

Brother's Best Friends Are My Mates

chapter 1-10

Lia

The lunch I packed for myself remained mostly untouched. I picked up part of the sandwich, took a bite, and struggled to swallow. It felt like ash in my mouth, making me want to spit it out.

Folded and shoved into my pocket was the invitation for my coming-of-age ceremony that was delivered to me two weeks ago. With trembling hands, I pulled it out and read it word by word.

Official Invitation

Dear Lia Brown,

It is with boundless joy and honor that we invite you to attend your Coming-of-Age Ceremony, a momentous occasion marking this significant milestone in your life. This celebration is a testament to your growth, achievements, and the exciting future that lies ahead.

Event Details:

- Date: Monday, the 6th of October
- Time: 9:00 AM

We encourage you to arrive promptly at the clinic to ensure the smooth progression of the event and to fully immerse yourself in the process. The ceremony afterward will include heartfelt speeches, special performances, and a formal acknowledgment of this pivotal transition.

Please RSVP to confirm your attendance. You may respond by contacting the office.

We look forward to celebrating this momentous occasion with you and honoring your journey into adulthood. Should you have any questions or require additional information, do not hesitate to reach out.

Warm regards,

Aspen School

The words filled me with a myriad of emotions, all of which were negative. I wanted to curl in on myself, ignoring the overwhelming anxiety that I was unable to shake. All my friends were so excited, and happy to be finding out who their potential mate could be.

My nerves were on edge and had been for the past few weeks. I had my coming-of-age ceremony in a little less than a week. It would mark my transition into a full, fledged adult werewolf and more importantly, give me a mate.

Footsteps reached my ears, gravel and leaves crunching from under their weighted steps. I whipped my head around so fast that my long, blonde braid nearly smacked me in the cheek.

“Simone!” I called out, my hand grasping my still-pounding heart. “You scared me.”

She giggled, plopping herself beside me on the bench.

“What are you doing out here, Lia? I’ve been looking everywhere for you to share my good news!”

I chewed lightly on my lower lip, anxiety reaching its peak.

“Yes, you had your coming-of-age ceremony today. How was it?”

“It was amazing!” she cried. “I found my mates!”

These ceremonies weren’t always a guarantee after you took the medicine which increased your scent production. It could take weeks to meet your chosen mates if they existed.

“I’m glad you found your mate. Who is he?”

“Mates, Lia. I found my mates.”

My ocean-blue eyes widened to the size of saucers. “What?”

One mate was the most common result. Two weren’t unheard of but it was much rarer.

“I have two mates,” Simone giggled. “You know Max and Xavier from the nearby college?”

“They’re on the rugby team...”

“Yes, well they are going to be my mates!”

Simone was glowing, cheeks flushed and eyes sparkling. I hated that she was going to be stuck mated to two guys from the college rugby time. Most of them were brutish jerks, using their size and status to get what they wanted.

I should know; my older brother Michael was on the team. He went from high school to the college rugby team. Along with his four friends Colby, Rain, Matt, and Jesse, they helped the team win trophy after trophy and championship after championship.

Our parents used to insist on going to every single game. After they died, I kept up the tradition but hated every minute of it.

“You’re coming to my celebration tonight, right?”

“Of course! Simone, you are my best friend.”

She pulled me into a hug, a gasp escaping her when she noticed my crumbled invitation on the picnic table.

“Lia, you still haven’t RSVP’d. What are you thinking?!”

The disappointment in her eyes was fierce. It was enough to make me squirm in my seat and look away. I didn’t want to disappoint anyone, let alone one of my best friends. No, my only friend.

Most times, I kept to myself. Simone was able to break down those walls I had up.

“I don’t want to do the coming-of-age ceremony,” I blurted out.

The air became so tense I swear you could cut it with a knife. I managed to meet Simone’s gaze, wishing she could understand where I was coming from.

“Lia, that’s not funny.”

“I’m not joking,” I admitted, voice soft. “I don’t want to do it. I’ve never wanted to do it but everyone acts as if it’s the most normal thing to do around here.”

“Because it is!”

I shake my head. “It’s not to me.”

“Do you know what happens when you don’t go through with it? You become a social pariah,” Simone whispered, horror flashing across her face. “Remember Alison Larson who graduated a year before us? She refused the ceremony and had to move to a different state to escape the backlash.”

“You’re the only one I’m close to here,” I admit.

“Did you forget about Michael?”

Hearing my brother’s name caused guilt to overwhelm me. I loved my brother more than anything, even though sometimes he seemed more annoyed by my presence than anything else.

“How could I forget about my brother, Lia? That’s ridiculous.”

“Well, I bring it up because it’s relevant! If you leave then you’ll never see him again.”

My shoulders slumped in defeat.

“Fine, I’ll sign it and return it today.”

Simone sighed in relief. “Thank you, Lia. I know it’s scary and you’re nervous about who might be picked to be your mate but once it’s over you can get back to your normal life.”

I wanted to ask Simone how it was possible to get back to normal life when I was going to have a mate, someone constantly at my side, but I held back. Simone was so happy and practically glowing. The last thing I wanted to do was ruin her happiness.

I played nervously with a loose thread on my regulated red tartan skirt, my hand hovering just inches from the door to the clinic. With a heavy sigh, I knocked as loudly as I could,

“Come in!” the nurse called out.

When Nurse Wu saw me, she frowned. The link to the origin of this information rests in Find★Novel.net

“I see you’ve finally come around to returning the paper. For a moment I thought you weren’t going to return the paper and attend your coming-of-age ceremony.”

I frowned. “Yes, how scandalous it would be of me to do such a thing.”

“Go ahead and be sarcastic, but you know I’m right, Lia. You will be a laughingstock.”

“Yes, you’re not the first person to point this out to me.”

She rolled her eyes. “Go on and get back to class.”

I let the door slam shut behind me, rage rushing through me. Why was everyone so insistent on following this tradition?

A small part of me did want it but I was afraid of who I would end up being mated to. My parent’s mating ceremony worked out and so did my brothers. He found a lovely young woman named Madison who graduated in the same class as him.

Not everyone found their mates. If they did, they would go into the database and be encouraged to try the ceremony again in a few years. It happened to my brother’s core friend group.

When this happened, no one batted an eye. They accepted this because at least the person tried to complete the mating ceremony. I wished they could do the same to people who chose not to go through it.

I entered class a little late, taking my usual seat beside Simone. She leaned close to me, keeping her voice below a whisper.

“Did you submit the paper?”

“Yes, I’ll be having the ceremony next week,” I whispered back.

She squealed, trying her best to muffle the sound so our teacher didn’t look back and see that we were doing nothing but paying attention.

“I can’t wait to see who your mates are going to be, Lia.”

“Mate.”

“Well, I have two mates now,” she pointed out.

“Yes, but the norm is to have one mate. Not two.”

“Once I heard of a girl having three.”

I paled, shifting uncomfortably in my seat. “Three mates at once?”

“Imagine it!” Simone said, giggling a little too loudly.

The teacher cleared her throat, glaring daggers at us. Laughter exploded across the classroom, making my cheeks heat up in embarrassment. I was pale so the blush would be more than noticeable to anyone in the room.

“Let’s talk later,” I mouthed back to Simone.

I didn’t want to get into any trouble when my coming-of-age ceremony was so close. No need to give them something else to use against me.

Brother’s Best Friends Are My Mates

Lia

When I came home I was looking forward to being in a quiet house where I could clear my thoughts. But the moment I walked through the door I heard multiple, loud voices coming from the kitchen, the spot my brother and his friends liked to haunt with their imposing presence.

Taking a shaky breath, I closed the door as quietly as I could behind me, but not quite enough. Michael, my brother, popped his head into the room, a smirk playing on his lips.

“Trying to sneak away without saying hello, little sister?”

“I live with you. Why do I have to say hello?” I countered.

A deeper voice chuckled, and Colby came to stand on the left side of Michael. He was a little taller than Michael who was already six feet so that was saying something. Colby’s piercing jade green eyes locked onto my tense form, pearly white teeth exposed as he smirked.

“Lia are you going to go all the way upstairs without saying hello?” he asked. Chapters first released on [find\(n\)ovel.net](http://find(n)ovel.net)

Rain popped up on the other side of Michael. He was the same height as my brother with wild brown locks tied back in a messy bun.

“Lia, you weren’t going to snub us were you?” he pouted.

I sighed. “No, but it’s tempting.”

“Matt, Jesse! Get out here and say hello to Lia before she decides to go hide in her room.”

Shaking my head, I hurried around the corner.

“Lia!” my brother shouted.

“I’m using the restroom!”

Once in the safety of the bathroom, I leaned against the door and cursed under my breath. Why did I have to deal with this right now? Those four friends of my brother were the bane of my existence. They lived to torment me and Michael only did something about it half the time.

Michael thought it built character. How screwed up was that?

If I didn’t have to use the restroom I would have run straight up the stairs and to the safety of my room! There was a sturdy lock on it, but I don’t know if it could withstand the kick of a seasonal rugby player.

After finishing up, I didn’t leave the room right away. I hated what might await me out there. It would be more teasing and bullying from guys I had known my entire life.

For a moment I pressed my ear against the door and tried to see if I could hear anything. It was very quiet out there, which was concerning given how loud I knew they could be. What were they planning?

Chastising myself for hiding in the bathroom, I took a deep breath and opened the door, only to walk right into it and bounce off a solid wall of muscle. A cry escaped me as I stumbled back but strong hands reached out to grab my shoulders and steady me.

“Nice to see you again, Lia.”

My eyes flickered upwards, a blush spreading across my face when I realized how close Matt’s face was. He had a decent amount of stubble across his face, and chocolate brown eyes filled with mirth.

When he leaned down, one of his long braids fell forward, tickling my cheek. I could feel the warmth from his body, making me nervous.

“Yes, very nice. Will you let me go please?”

“I was just making sure you didn’t fall flat on your ass,” he teased. “Next time I won’t play the perfect gentleman and let you fall.”

With a roll of my eyes, I squeezed past him since Matt was refusing to move. The only one I hadn’t seen yet was Jesse and out of all my brother’s friends, he was the quietest. Sometimes when he looked at me it felt like he was taking me apart with one look. If looks could kill then Jesse could kill with one.

My backpack was still at the bottom of the stairs where I left it. I looked around, trying to see if anyone was around or coming up behind me but I heard laughter coming from the kitchen, meaning I might be safe.

There were times they would forget about me and go back to whatever they were doing. I hoped this was one of those times.

Quickly, I dashed upstairs. What I wasn’t expecting was to run into another solid wall of muscle, this one positioned right in front of my door. I nearly stumbled back again but my hands did reach out to steady me.

“Watch where you’re going.”

I looked up to see Jesse glowering down at me, his icy blue eyes narrowed into slits. His shaggy blonde hair had fallen forward, obscuring some of his gaze. He flicked it out of the way with a quick flip of his head, never once looking away from me.

“You’re the one in front of my door!” I cried.

He blinked. “I wanted to say hello. Would you have said hello to me otherwise, Lia?”

I hated the way he said my name. It was like he was drawing out each syllable purposely.

“I’d like to get into my room.”

“Either say hello or try to move me. I’d love to see you try though.”

Annoyance ran through me, but what could I do? I was barely 5’4 and there was no match for someone on an active rugby team.

“Hello Jesse,” I hissed.

He smiled. “See was that so hard?”

Jesse pushed past me, flashing one last smirk. “Have a good day, Lia. Maybe you’ll be gracious enough to come down and say goodbye to us all too.”

“Fat chance!” I shouted back.

I hurried into my room, slamming the door shut behind me. Why did all of them have to tease and bother me so much? When I was younger I would follow them around like a lost puppy dog, wanting nothing more than to be a part of their fan.

Now I wanted nothing more than to put as much distance as possible between all of us.

It had been two hours, and the noise was finally dying out. I had been venting to Simone for the past hour. She had listened to every word like the good friend she was.

What would someone do without a friend as good as Simone?

How’s it going? Are you surviving the chaos over there? – S

Barely. Colby just “accidentally” spilled chips on my head. – L

LOL. Sounds like Colby. What are the others doing? – S

Rain’s pretending he’s an expert chef with a box of microwave popcorn. Matt’s laughing at all of it, and Jesse keeps telling terrible jokes. – L

Like what? – S

He said “Lia, why couldn’t the bicycle stand up by itself?” – L

Oh no... – S.

“Because it was two-tired!” – L

I’d be so done. – S

Right?! And then Matt goes, “Wow, Jesse, that joke was almost as bad as Lia’s taste in movies.” – L.

Ouch! Did you say something back? – S

Of course. I told him his playlist was so bad even Spotify would disown him. – L

Nice! What did he say? – S

Nothing—he just smirked and said, “Good one, Lia,” like I was a little kid trying to be clever. – L

Classic Matt. – S

And now they’re all plotting something. They get quiet like this when they’re about to pull some dumb prank. – L

Oh no. What do you think they’re up to? – S

IDK, but if I suddenly stop responding, avenge me. – L

Always. – S

Gotta go. Michael just came in and he looks guilty. – L

Good luck. You’ll need it!

“Hey, Lia sorry about all that. You know how rowdy the guys get.”

I scoffed, giving him a look. It was a statement I didn’t even want to give any attention to! Did my brother expect me to just forgive him at the drop of a hat? He could be so clueless sometimes, whether it was accidental or purposeful.

Michael always waffled on the way they bullied me. Either he would say it was all wholesome fun, or he would apologize afterward.

“Yes, well, I should expect that from a bunch of rugby players.”

He rolled his eyes. “There’s leftover pizza downstairs. Come down if you want some or stay here and sulk for all I care. It’s up to you if you want to sulk in here.”

For a moment, I wondered what would happen if I ended up mated to Colby, Rain, Matt, or Jesse. A shiver of fear ran through me. I wouldn't be able to handle the one I was destined to be with being one of those guys.

The teasing would increase, making me stuck with them until one of us passed on to join our ancestors.

But that wouldn't happen. It was silly to think I would end up mated to one of them.

Yet, the fear remained, filling my stomach and every part of me with dread.

Brother's Best Friends Are My Mates

Lia

When I was called to the administrative office the next day, I was a bundle of nerves. I didn't understand why they called me here. Wasn't it enough that I handed in the form?

With a shaky sigh, I tucked a blonde lock behind my ear. My blue eyes darted around the room, waiting for the staff member to come into the room and talk to me.

"Thank you for coming here, Lia Brown."

I resisted the urge to squirm in my seat, even though the urge was great.

"I signed the paper and returned it. Why am I here?"

She blinked. "Miss Brown you're not in trouble. We just have to move your ceremony to next week to accommodate a speaking guest we booked at the last minute. The staff will be busy with preparations so I hope you can understand."

"What?" I blurted out. "I want to get this over with; not wait another few days!"

"Miss Brown please calm down," the woman muttered, glaring at me from across the desk. "I understand you are eager to find your mates—" Follow current novels on [find•novel.net](http://findnovel.net)

"No, you don't understand because that's not what I want. I don't want to do this at all. If I had my way I would never go through this mating ceremony for as long as I live!"

Her face fell, eyes rolling dramatically.

“Ah, so you are one of those. Well, let me tell you Miss Brown that not going through with the ceremony—”

“—is social suicide, yes I know. I’ve been through this already with my best friend.”

“Then you should listen to your friend because she is very bright. You don’t have to go through with this ceremony, but I would strongly suggest that you do otherwise you’re going to find it hard to live in society.”

I resisted the urge to glare back.

“I know that, Ma’am.”

“Then put on a brave smile and understand that you’ll be having your coming-of-age ceremony next week rather than this week. If anything changes then we’ll let you know.”

When I left the office, I wasn’t expecting Simone to be hovering just outside the door. I collided with her, stumbling backward and nearly falling flat on my ass.

“Lia!” Simone cried, holding out her hands towards me. “I’m sorry! I was just waiting for you.”

Even though I was angry, I took her hand without much fuss. “It’s fine, Simone.”

“So what did they want?”

“They are postponing my coming-of-age ceremony until next week because some guest speaker is coming by.”

Simone frowned. “Guest speaker? Wait…”

“What?”

“It’s nothing.”

“Simone, it’s something! You’re not even looking me in the eyes.”

Simone grabbed my wrist, pulling me down the hall until she found an empty classroom where we could duck inside. I was getting confused and more agitated by the second, trying to figure out just what my best friend was keeping from me.

“I was bringing some papers into the teacher’s lounge and I heard that the guest speaker is going to be the Crimson Chargers.”

I paled. “As in the Rugby team from Ironwood College?”

“Yes.”

“As in the Rugby team that my brother and his friends are on?”

“The very same.”

I sat in the closest empty seat, wishing I could sink into the ground and take myself away from here.

“Why are they coming here as special guests? Isn’t it enough that our school is affiliated with them?”

Wasn’t it also enough that I had to see them several times a week when I got home from school? This school was my one sanctuary from them. I didn’t want to have to walk through these halls, fearing that anytime I turned the corner I could run into one of them.

But now my sanctuary was turning into a bloody nightmare.

“I’ll skip class.”

“Attendance is mandatory, Lia. If you don’t go they’ll write you up.”

I huffed. “So? What do I care if they write me up? I have good attendance and grades!”

“Lia, you know how this school treats the Rugby team. They are royalty. The principal won’t hesitate to screw you over if you skip it.”

Sometimes I hated the fact that my brother and I went to this private academy. Our parents had been aluminis here so tuition was cut in half. Once they died, the school did the charitable thing and waived the rest of the tuition. It was done out of pity, but it was affordable.

The same went if we went to Ironwood College. Our parents were aluminized so tuition would be waived.

“Shit.”

“We’ll just sit in the back where they can’t see us,” Simone assured me.

I smiled weakly. “They are very familiar with my scent, Simone. I don’t know if it’s going to work.”

They would seek me out away from the prying eyes of teachers, students, and anyone who could call out their behavior to torment me. I could appeal to my brother, but what was the point? He’d always take their sides.

“We’ll figure it out,” Simone assured me.

When lunch came around, I didn't even want to eat. My stomach was doing flip-flops and any food would cause a dangerous reaction. Sighing, I pushed my food away, ignoring the disapproving look from Simone.

"I don't feel like eating," I told Simone who sighed.

"You need to eat to keep up your strength! The coming of age ceremony can take a lot out of people, especially with that bitter medicine they force you to eat."

I wrinkled my nose. "Is it that bad?"

"It's very strange," Simone admitted. "That's the best way I can describe it."

None of this bodes well for me at all.

Any doubt I had that Simone may have been mistaken by what she heard in the teacher's lounge was dashed when I received an email the next morning sent to all students.

Subject: Exciting Visitors on Campus This Friday!

Dear Students,

We are thrilled to announce that this Friday, Aspen School will welcome some special guests from Ironwood College: the Crimson Chargers, the college's esteemed rugby team! This is a fantastic opportunity for all of us to meet these talented athletes, learn about their experiences, and gain insights into college life and sportsmanship.

The Crimson Chargers will be visiting our school at 9:00 Am sharp and will host a special session in the auditorium. During their visit, they'll share their journey, conduct a Q&A session, and possibly showcase some rugby techniques.

We encourage all students to attend and show Aspen School's signature spirit of hospitality and curiosity. If you're passionate about sports, teamwork, or considering college in the future, this event is not to be missed!

Let's give the Crimson Chargers a warm Aspen welcome!

Best regards,

Aspen School Staff

I glanced at my brother across the table who was eating his breakfast without a care in the world.

"Michael, why the hell didn't you warn me about this?"

“Warn you about what?”

“About the fact you and your friends are giving a speech at the school on Friday!”

Michael blinked. “Oh, I didn’t think I had to. Why does it matter?”

“Well, because of you and your team, my coming-of-age ceremony was pushed back.”

“Lia, the coach, and the dean are the ones that set up everything. We were just told when and where to show up. That’s the extent of the information we were given.”

I huffed. “I still would’ve liked a warning!”

When I looked at my brother it was like looking at a mirror. We had the same blonde hair, ocean-blue eyes, and pale skin. Even our facial features were the same. It was a shame I hadn’t been gifted with height like my brother.

“Again, it was out of my hands. If it makes you feel any better, none of the guys are going to be there, Lia. It’s just me. The coach chose a few of us to go. I was the unlucky one.”

“I’m sure they’re giving you a hard time about that too.”

Michael grinned. “That’s an understatement, little sister.”

My anxiety had faded, but I wondered if this was one of my brother’s tricks. Sometimes he liked to tease me as much as his friends did. Rarely did he like to do it more than them.

“I need to get to school.”

“Need a ride?”

“No, Simone is picking me up.”

I needed to learn to drive sometime soon to give myself more independence.

With one last glance towards my brother, I left the house. I still had a nervous feeling in the pit of my stomach that I couldn’t shake no matter how hard I tried.

Brother’s Best Friends Are My Mates

Lia

The school was buzzing with excitement from the moment the email was sent out. Come Friday, it was all anyone could talk about. It was like they forgot that the championship Rugby team members once went to this very school.

I don't know how they could forget such a thing. This was something I remembered every single day, unable to forget no matter how much I tried.

But I believed what my brother said. They weren't going to be there. It was just going to be him.

Until I ran right into Colby of all people. He looked surprised so I don't think he was trying to seek me out. I jerked away as if I had been burned, flattening myself against the wall and trying to become as small as possible.

"Hey Lia," he purred, grinning from ear to ear.

He ran a hand through his damp dirty blonde locks, clearly having just gotten out of the shower not long ago.

"Colby," I spat, trying to make a run for it.

Before I could, Colby crowded me against the wall. He had me pinned with both hands on either side of me.

"Aw, come on why are you leaving so soon? I don't have to be on stage for another twenty minutes. Why don't we catch up?"

I felt a blush creeping up my cheeks. He was too close to me, so close I could feel his breath on my neck.

"This is my school," I ground out through clenched teeth. "Why can't you leave me here?"

"Hey, I used to go here too!" Colby pointed out with a hearty laugh.

She struggled to contain her anxiety, wishing she could be anywhere but here.

"Hey!" Simone shouted.

This distracted Colby enough for me to duck underneath his right arm and put as much distance between us as possible.

"Well, now you've gone and ruined our fun," Colby said, giving Simone a look. "I guess we'll have to continue this another time, Lia."

He walked off, making Simone frown.

"Are you okay?"

“He was just doing his usual tormenting of me.”

Simone looked me up and down, causing me to sigh.

“Don’t sigh at me. I’m checking to make sure you’re okay!”

“You know they tease me. I’ve told you this for years now.”

She bit down on her bottom lip. “Yeah, but I’ve never seen it up close. I kind of want to punch them.”

“They’re on the rugby team. That’s not going to go well for anyone involved—mostly you.”

“Hey... have you ever thought about why they tease you so?”

I blinked. “What?”

“Well, maybe they have crushes—”

“We aren’t in middle school!”

“So?” she argued back. “Some guys are still expressing their feelings in such a way—especially jocks.”

“I don’t want to think about it.”

“Excuse me students please everyone start heading to the auditorium.” Check latest chapters at FindNOvel.net

The two of us shared a look.

“Let’s hope this goes quickly,” Simone whispered to me. “You know, for your sake.”

The rest of the morning was a blur. I kept my head down, trying to make sure none of them noticed me. But even though Simone and I had positioned ourselves in the back, it was like each of their eyes kept finding me.

When the speeches were over, they said we were more than welcome to leave and head back to our classes. Simone and I were among a handful of students to leave. The others stayed behind, wanting to talk with the beloved rugby team that was constantly on my mind—and not by choice.

I was grateful to get out of there without much fanfare.

Now that this was over I had to worry about the fact that my coming-of-age ceremony was coming up in just a few days, something I had been dreading for a long time now.

“I think you need to clear your head,” Simone whispered to me. “Do you want to go get some coffee after school?”

My eyes lit up. “Are you paying?”

“Wow, Lia don’t even offer to pay? I can’t believe you’re using me for my money.”

I laughed. It felt good to be able to laugh so freely.

“Well, to be fair, I only get so much money from my trust fund a month and there’s a limit of how much I can take out. You, on the other hand, have a proper part-time job through the school.”

I thought about getting a part-time job but decided against it. My goal was to get good grades and get into college. With my brother and I not having to pay tuition, I didn’t want to do anything to jinx my situation.

“Fine, just meet me in front of the school later today.”

I counted down the minutes, which wasn’t something I recommended. When it was time for school to officially get out, I left with my bag slung over my shoulder. My mind was focused on the thought of getting coffee with my best friend that I failed to notice a certain someone lurking.

“Lia, where you off to in such a hurry?”

I stiffened and saw Rain leaning against the brick, a smirk playing on his full lips.

“Shouldn’t you be back at Ironside?” I whispered, taking a step away from him.

This time his long dark brown locks were pulled back in a messy braid, almost resembling my own. His equally dark brown eyes were filled with mirth, which grew with how uncomfortable I looked.

“Nah, a few of us stayed behind to give some pointers to the rugby team here. If some of them play their cards right they could be playing for Ironside next year.”

“Lucky them.”

In a matter of seconds, Rain was in front of me. He leaned down, mouth wide and nostrils flared.

I cried out, shoving him away. He didn’t budge an inch much to my frustration.

Our eyes locked and Rain doubled over laughing.

“Oh my god, you should see the look on your face! Did you think I was going to bite you?”

I angrily blinked back tears, not wanting to give Rain the satisfaction of seeing me cry.

“You’re such a jerk! Why do all of you have to bother me like this?”

He shrugged. “It’s fun.”

There it was. A simple answer that almost sent me raging, but I heard Simone shouting my name.

Rain gave a little wave, pulling away from me.

“Hey, Simone. Did I get your name right?”

She frowned. “Yes. Lia, let’s go.”

I shot Rain a look, trying to push my anxiety so far down that it wouldn’t bother me.

“You okay, Lia?”

“Yes, I’m fine. Just my brother’s friends being jerks.”

The spot on my neck where he pretended to bite started to tingle. I rubbed at it absentmindedly, even though nothing had happened. Why when any of those guys got close to me did I feel this shiver of fear mixed with anticipation? It was hard for me to deny, but I spent a lot of time trying to ignore it.

Shivering, I started rubbing at the spot a little harder. Simone grabbed my hand, giving me a worried look.

“Are you okay?”

“Yes, I’m fine, why?”

“You’re rubbing at your neck so hard I’m afraid you’re going to bruise it!”

I smiled faintly. “It’s fine. I’m fine.”

“Lia... did he bite you?”

“What? No!”

Simone breathed out a sigh of relief. “Not that I think any of your brother’s friends would do that but it’s always a worry with some of these alphas.”

“They would never do that.”

And not just because my brother would have their heads. He might tolerate their teasing, but he would never accept them forcing a bite on me. That wasn't appropriate for someone who hadn't even had their coming-of-age ceremony.

"Then stop rubbing at your neck!"

I wrenched my hand away from my now reddened neck, ignoring the strange tingling sensation that was left in its wake. Biting down on my bottom lip, I settled for shoving my hands into the deep pockets of my school-issued sweater, hoping it would be enough to keep my hands busy.

"See, I'm fine."

Simone gave me a dubious look. "I don't know about that but I guess it's fine if you've stopped rubbing at it."

I wondered if I would ever have any of these happy moments again. Simone and I were always able to go out and have such fun, but with my coming-of-age ceremony and then graduation I didn't know if it was possible.

It didn't seem like it was to me.

"In a couple of days everything is going to change," I said out loud to Simone who frowned.

"Yes, but it's going to change amazingly! You're going to find out who your chosen mates are going to be and that's so exciting!"

Exciting for Simone but for me it marked a change in my life I wasn't ready for,

"Let's just go to the café and get some coffee. I need something else to focus on right now."

She slung an arm around my shoulders, putting some of her weight onto me.

"Sounds good to me."

Brother's Best Friends Are My Mates

Lia

I sat in the nurse's office, trembling from head to toe. My skin was pale and my eyes wide, filled with anticipation, and none of it was good. Today was the day—I was going to discover who I was going to be mated to. This was provided it worked out.

The nurse was preparing the medicine, rattling off a bunch of medical mumbo jumbo to me. I was only half listening and the stuff I did hear didn't make sense to me. What was the gist was that this medicine was going to react with my omega hormones. Then alphas nearby would react to my scent if they were my chosen mates.

If, on the rare chance no one reacted, then they would take a sample of my blood and put it into the database. From there, they would test against others in the state to see if I had a potential match.

It wasn't to say people didn't seek out relationships from those they were mated with but our state was very stuck in its ways. Those who deviated from the norm were not treated well by society. I had thought about leaving sometimes and moving across the country, but then I thought about my brother. We were the only family each other had.

How could I leave him behind?

So I stayed, finding myself in this situation I am currently in. I plucked at the invisible loose thread on my skirt, trying to find some way—any way to distract myself.

“All right, here is the medicine!”

The nurse thrust a cup at me that was filled with medicine.

“And what is going to happen?”

“In about an hour, you'll start to feel the effects. You'll feel warm, dizzy, and overcome with hormones your body has been producing since you found out you were omega.”

I paled. “What happens after it takes effect?”

“Well, then an alpha in the surrounding area will react to your scent.”

“How many will react?” I whispered.

“Likely only one.”

I paled even more. “My friend now has two mates.”

“Yes, well that can happen.”

“What if I don't like them?”

“This is why counseling is provided and the mated pair is encouraged to not mate until both are on the same page,” the nurse told me firmly. “We recommend waiting until your twenties.”

It was what my brother was doing.

He was the only one out of his friend group that got a mate while the others didn't find anyone on their coming-of-age ceremonies. This wasn't uncommon for alphas who were the majority. They had to wait for omegas to come of age. It was unlikely for an omega to not find a mate during their coming-of-age ceremony.

I wanted to be one of the rare ones that didn't find their mate.

"Well, go on and take it," the nurse encouraged me.

With a heavy sigh, I took the cup of water she handed me and took the pills in one gulp.

At first, I didn't feel anything. The nurse encouraged me to lie down, telling me that it was better if I laid down and didn't exhaust myself for what was to come. I then lay there, staring at the clock and watching as the minutes ticked by.

It was slow. I felt myself growing insane until this strange feeling started to overcome me. There was this warmth overtaking me, spreading all over me and making my cheeks flush. My hair started to stick to my clammy forehead, and a nervous whimper escaped me.

"Would you like some water?"

I opened my mouth, wincing at how dry it felt.

"Yes, some water would be nice."

She handed me some water after helping me into a sitting position. The cool water helped my parched throat, but five minutes later I was facing the same problem.

"I'll give you a little more but you need to drink it slowly."

A second glass did help a little more than before. I laid back down, feeling this sudden chill run over my body. The nurse handed me a light sheet but I already had enough clothing on. Adding a sheet into the mix made me feel terrible.

"Try to breathe. The worst of it will be over in an hour."

"It gets worse?!" I cried, kicking the sheet off in frustration.

The nurse wiped at my clammy forehead with a cool cloth. While it was cool and helped me a bit, I still hated the scratchy feeling of the washcloth against my skin.

After an hour the effects did start to calm down. The nurse stood up, smiling.

"Any alphas that react to your scent are likely heading here now. We have someone out there to greet them and show them a place to wait while you recover. Once the effects of the medicine have passed, you'll be free to greet them!"

“Can’t I just hop on a plane and fly away?”

She gave me a look. “I don’t appreciate the jokes, Ms. Brown.”

“Well I don’t appreciate this ceremony,” I added with a frown.

The effects of the medicine were starting to wear off. I sighed softly, forcing myself into a sitting position. My eyes widened when the nurse’s phone rang, pulse started to race.

She spoke in hushed tones, glancing at me every few seconds.

I didn’t like the way she was looking at me. It made me nervous. The door wasn’t far away. Feeisbly I could reach the door if I ran fast enough but if there were any alphas in the area they would pursue.

This was how Alphas were with omegas.

After hanging up, the nurse smiled at me.

“Your alphas are here.”

“Alphas?” I asked weakly.

“Yes, but I’ll let you take some more time to gather yourself.”

I felt faint. “Are they going to come in here?”

“They can or you can go out and talk with them. It’s your choice, Miss Brown.”

“I’d rather go out there. It’s too cramped in here,” I argued.

“Then I’ll come get you say in about ten or so minutes.”

“Can I have 60 minutes?”

“Miss Brown, it’s not very nice of you to keep your alphas waiting. Do you realize how long they have been waiting to find their mates?”

My shoulders slumped, my heart beating even faster. The nervous feeling in my stomach grew, making me wish I could be anywhere else but there.

I had wished that a lot lately, but no matter how hard I tried the wish never came true.

After ten minutes, the nurse popped her head in. She had a strange look in her eyes and I didn't like it.

“So the two of them are out there?”

The nurse's smile fell.

“No, not two.”

My eyes widened. “How many are there?”

“Well, it's more than I've seen during my time doing this.”

“Three?”

Slowly, she shook her head.

“Four?” Original content can be found at [Find★Novel.net](#)

“Yes, you have four mates.”

I shook my head. “No, that's not possible!”

“It's not impossible Miss Brown. While it isn't common, it's not completely unheard of. You are just one of the minority who found more than one mate at her mating ceremony. If anything, think of it as a blessing! It's an instant pack!”

A bitter laugh escaped me.

“That's assuming those Alphas will even get along!”

“Oh, they will, believe me. They are all good friends and seem to be handling this quite well—on the surface at least.”

“Before I go out there, I have to know who my mates are.”

She sighed and opened her phone. “Your mates are as follows; Colby Mcgrath, Rain Kim, Matthew Clark, and Jesse Johnson.”

When she said the first name I started to feel faint but then the nurse kept rattling off all the names of my tormenters for years. How was it I could be tied to all of my brother's friends? It didn't seem possible that they were the ones I was fated to be with.

“There must be a mistake. They can't be my mates.”

“There is no mistake, Miss Brown. They are all out there right now.”

“No, that can’t be!” I argued, trying to contain my panic.

The panic was swelling up inside me, making me feel faint. I was feeling clammy again, but it was different. This wasn’t from the hormones. Rather, it was because I was terrified. Terrified at what it meant to be mated to these four men who had spent most of my life treating me like s**t.

“Miss Brown, calm down. You are starting to hyperventilate.”

I didn’t listen. My breath started coming out of my short pants, vision was spotting. What was I going to do?

No, this couldn’t be my life. I don’t care what those results said. It wasn’t possible that I was going to be mated to these four men.

And if it was the truth then I refused to accept it.

Brother’s Best Friends Are My Mates

Colby

The smell was something I could only describe as sweet, mixed with a hint of berry. I was overcome by the scent, unable to think of anything else. In the middle of talking with Michael, I stood up and started walking, entranced.

“Hey Colby, what are you doing?!” Michael shouted.

“I smell something. It’s hard to focus on anything else.”

Michael grabbed my shoulder, forcing me to look around.

“You have a glazed-over look in your eyes and claim there is this sweet scent that I can’t smell.”

I blinked. “Yeah, and?”

“You found your mate.”

The two of us had been finishing our shared class together. I was going to head home and Michael was going to head home to his. Then I smelled that scent that was turning my mind into mush.

“There was a coming-of-age ceremony today?”

Michael suddenly went rigid.

“Yeah, just one, remember?”

“Mike, I know your sister’s was today but what was the other one?”

“No, Colby I don’t think you are quite understanding the situation right now. My sister’s scent is the one you’re smelling. She’s your mate.”

Well, shit.

I always gave Lia a lot of shit but it was all in good fun. She was always intruding on our fun when we were growing up so Michael, me, and the rest of the guys would tease her. It had crossed the line a few times, something we always apologized for or Michael chastised us about.

But to be her mate? I couldn’t believe that this was my reality. Our reality now.

“She’s gonna flip,” I muttered.

“Flip? She’ll probably try to flee not only the state but the country.”

A possessive growl escaped me at the thought of Lia trying to flee. She was my omega. I’d never hurt her or allow harm to come to her, but she couldn’t leave. Having her physically away from me would hurt in ways I couldn’t even imagine.

“Let me drive you,” Michael offered, noticing how tense I was. “You offered the same to me when I matched with Gabirella after her coming-of-age ceremony so let me do the same.”

I sighed softly. “Thanks, Mike.”

The two of us were quiet in the car, each of us lost in our thoughts. I couldn’t believe that she was my mate, someone I had been searching for years now. In my mind, I could picture Lia, her long blonde locks falling down her blonde in waves, wide blue eyes, and rosy pink lips parted just a bit.

“Colby, your gripping door handle so tight I’m afraid you’re going to rip it off,” Michael warned. “And trust me, you’re going to have to pay for it.”

I huffed. “It’s not like I don’t have the money.”

“No, it’s not like you don’t have the money but I’d rather have to avoid waiting for the repairs. I need to use my

“Shit, I left my car back at the school.”

He shrugged. "I'll drive you back there later so we can get it. Don't worry about it."

"Michael, thanks."

"Don't worry about it."

car."

The closer we got to the school, the more intense the smell became. I swallowed, trying my best to control myself. A certain part of me was stirring, reacting to the sent of my future mate being so close.

"Breathe, Colby."

"I'm breathing."

"Your breathing harshly. Take slow, deep breaths."

I grinned. "Hey, when have I ever been one to listen?"

"Hey, wait is that Rain?" Michael asked suddenly.

Blinking, I saw my friend jump out of his car and bolt into the building.

"Michael... you don't think "

"I mean, It's possible for you to have more than one mate so it can happen." Chapters first released on find~novel~net

"But for it to me and Rain? What are the odds?"

"Strange things have happened," Michael muttered. "Let me just park and we'll go inside to ask him what is going on, okay?"

I nodded.

The second I stepped out of the car I felt like I was going to fall to my knees. The scent was intense now. So intense it was ready to knock me over like I had been hit by a freight train or something.

"Colby you need a minute?"

"Yeah, I think so."

I wonder if Rain was going through the same thing. He had to be. Out of all of us, Rain was usually the first to react.

Rain

I'm sitting at home, trying to finish some of my homework. Some of the guys are more academically gifted than I am, leaving me to work harder than them. It used to bother me, but I realized that this was just how it was.

Rugby came to me easily. I ate, breathed, and played rugby. From the moment I got onto the field and played my first rugby game. Nothing had ever felt so right. But academics? No, I didn't get that same feeling.

It frustrated me, making me want to take the textbook and throw it out a damn window. Still, I feel like I am making some headway with this subject when I am hit by this sweet scent.

What the hell?

I push my chair away from the desk so fast that I nearly topple backward. The scent is overwhelming, filling my nostrils and making it so it's almost like I can taste it.

"Rain, are you coming down for dinner after you finish studying?" one of my sisters calls out, knocking loudly at my door. 1

My mouth is open but nothing comes out. She knocks louder, the sound making my head pound.

"Rain, hello?"

"No!" I shouted, finally finding my voice. "Just tell Mom and Dad I'm not coming down. I need to study."

But studying was the farthest thing from my mind. I could only think of following that scent and trying to discover what and who it was.

For a moment I forced myself to think logically. The scent had to be one of an omega and the main reason I was smelling it was because of someone's coming-of-age ceremony.

Oh no. No, no, no. It couldn't be. The scent couldn't belong to Lia, could it?

She was the only person who was having that ceremony today so logically it had to be her.

With a groan, I forced myself to my feet and grabbed my keys off my desk. I ignored the shouts of my family who wanted to know where I was going. They could wait. My future mate was waiting for me. She might not be happy about it but I knew she was waiting for me at the school.

Despite my urge to drive fast, I tried to follow the rules of the road. I quickly parked, nearly stumbling out of my car and into the school. An administrator was waiting, explaining to me that I would have to wait in the hallway near the nurse's office until the medicine had run its course.

Reluctantly, I nodded and sat down in a row of chairs that had been placed in the hallway where the nurse's office was located. Two people I did not expect to see were Colby and Michael.

"What are you guys doing here?" I blurted out.

Michael sighed. "First of all she's my sister... and second of all, Colby smelled an omega's scent."

"Bro, so did I."

Colby plopped himself down next to me and grinned. "Well, it looks like we are both future mates of Lia."

"My sister is going to flip," Michael muttered. "One I could see her trying to deal with but two? I don't know how she is going to handle it."

"We're not going to treat her badly," I argued, even though what we had done up to now was bully her.

Michael gave us a look. "Yeah, well I know you'll do what is right for her and if you don't you'll have to answer to me but I'm sure you know that."

Sometimes, Michael did let out the protective older brother side of him. It did make me nervous, never wanting to go too far to bother his sister.

The minutes passed and I grew uneasy as well as impatient.

"What is taking so long?" I snapped.

Colby shrugged. "She probably is recovering from the medicine. Remember how you felt after you took it?"

"Yeah, Colby has a point, Rain. Plus omegas are more sensitive to it so you have to remember that too."

I pouted. "Fine, I guess I'll just have to stay out here and suffer."

"Did you forget about me?" Colby reminded him.

"By the way Col... you seem to be handling this well."

“I’m just wondering what this is going to mean for our future,” Colby murmured. “I mean, this is Lia we’re talking about and I’ll also be sharing a mate with one of my best friends.”

I grinned. “I think it’s good, honestly. If I am going to share a mate with anyone then I am glad it’s you.”

Brother’s Best Friends Are My Mates

Matt

The dorm room is quiet when I enter. I called my roommate but heard nothing in return. Sighing with relief, I dump my rugby bag onto the floor, glad to have a few moments to myself. The practice was particularly grueling today. Not that it wasn’t something I couldn’t handle, but I haven’t been myself lately.

For a few weeks now, I’ve been experiencing this strange feeling. It’s like I’m anticipating something, but I have no idea what it is. Knowing something was coming but being unsure of what it was was driving me crazy.

Sighing, I threw myself onto the bed with a sigh. My shoes were still on as well as my uniform, but I didn’t care. Should my roommate come in suddenly, he would start complaining about how I was leaving all my crap on the floor and stinking up the place.

“Go take a shower. You smell.”

I would usually just glare at him until he got uncomfortable with me. It wasn’t like I didn’t intend to shower, but I wanted to just lay there for a moment.

My phone started to ring, though I ignored it. Then I kept getting text message after text message, causing me to growl with frustration.

Finally, I opened my phone and read something that sent me reeling.

We need to talk. – R

What’s up? – M

It’s about Lia. – R

Is she okay? Did something happen? – M

She’s fine, but... there’s something you need to know. She’s our fated mate. Mine and his. – R

Ha. Good one. Seriously, what's up? – M

I'm not joking. It's real. She's our fated mate. Mine and Colby's. – R

Dude, it's way too early for this. You've got to stop with these pranks. – M

I'm serious. I felt it the moment I was near her. He felt it too. We've been talking about it, and it's clear. – R

This... no. That doesn't even make sense. Two fated mates? That's not a thing. – M

It's rare, but it happens. You know it does. – R

Stop shitting me, Rain. – M

I'm not! This is true! – R

No, it's not. M

Do you want me to have Michael text you? He's here with us. – R

Are you 100% sure about this? – M

Yes. I wouldn't mess around with something this serious. – R

Damn. – M

I know it's a lot. Think about how we feel. – R

Yeah I'm sure it's a lot to take in. – M

So yeah I just wanted to let you know. Colby said he would get ahold of Jesse. – R

Keep me updated. – M

But then I smelled something.

It was this sweet scent. I knew what it was from but I shut the window.

Lia already matched to Colby and Rain. Two mates were rare but three? Hell no. This was something I couldn't wrap my mind around.

I sat down for a while, ignoring the feelings growing through my body. The more I ignored it the tenser I became. My breathing was heavy, my limbs aching, and my body broke out in a cold sweat. There was only one reason I was feeling like this and it was from not seeing my mate.

“Shit!” I shouted, causing my roommate who came into the room to jump.

“What the hell is wrong with you now?”

I ignored him, pushing out of the room and to the parking lot. Before I could reach my car, I heard someone honking. It kept going so I figured it had to be for me.

“Matt,” Jesse called out in that dry, cold tone of his. Official source is Find★Novel.net

If someone didn’t know Jesse then they would think he was devoid of emotion but he wasn’t. The guy was just very serious, keeping his emotions under wrap. It was how he went through life, mostly because of all the shit he had been through in life.

“Jesse, where the hell are you going?”

Jesse blinked. “I smelled an omega. I’m assuming it’s Lia because she is the only one who was having the coming-of-age ceremony in the area. Based on how shitty you look, I’m assuming you smell it too.”

“I don’t know what the hell I smell.”

“Fine, if you want to deny it then go ahead but get your ass in the car and do it in here.”

Grumbling under my breath, I climbed into the car without much fuss.

Jesse

The phone calls and text messages started after I smelled the sweet scent of an omega. It hit me right away what was going on. Lia was my mate. Denying it was going to help no one, including myself.

Sighing, I looked at my phone and saw that it was from Colby.

We need to talk. It’s about Lia. – C

What about her? – J

She’s my fated mate. And Rain’s too. – C

... Are you serious right now? – J

Dead serious. – C

Well, this is gonna get interesting, real fast. – J

What's that supposed to mean? – C

I smell an omega too. Strongly. – J

What?! – C

Yeah. Lia's probably my mate too. – J

Are you for real right now? – C

I never joke about this kind of thing. – J

...You're kidding me. – C

Not even a little. – J

This is insane. – C

Welcome to the chaos. – J

So she had three mates. That was very rare. One mate was the most common followed by two. Three wasn't unheard of but it was very rare.

Shrugging, I threw on my jacket and put on my shoes before heading out the door. I needed to get to the school right away so I could see Lia. She was going to be pissed off and upset, but it wasn't like I wanted this. It was simply fate.

One could deny fate all they wanted. Doing this was foolish.

When I saw Matt I realized he was in the same situation as me. He looked terrible, probably because he was trying to deny the fact that Lia was his mate. This meant that all four of us were her mates.

Huh, that was unheard of. I couldn't remember one case where I had heard someone was blessed with four mates. It would've been difficult to share my omega with three other alphas. This possessiveness overcame me, a primal urge to claim Lia as my own becoming the only thing floating through my mind.

But I took a breath.

No, these were my best friends. I could still claim her and retain our friendship. We were already in our pack in a way along with Michael. This would be just a different kind of pack, one I had never expected but one I would deal with.

Matt was not willing to deal with it from the look on his face. I called out to him, urging him to get in the car. He looked reluctantly but then climbed into the passenger seat.

For most of the ride, Matt was quiet, glaring out the passenger window. I sighed.

“Matt?”

“What Jesse?”

“It’s silly of you to keep denying the truth.”

“I’m not denying anything.”

“Really? Then admit it out loud.”

He opened his mouth but nothing came out. When he tried again, the same thing happened causing me to roll my eyes.

“Fine, Matt go ahead and sulk. You’re only going to hurt yourself in the process.”

“But this is Lia, Jesse and not to mention all four of us are the ones who are going to be mated to her shortly. How can you be so calm about this?”

I shrugged. “Nothing I can do will change it and fighting against my nature is going to make me look like you right now, which is not something I want. You look like shit.”

“Thanks, Jesse. You always say the sweetest things to me. I appreciate it so much.”

A small smirk made its way onto my lips.

“You know I tell it like it is so I don’t know why you’re acting so surprised right now.”

“How is Michael going to react?”

“Why does it matter?” I asked, tilting my head to the side.

“Jesse, seriously?”

I sighed again. “He is her brother and we are her mates.”

“Stop saying that.”

The aggression was rising in Matt. I didn’t even have to look over to see the look on his face. It was clear in his breathing and the way his scent changed.

“We’re almost there,” I told Matt.

“Yeah, I can see that.”

He sounded more bitter than before. I wonder how he was going to react when we got into the actual school and spoke with Lia. She was going to be in a state of shock but it didn't matter. This is now all our reality. The sooner she accepts it the easier it will be for all of us.

Brother's Best Friends Are My Mates

Lia

When I started to come too I realized there were multiple scents nearby but the scents were calming me down. The logical part of my brain was scared by this because these scents belonged to my brother's four friends Colby, Rain, Matt, and Jesse. Usually, these scents made me tense up, wondering what torment they would inflict on me next.

But it was different now. It helped me feel at ease, making me get closer and closer to consciousness.

"Okay, I understand all of you are worried about your future mate but you need to give her some breathing room. Can you imagine how she is going to feel when she realizes there are five pairs of eyes on her?"

Five?

Slowly, I took in the scene before me. Standing near the door was my brother Michael who looked the most concerned I had ever seen him. Colby and Rain, the two jokesters, also looked concerned. They looked very serious, something I didn't expect. Then I shifted my gaze to the other two. Matt refused to meet my gaze, a scowl on his face. Finally, someone who was acting on the outside what I felt on the inside. Beside him was Jesse. I tried not to shiver as my eyes locked with Jesse.

He was looking at me the most intensely out of all four of them. The possessiveness was radiating off him in waves, something I didn't know how to wrap my mind around.

"How do you feel?" the nurse said gently.

She was beside me, checking my vitals. I was looking everywhere but in the direction of my... mates.

God, they were my mates. All four of them were going to be my mates shortly. I would have to find a way to build a life with everyone.

"I feel like I want to throw up."

Michael cleared his throat. “Guys I know you want to make sure she is okay, but I need all of you to give my sister and me some breathing room, okay?”

“Come with me and I’ll try to explain the situation to all of you as well as how you can support your new mate.”

Matt was the first to leave with Rain and Colby following. Jesse was the one who stood firm, refusing to leave. “Jesse,” Michael hissed.

But Jesse ignored Michael, instead focusing on me.

“I want to talk to my brother. Alone.”

He nodded. “All right.”

The man turned around and left without a fuss. Michael rolled his eyes.

“He’s gonna be the most clingy of them all, Lia. Just watch.”

I shrugged, refusing to meet even my brother’s gaze. He sat beside me, playfully elbowing me in the side.

“Michael, try all you want but I am not going to find the silver lining in all of this.”

“I mean, I wasn’t going to suggest you find the silver lining in all of this. For you, I don’t think there is because you are very stressed given how things have been with my friends and you.”

This made me look up.

“And what is your point? I don’t need to hear the obvious, Michael.”

“I’m saying that it’s going to be an adjustment for everyone and so you know I’m on your side. Being an omega with four mates is not going to be easy. If any of them step over any of your boundaries let me know. I will teach them a lesson.”

I bit down on my bottom lip. “They will fight to protect their mate... meaning me.”

“Yes, but I don’t think you’ll let them get away with hurting me, and their number one concern is you so you’ll set them straight.”

“Michael, I don’t want to talk about this anymore. I just want to go home. Can you take me home?”

He nodded. “Of course.”

From the moment I stepped out of the nurse's office with my brother, they were all walking towards me until I took a nervous step back. Read complete version only at [Find_Novel\(.\)net](#)

"Are you okay?" Rain asked. "We heard you passed out."

"Can you blame her?" Colby muttered.

Matt huffed. "I'm surprised you didn't pass out Rain."

"Hey just ask Colby! I accepted it right away, didn't I?"

"He did, Matt."

Jesse cleared his throat. "Unlike Matt who is still denying it. He won't even look in Lia's direction even after it's obvious—" "Jesse, shut up."

"-obvious that Lia is our fated mate."

Matt stalked off. I felt slightly empty with him gone, a feeling I didn't want to have. It was the bond talking, already growing despite my best efforts to pretend it didn't exist.

My wolf nature was winning out, going back to its innate nature which was pure and animalistic. The thought of it sent a shiver down my spine.

"I'm going home. Michael is taking me."

Michael forced a smile. "You guys are free to come with but let her rest."

"The upstairs is off limits," I announced, trying to sound more sure of myself.

The relationship I had with these men had shifted and I didn't know how I was going to adjust to it.

The next few hours were trying. Anytime I left my room and started down the stairs, they were there asking me if I was all right. Matt had managed to stay away for a full hour before he showed up, shaking.

"I told you to stop being stubborn," Jesse said confidentially.

Matt scowled at him. "Shut up, Jesse. I don't need to hear it from you."

Without warning, Matt leaned forward and crowded me but it was different this time. He leaned down, taking a sniff. A familiar shiver ran down my spine. I didn't feel scared. Instead, there was this want.

“Amazing how an omega’s scent can make everything better,” Matt muttered, a horrified look flashing across his face.

He turned, leaving the room. I could still hear him somewhere in the house, so he was reluctantly accepting this new phase of his life.

I pushed past Jesse, grabbing a snack and some water before returning to the safety of my bedroom. My phone started going off, causing me to gasp. Simone! She was likely worried about me and trying to find out what the results of my coming-of-age ceremony were. 1

You’re not going to believe this. – L

What? Spill it. – S

I have four fated mates. – L

FOUR?! Wait... how is that even possible? – S

I don’t know! But it gets worse. – L

Worse than FOUR mates? What could— – S

They’re my brother’s best friends. – L

Wait. Hold on. HIS best friends? – S

Yeah. – L

The ones who have been teasing you forever? – S

The very same. – L

NO. WAY. – S

I’m serious. I passed out when I realized it. – L

What are you even going to do? – S

I have no idea. They’re all acting... different now. Protective, almost sweet. It’s so confusing. – L

Sweet?! From those jerks? This is wild. – S

Tell me about it. I can’t decide if I’m furious or... something else. – L

This is going to get messy. And hilarious. – S

You're not helping. – L

Oh, I am 100% here for this drama. – S

Sighing, I threw my phone onto the empty spot beside me and tried to wrap my mind around the entire day. My mates were my brother's friends. If it had been one or maybe two of them I could conceivably try to accept it. But all four?

No, I don't know how I was going to deal with that.

It scared me truthfully. I could feel changes inside me whenever I was around them. My body reacted, feeling calmed by their presence. How could I not when the omega in me was reacting to my alpha mates?

They were feeling the effects too until it hit me that up until two days ago, these guys were huge jerks to me!

I refused to leave my room until Michael asked me if I wanted dinner that night. Not wanting to eat in my room, I reluctantly went downstairs. The guys weren't there but I could smell them.

"They'll be back in the morning," my brother told me.

I sighed. "You never spend this much time with your bonded!"

"I did in the beginning," Michael reminded me. "Lia, in the beginning, everyone's hormones are going crazy so you want to be around them as much as possible. After a few months, things start to even out."

That was true. Michael did spend a lot of time with his bond in the beginning. Either she was here or he was with her.

But that was different. My situation was much worse because I had four mates!

"I hate this," I whispered to Michael.

"I know, but I promise it will get better."

He seemed convinced of it but I wasn't.

Brother's Best Friends Are My Mates

Lia

The guys walked me to school. None of them could agree on who would drive me so they left their cars at the house, walking me. I could feel people's eyes on me. How did it look to see four large rugby players trailing behind this tiny omega? It was going to cause a scene no matter what.

I was relieved to see the school in the distance.

"You guys have to get to school, don't you?"

Matt huffed. "Yeah, and they have medicine waiting for us there guys so we can get through the days, remember?"

"Oh yeah, I forgot about that," Rain lamented.

Colby shrugged. "We'll be back in the afternoon then."

"I-great. I can't wait."

Throughout all of this, Jesse was his usual stoic and quiet self, But one look in his eyes told me he wasn't happy with the idea of leaving me. I felt a burning in my cheeks, forcing myself to look away.

Once in school, I thought I was safe. Here I could forget about the fact that I had four mates now surrounding me at every moment of the day.

But again, I was wrong.

During my walk to the nurse's office, I realized everyone was staring at me. They followed my every move, whispering to themselves. Some looked horrified while others broke out into a fit of giggles.

"Shut up!" Simone shouted, appearing seemingly out of thin air. "You guys are such immature jerks. So what if she has four mates? I think it's amazing because now she has an instant pack while you people are all alone!"

With a sneer, Simone marched up to me, throwing her arm around my shoulder as she always did.

"Simone, I think you made it worse..." I whispered, swearing that even more people were looking at me.

“At least they’ll think twice before gossiping about you.”

I sighed. “I think they’ll just make sure they are gossiping about me once I’m gone.”

“See? That’s even better!”

While I was with the nurse, Simone waited outside. I got some medication that would dull the effects while I was away from my mates. No, future mates. They weren’t my mates yet and I had no intention of mating with any of them anytime soon!

“How do you feel?” Simone asked as I emerged from the nurse’s office. “You look a little pale.”

“I’m always pale...”

The joke was always that my brother and I were vampires or something because of how pale we were. I wondered how I looked yesterday. Bet I looked terrible before those four showed up.

“Okay, true but you look more pale than normal.”

“I’m adjusting. The nurse said the medicine would kick it soon.”

“I can’t imagine how it is to have four mates. Being away from my two mates made me so sick and uncomfortable. Having four? It must feel like your body is on fire.”

I gave her a look. “You’re not helping, Simone.”

“Sorry,” she said weakly. “But I’ll be with you every step of the way, okay?”

My eyes softened. Without warning, I threw my arms around her and hugged her tightly. Simone hugged me back tightly, not even missing a beat. She was seriously the best friend one could ever have.

“Let’s get to class before I have second thoughts.”

Simone grinned. “Girl, I always have second thoughts about getting to class.”

Being away from her two mates Max and Xavier was going a lot better for Simone. I wondered if it had to do with the fact that I wasn’t willing to accept it as easily

as she was. Simone had been excited about her coming-of-age ceremony for years while I was always dreading it. This had to play some part in her being able to not be around her mates all the time.

But, when Simone got home, I knew they were there. Her two mates were cousins that happened to live around the corner so she could spend time with them then. It helped that they were only a year older than her too.

The guys weren't that much older than me, but with them being closer to graduating college they were going to be busy, meaning spending time together was going to be difficult. Wait, what?

I stopped in my tracks.

“Lia, why did you stop suddenly?”

I smiled weakly. “No reason. Let's hurry up and get to class before we're late.”

The school was a blur. When I checked my phone, I was relieved to see that the guys weren't picking me up. Michael told me that Simone could take me home if I wanted, which was something I preferred.

“Are you sure you don’t mind driving me home?” I asked Simone who gave me a look.

“Of course, I don’t mind driving you home.”

“But your mates are going to be missing you-”

“-and they understand that my best friend is dealing with having four mates after never wanting to have gone through with the coming of age ceremony in the first place.”

Smiling, I slipped into the passenger seat and buckled up. Simone tended to drive very crazy and faster than most people. Getting in the car with her could be a bit of a life-changing experience in some ways. This update is available on Find1Novel.net

“So where are the guys right now?” she asked as casually as she could muster.

“I have no idea.”

“And you’re not curious?”

“No.”

Simone huffed. “Lia, this is going to go a lot better for you if you just try to accept what’s going on. Fighting it is going to help no one.”

“It just happened!” I cried. “How the hell am I supposed to accept it when I can barely wrap my mind around it?”

I wasn’t trying to sound very hysterical but it was difficult to not like this when the medicine was starting to wear off.

When Simone and I pulled up to the house I noticed something alarming. There were four cars in the driveway. Each of these cars belonged to my four new mates. I had seen them enough over the past few years to match the car to the person.

If they were here then it meant something was happening.

“Do you want me to come inside?”

I nodded. “Please.”

Simone was right at my side as she walked me to the door. Before I could even get my key in the door, Michael opened it. He blinked.

“Oh hey, Simone.”

“Hey, Michael.”

I looked at my brother and huffed. “Simone is coming inside with me.”

“That’s fine. She can support you during the talk.”

“What talk?” I blurted out. “Michael, what the hell is going on? I don’t like surprises and just got a surprise to last a lifetime after finding out I had four mates!”

Michael sighed. “Just come into the living room.’

”

Everyone was there, sitting and waiting. Simone and I sat together on the loveseat, her hand holding mine. Every so often she would give it a firm and reassuring squeeze.

“So what’s going on?” I asked, looking at every person in the room. “You have all come to some kind of decision which is great because it involves me.”

“Sis, don’t get too upset.”

Jesse cleared his throat. “We were all talking and Michael said it would be good if the four of us temporarily moved in.” “Yeah you guys have more than enough room,” Colby pointed out.

Matt didn’t say anything. I guess he was still in his denial faze. It made me respect him a bit more that he could cling to that small form of denial. If only I could still be in denial then maybe I could accept all of this a lot more easily.

“So you all decided to move in without asking me?” I snapped, glaring at Michael. “And you! You’re supposed to be my brother!”

“I think it’s a good idea.”

Everyone turned to look at Simone. I gaped at her, shocked by her words.

“Simone you can’t be serious.”

“Girl, I’m dead serious. I think it will be a good way for all of you to adjust to living together. Not saying it has to be permanent but in the beginning months, it will help ease the awareness. Plus it will keep the body aches to a minimum.”

Now my best friend was against me. I couldn’t believe she was sitting here saying this when just a little while ago she was telling me she had my back and would be there for me throughout all of this!

“I can’t believe you’re saying this,” I hissed.

Simone frowned. “I’m saying this because it will be good for you, Lia. You know I only have your best interests at heart and wouldn’t suggest something if I didn’t think it was good for you in the end.”

Brother's Best Friends Are My Mates

Lia

The next day or so had the guys moving into the extra rooms we had. There were two so Colby and Rain paired up while Jesse and Matt shared the other. I tried to make myself scarce but with it being a Friday, I had no choice but to accept that this was my life now.

At least at school, I could pretend.

But I focused on the fact that my brother would be there.

Or so I thought.

“What do you mean you’re not going to be here this weekend?!”

“I’m visiting my mate. We haven’t seen each other in a while because she has been busy with exams and I’ve been busy with rugby.”

“That means I’ll be alone with them.”

“Them?” Michael asked with a laugh. “You mean your mates.”

I shivered. “Stop saying that. I don’t like to hear those words, you know that.”

“Denial is not a good thing, Lia.”

“Denial is the only thing getting me through this!”

No matter what I said, my brother refused to listen to me. He told me that I was going to be fine and the weekend would be a good bonding experience for me along with my mates.

When I came down to eat, I realized the four had prepared dinner. Yes, they had prepared dinner and set the table.

“It smells good,” I forced myself to say.

It wasn’t like it didn’t smell good but I didn’t want to give compliments. I wanted to resist this bonding experience with every fiber of my being.

“I made it,” Rain said proudly, preening under my compliment. “Jesse helped. Colby set the table and Matt just kept brooding.”

Matt grumbled something under his breath I couldn’t understand.

Before I could decide whether to stay or go, my stomach growled. It decided for me, spurring me to sit down and dig in. The food was delicious. Rain and Jesse had outdone themselves. But, as great as the food was, the conversation was sparse. This tension was so great you could cut it with a knife. Throw in a pinch of awkwardness and it made for an experience I wanted to forget.

“Let me wash the dishes,” I offered.

Rain grinned. “Since Jesse and I cooked, Matt should be the one to do the dishes.”

“What about Colby?” Matt growled.

“He set the table and you brooded.”

“I can help,” I repeated.

Matt grumbled. “No, I have it.”

Without a word, he gathered all the dirty dishes. The other three stood around, watching me until I sighed.

“Go do what you have to do. We... can meet up in the living room in an hour.”

This was all it took for them to stop standing and staring at me, much to my relief.

I was going to go upstairs and have a rest but I saw that Matt had forgotten a couple of dishes in his haste to get away from her. Sighing, I gathered them all up. Matt tensed, likely smelling me before he heard or saw me.

“You forgot a few dishes.”

Matt whirled around. “Oh, thanks.”

He grabbed them out of my hands so fast that one of them fell off the pile. It fell to the floor, causing me to gasp. Thankfully, it didn't shatter.

The two of us crouched down, reaching for the plate at the same time. Our hands brushed against each other, my body reacting almost instantly. My cheeks became flushed, lips parting to suck in a large gulp of air. Matt was staring at me, pupils blown wide and lips pulling back into a possessive snarl.

If he came a bit closer I could feel his body heat radiating off him. I-

“Guys, what fell?” Rain called out.

The two of us sprung apart. Matt grabbed the plate and walked back towards the sink.

“I got it. Just go... do whatever.” UPDATE FROM find{n}ovel.net

“We’re meeting in the living room later,” I whispered.

Matt stiffened. “Yeah, I’ll be there.”

I reached out, hand hovering mere inches from his bare, muscular arms. Two parts of me were wrestling, trying to pull me in two different directions. A part of me wanted to reach out to him, and comfort Matt. He was still hurting, but Matt turned around, causing me to wrench my hand backward.

Staying was not an option. I ran up the stairs and back to my room which was becoming the place I spent most of my time lately. When I came down the next morning, I nearly ran into Colby. He smiled at me. 1

“Morning, Lia.”

“Morning...”

He leaned down, brushing his lips across my forehead. I flushed bright red, resembling a tomato. Colby just chuckled. “You blush so easily. How did I never notice?”

“Well, I think it has something to do with you bullying me for years on end.”

“And that was shitty of me. It sucks that took this event for me to realize that was wrong, but it is what it is and I’ll do my best to prove to you I can be a worthy mate.”

Rain popped up beside Colby, making me jump. Where Colby was then Rain was usually close by. The two of them were very close to one another, having been friends since they were in literal diapers.

“Colby is right. All of us are going to prove to you we can be a worthy mate.”

“Except Matt,” Colby muttered to Rain, but he didn’t say it soft enough that I couldn’t make out what he was saying.

“Shut up, What if he hears?”

I sighed softly. “He’s glaring at you from the doorway that’s cracked open.”

Those two were trying to apologize to Matt, giving me a chance to squeeze past him. It seemed fitting that Jesse was downstairs. He cupped my cheek, rubbing a calloused finger across my cheekbone, leaving warmth in its wake.

“How did you sleep?” he asked, voice low.

“Fine.”

He growled. “That’s a lie. You know, you can be honest with me and tell me if your not feeling well. I want to know how my future mate is feeling.”

“It’s been an adjustment,” I added.

“As it would be, but I’ll help you adjust. Trust in that.”

Breakfast was as awkward an affair as dinner had been. Well, maybe not as much. It was a bit better than yesterday.

Did this mean I was adjusting?

The thought filled me with dread and some happiness. It was the happiness that scared me the most.

It was good that Simone was only a phone call away because I needed to talk to her.

“Simone, I don’t even know where to start. This whole situation is... a lot.”

“What happened? You sounded so stressed in your last message.”

“It’s them. Colby, Matt, Jesse, and Rain. Having them here-every day, all the time-it’s messing with my head.”

“Okay, but aren’t they supposed to be bonding with you? Like, that’s the whole point, right?”

“Yeah, but it’s not that simple. They’re trying. I can see that. They’re being kind, thoughtful even. But I can’t forget what they used to be like.”

“The bullying.”

“Exactly. They made my life hell. And now... everything is different.”

“That’s a lot to process. Do you think they’ve changed?”

“That’s what I can’t figure out. They seem genuine, but then a part of me is waiting for the other shoe to drop like it’s some elaborate act.”

“Could it be that they regret how they treated you?”

“Maybe. They’ve apologized-each of them, in their way—but it’s hard to just... let go of all that pain, you know?”

“Fair. And that scares you.”

“Yeah. Because I don’t want to feel that way. Not about them.”

“Maybe you’re scared because it’s easier to hold on to the anger than to risk trusting them.”

“Probably. But if I let go, if I start to care about them, what happens if they hurt me again?”

“You’ve got to ask yourself if they’re worth the risk. Have they done enough to earn a second chance?”

“I don’t know. Sometimes it feels like they have, and other times, I just hear the echoes of how they used to laugh at me.”

“It’s okay to feel conflicted. This isn’t something you can figure out overnight.”

“No kidding. I just wish I knew what’s real and what’s... residual from the bond.”

“Then maybe take it slow. Let them prove themselves. And remember, it’s okay to protect yourself, too.”

“Yeah. I just hope I can figure it out before it all gets even more complicated.”

The two of us spoke a bit more when I heard one of Simone’s mates on the other end. I could smell one of mine nearby. It was Matt who was outside my room trying to decide whether or not he wanted to come in.

A part of me wanted him to come in so the two of us could just talk everything out all at once. Neither of us was going to survive living together at this rate.