**Resolving the Past: An Alexia & David Story**

**Chapter 1 - My Life**

The cool Texas air in the morning permeated Alexia’s lungs with every breath she took, forgetting that she had been here for three years. Her time watching the sun’s early rise gave her a renewed energy, a feeling of relief and newness in this small town and small house that she was currently renting. Coming out of her front door with her robe on, she walked out to the front of her driveway to pick up the local news paper. Reading the tabloids of Little Rock for a brief moment before heading back inside to go and freshen up.

Dressing up in some suitable clothes, Alexia took her time to heading to her local job down at the hair salon, her mind at ease as she waved and said “hi” to her neighbors as they were getting ready to take their kids to school, getting to know the mother as a good friend before heading on her way to work to join Leina, Sarah, & Elizabeth. Just to prep the shop and to get ready for when someone needed some work done. Sometimes people in the early morning would come in until about the afternoon period.

They didn’t mind, it gave them plenty of time to gossip, to chat, and to go out, so long one or two of them stayed behind to watch over everything.
Before that time, Alexia and Sarah were the only ones looking after the shop, as she was putting out the sign for their offers that a large, familiar looking grey and white pick-up rolled up into the parking space.

Excitement came over her as she turned her head back through the open door. “Hey Sarah, I’m gonna be outside for a bit Okay?” she spoke.

“You don’t need to tell me girl. Just go and do your thing.” the Sheep lady replied to her.

As the pick-up parked, and the door opened to reveal a tall mixed donkey male, Alexia came up to him to wrap her arms around his neck and hug him.
“Whoa! Good morning to you too babe.”

“Good morning David...” she said with abit of playfulness in her voice before they kissed each other’s lips.

“I just wanted to come over to let you know my folks are having a little anniversary party next week.” David said.

“Oh? Are you saying that I’m invited?” she replied cutely with a loving tone. “After our last couple of dates, I’m thinking you want a bit more than just a girl-friend.”

A gentle and romantic smile came over him, “I’d be lying if I said I wasn’t.”

“Thank you. You’ve could’ve called me though.”

“Now…that wouldn’t be as fun. Cause I love you **Carol**.”

Alexia was almost taken aback upon hearing that name, but she swallowed her feelings before speaking up again “I love you too…” she said before kissing him. Alexia’s time with him being well spent before she was called back inside as some clients came in, a mother/daughter combo that wanted matching hairstyles. And while David left her with love in his heart, she was left with a bit of doubt in her mind.

Her time living here in Little Rock allowed her to live a life she could be happy with, to be recognized and to be loved by a mule whole loved her back. And yet...she had to be reminded that she wasn’t living by her real name. Alexia wasn’t her name anymore, Carol was. Carol Browning. And this was her new life now.

Naming herself Carol was by choice, but it wasn’t like she had any other options. Reflecting on the past after getting off work, she tried not to think about the worst time of her life. But her memories tended to flood back every now and then. Living her life as \*Carol\* didn’t bury those memories, not fully.

That night, David took her out for a late night movie at the outdoor theater, something she had only done a couple of times by herself, but ever since coming here, she had gotten herself more and more involved, even joined one of the local churches that David attended. Something about this gentleman she loved really made her heart flutter.

Driving back to her place, David was no doubt curious about her thoughts, especially on the movie, “Carol? You okay?” he asked her, his voice cracking through as he was slowing down while driving up her street.

“Oh! Yeah, I’m okay.”

“You sorta spaced out there for a moment... Something on your mind?” David asked with abit of worry.

The lady-mule shrugged her head as she tussled with herself for a moment “Eah… kinda, I’m just tired. I’m - I’m worried about what I should wear to your folks for this anniversary party.” Alexia replied, making up her words as she conversed with him.

“Aw Babe. Don’t you worry about dressing too fancy. They’ll appreciate you just fine”

As much as Alexia knew David was trying to help, she didn’t want to look bad into front of his parents. Who knew what they expected of her? “David. I know you mean well…but I don’t want to draw any negative attention. And I don’t want to make them look bad. You wouldn’t want them to look at me like bad. They might think I dress like a skank.” She said.

She paused, all as David was thinking it over with a goofy smile on his face “Well… Now I wouldn’t mind seeing that!” he said before coming up to her place and stopping his truck.

“Oh Please! Your Awful”

“You know you Love it babe!” David teased before kissing on her cheek, his teasing making her giggle as they were enjoying their time together.

“You sure you don’t want me to come in!?” David asked.

“You know I have work! But thank you for taking me out.” Alexia said as she was getting out of the truck, closing the door, the window still down for both of them to talk with each other. “Well…Can I at least see you tomorrow?” David asked her.

“David. You can see me anytime… You know I Appreciate everything you’ve done for me.” She said with loving eyes.

“Always Carol. I’ll see you at Lunch.” He said to her.

“Take care David.”

“I always do!” David said with excitement before giving her one last smile and nod before taking off. She would’ve invited him inside. She so wanted to…but right now wasn’t the best of time for her to scratch that itch. For now, Alexia would just have to wait on it. Wait and pray to god that she didn’t have to wait too long. Hopefully she would have the courage to tell him about herself when the time comes.