

THE TEXAS SEAL's SURPRISE

by Cari Lynn Webb

EXCERPT

Abby straightened the cracker packages inside the metal basket. "I decided I needed something more reliable and took a job at a matchmaking company."

That must have been a fit for her. With her optimism and enthusiasm, she most likely believed in soul mates and true love. Happily-ever-afters and story-book romances. Nothing he subscribed to these days. "Were you good at the matchmaking?"

"Awful." Abby shook her head, spilling her soft laughter toward him.

He liked the sound: light and appealing. It filled him, sweeping into those restless places inside him. He wanted more of her like this. But that would mean a course correction. Altering the lifestyle he'd built and the one he intended to maintain even after he left town.

She added, "I did like planning the events and bringing people together for a fun evening."

And Wes did like Abby. For the first time in years, he wished he was someone else. Someone she deserved. But he'd lost too much to ever risk like that again. He cleared his throat. "Isn't that what a matchmaker does?"

"I wanted people to find each other organically. I created the space and the moment." Abby finished her cracker and brushed the crumbs off her denim sundress. "I assumed the couples who were meant to be together would discover each other on their own."

"And they didn't?" Wes kept his gaze fixed on the road and not on Abby. She wasn't his destination.