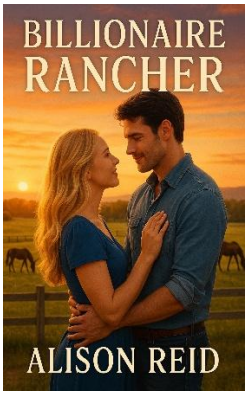
Billionaire Rancher

by Alison Reid



Amy stood in front of the bathroom mirror, soft morning light bathing her in a muted glow. She studied her reflection with practiced detachment, a habit worn from years of doing this — observing without truly seeing. There was no need to feel anything. No need to dig deeper. It was just another day.

Her blonde hair, shoulder-length and loosely pulled back into a ponytail, framed her face with casual disarray. A few stray strands escaped the elastic, falling carelessly around her forehead. It was deliberately imperfect, not too styled. Polished was a liability. Men noticed polished. And the last thing she needed was attention — not today, not on her first day in a new town, with a new job.

Her fingers grazed the scar at her hairline — a faint, silvery thread barely visible beneath her blonde hair, but ever-present beneath the surface. It had faded over time, softened into a subtle line, almost invisible to anyone who didn't know it was there. But she felt it always — like a whisper from the past, a phantom echo of the night that changed everything.

Darren's hands had left it there. Not just his fists, but his fury. The jagged trace of his rage was stitched into her skin, a cruel souvenir of the night she thought she might die. She had fought back — clawed, kicked, screamed —

but every ounce of resistance only made him more vicious. The room had spun with terror; his face contorted in blind anger. When the police finally burst through the door, she had thought it was over. Relief had hit her like oxygen after drowning. But Darren's final, desperate blow had nearly killed her.

The doctors called her survival a miracle. The fracture to her skull should have left her with lasting damage — memory loss, impaired vision, speech problems. Instead, she had walked out of the hospital weeks later, battered but whole. A few metal staples. A long, painful recovery. And the scar.

He was in prison now. Locked away. The sentence had brought justice on paper, but the past wasn't so easily sentenced. She had built a new life — changed her number, moved to a new apartment and now moved to a new town, starting over with nothing but two suitcases and a name she barely recognised as her own. She had left that girl behind.

But the past never stayed gone. It crept in with certain smells, certain shadows, certain silences. It resurfaced when she least expected it — the slam of a door, the echo of a man's voice pitched just wrong, the sight of her own reflection when she forgot how far she'd come.

Still, the scar remained. The only physical evidence of the night that nearly ended her. She sometimes called it her 'gift', though in truth it felt more like a curse. A cruel reminder. But also, maybe, a badge. A mark of everything she'd survived. A symbol that she had not been erased.

The memories stirred now — the screaming, the blood, the blinding pain — but she didn't recoil. She stood straighter. Stronger. She was no longer the woman who froze under the weight of his rage. She wasn't the girl he tried to break.

She had endured. She had rebuilt. She had survived.

And she would never let herself forget it.

Her fingers lingered on the scar, then drifted down to the rest of her reflection. Her eyes — pale blue, sharp, but hard now — had lost the softness they once held. There was nothing left to be vulnerable with. The protective layers had hardened them, and she liked it that way. Her lips, soft and pale, barely parted in the semblance of a smile. She didn't bother with lipstick; there was no need to draw attention to them. All she wanted was to blend in, to slip into the background, unnoticed.

Her skin, olive-toned and clear, didn't require much upkeep, and she was grateful for that. A scattering of freckles across the bridge of her nose was the only hint of her youth, but they were faint, easily overlooked. And that was just how she wanted it — invisible, untouchable, free from anyone's gaze. She was already running from her past; she didn't need it to chase her here.

Click here to Buy or Read for FREE with Kindle Unlimited

👉 Billionaire Rancher