

*Marty's Ride* excerpt

"I need to take a little trip."

Marty's heart dropped like a rock down a well. He was leaving? Running out on her and her nieces? Marty stared at him in disbelief. How could he do this to her?

"I won't be gone long, maybe a week," he spoke quickly. "I'll be back in plenty of time for the hearing." Marty continued to stare and said nothing. "I need to talk to some people who knew your sister. I will be back. I promise."

"Lynnette. Everything is always about Lynnette." Marty stalked out of the room.

She went out to the animal shed to be with the one soul who was her constant companion. As she stroked Flash's neck, she sifted through her feelings. She had been at Reece's house for a week now and in Seattle for nearly three weeks. Although grateful for all Reece had done for her and her nieces, she couldn't wait for it all to be over. Marty wanted to get away from this place and her feelings. She trusted Reece and didn't exactly know why. She cared for him. Was she falling in love with him? What a silly thought. Marty Rawlings in love?

She couldn't deny it. What else could it be? She had to stop these feelings right now. In three weeks she would have her nieces one way or another and be gone. There was no room for love. Besides, Reece would never love someone like her.

The next morning Reece left as promised. With him away, a hole opened up inside Marty. Though she tried to stop her feelings, they crashed over her like a raging river. It was good he was gone. It would give her time to get control of these strange new feelings.