced too.

They spent the next fifteen minutes swimming and having fun.

It ended when Ashleigh yelled, "We need to get back!"

Julie turned to her northern friends, "I can't wait to show Y'all the cool shops downtown."

Bette agreed, "There are some good ones."

Hannah mentioned, "I want to take Y'all to *Pirate Books*."

Hannah added with some excitement, "I've heard Robert Heart knows the owner of the bookstore."

Both Felicia and Ashleigh were surprised Annette was able to keep her mouth shut.

Ashleigh asked, "Who did you hear that from?"

Hannah answered, "It's all on the internet."

Ashleigh would check into this.

They headed toward the beach.

Julie and Bette raced one another; Julie won but was shocked at how fast Bette could swim. Julie suggested she try out for the swim team.

Ashleigh went up to her sister and put her arm around her.

Annette smiled when she heard Ashleigh whisper, "I love you."

Felicia wrapped her arms around Ashleigh and said, "You remember?"

Everyone watched the two take the same steps up onto the beach. This was a lot more difficult with Annette being so much taller than Ashleigh. They made sure their inner feet hit the ground at the same time and then their outer feet hit the ground at the same time. They were laughing even before they reached the beach.

When they reached the beach they hugged one another.

While this happened there was a brief silence.

Then chatter erupted as they all slipped on their cover ups, brushed their hair, and headed back to the charter. Bette put on her glasses and clipped on her sunglasses. This caused the rest of them to put on their sunglasses.

Annette was the first to say, "Ms. Megan."

"Yes."

"I had fun."

Megan said with a smile, "Ms. Ashleigh paid for it."

In a combination of serious and excited Annette answered, "I don't feel it'd have been as much fun with anyone else."

Ashleigh winked at Megan.

Felicia said, "I agree."

Megan answered, "Wait until my Daddy and I take Y'all to key west on the yacht."

Bette would have loved to go but knew it was a family thing.

Julie said, "The keys are cool."

Hannah sighed, "It's very touristy."

Annette said, "It's probably like Wisconsin Dells."

Ashleigh mentioned, "Except Devils Lake."

Felicia said, "It's still popular though."

Julie mentioned, "I'd love to see it."

Ashleigh mentioned, "Some day I'll take all of you on a camping trip to Wisconsin."

Annette and Felicia gave one another looks.

Based upon their looks Julie suspected they felt the same about Wisconsin Dells as she felt about the keys. She enjoyed it when she went but could have cared less if she ever went again.

Hannah was unsure about camping in general.

Hannah mentioned, "Our friend Zoe loves camping."

Ashleigh said, "If she's a good girl I'm game to bringing her along."

Hannah and Julie gave one another looks.

Annette clarified, "She's cool."

This is when they reached the vessel.

Jake helped the ladies on board.

Jake reminded Annette of her favorite Uncle.

Soon they were headed back to the marina.

Nicole set an iced tea in front of Victoria.

“Thank-you.”

“Y’all are welcome.”

Nicole very lady like sat next to Victoria.

The two of them were sitting at an outdoor table near Ma and Captain’s pool. Inside Ma was preparing what Ma called, “*Fixings*” for the VFW. Ma refused any help.

Victoria asked, “Are you sure she doesn’t need any help?”

Nicole answered, “The way she’s acting she ain’t wanting anyone messing with her kitchen.”

Victoria picked up the glass, “Here’s to having your own kitchen.”

Nicole picked up her glass and they clinked it together and took sips of their drinks.

They suddenly heard power tools in the train room.

Victoria mentioned, “If we let them theyll never come out.”

Nicole said, “Jimmy and Ashleigh are the ones who help him the most.”

Victoria gave Nicole a look, “Ashleigh mentioned it. I spotted Blake send a locomotive to her.”

Nicole mentioned, “Captain was thrilled.”

Victoria mentioned, “Ashleigh and Blake would spend hours in the train room.”

“Ashleigh mentioned this.”

“With us never having boys he was delighted one of the girls liked his train.”

“Jeff and Jimmy are always working on projects.”

Victoria stated matter of fact, “I’ve banned my husband from working on projects.”

Nicole said with a smile, “Don’t Y’all go telling on me. There’s times I’d wish I’d stop him too. But I hate to stop them from being together. Except when they’re working on my kitchen.”

Victoria gave her a look, “The worst was our dishwasher.”

Nicole gave one back, “The sink.”

Nicole lifted up her glass, “To husbands not working in our kitchens.”

They giggled.

They clicked their glasses together and took sips.

Victoria stated, “I hate asking.”

“Ask away.”

“I feel guilty for asking. Are my girls going to be okay?”

With confidence Nicole answered, “Most certainly. She’s the second best Captain in these parts.”

Victoria gave her a look.

Nicole answered the look, “The only one better is Captain. She was his best pupil. Megan takes the dangers of the ocean seriously.”

Victoria mentioned, “It’s both intimidating and beautiful.”

“I haven’t known a life without living near it”

“You think you could live away from it?”

“I could. I just wouldn’t want too.”

“As odd as it sounds I’d miss the changes of seasons.”

“Are Y’all thinking about moving down here?”

“Blake and I have talked about it.”

“I’m sure Ashleigh would appreciate Y’all moving here.”

Victoria and Nicole gazed upon one another.

Victoria said, “I hope you don’t take offense because you’ve been great to us. But this doesn’t feel like home. I’m sure if anything happens to me Blake and Felicia would move down here.”

“I’m sure Ashleigh would insist on it.”

They smiled at one another.

From the heart Victoria mentioned, “I appreciate you looking after Ashleigh.”

“She’s a friend. But it’s Ma and Captain who look after her.”

Nicole took a sip of her drink, “Of course Megan is watching out for her.”

Victoria became really serious, “She talks highly of you.”

This shocked Nicole, she honestly put her hand on her chest, “Do tell?”

“She’s told me you’ve helped her a great deal since being a vice president. I believe you’ve taken her shopping more than once.”

Nicole tried to shrug this off, “I’m just being friendly.”

“You could have excluded her.”

“It wouldn’t be right.”

“Right or wrong you didn’t. As a mother I’m grateful for your whole family watching out for her.”

This touched Nicole a great deal.

“I agree with her.”

“With what?”

Victoria answered, “You’re a great mother.”

Nicole picked her words, “Honey. To be a foster Momma ain’t easy. With how successful Ashleigh is. And what type of gal she is. It’s because of Y’all.”

“Why would you say that?”

“She ain’t like most Yankees. Now you don’t take offense.”

Victoria rolled her eyes, “Ashleigh tells me on how us northerners act.”

“You’d be shocked at this. But Y’all know who reprimands northerners when they are acting a fool?”

“No.”

“Mr. Bob.”

This surprised Victoria, “Really?!”

“Jimmy tells me everyday on how Mr. Bob doesn’t play favorites. He’s reprimanded many of his northern counterparts for disrespecting our traditions. In turn Jimmy reminds his southern employees both sides need to be learning from one another.”

Nicole took a drink of her iced tea.

“Mr. Bob is respected around these parts. This doesn’t happen with every business person who moves here. I believe a lot of it is on account of Ashleigh. But from what Jimmy tells me the two of them make one another better.”

This was difficult for Victoria to hear and accept.

“Since Mr. Bob and Ashleigh have moved here the community center has received a lot of help from a mysterious donor.”

This is when Ma stepped up to the table, "What's causing a ruckus is how he warns everyone. He claims he'll stop the donations if the center proclaims anything."

She pulled out a chair and sat across from Victoria.

Nicole asked, "We've been wondering why he'd act this way."

Victoria was bluntly shocked.

Her look caused Nicole and Ma to glance at one another.

Ma stated bluntly, "We ain't believing it's only Ashleigh. It's obvious she's helping but we ain't feeling she'd have the money to be giving what we've received."

Victoria took a sip of her iced tea.

She thought about this.

Nicole and Ma waited for her answer.

Victoria spoke, "The Bob I used to know would have wanted attention for anything he did."

Ma answered, "God must've done a work in him. Because he ain't wanting any attention."

Nicole confirmed this, "He's helped our community without seeking any attention."

Ma added, "With how he treats Ashleigh I'm shocked Y'all would be hinting he's selfish. We're feeling she looks up to him like a Daddy more than a sibling. I ain't saying anything against Blake. It's obvious she loves him a great deal. It's just different between them."

Nicole was quick, "We ain't believing anything nasty is happening."

Ma quickly added, "I ain't meaning in a bad way. It's more like a father and daughter than a brother and sister. Then again it ain't."

Victoria immediately answered, "If we thought he did anything to her we'd have put a stop to the visitations."

Victoria started to tear.

"She's been through a lot. I guess. I guess God sometimes needs to send someone different to tell you what others have been saying."

Ma and Nicole glanced at one another.

"Blake's been telling me for years I've been misjudging Bob. You didn't see how much he hurt my oldest."

She paused.

Victoria then leaned in, "You should saw the club he was running."

Ma looked at her, "We've heard."

Victoria in frustration stated a fact, "He had her run a day care center for the strippers."

Nicole put her hand on her chest, "Strippers?"

Victoria rolled her eyes, "Burlesque dancers is what he called them."

Ma in shock said, "May God have mercy."

Victoria mentioned with some forcefulness, "I put a stop to Ashleigh running their little day care center."

Nicole asked, "How old was she?"

"Ten or eleven. There were dozens of kids."

Victoria rolled her eyes and took a drink of iced tea

"If it wasn't for Blake I'd have stopped those visits"

"Oh my."

Ma exclaimed, "Lord have mercy."

Victoria changed her tone, "It wasn't all bad. She learned how to dance and Bob taught her what a good work ethic was."

Ma mentioned, "It's like Megan learning how to be a charter captain."

Victoria mentioned, "Maybe it's why they're such good friends."

"My Megan says Ashleigh helps on the charter."

Nicole added, "It was Ashleigh who encouraged Jimmy to work at the Company."

Victoria mentioned, "She appreciates your husband a lot."

Ma and Nicole glanced at one another.

They all took drinks and thought about these things.

Nicole asked, "Was she always good with dawgs?"

"Always."

Victoria told them about their German Shepard and how this dog saved Ashleigh from being kidnapped.

After hearing this story Ma said, "Praise to Jesus."

Victoria answered, "Amen."

Nicole suggested, "Why don't we pray before we leave."

Ma who normally always started prayer shocked Nicole by asking, "Victoria would Y'all lead us in prayer."

"Are you sure?"

Nicole recognized Victoria's facial expression. It was one Ashleigh often used.

Ma answered, "We'd be honored."

Victoria started their small prayer session.

April 12th, Being Left on an Island

Part Three of Six

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Ashleigh & Megan *Book I: Friendship*

Thursday, April 12
Being Left on
an Island

Day 14 of Book I
(Six Days since Ashleigh's Family Arrived in Florida)

Part Four of Six



Authored By: R. P. Voght

Posted on ashleighandmegan.com on:
August 11, 2025

I hope you enjoy this pioneering format I call, "A Story Cast."

What the term "Story Cast" means; is this story is designed to be read in small to medium intervals. This particular story is broken up into "days." These portions are broken up into part or all of a particular fictitious "day" of the story. Each day surrounds the characters lives, relationships, adventures, struggles, mishaps and triumphs. This story is very different from a Novel or conventional story in many ways. Again, THIS IS NOT A NOVEL AND IS NOT WRITTEN IN A CONVENTIONAL NOVEL FORMAT. Instead; as the reader you are following the characters thoughts and actions during the course of this "day." This fiction story is set up like a TV series and or a third person journal. It always starts with one or more character getting up and ends with one or more characters going to bed; while during the day you experience the Characters actions, feelings, and their thoughts. On a large overview; there is a beginning, a middle, and an end to this "Story Cast"

R. P. Voght

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April 12 Being Left on an Island Day 14 of Book I

(Six Days since Ashleigh's Family Arrived in Florida)

Megan held the door open for Ashleigh.

They spotted their families sitting in the front corner of Lucy's. In this corner was a large half circular booth. The back of the booth was against the front and right side wall of tinted windows. By connecting an extension from underneath the corner table and the table next to the corner table created an extended section of the booth. This long rectangle extension created seating for four people; two people sat against the wall in the booth and two people sat in front of the table in chairs. When the staff felt it was necessary they could push a small table or chair against the end of the extended section. Ashleigh and Megan spotted how the table was connected and a chair was added at the end of the table. Sitting at the booth from where the corner booth started: was Blake, to Blake's right was Victoria, to Victoria's right was Mary, to Mary's right was Captain, to Captain's right was Nicole. This is where the connection started. Sitting next to Nicole was Jimmy. Megan and Ashleigh sat in two of the three chairs of the extension.

Ashleigh whispered to Megan, "We could have eaten at the Company?"

Megan's dimples flashed.

Megan replied, "No."

Ashleigh made a face.

Megan answered the facial expression, "So Y'all could check up on everything?"

Ashleigh wanted to deny it but knew this was true.

Megan wondered, "Y'all would think they'd be sitting at one of the tables in back?"

Ashleigh rolled her eyes, "Blake always prefers booths."

Megan's dimples flashed.

"Captain does too."

Ashleigh whispered, "I bet the staff had a table set up for us."

Megan added, "But Daddy had other ideas."

"Mine too."

This is when Heather approached the two ladies. Ashleigh always felt Heather was intimidating; but understood she was running a business. Her husband's family owned this restaurant before World War Two. Heather was in her early forties, her wavy long reddish brunette hair was neatly pinned, her long rectangle face showed she could handle herself, she had a long skinny nose, a small mole just above the right corner of her lips, and her jawline was long and intense. Her luscious lips were covered by raspberry colored lipstick; today her makeup matched this lipstick. As always she wore just enough makeup to make herself look younger. Her brown eyes quickly assessed the situation. Heather was wearing a dark blue shrug, she matched this with a tan colored racerback tank, and a dark blue convertible tie waist skirt. Ashleigh liked Heather's homemade glass and beaded necklace with its multi-colored blue and white beads; like always her earrings matched the necklace. Her medium sized boobs and her backside were being supported by her undergarments. This being stated she was in excellent shape. Ashleigh believed the reason she stayed in shape was because she was a regular at the local YMCA and attended Megan's more advanced aerobic classes. Where the three of them often had casual conversations.

She asked the two of them, "Y'all want your usual drinks?"

Megan answered, "Yes."

Ashleigh added, "We can seat ourselves."

Heather with a smile added, "I'll be over with your drinks and the menu's."

Ashleigh asked, "They haven't ordered?"

"They've been waiting for Y'all."

This made the two feel bad.

Heather seeing their reactions said, "Don't Y'all worry they've been talking up a storm."

Ashleigh and Megan believed this.

Heather said with a smile, "I'll be right over."

Megan and Ashleigh smiled and stepped over to the table. Both Megan and Ashleigh noticed drinks in front of everyone.

Victoria gently said, "We saved you seats."

Megan greeted everyone, "Howdy."

Ashleigh said, "Hi."

Ashleigh immediately asked Jimmy, "How's work going?"

Jimmy was about to answer.

It was Megan who said, "Y'all are on vacation."

Nicole added, "We ain't here to be discussing work."

Ashleigh smiled, "I get it."

Victoria said gently, "Aren't you going to sit down?"

As Ashleigh pulled out her chair she commented, "Interesting spot."

Victoria rolled her eyes, "You know your father."

Mary mentioned, "He ain't the only one."

Captain gave her a look.

Megan rolled her eyes.

Blake stated, "A booth is far more comfortable."

Captain quickly answered, "Y'all its better than those chairs."

Blake agreed, "Restaurant chairs are uncomfortable."

Ma was unable to restrain herself, "Unless Y'all need to use the restroom."

Victoria right away volunteered, "Blake and I will move."

Blake looked at Victoria, "Huh?"

She gently tapped him.

Nicole, Ashleigh, and Megan all shook their heads.

Heather arrived at the table, she set Ashleigh and Megan's drinks on the table, started to hand out menu's, and said; "Howdy Y'all."

They greeted her.

Based on the greeting Ashleigh believed Heather was introduced to her foster parents.

Heather informed them their waitress would be there in a moment.

Megan as always looked at the menu.

Captain ignored it. He knew what he wanted.

Nicole asked, "How was the charter?"

Ashleigh jumped in right away, "It went great."

Victoria and Blake were looking over the menu.

Victoria hearing Nicole asked, "How was Felicia?"

Ashleigh answered, "She made it."

Nicole asked, "Did the motion sickness pills help?"

Ashleigh answered, "Without them it'd have been a miserable experience for her."

Victoria, Mary, and Nicole understood what Ashleigh meant.

Megan's dimples flashed.

Blake asked, "Is this restaurant known for anything?"

Captain mentioned, "The ribs are a specialty here."

Ashleigh jumped at this, "They have an awesome hot sauce."

Victoria looked over the menu, "Your father shouldn't be eating spicy foods."

Blake right away, "Why not?"

"Remember last time."

Mary spoke up, "I believe some people around this table over do the spice."

Captain looked over, "Who's overdoing the sauce. It adds needed flavor."

Victoria gave Ashleigh a look.

Ashleigh answered this look, "It isn't over doing it if you like it."

Captain smiled, "Y'all are proving what a smart gal you are."

Victoria jumped in, "I sometimes wonder if this young lady likes spicy foods not because of the taste but because of the attention she receives."

Ma answered, "She ain't the only one who seeks attention."

Captain defending himself, "It ain't about attention."

Ma made a face, "We better dodge the lightning God's sending."

Victoria glanced over at Ashleigh, "Isn't that the truth."

Ashleigh ignored her Foster Mother's look.

Nicole and Jimmy smiled.

Megan shook her head and her dimples flashed. She set down the menu.

Captain purposely changed the direction of the conversation and asked, "Is the Island alright?"

Before Megan could answer, their waitress Bobbi-Joe stepped up to the table. She started working at *Lucy's* when she was a teenager and never left. She was in her early fifties, married, met her husband while working at Lucy's, for a couple decades she worked the morning, three years prior she switched to the mid afternoon shift, she was friendly, she could tell you what every local was inclined to order, knew everything about everybody; if a person wanted to start a rumor she was the person to tell. Her graying hair was in a pony tail, and her blue eyes looked over everyone.

She smiled, and said; "Howdy."

Everyone acknowledged her.

She asked, "Captain Y'all have your usual?"

"Yes Ma'am."

She wrote down what Captain wanted.

She looked over at Mary.

Mary suggested, "Why not have our guests order first."

The waitress flipped over a page but held the first one up.

Victoria politely answered, "I'm not ready yet."

Ashleigh and Blake glanced at her.

Victoria pretended to miss their glances.

Nicole was watching and listening to everything.

Blake stated, "I've heard your ribs are a specialty?"

"Yes Sir. They're mighty fine eating."

"I'll give them a try."

Bobbi-Joe asked a list of questions with the last one being, "What type of sauce would Y'all like?"

Victoria answered, "Medium would be fine."

Blake stated, "I've heard your hot sauce is delicious?"

Very serious, "Sir. There have only been couple Yankees able to handle our hot sauce."

She glanced at Ashleigh.

Everyone sort of smiled at this.

Ashleigh made a face, "What?"

Blake replied, "I'll have the mild."

Victoria smiled and went back to looking over the menu.

Victoria passed on ordering again, she still was not ready. The waitress went around the table and back to Victoria. Victoria felt the chef salad Megan ordered sounded good; the only difference Victoria asked for French Dressing. The waitress politely left.

When she was out of listening distance Ma gave some advice, "Be careful what Y'all tell her."

Nicole jumped in, "She sings like a canary."

Victoria asked, "Why do people have to be like that?"

Ashleigh glanced over.

Captain again asked, "So is the island okay?"

Megan answered, "From what I saw It was fine."

Ashleigh added, "We didn't have the time to go over the whole thing. But when we passed on the charter it looked good."

Blake asked, "An island?"

Ashleigh answered, "The family owns an island."

Blake smiled, "That's interesting."

Ashleigh added, "It's beautiful."

Ma asked, "Y'all like it?"

"It's one of my favorite places."

She wanted to talk about the sunsets and at night but caught herself.

Instead Ashleigh mentioned, "I'm amazed at how many things live on the island."

Ma answered, "Honey; even with me living here. I'm sometimes amazed at what lives on them islands."

Ashleigh agreed, "All of the islands are interesting."

Captain asked, "What are Y'all liking about our island?"

Ashleigh said, "My favorite is the lagoon. And I like how isolated it is."

Nicole asked, "I'm assuming Y'all went swimming?"

Megan answered, "I first took em' snorkeling. Then we went swimming in the lagoon."

Victoria was unable to help herself, "Is it safe?"

Blake right away, "There's danger in everything."

Victoria looked, "I heard something about salt water crocodiles. What about sharks?"

Captain kept his comments to himself.

Nicole added, "More people are seeing crocodiles."

Megan answered, "I keep a sidearm with me."

Victoria was somewhat shocked by this, at the same time this made her feel better. She correctly assumed Megan was a good shot.

Blake asked Captain, "You have any plans on developing it?"

Captain answered, "There's been talk of adding huts and making it a spot."

Megan jumped in, "There are just as many of us who like it the way it is."

Nicole added, "It'd be a lot of work developing it and we can't forget about the work maintaining it."

Jimmy mentioned, "Developing it would help your charter. I'd think it'd be a good spot to bring clients."

Megan answered with a tone, "I already bring clients there. I feel the reason my clients like it is because it ain't developed."

Ashleigh mentioned, "I like it because it's not like the other islands."

Mary asked, "What do Y'all feel is different?"

"There's always people around the others. I like how secluded it feels. It's nice feeling like there's things out there not touched by humans."

Captain with a smile, "I'll have to take Y'all on a tour of the Everglades. There's lots a places in there people ain't willing to go."

Blake asked excited, "There are tours?"

Right away Mary and Victoria looked at their husbands.

Captain with confidence said, "I could take Y'all on one."

"When?"

"Tomorrow?"

Blake asked, "Isn't that short notice?"

Captain with confidence stated a fact, "It ain't nothing. I'll make a couple calls after we're done."

Blake with a huge smile, "Bright and early?"

"Always. Y'all interested in fishing?"

"I'd like that."

Victoria trying, "You didn't bring any of your fishing gear."

Ashleigh pointed out, "Captain has a lot of gear. I'm sure he'll share."

Victoria gave her a look.

Captain with a big smile stated, "Shorty. You ain't whistling Dixie."

Blake and Victoria were still surprised Ashleigh embraced this nickname.

Captain said, "I have enough gear for an army. When we're done fishing Y'all enjoy a tour by us locals."

Two waitresses came with two big trays.

Temporarily the conversations stopped.

Just as Bobbi-Joe was to step away, Ashleigh gently touched her, Bobbi-Joe leaned her head in down.

Megan overheard Ashleigh whisper she would pay for the tab.

This put Bobbi-Joe in a pickle because Captain told her he was paying for everyone.

She felt the best thing was to say, "Yes Ma'am."

She would listen to Captain. She knew who Ashleigh was; but Captain was who he was. She knew of a way to present the checks so Captain would be able to pay for them. She assumed Ashleigh would listen to Captain.

Victoria believed she knew what her daughter was up too.

Victoria leaned in, "You allow Ashleigh to pay."

Blake looked at her wife.

Blake answered, "She isn't paying."

Captain and Mary heard Blake.

"I know you like to pay. But let Ashleigh pay for everyone."

Captain made a face.

Mary said in a polite manner, "Y'all are our guests. We'd like to treat Y'all."

Blake answered, "You've been so good to us. I'd like to bless you."

Captain was blunt, "By us meeting. Y'all have blessed me more than Y'all know."

Blake held in tears, "How is that possible?"

Captain very seriously answered, "I've often prayed God would show me on why I was sent to such an awful place. I've had doubt I did something important. I ain't one who likes having doubt. With me knowing Y'all. And getting to know Shorty. You've been an answered prayer. The least I could do is pay for for the meal."

Both Victoria and Ma held in their tears.

Blake was shocked by this, "But you saved my life?"

Captain very seriously said, "It was what anyone would do."

Both ladies held in their emotions.

Underneath the table Victoria touched her husbands leg.

Nothing more needed to be said.

Nicole leaned in with a very serious look on her face.

Ashleigh and Megan leaned in.

Jimmy watched and listened.

"Y'all let Captain pay for this meal."

Ashleigh crinkled her forehead, "I want to bless everyone."

Nicole with wisdom said, "If Y'all pay it'll be disrespecting Captain."

"I don't want to do that."

Megan understood and added, "Daddy wants to show his hospitality."

Ashleigh asked, "You think he's worked it out already?"

Nicole winked.

Jimmy answered, "It's Daddy's way."

"You think I should talk to Bobbi-Joe?"

Nicole answered in whisper, "She'll find a way of getting the checks to him."

Ashleigh answered, "The least person I'd want to disrespect is Captain."

Jimmy pointed out, "Y'all shouldn't want to be disrespected your Daddy."

Ashleigh made a face, "He doesn't understand."

Jimmy said, "He understands his daughter is successful. But a Daddy just wants to bless his family. Some Daddy's might not care. Your Daddy is a good man. What he's trying to do is blessing his own."

Nicole said with wisdom, "Sometimes with men like Blake and Captain. Y'all have to find different ways of blessing them."

Megan added, "With men like them Y'all are embarrassing them by paying."

Ashleigh glanced over at two of the three men she admired most.

Nicole again said, "There be a lot of men who wouldn't care. But they'd care."

Ashleigh would never forget this, "Alright."

Ashleigh listening to them impressed: Megan, Nicole, and Jimmy.

Megan became annoyed when Ashleigh asked her brother, "Jimmy do you want to go fishing with them?"

Megan believed with all her heart her best friend needed vacation. She understood working hard, she excused herself from ever taking a vacation, but she felt Ashleigh's brother was working her way to hard; she discounted what Bob told her.

Megan jumped in, "Jimmy is working so Y'all are able to enjoy your family. Y'all need this vacation."

Ashleigh knew this was true. But she was trying to find a way to check up on everything.

This was stopped in it's tracks when Victoria loudly suggested, "With the guys going fishing. Maybe Ashleigh and I could help volunteer at the Community center."

Mary smiled, "We ain't pressuring Y'all to help."

Ashleigh sat straight up and looked over at her Mom. Any idea of slipping into work tomorrow was put to an end.

Victoria as only a mother can answered for both, "We'd be happy to help."
Ashleigh kept her thoughts to herself.
Megan appreciated Victoria.

Nicole mentioned with a smile, "It'd be nice working with Y'all. Ashleigh you've always said you wanted to visit the center."

Ashleigh thought of something, "Sounds like a good idea."

Nicole immediately felt Ashleigh had a secondary reason for wanting to go.

Megan felt this was a good thing.

Jimmy: glanced at his watch, he waved Bobbi-Joe over, he asked to take his meal, she agreed and went to get him a styrofoam container, Nicole slid over, he was able to get out, he went over to where the parents were, he politely excused himself, telling everyone he needed to get back to work. While he said his goodbyes Nicole put his food into a styrofoam container. Jimmy and Blake shook hands and parted ways. Based upon her Husbands body language Nicole believed Jimmy respected Blake a great deal. She believed Captain and Blake were now close friends. She witnessed this many times while being a military wife.

Jimmy stopped at the extended section.

Nicole smiled, "You have a good rest of the day."

Jimmy returned the smile, "I will."

Before Ashleigh could say anything Jimmy turned to her, "Don't Y'all worry."

Ashleigh tried to protest, "But..."

Jimmy stated, "Like Y'all say. I got this."

They chuckled.

Ashleigh reluctantly answered, "All right."

Megan was surprised by Ashleigh's response and gave Ashleigh an approving dimple smile.

Ashleigh answered the look by her own look.

Nicole often times observed Ashleigh and Megan have their own language. This caused Nicole to wonder if they were indeed lovers. She reassured herself with the idea, if Megan was indeed a lesbian, she would have admitted to being one. Megan made it clear she was in fact straight. Nicole reminded herself her sister-in-law was dating Christopher. She correctly believed based upon Megan's personality she would either be a lesbian or straight; Megan would never have been bisexual.

While they engaged in many conversation they watched Jimmy step out of the restaurant. Blake and Victoria were able to see him step into his truck and pull out of the parking lot.

Blake mentioned, "He's a good man."

Nicole said with a smile, "He's a great husband and a better Daddy."

Blake said very seriously, "I can tell."

Megan added, "He's an excellent carpenter."

Victoria mentioned, "We loved the bench he made for you."

Ashleigh took note of this.

Mary felt the need to say, "Captain taught him everything he knows."

Captain replied, "He's much better at working with wood than I'd ever be."

Ashleigh mentioned, "Because he's such a good carpenter he's helped with production a great deal."

Nicole felt the need to say, "He likes working for Y'all because you've listened to his ideas."

Ashleigh stated matter of fact, "He has a lot of good ones."

Nicole liked hearing this. She wanted to believe her husband was making a difference. This helped her feel better. A silent concern was the only reason he was hired at *Renewed Mastery* was because Ashleigh knew Megan.

They all heard Blake tell Victoria on how much he liked the ribs.

Captain mentioned, "Like I was telling Y'all it's their specialty."

Nicole reached over and tapped Ashleigh.

"What?"

Nicole pointed.

Sgt. Marcus Tyler and Officer Janet Foster stepped into the restaurant.

Megan smiled her big dimple smile.

Ashleigh suddenly felt like a slob. She disliked her light blue polo shirt, felt her blue and white plaid shorts were too boyish, and felt her braided hair was terrible; she felt he would pay more attention to her if she looked more mature.

Immediately Ashleigh sat at attention, she whispered, "How do I look?"

Megan's dimples flashed.

Nicole reassured her, "Darling. I'm sure he finds Y'all attractive."

"He seems to never notice me."

Megan thought this was the dumbest thing she ever heard.

Megan's dimples flashed.

"Y'all have to be kidding?"

Ashleigh crinkled her forehead, "He never asks me out."

Nicole whispered, "I've told You. It's on account of his fiancé leaving him."

Ashleigh made a face and asked with a whisper, "Why would she leave him?"

Megan reluctantly answered, "Because she couldn't handle him being a police officer."

Nicole added, "We've told you this before."

Ashleigh glanced over at him and felt tingly. She fought the impulse to walk over to him and ask him out. The next steps in her brain was to kidnap him, immediately get married, and then have the honeymoon; all within a few hours. She knew all of this was unreasonable. She correctly believed, if she asked him out at this moment it would ruin any chance of going out with him. This was frustrating because the temptation to have sex was real. Lately finding a friend with benefits was a real impulse. She was well aware, living where she was living, the likelihood this would become public knowledge was highly likely. Beyond this consequence, being honest with herself, it was likely she would fall for the guy, and this relationship would likely turn into a disaster.

Ashleigh answered, "I know."

Megan whispered, "I'd bet he's noticed you."

Ashleigh answered, "I want to believe that."

Nicole gave a look, "Trust us."

Ashleigh whispered, "What should I do?"
Nicole with wisdom said, "Be patient."
Ashleigh made a face, "That's easy for you to say."
Nicole and Megan glanced at one another.

Victoria witnessed this behavior from Ashleigh before.

She touched Blake.

Blake looked over at his wife.

"I feel Ashleigh likes someone."

Mary smiled and tapped Captain.

He gave her a look, she nodded her head.

Captain looked over at Ashleigh speaking with Nicole and Megan.

Mary leaned in and whispered to Victoria, "I've heard he likes Sgt. Marcus. He's being seated over there."

Victoria stated with a whisper, "She hasn't always made the best choices when it comes to men."

Ma stated matter of fact, "He's a God fearing man. A Marine."

Victoria asked, "Why isn't he married?"

Captain answered, "His fiancée was as useful as a screen door on a submarine."

Victoria had doubts.

Captain yelled, "Sergeant Marcus."

Marcus looked over and approached the table.

Victoria spotted the female police officer wink at Nicole. Nicole winked back.

Victoria could tell her daughter was unsure of how she should act. Victoria was impressed Ashleigh remained calm and was acting mature. She credited this maturity to Nicole and Megan's influence.

The two officers stepped up to the table.

Everyone greeted one another and Captain introduced the two officers to Ashleigh's foster parents.

Victoria spotted the look Ashleigh gave Nicole and observed Nicole lean over and whisper something to Ashleigh.

After the introductions Captain asked, "Y'all busy this evening?"

"No Sir."

Megan, Mary, Victoria, and Officer Janet Foster noticed Ashleigh's sudden proper body language. They observed Nicole give Ashleigh a subtle approving head nod. Ashleigh replied with the same.

Captain stated, "You should visit the VFW tonight."

"What's happening?"

"Blake and I have decided to tell our story."

Marcus asked, "The meeting Y'all hold to help the troops adjusting?"

Captain answered, "Yes."

This was news to everyone.

Nicole whispered, "Did Y'all know they were telling it?"

Both shook their heads.

Ashleigh whispered back, "Why wouldn't they invite us?"

Nicole whispered in response, "They ain't wanting us there."

Megan added, "Don't be taking it personal."

They heard Marcus ask, "Y'all knew one another in Vietnam?"

Blake answered, "Captain's crew rescued my platoon."

The ladies all listened.

Marcus answered, "I'd love to hear it."

Blake added, "Without Captain I'm not sure I'd have accepted Jesus as my savior."

Marcus added, "My men's group would love to hear the story."

Blake answered, "I accepted the Lord years after I returned. The reason I accepted Jesus is because of what Captain told me on the ride back to base."

Captain added, "A few days ago I was just told this part of the story."

Marcus added, "Even more reason to tell the story."

Victoria smiled.

This encouraged Ashleigh.

Megan whispered, "I feel your Momma likes him."

Ashleigh answered with a tone, "He'd be the first one."

Nicole could easily imagine an immature Ashleigh falling for the wrong guy.

Marcus informed them, "The men's meeting is in the morning."

Captain and Blake looked at one another.

Captain answered, "We'll be there. Maybe after some of the guys will go fishing with us."

"Most work but I'll mention it."

Captain replied, "We'll decide on where we'll go fishing after the meeting."

Marcus asked, "Sir, Y'all like fishing?"

Blake smiled, "It's one of my favorite activities."

Ashleigh made sure to get into the conversation, "You can't forget about model railroading."

The ladies glanced at Ashleigh.

Marcus surprised everyone, "Papa liked it."

Captain helping Shorty stated, "Ms. Ashleigh has been helping me with mine."

To the dismay of the ladies, excluding Ashleigh, they discussed model railroading. Ashleigh was encouraged by this. The highlight was when Blake mentioned on how Ashleigh helped Blake with model railroading since she was little. This did embarrass her a little but made sure to avoid showing Marcus. Captain went out of his way to mention the trees and building she was working on.

Soon after Janet reminded Marcus they needed to eat. Everyone excused one another politely.

Bobbi-Joe eagerly arrived at the table.

Megan whispered, "Don't be saying anything about Marcus."

Nicole disagreed, "Maybe say something."

Megan asked, "Why?"

Nicole chose her words, "Maybe talk of Y'all being a couple will end if everyone is in the know Ashleigh is smitten on Marcus."

Ashleigh and Megan looked at one another.

Nicole with a serious smile suggested, "Maybe if the gossips are talking it'll get Marcus to start considering Ashleigh."

Ashleigh made a face, "Will that work?"

Nicole answered, "I ain't knowing how it works in Wisconsin. But in these here parts. If the ladies start believing this is a good idea. It'll get back to Marcus."

Megan added, "Ms. Janet and his Momma might make suggestions."

Nicole warned, "Some patience now. They'd have questions."

Megan tapped Ashleigh and whispered, "See how Ma is talking to your parents."

Nicole right away said, "I bet she's telling them what a good God fearing man he is."

Ashleigh whispered, "That'd help."

Bobbi-Joe asked, "Ms. Ashleigh Y'all done here?"

Nicole winked.

"Yes."

Bobbi-Joe stated, "I'm sure Y'all liked how spicy it was."

"Always."

Bobbi-Joe said on the sly, "Some might say Marcus is spicy."

Ashleigh glanced at Nicole.

Nicole jumped in but acted like it was nothing, "We were just telling her on how Marcus is single."

Bobbi-Joe looked over at Megan.

Nicole tapped Megan on the leg.

Megan's dimples flashed.

"We were."

Bobbi-Joe answered, "Well ain't that the berries."

Ashleigh went into actress mode, "He's cute. But I'm just not sure."

Bobbi-Joe answered, "He's a great guy."

Ashleigh played dumb, "I heard that."

Bobbi-Joe rolled her eyes and whispered, "Y'all ain't hearing it from me. But I hear he's starting to look again."

Nicole asked, "Do tell?"

"He was just a hurting puppy when his fiance broke up with him. Such a foolish girl. She didn't like him being a police officer."

This was Bobbi-Joe's way of trying to help Ashleigh.

"He just loves being one. He ain't the type of guy who'd be happy doing some sort of desk job."

Ashleigh jumped at this, "It sounds like she was being short sided."

Bobbi-Joe smiled and answered, "Y'all believe she was?"

Ashleigh answered, "It's obvious he loves being a police officer. So why would she think she should change his mind?"

Bobbi-Joe looked at Ashleigh, "Y'all don't mind he's a police officer?"

Ashleigh answered, "Who doesn't like a man who could protect you? Plus."

The ladies leaned in except Megan.

Megan's dimples flashed.

"He's awful handsome in the uniform."

Bobbi-Joe asked, "Y'all like guys in uniform?"

Megan asked, "Why wouldn't she like guys?"

Nicole saved everything by saying, "Not every gal is able to handle a man being a police officer."

Ashleigh answered honestly, "I prefer a guy in uniform."

Bobbi-Joe stated, "Well ain't that the berries."

Nicole glanced at Megan.

She flashed her dimple smile.

Purposefully changing the subject Ashleigh asked, "What pies did you make today?"

"Key lime pie and apple pie."

Ashleigh said, "I don't know which one I want."

Bobbi-Sue said, "Both pies are very good."

Blake caught the word pie. He asked Victoria, "Should we order dessert?"

Victoria asked, "You have a dessert menu?"

"Let me finish clearing the table and I'll bring Y'all one."

Bobbi-Joe quickly left.

Soon Bobbi-Joe and a bus boy cleared the table and handed out the dessert menu.

Blake mentioned, "I like key lime pie."

Ashleigh mentioned, "Nicole makes the best key lime pie."

Blake answered, "It tasted good in the companies cafeteria."

Ashleigh stated, "Our chief is using Nicole's receipt."

Mary asked, "Is it true?"

Nicole blushing answered, "Yes Ma'am."

Ashleigh praising Nicole said, "She came in and taught our chief how to make it."

Nicole felt she was put on the spot, "He was asking for my help."

Ashleigh made sure to say, "It's one of our top selling desserts."

Megan encouraging, "You've always made the best key lime pie."

Nicole rolled her eyes, "Y'all are over exaggerating."

Mary even said, "Honey. Yours tastes better than mine."

Ashleigh testified, "Ma is a great cook."

Megan suggested, "Sir. The apple pie is to die for."

Blake answered, "I'd like to eat something I'd only get here."

Mary asked, "Y'all like strawberries?"

Blake answered, "Of course."

Ashleigh excited said, "You guys could share the icebox cake."

Captain said, "Hmm. I ain't had it in a while."

Mary asked, "Y'all like it?"

Ashleigh stated matter of fact, "I've been trying all the desserts."

Victoria looking at the picture of it in the menu commented, "Looks good. We'll order it."

Mary reminded her, "Just remember to order it with strawberries."

Everyone went back to the conversations they were having before they discussed desserts.

Ashleigh asked Nicole, "Why didn't you take the job offer?"

Nicole decided to be upfront, "I ain't wanting to work with Jimmy and Y'all."

"Oh."

Nicole clarified, "Don't take offense. If I'm working I want it to be at my own place."

Ashleigh smiled, "I understand that."

Bobbi-Joe came back and took their orders.

There were many conversations before and during dessert. Victoria and Blake enjoyed the icebox cake.

Bobbi-Joe made sure Captain received the bills by asking him if he wanted anything else. He took the cue and asked for them. Before they said their goodbyes Victoria, Nicole, and Ashleigh promised if one of the girls called they would let the others know. At this time they would decide who would pick them up. Mary and Nicole assured Victoria the girls were alright if they stuck together. Captain and Megan informed Victoria; Julie was an expert in self defense. Ashleigh mentioned Bette was trained as well. This is when they headed out of the restaurant. The ladies headed to the woman's Bible study. Blake and Captain headed to the VFW.

*J*ulie was surprised on how much fun she was having.

Every local believed downtown started south of the *Warrior River*. The three main roads traveling north and south were: *IA1*, *Town Hall Road*, and the first two miles of *Highway One* south of *Warrior River*. (At the two mile mark *Highway One* headed west for about two miles before turning directly south; where it crossed *Orange Blossom Road*). There were many roads traveling east and west, the most important road traveling east and west was *Orange Blossom Road*. An important intersection, which was on the south west corner of this downtown area was the intersection of *Town Hall Road* and *Orange Blossom Road*. Many residents of Eastbank considered this to be the end of the downtown area. Others felt the downtown area went as far south as the first resorts on both *IA1* or *Town Hall Road*. No one, even if this made the southern end of downtown a little awkward, believed the residential areas south of *Orange Blossom Road* were considered downtown. Every local agreed this downtown area started along the Atlantic Ocean. Almost everyone believed the western border of downtown started where *Highway One* crossed the *Warrior River* and followed in a not so straight line to the Eastbank Police Station; which was on the corner of *Orange Blossom Road* and *Town Hall Road*.

Currently Julie, Felicia, Annette, Hannah, and Bette were walking southward on *IA1*. This was considered the main tourist street of downtown. It followed the coastline and was filled with places to eat and places to shop. All of the buildings were in a Caribbean or Mediterranean style, they were painted in bright colors, had bright colored signs, many played music, and many had open fronts. On the west side of the street were slanted parking lots. Everyone knew which businesses were open or closed because the gate would be open or shut.

They were on the beach side of the street. Felicia was putting an item she just purchased into a shopping bag with Eastbank Florida printed on the side; she purchased this shopping bag at a previous store.

Julie was surprised to hear Annette say, "I love all the colorful buildings."

Felicia agreed, "They're neat."

Hannah asked, "Your buildings ain't like this?"

Felicia stated immediately, "Oh No."

Annette added, "Even in tourist areas they aren't open like this."

Felicia added, "There are places like this at Wisconsin Dells or at the State Fair."

Bette mentioned, "Wisconsin Dells is a real touristy place. It has a lot of water parks."

Hannah pushed up her glasses, "Ain't it cold to have water parks in Wisconsin?"

Annette answered, "It ain't so bad during the summer. Many of them are inside."

Hannah said with surprise asked, "Y'all have waterparks inside?"

Bette answered, "Because of the weather you have too."

Julie and Hannah glanced at one another and shrugged their shoulders.

Felicia mentioned, "Door county which is up north. Has similar type of shops. But they aren't like this."

An excited Annette hurried herself into the next shop.

She changed the conversation by saying, "Look at this!"

She was saying this a lot.

The rest of the girls headed into the shop. Julie was observing first hand why these shops could stay in business. This was Julie's first time visiting downtown with someone from out of town. Felicia, Bette, and Annette had their shopping bags full; she was surprised when they added a second bag. Julie spotted the American Flag pinned up and next to it was a Cuban flag. Standing in front of both flags was Ms. Sanchez.

One thing locals liked about this store was the handmade casual clothes Ms. Sanchez and her Momma sewed.

Ms. Sanchez who ran this store recognized Julie, "Howdy Julie. Good?"

"Howdy. Yes. I'm good."

"Dalila telling me varsity play good?"

Julie became really serious, she talked slow, "Yes Ma'am. We're tied for first. We can't be losing anymore."

"Be nice. Y'all win tournament."

"One game at a time."

Julie heard Annette and Felicia talk about the game they watched. They praised Julie's pitching. Annette made sure to mention on how fast Julie was.

Julie asked, "Where is Dalila?"

"Watching sisters and brother."

Ms. Sanchez asked, "Dalila playing good? No?"

Julie answered, "I'm sure she'll make varsity next year."

"Y'all ain't pulling my leg."

Julie answered, "She almost made varsity this year. If someone gets hurt I've heard they'd bring her up."

This encouraged Ms. Sanchez.

"Cousins teach. She's working at playing better. Playing better?"

Julie thought of her cousins.

Julie answered, "If they're helping her I'm sure she'll make varsity next year."

This again encouraged Ms. Sanchez.

On one side of this shop was a long jewelry case.

Julie smiled when she heard Annette say to Felicia, "Look at that necklace. It's so pretty."

Hannah pushed up her glasses, "I like it too."

Ms. Sanchez stated, "This weekend win? Yes?"

"We'll play our best."

Ms. Sanchez was being positive in her own way, "Pull for Y'all. Get into first place."

Annette asked, "Didn't you guys play Boca Rotan last time? They seemed like a good team."

They all looked at Annette.

Bette said, "You pronounced it wrong."

Hannah mentioned, "Don't worry. Y'all pronounce Wisconsin funny."

Ms. Sanchez mentioned, "Names from where from hard to say. Yes?"

Bette mentioned, "Wisconsin has a lot of native American names."

A local Native American woman who happened to be in the shop heard this.

Annette mentioned, "One everyone messes up is Fond Du Lac."

Julie went, "Huh."

Bette mentioned, "Or how about Menomonee."

The Native American woman greeted Julie, "Howdy Julie."

"Hello Ms. Osceola."

"How's Megan?"

"She's doing well."

Ms. Sanchez was watching and listening. Their families owned different stores; but there was a mutual respect between these families. These families often compared stores so they could avoid doubling up on the same products but have similar products. There were known sale wars between these families. The difference being Stacy (this was her English name), was a long time school teacher at the Eastbank Middle School.

Ms. Osceola asked, "Are these friends of yours?"

"This is Felicia. Ms. Ashleigh's sister. This is her friend Annette. This is my friend Bette."

Bette mentioned, "I believe you're one of my sisters teachers."

"Who is your sister?"

Bette answered, "Ida."

Ms. Osceola smiled, "She's a good girl."

Bette made sure to tell this teacher, "We moved down here because of my Dad."

"A lot of families from Wisconsin have moved down here."

Bette acknowledged this, "Yes. That's true."

Ms. Osceola was serious, "If I may ask."

Bette liked this woman, "Sure."

"What Native American's settled Wisconsin?"

Bette mentioned, "Potawatomi."

Annette added, "Oneida and Ho-Chunk"

Felicia mentioned, "Menominee."

Ms. Osceola asked with a serious tone, "Y'all know them because they are the names of casino's?"

The girls blushed.

Bette somewhat rescued them, "In Wisconsin a lot of the towns have Native-American names. Menominee is one of them."

"This is common in many states."

Bette mentioned, "My Mom knows a lot about Wisconsin's Native American History."

This surprised Ms. Osceola, "She does?"

"Yeah. I'm sure she'd enjoy talking with you."

Ms. Osceola mentioned, "I'd be interested in hearing what she has to say."

They exchanged phone numbers.

While this was happening Ms. Sanchez opened the jewelry case for Felicia and handed her the jewelry she requested.

They heard Ms. Sanchez's mother complaining in Cuban. When everyone looked over she was at a counter in front of an open box. Ms. Sanchez answered in Cuban. The girls made faces when the mother, with a tone and expressive body language answer back in Cuban. It was obvious they were having a disagreement about the merchandise the older woman was unpacking. The older woman, while complaining in Cuban, aggressively grabbed the box, and took back into storage. They heard this woman yell something in Cuban. It was obvious Ms. Sanchez restrained herself from yelling back an answer.

Ms. Osceola promised to talk to Bette's mother. Bette believed her Mom would enjoy talking to her.

Felicia looked at the price tag and made a face.

Even though she was yelling at her Mother Ms. Sanchez spotted Felicia's disappointed look. She recognized this girl was pregnant; this caused her to have compassion on her.

She asked, "Y'all are friends of Julie. No? Julie says you sister of Ms. Ashleigh?"

Felicia answered, "Ms. Ashleigh is my sister."

Julie jumped in, "Felicia is a good friend of mine."

Like it happened in many of the other shops.

Ms. Sanchez stated, "Me take care."

Every time this happened Felicia and Annette would end up with a lower price. When Felicia or Annette purchased anything they were using the gift credit card Bob gave them. This was the reason their bags were so full.

When they stepped out of the shop Julie asked, "Mr. Bob give Y'all the cards?"

They looked at one another.

Annette answered, "We're not suppose to tell anyone he gave them to us."

Felicia rolled her eyes.

Annette asked, "Please don't tell anyone."

Julie promised.

They kept moving southward. What surprised Julie was when she spotted a selection of T-shirts with dog prints. She purchased a shirt with a Husky print on it. This caused the girls to talk about Nikita and about Felicia's two golden retrievers; a neighbor was taking care of them. It saddened all of them to hear the two golden retrievers were having health problems. Neither Annette nor Felicia believed either dog would make it through the year.

What brightened up their spirits was a small restaurant Julie said made the best seafood. Julie, Annette, and Bette went there. Felicia and Hannah went to a place where they sold hamburgers and hot dogs. The ladies decided to sit at picnic tables in front of the bike path and in not to far from a bike rental.

Annette mentioned to Julie, "The guys here are so cute."

Hannah asked, "The guys in Wisconsin ain't good looking?"

Bette slid her glasses down, looked at Hannah, and shook her head no.

Annette answered, "Not like here."

Hannah pushed up her glasses, "We still need to visit Pirate books."

Felicia asked, "Is it far?"

Hannah pointed to a road with traffic lights, "We'll take *Orange Blossom Road* until we reach *Town Hall Road*. It's few blocks from there."

Felicia asked, "Where should we go from there?"

Julie mentioned, "If we keep going north we'll end up by the river. If we turn back around we'll run into the resorts."

Hannah suggested, "If Y'all are staying at one of the resorts you could drop off your things."

Julie mentioned, "Momma said she'd like to make everyone dinner."

Felicia mentioned, "She's such a good cook."

Hannah pushed up her glasses, "She's a great cook."

Julie made it a point to say, "When she's done with Bible study she'll pick us up."

Bette hoped to meet Jeff at the house.

Julie asked, "Felicia are Y'all doing okay?"

"As long as I'm not on a boat."

They all giggled.

Julie joked, "So you ain't interesting in boating?"

Felicia answered very serious, "No I don't want to go on a boat."

This caused the girls to just outright laugh; Felicia laughed too.

When they were done laughing Julie mentioned again, "I was told the same thing. Once the Bible study is over I can call Momma and she'll pick us up."

Felicia smiled.

Annette answered, "Victoria told us the same."

Bette said, "Mom told me the same."

Hannah said, "My Momma said the same."

They would never admit they all found comfort in this.

Felicia heard her phone ring.

They continued to talk until she dug out her phone and said, "It's him."

They glanced at one another.

She said, "Hello."

The next thing they heard was, "Sure."

Pause.

Felicia said, "Why would you say that?"

Pause.

The girls looked at one another.

"That's not true."

Pause.

With a defiant tone she said, "I am not."

Pause.

"I didn't ever cheat on you. You told me you loved me."

Pause.

The three girls looked on with compassion.

"You are the only person I ever slept with."

Pause.

Tears were streaming down Felicia's face.

Then she became really angry.

"I'm not going to have an abortion!"

A group of ladies walking by heard her.

"You just said the baby wasn't yours. Why would you care if I had it or not?"

Pause.

"So if I don't have an abortion the baby isn't yours?"

Pause.

"I told you before the only person I ever slept with was you. If you knew how to put on a condom on this wouldn't have happened to me."

Pause.

"Bull shit."

The girls looked at one another.

Bette whispered, "You tell him."

"I'm having it."

Pause.

"Take me to court."

Pause.

"You're an idiot."

Pause.

With tears, "I didn't love you either."

This was such a lie.

"No. I will never kill my baby."

Tears were streaming down her face.

She closed her phone.

Tearing, "He says it isn't his. He told me he never loved me."

Annette stood up and hugged Felicia.

Hannah stood up and put her hand on Felicia's shoulder.

Bette and Julie glanced at one another with compassion.

Julie spotted three ladies walk up to them. She recognized two of them from her church. Many of the people from her church would come down to this area and minister to people.

One of the ladies approached the picnic table, "Julie."

"Yes Ma'am."

The one asked, "Is she a friend of yours?"

"Yes. She's a friend from out of town."

Another lady asked, "Would she accept our prayer?"

Julie answered, "I believe so."

The three ladies walked up to the girls. The three girls split apart when they noticed the adult women approach them. Hannah believed this was a prayer team.

The woman asked, "I ain't trying to pry but I'm understanding Y'all are pregnant?"

Felicia behind tears answered, "Yeah."
The other lady said, "I was hearing Y'all ain't having an abortion."
"I ain't killing my baby."
The one lady asked, "Y'all keeping it?"
Felicia started to cry, "I don't know."
One of the ladies asked, "Y'all have good parents."
Annette jumped in, "They're good."
Julie smiled.
The first lady asked, "Y'all mind if we pray for Y'all."
Felicia said, "Why would God listen to me?"
"Darling; because he loves Y'all."
"But I'm pregnant."
The lady said, "There's a consequence for our sins. But it ain't meaning he won't listen."
Annette mentioned, "Her Mom tells her that."
One of the ladies said, "I hope your Momma tells you God loves us even when we make mistakes."
Through tears, "She does."
The one lady asked, "Y'all around three months?"
Bette and Julie looked at one another.
Felicia made a face.
Annette answered, "She is."
The leader asked, "Honey. What's your name?"
"Felicia."
One of the ladies mentioned, "What a pretty name."
"Mom told me it means Lucky. I don't feel lucky."
One of the ladies said with compassion, "Lets pray for Y'all."
Tearing, "Okay."
Hannah, Bette, Julie, and Annette joined in.
When the prayer was over the one lady said, "Before I found the Lord I made the mistake of having an abortion. Don't Y'all do it."
Annette answered, "She won't. I'm going to be in the delivery room."
The ladies smiled. The leader of the three said, "She needs good friends."
Julie assured the ladies, "We'all are her friends."
The lady looked at Julie, "Y'all tell Ma we'll see her at church."
"Yes Ma'am."
The group of friends all sat back down at the picnic table and for a while ate silently.
Bette broke the silence, "It's been a good day."
Julie added, "I'm happy to be hanging out with Y'all. Felicia Y'all are my friend."
Hannah pushed up her glasses, "I'm hoping Y'all will keep me posted."
Bette said, "I can't wait to see the book store."
This excited Hanna, "Y'all love it."
Annette agreed, "I can't wait to see it."
All Felicia really wanted to do was go back to the yacht and hide.
Julie thought of something, "I bet there will be books about adoption and having a baby."

Felicia mentioned, "Mom bought we one on pregnancy. But I don't have one on adoption."

Julie declared, "We'll help Y'all find one."

Felicia answered honestly, "I'd like that."

Julie took charge, "After the book store we'll call my Momma. They should be done with their meeting. We'll wait for em' at the park."

Hanna mentioned, "It'll be a good place to pick us up."

Julie demanded, "Make sure we throw all this away. We don't want it blowing in the ocean. Lets get going."

They followed Julie's lead.

*A*shleigh felt her phone buzzing.

The ladies were in small groups praying for one another.

She quickly took her phone.

It was of all people Lauren.

Megan glanced at her.

Ashleigh felt this was a God thing. She took the phone and quietly left the room.

She took the call.

No one knew Ashleigh and Megan visited Lauren while in county jail. Ashleigh said if Lauren ever felt she would slip to call. Ashleigh never believed she would call. Ashleigh stepped up to the plate and encouraged Lauren. Because of this call Lauren found the strength to remain sober.

When Ashleigh stepped back in the room she spotted a few of the ladies praying for Victoria.

*V*ictoria felt blessed to be with these ladies.

She was encouraged by their prayers.

All of them prayed for Felicia.

April 12th, Being Left on an Island

Part Four of Six

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Ashleigh & Megan *Book I: Friendship*

Thursday, April 12
Being Left on
an Island

Day 14 of Book I
(Six Days since Ashleigh's Family Arrived in Florida)

Part Five of Six



Authored By: R. P. Voght

Posted on ashleighandmegan.com on:
September 20, 2025

I hope you enjoy this pioneering format I call, “A Story Cast.”

What the term “Story Cast” means; is this story is designed to be read in small to medium intervals. This particular story is broken up into “days.” These portions are broken up into part or all of a particular fictitious “day” of the story. Each day surrounds the characters lives, relationships, adventures, struggles, mishaps and triumphs. This story is very different from a Novel or conventional story in many ways. Again, THIS IS NOT A NOVEL AND IS NOT WRITTEN IN A CONVENTIONAL NOVEL FORMAT. Instead; as the reader you are following the characters thoughts and actions during the course of this “day.” This fiction story is set up like a TV series and or a third person journal. It always starts with one or more character getting up and ends with one or more characters going to bed; while during the day you experience the Characters actions, feelings, and their thoughts. On a large overview; there is a beginning, a middle, and an end to this “Story Cast”
R. P. Voght

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April 12 Being Left on an Island **Day 14 of Book I**

(Six Days since Ashleigh’s Family Arrived in Florida)

Julie, Bette, Hannah, Felicia, and Annette were on the southeast corner of *Town Hall Road* and *Orange Blossom Road*. They felt this was a good place to adjust their packages.

Locals often called this area “The Bulge.” This is where *Town Hall Road* split from being a four lane road to a boulevard. Two roads were on the East and West sides of *City Park*. They again merged on the south end of the bulge at *Orange Blossom Road*.

At the center point of the park, on both the east and west sides, were two newly painted walking bridges. They went over the road and the large iron fence of the park. Once over the fence the walking bridges made a 90 degree turn and stepped down into the park; these steps were wide and guardrails were on the outsides and center of these steps. There were four openings along this iron fence; these were on the four corners of the park. These openings were directly in front of the crosswalks at either end of the park. On the north west corner were a section of outdoor toys, on all four sections of the park were newly designed small flower gardens, and in the center of the park was a statue. This was one of the founders of Eastbank; he was wearing late 1700’s clothing. There were pathways leading from this founder to the four openings of the park as well as a pathway all around the park.

On the west side of the park were the two northbound lanes. On this west side of the bulge, starting from the north and headed south was: the court house, the town hall, another park, the post office, the parking lot for the post office; this parking lot was on the southwest corner of *Town Hall Road* and *Orange Blossom Road*. Most of the residents of Eastbank (there were some who would disagree) believed the Bulge was the southern most end of downtown and was the furthest west of downtown. Eventually; *Town Hall Road* merged with highway *IA1*.

West of the police station, on the north side of *Orange Blossom Road*, was a middle class neighborhood built in the late sixties and early seventies. Two miles down this road was *Cemetery Road*. Two blocks north on this road was a large cemetery, a primary school, a fire department, and the main public works building for the City of Eastbank. Further west was *Highway One*.

On the south side of *Orange Blossom Road* was one of the largest and oldest neighborhoods in Eastbank. Even though it was one of the oldest neighborhoods it was a well maintained Middle to lower class neighborhood. This was the neighborhood Megan grew up in.

Headed south on *Town Hall Road*, just passed *Orange Blossom Road*; on the east side of the road was: a laundry mat, a small convenience store, an empty building, and a street headed east. For three blocks was another neighborhood and then the resorts started; these were both on the East and West sides of the boulevard. About a mile into the resorts *Town Hall Road* turned into *IA1*, shortly after was the southern border of *Eastbank*.

The young ladies were on the southeast corner of *Town Hall Road* and *Orange Blossom Road*. Facing north on the east side of the street was: an antique store, a convenience store, a candy store, a street headed east, an art shop, a small sandwich shop, another antique store, and then *Pirate Books*. Passed *Pirate Books*, was another street headed east, two more blocks of shops and restaurants, and where *Town Hall Road* merged again.

Annette mentioned to Felicia, "Victoria would love to shop at that antique store."

Felicia answered, "Don't mention it her."

Annette reasoned, "I bet she's already been there."

Felicia mentioned, "I heard her say something to Ashleigh about an antique store she liked."

Hannah was studying *Orange Blossom Road*. She focused on the construction on the other side of the police station.

Hannah mentioned, "Daddy was wondering about the construction at the police station?"

Julie answered, "Y'all didn't hear?"

"No."

Julie answered, "Their putting in a county jail and their remodeling the station."

Hannah answered, "Daddy was figuring they were done with it."

"They're adding a female offender wing where a half dozen or so female inmates could be housed for a year."

Bette asked, "We have this much crime?"

Hannah answered, "It'll start getting crazy around here because of spring break. I'm surprised it ain't crazy now."

Julie added, "They ain't allowed to hold any violent criminals. They never keep anyone here for more than a year. They consider it minimum security. The only times it'll be filled is during spring break and maybe on rowdy weekends. People get drunk and high."

Hannah mentioned, "Smugglers get caught. But we ain't like the other towns in the area."

Felicia mentioned, "Every area seems to have their bad thing."

Julie made sure to add, "Violent offenders will be transferred within forty-eight hours."

Hannah asked, "Are Y'all sure?"

Julie answered, "I've heard it from a couple sources. The unit is mostly for short timers and men."

Bette mentioned, "Being drunk is something we've seen a lot of."

Annette answered, "There is a lot of drinking in Wisconsin."

Julie commented, "Ashleigh has mentioned it."

Annette added, "I'm surprised there isn't more bars around here."

This comment surprised Hannah, "Town folks believe there are too many."

Julie changing the subject mentioned, "I've heard good things about the candy store."

Hannah was excited to mention, "It's on the way to Pirate Books."

Bette asked, "Where is Pirate Books?"

Hannah pointed, "Y'all see the sign."

Bette felt stupid for missing the sign.

Annette asked, "Where is the smell of the popcorn coming from?"

Hannah answered, "At the candy store."

Annette became her excited self, "Let's go."

All of her friends sighed and rolled their eyes when she rushed ahead.

Annette mentioned, "She wasn't always like this."

This is when Annette briefly explained what had happened to her. All of the ladies immediately had more compassion for her.

They all followed her into the store.

They spent a good amount of time and money in this store. Again; Julie now understood why this store had been in business for the past five years. She regretted never shopping in it before.

While stepping out of the store Annette mentioned, "I love Swedish Fish."

Felicia asked, "I'll trade you some of my Jelly Beans?"

Hannah mentioned, "I have sour bricks I'll trade Y'all for."

Felicia shrugged her shoulders, "Sure."

Bette was enjoying a bag of cheese popcorn.

Bette asked Julie, "What flavor are you eating?"

Julie answered, "Buttered popcorn."

Annette mentioned, "You didn't get a lot."

"I ain't a fan of junk food."

Felicia admired this.

Bette asked, "Anyone have Gummy Bears?"

Hannah answered, "I have Gummy Worms."

Bette mentioned, "I'll trade you some of my taffy for the worms?"

Annette mentioned, "You bought a lot of it."

Bette with a smile, "I never saw so many flavors."

While Hannah was seeing what flavors to trade, Annette asked, "Who's the statute off?"

Julie answered, "I ain't sure. Hannah do Y'all know?"

Hannah answered, "I believe he's the founder of Eastbank."

Felicia asked, "What is the name of the park?"

Julie sighed, "It's so stupid."

Annette asked, "What's stupid?"

They all took drinks of bottled water. Julie purposely bought everyone bottled water. She felt this was better than soft drinks. The girls went along with it because she bought it. They were finished trading their candy.

Julie answered, "They recently changed the name from *"Eastbank Park"* to *"City Park."*

Hannah made a face, "When?"

Julie mentioned, "Y'all didn't notice?"

"No."

"They removed the old signs on either side of the park."

Hannah looked, "The signs are down?"

Julie continued, "The new signs will say *City Park.*"

Felicia asked, "Why is there a fence all around the park?"

Hannah answered, "The fence and walking bridges were built in the late fifties."

Julie jumped in, "I've been told it was different."

Hannah pushed up her glasses, "At one time this was a two lane road. Before the Korean War they decided to make this into a boulevard. The original plan was to have the road go down the center of the park. With the sides being pretty."

Annette in her disappointed self answered, "That'd suck."

Everyone giggled.

Hannah gained her composure, "The townsfolk agreed with Y'all. So they reconstructed the whole area to what Y'all see now. But at the time they didn't have the walking bridges or the fence."

Bette repeated the question, "Why the fence and walking bridge?"

Hannah turned around and pointed, "Y'all see the house across the street from the police station?"

They looked to where she pointed.

Bette answered, "Yeah."

"My grandparents lived there. Papa warned them about kids running across the street."

Bette asked, "Did someone get hit?"

"Before the fence and them walking bridges two kids were hit by cars soon after changing the road."

Annette asked, "Was it anyone from your family?"

Hannah shook her head, "A neighbor. He was only three."

A sadness fell upon all the girls.

Hannah mentioned, "It's why the gaps in the fence are at the cross walks."

Julie wondered why it took something terrible to happen to implement something with common sense.

Bette mentioned, "The fence line does look pretty."

Hannah smiled, "They change the flowers and plants along the fence from time to time."

Julie mentioned, "The new name is the reason they put in those corner gardens and painted the fence."

Hannah questioned herself outloud, "I didn't read this in the town newspaper?"

Felicia asked, "You guys have a local newspaper too?"

Julie proudly mentioned, "The softball team was on the first page last week."

Hannah smiled, "It's because Y'all are tied for first place."

Julie added, "With everyone moving into town our sports teams are improving."

Hannah was excited to say, "We've added an orchestra and there is talk of having a huge play next year."

Bette asked, "They are?"

"I heard it'll be big."

Julie nudged Bette, "They'll need people building sets."

Bette asked, "Wouldn't it interfere with football?"

Hannah answered with a roll of her eyes, "No one will be planning anything during football season. The marching band is what's important to everyone who doesn't like football."

Julie commented with a tone, "Our band is okay."

Hannah excited, "We're hoping the marching band will be better."

Julie asked, "How's Y'all's sports teams?"

Annette answered with some disappointment in her voice, "We go to a private school."

Felicia was blunt, "They're terrible."

Annette made a face, "Yeah."

Felicia mentioned, "We have a good debate team."

Annette added, "A friend of mine won a state chess tournament."

They all looked at one another.

Bette changing the topic by mentioning, "I like all of the flowers and how they've painted the pots. And I like how colorful all the buildings are."

Julie said, "With me living here my whole life it's difficult for me to find it interesting."

Annette trying to hold in her emotions mentioned, "That's like snow. When someone first moves to Wisconsin they think snow is cool."

Felicia added, "It doesn't take long to hate it."

Bette put in her opinion, "I'll take palm trees over snow drifts any day."

The three northern girls agreed.

Julie wanted to experience snow and wanted to try ice skating outside. She was about to mention how she liked to ice skate when she spotted a red SUV move down the southbound lane.

Hannah pushed up her glasses when she spotted this SUV.

They feared it was Pamela and her snob club friends.

Felicia said, "I see Pirate Books."

Annette added, "It looks like they have a lot of pretty glass suncatchers."

Hannah said, "Locals make em'."

Annette mentioned, "That's cool."

Hannah asked, "I heard Y'all are staying at one of the resorts?"

Felicia answered, "Oh yeah. They told us it's the oldest resort in Eastbank. I like the antiques."

Annette being her excited self stated, "They have these really cool pictures of this town. They're pretty cool."

Bette with some surprise in her voice asked, "You like that?"

Felicia rolled her eyes and with a smile answered, "Annette likes museums."

"I really do!"

All the girls were showing Annette a lot of patience.

Julie spotted the red SUV make a right onto a nearby side street.

Julie mentioned, "Let's skip Pirate Books and go back."

Annette disappointed asked, "Why?"

Felicia in an exasperated voice said, "We carried all this stuff and walked all this way."

Bette became real quiet when she spotted the Snob Club step out from the side street.

In a Floridian accent they heard, "Look at the Tease. And she's with a bunch of nerds."

In front of them was the Snob Club. Julie could tell they were headed to some beach party. They were wearing swimsuit tops or cover ups and they were wearing really tight shorts. The group included: Pamela, Kendall, Chelsey, Jennie, Tiffany, Marissa (the girl Julie put into a pretzel), and Amanda; seeing Amanda with these girls disappointed Julie and Hannah. Even from a distance they could see Amanda was losing weight.

Hannah whispered, "She's anorexic."

This caught Annette's ear.

Julie answered with a tone of desperation, "She's bulimic."

Annette looked into the crowd of girls headed to them. Annette knew exactly what type of girls these were. When she spotted the mixed raced girl who obviously had an eating disorder; her heart went out to this girl.

Felicia immediately could tell Annette was upset.

Bette, Julie, and Hannah spotted a difference in Annette.

Six months prior Annette lost a beloved cousin to an eating disorder.

She stepped up to Julie, "Is she getting help?"

This surprised Hannah.

"Momma and I are trying..."

The Snob Club was now a few feet in front of the group of friends.

Julie was interrupted.

Tiffany snarled, "Hannah where's your porker of a friend?"

A couple of the girls made pig noises; most giggled.

Amanda and Brittany kept to the back.

Kendall being snarky said, "I bet she was rescued on the beach."

The girls giggled again; the exception being Amanda. She believed she was as big as Brenda. She hated it when her friends picked on others; especially when it was associated with someone's weight. Anytime they picked on Julie or Hannah it was if they were picking on her. She felt trapped. What she wanted was for Julie to go back to being part of the Snob Club. She felt Hannah and Zoe would never forgive her.

Jennie stepped in front and glared at Julie, "So; Ms. Goode Goode. Who's your nerd friends?"

Chelsey snarled, "She's too good for us."

Jennie added with a snarky tone and with an annoyed body posture, "Julie is afraid of getting in trouble with her Momma."

Hannah watched Bette: take off her glasses, put them into her small purse, she slipped her purse into one of the bags, and quietly set down her bags.

Pamela mentioned, "I bet her Momma doesn't know who she really is."

The girls giggled.

Kendall with a face asked, "Y'all are choosing them over us?"

Julie making her way to the front of the group stated sternly, "Just leave us alone. We ain't bothering Y'all."

Pamela snarled, "Maybe we ain't a fan of traders."

Jennie piped up, "Y'all stabbed us in the back."

Somehow Julie remained calm and answered with a tone, "I ain't the one spreading rumors and making up names."

Marissa feeling bold because she was with others, in her upper east coast accent, "U's earned the nickname Fingerprinter."

This was the first time anyone openly call her this. It was one thing to be called this behind her back; but to be called this in front of her friends really hurt. Especially with her new friends who never new she was called this.

Annette angry and tired of girls like this, for the first time in her life found some courage, "You don't look the type to be keeping your fingers from your twat."

Annette's friends gave her a shocked look. The most shocked was Felicia. She was honestly surprised Annette knew the word.

Kendall glared at Annette, "Who's this?"

Chelsey snarled, "Who asked Metal Mouth to speak? What are Y'all in eighth grade?"

Felicia was tired of girls like this picking on her friend and stated, "No she's not."

Julie jumped in front, "They're my friends."

Jennie put her hand on her waist, "So miss Metal Mouth and this other nerd are better than us? Y'all have to be kidding?"

Hannah glanced at Julie.

Julie found her boldness and bluntly answered, "They're better friends than how Y'all have treated me."

This hurt Amanda.

Jennie turned this hurt into anger and resentment.

Pamela snickered, "Well Y'all have made your choice."

Chelsey mentioned, "With my sister graduating she won't be protecting Y'all."

Julie answered, "I ain't needing protecting."

Bette glanced at Julie.

Pamela replied, "There will be a time when Y'all will be by yourself."

Jennie snarled, "To think I was friends with Y'all."

Annette annoyed said, "She's a very good friend."

Jennie snarled, "Hey Metal Mouth I'd keep it locked."

Pamela added, "It's obvious your another one from Wisconsin."

She mocked the way people from Wisconsin pronounced Wisconsin.

Bette glared at Pamela.

Pamela was frightened by the look. She would never admit this of course.

Annette found some boldness, "I'm tired of girls like you. All you ever do is pick on people. You know why?"

Chelsey asked in a snippy tone, while mocking her Wisconsin accent, "No why?"

Annette shaking answered, "Because none of you have any confidence."

Marissa answered, "I'll show U's confidence by removing those braces."

Bette pulled Annette back and stood in front of her and glared.

Amanda tried, "Lets go to the party."

Everyone glared to Amanda.

Jennie snarled, "Why not hang out with them?"

Kendall added, "With Y'all being so fat you'd fit in with Brenda."

Annette lost it, "Your not fat. Don't listen to these girls. They aren't your friends. You need..."

Chelsey glared at Annette and snipped, "You talk to much."

All Annette could think of was her cousin, "If you were her friend you'd tell her to stop throwing up."

This stung Amanda.

Pamela yelled, "What do Y'all know? I bet Y'all are a bore just like Fingerpainter."

Annette was unsure of why she was behaving this way, it was the first time she ever did, it felt good and scary at the same time.

In her excited but angry self snipped, "I'd rather be a bore than a heartless bitch."

What stopped Pamela from attacking Annette was Bette and Julie jumping in front of Annette.

Felicia wondered what happened to her best friend.

Kendall in her way tried to defuse the situation by saying, "We're keeping her popular."

Julie inspired by Annette said, "By encouraging her to throw up?"

Felicia wondered why anyone would want to throw up on purpose.

Chelsey pointed, "Miss goodie goodie speaks again."

Tiffany surprised Julie by saying, "We're missing the party. Why are we ruining our time with these peasants?"

Leslie who knew enough to never mess with Julie. She was the only one in her group with the common sense to understand the police station was across the street.

Forcefully Leslie stated, "There's another time for this. Lets get to the party."

Pamela glanced at Leslie, turned to the rest of the group, "Lets go. These girls are a waist of our time."

Chelsey snarled at them, "Nerds."

Hannah pushed up her glasses feeling hurt.

Annette yelled, "You."

Bette whispered, "Her name is Amanda."

Annette yelled again, "Amanda why not come with us?"

Amanda looked at Julie.

Julie pleaded, "I'm your friend."

Chelsey grabbed Amanda, "No they ain't."

Amanda felt conflicted.

Kendall added, "Goodie goodies."

Pamela looked at Julie, "I hope Y'all enjoy Fingerpainting."

The girls giggled.

Felicia whispered, "You won't end up pregnant that way."

Hannah who felt like a wimp during this whole incident said blushing, "We all do it."

Bette yelled, "Julie's more popular than any of you."

This stopped the Snob Club and Chelsey snarled, "We're the most important gals in school."

Bette asked, keeping in mind of Felicia's situation, otherwise she would have bluntly mentioned their sexual exploits, "But what makes you so popular? It can't be your wonderful personalities."

Pamela glared at her, "What are Y'all meaning?"

Julie recommended, "Why not move along."

The two groups glared at one another.

Pamela instructed with a tone, "Lets go."

Pamela and Bette glared at one another.

Pamela turned around and led them back to the SUV.

Julie with compassion glanced at Amanda. Amanda was about to go over to her. Kendall grabbed her and turned her around.

Hannah whispered to Julie, "Why isn't she in the knowing we're her friends?"

Julie shrugged her shoulders.

Hannah noticed Bette took her purse out of her bag, took out her glasses, put them back on, and picked up her bags.

All of the girls were upset and hurt.

It was Felicia who mentioned, "They aren't ruining my day. I'm tired of girls like them."

Annette agreed, "Yeah."

Felicia with a smile asked, "I never seen you act that way?"

Julie asked with a smile, "You never stood up to gals like them?"

Felicia answered for Annette, "No."

Annette started to tear, "I'm just tired of being picked on. When I spotted that girl I thought of Lori."

Felicia said, "It's her cousin who passed away."

Annette through tears said, "She kept saying she was fat."

They looked on.

Annette repeated while tearing, "I'm tired of girls like that."

Julie wrapped her arms around Annette and mentioned, "Y'all stood up to em."

Felicia being encouraging said, "You did. You stood up to them."

Annette looked up, "I did?"

Hannah pushed up her glasses, "Lets enjoy Pirate Books."

Bette added, "Good idea. They aren't going to stop me from enjoying the rest of the day."

Julie said, "After I'll call Momma and we'll check out the garden."

Felicia with an odd look said, "You used the word twat?"

Annette blushed.

The girls giggled.

Julie in a gentle voice commanded, "Lets get to the bookstore."

Hannah chose to be joyful, "It's a great store."

Julie stepped up to Felicia and said with a smile, "We'll find you a book on adoption."

Felicia smiled.

Julie opened the door to *Pirate Books*.

Hannah and Bette were surprised to see the owner of Pirate Books and Ms. Bright standing at the counter talking.

Julie glanced down the street and stepped into the store. Julie noticed Ms. Bright was carrying a file folder with a stack of papers in it. She took notice of the books she was carrying. They were written by local authors on the history: of pirates, the town of Eastbank, and the nautical history of Southeastern Florida.

Megan went shopping before meeting Christopher at the bowling alley. After bowling their plan was to have dinner at a local Mexican restaurant. She liked it because it was authentic.

She believed the only reason he picked out bowling was because it was the only athletic activity he was better than she was. What he was unaware of; Ashleigh took her bowling on the promise she would never tell Bob they went. Megan felt Ashleigh was an excellent bowler. Ashleigh disagreed and complained about not having her own equipment; equipment she left in Wisconsin. After three frames. Ashleigh took Megan into the pro shop attached to the bowling alley. Ashleigh bought herself: three bowling balls, a three ball bowling bag, bowling shoes, and other supplies. She also purchased Megan: two bowling balls, a two ball bowling bag, bowling shoes, and other supplies. Because the owner of the bowling alley knew Megan's Daddy he gave Ashleigh a deal on all the equipment and drilled all the bowling balls right away. He was delighted with the tip Ashleigh gave him.

They finished the game they started and six more.

Megan was surprised on how different it was to bowl with a properly fitted ball and good shoes. With this new equipment Megan was hopeful she could become competitive. The biggest help was through Ashleigh's instruction, Megan associated the hand motion to rolling the ball to pitching a softball. Megan was surprised when Ashleigh asked for bowling league information. This surprised Megan because all Ashleigh ever did was complain about her game and warned Megan to never tell Bob she was bowling again. The owner of the bowling alley wondered if they would end up bowling on their lesbian league.

Whenever she went on a date with Christopher she avoided: wearing jeans, certain tops, athletic wear, and never considered wearing what she called her "special clothes." She went out of her way to appear feminine by wearing skirts or dresses; even when they went on more active dates. Since the annual Christmas shopping trip she would occasionally wear jeans in public. This was a big deal for her because she was taught a good woman never wore jeans. The reason she chose to wear jeans on this particular date with Christopher was to: find out if she would feel any sexual desire, an incentive for her to bring up the subject of sex, and she wanted to see what his reaction would be if she wore denim on a date.

She chose a dark colored blue denim pair of bootcut jeans with noticeable gold stitching. (She ordered this pair of jeans from a catalog with the intention of wearing it out in public; this pair was far less tight than the ones she wore in the privacy of her home.) Matching this pair of jeans she wore her favorite snake skin cowgirl boots (these boots were made from the Boa Constrictor that her Daddy killed while it slithered across her parents yard). She matched this pair of jeans with a red colored baby doll shirt with wide sleeves and pompom detail. She liked the western look and it covered most of her backside. She accessorized with: a distressed denim vest she picked up at the thrift store, the new cowgirl hat she purchased a few weeks prior, dangling feather earrings, and bracelets on her left wrist; she believed this would remind her to lift her arm when she bowled. She set her hair different

and applied a light amount of makeup. It took a lot of internal bravery to leave her houseboat dressed this way.

Her first stop was the hardware store. While at the hardware store she picked up: some cleaning supplies, fishing gear, a case of oil for her charter, talked to a few locals, and the hardware store owner. She was surprised when one of her Daddy's friends informed her she looked great in denim. She took the opportunity to ask this gentleman if she appeared feminine.

He simply answered, "Y'all are looking girly."

After the hardware store she went to the Eastbank thrift store named; *Eastbank Thrift For You*. This thrift store was opened in the early sixties by a newly married couple. Within the year ownership switched from the parents to their son Brady. Brady was improving the store: he changed the name to encourage tourists, most of the store was redesigned, he was continuing to bring in more resale items from large chains, and was working more closely with the *Eastbank Community Center*. Everyone who worked at the community center was happy to be working with the thrift store again. Megan liked the combination of personal donated items and the resale items.

She stepped into this store and grabbed an orange plastic shopping cart. Currently there were three colored carts, but they were all the same type of cart. One was red, which was from a department store chain, the other was orange which was from a hardware chain, and some were now a green color. The store was in the process of having all the carts painted green and a sticker with the thriftstores name was being placed where the logo of the other stores were.

To her left and maybe six feet in front of the carts were six cash registers. Currently three of these registers were being manned. A friend from high school waved; Megan replied in kind.

This friend was surprised to see Megan wearing a pair of brand new jeans. She recognized the shirt and the vest. She was the one who hung these items up on the racks. She heard from a source Megan was dating Christopher and was exclusively straight. She had her doubts. She was feeling Ashleigh and Megan were lovers under cover. It was difficult for those who were her friends to believe Megan would choose the type of clothes she was purchasing on her own. She correctly assumed Christopher would have disapproved of the items she had purchased in the last few months.

To Megan's right were four long shelves running parallel of the front of the store. These aisles were filled with miscellaneous items and trinkets. Passed these shelves, attached to the right wall of the store, was a large wooden shelf. This shelf started a few feet from the store windows and ended against the back wall of the store. This shelf was filled with larger items, seasonal items, one time event items, and wall hanging items. Running parallel of this side wall shelf, were ten rows of: home goods, office supplies, pet supplies, and other smaller items. Along the back of the store and to the left of two swinging doors, was the: furniture, appliances, odd large items, head boards, foot boards, and a rack for bedclothes and curtains. This had always been the area for these items. Brady and the staff worked at organizing it better and added racks for the bed items and curtains. To the left of the home goods shelf, and a few feet in front of the large items, were multiple rows of hanging clothes.

In the middle of these clothes was a very visible changing area. This wooden changing area had many dressing rooms. Currently it was painted in a popular khaki color. There were

three sections to this area. The opening faced the wall with the built in shelf. The middle section was for employees: employees checked the number of items people were bringing in and out of the changing rooms, there was a large table to fold clothes, a couple chairs, and the stores phone was here. To the right of this middle section was a hallway with ten changing rooms for women. Left of the employee area were three changing rooms for men. In front of this changing area was a brand new table with three inch sides were people put the clothes they decided not to take (Brady tried to remove this table and was met with resistance from regular customers and employees).

Against the left wall were a series of shelves filled with: DVD's, VHS tapes, CD's, albums, games, toys, and puzzles. It was obvious to Megan, Brady bought out another failing video store. There were different racks and there was a larger selection of DVD's and VHS tapes. In the left hand corner, near this entertainment shelf, and ending a few feet from the first cash register was a locked glass case. A case given to Brady from a local southeastern Florida jewelry chain. This case was filled with jewelry, antiques, and smaller expensive items.

Megan made a mental note to look over the DVD selection.

Megan began to shop the ten rows of shelves. She spotted some useful kitchen items for her charter and her houseboat. She was excited to find a tin container with a railroad image stamped onto it; she felt her Daddy would like it. From this area she went to the back of the store. She was still looking for: two matching futons for her houseboat, or a futon that matched one of her current futons, a couple headboards for Ma, furniture for her charter, or a good deal. Megan was noticing a large amount of tube TV's and nice TV stands. She was still debating if she should purchase one of these TV's and a new stand. Her plan was to purchase a digital converter with the coupon everyone was receiving at the end of the year. She could have cared less about digital TV for her own use.

As she weaved around these larger items her attention was drawn to the racks of clothes. She forced herself to the headboards. She found a couple headboards she believed her parents would like. The last time she mentioned headboards, her parents only selected one because the other two were already purchased. She hoped her parents would arrive in time to select the couple she spotted.

She went over to the DVD rack. Once there she pulled out a long list of movies Ashleigh gave her. She would use this list to purchase movies for her charter, for her houseboat, and for possible gifts. What Megan appreciated about Ashleigh's list was she: typed it out, the movies were listed in alphabetical order, listed the actors who played in the movie, had two to three lines about the movie, and mentioned who might like it. The only thing Megan disliked was it was ten pages long. Based upon this list Megan selected: "Walk the Line," "Ice Age", "Ice Age the Meltdown," the remake of "Pink Panther," and "The Good The Bad and the Ugly" in an extended addition. Two movies Ashleigh raved about were "Oceans Eleven," and "Almost Famous." The one movie Megan actually wanted to see was "The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe". She crossed off all these movies from this list and put the list back into her purse. When her budget allowed it she would again look over the movies. Before purchasing these movies she did something Ashleigh suggested; Megan inspected each DVD for deep scratches. This stopped Megan from purchasing a few more movies.

She glanced at her watch and had time to head over to the clothing section.

While browsing this section she thought of the erotic stories she read. She was grateful she was no longer reading erotic stories and viewing pictures of nude men. She recognized

these stories opened her up to ideas she would have never considered. She felt some of these ideas were negative, others were interesting, and others she felt were an extension of what she was already imagining.

At one time she ridiculed men for looking at pornographic material and resented the fact a man could get fixated on a female body type. She no longer felt this way because she would find herself searching for pictures of athletic men with large cocks. What caused her to reflect on her fascination was: the idea her husband would be disappointed in her 34b breasts, reading a survey on how a large percentage of women preferred good foreplay over a well endowed man, reading blogs about the size of guys cocks, Ashleigh telling her of her sexual experiences, an article in one of the books she purchased on the best positions for different sized cocks, and she disliked the erotic stories where the theme was ridiculing a guy for having a small cock. It was one thing for a woman to desire a guy who was bigger but to ridicule a guy because of his size saddened Megan. She easily imagined what it would feel like if a guy ridiculed her for the way her private parts looked like. The least thing she wanted was to be disappointed in her husband; because of her non-pornographic research she felt she was ready for whatever size he might be.

The one positive she took from reading erotic stories and from her non-porn sex research; was the feeling she knew what her fetishes were. Whenever she shopped for clothes she stayed within a budget and set a time limit. While approaching the clothing section she prepared herself for the strong sexual feelings she would encounter while shopping. The style and feel of an item of clothing would influence her sexual response. She believed she needed to respect these powerful feelings. Her life spent on the ocean taught her anything powerful could be a blessing and a curse. Megan felt the way the Bible discussed alcohol was an example on how something could be a blessing and a curse. The Bible suggested using alcohol for medical purposes and Jesus turned water into wine. The Bible was absolutely clear in how being a drunkard lead to serious consequences. She was using this principal when it related to self exploration and her sexual fetishes. She felt she needed the physical relief masturbation gave her. She promised herself she would stop any sexual practice if it interfered with her work, interfered with family, and if it stopped her from enjoying what she considered "regular" sex. She believed God allowed masturbation as a relief, but she felt God's ideal was to explore sexual desires with a spouse.

There were fetishes she enjoyed with minimal guilt, there were sexual practices whenever she practiced them she felt guilty, and there were desires and practices she was waiting to be married to try. A fetish she struggled with was pee. This became a fetish after peeing in her pants while trying to get into her houseboat. A small percentage of the time pee desperation and peeing in her pants was a very powerful self exploration experience. A majority of the time she felt it was messy and filled her with guilt. There were the times when both experiences happened. What hampered the experience was the clean up and the time it took to indulge in it. Often times the fantasy was more exciting than actually indulging in it. She was ashamed to admit she liked how naughty it made her feel. She consistently questioned herself on why this experience was sexually stimulating. Her concern with this fetish was how often she was tempted to indulge in it and how it pushed her personal boundaries.

She stepped over to the dressing rooms. She briefly talked to the woman who was running the room. This employee had worked in the thrift shop for over a decade and knew

Megan before she started to work at the store. She noticed, sometime before Christmas Megan started bringing a large selection of clothes to the dressing room. This clerk took note on how Megan tried to hide many of these items and would bashfully set all of the clothes she disliked onto the table. This woman was surprised at what Megan was trying on. Like her coworker, she wondered if Ashleigh was an influence on what she was picking out. This employee correctly felt Christopher would have been appalled at the clothes Megan was purchasing. This was why this employee believe Megan was bisexual; even though this felt out of character for Megan.

They: counted the amount of clothing items, the employee gave her a plastic card with a number printed on it, this number represented how many items Megan had, and the two engaged in small talk. Megan mentioned how she was going bowling with Christopher. The clerk smiled and wished her a good time.

When the conversation was over Megan: made a right, walked down the hallway of the dressing room, she was thankful when one of the larger rooms was open. Megan took a deep breath and looked both ways before stepping in. She quickly hung the tops on a hook, set a variety of jeans and slacks on the bench, a couple skirts, a few belts, some footwear on the floor, she put the number on a nail made for the tag, she stepped out of the dressing room, again looked down the hallway, she took a deep breath, and shut the door. This was the first time she ever brought footwear into the thrift store dressing room. Possibly being exposed to a foot fungus bothered her a great deal. What caused her to reconsider this was wearing rental bowling shoes and how expensive the boots she wanted to try on were. Her plan was to try on the shoes here, put them back, and then order similar online.

She: closed her eyes, took another deep breath, she found the courage within herself to proceed, she opened her eyes, she slipped off her clothes except for her boyshort panties and socks, and she neatly set all her items on the bench of the dressing room.

Her dimples flashed.

For the first time in her life she slipping on a pair of brown bootcut leather pants. On a fetish web page a woman described how electrifying it felt to wear leather. Megan understood this feeling and was looking forward to the time she found a pair of leather pants that fit her.

She felt: nothing.

She made a face.

Her dimples flashed.

She looked at herself in the mirror.

She felt she looked good in them but she felt no sexual response. She pulled the tag out and gasped at the price; even at the thrift store price it was too expensive. She decided if she ever married a guy who liked leather she would consider it again but for her it was anticlimactic and it was too expensive.

She believed she looked sexy in a pair of garment colored slacks. These pair of slacks was an office wear staple for women her age. The reason it was sexy to Megan was how tight they were and she liked the pockets in back. She matched this pair of slacks with a yellow crochet tunic with bell sleeves. Her very sensitive breasts reacted to the fabric. She felt provocative in this blouse because she could see the tops of her breasts. She was uncertain if she would ever wear this blouse in public but she liked it. She took it off, put the hanger back on, and hung it on her maybe hook. She slipped on a strawberry colored eyelet blouse with a tie belt and two pockets. The pockets covered her nipples but barely her areolas. It was cut so

low she could see the insides of her breasts. Her breasts were clearly visible through the fabric. Like the last blouse her nipples responded to the feel and she became flush looking at herself. This was one of the most risque tops she ever picked out. While blushing she looked at the tag, the store tag still on it but the thrift store put their own ticket over the tag. She blushed as she hung it on its hanger and felt guilty when she hung it on the keep hook. She paged through her other shirts and decided to try on a deep red ruffled button shirt. She liked how it looked with the slacks but she felt this looked similar to other shirts she already purchased. She: took it off, hung it on the hanger and hung it on the reject hook.

She slipped off the slacks, she folded them, set them on the bench, and mentally called it her maybe pile. She selected a pair of gray stretch jeans with a skinny leg. This was the tightest pair of jeans she ever wore. She felt like a seductress modeling this pair in the mirror. She imagined a husband admiring her athletic legs and her toned rear end. She wondered what it would feel like for him to touch her through the fabric. She recognized this pair would be perfect for her private times; without even touching herself she could feel herself becoming aroused. She slipped them off, folded them, and created what she mentally called her likely to purchase pile.

She wanted to try something different. She grabbed an olive green cargo mini skirt. She would have never wore a skirt like this in public. It was somewhat worn but she liked the military feel of the skirt. She felt lucky to find a khaki colored tank. She felt she could layer this tank with other outfits and wear it outside of her houseboat; what she would never do is wear it without a bra. Without the bra the outline of her larger areolas and her erect nipples were clearly visible. What excited her was when she slipped on a khaki colored four-in-one cargo jacket. The retail store's tag was still hanging off of it. The tag explained the four different ways she could wear it. Standing in front of the mirror she was turned on by the military look. She glanced over at the two pair of boots she brought in. One of them was a three inch heeled camo colored military boot with bullet accents. She felt lucky to find this boot in the thrift store because she had spotted it online. She slipped it on and her head was only a quarter of an inch from the top of the ceiling. She had to brace herself against the wall. Until recently she never even considered high heels. Without her athletic ability she would have tumbled; even after practicing to walk in them in the privacy of her houseboat. This outfit turned her on. She sat herself down and removed the boots. She promised herself she would order these boots in a larger size when she had extra cash. After removing her boots she set the other items on the purchase piles.

She spent the next fifty minutes trying on clothes. She tried on: a pair of light blue slim fit bootcut jeans, a pair of dark blue hipster bootcut jeans with two button closures, a dark blue gold trim stretch jean with five pockets, a pair of dark blue denim rhinestone trim Capri pants, a vintage colored straight leg jean with embroidery on the pockets, a light blue paint splattered jean, and a sky blue twill easy fit straight leg pant with a front zipper. She also tried on: a light blue rhinestone denim mini-skirt with stars embroidered on the top. For the first time in her life she slipped into a putty colored side zip pleated skirt; this was fairly short.

If she felt an item needed a belt she tried on: a wide black belt with two rows of silver studs, a white skinny belt, and a double sided white and brown belt.

The tops she matched the bottoms with included: a lipstick red halter top that pushed up her boobs, a silver jeweled colored scoop neck embellished cami, a bright blue lace up long sleeved V-neck, a white crochet trim tank that exposed the top of her belly button, a red frilly

blouse with lace on both sides of the buttons, a white Victorian silk and lace blouse that was see through, a leopard print blouse, a very shiny gold foil cami, a white lace baby doll with a deep scoop neck, a light blue and black striped tube top, a yellow off the shoulder top, a dark blue and white striped vest, a four button V-neck white vest that exposed her belly button, a red lace up corset in stretch jacquard, and a clear sheer top with a white embroidery pattern on the front; she needed to pull up the top to cover her large areolas.

The footwear she tried on was: a gray colored stiletto boot with white strapping, a red colored over the knee boot, a pair of metallic colored gladiator sandals that went a few inches above her ankle, and a black pair of studded platform sandals with a four inch heel; she quickly realized this heel was too high for her.

Megan blushed and her dimples flashed when she noticed how moist she was.

Megan immediately: put on her bra, slipped on the jeans she came in with, put on the white top she came in with, slipped on her denim vest, set her hair, placed her cowgirl hat on, put on her jewelry, slipped on her cowgirl boots, she said a prayer, and sat down. She looked over at her clothes and wanted to purchase every item except for: the Capri denim pants, the leather pants, the footwear, the pleated skirt, and the sheer top with the embroidery design on front. She: pulled her calculator out of her purse, she stood up, made a variety of piles; depending on the cost of a pile she would switch an item. The deciding factors were: price, if she owned a similar item, if she felt she would wear an item outside of her houseboat, what emotions she felt while wearing the item, and how well an item fit. These multiple piles ended up to be two piles. The reject pile was a lot larger than the keep pile. She placed her calculator into her purse, swung her purse over her shoulder, grabbed both piles of clothes, and stepped out of the fitting room. She casually placed the clothes she rejected onto the table.

The employee was supposed to stop every customer and count the items again. She avoided embarrassing Megan by remaining silent. The clerk quickly went over to the table and counted the items she left, she then went into the dressing room Megan used and counted the hangers left behind. Like always the number Megan received matched the hangers (all of the pants had hangers as well).

Megan: quickly found her cart, she placed the clothes she wanted into the cart, and rushed to the checkout lane before anyone she knew would see the clothes she picked out. Since the first time purchasing clothes like this she purposely went into the line where her friend from high school was. Megan placed the pile of clothes onto the counter with the tags out for easy scanning. She then placed the other items onto the counter.

Megan's friend was again surprised at the style of clothes Megan picked out; this clerk made sure to scan the clothes in a way to avoid embarrassing Megan

Megan stated, "Howdy."

The friend answered, "Howdy. Y'all find everything okay?"

"I'm surprised at how many DVD's are on the shelf."

The cashier waved her arms, "It's a shame what Blockbuster is doing to the local rental stores."

Megan agreed, "It's terrible."

Megan's friend winked, "But it's helping the store."

Megan smiled, "It's helping my charter."

"I hate to bring this up but didn't Y'all date Simon?"

This was a painful memory but Megan answered, "We were friends."

“Oh.”

Megan answered, “It’s okay.”

“Did Y’all hear his Momma died?”

Megan felt deep sadness at this. She asked, “Is Rachael running the flower shop?”

“Oh yes,” the cashier added, “But the families fighting over the house.”

Megan’s dimples flashed.

The cashier said, “It’s a shame when families act up after someone passes.”

Megan answered, “It is.”

The cashier finished.

Megan was happy to be five dollars under the max she was willing to spend.

“Y’all paying cash or credit?”

Megan paid for her items in cash. The two ladies said their goodbyes and Megan headed for her pick-up-truck. She placed all of these items in a metal bin in the back of her truck and locked it shut. She was happy to finally be able to afford one of these bins. It was used but still in great shape.

She stepped into her truck and headed to the bowling alley.

Nicole was unloading the dishwasher; she was getting it ready for all of the dishes she was about to load into the dishwasher.

Her house was filled with teenagers. On her kitchen counter was the evidence she was feeding them. There was two slow cookers. One was filled with homemade sloppy Joe and the other was filled with meatballs. There was: a huge bowl of salad, a fruit salad, a macaroni salad, some shrimp, and a vegetable platter. Two items she very rarely had in her house was potato chips and coke. She did have a pitcher of iced tea and ice water out as well. As always there was a large amount of: cups, napkins, plates, and plastic utensils.

Since picking up the girls from downtown, the teenagers enjoying her house included: her son Jeff, Sal, his girlfriend Debbie-Sue, Monique, Bobbi-Sue, Billy, and Belinda. She was thankful her youngest daughter Ester was staying over night at her best friends house.

What surprised Nicole was when Julie brought out the game *Aggravation*. They were in the dinning room creating a lot of noise. Nicole would rather have them making noise playing a board game over many other activities. Based upon what she was hearing, they were playing three teams of two. It was obvious Julie and Hannah were on a team, Bobbi-Sue and Billy were on another team, Sal and Debbie-Sue were on another.

This was the first time Nicole met Debbie-Sue. Nicole felt she was a good gal. It was obvious she grew up on a ranch. She kept talking about horses and had a working knowledge on how a ranch worked.

She believed the only reason Jeff was at the house was because he knew Bette was there. She reminded herself, with both of them at her house, it was unlikely they were engaging in any sexual behavior. She believed the two of them loved one another. What she was concerned about was the temptation to have sex. The least thing she wanted was to be a grandparent. She could have cared less if Jeff impregnated someone or one of her daughters ended up pregnant; the least thing she wanted was to deal with an unwanted pregnancy. She hoped all of her children would remain virgins until they were married. Unlike many other

people with this belief she understood how difficult it could be to wait and believed a way to relieve the pressure was through masturbation.

A reminder of this worry was Felicia. It was obvious she was a good girl who fell for the oldest trick in the book. Nicole's heart went out to both Felicia and her parents. Nicole respected Victoria and Blake. Nicole felt a respect for Felicia, not for the mistake; but for taking on the responsibility of the mistake.

Out of the corner of her eye she watched as Bette and Jeff stepped into the kitchen. They were standing close together, were walking slow, and were giving one another the puppy eyed look. She watched Bette take a spoonful of macaroni salad and a carrot.

At this time Jimmy entered the house. Some of the teenagers acknowledged him and he acknowledged them in return.

When he stepped into the kitchen both Bette and Jeff acknowledged him. They were impressed with how proper Bette was.

Nicole smiled at him, "Help yourself."

Jimmy answered while pouring himself a glass of water, "I'll need to take a shower first."

She was happy to hear this because he smelled.

She immediately focused on Bette and Jeff when she heard Bette say, "You should eat more vegetables."

What Nicole was overjoyed when Bette placed some vegetables on his plate. To Nicole's surprise he allowed this to happen.

Nicole smiled when he heard her husband ask Jeff, "When did Y'all start eating cauliflower?"

Jeff lied, "I've always liked it."

Jimmy answered, "Sure."

Nicole giggled to herself.

Bette glanced at her boyfriend.

Nicole recognized this look.

Jeff answered, "I eat vegetables."

Jimmy with a smirk answered, "Never cauliflower."

Bette in a very polite way said, "We'll make sure he eats cauliflower. Right? It will help you with football."

Jeff answered, "Yeah."

Jimmy and Nicole glanced at one another.

Bette being sincere said, "Ms. Nicole thank-you for having us over. Everything tastes great. My Dad would love your meatballs."

Jimmy smiled.

Nicole mentioned, "I'll send your Momma the receipt."

"That'd be great."

Jimmy had to ask, "Y'all like the island?"

Bette gleamed, "It was so beautiful. I loved the lagoon. I've never seen so many pretty fish."

Jimmy added, "It's a special place."

Bette answered, "I agree."

Jeff whispered, "I'm hungry."

Jimmy smiled, "Go and enjoy your friends."

Bette smiled, "Yes sir."

Nicole was impressed when Jeff was polite and allowed Bette to walk in front of him.

Jimmy turned toward Nicole.

Nicole said in a small whisper, "Y'all need a shower. We'll talk later."

Jimmy; nodded his head, drank the rest of the water in his glass, stopped for a brief moment and looked at the game, talked with a few of the teenagers there, and then headed toward their bedroom.

Nicole turned toward Felicia and Annette when they stepped into the kitchen holding their plates.

Felicia asked, "Where did you want these?"

Nicole smiled, "Just set them on the counter."

Annette made a face and asked, "You need help?"

Nicole with confidence answered, "You enjoy yourselves."

Annette smiled, "Okay."

Nicole as a concerned mother and nurse asked, "Y'all okay?"

Felicia smiled, "The boat ride was tough. But I'm doing okay now."

"The pills help?"

The two girls glanced at one another, Felicia answered, "I can't imagine how bad it would have been without them."

Nicole caught the layers.

"Y'all are on dry land now. I hope you enjoyed the meal."

Felicia made a face and held in her tears, "Nothing tastes right."

Nicole's heart went out to her but she took a strong Mom approach, "Honey. As Y'all are aware your body is changing. Y'all ain't the only one to experience the foul taste in your mouth."

Felicia asked, "Did you?"

"Yes."

"Honey."

"Yes."

Nicole said sternly but with compassion, "With me knowing your Momma. I believe she has your best interest in heart. She'll help Y'all through your pregnancy."

Annette being her excited self, "It isn't easy talking to Victoria."

Felicia gave her a look.

Annette said, "What?"

Nicole with wisdom answered, "Sometimes it ain't easy for Momma's and their daughters to be getting along. But I'm certain. Your Momma is the best one for Y'all to talk too."

Again Annette jumped in, "She's old."

Felicia glanced at Annette but Felicia felt this way.

Nicole sternly stated, "What better woman to talk to. With your Momma living through those miscarriages, Y'all believe she'd want Y'all to go through a miscarriage? Or to have something happen to Y'all? She might be disappointed but she ain't wanting anything bad happening to Y'all or the baby."

The girls looked at one another.

Very gently, "Let me take them plates. If you need anything while Y'all are here feel free to ask. In the meantime enjoy the company of your friends."

Annette said, "You're cool."

Nicole would take the compliment and took the plates.

The two girls stepped back into the dinning room.

While rinsing the plates she prayed silently for Felicia, Victoria, and the unborn baby. She then prayed for all three of her children; hoping she would never experience what Felicia and Victoria were experiencing.

As she set these two plates into the dishwasher teenagers started to invade her kitchen with dirty dishes. They were talking about how Sal and Debbie-Sue won the game.

Megan was disappointed when the ball landed into the gutter before knocking over the ten pin.

She: turned, when she passed under the automatic scoring she looked up, she was disappointed in her score, and was disappointed Christopher would win. She encouraged herself by acknowledging she was doing better than last time. She was happy to have a score of 122 going into the ninth frame. She could clearly the importance of picking up spares.

Christopher mentioned, "It takes practice getting the ten pin."

Megan answered, "I'm having trouble switching balls."

He gave a look, "Having a spare ball at the beginning is slightly more difficult but in the long run it'll work out better."

She disliked the tone.

He smiled, "Y'all have chosen good bowling balls."

"Thanks."

They smiled at one another.

She watched him: wipe his bowling ball, get into his stance, take a five step delivery, observed how the ball curved, and like herself he left the ten pin. She took notice on how a pin went around the ten pin just like hers did. She watched him switch balls stand on the left side of the lane and easily knock it down. From this, the next time she tried a ten pin she would stand more to the left and aim different.

She felt this was the best time she had with Christopher because they were consistently talking. She would take a conversation only centered around bowling. She was happy when Christopher talked about: some of the leagues he had been on, talked about how his Daddy taught him how to bowl, and how good of a bowler his sister was.

Megan was about to pick up her ball. They were in the ninth frame of the second game.

Christopher commented, "Y'all are bowling much better."

Megan smiled her big dimple smile,

"I feel I am. I'm happy Y'all noticed."

He became serious, "Maybe Y'all would be doing better if you weren't wearing those jeans."

Her dimples flashed.

"What's wrong with them?"

"I'd think you'd be bowling better if Y'all were wearing anything other than jeans."

Megan crunched her forehead together, "I've worn slacks before."

“Yes.”

She disliked the tone.

He said sincerely, “Y’all look the best when you’re wearing full length skirts.”

“We’re bowling?”

“Women wear skirts bowling.”

“I wasn’t in the mood to be wearing a skirt.”

He answered with what she felt was a tone, “I guess.”

She felt the best thing was to concentrate on her bowling. She became angry at the fact she only hit the ten pin, then missed the spare; this messed up her game. She sat down. Sitting there she was contemplating a list of questions. She took very little notice of his bowling. They were about to start the third game.

He stated, “Your turn.”

She glanced at the screen. They were about to start the third game. She was less excited about bowling but he had paid for the third game. She barely concentrated on the next two frames; the gutter on the first ball of the second frame was evidence of this. She picked up six pins after.

While sitting down Christopher tried to be encouraging, “Y’all will do better.”

Her dimples flashed.

She snipped, “Maybe I’d do better if I changed into a skirt.”

His countenance changed.

She could tell he was angry, instead he turned, bowled and sat down like nothing happened.

This angered her.

They bowled the next three frames in silence.

Tired of the silence she asked bluntly, “Y’all feel I’m less of a woman for wearing jeans?”

“Do we have to discuss this?”

Megan from her heart answered, “It’d be nice if we’d be able to discuss things.”

He gave her a confused look, “We talk about lots of things.”

This comment was a blind side hit.

Her dimples flashed and she crunched her forehead.

She bowled the frame.

Before he was ready to bowl she asked sincerely, “Y’all feel we discuss things?”

“Of course.”

This was both shocking and disappointing.

She was processing what this meant up until she was to bowl in the tenth.

Megan’s dimples flashed.

She had her ball in her hand turned to him, down a few lanes from them was a young lady wearing a very tight midi-skirt; a skirt Megan would never wear in public.

She asked, “Y’all see the gal a few lanes over?”

“The older gal?”

“Yeah.”

He gave her a confused look, “What about her?”

“Y’all believe the woman over there is being lady-like?”

Again with a confused look, “What does it matter?”

Her dimples flashed.

She turned and managed two strikes and a seven count.

She: turned, sat down, and started to untie her bowling shoes.

Christopher said, "Good finish."

Megan answered, "Even though I'm wearing jeans."

He became angry, "I just don't believe it's proper for a gal to be wearing jeans."

"So I ain't proper?"

"It ain't what I was saying."

She managed to take off her other shoe, "It's what you just said. You said it ain't proper for a gal to be wearing jeans. I'm wearing jeans?"

"Do we really need to discuss this?"

Megan's dimples flashed.

"Y'all don't believe I'm proper?"

Angry now, "I've heard the rumors."

"What rumors?"

"I bet Ashleigh bought Y'all the bowling balls."

Her dimples flashed and she gave him a look of exasperation.

This comment hurt a great deal.

She was unable to hold in her tears, "Y'all think I'd be dating you if I was sleeping with Ashleigh?"

"I've been hearing things."

"Why not ask me?"

"I didn't think anything of it until Y'all were wearing jeans. I know Y'all can't afford the expensive bowling balls. What other conclusion is there?"

Raising her voice, "She's my friend."

"What type of friend?"

More tears.

She said loudly, "I ain't a lesbian."

He recoiled.

"I wish people would stop believing I was one."

"What was I to think?"

"Y'all could have asked."

"I didn't want to think my girlfriend was into women. Like I was saying before. I thought everyone was being foolish. Until I saw Y'all wearing jeans."

"Wearing jeans makes me a lesbian?"

The tears stopped.

"Maybe it's a sign."

"Well it ain't."

Christopher answered, "I'm happy to hear it."

Megan's dimples flashed.

He stated sincerely, "I ain't meaning to get Y'all upset."

Megan's dimples flashed again.

"Y'all know why I'm upset?"

He answered, "Because I don't want my girlfriend to wear jeans."

This was partly true but she answered, "Because we never discuss anything. Y'all should have asked me about the rumors."

Tears started.

He asked with an odd tone, "What should I have asked?"

She said with a tone of frustration, "How about. I've heard rumors Y'all are gay. Are you bisexual?"

He gave her a shocked look, "I ain't talking to a lady in such terms."

She felt a swirling inside of her head.

"Ain't I your girlfriend?"

"Yeah."

"Why wouldn't you feel you could talk to me?"

"I ain't ever been with a respectable lady who talked about sex."

Her dimples flashed.

She suspected he felt this way, she wiped the tears from her face, and found some bravery.

In a gentle voice she answered, "The only male person I'd talk to to about sex is a person I'm considering on marrying."

"We ain't married yet."

Calm she answered, "True. Lets say we'all were engaged. Would Y'all believe we should talk about sex then."

"I guess."

She looked at him.

He shrugged his shoulders, "I never thought I'd need to if I was marrying a Christian gal."

She asked bluntly, "Is sex important to you?"

"It's what married couples do."

Megan's dimples flashed, "Why?"

"To have children."

Megan lost her breath for a moment. She took a deep calming breath.

Megan managed a calm voice and asked, "What would Y'all feel about marrying a wife who likes sex?"

"I ain't ever considered a gal likes sex."

Megan's dimples flashed.

Megan answered, "I ain't sure we should be dating anymore."

To her surprise he said, "With me in the knowing Y'all ain't into gals. I feel confident in telling you I'm falling in love with you."

This completely blind sided her.

She said honestly, "I need to think about all of this."

Without a lot of emotion, "Okay."

This was irritating on so many levels.

She packed up and left before he finished his tenth frame. Once she stepped out of the bowling alley she began to cry.

She placed her two ball bowling bag into the back of her truck and like so many times when she was upset she took a drive.

April 12th, Being Left on an Island *Part Five of Six*

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Ashleigh & Megan *Book I: Friendship*

Thursday, April 12
Being Left on
an Island

Day 14 of Book I
(Six Days since Ashleigh's Family Arrived in Florida)

Part Six of Six



Authored By: R. P. Voght

Posted on ashleighandmegan.com on:
October 26, 2025

I hope you enjoy this pioneering format I call, "A Story Cast."

What the term "Story Cast" means; is this story is designed to be read in small to medium intervals. This particular story is broken up into "days." These portions are broken up into part or all of a particular fictitious "day" of the story. Each day surrounds the characters lives, relationships, adventures, struggles, mishaps and triumphs. This story is very different from a Novel or conventional story in many ways. Again, THIS IS NOT A NOVEL AND IS NOT WRITTEN IN A CONVENTIONAL NOVEL FORMAT. Instead; as the reader you are following the characters thoughts and actions during the course of this "day." This fiction story is set up like a TV series and or a third person journal. It always starts with one or more character getting up and ends with one or more characters going to bed; while during the day you experience the Characters actions, feelings, and their thoughts. On a large overview; there is a beginning, a middle, and an end to this "Story Cast"

R. P. Voght

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April 12 Being Left on an Island Day 14 of Book I

(Six Days since Ashleigh's Family Arrived in Florida)

Megan reached the corner of *Orange Blossom Road* (this road went east and west), and *Town Hall Road* (this road went north and south). Behind her was called the Bulge. This is where the four lane road called *Town Hall Road*, split into a boulevard and went around *City Park*. On her right was the post office and the police station. On the southwest corner of the street was the well maintained lower class neighborhood Megan grew up in.

Megan debated about driving passed the house she grew up in but decided not to.

The light turned green. She continued south for a few blocks. On the east side of *Town Hall Road* she passed: a laundry mat, a small convenience store, an empty building with a sign advertising it was for sale or lease, and a side road headed east. The least thing Megan wanted was to take this side road to the tourist part of town. Three blocks down the resorts started. At the intersection where the resorts started was a blue sign with IA1 written in white and an arrow pointing upwards.

Between the side road and the resorts was a neighborhood. The road and the houses along the first road were constructed a few years after World War Two. The next two streets were spread apart because the neighborhood was shaped like an H. When this neighborhood was constructed it was a secluded upper class neighborhood. As Eastbank grew the elite citizens of Eastbank moved from this neighborhood. These houses were then filled with families who were wealthy but were a notch below the elite. This neighborhood had always been well maintained and managed to stay secluded. There were many reasons it remained secluded: the H shape of this neighborhood, the rectangular shaped park on the south side of the neighborhood (in the mid-sixties large trees were transplanted along this border to make sure there was a separation between the park and this neighborhood), the coastline on the

East side, the upper middle class neighborhood on the North Side, and *Town Hall Road* on the West Side.

Megan turned onto the first road of this H shaped neighborhood. She always loved the two to three story houses, the fences, and how this neighborhood kept its historic feel. She slowed up when she reached a T-shaped intersection; an old faded yield sign was on this corner. If she continued straight she would end up at the beach. If she turned right this road would take her to other side of the H. She drove through the intersection. She parked her pick-up-truck in front Simon's families house.

When she was growing up this three story house was believed to be haunted. This rumor ended when Simon's family restored the house. She would never forget the day she met Simon and they played baseball in the long rectangular backyard. Simon was her first love. A disappointment of her life was when Simon asked a different girl to prom. She went to prom with a guy who pressured her to have sex. After turning him down is when the rumor she was a lesbian took root.

Megan sat in her truck and cried over these painful experiences.

She gained control of herself and whipped away her tears.

She stepped out of her truck, shut the door and up to the white fence. This fence surrounded the rectangular shaped property; the only gap in this fence was in front of the driveway. This two car driveway, which led to a two car garage, was on the left side of the house. The other way through this fence was the small gate leading to the front porch. It broke her heart to see the white paint flaking off of the fence and a few lower rungs resting on the ground. She imagined fixing the fence and painting it back to its original light green.

It upset her to see the house showing signs of disrepair. With both of Simon's parents passing away she wondered what would happen to the house. If the house was up for sale she would have tried to get a loan for the house. She knew it would have been a long shot for her to own this house but she would have tried.

She felt it was her destiny to own the house and raise a family in it. She imagined repainting the outside of the house in a green and white color scheme; similar to it's original color scheme but slightly different. She would remodel the inside of the house. A delightful thought was playing with her children in the large L-shaped yard. A crushing thought was breaking it off with Christopher and never finding a husband.

This caused her to tear.

She often imagined what it would feel like for a man to express his love to her. The experience today was far from what she envisioned. The way Christopher expressed his love to her was similar to being punched in the gut. She was having difficulty believing he really loved her. What influenced this feeling was her doubts she loved him. Adding to this sucker punch feeling was the pressure to figure it out. She wanted to be loved. She wanted to believe another person would love her but there was this persistent feeling she would never find anyone. This was the reason she agreed to another date.

Fresh tears fell.

There were several things bothering her. The nagging question; was it wise for them to be together. The second worry was sex. Once married she wanted to have a fulfilling sex life. Based upon their earlier discussion it was clear their ideas about sex were different. She currently believed their conflicting expectations would make it difficult for either one of them to have a blessed bedroom. A red flag was Christopher's belief they discussed issues. She felt

they never discussed any. This was the number one reason she felt unsure about their relationship and how she felt about him.

She was deeply hurt by his reaction to her wearing jeans. It was obvious he heard the rumors she was either bisexual or a closeted lesbian. It was hurtful to think Christopher believed these rumors. Compounding this hurt was his inability to ask her. She felt it was equally ignorant to assume she was a lesbian because she wore jeans; especially when a friend of her Fathers felt she looked feminine. She wished with all of her heart people would stop assuming she was gay.

She full on cried for the next ten minutes.

She gained her composure when a car drove bye.

She gazed upon the house.

She walked up to the small gate, opened it, and walked up to the house. She stopped heading to the house when she felt guilty for inspecting the house without permission. She: turned, walked back, closed the gate, she turned around, and gazed upon the house. During this time she again imagined remodeling the house and raising a family.

This caused her to cry.

She spotted a retired couple walking towards her: she stopped herself from crying, she quickly turned away from this couple, wiped away her tears, stepped into her truck, and went for a drive.

Shelly was legitimately happy for her cousin Naomi.

Her Cousin Naomi and her Fiance Levi were sitting across from her. Shelly was grateful they were paying for her. This restaurant was: very spacious, elegant, and to expensive for her.

The waitress set down their salads and excused herself.

Naomi was five seven, had long dark wavy hair, her eyebrows were just as dark as her hair, she had a very defined square face, a larger nose, high well defined cheek bones, full lips with a more puffy lower lip, she had a cleft chin, and very beautiful brown eyes; depending on how she felt she either wore glasses or contacts. She was currently wearing glasses. Shelly felt she looked just as attractive in glasses as she did in contacts. Naomi always had a voluptuous figure. She had very large round breasts; breasts she neither liked nor disliked. No matter what Naomi did it was impossible to hide them, but she found it rude when people focused on them. What she tried to hide was her wider hips and her padded rear end. She worked out and watched what she ate, because of her bone structure it was impossible for her to loose all of the weight she desired. This never stopped her from having confidence and she never felt the need to starve herself. She always wore clothes that helped her look modest and attractive; overall she had a great presentation.

Today was no exception. She was wearing a black cotton voile skirt, a white embroidered pleaded tunic, a black tie belt, and a black cotton vest with slit pockets. She was wearing light makeup and her hair was neatly pinned up. It was obvious Naomi and Levi had just left the office.

Levi was slightly taller than Naomi, he was skinny, had a long face, a long skinny nose, thin eyebrows, a full head of dark straight hair, dark eyes, medium length lips, and like Naomi wore glasses; unlike Naomi he never wore contacts. He was currently wearing a round pair of glasses. It was obvious by his: watch, his tie clip, and the ring he was becoming a successful

lawyer. Levi was dressed very formally. He was in a nice but casual granite colored suit. Before sitting down he slipped off his suit coat. Shelly took notice he was wearing a shirt and tie both Naomi and herself picked out for him. She felt he looked handsome in his granite colored dress shirt with a barely visible large square pattern. She really liked his red and white dotted pattern tie. Shelly remembered the day Naomi bought these clothes for Levi.

Shelly noticed Levi made a quick glance at Naomi's breasts but quickly looked away. Shelly correctly felt they were having difficulty remaining virgins.

Shelly asked, "Levi what brings you here?"

Levi responded, "Our offices are working on the same case. As you are aware we both took off of work tomorrow."

Naomi was quick to say, "I'm planning on taking him to the Milwaukee Art Museum and to the Milwaukee Public Museum."

Shelly answered, "I haven't been to the new art museum yet."

Levi answered, "If you'd like you could come along."

Shelly answered, "I have a test tomorrow. And I have to work."

Naomi excited for her cousin commented, "I heard you received a raise?"

Shelly smiled, "Yes I did. The best part was the assistant manager that didn't like me was transferred to a different store."

Naomi mentioned, "Did you take the position?"

"It would interfere with school. I like working retail but I'd prefer to work in manufacturing."

Levi asked, "Why the interest in manufacturing?"

Naomi answered, "She was a big help to Robert when he first opened his business."

Shelly answered, "Bobby used many of my suggestions."

Levi smiled, "There isn't any doubt he's running a successful business."

"From what Ashleigh's telling me the move went well."

Levi became very serious, "Florida is delighted he's there. He angered many of the politicians here in Wisconsin."

Shelly added, "He moved because he disliked our governor and the anti-business climate of Madison."

Levi answered, "It's why a lot of business are moving."

Shelly tried to change the subject and asked, "I heard you found a hall?"

The waitress arrived at the table. She set down drinks for everyone and took the salad plates away. They thanked the waitress. She was grateful for the acknowledgment.

Naomi declared, "We found one on the East side."

Levi mentioned, "My Uncle was able to get us in."

A gleaming Naomi said, "It's on the lake."

Shelly showing interested answered, "I know you were worried about finding one."

Naomi all smiles, "You'll love it."

"I've always liked the lake front."

Levi asked, "But I understand you don't like the ocean?"

Shelly made a face, "The ocean surrounding Florida."

Levi pushing, "Why the disdain for Florida?"

Both Shelly and Naomi looked at him.

Shelly felt the way Levi questioned her was exactly like her mother.

She felt she should answer the question, "I like living here. More important I feel it's better to raise children here."

Levi smiled, "It'd be better than Miami."

Shelly clarified, "Thankfully Bobby lives in a town named Eastbank. It's not too far away from Bocca Rotan."

Levi was delighted to say, "I have many relatives who live in Bocca Rotan."

Naomi added, "As do I."

Shelly asked, "I've good things about Eastbank?"

Levi answered very factually, "It sustains itself on tourism and light industry. The community is changing with Renewed Mastery moving there. Overall he picked a good community."

Shelly answered, "That makes me feel better."

Naomi asked, "When is Robert taking him to Florida?"

Naomi and Levi could hear the anxiety in her voice, "He's keeping him from May twentieth to the twenty-ninth of May."

Shelly held in her tears.

Levi mentioned, "If you don't feel it's a good idea we could petition the court."

Shelly took a deep breath, "Bobby's promised me everything will be okay. He's given me the plane schedule. He gave me a schedule on what he has planned and where he's taking him. He promised me if he changes his schedule he will let me know. He reassured me he won't be working. Ashleigh is helping watch him."

Levi looked over at Naomi.

Naomi answered, "Ashleigh is Bob's sister."

Shelly added, "She sometimes comes up for visitations."

Levi asked, "Has he missed any?"

"No."

Naomi and Levi glanced at one another.

In a shocked tone Levi questioned, "This is shocking to me?"

Naomi added, "Do you know how many single parents living in the same town miss visitations?"

Shelly confirmed Naomi's statement, "Many of the mom's at Little Bobby's day care complain about it."

Levi in a serious manner stated, "It's impressive."

He mentioned matter of fact, "I believe our food is here."

The waitress took a few steps and was at the table.

She set down Midwestern style steaks in front of Shelly and Levi. Naomi was looking forward to fresh walleye. The waitress then set down the condiments Levi asked for. She switched out: Shelly's lemon aide and Levi and Naomi's soft drinks. They thanked the waitress, the waitress thanked them in return, and stepped away from the table.

Naomi with a smile mentioned, "We put down an offer on a house."

Shelly asked, "You did!?"

Naomi answered, "We felt it would be best to live in the area."

Levi added, "You have a good boy."

Shelly teared.

Levi mentioned, "After the meal you need to sign the paperwork."

Naomi became her lawyer self, "The paperwork is written as we discussed. If something should happen to you I will have final say on Robert's custody. Our feeling is he should live with us. Unless; we feel it would be better if he lived with his father."

Levi added, "We would never interfere with the visitation schedule. Unless there is evidence he would dishonor the agreements."

With a mix of emotion Shelly mentioned, "Neither one will like it."

Levi and Naomi glanced at one another, "I love Aunt Holly. But we feel Robert is better off with us. While never forgetting he does have a father who loves him and Holly would want to be involved."

Levi added with seriousness, "My Grandfather's firm has just as many connections and influence as your Mother."

Shelly answered, "I'll trust you'll do the right thing."

Very serious Levi said, "We'll love him like he's our own."

Naomi reached out to her, "We will."

Shelly answered, "I trust that."

Naomi with emotion and emphasis, "We hope nothing will happen."

Shelly being reassuring answered, "I love being clean and sober."

Levi pushed up his glasses, "We believe you."

Naomi winked at him, he smiled; this made Shelly feel wonderful.

Naomi was overjoyed to mention, "After we get married. Levi will be working at his Grandfathers firm."

Levi answered, "Plus; I like the messianic church up here."

Shelly answered, "Your mom must be excited."

Naomi with a wave and a smile, "You should hear her."

The two ladies giggled at this.

For the rest of the dinner they talked about wedding plans. Shelly felt Levi showed great patience during this conversation. Shelly really liked him and was happy for both.

After dinner Naomi and Levi parted ways. Shelly felt it was a good idea Levi was staying with a relative. Shelly correctly believed if the two of them wanted to remain virgins it was a horrible idea for the two of them to spend anytime alone.

After dinner, and before Shelly picked up Little Bobby, Naomi visited with Shelly at her apartment. Shelly was excited to show Naomi the changes she made to the apartment and the art work she was working on. Naomi loved the painting of the park with a mother and son holding hands; Naomi assumed this was Shelly and Little Bobby.

While looking at the painting Naomi instructed, "We need to sign the paperwork."

"Do I have too?"

This irritated Naomi, "You were the one who wanted this."

"I know."

Naomi looked at her cousin, "I believe you will never slip."

"I know."

"I know your dedicated to staying clean and sober but this is for both of you."

"I know."

"We both know if you slip you'll be a terrible mother and it's likely you'll never stop again."

"I know."

Both teared.

An emotional Naomi stated, "It'd be better for Little Bobby to be away from you than witness you strung up."

"I know."

"God forbid. What happens if something should happen to you? Do you want Aunt Holly to raise him? You know she'll keep Little Bobby from Robert and do everything in her power to get custody."

Shelly quickly snapped out of her emotions, "I don't want that."

Naomi pushed, "We need to do this."

Shelly turned toward Naomi, "I want to be his mother."

"You can't slip. You have to stay clean and sober."

"I know."

Naomi was stern, "We need to sign the paperwork."

Shelly felt this was the most adult thing she ever faced. Shelly: walked into the kitchen, opened a drawer, and took out a pen.

Naomi: set her brief case on the table, opened it, took out the legal paperwork, and set this paperwork onto the table.

Naomi tapped her finger on the paperwork, "You understand what this means?"

"Yes I do."

"Both Levi and I have signed it. Tomorrow I will get this notarized. You understand that?"

Shelly shook her head.

"Okay. You need to initial here."

Shelly did.

Naomi turned a page, "Sign here."

Shelly did.

She turned a few more pages, "Initial here."

Shelly did.

Naomi made her sign three more times.

With the final signature Shelly was determined to remain clean and sober for the rest of her life.

Naomi placed all the paperwork in a sleeve in her briefcase, shut it, and locked it. This is when Naomi embraced Shelly.

Shelly mentioned, "I have to pick up Little Bobby."

"Sounds good."

The two ladies slipped on their spring jackets and left the apartment.

*A*shleigh was nervous.

Nikita was waiting at the main door of the yacht. She sensed three people on the opposite side of the door. She sensed Best Friend. The other two humans lived in the territory named, "Mom's house." Their offspring, the one carrying a pup, was staying at what she considered her territory called, "yacht." She liked the humans who were with Best Friend.

Ashleigh yelled, "Sit."

Nikita reluctantly sat where she was trained to sit.

Ashleigh unlocked the door and they stepped into the yacht. She held the door open until her foster parents were fully inside.

Victoria knew to greet the dog. She could have done without it but she knew this was the best thing.

“She’s gotten big.”

Ashleigh smiled, “She has.”

Blake mentioned, “This would make a great train room.”

With a tone Victoria mentioned, “This is like the club.”

Ashleigh quickly answered, “Not exactly.”

Victoria made a face.

Blake with amazement asked, “He kept all that stuff?”

Ashleigh answered, “He would never get rid of the neon signs and all the memorabilia. He has the most valuable things locked in storage in Wisconsin.”

Victoria mentioned with a happy tone, “I see he left room to dance.”

Ashleigh whispered, “Don’t tell anyone but he still practices.”

They heard Bob from the galley say, “Ashleigh?”

She immediately yelled, “Mom and Dad are here.”

Bob answered, “Oh.”

Victoria disliked the tone.

Blake gave Victoria a glare.

Victoria took a calming breath.

Bob said, “I’ll be in my office.”

Blake quickly stepped into the lounge and spotted Bob making his way to the hallway. Blake made sure to say loudly, “It’s nice seeing you.”

This surprised Bob. He: stopped, turned around, and answered, “It is.”

Bob and Blake approached one another and shook hands.

Victoria and Ashleigh stepped into the galley.

Blake stated, “Now this is a boat.”

Bob pushed up his glasses.

“I like it.”

Blake looked at him, “We appreciate what you’re doing for our daughter.”

Bob answered matter of fact, “She’s my sister.”

Blake made sure to say, “Not just Ashleigh but Felicia as well.”

Bob was stern, “She’s a good girl. From what I’ve observed I believe she understands how she was lied too. More important she’s taking ownership of her decisions. Taking in account her age and what she is able to handle.”

Victoria surprised Ashleigh and Blake when she stated, “I’ve come to understand not many brothers would have done what you’ve done for a sister. Concerning Felicia. We agree with you. We both know you’re in contact with excellent legal counsel and we appreciate the help. As her mother I agree she has learned from this.”

She paused briefly so she could hold back her tears.

She took a deep breath.

The other three people in this room were surprised this was happening.

“As much as we are disappointed in her. She never hid it from us and is having her baby. We hope she’ll give it up for adoption but if she doesn’t we’re here for her and the baby.”

Both Blake and Ashleigh were in awe.

Ashleigh hoped Bob was taking this well.

“Both of you have been great parents to Ashleigh. I’m grateful for what you have done. As they say here; She’s a fine lady.”

Bob pushed up his glasses.

He continued, “I’m certain the reason Felicia is accepting what’s happened to her is because of both of you.”

Ashleigh was unable to hold in the tears. The tension between the three of them was a difficult thing; all she ever knew was this tension.

Bob surprised them by asking, “I heard about Captain and yourself. How did the event go tonight?”

Blake smiled, “God moved.”

Bob stated matter of fact, “I’m glad to hear it.”

Victoria found it within herself to say, “I want you to know officially we accept the help you are giving Felicia.”

Bob in a professional manner answered, “I’m pleased.”

This shocked Ashleigh to the core.

“I gave her the card to my lawyer.”

Blake asked, “May we have a copy?”

Bob stated, “I gave a couple to Felicia.”

Victoria answered, “She gave me one.”

Blake answered, “Okay.”

With a smile Bob declared, “I’m sure Ashleigh would love to show you around.”

Ashleigh answered, “I was planning on it.”

Bob added, “I hope you enjoy the trip next week. I’ll be staying at a resort.”

Victoria was surprised by this.

Bob mentioned, “We felt it was a bad idea to have both of us on vacation at the same time.”

Ashleigh smiled.

Blake in all honesty answered, “We’re looking forward to it.”

With a smile Bob answered, “Captain and Megan will be sailing this vessel. With them at the helm I’m sure everything will go well.”

Victoria answered with a smile, “My daughter seems to like it here.”

Bob smiled, “That’s because of Megan and Nikita.”

Nikita looked over at Favorite Male.

Ashleigh mentioned, “I’d like to show them around.”

“I’ll be in my office.”

Victoria felt the need to say one last thing. She reluctantly stepped up to him, “You’ve turned out to be a fine young man.”

Bob answered, “Maybe if a stern woman wouldn’t have been so stern this man wouldn’t be the person he is now.”

Victoria with wisdom answered, “Loosing your mother was far more difficult on you than you let on.”

“Maybe.”

What touched Ashleigh's heart and Bob's was when Victoria said, "Amanda would be proud of you."

Ashleigh was surprised to see Bob well up in tears; he held them in.

This caused Ashleigh to tear.

Bob answered, "I believe this to be true because you said it."

Victoria and Bob looked at one another. In their hearts they forgave one another.

Bob pushed up his glasses.

Bob stated from his heart, "This yacht is your yacht."

Blake answered, "Thank-you."

Bob nodded his head.

Ashleigh held in her emotions.

They all watched him head down the aisle and up the spiral staircase to the third deck.

Victoria turned to Ashleigh, "Take us on a tour."

Ashleigh just stood there.

Victoria and Ashleigh hugged. Victoria held onto Ashleigh as she cried. This caused Victoria to cry. Victoria apologized for the decades of tension. Ashleigh accepted it.

As they cried and embraced one another Blake inspected the trinkets in the China cabinet. He needed to turn away or he would have cried himself.

When he felt they cried enough he asked, "He took you to all these places?"

The two ladies looked at one another, separated, and smiled.

Ashleigh answered, "Yes he did."

"Amazing."

Ashleigh rubbed the tears from her face, got control of herself, and stepped up to him.

She asked, "What's so amazing?"

"While it was happening I never realized how many places he took you too. Seeing all the souvenirs it's easy to see how much time you spent with your brother."

Ashleigh teared again.

Blake gently put his arm around her, "How do you keep the stuff from falling. You're on a boat?"

Ashleigh opened the door and showed him.

She stated, "Megan showed me how to secure them without wrecking any."

A life time prayer of Ashleigh was finally answered. The three most important people in Ashleigh's life made their peace.

Blake and Victoria enjoyed the tour. After the tour Ashleigh led them back to their rental car. Ashleigh hugged both of her foster parents and they said their goodbyes. Ashleigh was quick to remind them they were seeing one another the next day. Her parents acknowledge this. When they drove away she teared up.

There non-complaints spoke louder than any compliment. She was correct in feeling, if they disapproved of the way Bob or herself were living, she would have heard about it.

Ashleigh turned and headed back to the yacht. Soon after arriving in the yacht she received a phone call from Megan.

*A*shleigh knew Megan was upset by the tone of her voice. As soon as Ashleigh was able she went over to Megan's houseboat.

They were sitting on the stern side of Megan's houseboat. They were in their normal chairs, in between them was the tray table, a bowl of grapes, and a pitcher of sweet iced tea.

Nikita was to the right of Ashleigh, laying on the rug Megan bought her, and was enjoying the bone Megan gave her.

With it being a crescent moon it was a darker night, but the sky was clear and the stars were bright. The lights from the marina and the lights from the town reflected on the *Eastbank River*. Ashleigh liked looking over the marina. The sounds of the marina were now a soothing thing to her. In the distance they could see the lights of the cars crossing the bridge built over the *Eastbank River*. Ashleigh liked this bridge. Ashleigh believed the view from the yacht was better but she liked having what they recently started to call "*moon talks*" on the top deck of Megan's houseboat.

They took a drink of iced tea.

"Where is Felicia and Annette staying tonight?"

"Supposedly. Nicole is dropping them off at the resort. But I noticed they left their things in the cabins."

Megan flashed her dimples and her large smile.

"They're good girls."

Ashleigh in a disappointed tone said, "I wish Felicia wasn't pregnant."

Megan answered, "She's taking responsibility for it. It's understandable she's struggling. She's a young gal herself."

"Mom and I are worried she'll decide to keep it."

Megan answered, "She has two older women to lean on and look up too."

Ashleigh replied, "I'm not sure I'd make a good mother."

"I ain't understanding why Y'all say such things."

"I worry I'd be like Ashley."

"Y'all wouldn't have to be. I'd be more worried Y'all will spoil them."

Ashleigh glanced at her best friend, "You think I'm spoiling my nephew?"

"I've mentioned this before. Don't buy him things every time Y'all see him. He'll start expecting Y'all to do it all the time."

Ashleigh thought about this.

"Get him to like Y'all for who you are over the things you'd buy him."

"I believe you."

"Then Y'all can't be buying him something every time."

"He's my nephew."

"Instead take him places. Where he ain't knowing Y'all are blessing him with money. Plus the memories will mean more."

She suddenly thought of all the trips her brother took her on. These trips were taken before he was super wealthy and after he started to accumulate wealth. This put a new prospective on their trips.

Ashleigh stated, "Maybe I'll take him to the zoo."

"I bet he'd like it if Bob went along."

She smiled.

"Why are Y'all smiling?"

"I just remembered the times Bob took me to the zoo."

"See what I'm meaning?"

Ashleigh agreed. She took a sip of iced tea.

"From the picture Y'all showed me he does love his Auntie."

"You think?"

Megan flashed her big dimple smile.

"Y'all can tell."

Ashleigh stated, "Kids can never pronounce my name. He calls me Ash-wee."

Megan giggled.

Ashleigh shook her head and took a sip of her iced tea.

Ashleigh mentioned, "I enjoyed lunch."

Megan answered, "Me too."

They watched as a vessel cruise down the *Eastbank River* toward the inlet.

Ashleigh asked, "Why won't they tell us what happened in Vietnam?"

"I believe Nicole is right. They don't want the ladies they love to think less of them."

Ashleigh answered, "She's probability right."

Megan mentioned, "I'm surprised Nicole doesn't want to work for Y'all."

"Me too."

Ashleigh crunched her forehead together.

"But I understand why. I'm not sure I'd want to work with a husband."

"There's a lot of couples who run their business together."

There was a pause.

Megan stated, "Y'all work with Bob."

Ashleigh answered, "I guess."

"Y'all wouldn't want to work with your husband?"

"It's one of the reasons I don't date anyone I work with."

"Is there any guy you'd date if you weren't the vice president?"

They ate some grapes and took sips of their iced tea. Ashleigh watched the vessel go under the bridge and turn onto the outlet. During the silence she was mentally thinking of all the male employees.

Ashleigh broke the silence, "I feel a couple guys would date me."

"Ain't it awkward?"

"Sort off."

There was a moment of silence.

"It's flattering but dating anyone who works for the Company would be awkward. I sometimes imagine what it would be like to seduce one of my younger employees."

Megan asked, "Would you?"

Ashleigh answered honestly, "No. It feels so wrong. But it doesn't mean I haven't fantasized about it."

"Y'all have declared you want to wait until your married to have sex again."

"I do."

Ashleigh being honest, "I know I've said this before. It's more difficult to restrain yourself after having sex. I know what a mess it'd cause if I engaged in some casual fling with anyone from town. Even if I wasn't the vice president in this town it would become a thing."

Megan answered, "Y'all are being wise."

"I feel the security guard likes me."

"How old is he?"

“He’s in his early twenties.”

“You’d be the hot older gal.”

Ashleigh stated firmly, “I’m not old.”

Megan outright laughed.

Ashleigh gave her look.

Megan flashed her dimple smile.

“Y’all are older to him.”

“Thanks.”

They both laughed.

When they were finished laughing they ate more grapes.

Ashleigh mentioned, “These are good.”

“Nicole gave them to me.”

Ashleigh answered, “Oh.”

Megan answered, “I believe they’re on sale.”

“Where?”

“The local market.”

Ashleigh mentioned, “I like that store.”

“It’s been owned by the same family for as long as I can remember.”

“Bob really admires stuff like that.”

Megan knew this to be true and brushed hair behind her right ear.

Megan wanted to talk to Ashleigh about the date and what she was feeling but was having trouble finding the words.

They glanced over at Nikita who was enjoying the bone. They both knew she liked it because she normally would have been asleep already.

Megan was grateful when Ashleigh broke the silence by asking, “So what happened? Something bad happen on your date? I’m your best friend you can tell me.”

“Christopher told me he loved me.”

Ashleigh became excited: she sat up, turned, and was about to congratulate her; but when she looked at Megan the excitement crashed.

Tears, “I ain’t sure I love him.”

Ashleigh managed to say, “Oh.”

“Even if I love him I ain’t feeling we should be together.”

Megan’s dimples flashed

She wiped away the tears.

“I never imagined it would feel this way.”

Ashleigh teared with her friend, “Uh huh.”

“He didn’t like what I was wearing.”

This stopped Ashleigh’s tears.

Ashleigh with a face of disgust asked, “Are you wearing the same outfit you have on now?”

“Just without the makeup.”

“You look so attractive.”

“Before the date I bumped into a friend of Daddy and he said I looked feminine.”

“He’s right.”

Megan’s dimples flashed.

"Christopher said I'd bowl better if I was wearing a skirt or a dress."

This irritated Ashleigh, "That's bullshit."

Megan disliked it anytime Ashleigh swore but this time it felt right.

Ashleigh asked, "Does he believe a woman should only wear skirts or dresses?"

"From what he told me. He doesn't mind a woman wearing slacks but he ain't liking me in jeans."

Ashleigh crunched her face together and said with a tone, "What else did he say?"

After looking at Simon's house, she drove up and down the coast, she then took some laundry to the laundromat, while watching the clothes tumble in the drier she became angry at the fact he believed she was gay. What infuriated her the most was how he asked her.

Without tears and with a tone she stated, "He asked me if I was a lesbian."

Ashleigh rolled her eyes, "He didn't."

Irritated she answered, "He said he was hearing the rumors but discounted them until seeing me in jeans."

"You have to be kidding?"

Megan's dimples flashed.

"No."

Ashleigh could feel the hurt of her best friend; this time it angered her.

"He's stupid."

In a tone Ashleigh never heard Megan use before, she stated while the tears falling down her cheeks, "Maybe I'll sleep with a woman. It'll make everyone else happy."

This flustered Ashleigh.

To prove a point she stated, "Let's do it."

Megan turned and glared at her best friend.

Ashleigh being her actress self stood up and in a seductive voice said, "Let's go downstairs."

This shocked Megan and in a freaked out tone asked, "What are Y'all suggesting? And why are Y'all suggesting it?"

Nikita heard the angry tone and noticed Best Friend was standing. She dropped the bone and focused.

Ashleigh continuing to be her actress self imagined herself seducing a guy, she blocked out how uncomfortable she felt; she hoped to God her idea would work. She stepped over to Megan and set her hands on the chair.

"We've talked about it. You've mentioned more than once how you've thought about it. People keep saying I'm bi. Well maybe they're seeing something we aren't. Let's find out."

Megan: shot up, the chair went thudding behind her.

In an angered and panicked tone stated, "I ain't into gals."

Nikita: disliked the fast movements, the tone, she quickly stood up, her ears flattened, she bristled, and she focused upon Megan. She liked Female Friend, but no one would ever hurt Best Friend. Her next move would be to growl. If it would have been a stranger the person might have been in real trouble.

With a shocked and hurtful voice Megan asked, "Why are Y'all trying to seduce me?"

Ashleigh felt relieved. She sternly answered, "You see how foolish you sound when you talk such nonsense? It doesn't matter what anyone says. You know you're straight."

Megan's dimples flashed.

Ashleigh answered, "If I thought for one second you'd agree I'd never have done it."

Very angry Megan said, "Never do that again."

Nikita growled.

Ashleigh and Megan turned toward Nikita.

Ashleigh: rushed over to Nikita, pet her and in a soothing voice said, "It's okay. Megan will never hurt me. She loves us."

This caused Nikita to calm down.

Megan said very seriously, "I'd be a mistake if anyone tried hurting Y'all."

"I believe she'd act this way if anyone tried to hurt anyone one of us."

Megan internally agreed to what Ashleigh said.

Ashleigh instructed, "Come here."

Megan trusted the relationship between the two and stepped over.

Nikita gladly let Female Friend pet her. She could sense they liked one another again.

Ashleigh seriously said, "Maybe you two aren't a match."

"What happens if no one else will love me?"

Ashleigh understood the one place Megan lacked confidence was when in concerned relationships and sex.

With compassion in her voice Ashleigh stated, "I guarantee there will be a guy out there who will fall in love with you."

"What happens if there ain't?"

"How many people love you now?"

Megan felt Ashleigh's point.

"But I'm wanting to meet the one guy who'll love me."

Ashleigh answered, "I believe it's in our DNA. Think about Gina. She's even looking for a spouse."

Megan set up her chair and sat down, "I don't like the one she's dating."

Ashleigh: commanded Nikita to lay down, she went over picked up the bone, this focused Nikita, she tossed the bone to Nikita, turned, and sat down in her chair.

Nikita laid down and focused on the bone.

Megan mentioned, "I hope Y'all will never do that again."

Ashleigh answered honestly, "I won't."

They sat in silence eating grapes and taking sips of their iced tea. Both were contemplating what would have happened if they would have had sex. Both were happy Megan never took Ashleigh up on her offer. If Megan would have, they knew Ashleigh would have taken the lead, and they would have done it. Both felt this would have ended their friendship. They knew, if either one wanted to experiment, they'd have to experiment with someone else. Both believed if they were lesbians, and they did fool around, it would be a disaster. This reaffirmed to both they were exclusively straight females.

They looked at one another.

Megan flashed her dimple smile.

Ashleigh gently touched her arm.

They sat there for a few seconds after this.

They took sips of their iced tea.

Ashleigh broke the silence by asking, "Did you see the bruise on Gina's arm?"

Megan answered, "I've heard of woman abusing their husbands."

Ashleigh asked hypothetically, "Why can't a lesbian couple abuse one another?"

"I've heard of gals being sexually assaulted in prison."

Ashleigh thinking about Shelly confirmed, "I've heard the same."

They smiled at one another. They took sips of their iced tea, watched a small boat cruise up the *Eastbank River*, and they enjoyed the grapes.

Ashleigh stated, "I'm sorry."

Megan's dimples flashed.

Megan loved Ashleigh and this apology meant a great deal to Megan.

With a smile she asked, "What would Y'all have done if I said yes."

Ashleigh blushed.

With an awkward tone answered, "I'd have tried to kiss you."

Megan's dimples flashed.

"What happens if I liked it?"

They looked at one another.

Megan's dimples flashed.

She answered her own question, "I was kissed by a gal once."

"The one who tried to seduce you in college?"

"Yes."

Because of this answer Ashleigh said, "Find a man who is able to talk to you about this stuff."

"What happens if I can't?"

Ashleigh reached over and gently touched her arm. "Look. A good guy will understand. Most guys. Christian or not. Will love it if you dress sexy. A not so good of a guy will want you to be bisexual."

Megan being naive asked, "Why would a guy want me to like gals?"

Ashleigh made a face.

Megan's dimples flashed, "Why?"

"To have a threesome."

Megan's eyes became large.

"I ain't ever having one of them."

Ashleigh giggled.

"What is so funny?"

Ashleigh answered, "Even if you were bisexual you'd never have a threesome."

Megan asked with a tone, "What are Y'all talking about?"

"You'd get jealous."

Megan believed what she said next, "I'm not a jealous person."

Ashleigh gave her a look.

"What?"

Ashleigh answered, "Nothing."

Megan's dimples flashed.

This is when they heard: Felicia, Annette, Julie, and Hannah talking loudly.

Megan's dimples flashed, "Should we invite them up?"

Nikita immediately went to the edge of the boat, put her paws up on the railing, and howled.

They heard Julie yell, "Why are Y'all up there?"

Megan made a face and joked, "They might think we're lovers."
This caused Ashleigh to laugh.
Megan responded in kind.
This stopped when they heard Julie yell from the concrete pier, "Stay."
Ashleigh looked and saw her dogs front paws on the railing and her dogs tail being a weapon. She could see Nikita was contemplating jumping.
Ashleigh stood up and commanded, "Down. Come here."
Nikita listened.
Megan instructed, "I'll let em' in."
"Okay."
Ashleigh grabbed what she normally did.
Megan went to the edge of her houseboat and told the girls she would meet them at the door. On her way back she picked up the items Ashleigh left behind.

Megan and Ashleigh walked Hannah and Julie out to Nicole's minivan.

Ashleigh waved at Nicole. Nicole waved back. Ashleigh walked Nikita back to the yacht.
Julie opened the side door of the minivan, being a friend she sat next to Hannah.
Megan had stepped up to the passenger side door. Nicole rolled the window down.
Because the window was down they heard Felicia and Annette swimming in the yachts pool.
Hannah asked Julie, "Why are they'all swimming?"
Julie answered, "It's warm to them."
This made Hannah ask, "What's cold to them?"
Nicole mentioned, "Jimmy claims Wisconsin is like Siberia."
Hannah made a face, "They'all can have it."
Julie kept her comments to herself.
Because of the lights of the parking lot they could all see Megan's outfit.
Megan was surprised to hear Nicole say, "Y'all look nice."
Megan leaned down and put her arms on the open window.
Julie mentioned, "Auntie you look attractive in jeans."
Megan asked, "Am I looking feminine?"
Hannah pushed up her glasses, "Yes Ms. Megan."
Megan stated as a question, "Some believe a gal shouldn't wear jeans?"
Hannah answered, "It ain't like Y'all are wearing anything inappropriate."
Julie added, "It's like what Momma and Ashleigh keep saying. A gal can be wearing dresses that are far more inappropriate than slacks or jeans."
Nicole made a point in saying "Lets not exclude what they're calling skinny jeans."
Megan blushed.
Megan blushing shocked Hannah and Julie because this was the first time they ever spotted Megan wearing jeans; neither one believed Megan would have ever wore skinny jeans. They were honestly surprised Megan wore the pair she was wearing. The ladies in this van would have been shocked to find out Megan at different times of the day felt: seductive, sleazy, and aroused simply because of the clothes she was currently wearing.
Nicole was surprised at the blush as well.
Megan concerned, "Am I looking like I'm wearing skinny jeans?"

Nicole seriously answered, "It's the trend to roll up the bottom. You'll know what a pair of skinny jeans look like because they look painted on. Y'all can see everything."

Megan blushed again.

This again surprised all three women in the minivan.

Megan mentioned, "With me having a charter early I need to get to bed."

Hannah said, "Thank you for taking us today."

Julie added, "Thanks."

Megan clarified, "Ashleigh paid for it."

Nicole strongly suggested, "Maybe Y'all should send her a thank you card."

Julie knew this was a done deal, with a tone answered, "Yes Ma'am."

Hannah with excitement answered, "I have cards at home."

Nicole added, "Julie will have to give you the address."

Julie answered, "She could just give it to me."

Nicole answered, "It ain't proper."

Megan flashed her dimples.

Megan said, "Bye Y'all."

Nicole winked, "I'll call Y'all tomorrow."

"Okay."

"Bye Auntie."

"Bye."

Hannah made sure to say, "Bye Ms. Megan."

Megan was honest when she said, "It was nice seeing Y'all again."

Hannah nodded her head and pushed up her glasses.

Nicole rolled up the window.

Megan watched them drive away.

Megan felt like she was being watched.

She was grateful she brought one of her handguns with her. She unhooked the holster and pulled it out. She brought the hand gun with her because of a few nights ago when Megan and Ashleigh felt a dominating presence while taking Nikita out. What bothered Ashleigh and Megan was Nikita's unwillingness to do her business and her aggressive posture. Megan: turned toward the preserve, she placed the flashlight over her gun, turned it on, she started where the dumpster was, moved along the fence line, shinned back and fourth along the tree line, and briefly panned the shore of the river. She, lowered her weapon, held onto the flashlight, walked back onto the first pier in the exact same way a police officer does, turned, and put her weapon into the holster. She could easily hear Felicia and Annette in the Yacht's pool. She walked passed her houseboat and charter and up to the stern of the yacht.

She yelled, "Girls!"

Both Felicia and Annette stepped out of the pool and to the edge of the yacht.

Annette said, "Yes."

Felicia nudged her.

She glanced at Felicia.

Annette quickly turned, "Yes Ma'am."

"Y'all stay on the yacht tonight. I ain't wanting Y'all talking a walk."

Felicia asked, "Not even on the beach?"

"Unless Y'all take Nikita. Even still I'd say it ain't wise."

Felicia answered, "Okay."

Megan smiled her big dimple smile.

She then became serious, "Felicia. Y'all mind if I tell Y'all something?"

"No."

"I'm proud of you."

Felicia was surprised at this, "Why?"

"I understand Y'all made a mistake by having a baby in your basket. But many gals make the mistake of taking the easy way out and killing their babies."

Felicia answered honestly, "I can't."

"It shows what type of gal you are."

"Thank-you."

Megan added, "Y'all have a good Momma and a good sister."

"I know."

"So stop feeling Y'all are on an island. A lot of people are pulling for Y'all."

Annette and Felicia glanced at one another.

Annette was unable to help herself, "You're pretty cool."

Megan smiled a big dimple smile.

"My nieces and nephews tell me the same thing."

Felicia from her heart said, "They're right."

Megan mentioned, "Don't be making too much noise now. Y'all hear."

Annette answered, "Okay."

Gina's girlfriend yelled through an open window, "Some of us have to go to work tomorrow."

They then heard Gina say, "They're kids."

They heard the window slam shut.

All three wondered about this.

Megan turned back to the two girls, "Good night."

They both answered, "Good night."

The two girls watched Megan head to her houseboat. Once Megan was out of sight they went back to the pool and quickly started to: talk and giggle.

Before stepping onto her houseboat Megan glared over at Gina's houseboat.

Once in her houseboat she went over her personal list of masturbation boundaries. After reviewing both her list and how she felt she believed it would be better to wait. She: neatly put away all of the clothes she washed at the laundromat (this included the clothes she purchased at the thrift store), she changed out of her clothes, slipped on a pair of boyshort panties, and a blue and white polka dot sleepshirt. She felt if she slept in the nude she would end up masturbating. She felt it would be too irresponsible for her to do so; she needed proper sleep because of the early charter.

In her mind she set a time when masturbating would be within her list of boundaries. She then thought about: what she needed on her charter, her YMCA schedule, felt the hurt while thinking about Christopher, how awkward it felt when Ashleigh pretended to seduce her, and she wondered what her Daddy and Blake said at the VFW. Once asleep she slept soundly.

Ashleigh finished buttoning up her grapefruit colored boxer pajama top with a white heart pattern. She liked the collar and the matching boxer shorts with the tie; she liked the hearts and how this set of pajamas felt. She chose this sleep wear because Felicia and Annette were staying over.

While changing she kept looking up at the unmarked box. She had placed this box on the top shelf of her walk in closet. She was conflicted about this box. She stepped out of the walk in closet and locked the door to her suite. She: went back into the walk in closet, grabbed her three rung ladder, she climbed to the top, grabbed the unopened box, took it down, she set the box on the ladder, she opened a drawer, took out a decorative pin, used it to open the unmarked box; she was again relieved this was an unmarked box.

This box was delivered by UPS two days earlier when Annette and Felicia were at the yacht by themselves. Annette and Felicia, while spending time on the beach, spotted UPS set this box into the yachts mailbox. They grabbed this box and the mail and brought it back to the yacht. Ashleigh correctly believed they debated about what was in the box and considered opening it; Ashleigh was impressed with the fact neither one opened it and left it on the kitchen table.

The first thing she removed was a bottle of lube and a bottle toy cleaner. She briefly glanced at them and set them on a shelf. The next thing she removed was a white box with purple lettering. Pictured on the box were three small sized purple butt plugs with gem looking bottoms; she liked how each size was a different shade of purple. The reason she picked this was: it was advertised for women, she liked the color, she liked the spade shape, and she liked how you could grip the round bottoms. She sheepishly opened the box and took out the smallest one, she left it in the plastic; she studied it. Her heart pounded with the idea of placing 2.5 inches of this toy into her anal cavity; she wondered what the 1.1 diameter toy would feel like. She placed it back into the packaging and took out the largest one. This one would was 3.2 inches and had a diameter of 1.7 inches. She wondered if she would ever place it inside of her. She again put this adult toy back into the packaging and placed the three butt plugs into the shipping box. When she did this she spotted a bag inside the box with a cardboard top (this packaging was made to hang on a peg in a store). In this bag were the two strings of anal beads she purchased. She purchased the two smallest strings. The shortest string had five green beads, they were a half of inch in diameter and were attached to a nylon string. The second set of beads were blue in color, they were .75 inches in diameter, and the nylon string was longer. She chose these beads because of the large ring attached to the nylon string.

She felt: excited, nervous, aroused, and guilty for purchasing these toys. She was feeling uncomfortable acknowledging she was turned on and interested in exploring anal sex. She was still unsure if she would really enjoy it. She suspected she would, the idea she would enjoy anal sex made her feel awkward.

This awkwardness was influenced by the fact these were the first adult toys she ever purchased. Her go to was always a cucumber (or a banana in a pinch). She never liked the idea of a vibrator because it reminded her of a power tool. She felt it was daring to purchasing a dildo. The idea someone would find a dildo she purchased was horrifying. She kept picturing Nikita having a dildo in her mouth walking it out into the yacht. Even more horrifying was someone finding a selection of anal toys. What led her to purchase this set of toys: was how

unsafe it was to use a homemade type of toy in a persons anus, she found it erotic when her ex-boyfriend touched her anus, and this was her way of exploring anal sex without a partner. She first wanted to find out if she liked it or not. She knew if she liked it; she would need some practice before engaging in it with a partner. There was the possibility she would never express this desire to a future husband and just keep this pleasure to herself.

She set down the beads, again looked at the box with the three anal toys, she again opened it, and again pulled out the big butt plug. She was surprised there were much larger ones than this one. She studied it. She became fascinated at the feel and the texture. Her heart jumped with the idea of covering it with lube and inserting it. She knew this was way to big for her and again wondered if she ever would ever use this one. She put this one back into the packaging and again picked up the smallest one. She liked the size.

She gasped when she heard Nikita and the two girls stepping into the yacht.

In a panic she quickly shoved this small toy into the packaging, shoved everything in the shipping box, folded the box top closed, and quickly shoved the box up on the top shelf.

She heard Nikita's chain jangle.

She heard the door handle shake, then there was a knock on the door, it was Annette, "Ashleigh?"

Ashleigh stepped into her suite, unlocked the door and then opened it.

"Yes."

"May we have custard?"

"You mind if I enjoy the custard with you?"

Annette as her excitable self said, "That'd be great."

Felicia asked, "Do you have shampoo I could borrow?"

Ashleigh motioned for the girls to step into the suite.

Nikita: was already in the galley, she was near her spot, she ate and drank, listened to the sounds her humans made, she sensed they were okay, she grabbed the bone she was enjoying earlier, she sat down in her spot; this meant she was tired.

Ashleigh asked, "What type of shampoo you want?"

Felicia asked, "What do you mean?"

Ashleigh led them into the walk in closet and pointed them to the stack of boxes against the wall.

"Take what you want."

Felicia asked, "Where did you get all this?"

"Companies send me the stuff."

Felicia asked, "This much?"

"You should see what I give away."

The two of them started to go through the boxes.

Annette spotted the box. She focused on it. From the moment Annette spotted the return address of this box she desperately wanted to see what was in the box. She pleaded with Felicia for them to open it. Felicia questioned Annette on why she was acting the way she was; Annette was to embarrassed to answer. While sitting on the table it was a battle to avoid opening it. Felicia hoped Ashleigh would have left it on the table. Her plan was to open this box when everyone was asleep. What stopped her was when she witnessed Ashleigh take the box into her suite. Annette was tempted to go into Ashleigh's suit and find the box. The fear of getting caught and her respect for Ashleigh stopped her. She now knew where it was.

Her heart pounded.

She hoped there was a large dildo in the box; she would have been ecstatic if it had a suction cup. She wanted to study it, caress it, and felt guilty for wanted to try it out. She felt lucky the parental blocker on the families computer never blocked adult toy websites. Based upon the return address Annette knew what website Ashleigh ordered from. The nightmare of her mother finding a fake penis or a vibrator kept Annette from purchasing one. She correctly believed her mother would have thrown a fit if Annette purchased a sex toy. While standing there she imagined: sneaking into this closet, grabbing the box, taking it into the head across the hall, and trying it out. Her ragging hormones overruled any common sense.

She was so focused on her plans of sneaking into the closet and see what was in the box she never heard Ashleigh and Felicia trying to get her attention.

Ashleigh had to yell and even push her, "Annette!"

This startled her.

Felicia with a loud tone asked, "What's the matter with you?"

Ashleigh spotted the flush look on her face.

Felicia asked "You want anything?"

Annette tried to focus, "Ahhh."

Both Ashleigh and Felicia stared at her.

Felicia annoyed asked, "Does your Mom uses this brand?"

Annette focused and asked, "May I have the shampoo?"

Ashleigh gave her a look, "I told you. You could have whatever you want."

"Oh."

She spotted a soap her Step Dad used and spotted a body wash her mom used.

In an odd voice she answered, "My step dad uses that soap."

Ashleigh smiled, "Take whatever you like."

Felicia asked, "What about Bob?"

"If there is male soap in here it's because Bob doesn't like it."

Annette forgetting she mentioned it two seconds before mentioned, "My Step Dad would like that."

What was odd to both Ashleigh and Felicia was how calm she was.

Ashleigh gave her a look and said, "Okay."

She glanced at Felicia, Felicia shrugged her shoulders.

"Take what you can use now. Remember you still have a plane ride home."

Ashleigh stated, "Give me a second."

Ashleigh stepped out of the walk in closet and went to her desk to grab two markers.

Felicia asked, "What's the matter with you?"

"Nothing."

Felicia felt Annette just lied to her. She had never felt this before.

Ashleigh stepped into the walk in closet, "Put your name on want you want and I'll send it UPS."

Felicia answered, "Cool."

This is when Ashleigh spotted Annette staring at the box.

Ashleigh gently nudged her, "What did you want?"

Annette found the ability to focus and selected what her family would use. Before leaving she glanced one more time at the box.

Based upon Annette's look she would hide the box better. The least thing she wanted to happen was to have Annette find a box of anal toys.

After the ladies left the suite both Felicia and Annette changed into their pajamas and they helped Ashleigh prepare for a movie and custard.

Annette and Felicia were looking over the DVD's. After a few moments Annette excused herself. She stepped into the head between the two cabins and humped her hands.

Annette heard a knock and Felicia ask, "Are you okay?"

In an odd voice Annette answered, "I'll be right out."

Felicia answered, "Your custard will melt."

Again in an odd voice answered, "Okay."

Felicia believed her friend was masturbating again. She shook her head and stepped into the lounge.

Annette finished. She needed the release but felt terribly guilty for doing it. She: pulled herself together, washed her hands, flushed the toilet, sprayed as a cover, and stepped out of the head.

Ashleigh discounted Annette's lame attempt at covering up what she just did. Ashleigh suspected Annette used the head as a private space more than once. A couple nights prior she went to get a water and heard Annette's bed squeaking. Before the trip Victoria and Annette's mother, without either mother knowing, asked Ashleigh to talk to Annette about sex. They both wanted Ashleigh to specifically discuss masturbation. Both Mother's knew Annette viewed Ashleigh as a big sister, both mothers were aware Annette was uncomfortable talking to them, and both trusted Ashleigh. They believed Ashleigh would give Annette good advice and answer her sexual questions in a way they would agree with.

Ashleigh was surprised her mother was reluctant to talk to Annette. When Ashleigh was a teenager Victoria was very blunt about sexual topics. While talking to Victoria about Annette, Victoria passed the torch to discussing sex with Felicia. This feeling was confirmed earlier in the week when Felicia asked Ashleigh a sexual question. Anything related to the pregnancy Victoria was quick to give advice, but anything about sex; it was now Ashleigh's job.

They ate custard and watched the movie *"Almost Famous"*. During the movie Ashleigh felt like the cool older sister. Felicia and Annette always wanted to watch this movie but because of it's R rating Victoria and Annette's mother refused to allow them to watch it. After the movie Ashleigh became the mother and demanded they go to bed. She reminded them they were spending the day at Boca Roton. This included *Butterfly World* and horseback riding. Sometime during the week Ashleigh planned on taking her Dad to the railroad museum there.

Felicia hoped she would be without morning sickness.

Ashleigh debated about talking to Annette but felt it was the wrong time. Ashleigh decided she would find a more appropriate time to talk to Annette and Felicia during the week.

*A*shleigh was unable to fall asleep quickly or to sleep soundly. Twice she thought about getting up and hiding the box. Both times she convinced herself Annette would never enter her suite. The very idea Felicia would find them kept her from falling into a deep sleep.

Nikita watched Female Human get up and step out of bed. Nikita liked her. Liked how she always played fetch with her, fed her treats when Best Friend was not looking, always pet her, and could sense she was a good human. The last two nights Nikita laid next Female Human as Female Human slept. Nikita followed Female Human. Nikita watched Female Human.

Annette went into her purse and pulled out a small flashlight.

Annette in a soft voice said, "Shhh."

Nikita tilted her head.

Annette was counting on the fact Ashleigh was known to be a sound sleeper. The possibility a dildo or a vibrator was in the box drove her to do something she would have never done. Annette as quietly as possible opened the door to the room she was staying in, turned on the small flashlight, tiptoed to Ashleigh's suit, as quietly as possible opened the door, and made it to Ashleigh's walk in closet.

Ashleigh without knowing exactly what the sound was woke up to odd sounds in her walk in closet. She blinked her eyes open. She spotted a beam of light in her closet. It took a few moments to register it was Annette in her walk in closet.

Ashleigh heard Annette whisper, "Stay."

Nikita's chain jangled.

She heard the noise of her hanging clothes being bumped into. Ashleigh was debating on what she should do. Hearing the step stool being moved focused her plans. She quickly: sat up, turned on her light, flipped her covers over, and angrily rushed into her closet.

The light turned on.

A shocked Annette was holding onto the step ladder. Annette was filled with emotions as she turned toward a person she loved and respected as a sister.

Ashleigh was glaring at her with an angry countenance.

In a very angry tone Ashleigh asked, "What are you doing?"

The tears started immediately.

An angry Ashleigh stated, "I'm really shocked at you."

All at once Ashleigh recognized she sounded like Victoria. This surprised her. In her mind she thought of all the times Victoria caught her doing things she was told not to do.

Tears of: guilt, shame, and embarrassment flooded Annette's eyes.

Ashleigh restrained herself from really shouting at her.

Annette interrupted, "I'm so sorry."

Annette practically tossed the ladder. It thudded and landed on its side.

Ashleigh sighed.

Annette tried to rush out of the closet and into the cabin.

Annette was surprised when Ashleigh stepped in front of her, grabbed her arms and said, "Don't run away."

Her grip was strong.

Through tears she answered, "Okay."

Ashleigh pictured Victoria doing the same, and asked bluntly, "Are you here because of the box?"

Annette nodded her head.

Annette was surprised when Ashleigh asked, "What do you believe is in that box? And why do you believe that?"

Annette in a pitiful voice asked, "Do I have to say?"

"Do you want me to think you were stealing from me?"

She shook her head.

This caused Annette to full out cry.

Through her tears stated, "I wouldn't steal from you."

Ashleigh in an angry tone asked, "Then why are you in my closet?"

Annette turned beat red, "I was hoping you had a dildo in the box."

"Why do you believe that?"

Tears, "The return address."

"How do you know the address?"

Annette managed to stop crying and get a hold of herself. Her emotions were so overwhelming she shook.

See Annette shake caused Ashleigh to set her anger aside.

Annette asked in pathetic voice, "Do I have to say?"

Ashleigh cut to the chase, "Are you ordering things from there?"

Annette gave her a shocked look, "Mom would kill me."

"She wouldn't kill you."

"She wouldn't understand at all."

Ashleigh observing Annette shake and how desperate she looked caused Ashleigh to loose her anger.

Ashleigh answered calmly, "I bet she understands why you like to touch yourself."

Annette gave Ashleigh an odd look and immediately started to cry. The idea people knew she touched herself was horrible. She tried to rush out of the closet.

Again; Ashleigh needed to step in front of her.

"Stop."

Annette stopped but she was shaking.

"I know your Mom. She understands why you are touching yourself. But would disapprove of you using a sex toy. I'm assuming she would want you to use discretion."

Annette stood their shaking.

They stared at one another.

Ashleigh broke the silence by saying, "It isn't right for you to steal mine."

Sheepishly she said, with fresh tears, "I just wanted to try it. I was going to put it back."

Ashleigh gave her a face.

She motioned for Annette to stay there. Ashleigh: picked up the ladder, put the step ladder back where she hung it, she led Annette out of the closet, Annette followed her in the suite, Ashleigh pulled the chair she set her cloths on near her computer desk, Ashleigh sat at the desk, and motioned for Annette to sit in the chair.

Ashleigh asked, "Has your mom talked to you about sex?"

Still shaking Annette answered, "She gave me a book. And said if I had any questions I should ask."

Her emotions were causing Annette to shake.

Annette gave her assessment of the book, "It was lame. It didn't really answer anything. I mean. It did. But it didn't."

"Why don't you ask your Mom questions?"

She looked at Ashleigh and turned beat red, "I can't."

“Why not?”

Annette said, “I can’t talk to her about sex.”

“She’d understand.”

Annette still shook.

Tearing she pleaded, “No she wouldn’t.”

Ashleigh out of concern asked, “Are you having sex?”

In her excitable self answered, “No way. I don’t want to end up like Felicia. I’m waiting until I’m married.”

Still shaking she added, “I’m not picking on Felicia. I mean. I just. You know?”

Ashleigh stated, “Take a deep calming breath.”

Felicia stared at her. She was still shaking.

Ashleigh instructed, “With me.”

She went through a few breathing exercises with Annette.

Ashleigh asked, “Are you okay now?”

Annette lied, “Yes.”

Ashleigh could tell she was lying but was better.

Ashleigh stated, “It’s a lot more difficult to stop having sex after having it. So don’t start.”

Excited Annette asked, “What’s it like?”

Ashleigh was taken back by her sudden boldness.

Ashleigh answered, “It’s very pleasurable. But it’s not like the movies. I had sex because I felt I was in love with the guys I slept with. Now I’m not sure I did. Like Victoria says; many women want to say they love the guys they sleep with, but it’s a cover for the fact they just want to have sex. Or they are clueless to both. I was clueless to both. The next time I have sex it’ll be when I’m married. If the guy is willing to wait I know for sure the guy loves me.”

Annette said, “But what does it feel like?”

“It’s like when you masturbate but it’s far more intense and there is a huge pile of emotions attached to it.”

Annette blushed.

Ashleigh smiled.

“I’m assuming it’s the reason you wanted to see what was in the box?”

Annette began to shake again. All she could manage was to shake her head yes.

Ashleigh looked at her, “It’s understandable you’d be curious. It’s just not right of you to invade my privacy. If you have any questions I suggest you ask your mother. I’m here if you don’t feel comfortable talking to her.”

Annette asked, “If you bought a dildo could I try it?”

Annette was very serious.

Ashleigh was surprised she asked.

Annette shook waiting for an answer.

Ashleigh with some compassion state, “What I bought is my own business.”

“Would you buy me one?”

Ashleigh gave her a look.

All at once Annette realized what she just asked. She blushed. Guilt flooded her soul.

Annette’s emotions were all over the place and sobbed, “I’m so sorry.”

Ashleigh in a soothing voice said, “It’s okay. Calm down.”

Sobbing, "Not it's not. I shouldn't have done it. I shouldn't have asked for you to buy me a sex toy."

She shook.

"Take a deep breath."

Ashleigh again led her through breathing exercises.

Ashleigh was grateful this calmed her down enough so even her shaking stopped.

Ashleigh stated, "I understand your curiosity."

Annette said, "I want to know what it feels like."

Ashleigh answered, "Wait until your wedding night."

With a look of desperation, "It's why I want to try a dildo."

Ashleigh gently touched her arm, "Before you start using a toy. Figure out what you like first. After you've figured this out and after you move out of your parents house then buy one."

Annette made a face.

Ashleigh answered, "You should respect your mom's wishes."

Disappointed she answered, "I guess."

Ashleigh thought of Megan and how freaked out she was with using a pillow. Ashleigh believed Annette needed the same assurance as Megan did. The reason Ashleigh believed this was because of the squeaking noises she heard from Annette's cabin and the noises she heard coming out of the head.

"I'll just say this one thing."

"Okay."

"It's perfectly okay to feel the need to hump things. Just be aware of your surroundings. I'm sure your Mom knows you are doing it."

Annette gave her a horrified look.

Ashleigh again touched her, "You promise to never invade my privacy every again?"

She was shaking again.

She managed, "I'm so sorry. I'll never do it again."

"Respect me and never tell anyone I have them."

"I won't."

Ashleigh believed her.

Ashleigh mentioned, "It's getting late. What I'd like you to do is make a list of questions. Tomorrow; after Felicia goes to bed I'll answer all of your questions."

Annette asked, "Would you mind if Felicia was there?"

"Of course not."

This made Annette feel better and she calmed down.

"You should go to bed."

"Okay."

Ashleigh winked and joked, "Don't stay up to late."

With a shocked look Annette asked, "You don't mind?"

"Always do it in private."

Annette shook her head yes.

Ashleigh on purpose repeated herself, "If you do it in private and don't use my toys I don't mind."

Annette blushed.

"I have a question."

Ashleigh braced herself.

"When..."

She trailed off and blushed.

Ashleigh encouraged, "Ask me."

"I think I'm doing it to much."

Ashleigh decided to be honest.

"When I was your age I did it every day and sometimes twice. I now masturbate way less."

Annette curious asked, "How often do you do it now?"

"A couple times a week. Sometimes more."

A worried look fell upon Annette's face.

Ashleigh gently touched Annette.

"Here is what I'd say. Make sure it doesn't interfere with your daily life. Always do it in private. Make it as physical as possible. Never use pornographic material."

Annette felt this made sense.

Ashleigh asked, "You don't watch porn?"

"No."

She left out the fact she would look at pictures of guys in magazines.

"Good avoid it. Women can get addicted to it just like guys."

Annette never considered this.

"With all the changes you are going through. Worse for you. With how rapidity it's happening. it makes sense you need to have relief. Just learn to control the urges. You get what I'm saying?"

Annette nodded her head.

Ashleigh mentioned, "I'm tired. Once you are done making the list of questions we'll talk."

A calm Annette stated, "Thanks."

"It's okay."

Annette cried.

Ashleigh hugged her and held her.

Ashleigh allowed Annette to mumble for a while.

When Annette was done mumbling, Annette let go, and stepped back and stated, "I just want to feel normal."

Ashleigh asked, "What is normal?"

Annette looked at Ashleigh.

"There is right and wrongs. But was is exactly normal?"

Annette answered, "I don't know."

"Truth is like a concrete floor. It's always there and it sometimes hurts when you land on it. But its also a sure footing when you need it. But, normal. That changes from person to person. Think about Felicia what is normal for her being pregnant is a different normal than when she isn't pregnant. But no matter if she is pregnant or not stealing is wrong?"

Annette answered, "Yeah."

They looked at one another.

Annette said, "I still wish you'd buy me a dildo."

She hoped.

Ashleigh touched her, "It would be wrong of me to go against your Mom's wishes."

Annette answered, "I know."

Ashleigh thought about Megan.

"Wait here."

"Okay."

Annette watched Ashleigh step into her walk in closet. She heard Ashleigh grab the ladder and go to where the box was. She heard Ashleigh bring down the box. She hoped Ashleigh was going to let her use whatever she had in the box. She felt stupid for believing this because she heard drawers open and shut. When these noises stopped she spotted Ashleigh go into the head. She was there for a few minutes. She then spotted Ashleigh step out of the head and step back into the walk in closet. Heard Ashleigh move the ladder to the other end of the closet. Annette heard Ashleigh take something down from a shelf and heard a variety of noises. She wondered what Ashleigh was doing.

Annette was relieved to have someone she trusted discuss sex with her. She hoped Felicia would have her own list and the three of them could talk. While waiting for Ashleigh, Annette was making a mental list of sexual questions. Annette wondered what was taking so long. She was about to step into the closet but she spotted Ashleigh step out of the closet carrying a body pillow with a large pillow case. She stepped into the head. It only took her a minute to step out of the head and into the suite. Ashleigh was carrying: an old towel, a long skinny travel plastic bottle, a small travel bottle with a liquid in it, and a body pillow.

Ashleigh waved Annette over.

Annette stepped over to Ashleigh.

Annette was confused when Ashleigh handed these items to Annette.

Before Annette would say anything Ashleigh mentioned, "There is lube in this bottle. Put this empty bottle on top of the towel. Put the towel on top of the pillow. Then apply the lube on the bottle."

A sudden realization was on Annette's face.

Ashleigh warned, "Never insert the bottle. Ride it. Never insert anything inside of you unless it's designed to. You could get hurt. Bottles and objects get stuck. You don't want an object stuck inside of you."

Annette started to shake again. She blushed.

"I didn't know that."

Ashleigh told her sternly, "Stop inserting bottles inside of yourself."

Annette answered by nodding her head.

Ashleigh answered, "Leave these things under the bed. When you leave I'll take care of them."

Annette blushed.

Ashleigh motioned for Annette to leave the cabin.

Annette rushed into the cabin she was staying in.

Ashleigh shut the door. She shook her head. These last few days felt like a glimpse into what it felt like to be a mother. This caused her to have a deeper respect for her Foster Mother.

She glanced over at Nikita.

Ashleigh pet her.

She sat on the edge of the bed.

Ashleigh felt a deep compassion for Annette. It was painful for every woman who cared about her to witness what nature did to her. It was obvious to Ashleigh some day Annette would turn into a beautiful woman both on the inside and outside.

Ashleigh prayed Annette would remain a virgin until her wedding night and she would get control of her emotions.

Ashleigh crawled into bed, reached up and turned off the light.

As soon as the light turned off Nikita became vigilant.

Ashleigh was looking forward to taking her family and Annette horseback riding.

She glanced at the digital alarm clock radio and counted the hours until Julie would arrive to walk Nikita. This is when she fell asleep.

April 12th, Being Left on an Island

Part Six of Six

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