

TWISTED TOGETHER
RJ NOLAN



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*Short Story
Sequel to
All Gone*

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Twisted Together

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By

RJ Nolan



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Twisted Together

Short Story Sequel to All Gone

KODY GARRETT peered out at the rain swept landscape as the meager light continued to fade. She glanced over at her lover, BJ Braden. BJ had a death grip on the steering wheel and was forced to slow down once again as the wind rocked the car. Their flight had been delayed due to bad weather in the area. It was almost three hours late by the time the plane was finally allowed to land. Rain had been steadily coming down when they picked up their rental car but nothing like this. The weather was worsening by the minute. According to BJ, it was normally an hour drive from the airport to her hometown. They had already been on the road an hour and a half.

"How much further do we have to go?" Kody asked. She was beginning to wonder if they were going to have to get off the road until the worst of the storm passed. The only problem with that was the fact that since they had turned onto the narrow two lane country road almost a half an hour ago she had not seen anyplace wide enough to pull over.

"About five more miles," BJ said. She spared a quick glance at Kody. She was fighting to keep the car on the road. Her worries were escalating with each passing moment. She knew how fast storms could turn deadly in this part of the country.

"Maybe we should stop and wait this out. It's really getting bad." Kody's words were punctuated by a brilliant flash of lightening followed closely by the loud boom of thunder that rattled the windows. Kody flinched. "Wow, that was close!" she said.

BJ slowed down further, hoping to spot somewhere they could safely ride out the storm, though she wasn't very hopeful. As she feared, it appeared that things had not

changed in the three years since she was last home. The area was as isolated today as it had been when she originally left many years ago. It was as if the whole area existed in a time and place long past.

"There isn't anything around here but a few farms. And the road only gets worse from here. The long driveway leading up to my mom's house is dirt and is going to be swamped," BJ said.

Another flash of lightening and almost instantaneous boom of thunder made them both jump. Kody tried to see out the windshield through the deluge, hoping to find somewhere, anywhere they could stop. There was a momentary let up in the downpour. She looked out the side window and froze. She blinked several times; she couldn't possibly be seeing what she thought she was seeing. Her heart lurched when the realization that it was very real struck home.

"Oh my god! BJ, look!"

"What? I can't –"

Kody grabbed BJ's arm making the car swerve. She pointed frantically out the window. "Look!"

BJ brought the car to a stop and turned to look where Kody was pointing. Her heart began to pound at the sight out the window. The black funnel cloud of a twister was clearly visible in the distance.

"Oh fuck!" This was BJ's worst nightmare come true. She'd had a bad feeling about this trip from the moment she received the phone call from her sister telling her of their mother's passing and asking her to come home.

"What are we going to do?" Kody asked in a panic.

BJ quickly racked her brain trying to remember where the nearest farm house was. One thing all farms in the area had in common was a storm cellar. BJ knew they didn't have much time. The twister was on the move and could be on them in a matter of minutes.

"We have to keep going. There is no way we can outrun it. Watch along the sides of the road and tell me if you see any roads leading off this one," BJ said.

BJ quickly got the car moving again. She tried to watch the road and keep a wary eye on the twister in the distance at the same time.

* * *

"There!" Kody said, pointing off to her right.

BJ strained to see the road Kody was pointing to. She stopped and carefully turned onto the dirt road. The only bad thing was it was leading toward the twister and not away from it, but at this point they didn't have a choice. She carefully negotiated the slick, muddy road. She spared a quick glance over at Kody, who had a death grip on the dashboard. BJ held her breath as the car started to bog down in the mud. She gave it as much gas as she dared, knowing if they got stuck they would have to make a run for it and would be that much more vulnerable to the approaching twister.

BJ let out an audible sigh and felt a rush of relief when a farmhouse came into view. The car slid in the mud as she slowed to a stop. Her relief was short lived. A sudden strengthening of the wind pelted the car with leaves and debris. A large tree branch landed on the trunk of the car with a booming thump.

"We have to get out of here and into the storm cellar," BJ said, having to raise her voice to be heard over the storm.

"You want us to go out there! Are you crazy!?" Kody cowered back against the car door, her eyes wild with panic. She was born and bred in California. Nothing had prepared her for this type of storm.

"Kody, it's not safe in the car. We have to get into the storm cellar."

"How do you know there is even one around here? It's got to be safer in here," Kody argued, eyeing the debris flying around outside.

"I recognize this place; it belongs to the Beauforts. We need to get to the storm cellar, that's where everyone will be. It's the only safe place in a tornado. We don't have time to discuss this. Trust me."

BJ started to reach for Kody but was distracted when Kody's eyes widened in horror. As she turned to look out the windshield, the object that had attracted Kody's attention hit the windshield with a startlingly loud bang. It was a chicken. It lay against the windshield and didn't move; it was obviously dead, killed by the impact.

BJ reached for Kody's arm with one hand and the car door with the other. "We have to get out of here. NOW!"

BJ jerked her stunned lover out of the car. She pulled her toward the back of the house where the storm cellar was located. The wind was so strong the two women struggled to stay on their feet. The rain was coming down so hard it stung when it hit. BJ sent up a quick thank you to the heavens when she spotted the double wooden doors marking the storm cellar at the back corner of the house.

She dropped Kody's hand and stumbled toward the doors. Two large wooden crossbars holding the doors shut assured her that no one was inside. Although BJ knew the people who owned the farm, even if they had been strangers they would still have been welcomed by the family that owned the farm if they had been present. Though most people would consider the residents of the rural area backward, if there was one thing she could say about people living here, it was that they stood by each other in times of need.

BJ struggled with the wooden crossbars holding the doors shut. The rain had soaked the wood causing it to expand. "Help me, Kody," she yelled, trying to be heard over the storm.

She glanced back over her shoulder when she didn't get a response. Kody had her back to BJ and was staring transfixed at the rapidly approaching funnel cloud.

"Oh fuck," BJ muttered as she ran for Kody. She grabbed her lover by the arms and spun her around away from the sight of the ominous cloud and pulled her toward the cellar doors. "Help me!"

Kody shook her head, seeming to come out of her stupor. Together they managed to remove the crossbeams and open one of the doors.

The rising wind ripped the door out of their hands twice before they managed to get it shut. BJ groped blindly in the dark for the inner bar latch. She breathed a sigh of relief when the heavy metal bar dropped into place. The wind rattled the doors, but they remained firmly shut.

"Are you alright?" BJ asked as she reached out trying to make contact with Kody. It was pitch black in the cellar with the doors shut. Her hand touched Kody's soaked jacket.

Kody latched onto her hand with a grip that was painful. BJ struggled to keep her balance on the stairs when Kody pulled her forward and into a tight embrace. BJ could feel her shaking and realized she was crying.

She pulled back enough to reach out and stroke Kody's face wishing that she could see her. "Hey, it's okay. We're okay now," BJ said.

BJ tried to move back a bit, but Kody tightened her grip. "Easy, sweetheart. I just need to look for a flashlight. Stay where you are 'cause I'm not sure how many steps down there are."

BJ was getting very concerned. Kody had not spoken since before their run from the car. She was worried her lover was going into shock. BJ carefully negotiated the steps leading down into the cellar. She was sure the sound of the rain lashing down and the wind rattling the cellar doors was not helping Kody's mental state.

She sighed in relief when her hand brushed against a shelf protruding from the wall, and then closed around a flashlight. BJ flipped the switch and blinked in the sudden brightness as her eyes tried to adapt from the total darkness.

She swept the light up the stairs and found Kody huddled against the wall.

She turned the flashlight down to illuminate the floor. "Okay, come on down." Once Kody was safely at her side she swept the room with the light. Her first priority was to get them warm.

"Yes!" she crowed when she spotted the kerosene lanterns, a stack of towels and a pile of blankets stacked neatly on a shelf attached to the wall.

* * *

In short order, BJ had two of the kerosene lamps lit and had wrapped a wool blanket around Kody's shoulders. She used a towel to try and soak up some of the water from Kody's tangled curls. Feeling Kody shiver, she chaffed her hands up and down Kody's arms trying to warm her.

"How're you doing?" BJ asked, still concerned by Kody's blank expression.

Kody looked down seemingly unwilling to meet BJ's eyes. "I'm sorry I froze.... I've never seen anything like that... It was right there... coming straight at us..." Kody shuddered.

BJ pulled Kody into her arms and wrapped her securely in a loving embrace. "It's okay. We're safe now." The cellar doors rattled loudly belying BJ's words as the storm continued to rage.

Kody buried her face against BJ's neck. "I'm scared."

"We'll be fine." BJ guided Kody toward the back of the cellar to the wall furthest away from the doors. An old fashion Army cot padded with blankets was set up against the wall. She grabbed a blanket and wrapped it around herself before sitting down on the cot. BJ scooted back so that her back rested against the wall and opened her blanket.

"Come snuggle with me," she said.

Once Kody was settled against her still wrapped in her own blanket, BJ pulled a third blanket over both of them. She knew it would be better if they got out of their soaked

clothes and shoes but had not seen anything to replace them with in her quick perusal of the small cellar. Plus if something did happen, she didn't want to be caught in her underwear. While she couldn't help the inner smirk at the thought of Kody minus her clothes, she knew this was not the time or the place for anything like that. *Though it would warm us up.*

They sat quietly as the storm continued to intensify. It sounded like someone was trying to rip the doors off by the hinges.

"We're going to die in here... aren't we? Kody asked suddenly.

"What! No, we're not." BJ tightened her hold on Kody pulling her even closer into the curve of her body. She could feel her shaking and didn't think it was totally because of being wet. "These types of storms are pretty common around here. Even if the twister touches down — I'm sure it won't — it's probably already passed over us," BJ said quickly when she felt Kody stiffen. "We'll be fine down here. I promise."

Kody said nothing and buried her face into BJ's neck.

"What's your favorite memory?" BJ asked out of the blue.

"Huh?" Kody muttered.

"Everyone has special memories: a trip when you were a kid, a special Christmas memory that stayed with you, or something as you got older like graduating from vet school. Anything that when you think about it you feel good."

Kody's head popped up and she stared at BJ. "And you're asking me about this now?"

BJ grinned at Kody's incredulous tone of voice. It was the first spark of the woman she knew showing through since this whole thing started. "Sure, why not now?"

The blankets jumped as Kody punctuated her words with her hands. "We're in the middle of a huge storm.... There's a tornado outside for God's sake!"

BJ laughed. "And your point would be?"

That stymied Kody. Realization finally dawned as to just what her lover was trying to do. She growled playfully and elbowed BJ in the ribs. "Take the big scaredy cat's mind off the storm, huh?"

"Um... I'm not really partial to cats," BJ said, trying hard to keep a straight face.

Kody laughed along with BJ. Neither of them had fared very well handling several cats with which they had come in contact in their respective professions. Kody in particular always seemed to fare poorly in any encounter with a particularly obese gray cat named Puddles from her previous practice.

"Seriously, tell me about one of your favorite memories. It's not like we're going anywhere anytime soon."

Kody sighed and snuggled back against BJ's side and rested her head on her shoulder. "Okay, if you insist. There was this one time in particular..." She peeked up, wanting to see BJ's face as she told the story. "It happened in a small clinic I worked at.... This really hot looking woman came in one night. She had a body that just wouldn't quit." Kody unconsciously hummed in pleasure as the memories washed over her. "She had the most amazing eyes I have ever seen; you could just drown in them." Kody tried not to laugh when BJ's expression darkened. "Of course, I didn't know that until I knocked her down and landed on top of her. Those eyes captured me and I was lost... and found at the same time." Kody looked into those same vivid green eyes as realization dawned.

"You shit!" BJ growled in mock anger. BJ pushed Kody down onto the cot and moved part way on top of her as she tried to find her way into the blanket Kody had wrapped around herself. She had every intention of tickling her senseless. "I thought you were talking about another woman."

Kody giggled as she tried to get out from under BJ but was hampered by the blanket wrapped securely around her. "I give."

BJ halted her playful assault and pulled them both back up into a sitting position. She brought her hand out of the blankets and cupped Kody's face. "I love you."

Kody worked her hand out of the blankets and mirrored BJ's posture. "I love you too."

It only seemed natural for their lips to meet in a reaffirmation of their love for each other. BJ pressed Kody back down onto the cot with a totally different intent this time. Everything receded as the passion flared between them. This time BJ's hand slipped with ease into the blanket wrapped around Kody. She pulled it aside and moved fully on top of her. It caused them both to groan when she pressed her thigh between Kody's.

BJ placed open mouth kisses on Kody's neck as she lifted up so she could work Kody's belt trying to open the wet leather.

The sudden banging of the cellar doors as the wind picked up again brought them back to the here and now.

"Damn," BJ muttered as she moved off Kody. "I'm sorry." BJ scrubbed her hand over her face. She could still feel her heart pounding. That was the one thing that had not changed in the time she and Kody had been together. From the first time they kissed, a single kiss from Kody had her wet, throbbing and raring to go or in this case — come.

Kody laughed. "Don't be. There wasn't any food involved."

BJ joined her lover's laughter. It had become a running joke between them. Many a meal had been ruined when what started out as a simple kiss between them flamed out of control. She looked into Kody's eyes, pleased to see that they were now blue instead of the stormy gray they had been earlier. BJ knew her partner's eyes reflected her inner emotions. Blue was good.

A rhythmic banging began against the cellar doors making both women jump.

"What the hell is that?" Kody asked.

BJ pushed herself into a sitting position. "Sounds like hail. I better go check the door." She patted Kody's hand when she clutched at her. "It's okay. I just want to double check and make sure the bar is secure. I'll be right back."

* * *

"Everything's fine," BJ said. She pulled the blankets tight around them as they settled back against the wall again with Kody snuggled securely against her side. She could feel the tension once again radiating off her lover. The storm continued to rage outside.

"Tell me about a special memory," BJ said, returning to their earlier conversation.

"You're serious?"

"Yes. Something you've never told me about before."

Kody appeared to think for a few moments, and then shook her head. "You'll think it's stupid," she said.

BJ squeezed Kody's shoulder. "You know me better than that."

"It's not like it's some huge thing or —"

BJ mock scowled at her lover. "Just tell me, Kody."

"Okay." Kody smiled as the memories filled her mind.

Two years ago outside a small town in Northern California...

Kody looked over at her peacefully sleeping roommate. She had already been awake for two hours and couldn't stand it any longer. It was still dark outside, but she knew she wouldn't last until daylight. An evil grin spread across her face as she planned her next move. It would be just like old times. She threw back the covers and moved to stare down at the comfortably sleeping figure in the bed next to hers. Without warning she jumped onto the bed, her feet straddling the sleeping figure.

"Ya Hoo! Wakey, wakey," Kody said as she bounced up and down.

The figure below her snarled as he pulled the cover over his head.

"Rise and shine. A new day awaits. The birds are singing; the sun is shining. Time for all boys and girls to greet the day," Kody sang.

A scowling face topped by a tousled head of dark hair appeared long enough to look at the clock before disappearing under the covers again. "Are you out of your freaking mind?! It's five o'clock in the morning."

"Come on, sleepy head. I've been up for hours," Kody said as she continued to bounce.

Two muscular arms shot out of the covers and jerked her down onto the bed. "You are so dead." Kyle growled as he began to tickle Kody senseless.

Kody squirmed as her twin brother's fingers dug into her side. "I give. Uncle," she said through her laughter.

"Say it," Kyle said. His fingers continued to hit all of Kody's sensitive spots. He knew her weaknesses.

Kody shook her head stubbornly. The words from her childhood reverberated in her head but she refused to say them. "Stop! I'm gonna pee my pants," Kody gasped. Kyle was relentless in his attack. Kody's struggles were useless. She didn't remember Kyle being quite this strong when they were children.

"Say it. You know what I want to hear," Kyle said.

"You're the best and I'm a doofus!"

Kyle immediately desisted. His laughter rang in Kody's ears as she scampered off the bed and ran for the bathroom.

* * *

"It's too early," Kyle said.

"No, it's not."

"Kody."

Kody glared at her brother. "Kyle," she said echoing his aggrieved tone.

"You told her noon. It's not even eight a.m. yet."

"I said, before noon. And it's still at least a half an hour away according to her directions. That's before noon."

"We can just hang out for a couple of hours. What difference will a few hours make?"

Kody crossed her arms across her chest and glared at her brother. "I want to go get him now," Kody said. "Come on, Kyle. I did what you asked. We hung out in the hotel until you got cleaned up." *Which took forever*, Kody added silently. "I bought you breakfast. Now I want to go get my puppy!"

Kyle scowled at his sister. "I can't believe I let you talk me into using my time off to help you go pick up a dog. Could you have picked one closer to home.... No, of course not, you had to have the one that was five hundred miles away. I'm supposed to be soaking up the sun on the beach in sunny Southern California, not out here in the middle of who knows where."

Kody fought to keep her temper. She should have known this was going to happen when she woke him up before ten. Kyle had never been a morning person. But she wanted her puppy and didn't want to wait any longer.

"Come on, Kyle. I told you why I wanted this puppy. He's from a great breeding; his parents are champions; all the dogs going back in his line four generations have extensive health screening..."

Kody's voice trailed off as Kyle's eyes glazed over.

"Please can we go get him? I promise I will buy you the biggest cup of coffee Starbucks makes as soon as we find one." Kyle had bitched all the way to the restaurant when there was no Starbucks in sight. "I'll even get you one of those Starbucks cards. Please..."

"Are you sure you're a vet? You must see puppies every day. What's the big deal?"

Kody turned pleading eyes on her brother. "Cause this is my first puppy... He's mine. Please can we go now?"

Kody sighed dramatically. He had a hard time refusing his twin anything and she knew it. "Alright, but you need to call the breeder before we just show up so early."

Kody grinned. "No problem. I'll call her right now." Kody flipped open her cell phone and stared at it in disbelief. "This is not happening," she muttered under her breath. She looked over at Kyle. "Um... I'm not getting a signal. Try your phone."

Kyle flipped open his phone. "No dice. I told you this was the middle of nowhere. Guess we just wait until noon before we show up and hope we don't need any further directions."

Kody wasn't about to give up. She looked around the parking lot outside the restaurant and grinned when she spotted exactly what she needed outside a gas station next door. "We'll just do this the old fashion way. There's a pay phone next door."

Kyle shook his head and laughed. "Okay. You win."

Kody jumped up from the booth. "You're the best!" She grabbed Kyle's hand and practically dragged him out of the restaurant.

* * *

"This is it!" Kody said, bouncing excitedly in her seat. "See the silhouette of the Great Dane on the

gate?" Kody got out and opened the gate, then motioned Kyle through before closing it and joining him back in the SUV. Kody read from the directions provided by the breeder. "Just follow the long drive up to the house."

Kyle barely had the vehicle stopped before Kody jumped out and hurried toward the front door of the large house. In addition to the sign on the gate, the unmistakable booming bark of several Great Danes assured Kody they were in the right place.

The front door opened before Kody reached the porch. A woman, who appeared to be in her mid-fifties, stood in the doorway.

"You must be Kody," she said by way of greeting. "As I said on the phone, I really wasn't expecting you so early."

Kody grinned a bit embarrassed now that she was here. "Sorry about that," Kody said sheepishly. "Guess I was just kind of excited."

The woman smiled at Kody indulgently. "That's okay. I'm glad the pup is going to someone so anxious to have him. I'm glad to meet you. I'm Jeannie."

"Nice to meet you," Kody said as she shook hands with the woman. She turned when she sensed Kyle behind her. "This is my brother, Kyle."

Jeannie greeted Kyle, then moved to pick up a bottle of bleach resting next to the porch railing. She poured some on the welcome mat in front of the door.

"I hope you understand. I do everything I can to keep the pups safe. Please wipe your feet on the mat," she said.

As soon as they had both complied she handed them a hand sanitizer to use. When that was done, Jeannie ushered them into the house.

Kody looked around in interest. She smiled when she spotted the very large dog kennel in the corner of the living room.

Jeannie chuckled when she spotted what had attracted Kody's interest. "I have a puppy I imported from Germany. He's five months old and still needs a crate. Do you have a crate at home for the puppy?"

"I sure do," Kody said. "I set everything up before we left and took a week off work so I could get the little guy settled. I also have a travel crate in my truck all ready to go."

"That's great. I've got some paperwork for you to fill out. While you're doing that I'll go get your puppy. He's the red collar... right?"

"Yes, red collar," Kody said. All the puppies had different color collars to differentiate them from their littermates since the entire litter was solid black.

Kody busied herself filling out the requested paperwork while Jeannie left to go get her puppy.

* * *

"Damn, that's not a puppy; that's a dog," Kyle muttered.

Kody looked up and her breath caught at the first sight of her puppy. He was big and beautiful. She had been following his progress by pictures that Jeannie had provided as he developed as well as weekly phone calls. She had been enamored with him before just from seeing his pictures, but nothing prepared her for the sight of the actual puppy. She had seen her fair share of puppies during her time in vet school and her three years she had been a veterinarian, but they all paled in comparison to the puppy in Jeannie's arms.

Kody's heart melted when Jeannie placed the squirming puppy in her arms. She looked down into

his sweet face and gently stroked his silky black fur. She felt her eyes tear up when the puppy licked her chin. "Welcome home, Blackjack," she murmured sweetly to the pup...

Kody ducked her head to hide her tears as she relived the intense emotions.

BJ reached out of the blankets and tilted Kody's face up, then gently wiped the tears from Kody's face. "I wish I could have been there with you when you picked him up. It's hard to imagine him being small enough to hold in your arms."

Kody laughed. "Well, he didn't stay that way for long."

"I bet he didn't." BJ reached out and stroked Kody's face when her expression suddenly turned serious. "What's wrong?"

Kody shook her head and looked down. "Forget it. I was just...."

"I miss him too," BJ said. "I'm sure he's having the time of his life with Dawn and Chief."

Neither woman had been particularly thrilled at the prospect of boarding Blackjack. Thankfully, Kody's new boss, Dawn Zeller had come to the rescue. Jack was spending his days as he normally did at the clinic where Kody worked. The only difference being at the end of the day he would go home with Dawn and her rough coated collie, Chief. Chief and Blackjack had become fast friends in the months since Kody began working at the clinic. The boys hung out on the days the two veterinarians worked together. It wasn't uncommon to see the two dogs curled up next to each other in either Dawn or Kody's office.

"I know you're right. I just can't help worrying about him," Kody said. She shook her head, forcing away the worrisome thoughts. She grinned at BJ. "Okay, it's your turn. Instead of a favorite memory I want you to answer a question."

BJ looked at Kody suspicious of the look on her face and the gleam in her eyes. "What?" she asked.

"What does BJ stand for?"

BJ groaned. They'd had this conversation several times before. "I told you already. It doesn't stand for anything. I showed you my driver's license and social security card. They both show BJ Braden."

"I know it doesn't stand for anything now, but it used to. I don't believe your mother named you BJ any more than I believe she named your sister PJ."

BJ laughed. "Okay, so her initials are PJ. You'd go by your initials too if your mother named you Petunia Jane."

"Oh man, that is bad," Kody said. She looked at BJ, trying to figure out what name starting with a B could have been so bad that she legally had it changed. Endless possibilities flittered through Kody's mind, each worse than the last. She still couldn't figure it out.

"So what did BJ used to stand for?" Kody asked. She grinned at BJ when she shook her head no. "You might as well tell me or I'll just ask your sister."

BJ sighed in defeat. "Okay... it stands for B —"

"Wait, BJ... Listen. What is that?" Kody said.

BJ pushed back the blankets and moved to the door trying to figure out what they were hearing. She blanched as realization dawned. The sound was rapidly growing louder. "Oh fuck!" She ran back toward Kody and practically dove onto the cot. She pushed Kody down and covered her with her body before quickly pulling the blankets over their heads.

The sound of a freight train roared through the cellar. The lanterns swung wildly on their hooks. The walls shook and dirt rained down on the two figures huddled on the cot.

* * *

BJ shook her head trying to alleviate the ringing in her ears. The intense sound and shaking had seemed to go on interminably, but she knew more than likely it was less than

a minute. She pushed off the blankets and moved off of Kody. She looked down at her lover. Her eyes were clenched tightly shut. "It's okay.... It's over." She felt a moment's panic when Kody didn't respond. She brought up a shaking hand and gently stroked the side of Kody's face. "Come on, sweetheart, look at me," BJ said.

Kody slowly opened stormy gray eyes. "Is it gone?"

BJ listened and didn't hear anything but the rain. "Yes, it's gone."

"But it could come back," Kody said with a quaver in her voice.

"No. Once it's touched down somewhere it doesn't come back." BJ knew that wasn't absolutely true but had no intention of telling Kody.

"Now what happens? It's over so we can leave... right?" Kody asked.

BJ could hear the hope in her voice and hated to squash it but she didn't have any choice. "No. It's not safe yet. We don't dare go out in the dark. There is no way to know if the twister just passed close to us or actually touched down. We need to wait until morning and full light before we try to leave."

Kody's face clouded over and she looked like she was going to cry.

"Hey, it's okay. We made it through the worst of it." BJ wrapped her arm around Kody and pulled her into the curve of her body. "We've been through worse and come out alright," BJ said referring to the incident that had originally brought them together.

"Sorry I'm being such a baby," Kody said.

BJ leaned down and gently kissed Kody's lips. "You're not being a baby. It's scary. I grew up around the storms. It's a fact of life around here. Doesn't mean I wasn't scared. Only a fool wouldn't be scared. And you, my love, are anything but a fool."

BJ started to move away from Kody. She patted her arm when Kody tightened her hold. "Easy. I'm not going

anywhere. I just want to shake out these blankets so we can get more comfortable," BJ said. She had Kody stand up while she rearranged everything.

Once BJ had everything arranged to her liking she motioned for Kody to lie back down on the cot. She slipped onto the cot to lie behind Kody before pulling the blankets over both of them. She smiled when Kody immediately pressed back against her chest. BJ wrapped her arm securely around Kody's waist and molded herself against Kody's back.

"Okay?" BJ asked. Kody nodded. "We'll be fine. I promise." She leaned over to press a soft kiss to Kody's temple. "Try and get some sleep."

BJ held Kody close for quite some time before she felt her body relax and her breathing even out. Only then did BJ give into her own exhaustion and let sleep over take her.

* * *

Kody blinked, her eyes opening slowly. She looked around and was assailed by a sense of disorientation. She had no idea where she was. Before she could panic she became aware of a very familiar body pressed up against her back. In a flash everything that had happened came rushing back. She listened intently for several moments.

"BJ. Wake up!"

The arm around her middle tightened. "What's wrong?" BJ rumbled near her ear.

"Do you hear that?"

BJ pulled away and sat up behind Kody to listen. "I don't hear anything."

"Exactly!" Kody said.

They scrambled off the cot and headed toward the cellar door. BJ reached the door first and released the latch. She tried several times to open the doors without success.

"Must be some debris on the doors. Help me," she said.

Together they managed to open the double doors. They blinked in the bright sunlight pouring down into the cellar.

Without conscious thought they linked hands and stepped out of the cellar. They stared in awe at the sight before them.

The barn that had been set back from the house was totally missing. Shingles and timbers from the now roofless farmhouse was what had been blocking the doors to the cellar. Hands clasped tightly together they walked around to the front of the house where they had left their rental car.

"Oh God," Kody whispered.

The rental car was barely recognizable. It had been flipped upside down and then crushed by a large section of what appeared to be part of the barn.

BJ wrapped her arms around Kody when she felt her start to shake and tears began to pour down her face.

"Shh... We're fine." BJ tilted Kody's face up until she met her eyes directly. "We'll always be fine as long as we have each other."

There amid the rubble they shared a deep, life reaffirming kiss.

The End.

This ends the Short Story **Twisted Together**, by RJ Nolan.

* * *

About The Author

RJ NOLAN lives in Southern California with her life partner. They share their home with their Great Dane. RJ has always been interested in storytelling. She has been actively writing for the last several years. You can contact RJ Nolan at her Web site: <http://rjnolan.com>.

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Other Titles by This Author

All Gone – Mystery.

Summary

DR. KODY GARRETT is a young veterinarian new to the North Park Animal Clinic. After the untimely death of her previous employer and mentor, she came to work for Dr. Herbert Donaldson. While she enjoys her work at the clinic, she has been less than happy with her new employer. His poor attitude and constant criticism has taken its toll on Kody. For the first time in the eight months that she has worked for the clinic, Dr. Donaldson is leaving Kody in charge of the clinic while he attends a medical conference. She is determined to prove to her boss that she is capable of the responsibility with which he has entrusted her. The young vet's confidence is shaken when less than twenty-four hours after being left in charge of the clinic, previously healthy dogs begin to die unexpectedly.

BJ Braden is a seasoned Animal Control Officer. When she is called by Dr. Garrett concerning the unexplained animal deaths her suspicions are immediately aroused.

Risking the ire of her boss Kody teams up with BJ to solve the mystery of what they soon learn is a rash of animal poisonings in their city going back several years. Amidst their growing attraction to each other they struggle to protect the animals to whom they have devoted their lives.

A new rash of poisonings sets the pair in high gear and eventually costs Kody her job. When she defies her boss and continues to help BJ investigate the newest animal deaths, Kody's life is further complicated by one of the veterinary technician's growing obsession with her. The woman relentlessly tries to pursue a personal relationship with Kody. When Kody repeatedly turns down the woman's overtures she begins to stalk her.

Kody and BJ's relationship grows even as events begin to spiral out of control. While dealing with the threats of the stalker the two continue to pursue the pet killer and eventually bring them to justice.

* * *

Double Trouble - Lesbian: Romance

Summary

LITTLE DID KRIS know that the traditional first baseball game of the season played each April between the San Diego Padres and Los Angeles Dodgers would change her life. Tripping in front of the dark-haired Erin and caught ogling to boot, was only the preamble for the tall blonde, as both ended up splashed with beer in the stands and laughing good naturedly about the accident and clean-up. So begins what will be bound to open old wounds and make both women stronger as they find in each other a connection, and love, lust, trust, kids and trouble times two and more will

decidedly make their relationship a rocky one but ultimately worth pursuing.

* * *

Thank You for Reading this Short Story,
Twisted Together, by RJ Nolan

