

“She *bit* you?” Beth was horrified.

“Hard. And I couldn’t get her off without letting go of one of the guys. I hollered for someone to get her off of me. It took forever for them to realize what she was doing and get her off me. She drew blood.”

“Where?” Beth moved quickly to kneel next to him.

“It’s okay,” he looked at her with surprise. “My boss made me go to the emergency room since they called the cops.”

“Where?” she said again, firmly. He touched his left shoulder.

“Let me see,” Beth demanded.

Greg looked at her for a long moment. The only way she was going to see it was if he took off his t-shirt. Did she realize what she was asking?

Slowly, he leaned forward and drew his knees up, pulling off his t-shirt and draping his arms over his knees. Beth was shocked to see the angry bruise and broken skin.

“Didn’t they give you something to put on it?” Beth said. “It can’t be good to have your t-shirt rub on it like that.”

“Yeah, they did.” Greg shrugged and Beth tried not to notice how well-muscled his back was. “But it’s in an awkward place for me to get to. After I showered this morning, I figured no bandage was better than a wet one.”

“I don’t suppose you have the stuff in your backpack?” Beth asked, trying to remember if she had any gauze or tape.

“Yeah, I do. I didn’t take it out since I couldn’t use it,” he looked at her over his shoulder. “You don’t want to –?”

“Yes I do,” Beth cut in sharply. “Get it.”

Greg leaned slightly to the right as he stretched out his long arm to grab his backpack. Beth was torn by pain over the ugly injury and delight over the incredible beauty of the muscles rippling under his smooth, warm golden-brown skin.

Greg turned to hand her the medical supplies he had retrieved from his bag and she was right there. Her face was inches from his. She was biting her lower lip, her eyes filled with longing. His heart jumped painfully in his chest.

“I think I’ll wake up Steve tomorrow morning,” he whispered huskily.

“I think that would be a good idea,” she whispered too. She gently touched his unblemished shoulder and he shivered at the touch, dropping his face onto his knees. “You need a different job.”