

Other books by Jessicarae Casey:

Series 1

Rachel's Promise

Jamie

Jamie

Jessicarae Casey

March 27, 2008

Book 2

JAMIE-BEAUTIFUL

SETH-APPOINTED

BETH-WORSHIPER OF GOD

NICK-VICTORY

RACHEL-GENTLE LAMB

SCOTT-PAINTED WARRIOR

Prologue

Jamie Peterson took her seat just as the bell rang; it felt weird being on her own in a college of 2,000 students.

She was 19 and missed her cousins who she lived with.

They were: Selah who was 13, her brother Chad JR aka CJ who was 10, Samantha who was now 9, Nicole who was 4 and the twins Samuel and Heather who were both 1.

But mostly she missed Rachel and Chad, her Aunt and Uncle, who were like her own parents and had been since her dad Scott and her mom Lily were in and out of jail.

Jamie pulled out her books; she was going to school to become a vet. Jamie sat behind the cutest guy in her class, but didn't have a clue what to say to him. So many times she almost said something, but chickened out.

Finally class had ended and Jamie quickly gathered her books. She walked past the guy talking to some of his friends when she tripped and dropped all her books.

But before she could hit the ground he caught her. Words couldn't express how embarrassed she was! He helped her pick up her books.

Jamie whispered thanks and walked out.

Wishing above anything that she could disappear at that moment, she quickly walked down the hall to her dorm.

Jamie unlocked the door and went straight for her bed. She buried her head in her pillow, she felt so stupid.

"Oh.....how could I be so clumsy?" Jamie moaned.

Her roommate came into the dorm room and Jamie's phone rang.

"Hello?"

You could tell by her voice that something was wrong.

"Jamie, what's wrong?" said her Aunt Rachel.

"Nothing important, just made myself look like a complete idiot in front of someone. So how's everything there?"

"Oh, the same, we're having some troubles with Selah. But summer break is coming up in a few months; do you know what you're doing yet?"

"I was hoping to come home, I really don't have anything here.....anymore. Is that ok?"

"Of course, you know you're always welcome to come home. Have you met a Nick Matthews there yet?"

"No.....dare I ask why?"

"His mom's a friend of mine, that's all."

"I see."

"Well I should let you get to your homework. You know we're proud of you."

"Thanks, bye."

"Bye."

Her roommate and best friend Beth Kassie sat on her bed facing Jamie's bed.

"I want the scoop about this person that you made a fool of yourself in front of. You know I'll find out some way."

"Fine, you know the cute guy in my English class?"

"No, but he's a tall, handsome football player. Am I right?"

"Yeah, well as I was leaving he was talking to some of his friends. When I was walking past him I tripped and spilled my books everywhere."

"Oh well that isn't too bad."

"That isn't the worst of it."

Beth's eyes got big.

"Go on."

"When I fell he caught me before I hit the ground! Oh, I feel so stupid."

"You shouldn't, at least he caught you. It could have been much worse. You could have fallen and he laughed at you. I'm sure what happened to you happens to lots of people."

"But it didn't happen to anyone else, it happened to me! It's like with you and Eric."

"True, but we got closer as friends. We couldn't possible be a couple though after that."

Beth threw a pillow at her.

"You are reading way too much into this. He'll probably forget about by tomorrow."

"I won't!"

"Oh come on, let's go for some pizza. You need to get out of here."

"I don't feel like it."

"Come on, you need something to take your mind off this and I know the perfect place. Anyway, what better way to drown your sorrows than in pizza and pop?"

"Is this where I say chocolate?"

Beth smiled and pulled Jamie to her feet; they left to go to a Pizza Pub downtown.

Jamie and Beth walked in and sat in their normal booth, which was the farthest in the corner. The owner Jessica gave Beth a special price because she was Beth's Aunt.

After they ordered their pizza and settled in, they started talking.

The front door opened and in walked Jamie's friend Seth, the guy from her English class, and his other friends. Jamie slid closer to the wall and Beth looked around.

"Is that him?"

"Yeah"

Beth stole a second glance.

"Which one?"

"The one with the sandy blonde hair, farmer's tan, sky blue eyes and muscles."

"What? Say that again, I don't think he heard you."

Beth said in a teasing tone.

"You're so funny."

"Stop drooling, he might notice."

Beth and Jamie laughed and the whole table of guy's looked their way.

Beth whispered to Jamie,

"Don't look now but they are all looking at us."

Jamie slid down lower in the booth.

"Oh man, I should have never let you talk me into this."

Seth walked over to Beth. His hair was a chestnut brown that laid neatly on the top of his head, his yellowish brown eyes sparkled.

"Hey Jamie."

"Hi Seth."

After the introductions, Seth turned all his attention to Beth.

"I've seen you on the cheerleading squad, haven't I?"

"Yes, you have."

"Um.....what are you doing this weekend?"

"Jamie and I are going to my parent's house."

"Oh, would you mind if I called you?"

"No, not at all."

Beth wrote her cell number on a napkin and Seth went back to his table.

After he had sat back down, Beth leaned closer and said,

"He just won a bet."

"How do you know it was a bet? I can't see Seth ever betting on something like this."

"They just handed him some money."

"Maybe he's just getting all the money together to pay for their pizza."

Beth laughed,

"I don't think so."

"If you knew that this was a bet why did you give him your number?"

"Because I *know* he won't call me."

"Don't be so sure. I wish I knew the name of the guy sitting next to Seth."

"I think its Nick Matthews; he's on the football team. Do you want to come home with me this weekend?"

"Sure, since you ruined any chance of me having my dream date."

Beth laughed and tossed a packet of sugar at her and Jamie returned it.

They decided to take their pizza back to the dorm.

Nick sat next to Seth and handed him the money for the party they went to last night, so did Jimmy and Sam.

"What did Beth say?" Nick asked.

"I asked her if she was busy this weekend. She was, so I asked her for her phone number."

They watched Beth and Jamie get up and leave. Seth flipped out his phone.

"Is it too early to call?"

"Yeah, call her tomorrow."

Jimmy added as he wolfed down another piece of pizza.

"She's in my Greek history class, she's very smart."

Nick nodded his head. Ever since Seth had seen Beth all he could talk about was her.

Nick zoned out as Seth went on and on about Beth.

Nick was thinking about the girl that was sitting with Beth, the very same girl who he had caught in English this morning.

"Sam, do you know the name of the other girl?"

"No"

"Isn't that the girl who fell into you after English class?" Jimmy said.

"I know her, we're friends. We went to high school together. She's cool. Her name is Jamie." Seth added.

"Really?"

They all turned, and stared at Seth.

"Yeah, she lives with her aunt and uncle."

"I bet I could learn everything about her from you."

"Like I would tell you!"

They both laughed and went back to eating.

Jimmy and Sam went to the arcade and left Nick and Seth alone.

"Seth do you think you could introduce me to Jamie?"

"You're not really her type."

Nick wasn't going to give up so easily, but it was clear that Seth was uncomfortable with hooking him up.

"That's ok; she'll change when I talk to her. If you're not going to introduce us, I'll just find another way to talk to her."

Seth looked up with alarm. He must not have thought that Nick would pursue her.

"Don't break her heart, she's like my sister. You have tons of girls that want to date you, why can't you just date them and leave Jamie alone."

Nick never had a girlfriend for more than a couple of months and Seth had good reason to be worried about Jamie.

"Of course not."

"I should tell you, Jamie's a strong Christian and a virgin. She's not one to be pushed around."

"I see....."

Chapter 1

Jamie and Beth turned their car onto the highway towards Beth's parent's house. Spring had just begun and tiny flowers were popping up everywhere.

Beth was sleeping in the passenger seat; they were about ten miles from her house. They were on the home stretch now.

"Beth, wake up. We're almost to your house."

"How close?"

"About ten miles."

"Wake me up when we're about five."

"Ok."

They drove in silence for the next five miles, and then Jamie turned the music as loud as it could go.

Beth screamed and jumped. She reached and turned the music down.

"Oh, now I think I'm deaf."

"Well I had to get you up somehow."

"You could always just ask me to."

"I tried that, it doesn't work."

They drove a few more miles and then Beth said.

"I see it, turn here."

"Are you sure, isn't it the next one?"

"I've only lived here for 5 years, turn here."

"Ok."

Jamie turned onto a little dirt road and Beth's house seemed farther away. Jamie pulled over and faced Beth.

"You do this to me every time. It's the next turn, can I drive now?"

"Ok, I won't make a sound."

They turned around and went back the way they came and then turned onto the right road.

Beth's parents, Sue and Jack, came out to greet them.

"Hey dad, hey mom."

"Hi Beth, did you bring all your laundry home?"

Jack said.

Beth was pulling out bags and bags of laundry from the back of her car.

"What else am I suppose to do when I come home?"

Beth joked.

Jamie got out of the car and said.

"Hi Mrs. and Mr. Kassie"

"Hi Jamie, what a pleasant surprise. We didn't know you were coming too."

Sue said.

"Yeah, I didn't know either until last night."

"Well, there's plenty of food. The more the merrier! Come on in."

They helped Beth with her laundry, and sat them down by the machines. Beth led the way to the kitchen for a snack.

Sue had cookies, brownies, little square sandwiches, peanut butter covered apples, veggies and dip.

Beth piled her plate high, while Jamie picked out some sandwiches, apples and veggies. They sat down with Jack and Sue, at a Victorian style table with a gold and red table runner and matching place mates.

"Thank you so much for all this food," said Jamie.

Sue smiled, "Your welcome, how's school going?"

"It's going pretty well, I got almost all A's this semester."

"That's wonderful. Beth, how is school going for you?"

"It's going good; I'm getting straight A's."

"And yet you don't have boyfriends. You are too cute to let your studies take over your lives. You don't have boyfriends, right?"

Jamie and Beth both looked at each other and smiled. Jamie said, holding in a laugh.

"No, not yet."

"You too aren't trying hard enough. Do I have to find you someone myself?"

The next day, they left for the long ride home. This time Beth was driving and they didn't make any wrong turns.

"I'm so embarrassed! I can't believe my mother would say that! " Beth said while getting into the dorm.

"It's ok; I'm use to it by now."

They sat down on their card table, and pulled out their homework.

They started working and helping each other when Beth's cell phone rang.

"Hello."

"Hello, is this Beth?"

"Yes, who is this?"

"This is Seth; I met you a couple nights ago at the pizza pub."

"Oh yes, I remember."

"Well I was wondering if you would want to go to lunch with me tomorrow?"

"I would love too, what time?"

"How about 2?"

"Sure, where? I'll meet you there."

"I can pick you up, I'll see you soon."

Beth hung up and Jamie smiled.

"Was that Seth?"

"Yes."

"Are you going out with him?"

"Yes."

Jamie smiled and said.

"I told you that he wasn't like that. I knew that he wouldn't bet on that."

"Ok, so this one you were right. Just watch yourself. I know, for a fact, that Nick has a reputation of breaking hearts. He has never had a girlfriend for

more then a couple of months. Just be careful that's all I'm trying to say."

"I've heard, but people can change. If they are with the right person, right? I mean, you shouldn't judge someone by the way they look. He might just be looking for the right person, and I may just be that person."

"You can't change someone, they are who they are. And what if you're not the right person? What if he dumps you like he has dozens of girls before you? They all probably thought the same as you."

"Well at least I tried and I gave him a chance. I'll just have to pick myself up off the floor, dust myself off and get back on the wagon."

"Easier said then done."

"Isn't it always?"

They both laughed and Jamie just shook her head.

"Seriously, we're talking as if he already asked me out. My chances of dating him are....."

Beth interrupted her.

"Are as good as any other girl in this school. That's why we are talking about it now other then after you are head over heels for him and aren't thinking straight."

"He's not going to ask me out; I haven't even met him yet. Just wait, he won't even notice me tomorrow in English."

"Is that what you're going to tell yourself until then?"

"Yes and its going to work. Watch me, tomorrow I won't even think of him."

"Yeah, like that's ever going to work. It'll take a lot more then just telling yourself that you don't like him."

"I know, but you don't have to tell me that."

They both smiled and went back to working on their homework, and then there was a knock on the door.

"We will never get this homework done."

Beth said as she got up to get the door. She opened it and stepped out of the way.

"Jamie, it's a delivery for you."

"Who is it from?"

"I don't know it doesn't say. You could always just open it, and then we would both know."

"Ok, one sec."

Beth brought the box to the table as Jamie finished her sentence in her report, and got scissors to open the brown cardboard box.

"What do we do if it's a bomb?" Jamie was teasing.

"You need to stop watching all those CSI shows."

"Hey, they are good."

"They might be good, but it's fooling with your brain."

Jamie shook her head and opened the box. Inside was a small cross necklace. It was gold and very plain.

Jamie touched it and in a flash pulled her hand back, like it had burned her or something.

"Jamie? What's wrong?"

Tears started to fill Jamie's eyes. She blinked them back.

"Nothing, it's just someone's joke, although it's not funny!"

"Why? It's just a necklace."

"Several years back, I dated this guy, Alexander. He was very proud of this name, Because it meant protector. We were very serious. There wasn't a day that went by that we didn't see each other. We were both strong Christians, and he asked my uncle if he could marry me. I was 17 and he was 18, but that's how serious we were. He gave me this necklace as a promise that we would be married. He

died in a car crash after he asked me.....I haven't even thought of dating since him. I placed this necklace in my jewelry box and I haven't worn it since the day he died. I don't know how someone got this or even knew about it, but it has taken years for me to put that accident behind me. I don't talk about it."

"Did you see his body after he died?"

"No, it was a closed casket. Why?"

"Nothing, I was just thinking of a movie I saw, last weeks 'Without a Trace' and then there's the whole 'Ugly Betty' series."

"Those are shows, this is real life."

"I know, sorry."

"It's ok.....but who would know about this? Well Seth knows, but he would never do this to me."

"The newspapers printed it, didn't they?"

"Yeah, but they didn't know I was his fiancé. All they said was that close friends pray that he will get better. Which he didn't, and they printed that he died. There was never anything about me."

"Sometimes it isn't hard to put two and two together. Do you know if he had any problems? Like with people, alcohol, or drugs?"

"I don't like this conversation! Where are you going with this?"

"Well it is a reasonable thought that if he wanted to disappear he could have faked his own death. Maybe he didn't want you to marry him then find out he wasn't what you thought he was. It makes sense. You haven't dated anyone and now that you're starting to look at a guy, he sends you this box. The necklace is to remind you of what you had with him; maybe he hasn't gotten over you either."

"All I know is that Alex was killed that day, and he has not tried to talk to me. I would have understood. All he had to do was talk to me. Here we are talking like he's still alive, he's dead. That should be the end of this conversation....."

"But yet it isn't....."

"I think I'm going to take a nap, we can finish this conversation later."

"Ok."

The box had been delivered and the reaction hadn't been what he had hoped.

"Soon, don't worry Jamie. We'll be together soon."

Jamie woke up an hour before class started; she quickly got ready and ran to get her books. She ran out of the dorm and down the hall to the other building. Jamie got into the room right as Nick did. She walked to the back. The professor wasn't there yet, and everyone was talking.

After class they all were asked to leave their papers on the desk.

They all walked up and put their papers on the desk and left, still talking as loud as they could. Nick was behind Jamie; his friends were all at the door waiting for him.

"You're Jamie aren't you?"

"Yup, that's me."

Jamie put her papers down and walked out as fast as she could, she didn't want to talk to him. Her hands were sweating and her stomach was hurting. She felt like she was going to throw up. She went running into the bathroom.

Beth came up behind her. Beth's light red hair was up neatly in a pony tail and her blue eyes filled with concern.

"What's wrong?"

"Nick talked to me, I feel so silly."

"So he finally talks to you and then you run to the bathroom to throw up?"

"Yeah something like that."

"Oh yeah this is a match made in heaven, this is just the beginning."

Beth burst into laughing.

"You're enjoying yourself way too much! This isn't funny."

"You're right this is totally serious. It's just so hard not to laugh."

"I've been waiting to talk to him for so long and now I'm feeling sick when he finally does. What's my problem?"

"Nothing, you just have a very bad crush on someone. It's your nerves. I use to avoid Eric, then when we did finally talk I found out he was really easy to talk to. Then he started dating Jenny and I knew that he only saw me as a friend. We're better off as friends."

"What are you trying to tell me?"

"What I'm telling you is to just be a friend and try not to think of only dating him. If God wants you to be more then He'll make it happen."

Jamie got up and gave Beth a hug.

"You always know what's best."

"It's from of years of watching my parents making mistakes and then my own."

Jamie and Beth left the bathroom and parted in the hallway. Beth was on her way to have lunch with Seth, and Jamie was going to go to the diner downtown and have lunch there. She walked in and sat down; Jamie ordered and Nick walked in.

Jamie looked up and Nick came over to her booth.

"I think you're stalking me." Jamie teased.

"No I swear I'm not. Is there anyone sitting here?"

"No, I'm all alone today. Beth is out with Seth today."

Jamie's hands were sweating and her stomach turned, but she just told herself that she was only looking for friendship and nothing more.

"Really? He didn't tell me he had asked her out."

"I've known for awhile that he's liked her, you haven't?"

Nick felt like an idiot, looking at her face and her smile. All he wanted to do was to kiss her.

“Well I've known about it. She's all he would talk about for weeks. I just didn't know that he was taking her out.”

“Oh, I see. Well I'm sure he was planning on telling you.”

“Yeah, well I would have found out someday or other.”

Nick slid his hand close to hers and she looked up. Right then the waitress saved Jamie from doing anything stupid.

Nick ordered a turkey sandwich.

What he really wanted to do was yell at the waitress 'Thanks for breaking the moment. I could have had her eating out of my hand!' Nick wanted to bang his head against the wall next to him.

“So tell me some more about yourself?”

“I don't know what to tell you, as you know I play football.....”

“Try telling me something I don't know.”

“Well I grew up in Miami, Florida, then we moved to a little town in Nevada and then we moved to another little town in Minnesota. From there I have been living here. What about you?”

“Well I have lived with my aunt and uncle for about all of my life; my parents are in and out of jail. I

saved all my money for college. Why did you move to Nevada?"

The waitress brought him his order, he said thank you and turned back to Jamie.

"My dad wanted to try being a rancher for awhile, but it didn't pan out. He doesn't like to get his boots dirty."

"Is that so? I wouldn't mind getting my boots dirty."

"It wasn't too bad. What are you going to school for?"

Jamie finished her sandwich and paid for her food.

"Well, I haven't really decided. I'm taking some veterinary courses, but I have been thinking about being a missionary, or owning an animal shelter. What about you?"

"I don't know yet, I'm hoping to go pro football."

"Well I guess if that doesn't work, your parents have money."

Jamie just wanted to die, she didn't mean for that to come out.

"How did you know? I didn't say that."

"I lived a few doors down from you since you moved to that small town in Minnesota. My mom and your mom are best friends."

Jamie's phone went off and she walked outside.

Nick couldn't believe that he hadn't noticed her at home, but that didn't matter now.....or did it?

Jamie walked back in and grabbed her bag.

"I have class, see you around."

Jamie left Nick sitting there. 'Oh! Did I just blow all my chances?'

Chapter 2

Jamie's cell phone rang. She quickly answered it.

"Hello?"

There was complete silence on the other line. She could almost taste the fear in her throat.

"Hello? Is anyone there?"

Still silence. Her mind went back to the movie 'When a Stranger Calls'. The hairs on her arms stood up.

Jamie hung up the phone and went out to her car. She started driving. She didn't know where she was going, but she knew she couldn't stay in the dorm alone.

All he needed was to hear her voice, to remember what it was like before.....

Nick walked into his dorm; Jimmy and Sam were sitting on the couch with some girls.

"Jimmy, could you take your dates somewhere else please?"

Jimmy whispered something to the girls and they left without another word. Jimmy and Sam got up and walked over to Nick.

"Are you ok, man?"

"Yeah, I just don't feel like having girls over."

"Are you sure you're not sick?"

"Yeah....of course."

Sam said, "You just asked three chicks to leave."

"It's Jamie; she's gotten under my skin. She's so different then any other girl I know. I can't explain it; all I want to do is show her I'm not the guy she thinks I am."

"Who does she think you are?" Sam asked.

"Well, it's more what she thinks I do. She thinks I'm just a user."

"Hey man, you've always been like that."
Jimmy said.

"I know, but I respect her too much to do that. I don't want to make her cry; I want to see her laugh."

"Dude, what you need is a cold shower and to play some Halo 3 to get your mind off her. What ya say? Let's kick some Alien butt."

Jimmy said, "I'll go get Kurt so we can play capture the flag."

Jimmy ran down the hall to another dorm and Nick said to Sam.

"I think I'll go home for summer break, get out of here and away from Jamie."

"Sounds like a good idea."

Jamie sat upstairs, her blonde curls wet from taking a cold shower. Her blue eyes were puffy from crying. It was so stupid. Nick didn't deserve to be cried over.

She opened her diary and wrote her feelings down and about her meeting with Nick. Jamie felt better after that and closed it and prayed, thanking God for giving her a great family that could give her a break from Nick.

Her cell phone buzzed and fear shot through her like a lightening bolt. She saw it was Beth and felt relief. Jamie answered it,

"Hello Beth!"

"Hey Jamie, do you want to come to the diner and have shakes with Seth and I?"

"Sure, sounds like fun. What diner are you at?"

"The one across town, and would you mind if Nick, Jimmy and Sam rode with you?"

"No, that would be fine." Jamie's voice was tight and cold.

"Cool, I'll see you in a few minutes."

"Yeah, see ya."

Jamie went out to her car and the guy's were already standing next to her car.

Jimmy and Sam start playing with the gadgets in her 2008 SUV.

"You have a nice car!"

"Thanks, it one of many gifts my parents gave me."

"Wow, you're parents give you nice gifts."

It didn't take long to get to the diner.

"Yup, here we are."

They went into the diner.

"What's up?" Jamie said as she slid in across from Beth.

"Not much; just thought it would be fun to all go out. What's up with you?"

Jamie's face was pale.

The guy's were talking about some totally different.

"Nothing, I'm just more than happy to get out of the dorm. I couldn't stand another minute there alone."

"Is everything alright?"

"I'll tell you about it when we get back to the dorm."

"Does it have something to do with the necklace?"

"I don't want to talk about it here."

"Just answer me one question, does it have something to do with the necklace?"

"Yes, someone called me; they didn't say anything, but I was shaken up. I hadn't seen that number in a long time."

"Was it Alex's?"

"It was just his old number.... It doesn't mean anything, it's probably nothing."

Seth stopped talking and asked.

"You mean Alex, like dead Alex?"

"Yeah, but it can't be. You were there at the funeral."

"Who's Alex?" Nick asked, looking confused.

"Her ex-fiancé," said Beth.

"She had a fiancé?" said Nick

"He's her ex." Said Beth

"So he's calling her?" said Nick

"That's kind of hard since HE'S DEAD! And I refuse to believe that he faked his own death." Jamie shot Beth a look that said how she felt about it.

Jamie got up and said to everyone.

"I'm leaving now. Seth, do you have room in your car for everyone?"

"Ah, yeah," said Seth, still trying to take in this whole Alex thing.

"Have a nice night."

Jamie walked out and Nick ran up to catch her.

"Jamie, shouldn't you call someone?"

"I don't think so; it's probably just a prank phone call. I'll be fine."

Jamie got into her SUV and drove off with a million things on her mind.

They all went out to the car; Beth was still worried about Jamie. Seth was still wondering if this was really happening.

Seth went around and helped Beth into the car, and the three guys crammed into the back.

Then while Seth was going around the back a man jumped out and hit Seth. Seth fell to the ground and the man dropped a piece of paper on him and ran off.

After a couple of minutes Nick went out to find Seth. Nick found Seth on the ground; he grabbed the note and yelled for Jimmy.

“Jimmy, call the police!”

“What’s wrong?” asked Beth as she got out of the car.

When she saw Seth she stopped short, Nick was reading the note on Seth. Beth joined Nick next to Seth and took Seth’s pulse; she looked over and saw Nick reading the note.

“What’s that?”

Before Nick could answer, the police came and an EMT was looking after Seth. Beth called Jamie and Jamie was there in an instant.

“How’s he doing?”

“He’s going to be fine, but it might be a while before he wakes up.”

Nick came up behind Jamie and tapped her shoulder.

"Yes?"

"Can I talk to you? Over there?"

She looked at him and then back at Beth. Beth said.

"It's fine. I'll catch you later at the hospital."

"Ok, I'll see you there."

Beth went over to Seth while Jamie and Nick went further away.

"What is it?"

"I found this note on Seth's body; I think the guy left it."

"And you took it? That's evidence!"

"Of course I didn't take it, I left it there. I was only going to tell you what it said."

"Oh...."

"It said, 'LEAVE JAMIE PETERSON ALONE, SHE'S MINE!' and then there was an odd shape in the paper."

"So in other words it's all my fault, that's just great."

Jamie started to walk off and Nick grabbed her arm.

"I didn't mean to make you feel bad....."

"Really? How do you think I would feel when you tell me that one of my friends was beaten up because of me?"

"I told you because I wanted to let you know that you should be careful. It could be this Alex person."

"ALEX.....IS.....DEAD! How many times do I have to explain that to you guys?"

"Beth explained everything to me; I think she might be right."

"You know, I don't want to talk about this. I'm just going to go to the hospital now."

She turned around and walked to the car leaving Nick standing by Seth's car. He decided to go to the hospital in the morning and to give her her space.

He smiled to himself. Seth was going to feel that when he woke up. He had made a mistake, but it didn't matter. Seth was a message to them all; they better stay away from Jamie. Nothing would stop him from having Jamie again; he would kill for her....

Chapter 3

The next morning, Nick walked into the hospital and went into Seth's room. Jamie and Beth were sitting next to Seth's bed. Seth was sitting up and smiling.

"Hey man!"

Nick smiled, happy that Seth was up.

"Hey, how are you feeling?"

"Better, I still have a headache. But the doctors said that it should go away soon. They also said that I should be able to leave by the end of today."

Nick's gaze went down to Seth's hand which was holding Beth's, Beth looked happier then a bride on her wedding day.

"So are you guy's coming to the pizza pub tonight?"

Seth smiled and gazed at Beth.

"No, Beth and I are going to the movie."

Nick looked at Jamie who was staring at her hands. She looked up.

"Oh, you're asking me?"

"Yeah, what do you say?"

Jamie still looked shocked.

"I.....um.....I'm going home."

Jamie looked back down at the floor; she needed to get home as soon as possible. Nick nodded.

"Are you sure you don't want to stop just for a few minutes? You'll be my special guest."

Nick smiled, but inside him he felt sick. He knew she was going to say no but something in him held onto the hope that she wouldn't.

"I can't. I have to get going; I have some things to work out. Please understand."

"I do, I guess I was just hoping that it could have been put off for like another day."

Jamie looked up and locked eyes with him. Beth looked at both of them and nudged Seth.

"I'm sorry but this can't wait another day, if you would excuse me now. I have lots of packing to do."

Jamie walked out and Nick sat down in the chair that Jamie had used. Beth stood up.

"Well I'm going to see if I can help Jamie and say good-bye. I'll see you later."

Seth kissed her hand and she left. Seth gave Nick his whole attention.

"So what's on you're mind?"

Nick put his head in his hand and sighed really loudly.

"I'm just worried about Jamie; she doesn't know what kind of danger she really is in. I don't know what I can do anymore. I'm at a loss."

Seth smiled and nodded.

"Yeah, Jamie can be really hard headed. You just have to be patient, even if it's for a long time."

Nick nodded.

"I'm trying."

Nick thought to himself. 'What I need to do is get home and keep an eye on Jamie.'

Nick stood up and paced deep in thought. Then he turned to Seth.

"I have an idea! Thanks Seth, I'll see you when you come down to stay with me."

Seth was completely puzzled.

"Ok.....I'll see you. Bye."

"Bye."

Nick ran out the door and almost hit Beth and her tray of coffee.

"Why did he leave so fast?"

Seth sat in his bed with a dazed look; he snapped out of it and started laughing.

"I don't know, he just told me he had a plan to help Jamie."

Beth shook her head.

"Jamie's not going to like that."

Seth took her hand as she sat next to him.

"Jamie doesn't believe she's in danger. She needs him to protect her, whether she likes it or not."

Beth smiled and nodded.

"True and I'm totally behind you."

She put her head on his shoulder and he kissed her hair.

It was sickening watching Beth and Seth cuddle. He made his way to the stairs and walked to his car. It was time he met with Nick, face to fist.

Jamie sat down on her bed, all her emotions poured out on her bed. Was Alex still alive and was he after me? Why now?

Jamie wailed, "Why couldn't he just leave me alone!"

She finished packing with tears in her eyes. She was stressed about Alex. Jamie grabbed her bags and went straight to her car; she had just put her stuff in her car when a hand touched her shoulder. She screamed and spun around.....

Nick looked into Jamie's terrified face; she was as white as a sheet.

"Gosh Nick! You almost gave me a heart attack! What's your problem?!"

Jamie's face got red with anger as she looked him right in the eyes. He felt stupid for scaring her.

"I'm sorry Jamie, but I really think we need to talk."

Jamie cooled down and nodded.

"Jump in, I'll drop you off near you're pizza pub."

“Actually I was wondering if I could go with you and you can drop me off at my house.”

Jamie smiled, she seemed to relax.

“Sure I can do that.”

Nick got into the passenger seat and Jamie got behind the wheel. Jamie started her car and soon they were driving down the highway.

“So what did you want to talk about?”

Nick's mind had been looking for a way to talk to her about Alex without making her really upset.

“Now don't get mad, I just wanted to talk.....”

Jamie broke in.

“You want to talk to me about Alex; I want to tell you something. I'm starting to think you guy's might be right. It makes sense. I don't like it, but I guess that doesn't change anything.”

Jamie gave a small, sad smile and Nick put his hand on hers. He wanted to help but was at a loss to what he could do. He felt useless and helpless.

“I hope everything turns out for the best, I really do.”

She turned and looked at him in the eyes.

“You're so sweet.”

Then she noticed headlights behind her, they were coming close fast. Jamie let go of Nick's hand and gripped the steering wheel.

"Someone's in a hurry....."

The car behind them was tailgating them and was getting even closer. It rammed her car.

"AH! What are they doing?!"

Jamie pulled over and so did the car behind them. Jamie and Nick got out; Jamie raised her hands over her head and yelled at the top of her lungs.

"What the heck is you're problem?"

The door of a black sports car opened and a man stepped out. His face was shadowed by his black hat; he stood about 6ft. and wore dark clothes. He turned to her and tipped his hat.

"Sorry miss. I must have dosed off."

"Are you drunk?!"

The man's body language looked sorry, but Jamie wasn't going to let him off easy. He shook his head.

"No, I swear."

"I want you're information, and I want it NOW!"

The man started to write down some information on a pad of paper when he stopped and reached into his

pocket. He pulled out a wad of cash. He tossed it to her.

"Here this should cover it, if it doesn't."

He handed her a business card, and just the way he said it you could tell he was smiling.

"Call me. For anything"

Jamie took it and said.

"If I call you, it's *only* going to be about the car."

Jamie and Nick walked back to Jamie's car and got in. She soon was back on her way home. The other car never left her rearview mirror. When they were almost into the little town of Hill Side, Jamie looked in the mirror and said.

"That guy! He's still following us. Who the heck does he think he is?!"

"Probably some big shot; don't let him get to you. With that said, I don't feel comfortable letting you drive home alone. Why don't you bring me with you to your house? Then I'll call my parents to come and get me."

"Ok, but I'm sure I would have been fine."

Nick thought, 'She's so hard headed, she doesn't want to admit that she needs some help. It's not like I think she's helpless, she'll never come around to liking me. I should just give up on her!'

Meanwhile Jamie was thinking, 'He's so sweet, looking out for me. But I don't need a father and I certainly don't need someone watching over my shoulder. I can handle any problem and I don't need his help. I can take care of myself.'

The rest of the ride was done in silence; it wasn't that long of a trip. When they got to her house they all went in, Rachel gave her a hug.

"Oh we missed you!"

Nick had gone straight to the phone and called his parents. Soon a black convertible drove into the driveway.

"Well that's my parents; I'll see you all later."

They all said good bye and Nick walked out to the car. All the time he was thinking only one thing, 'I don't want to leave her.'

Chapter 4

Jamie woke up with the sun shining in from her big bay window in her room. It felt so good to be home. She looked out and could see her Uncle Chad feeding his baby buffalos, Billy and Buffy. She smiled as she got dressed into a pair of blue jeans and a plain gray t-shirt. She walked downstairs where her Aunt Rachel was making breakfast. Jamie pulled on some cowboy boots and Rachel turned to her.

“Where are you going?”

Jamie turned around with a smile on her face.

“I’m going out to ride Heartbreaker; I haven’t seen her for so long.”

“You’re not going to have any breakfast?”

Rachel stood in the kitchen, her straight brown hair pulled back into a bun and her small brown eyes shined and sparkled, her hands were busy with the food on the stove.

“Well now how could a poor college student say no to one of you’re breakfasts?”

Jamie dished herself up some eggs and bacon, and then she and Rachel, complete with food, sat down at the table. Rachel looked up.

“Oh! I almost forgot to tell you, Nick called. He wants you to call him; maybe before you go out for you’re ride.”

"No, I'm sure it can wait."

"I don't know, it sounded kind of important."

Jamie smiled; her blue eyes showed she was off into her own world.

"What?"

"Nothing, I'm sure what Nick needs isn't all that important. He's good at making things sound important, when they aren't."

Rachel shook her head.

"I have known Nick longer than you and that isn't true. Nick told me that something was bothering you and he thought it would help you to talk about it. Do you want to talk about it with me?"

Jamie started choking on her eggs. Rachel took her coffee cup and put her elbows on the table, just waiting for Jamie to start.

"HE TOLD YOU WHAT?!!!!"

"That something was bothering you and that you needed to talk to someone."

"The nerve! Excuse me but I'm not hungry anymore."

Jamie went storming to the door.

"Jamie, where are you going?"

"I'm going to pay Mr. Nick a visit."

Jamie went to her car and Rachel put her hands over her eyes, and quietly Rachel prayed.

"Lord, help her and protect Nick."

Nick was surprised when his mother's butler came in to tell him that Jamie had come to see him. He hurried to get dressed and walked downstairs. Jamie was standing in the parlor; her normally curly blonde hair was straight, her blue eyes full of rage. Nick thought before going in.

'Rachel must have told her.'

He walked in and Jamie turned around. He could tell he was in for some trouble.

"Nick! Where do *you* get off telling my *Aunt* that *I* need to talk? Did I *not* make it clear that I didn't want people to know about this?!"

"No, you never said anything like that. Maybe next time you should make those things clearer. I was just trying to be helpful."

"I don't believe you. You're not being helpful. In fact you're being the worst help I have ever had! Next time just keep your help to yourself!"

Jamie stormed out, the slam of the front door declaring her departure.

After making sure she had left, he called Rachel and asked if he could come over to talk to her. After he

got the ok, he got into his car and started for her house. He drove as fast as the speed limit would permit him, but soon he saw their little farm.

He didn't take him long to get there after that and he knocked on the door.

"Hi, Rachel."

"Nick. Come on in."

Rachel opened the door to let Nick in; he went in and walked into the living room. Rachel walked in with two mugs of coffee.

"Have a seat."

Rachel handed him his coffee and he leaned on the wall, she sat down and Nick said.

"I'm worried about Jamie. She has a stalker."

Rachel sat up straighter and looked shocked. She was surprised, so Nick just kept talking.

"I think it was her ex-fiancé Alex."

"You're not serious, Alex is dead."

Nick put his coffee on the coffee table and paced.

"I know this sounds impossible but I don't think he is. He sent her a necklace that was like the one he gave her."

"I don't believe it! Do you know what kind of hell we went through? I don't think Jamie has ever gotten over him, not completely."

Rachel went to the kitchen and started cleaning, Nick followed her.

"Rachel, do you know where Jamie went to?"

"She went to ride Heartbreak; her parents thought that buying a horse after Alex died would help. It really did too."

"Do you know where she would ride to?"

"She has a special place she runs to whenever she needs to think."

"Do you know where it is?"

"Yeah."

Rachel wrote out a small map to it and gave it to Nick.

"One more thing....."

Jamie was lying in the grass when she heard a horse coming. She thought to herself.

"Who would be riding at this time?"

She sat up thinking that there must an emergency, she saw Nick coming and laid back down. She didn't actually want to see him, all she wanted right now was to be alone.

"Jamie! I know you're out here!"

Jamie knew he wouldn't leave until he found her but she really didn't want to talk to him. So she stayed laying there for awhile.

Nick continued to yell and it was driving Jamie nuts. All she wanted to was her peaceful silence again. So she stood up and yelled back.

"Shut up! I'm over here!"

Nick turned around and walked over to her.

"There you are! I have been calling for you for almost a half hour."

"I know. I've been listening to you. What do you want?"

"I don't think you should be alone, not with Alex around."

Jamie smiled and walked to the top of the hill and looked over it to a little creek.

"Did you ever think that maybe it's you who should be scared of Alex?"

"What? Why would I be in any danger?"

"Cause it is plain to see that you like me, Alex won't hurt me. But he would kill for me, he use to tell me that. If I were you I would watch my back and leave me alone."

Nick looked stunned. This was first time he had thought of it. He quickly recovered.

"I don't care, I don't trust him."

Nick stepped closer.

"I don't even care that you know I like you, but I don't want this to come between us. I don't care if you don't like me, heck you can even hate me. But I'm not leaving and I'm going to be here to protect you, whether you like it or not"

To Nick's great surprise Jamie ran over to him and hugged him. Tears ran down her face.

"You have no idea how much that means to me!"

Nick wrapped his arms around her and laid his head on hers.

"I'm not going to leave you Jamie."

He watched Jamie embrace Nick; jealousy was making his blood boil. He walked toward his horse when he turned around again on an impulse; Jamie and Nick were now riding home.

He threw a rock and it almost hit Nick, but the rock missed. The horses freaked and started to bolt. Nick get his horse under control but Jamie's threw her off.

Chapter 5

Nick jumped off and got onto his knees next to Jamie.

"Are you ok?"

"I should be, just help me up please."

"Sure."

Nick helped her up and she stood up like nothing had happened.

"Where's Heartbreak?"

Heartbreak, a black Quarter horse, was running back to the barn.

"Well, I guess I'm walking."

"No need, jump on. You can ride behind me."

Nick had a boyish smile that made Jamie just want to wrap her arms around him and kiss him. She quickly threw those thoughts out of her mind.

"Ok."

Jamie jumped on and wrapped her arms around Nick's waist. Nick was riding Chad's horse Smoky, a gray American Saddle Horse. Jamie put her head on his back as they rode back to the house. Her head was hurting from the fall.

"What do you think caused the horses to freak like that?"

"I saw a rock go flying past my head; that could have been what scared them."

"But why would anyone, and I'm not going to blame it on Alex, want to hurt us?"

They were back in the barn; Nick jumped off and helped Jamie off.

"I still think its Alex."

"I know you do."

Jamie started to take the saddle off Smoky when Heartbreak came up. The horse nudged her arm.

"Nick would you take the rest of the tack off Smoky?"

"Sure."

Nick took over and Jamie started on Heartbreak. As she started to take the saddle off a note fell out. She picked it up and started to read it. She didn't realize that she was reading out loud.

"'Jamie, I know you think I'm dead. I have lots to explain to you, meet me out in the gardens at 3AM. It would be much better if you come alone. We have so much to talk about and very little time. Alex.'"

Jamie was so engulfed in the letter that she didn't notice that Nick had come over and was standing behind her.

"Now do you believe me?"

His voice was a matter of fact kind of tone. Jamie went weak and the note fell to the ground. Nick held onto her because he thought she was going to faint.

"So it's true, he really is alive."

"Come on; let's get you into the house."

Nick picked her up and walked toward the house. Jamie's head started to hurt a lot, but she didn't tell Nick that.

"Wait! The letter! Don't forget the letter!"

Nick turned back with Jamie in his arms to get the note, she whispered in his ear.

"We will want to show it to everyone, but we don't want Alex to get it first."

The note was still there when they returned and Nick bent down so Jamie could get it.

"There we go, are you happy now? Can we go into the house now?"

"Yes, thank you."

Jamie smiled at him in a kind of flirty way, and then she closed her eyes and let her head fall on his chest. He could see her face was turned up and he asked,

"Did you faint or do you just like to hear my heart?"

She pulled her head off his chest and looked into his eyes.

“Are you sure you want to know?”

He dropped her off at the door and never took his eyes off her.

“Would you like to go to the diner? Tomorrow night?”

Jamie smiled in a teasing way and turned to the door.

“Let me think about it and I will call you later.”

“I’m not going to leave until I get an answer.”

She turned back around and took his hand.

“Ok then....you can pick me up at 7”

Nick liked the way Jamie’s hand fit right into his, it felt smooth.

“Okay then.”

“Okay.”

Jamie went into the house and watched Nick walk to his car. Then she ran to her phone and called Beth. In Jamie’s excitement she forgot how late it was, and woke Beth up.

“Hello?” Beth said in a half a sleep sound.

“Beth!!! You’ll never guess what I did!”

“Jamie, it's midnight. This had better be good.”

Jamie looked at the clock and was completely surprised.

“Oh I'm so sorry! I didn't have any idea what time it was, I've been with Nick.”

“Nick? Nick is there?”

“Well he's not *here* now, he went home. But I'm going to go out with him tomorrow night!”

“WHAT?”

That seemed to wake Beth up.

“I know! Isn't it exciting, I can't wait!”

“I thought that you weren't going to date him?”

Jamie went to her room and laid on her stomach on her bed.

“Well, yes I did say that. I don't know he's seemed to change. I really like him Beth; he's the first guy in a long time.”

“I know, and I'm happy for you, really I am! So tell me everything about it.”

The two of them were acting like high schoolers who just got asked to the prom. Jamie told her everything that had happened and at the end Beth sighed.

"I'm coming up there, with Seth. Can I stay with you? I don't think Nick's parents would like me staying there."

"Yeah, when will you be here?"

"I'm going to be leaving early in the morning, so I should be there around noon."

"I can't wait! Well I should let you go so you can get back to sleep."

Beth yawned and Jamie started to feel tired herself.

"Ok, sounds good. See you tomorrow."

"Bye, goodnight."

"Goodnight."

Jamie hung up and went upstairs to get ready for bed. She noticed a white gift box sitting on her pillow.

"How'd this get here?"

She picked it up and under the box was a little note. She opened the white gift box and in it was an emerald necklace and earring set. They were just the stones with a gold chain. Jamie touched them and smiled; her favorite stone. She opened the note and in, it was in a handwriting that was all too familiar. There was no doubt in her mind that it was from Alex. She threw the box out the window and yelled.

"I DON'T WANT THEM ALEX! TAKE THEM BACK!"

She felt better and went to bed without any problems.

In Alex's mind he saw that going differently. He saw her running into his arms and everything going back to the way it was before. It was now clear to him that she was falling for someone else, and he couldn't let that happen.

3AM came up fast. Jamie dressed in her pajama pants and a over sized sweat shirt, went outside to meet Alex.

Deep down she was scared out of her mind, but she wanted to trust and believe Alex. Believe that he would never hurt her, like he had promised her all those years ago.

Jamie pulled her arms around her tighter, it was cold out. She heard a sound behind her and jumped sky high.

"Alex?" Jamie whispered. "Is that you?"

A shadow ran behind a tree, Jamie's blood turned cold.

"Alex? This isn't funny."

Jamie made a couple of turns around the house; she could see the black shadow following her. She had goose bumps.

After a few more minutes of walking around, she went back into the house. Alex never showed up, so Jamie went back to bed.

Chapter 6

The next morning Jamie woke up and walked outside to help her Aunt Rachel with the daily chores. Selah and Chad Jr. were taking care of the horses and Samantha and Nichole were taking care of the chickens. Jamie went into the barn to help Rachel milk the cows and goats.

They milked in silence and soon Jamie was done with all her chores. She went back into the house and into her bedroom. On the window seat was a letter.

Jamie sat down to read it. She read it out loud.

"Dear Jamie, as you have already guessed it's me Alex. Sorry I missed our meeting last night, but I figured this would be easier in a letter then face to face. I didn't mean to hurt you, but I needed to hide from some 'friends'. I have now realized that we can never go back to the way things were. I wouldn't blame you if you hated me right now, but I pray that someday we can be friends again. I hope everything works out with Nick, and I'm sorry I throw the rock at him. Alex."

"So it was Alex after all."

Jamie hadn't heard Beth and Seth come in and jumped sky high.

"Good grief you guys! You nearly gave me a heart attack!"

Beth and Seth started to laugh and Beth went over and gave Jamie a hug.

"I'm so happy that all that is finally over with!"

"Me too, now I don't have to always be looking over my shoulder and I can enjoy myself tonight. I should call Nick!"

Seth put up his hand.

"Wait, do you want to have some fun tonight?"

Both girls looked at him, and Jamie got an evil smile on her face.

"What do you have in mind?"

"Oh just some mind tricks on Nick."

"Um.....I don't know."

Nick was right on time, he showed up to Jamie's house at 7PM.

He was smiling, and had flowers. Beth came outside and smiled.

"Hey Nick....what are you doing here?"

He was still smiling, but inside he was panicking.

'She hadn't told Beth...of course she would....did she forget?'

"I've come to take Jamie on a date"

"Really? Um, will you wait here a minute."

Beth went running back inside and Nick sat in his car.
He closed his eyes trying to calm himself.

'It's all going to be ok.'

Seth came outside and got into Nick's car.

"Hey man!"

Seth punched him in the shoulder and settled back into the car.

"What are they doing in there?"

Seth looked over and smiled.

"I don't know; they are probably getting ready. You know how girls are....."

"Yea....I do. I guess I'm just kind of nervous."

Seth smiled and looked at him.

"You're going to be fine."

You could tell he relaxed a little....that is until Jamie came out.

Jamie was wearing a torn jeans and a red v-neck t-shirt that fit in all the right places, she had a pink cami under it.

She had a huge smile on her face and walked over to the car.

"What are you two guys talking about?"

Nick's mouth went dry and all he could do was smell her perfume. To look at her lips and imagine holding her in his arms.

Luckily Seth knew when to speak up. He saw what Jamie was doing to Nick; he'd never seen any girl do this to Nick.

"We were talking about you girls and how long it takes you to get ready."

Beth gave him a hurt face, and punched him in the shoulder.

"You're mean! I don't think we should go out with these guys, Jamie."

Beth linked her arm through Jamie's and pulled her back into the house. Nick's eyes were huge and he looked over at Seth. Panic filled his eyes; he opened his car door and ran up to the house. Rachel came out and smiled.

"Hello Nick, I didn't expect you to come back so soon."

"I came to get Jamie; we were going to go on a date....."

He looked nervously into the house, and saw Jamie sitting at the table, talking to Beth. She looked beautiful, it looked like her and Beth were arguing about something. Beth looked at her watch and pointed to it, she raised ten fingers. Rachel smiled and gave him a gentle push.

"Go get her."

Nick looked at Rachel and then back at Jamie.

He walked in and took Jamie into his arms and kissed her. It was tender; her lips were soft and sweet. When she didn't pull away, he deepened his kiss and Jamie kissed him back. Nick backed up, but kept Jamie in his arms, just taking in her beauty. He loved how she fit perfectly in his arms, her hair smelled of peach and vanilla.

He found it hard to find his voice, but this time Seth wasn't there to save him.

"Are you coming?"

"I wouldn't miss it for the world."

"Ok then, lets go."

Nick put his arm around her waist and they walked to the car with Beth following them, both girls had huge smiles. Jamie's eyes were sparkling. The moment Seth saw them; he knew that he had missed something.

Jamie's cell phone rang and she picked it up as she got into the car.

"Hello?"

"Jamie....."

"Dad? Is this you?"

It was Scott her dad.

"You should know you father's voice without my having to tell you!" He threw out some swear words, and then continued his yelling. "Where is you Aunt?! I need to talk to her right away!"

"She isn't here. I'm on a date....are you ok?"

"Yes! Why wouldn't I be? And who is this guy your on a date with? You're a whore; you're a worthless piece of junk just like your mother!"

Jamie's eyes filled, she bite her lip to keep from crying. Nick looked at her with concern.

"Dad, I have to go."

Scott was still yelling at her when she flipped the phone closed.

"I'm sorry Nick, but I really don't feel like going anywhere....could you just take me home?"

"Yeah. Sure."

He drove her back and helped her out to the house.

"Are you going to be ok?"

"No..."

Tears over took her and she couldn't say anymore. She turned away from Nick, but he pulled her close. Jamie cried on his chest until she got herself under control.

"I'm sorry, I don't usually cry like that....I got you shirt all wet."

"It's fine, I don't mind it being wet or even the mascara marks...do you want to go for a ride?"

"You mean in the car?"

"No, I mean on horse back."

Jamie attempted to give him a smile, but it didn't work.

"I would like that."

He took her hand and they went to the barn together. He got her horse for her and saddled Heartbreak up, then did the same to Smoky.

They rode in silence until they got to a little rock. They both just sat there. They could see for miles, and it took Jamie's breath away.

"My dad called me a whore....just cause I was going out on a date. He also told me I was useless...."

Jamie's voice carried away into the wind, her mind a million miles away.

"Hey, you're not like that. Your dad doesn't know you."

He took her in his arms and kissed her cheek. He whispered into her ear.

"You're amazing, and don't let anyone make you believe anything else."

She turned around and gave him a peck on the lips and sat with her back resting on his chest.

"Thank you Nick."

They sat there all day, and watched the sunset. Neither of them wanted to ever move, but Nick knew he had to get home.

They stood outside the front door; Nick kissed her and promised her that he would come over tomorrow. Then he left, but Jamie stayed on the porch. She looked at the stars and prayed out loud.

"Thank you God! Thank you so much for Nick."

She turned around and went inside. Tomorrow was a new day....