

Being awakened by my dad was very much like waking into a dream. My brother went to work with him nearly all of the time when there was something to be done. It was an unwritten rule in the hose because it was so near a fact.

It turned out my brother had admitted his homework was more than he could handle if he went back to the farm today, and Dad couldn't move the tractor alone, so it was my turn. We snuck out of the house quietly and ate breakfast from a fast-food restaurant on the way. All together, it was about a thirty-minute drive to the field. It gave us time to talk a bit and watch the sunrise.

I hadn't been around equipment all that much, but I liked listening to the tractor engine starting and warming up. It was anyone's guess as to whether the engine would catch and take off, or stall and need restarting.

*I liked cheering for it, I admit it...*

After more than a few instructions from Dad, I took off with the tractor on the long drive to the next field. I had two hours of time on empty back roads to think, and I spent them focused on Amelia. I'd meet her soon, and we'd eventually fall in love.

Of course, there was darkness to face before the dawn would come again. It was hard to sleep that night, knowing just as certainly that all hell would break loose before morning.