

## Chapter One

“Geronimo!”

Rich barely had time to get out of the way before Johnny leapt from the ten-meter platform, nearly landing his cannonball right on top of him. Rich bobbed in the water, watching as it sloshed over the sides of the Olympic-sized pool. He couldn't help but laugh as his dark-haired lover surfaced.

“You're such a goofball, ya know?”

Johnny shook his head like a dog, water flying everywhere. “Well, not everyone is an Olympic diver who can fly off that platform like a bird. I just do what I know.” He took a big mouthful of the water and spat it at Rich, who laughed, and dodged it easily.

“I think you might want to stick to football.” Rich swam effortlessly around the big guy. “You're like a tugboat in the water.”

“Hey, just be glad I don't sink and you have to save me again,” Johnny panted as he dog-paddled over to his lover. “Ever had sex in a pool?”

“None of your business,” Rich said, swimming out of reach and laughing.

“What the *hell* is going on here?” Rich looked up to see his diving coach, Coach Fullmerton, standing by the side of the pool, his hands on his hips. “How the hell did the two of you get in here and *what* exactly are you doing in my pool... naked? Never mind, don't answer that.” Coach Fullmerton held up both hands, stopping them from possibly answering his question.

“Sorry, Coach Fullmerton, it's my fault,” Johnny said quickly. “I wanted to treat Rich to a—” Johnny ran out of words, turning to Rich for help, treading water for all he was worth.

“Never mind that. How did you two get in here, and *don't* get out of the water, alright? I don't think I want to see...that. Just get your stuff and clear out, I wasn't here.”

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Johnny and Rich watched as the coach stormed out, closing and locking the door behind him. Looking at each other, they both burst out laughing.

“So much for the big romantic ending, huh?” Johnny said as they made their way to the side of the pool and pulled themselves out.

“Oh, I don’t know, John, it’s been pretty romantic. I mean the candles, flowers, and then the pizza. It’s been perfect. I would have never thought of having a picnic on the ten-meter platform, much less sex.” Rich caressed Johnny’s furry chest, smiling. “I’ll never be able to dive without thinking about what we’ve done tonight.”

Johnny frowned. “I hope that’s a good thing. Don’t want you distracted or anything.”

“Oh, trust me. I think it will help keep me focused. It’ll almost be like you’re there with me.”

“Okay. Sometimes I worry.” Johnny admitted as he pulled his lover to him. “I know that some of those dives you do can be dangerous.”

“Thanks for that, but I think I’ll be fine,” Rich said as he looked into the milk chocolate eyes, flaked with gold of the man he loved with all his heart.

“Okay, I’m starting to get a bit cold here,” Johnny responded with a shiver.

“Yeah, I think they turn the heat off in here at night.”

The two athletes climbed the tower to the diving platform to retrieve their clothing and pack up all the stuff Johnny had brought. When they were finished and the door to the Aquatic Center was locked, they walked back to Rich’s dorm. Rich slipped his hand into Johnny’s big mitt.

“I like this.” Johnny squeezed Rich’s hand.

“I do too,” Rich replied as they approached the dorm.

“I hope that ass-wipe has moved out,” Johnny murmured, his voice deep and menacing. “He almost ruined everything tonight.”

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“Don’t give Patrick another thought. He’s always been a douchebag. Besides, Jason is really cool, and I’m sure he’s taken care of it by now.” Rich answered.

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“I hope so. That Patrick guy is a real jerk. I don’t know how you put up with him as long as you did.”

“I’m not in the room that much so it’s not all that difficult.” Rich explained as he put his key in the door. The door swung open, unlocked.

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“Hey, guys,” Jason greeted the two as he crawled around on the floor.

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“Um, Jason, what are you doing?” Rich asked.

Jason stood up. “I was just finishing hooking up my PS4.”

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“Oh, cool!” Johnny exclaimed. “You have *All ProFootball*?”

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“I sure do,” Jason answered with a smile. “You up for a game?”

“Hell, yeah,” Johnny said as he flopped down on Rich’s bed.

“Great, I’m going to be a PlayStation widow,” Rich groaned loudly. “While you guys do that, I’m gonna grab a shower and rinse off the chlorine.”

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As he looked at the other two, he realized he might as well have been talking to the wall for all the response he got. He shook his head, got a fresh towel and went into the bathroom. He could still hear the two guys talking about the game as he got into the shower.

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As Rich washed his hair, he couldn’t help but think back over the day. He had woken up depressed and in a foul mood. Then lunch with his father had decidedly changed the way he felt about who his dad was. Who’d have known his father was such a shy and insecure guy? All this time, Rich had thought it was him that his father disapproved of—his old man sure blew that theory to hell. It was going to be different, knowing his dad was going to be there supporting him for a change, but it was a very welcome change.

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Then later in the day, he’d gone through his diving list, nailing each dive, with his father watching. He didn’t think it could get any better than that. It was cool to find out

Johnny had also witnessed everything without him knowing. It was as if things were falling into place for once.

Then Johnny had surprised him with dinner on the diving platform, which was the most romantic thing that had ever happened to him. The icing on the cake, though, was Johnny declaring his love for him, and making him feel so loved and wanted. Yeah, this was one of the best days ever.

Rich dried off, a smile on his face. He looked in the mirror, liking what he saw. “Bout time,” he grumbled to himself. “I was starting to feel like some hormonal girl with all the crying I’ve been doing. Fuck, I hate that.” He couldn’t help but smile again as he brushed his teeth.

“Man, how do you do that shit?” Johnny complained loudly, tossing the PS4 controller on the bed beside him as Rich walked back into the room.

Jason chuckled. “I’ve been playing this game since I was a kid. I’m bound to be better at it. More practice.”

“Yeah, I guess,” Johnny conceded. “Hey, babe,” he said, taking Rich’s hand and pulling him down beside him on the twin-sized bed. “Feel better?”

“Yeah, I do,” Rich answered.

“Um...do you guys, like... need some alone time?” Jason asked, evidently not sure of the proper protocol.

Rich shook his head. “No, Jason, we’re good, I think. John needs to get some sleep,” he commented as he poked the big man next to him in the ribs. “He has one of those early morning classes.”

“Oh, don’t remind me,” Johnny groaned. “It’ll be a miracle if I pass that class. Half the time I don’t remember a thing, even though I’m there. I get up, work out, eat, and then it isn’t until after class that I feel like I’m awake. It’s like I’m sleepwalking or something.”

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“That’s why it’s a good thing you can go online and listen to those lectures,” Rich reminded him with another poke in the ribs.

“Yeah, thank God for that,” Jason agreed. “I had the same issue [my first year](#). I was never fully awake until after that first early [class](#). I totally relied on those recorded lectures.”

“Okay, I guess I need to go,” Johnny groaned.

“I’ll see you at the gym in the morning?” Rich asked as he stood up, holding the slightly damp towel around his waist.

“Sure thing, babe.” Johnny stood and pulled Rich into a hug. He lifted his chin up before planting a scorching kiss on his man.

“Uh-hum. I’m still here, guys,” Jason interrupted.

“Oh, sorry. Sometimes I forget where I am,” Johnny said unconvincingly.

“Yeah, sorry, Jason. Didn’t mean to make you uncomfortable,” Rich added quickly.

“Hey, no problem,” Jason said, shaking his head. “Just wanted to remind you before you guys started going at it or something. Don’t think I’m quite ready for that.”

“What? You don’t want to watch two of the hottest guys on campus doing the nasty?” Johnny replied in typical jock fashion, curling his arm up, showing off his impressive muscles.

“No!” Jason exclaimed, holding both hands up. “I don’t think I’ll *ever* be ready for that.”

Rich thumped Johnny on the chest. “Excuse me, but don’t I have a say in this?”

“Trust me, babe, when I start kissing you, you forget everything anyway. Admit it,” Johnny teased.

“No comment,” Rich announced as he pushed his boyfriend away. “Time for you to go before you get any [more](#) bright ideas.”

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