

# Chapter 6

The chapter opens with Sheridan Pickett, a 23-year-old wrangler at Silver Creek Ranch, performing her winter duties. Driving a pickup truck through snow-covered terrain, she leads horses to the frozen North Platte River, where she breaks ice to provide them access to water. The serene yet harsh winter landscape is vividly described, with wildlife like bald eagles and pronghorn antelope adding to the scene. Sheridan's routine involves meticulous care for the horses, ensuring they remain disciplined and hydrated despite the challenging conditions. Her work contrasts sharply with the bustling summer season, offering a glimpse into the ranch's seasonal rhythms.

During the summer, Sheridan and her fellow wranglers—mostly young women—work tirelessly to accommodate wealthy guests. The ranch operates like a high-end hospitality business, with wranglers guiding horseback rides, lessons, and trail adventures. Sheridan reflects on the dynamics of the job, noting how male guests often respond better to female wranglers. The days are long, starting at dawn and ending late, with constant attention to horse care and guest satisfaction. Despite the grueling schedule, Sheridan gains valuable experience in both horsemanship and customer service, though she remains unsure if this career path suits her long-term.

The chapter delves into the diverse clientele of the ranch, ranging from tech moguls to supermodels, many of whom are experiencing ranch life for the first time. Sheridan observes that wealth doesn't equate to intelligence or harmony, as families exhibit familiar patterns of conflict and bonding. Surprisingly, many guests find the ranch a rare opportunity to reconnect with loved ones, often inviting staff to join them for meals. Sheridan particularly enjoys working with preteen girls, who form deep bonds with the horses and look up to her as a role model. These interactions highlight the ranch's unique ability to foster meaningful connections.

The chapter concludes with Sheridan reflecting on the social dynamics among the staff, which mirror the intensity of high school cliques. Romantic relationships and breakups unfold rapidly in the close-knit environment, adding another layer of complexity to the job. Despite the challenges, Sheridan appreciates the lessons learned about hospitality, horsemanship, and human nature. The chapter paints a vivid picture of life at Silver Creek Ranch, balancing the tranquility of winter with the chaos of summer, and Sheridan's personal growth amid it all.

