

Brother's Best Friends Are My Mates

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One would think that producing a packaging name would be easy, but it wasn't. The five of us talked for what felt like hours over the next few days, trying to come up with a pack name that would suit us all. It wasn't easy when everyone knew how they wanted it to go.

The result was an argument that started over text and then shifted to in-person arguing. I grew sick of it, slamming my hand down on the table and startling everyone.

"What do you guys think about the Moonveil Pride?" I suggested, hoping everyone would be as pleased by the name as I was. Rain blinked. "Lia that sounds very majestic."

"I don't think that's the word you're looking for," Jesse murmured, not even bothering to look up from his coffee.

"Did you mean magical?"

He grinned at Colby. "Yes, that's what I meant, Colby, my man. Thanks!"

"Majestic and magical are not the same thing," Matt muttered, stuffing his fork with a big helping of waffles.

"I don't care if it's magically majestic," I said with a soft sigh. "Just let me know if you want to name our pack the Moonveil Pride."

The reason I had chosen Moonveil was simple. When it came to the moon and werewolves, there was a huge overlap. It was something we gazed upon each night, thankful it blessed us with its power.

But I didn't want to explain all this to my mates. It was a little embarrassing how I spent days going over all the possible names, making a list, and trying to figure out what two words worked the best together.

When I discovered the Moonveil and how well it worked, I was in awe. It was the perfect name for our new pack.

Our pack. I was no longer having as much trouble wrapping my mind around this concept.

These four were my mates. They weren't the four I would have originally chosen but I was starting to grow accustomed to it... to them.

"I like it," all of them blurted out at nearly the same time.

The looks on their faces had me blushing and laughing at the same time.

“Good, we’ll fill out the paperwork tonight then and will officially be named the Moonveil Pride.” The rightful source is find ♦novel.net

It felt official having a name. I know that sounded silly because this was what was going to make us an official pack. The only thing left that would make us an official package would be the mating ceremony.

Well, this didn’t have much to do with the pack. It had more to do with us as mates. Others could join our pack. But the mating was a thing for just the five of us. For... me and the four of them.

Would it be—

No, I wasn’t going to think of such things when they were sitting right here at the same table with me.

“Uh Lia, you feeling okay?” Rain asked, concerned. “Your cheeks are a little flushed.”

“I’m fine,” I assured Rain but I didn’t even sound like I could convince myself!

When I received the email, I felt nothing but pride and joy. The anger and resentment from before were gone, replaced with nothing but positive feelings. We were officially a family. Well, on our way to being a family.

This was one step in the direction of us becoming... family. We were already family. Not that I would be able to admit it to them anytime soon. It had taken me enough courage to admit this to myself!

By this point, we had gotten a routine. I got up in the morning to find one or two of them making breakfast. Most times, whoever got up early first would be the one who made breakfast for everyone else. It was rare because I wasn’t the type to get up very early.

This morning was no different. I threw on my school uniform and was halfway down the stairs when I smelled the familiar, enticing scent of pancakes.

It was nice to be able to put on my school uniform again after receiving that suspension notice. Apparently, Simone’s parents had donated to the school so they were able to get them to reverse the suspension, but I was on thin ice. Another incident and I imagine even Simone couldn’t save me.

But back to the pancakes.

They had to be Matt's pancakes. He didn't like to admit it, but he was an excellent cook—especially when it came to breakfast food.

“That smells so good!” I exclaimed, popping my head in the kitchen.

Rain jumped ten feet into the air, making me barely able to stifle a giggle. His brown eyes were wide, making me wonder if he was often this jumpy in the morning.

“Lia, you scared the shit out of me.”

Matt threw his head back and laughed.

“Rain, you're supposed to be a fearsome wolf. Act like it.”

“Matt, my man, have you met my former pack? They aren't exactly known as the most fearsome pack around!”

From the dining room, Jesse chortled.

“Well, Rain isn't wrong on that front.”

I slipped my hand into Rain's hand, giving it a firm squeeze.

“Just stay the way you are Rain. Has that ever prevented you from making friends?”

For a moment, I expected there to be a bunch of random growls from the room. There had been issues with jealousy between the guys and me, which was nothing I was going to deal with. If we were going to live together then we were going to get along.

The friendship between these four had stood the test of time, lasting through childhood, high school, and finally college. With college ending for them soon, it was going to last well past college.

But I didn't hear any growl. Matt huffed and looked away while Colby just walked into the dining room to sit with Jesse. I resisted the urge to feel relieved.

If no one was doing anything worthy of mentioning then I was going to keep it to myself to keep the peace. 1

“Can one of you drive me to school?” I asked, catching all of them off guard. “Now I don't want the four of you to start fighting. I just need someone to drive me because Simone can't pick me up this morning.”

Rain blinked. “You know what would be easier? If you learn to drive.”

“Rain, shut up.”

He cried out when Matt reached out to smack him in the arm.

“Dude what the hell was that for?”

“It was for saying something stupid.”

“I didn’t say anything stupid!”

I sighed. “Yes you did, in their eyes at least. They want to be able to drive me.”

There were many reasons why I hadn’t gotten my driver’s license. One main reason was losing my parents in a car accident. Driving... scared me. I didn’t think I could dare to put myself on the road without fear of crashing the car.

“And there are other reasons why she doesn’t drive, Rain,” Colby hissed, giving him a look.

Jesse reached over to smack Rain in the back of the head.

“Think before you speak, Rain.”

The guys were working to protect me all in their own ways. I blushed, not bothering to hide it this time.

“Thanks guys.”

“

Rain whimpered. “I’m sorry, Lia. I wasn’t trying to upset you. It was stupid of me to say something without thinking. Why the hell can’t I think before I speak?”

“Rain, that’s kind of your thing,” I pointed out, barely able to stifle a giggle. “It’s all right. As long as you remember from here on out we’ll be fine.”

But I did have to get over that fear eventually. How long could I spend fearing driving? It wasn’t going to help anyone if I let my fear take over and prevent me from driving a car.

I just don’t think I could do it yet.

“So which one of us is driving you?” Rain asked.

“I don’t care which one of you drive me. Just decide quickly.”

This was a mistake for me to say. The guys started arguing amongst themselves, making me roll my eyes.

“Fine, I’ll just walk. When you four decide that you’ve had enough arguing you’ll find me on the path to school.”

I was able to put my plate in the dishwasher, grab my bag, and head out the door before Jesse realized I had left. He was snapping at the others, telling them to get their ass in the car. Hearing Jesse lose his cool and shout wasn’t something I was used to.

Sighing, I waited at the end of the driveway for the guys to get their shit together. It took them five minutes to stumble out of the house, rushing to Colby’s car which was the biggest. There were three vehicles between all of them but this was the one that could fit all of us.

If they hurried, I might actually manage to get to school today!

Brother’s Best Friends Are My Mates

Colby

Lia’s graduation was almost upon us. It was this weekend and I wanted to do something special for her. All the guys wanted to do something special for her. She was going to be finishing high school and heading into college.

It was a shame we all wouldn’t be able to attend the same school together. Me and the guys were going to be graduating from college, hopefully moving onto the next phase of our lives, professional rugby players.

Imagine if all of us were scouted to the same team. This would be a dream if I could work beside them all the time. But I was realistic, knowing that I might be drafted by another team. It was always an option when it came to these sorts of things.

Once all of us were downstairs, we decided to have a discussion.

I leaned back in my chair, tapping my fingers against the table. The others sat around me, waiting for some grand idea. The truth? I had one. It wasn’t grand, though.

“Okay, listen,” I said, glancing at Rain, who was already smirking like he had a better plan. “We’re overthinking this whole thing. Lia doesn’t want some massive party.”

Rain raised an eyebrow. “So what’s your genius idea, Colby? Dinner at a diner? A backyard barbecue?”

“Exactly,” I said, pointing at him. “A barbecue. A casual get-together. Just us, some food, and no over-the-top crap.”

Matt frowned. "A barbecue? For graduation? That's kind of... boring, isn't it?"

"Not for Lia," I shot back. "She doesn't like big crowds or loud events. She'll hate anything fancy. We keep it small, she'll love it."

Jesse nodded, arms crossed. "He's right. Anything flashy, and she'll probably find a reason to ditch early."

Rain snorted. "That's true. Last time someone threw her a surprise party, she hid in the bathroom for half the night."

"Exactly," I said, sitting up. "We get some good food, hang out, maybe play a few games. No themes, no drama. Just chill." "Food's key," Matt said. "She loves her snacks. We'll need good pizza and maybe one of those dessert trays she's always talking about."

"And sparkling water," Jesse added. "She's been on a kick with those lately."

Rain grinned. "And popcorn. Don't forget the popcorn."

"Yeah, yeah," I said, waving him off. "Popcorn's a given. But let's keep it simple. If we start adding too much, it's gonna feel like work instead of fun."

"What about decorations?" Jesse asked.

"String lights," I said. "That's it. If we're outside, they'll look nice without being over-the-top."

"No balloons?" Rain teased.

"No balloons," I said firmly. "No banners. No cheesy grad caps everywhere. Just lights, food, and good company."

Matt leaned back, nodding. "Low-key. I like it. It's exactly what Lia would want."

Rain shrugged. "Fine. Simple works. But I'm still bringing popcorn."

"Just make sure Lia actually gets some," I said.

"So, who's handling what?" Jesse asked.

"I'll set up the backyard," I said. "Rain, you're on snacks. Matt, you can handle drinks, and Jesse-figure out the games. Something that won't end in a fight, please."

"Good luck with that," Matt muttered.

Rain grinned. "This might actually work."

“It will,” I said, confident now. “Because we’re keeping it simple. No overthinking, no grand ideas. Just something Lia will actually enjoy.”

For the first time that night, I saw all of them on board. It wasn’t flashy or elaborate, but it didn’t need to be. It was for Lia. And that was all that mattered.

She needed to have a great graduation party to mark this new event in her life. I smiled to myself, hoping it was going to work out. Lia deserved a good party!

It was going to be a small, intimate party with just the people Lia was closest to. We all had our party to play with me planning directly with Simone. Rain would take care of decorations, Matt’s food, and Jesse whatever else needed to be taken care of.

The next morning Rain burst into the room without warning, catching me by surprise. I let out a surprised growl, giving him a look.

“Rain, do you have to burst into here like you’re going to take the damn door off the hinges?”

He grinned. “Sorry. I just wanted to see if you were ready to start planning.”

“The party isn’t until this weekend...”

“I know, but it’s never too late to plan!”

I shook my head. “Rain, you need to get a grip and relax. There is no reason we must rush this.”

Rain plopped himself down onto my bed, sighing dramatically. “I suppose that’s okay. But I still want to make sure we plan this perfectly. She deserves to have a good graduation party, you know?”

“Don’t worry, Rain. All of us want to make sure that she has a perfect party. Simone will hurt us if we don’t do that, anyway.”

Jesse

The graduation went off without a hitch. We sat there together with Michael, watching Lia walk across the stage with a smile on her face. Our eyes met first, a blush staining her cheeks. Then her eyes shifted to Colby who was next to me. She seemed so happy and ready to take this next step.

Lia didn’t have a clue we were planning a surprise party for her. We were having the party tomorrow, while today, she was going out with Simone to have a celebratory dinner.

I was the one who made sure to get Lia out of the house on the day we were holding the party. Rain was a nervous wreck, which was why no one expected him to talk with Lia. He was never very good at trying to lie to anyone or keep a secret. I don't know how he managed to go this long with this jittery personality.

But I suppose all of us helped smooth out all of Rain's rough edges as they did with me.

"When is she supposed to come?" Rain asked, consistently looking around the corner to see if Simone's car had pulled up. "I think I heard a car!"

"We live on a busy street," I pointed out. "You're going to hear cars."

He whimpered. "Then how am I supposed to know when they are coming?"

"Through the text, Simone is going to send us your airhead," Matt ground out, giving Rain a look.

Colby glared at Matt. "Hey, I know you're having a tough time with your family but you don't have to take it out on Rain. He just wants this to go well so we can prove to Lia that we have changed."

"I think it's well established we changed over the past few months," I reminded my friends.

Matt sighed, casting a tentatively nervous glance in Rain's direction. "Sorry, Rain. I shouldn't have snapped at you like that." "It's okay dude-wait my phone is buzzing!"

I sighed, knowing that it was about to get extra chaotic and... Rain didn't disappoint. But when I saw the look on Lia's face, I realized that it was well worth all the hassle and headache. She looked surprised but thrilled that we had thrown her a party.

Lia went around, hugging and thanking each one of us. When she came to me, she gave me a look.

"What?"

"You lied to me," Lia playfully accused, poking me gently on the shoulder. "It was a smart decision to go with you, Jesse. Anyone else would've cracked under the pressure."

"Colby volunteered me and I went along with it."

Lia laughed. "Straight to the point as always."

"It's better when you get straight to the point, Lia. There are fewer misunderstandings and conflicts that way."

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“Fair enough,” she said, standing up on her tiptoes to press her lips against my cheek.

I was tempted to turn my head so her lips would brush against mine, but I decided against it. Next time I would indulge in possessive action, wanting to put my scent and mark on my soon-to-be-mate.

The party was certainly not something I would’ve liked for myself. Attending parties wasn’t even something I liked either, but I was willing to put up with it for Lia and my friends. Everyone looked like they were having a fun time.

I stood off to the side, keeping to myself, but I was having an enjoyable time. This was simply how I chose to enjoy parties. Too much face-to-face interaction got on my nerves and would mean I wasn’t going to be my usual, cheery self the next day.

“Jesse, why are you laughing to yourself?” Rain whispered to me as he walked by.

“No reason.” NEW NOVEL chapters are published on findnovel.net

Rain scurried off, making me laugh harder.

Brother’s Best Friends Are My Mates

“What do you guys think of adding to the pack?” I asked one morning.

The table went silent, everyone pausing in mid-bite or drinking. I shifted uncomfortably, wishing they would say something. It was so quiet you could hear a pin drop!

Matt cleared his throat, tone gruff and bordering on a growl. “Who do you want to add?”

“Matt, my dude, which sounds a little possessive,” Rain whispered to him, giving him a sharp elbow to the ribs.

“You were thinking it too!” Matt accused Rain who shook his head desperately.

“I did not!” Rain muttered, casting a glance at Colby. “Colby were you?”

Colby rolled his eyes. “I wasn’t thinking it. Jesse?”

“I figured she meant Michael and Simone.”

My eyes flickered over to Jesse. “Thank you Jesse for injecting some sanity back into the conversation.”

“That’s what I am here for.”

I giggled. “Anyway, that was what I was thinking. Simone, her mates, Michael, and Gabi have yet to join a pack. Simone still has some time but Michael has only about a month left.”

The reason I think Michael had been waiting for so long was because he wanted to join a pack with me. It filled me with such warmth to know my brother wanted to join another pack with me. We had grown up in the same back before being forced to leave it after our parents died. Neither of us had a choice in the matter.

With there being less than five members, we were forced to leave and it left a gaping hole in our hearts. If I didn’t reach out and speak to him soon then he was going to have to join his mate’s pack. I suppose that Matt could leave it at some point and join the Moonveil pack, but I didn’t want to assume.

“Go ahead and shoot them an text,” Colby told me. “We’d love to have Michael be a part of the pack and I know you feel the same way about Simone.”

Later that night I was in my room, trying to figure out if it was a clever idea to reach out to Simone and my brother to see if they wanted to join the pack. There was no reason I shouldn’t. They would be thrilled, but the fear of getting rejected was making me want to avoid asking them. 1

First I had to text Simone about it. I already had a feeling she was going to say yes, but I needed to confirm it for my sanity. Hey, Simone. Got a question for you. – L

Shoot. – S

So, my mates and I have officially formed a pack now. It’s called Moonveil Pride. L

Ooooh, fancy. Congrats! What’s the question? – S

Well... would you and your mates consider joining? – L

Wait, seriously? Do you want us to be part of your pack? – S

Of course. You’re my best friend, Simone. I trust you more than anyone, and having you and your mates with us would make it feel... complete. – L

Aw, Lia, that’s so sweet. I’m a little teary-eyed over here. But what about your mates? Are they okay with it? – S

I’ve already talked to them. They think it’s a great idea. They like you and said the stronger bonds we have in the pack, the better. – L

They're not wrong. Luis and Gene will love this. They're always talking about finding the right pack. – S1

So... is that a yes? – L

Of course, it's a yes! You couldn't keep me out if you tried. – S

I wouldn't dream of it. – L

Moonveil Pride, huh? Sounds like this pack is going to be unstoppable. – S

With you on board? Absolutely. – L

Now that this was out of the way, I had to text Michael and this was the one I was more nervous about. He had less than a month to register with an official pack so what if he said no? Michael's mate might not want to join the Moonveil pack. She might prefer hers. Simone's mates wouldn't mind but Gabi was a different story.

I took a shaky breath and texted my brother, hoping I would get the response I was waiting for.

Hey, Michael. Got a minute? – L

For you? Always. What's up? – M

So, my mates and I have officially formed a pack. We're calling it Moonveil Pride. – L

Nice name. Congrats on making it official! What do you need? – M

Well... I was wondering if you and Gabriella might want to join. – L

Join your pack? Lia, are you serious? – M

Completely. You're my brother, Michael. You've always been there for me, and I'd feel better knowing you and Gabs were part of this. – L

That's a big ask. Have you run this by your mates? – M

Yeah, I did. They're on board. They said the same thing I'm thinking having you two with us would make the pack stronger. –

L

Gabriella and I have been talking about finding a pack to join. Staying lone wolves forever isn't the plan. – M

So... does that mean you'll consider it? – L

More than consider it. I'll talk to Gabriella, but I think this is a yes. – M

Really? That's amazing! – L

Of course. You're my sister, and there's no one I'd rather back in a pack than you. – M

Thanks, Michael. This means a lot to me. – L

Moonveil Pride, huh? Sounds like you're building something great. – M

With you and Gabriella, it'll be even better. – L

It took a week, but I got the email from the association that I had been waiting for! I remember my heart was beating so fast when I first saw the email pop up in my inbox. When I was done reading, I let out a squeal of excitement.

Rain's shout of excitement could be heard after mine. I laughed softly, poking my head out of my bedroom.

Once I had a lock on my door. It was crazy to me to think that I used to lock myself in, worried about how the guys were going to treat me, but I trusted them now. More than I ever trusted anyone.

"We got the email!" I shouted, bolting out of my room.

"Yeah, I know! I just got it!"

I turned the corner just as he sprinted out of his room, both of us almost crashing into each other.

"They're in!"

"I knew it! This is amazing!" Rain shouted.

"What's with all the yelling?" Colby appeared at the top of the stairs, rubbing his eyes.

"Michael and Simone!" Rain yelled. "They're in the pack!"

Colby blinked, then grinned. "Well, damn. Took them long enough. Finally, the pack's complete."

Matt stepped out, groggy and annoyed.

"What the hell's going on now?"

"They're in!" Rain blurted, practically vibrating with excitement. Read complete version only at find**novel.net

Matt frowned. "Who's in?"

"Michael and Simone," I said, trying to keep my voice steady, but it came out more like a squeal.

Matt paused, his brows lifting slightly before he nodded. "Good. They belong here."

"They absolutely do," Colby added, leaning against the banister. "Guess this means we're an official pack now."

"I'll drink to that," Rain said, flashing me a grin.

Jesse's voice came from behind Matt. "All this noise better mean something important."

"It does," I said, spinning around to face him. "Michael and Simone are officially part of Moonveil Pride."

He nodded. "Good. About time."

Rain clapped his hands together. "This is huge. We should celebrate."

"Rain, it's midnight," Matt muttered. "Celebrate tomorrow."

"Party pooper," Rain teased, but I grabbed his arm before he could argue.

"He's right. We'll celebrate tomorrow," I said, tugging him back toward his room.

"Fine," Rain grumbled. "But I'm still hyped!"

Colby chuckled from the stairs. "You're always hyped, Rain. Go to bed."

"Whatever. Night, guys!" Rain called, disappearing into his room.

I turned to the others, my chest warm with contentment. "Goodnight, guys."

"Night, Lia," Jesse said softly, the others murmuring their goodnights before retreating to their rooms.

I walked back to mine, clutching my phone. For the first time in a long time, everything felt perfectly right. Our pack was finally whole.

We had managed to weather the difficult storm and everything was going to be all right.

Brother's Best Friends Are My Mates

Lia

I was unsure of what to do with myself now that I wasn't in school. In a matter of weeks, I would be starting college soon and I was thrilled. In a few years I would be on my way to becoming a teacher, a profession I always wanted to go into.

The guys were on their way to graduating. With their big game this weekend followed by a graduation a week after, they would be moving on to their careers. I know they all hoped they were going to be drafted. It's all they had talked about for years. A day didn't go by they didn't bring it up.

Sighing softly, I looked around at the guys who had joined me for a movie. There was a bit of an argument over who would sit with me, but we worked it out. I made it clear no possessive crap around me or that there was going to be problems.

Rain asked me point blank if I would be coming to the game. I gave him a look, causing him to blink.

“What, why are you looking at me like that? I just want to know if you're coming.”

“Rain, of course, I'm going. This is the last game of your college career and will determine if you win the championship. Why wouldn't I go?”

He grinned. “I just wanted to make sure.”

Later that night, I reached out to Simone to see if I could get her to go with me. No reason, but I didn't want to go alone. Besides, Rugby was big in our town. Wouldn't she want to support our college rugby time?

Hey, Simone, are you free this Saturday? – L

Let me think... Hmm, no plans to change the world, no secret ball to crash. Yep, I'm free. Why? – S

There's a game. Michael and... the guys are playing. It's their last one before graduation. – L

“The guys”? Lia, just call them what they are-your mates. – S

Fine. Michael and my mates are playing. – L

There it is! Look at you own it. – S

I'm trying, okay? – L

Trying? Girl, you're practically glowing whenever they're around. I've noticed. S

Stop exaggerating. But... I guess I do feel more comfortable with them now. It's weird, but the connection feels... right. – L

It's not weird; it's fate. You're finally accepting your pack, and I'm here for it. They're not bad, Lia. – S

I know. They're actually... kind of amazing when they're not being total pain. They've been sweet lately, especially with the whole ceremony aftermath. – L

See? I told you they'd step up. Alphas take care of their omegas—it's what they do. – S

It's still overwhelming sometimes, though. I mean, four mates. Who gets four mates?! – L

You do. Don't fight it. Lean into it. – S

That's what I'm trying to do, which is why I want you to come to the game with me. It'll be nice to have you there for moral support. – L

Moral support? Lia, you've got four rugby players and alpha-mate cheerleaders. How much more support do you need? – S

They're not cheerleaders; they're players! And having you there will keep me from freaking out when the crowd inevitably stares at me. – L

Oh, they'll stare. But not because of you. It's because your guys are literal stars. They're not going to be looking at you like, "Why is Lia here?" They're going to be thinking, "Wow, look at the lucky girl with the coolest mates ever." – S

You're ridiculous. – L

And you love me for it. I wouldn't miss this for anything, Lia. What time is the game? – S

Starts at 3. But comes over earlier so we can head there together. I don't want to walk in alone. – L

Got it. I'll bring coffee. You handle the tickets. – S

Thanks, Simone. Seriously, you're the best. – L

Always. Now, question—what are you wearing? Because if you don't have something cute planned, we need to fix that ASAP. – S

What does it matter? I'm just watching the game. – L

It matters. You want to look cute when your mates glance at you from the field, all sweaty and victorious. – S

Oh my god. Stop. – L

Nope! It's my job as your best friend. Now, spill the wardrobe details. – S

Fine. I'll figure something out. You can critique it when you get here. – L

Deal. This is going to be so much fun! I'm so proud of you, Lia. You've come a long way. – S

Thanks, Simone. I mean it. – L

You've got this, girl. I'll see you on Saturday. – S

I giggled to myself. It would be exciting to go to college and see my future mates play the biggest game of their career. Scouts were going to be there, watching and waiting to see if anything stood out to them.

Every one of them deserved to be scouted. Regardless of how I used to feel about them, they were always excellent rugby players. I never thought they weren't. My issues with the guys were all the bullying they used to do.

But I hadn't thought of that in weeks. It was a surprise when I realized this because it was clear my anger was fading, getting replaced by something else... adoration.

I was falling in love with all of them, wasn't I? I don't know if it was completely influenced by the coming-of-age ceremony results, but there was no denying that it was happening.

The scariest part? I wasn't completely put off by it.

Colby

There is just something about looking into the stands and seeing your future mate sitting there, cheering you on. The others felt the same way, I could see it in their eyes when they also looked over into the stands.

So much was riding on this game. From the moment I put on the uniform and stepped out into the field I had my head in the zone. The thought didn't fill me with an ounce of shame. Instead, I was excited to win this game and make our college proud.

It wasn't even about the scouts watching us. They mattered, but I had a backup plan. All of us had backup plans. Not all of us were going to get signed to the same team or get signed at all!

The five of us, including Michael, had a talk about what would happen if one or more of us got drafted and the others didn't. Michael, being the well-spoken guy he was, said it wouldn't matter at all.

It started off as shaky. We weren't on our A game so during the second half we had to hurry up and get back to form.

But the pressure was on.

I took a particularly hard tackle from the other side. It knocked me to the ground, taking my breath away but I was back on my feet. People's cheers were filling the air but I tuned them out. My focus was entirely on doing right by my team.

When we got to the finale, I tensed.

This was it.

I shared a look with Matt who grinned at me. It was one of those rare times when Matt was smiling. He was always like that during games. Matt came alive during these moments, much to my amusement.

A laugh bubbled out of my throat, my reliance growing.

The last few seconds of the game were tense but we came out winners. I remember standing there, shocked that we had won the championship. All our hard work hadn't been for nothing. Doing this for years and years got us somewhere. It made us and our school champions.

Lia and Simone rushed down. When Lia came to me, I kissed her in front of everyone. She tensed for a moment but melted into the kiss right away. The other guys had done the same so I wasn't going to miss out on the opportunity either.

If Lia had pushed me away or given me any sign that she didn't want me to touch her, I would've backed off right away.

"Congratulations," she whispered, her cheeks heating up.

I grinned down at her. "Thanks."

This was a high that I didn't want to ever go away. Imagine that all our hard work for years had finally gotten to this point. Check latest chapters at [find•novel.net](http://findnovel.net)

The party we were going to afterward was going to be well worth it. I'd be hanging out with my teammates, packmates, and my future mates.

Brother's Best Friends Are My Mates

Lia

I woke up with a pounding headache. The liquor I drank last night had gone right through me, making me act more carefree than I usually did. Normally, I was a more reserved person but last night... I feel like I made a fool of myself.

But I had a great time with my pack. I blushed thinking about dancing with the guys, my body pressed against theirs. Parts of their body had started to respond... and I was almost disappointed that nothing came of it.

Groaning, I buried my bright red face in the soft pillow below me. How was I going to get through this?

I was convinced that the next morning I was going to be embarrassed when I saw them but when I headed downstairs, no one said a thing to me.

“Hey guys,” I greeted, blinking when they all turned to me, looking rose for wear. “Are you all okay?”

“Depends on what you mean by okay,” Jesse stated, voice flat.

“Jesse, even you drank too much?” I asked, gasping softly. “I expected it from say Rain and Colby but not you.”

He smirked. “Blame it on peer pressure.”

“But it’s not like we didn’t have fun!” Rain said, giving me a grin and a wink.

My mind flashed back to last night. Rain and I were dancing to one particular sensual song. He grabbed my hips, grinding against me as the music flowed around us. I had never felt so wanton in my life.

Jesse came up behind me, joining us in the dance. I was left breathless after it was over, parts of my body coming to life that had never come to live in such a way before.

“Let’s just eat,” I whispered, my cheeks resembling a tomato.

The guys chuckled but didn’t push. I thought for a moment that they might try to tease me about it, but I was pleasantly surprised to know that they just let it lie.

When I got upstairs, I received an email about our official mating ceremony. It was supposed to come so it’s not like I wasn’t expecting it!

It was a relief we got the email about our official mating ceremony once I had gone back up to my room and the guys left for the day. I don’t know how I would’ve felt getting that email with all of them sitting there around me.

But as I read through the comments I was struck with a sudden feeling of panic.

What if I wasn't ready for this?

We had a few years to worry about this. Just thinking about it though made me nervous.

I wonder what the guys thought. Did they have experiences before becoming finding out I was their mate? With alphas, it was likely. Didn't matter the first gender of the alpha. If they fell into the category of an alpha, chances are they had some sort of experience. 3

Omeegas could do the same. Attitudes have changed over the years, leading people to have a more progressive mindset towards omegas. No longer did they think of us as these precious and fragile little flowers who needed to be protected. We werewolves! Just with a different second gender than alphas and betas. 1

I think Betas had it easy. They didn't have to worry about going through heat. There were times I wished I could be a beta. Certainly, if I were a beta I never would've had to go through with this coming-of-age ceremony. I'd be able to move away and live my life.

But the thought of leaving my soon-to-be-mates filled us with a sense of sadness. I didn't want to leave them.

To calm myself, I read the email again to make sure I understood anything but this didn't help. It made me more nervous!

Honestly, I was angry.

Why did they have to send me this email now? It wasn't fair. I had just started to accept the fact that I was mated to my four former bullies, or would be in a few years, and now this? It was almost more than I could wrap my mind around.

With a dramatic cry, I threw myself onto my bed. I could just ignore it, but the sooner we talked about it the sooner I wouldn't have to worry about it. Putting these things off never helped anyone. All it did was make things awkward because you knew you had to speak about them.

It was always there, lingering in the back of your mind.

I couldn't live like that. No, I refused to live like that.

There were a few years before I even had to worry about going through the mating and biting process. But I've read about it. It's not like it was pain. Pleasure was involved. A lot of pleasure.

My cheeks heated up. No, I wasn't going to think of this right now.

I read over the chat again and with every word I re-read it helped to calm me down, reminding me what I had waiting for me. My four future mates were going to do whatever it took to help me adjust to this.

God, I was falling for them so hard.

It used to scare me but... now it didn't.

“Why is your face so red?” Rain asked when I came back downstairs. Read complete version only at Find★Novel.net

“No reason,” I whispered, trying to get him to mention anything else.

Why did he always have to mention things I didn't want him to mention? It was frustrating.

“Wow your face is super red... are you sick?”

“Rain, can you stop mentioning my face!” I snapped at him.

He pouted, hurt flashing across his face.

“Sorry.”

“No, it's fine. I just have a lot on my mind.”

He blinked. “Well, you can uh... tell me if you like. I'm always willing to listen. I know I talk a lot but I swear that I am a good listener. Don't listen to the other guys. They are just jealous of my superior listening skills.”

I gave him a look. “Rain... it's fine. I'm fine. I promise.”

“Okay, but if you need to talk then you know where to find me.”

“We live together...”

“Yes, so you know where to find me!” he said brightly.

Brother's Best Friends Are My Mates

Lia

I was getting closer and closer to starting college soon. It was going to be such a change and I was nervous. What were Simone and I going to do when we headed onto campus that first day? It was beyond anything we had ever attended before.

Imagine going from our medium-sized high school to a large local college campus. But I was looking forward to this next step. Whenever I brought it up around the guys, I did notice they

tensed a little. It was as if they didn't want to see me go to college or were nervous about me being on the campus surrounded by all those alphas and betas.

There were omegas too, but why would they be worried about omegas?

I wasn't going to have it if they started in with their jealousy again. One part of me said at least they weren't getting jealous of one another, but I didn't want to see any of it! It was stressful enough starting college and I didn't need added stress. 1

But, life is full of stressors. No matter how much you try to avoid stress, something will happen and force you to realize that you can't eliminate all stress. My stress came in the form of a sudden email.

The email didn't strike me as odd when I first saw it pop up in my inbox but then I realized what it was about. With every line I read, the more upset I became.

The brand of medicine I had been on was discontinued for some reason. Quickly I jumped onto my phone, trying to g****e as much information as possible but everything was telling me the same thing. That this had been recalled. 1

I had to finish the email, but I didn't want too. The contents of it terrified me to no ends. What if I didn't like what I read?

No, I knew I wasn't going to like it.

How could this be?

Things were going so perfectly before and now they were all screwed up. I had to get a grip.

Read the email, I told myself firmly. Then I could worry and freak out.

By the time I finished the email, my entire body was trembling. I had been on these suppressants for years. My body had grown used to them. If I had to switch to an entirely different brand, I don't know what I would do. It was going to take weeks for my body to adjust and this wasn't even counting for the time it would take for me to wean myself off the current prescription.

Heat suppressants are a common thing in our modern society. It was only after you were set to engage in the official mating ceremony that you finally started to go off them. I had never gone through a full heat before. They sounded terrible. Your entire body was a slave to your hormones, unable to focus or think of anything for days.

The only thing on your mind was being with your mates in the most intimate way possible. I flushed just thinking about it, but quickly clamped down on those thoughts.

No, this was not the time to think of it. I would find a way to get on another batch of heat suppressants. Just because my usual brand wasn't going to be available much longer didn't mean I wasn't going to have a chance to get on another brand of pills.

It was going to be a hassle is all, something I didn't want to deal with. Simone was on a different medication so she wasn't going to have to deal with that at all. I was a little jealous that she could continue to stay on the same medicine without fear of going into heat.

The heat was a part of life. It wasn't something to be scared of or to avoid, but I couldn't go through heat right now. I was about to start college! What if I ended up carrying some of their pups? It would completely through my a wrench into my plans.

As someone who loved to plan, this would be a huge deal.

Telling the guys was something I dreaded. How would they act? Would they.—

No I couldn't think like that. They would never do anything bad to me or hurt me in anyway. Even when they were bullying me, they made sure to never cross the line into anything physical. None of them had ever laid a hand on me!

I would always be angry towards their bullying of me, but it mattered that they never hurt me physically.

Still, I dreaded telling them and I think I knew why. It was going to make them extremely possessive and protective. They got like that randomly, sometimes with each other, but made sure not to let me see it because I wasn't going to put up with that crap.

If I told them this, they try to lock me in the house or some other crazy crap like that. I shook my head in disbelief. They weren't going to lock me in the house!

But this was me speculating. The guys might react normally—

No they wouldn't. The only thing I was sure of is that I could prevent them from doing anything too crazy and if I had too I could talk with my brother Michael. He would talk some sense into them if need be. No matter what, he was still my big brother.

Matt

I noticed something was going on with Lia. She seemed a bit on edge, ready to snap at the faintest provocation.

“Lia, what is going on with you?”

She looked from across the table and blinked.

“What?”

It was one of our monthly one-on-one dates. I looked forward to these now and no longer felt any amount of guilt. Well, that wasn't entirely true. I did feel some guilt that I think it was always going to be there.

This was the type of guilt that couldn't be vanquished within a few months. It had to happen naturally.

“Something is going on with you. Do you want to tell me what it is?” The link to the origin of this information rests in find-novel.net

“I... I do but I don't know how.”

I lifted a brow. “Just blurt it out all at once. Sometimes saying it quickly helps get it off your chest.”

“I received an email from my pharmacy saying that I have to go on a new heat suppressant because they are discontinuing my old one.”

I nearly choked on steak. My fist curled into a fist so I could pound on my chest, trying to get the piece of food to go down. “Shit, I wasn't expecting that.”

“You wanted to know!” she accused, face red from embarrassment. “Do you see why I didn't want to say anything now? It's very embarrassing to talk about.”

With a hesitant smile, I reached across the table to take her hand into mine.

“Lia, you don't have to be embarrassed. These things happen.”

She relaxed a bit. “I bet you've never been forced to go off your suppressants.”

“Yes, well, I had to find one that worked with my ruts,” I explained, trying to keep my voice as low as possible.

No one needed to hear what we were talking about right now.

“Oh, I didn't know that.”

I shrugged. “There is just something about my makeup that makes it difficult for suppressants to work properly so I had to go through a bunch. I ended up taking three different ones specifically prescribed for my situation.”

“I feel a lot better,” She admitted, that beautiful smile reappearing back on her face. “Thank you for talking with me, Matt. I appreciate it.”

The rest of the date went fine. I didn't drive us home right away, choosing to drive us around so we could talk for a bit, but all good things came to an end. We walked to the door with Lia walking closely beside me.

"Night, Lia."

She smiled and pulled me down for a passionate kiss. "Night Matt."

Lia rushed up the stairs, casting a coy glance back at me. I stood there, stunned by her surprising action. She was growing bolder by the day and surprising more and more.

Chuckling, I headed to my room. Jesse was awake, and he took one look at me, a smirk appearing on his face.

"Good to see that you're finally adjusting to everything," he stated before waiting a few seconds. "It's about time."

"See, I knew you would pipe up with one of your comments. It's why I didn't say anything," I muttered, but he was right. It was about damn time.

Brother's Best Friends Are My Mates

Rain

I can't believe I'm graduating today.

How can that even be possible? It doesn't seem possible. Something is wrong with me because I'm not as excited as I thought I would be. I'm more nervous, wondering what the hell I'm going to do with my life.

None of us had gotten any responses from the scouts. I knew something like this could take time, but it didn't help my anxiety.

What if I didn't get on any team? Rugby was all I knew. Matt liked to keep pointing out that we had our backup plans but I wanted to respond that I didn't want my backup plan. I wanted my first choice!

It was immature of me to think this so I didn't say anything.

I should be focused on graduation, on this next phase of my life. Look at Lia who had graduated and was thrilled with starting college soon.

Speaking of college, the thought of her being there with all those alphas was enough to make me growl with frustration. I didn't want to think of her on campus with older alphas but what was I going to do? Prevent her from going to school? That would be the move of a psycho alpha and I was not a crazed alpha.

I had tried to cultivate the image of the easygoing and considerate alpha.

Wait, that made it sound like it was a façade! It wasn't a façade, I swear. I just tried hard to make sure I showed that side of me. Especially to Lia after everything we had done to her with the bullying and teasing.

A crack of thunder had me jumping out of my skin. Here I was, a fully grown alpha and I was still terrified of thunder.

The rain was splattering against the glass, making me wish the storm would just come and go already. I didn't want to deal with a storm and wanted to sleep. Colby, my roommate, could sleep through anything. So could I expect storms?

I hated storms.

My phone buzzed, Colby's name flashing across the screen. He was out right now with Matt getting groceries. I read his post and sighed.

Graduation's next week! Who's ready to party? – C

Not sure "ready" is the word I'd use. – R

Come on, it's just walking across a stage and shaking hands. – M

You don't have parents who'll burst into tears the second they call your name. What if I take a trip? Or sneeze into the mic? Or worse-what if I forget to say "thank you" when they hand me the diploma? – R

It's not a battle strategy. You're just graduating. Calm down. – J

Rain, you'll be fine. Besides, if you trip, you'll make everyone remember your graduation for something unique. – L

Yes, think of it this way: you'd go viral as the guy who faceplanted at graduation. Instant fame. – C

Not helping, Colby. – R

Don't worry, Rain. If you fall, Jesse will probably catch you before you hit the ground. His reflexes are scary. – M

I'd think about it. Depends on if Rain's been annoying that day. – J

Great. Thanks, guys. I feel so reassured. – R

Don't worry, Rain. I'll be in the front row cheering for all of you. You're going to do amazing. – L

Aw, see, Rain? Lia's got your back. – C

Fine. I guess I'll survive. But if I sneeze into the mic, I'm blaming all of you. – R

It's not like sneezing into the mic will be the worst thing ever. Remember when Matt slipped on the field? – J

Wow. Way to mention that, Jesse. Thanks for the reminder. – M

You're welcome. I'm here to keep everyone humble. – J

That was a rough game... but hey, Matt, you still recovered. Rain, even if something goes wrong, you'll figure it out. You always do. – L

See? Lia gets it. Plus, we'll all be there. Anything goes sideways, and we'll make it memorable in an effective way. – C

What, like you running across the stage yelling, "Let's go" in the middle of the ceremony? – R

Oh, I could do that. – C

Please don't. We're already pushing it with the principal after last year's prank. – M

Yes, don't ruin it for everyone. I want to enjoy graduation. – J

Fine, fine. I'll be mostly well-behaved. – C

"Mostly" is the best we're getting, huh? – L

You know it. – C

Is everyone staying for the after-party? – M

If Rain doesn't commandeer the playlist again. – J

What's wrong with my playlist? – R

Do you want me to list the reasons? – J

Lia, please back me up here. My playlist isn't that bad, right? – R

Uh... I'm staying out of this one. – L

Smart choice. – J

Fine. Whatever. But I'm picking at least one song. Deal? – R

Deal. Just one. – M

Great. Now I'm looking forward to this. – R

There we go. That's the spirit. – C

Maybe graduation wasn't going to be so bad, I thought. I was letting myself assume the worst even when I didn't need to. IF YOU WANT TO READ MORE CHAPTERS, PLEASE VISIT FindNovel.net

Smiling to myself, I knew I could do this. There would be no falling off the stage or anything embarrassing.

I hope, at least.

It was the day before graduation that I got the email I had been waiting for. I nearly fell off the chair in shock and anticipation. This email was going to change my life for better or worse.

“Holy shit, guys!” I shouted, running through the house and shouting everyone's names. “Guys get your asses out here!”

Colby was the first to stumble out of the bedroom.

“Rain, did you get the email I think you just got?”

I gasped. “Wait, Colby are you for real right now?”

“Wait, you guys got on the team too?” Matt shouted through his closed door. “Jesse says he got on the team as well! Crap, I wonder if Michael did too?”

This was the best thing that could happen to me! Not only was I going to be on the official state team, but I was also going to be able to play on the team with three, hopefully, four, of my best friends.

“Why are you guys screaming?” Lia asked, poking her head out of the room.

“We made the rugby team!”

She gasped softly. “Are you serious?”

“I would never joke about such a thing,” I said, my tone as serious as I could muster.

When people thought of someone serious, they didn’t think of me. They thought of say Jesse or Matt. But I had my moments!

I wanted to run outside and go up and down the street, screaming at the top of my lungs that we made it. Everyone should feel my joy. They should know that while I could be a bit of a goofball, I was a man who had dreams and goals just like the rest of them!

But none of the neighbors were going to enjoy the fact that I would be screaming at the top of my lungs for joy.

“Whatever your thinking Rain... don’t do it,” Matt warned, narrowing his eyes on me.

My shoulders slumped. “Fine, but I’m going to run across the graduation stage screaming at the top of my lungs that we’ve been drafted to the state team. Any of you want to join me?”

The resounding answer from my friends was: no.

“Absolutely not,” Colby said, shaking his head. “Rain, we’d get kicked out before the diplomas even touch our hands.” Why did everyone always have to say no to my ideas? A pout formed on my lips even though I know pouting never helped anymore. The guys were resistant to my pouts and so was Lia.

It was a pointless action, but I couldn’t help it! I did it automatically at this point.

“You’re no fun,” I huffed, crossing my arms. “This is literally a moment worth shouting about!”

“It is huge,” Lia said, stepping closer, her smile warm. “I’m proud of you guys. You worked so hard for this.”

“Thanks, Lia,” Jesse said quietly from the corner.

I jumped, not realizing that Jesse had even left the room. How did he always manage to scare the hell out of me without even doing anything? I think it was a superpower of his or something, but one thing was for sure. It did do a good job of keeping me in line!

Matt nodded. “Yeah, thanks. But Rain, you’re not shouting anything across that stage.”

“Why not?” I groaned, throwing my hands in the air. “What’s the point of excitement if you can’t show it off?”

My friends were always trying to ruin my fun. I was convinced of it.

“Not by embarrassing all of us,” Colby teased, grinning. “We’ll celebrate properly after graduation. Maybe a party.”

“We are throwing a party,” Lia reminded him. “Graduation and this? Double the reason to celebrate.”

“Rain still needs to calm down first,” Jesse said, smirking slightly. “He looks like he’s about to run laps around the house.”

“I might!” I admitted, bouncing on the balls of my feet. “This is too good to keep to myself!”

“If you start screaming outside, the neighbors will call the cops,” Colby warned.

“I’ll tell them I made the team!”

“And you think that’ll help?” Matt asked dryly. “Picture explaining rugby draft excitement to a grumpy cop at midnight.”

Lia’s laugh cut through the room. “Rain, save your energy. You’ll need it to survive tomorrow.”

“You’re right,” I sighed dramatically. “But just so everyone knows, I’m hyped.”

“We noticed,” Jesse deadpanned.

Colby clapped his hands together. “All right, tomorrow after graduation, we’re celebrating. Properly.”

“And no running across the stage,” Matt said, pointing at me.

“Fine,” I grumbled, though the grin refused to leave my face. “But you guys owe me the biggest party ever.”

“You got it,” Lia said with a wink.

I headed back to my room, grumbling to myself. Tomorrow couldn’t come fast enough. All I wanted was to celebrate with my friends-no my pack. Yes, my pack.

There was a point where I couldn’t imagine leaving my pack but now I was glad we had decided to create our own pack. With Michael, Simone, and their mates we even had a decent amount of numbers! Not that it was the numbers that made the pack.

My mom always said it was more about quality than quantity.

Brother's Best Friends Are My Mates

Lia

It was my first day of college and the guys were hovering. I looked over at Colby who leaned against the doorframe, frowning deeply.

Try as I might, I couldn't ignore him. He was persistent, standing there and gazing at me with this worried expression on his face. Then the other guys showed up, all of them looking at me.

"Are you okay?"

"Why wouldn't I be?" I shot back, stuffing my water bottle into the side pocket of my bag.

He sighed softly, obviously exasperated by my comment, but I didn't care. I was frustrated with this line of questioning. Why did they even have to question me about this anyway?

It was my first day of college. I wanted to enjoy it, to experience my first day on campus without worrying about my future mates being so overprotective and super involved in my life. They should calm down and let me live my life.

This is what they got to do!

"Because it's your first day," he said. "At college. Without us."

"I went to high school without you."

Colby frowned. "But Aspen High School wasn't as big as the college."

"It's college, Colby," I said, slinging the bag over my shoulder. "Not the Wild West."

Rain snorted. "Might as well be. Do you have any idea what's out there? Strangers. Alphas. Betas. People who-

"-are just trying to get to class like I am," I cut in. "Seriously, Rain, you're pacing like I'm about to walk into a lion's den." "Feels like it," he muttered, not stopping his back-and-forth.

"Lia," Matt said, his voice calm but firm. "What if something happens?"

I turned to glare at him. "What do you think is going to happen? A meteor strikes the campus. A pack of wolves shows up and challenges me to a duel?"

"That's not what I mean," Matt said, frowning. "It's... people. You don't know who you're going to meet."

“I know they’re not going to eat me alive, Matt. That’s your job, right?” I said, unable to keep the sarcasm out of my voice.

“You’re being dramatic,” Jesse said quietly, his tone as flat as ever. He didn’t even look at me, just kept his arms crossed and stared at the window.

I laughed sharply. “Me? Dramatic? That’s rich coming from you four. You’re acting like I’m heading off to war.” “We’re worried.”

“Don’t.” I held up a hand. “Don’t start with the ‘we’re just looking out for you’ speech. I’ve heard it. I’m over it.”

“We are looking out for you,” Rain snapped, finally stopping his pacing to glare at me. “Do you think we enjoy this? Watching you head off without us, surrounded by strangers who don’t know you? Don’t know who you belong to?”

“Belong to?” I snapped. “Rain, I don’t belong to anyone.”

“

“That’s not what I meant—“

“It’s exactly what you meant,” I said, cutting him off. “And let me make something clear: I’m not made of glass. I don’t need you to hover over me like some kind of overprotective bodyguard.” 1

Colby raised his hands and palms out. “Okay, Lia, take it easy. We’re just—”

“Worried,” I finished for him. “I know. I get it. But you’ve got to let me breathe.”

“What if someone approaches you?” Matt asked.

“What if someone talks to you?” Rain added.

“What if they touch you?” Jesse said, his voice was low but cutting.

“Oh my god,” I groaned. “You’re impossible.”

“Lia—“

“No, Matt,” I said, turning to face all of them. “This is my first day of college. My day. Not yours. Not ours. Mine. And I’m going to figure it out on my own. Got it?”

Rain opened his mouth to argue, but I cut him off.

“No. No more arguments. No hovering. No stalking. No ‘just checking in.’ I mean it.”

“Fine,” Rain muttered, his shoulders slumping.

“Good.” I adjusted my bag and headed for the door. “I’ll text you when I’m done. And if I so much as catch a hint of one of you following me, we’re going to have a problem.”

Colby smirked, leaning against the frame again. “Careful, Lia. That almost sounded like an alpha talking.”

I paused in the doorway, glancing back at him. “Keep pushing me, and I might just surprise you.”

With that, I walked out, shutting the door firmly behind me.

I couldn’t believe the guys were acting so crazy right now. After I graduated from high school, I thought everything was going to work out. Things had been going so well! But now that I was set to start at the local college, they were acting so clingy.

It was driving me insane and I hadn’t even started yet!

Simone pulled up in front of the house, waving me to her car. I cast a scowl back over my shoulder just in case the guys were still peeking out the window at me. Wouldn’t you know, they were!

“Why are the guys watching you from the window like weirdos?” Simone asked as I slipped inside.

I sighed. “They are being all strange and overprotective. It’s driving me insane.”

“Oh, they are just adjusting to their beautiful soon-to-be-mate being on a campus full of hot alphas and betas.”

“I doubt they are worried about the betas,” I muttered, still glaring at them until we pulled out of the driveway and away from the house. “Am I going to have to deal with this for the next few years? Because I’ll tell you right now I am not going to. They are going to be hearing from me if they keep this up!”

Simone snorted. “Oh, you are so going to rip them a new one. I want to be there when you do it. Please let me witness the beatdown you are going to give them with your words.”

“Simone, you are enjoying this a little too much...”

“Hey, I live for the drama.”

I sighed softly. “Simone you might like the drama but this is my life. Please keep that in mind.”

“Sorry, Lia. I wasn’t trying to upset you,” Simone murmured. “If they keep it up let Michael know.”

My brother would talk with them, but then I thought of how he was living his own life. He may be a part of our new pack, but it didn’t mean that he wasn’t experiencing life with his future mate. I was an adult now and as an adult, I had to handle problems with my four mates myself.

The five of us needed to talk about everything and hash out what was truly wrong. Though, I think I knew what was wrong. It was that typical alpha jealousy that tended to rear its ugly head.

“Do you want to come by my place after school?” Simone offered.

I shook my head. “No, I don’t want to impose... and I want to go home! I just need to find a way to balance being home with my crazy, overwhelming future mates.”

“They’ll mellow out. According to the research they always do.”

“Yes, they mellow out once you’re fully mated. The five of us wouldn’t be having our official mating ceremony for at least another two years, Simone. How am I going to last until then?”

Simone frowned. “You need to lay down the law. As the omega, you are the one who calls the shots! The alphas just need to be reminded of that. If you want I’ll help you with that.”

“Simone, you look a little too gleeful at the idea of stopping them...”

She grinned. “Can you blame me?”

No, I couldn’t.”

Over the next few days, the moment I got home the guys were there. They weren’t starting officially on the rugby team for a few weeks so they were going to drive me up the wall until they started.

Simone, they’re driving me up the wall. -L

What now? Are they hovering again? -S

Hovering is an understatement. I can’t even get through a study session without one of them checking in. -L

Let me guess: Colby’s pretending he needs help with “something important”? -S

Exactly. Yesterday, it was, “Hey, Lia, where’s the salt?” It’s right there on the counter, Simone. He didn’t even need it. -L Classic Colby. What about Rain? -S

Oh, he's even worse. He came into my room this morning and just stood there. Didn't say a word, just looked around like he was inspecting the place. -L

Creepy. Did you kick him out? -S

Of course, I did, but not before he mumbled something about "just making sure everything's okay." What does that even mean? -L

Maybe he thinks your room's suddenly full of dangerous alphas. -S

Don't even joke. Matt's already made some passive-aggressive comments about me "meeting new people" at school. -L

Let me guess he made it sound like a warning. -S

Pretty much. "College is a great place to network, Lia, but remember who your real pack is." -L.

That's so Matt. What about Jesse? -S

He's just lurking like always. He doesn't say much, but his eyes follow me everywhere. It's like he's waiting for me to come home one day with some random alpha in tow. -L

They're acting like you're shopping for a new pack at school. -S

Right? Like I don't already have four of them smothering me 24/7. -L

So what triggered the latest round of hovering? -S

I mentioned joining a study group. A study group, Simone. You'd think I said I was planning to move out and join an alpha commune. -L

Wow. What did they say? -S

Rain asked if there were "any alphas in the group," Matt just grunted like he was preparing for war, and Colby casually suggested I "study at home" so they could help. -L

And Jesse? -S

Didn't say a word. Just narrowed his eyes and nodded like, "We'll allow this... for now." -L.

I can't. Are you sure they're not secretly your dads? -S

At this point, it feels like it. Rain even packed me a lunch yesterday "just in case I got hungry." -L

That's... kind of sweet. -S

It was grilled chicken shaped like a heart. -L

Okay, that's a bit much. Do you need me to come over and help you escape? -S This text is hosted at FindNovel.net

Yes, please. Bring snacks, caffeine, and maybe a shovel to dig me out of here. -L

On my way. And if they ask, tell them we're studying... in a no-alpha zone. -S

You're my hero. Hurry before Colby schedules another "family bonding" dinner. -L

I sighed to myself. Simone couldn't be my buffer forever and it wasn't a label I wanted to put on her at all. This was a position

I put on my brother and it had made our relationship awkward for a while.

It wasn't something I wanted to happen between me and Simone.

Brother's Best Friends Are My Mates

Lia

Adjusting to college was something that took a little time. But, I was determined to enjoy my newfound freedom on the college campus.

Today was no different. Simone picked me up and together we drove to school. We were in the same major so the two of us were constantly together. I don't know what motivated Simone to become a teacher, but sometimes I feared she was going along with it simply because I was.

It would break my heart to know she wasn't as taken with it as I was. But I didn't ask, not wanting to rock the boat.

Simone and I didn't have the last class on our schedule together so we split up. I stopped by the library before heading to the car. Alex happened to bump into me as I was leaving, wanting to give me the book I let him borrow.

It was a completely innocent thing, but I knew they were going to read more into it. I could hear it in their voices and actual words!

When I glanced over Alex's shoulder, I saw the expression on Colby's face. Even Rain looked annoyed, much to my frustration. It made me angry and annoyed, wanting to shout at them that they had to hurry up and leave.

If they were going to act like this then I was going to go ahead and find my way home! Simone would gladly take me home. Even if she had left, then she'd come back and drive me home. I know it.

"There she is," Colby said, spotting me as I walked out of the library and towards the car.

I was close enough where I could hear everything that they were saying. My hackles were raised, nerves on edge. My classmate in front of me was none the wiser. He was hard of hearing anyway so Alex wasn't going to hear what the others were saying. But I could hear it and this was a problem. 1

"Thanks, Alex," I greeted, smiling at him.

Now I was trying to push their buttons, annoying them on purpose. If they wanted to talk about me as if I couldn't hear them, then I was going to give them a piece of my mind!

"Who's the guy with her?" Rain asked, squinting out the passenger-side window.

"Is he handing her something?" Matt muttered from the backseat, leaning forward to get a better view.

"He's standing too close," Jesse said, his voice clipped. He opened the car door.

I was going to kill them. It would be hard for one small omega woman to take down four large alphas who also happened to be professional rugby players, but I wouldn't let that stop me. I'd find a way. Just like I always did.

"Jesse, don't," Rain said, grabbing his arm.

"I just want to check," Jesse replied, shaking him off.

"By 'check,' you mean start something?" Colby asked, glancing at him through the rearview mirror.

Great, now Jesse was going to get involved. He was the type of man who was silent but deadly. I wished I could do or say something before it got too serious. Once Jesse was angry, it was hard to stop him.

"No one's starting anything," Jesse said, stepping out.

I noticed them immediately and sighed, quickening my pace. "Seriously?" I called out as I approached. "What are you doing here?"

"We're here to pick you up," Colby said casually, leaning back in his seat.

"And to make sure you're okay," Rain added, folding his arms as he leaned out the window.

“I’m fine. What I’m not fine with is you acting like... like this!” I waved a hand toward the car and Jesse, who was standing in front of me.

“Who was he?” Jesse asked, ignoring my frustration.

“A guy from my study group,” I said, glaring at him. “What is your problem?”

“What did he want?” Matt asked from the back seat.

“To give me back a book I lent him.”

“Did he say anything else?” Rain asked.

I rolled my eyes, not even bothering to hide my frustration. These four were exhausting! Here I was realizing that I was falling in love with them and they were annoying me to no end. It wasn’t going to change the fact that I loved them but it certainly didn’t help anything. 1

“Yes, Rain, we exchanged words. That’s what happens in conversations.”

He huffed. “Oh come on, do you have to be sarcastic?”

“Yes, I do.”

“Okay, fair enough.” Rain murmured, sounding a bit like a wounded puppy. “Sorry.”

I sighed softly. “It’s fine, Rain.” NEW NOVEL CHAPTERS ARE PUBLISHED ON findnovel.net

“He seemed too friendly,” Jesse said, narrowing his eyes toward the path the guy had taken.

“Oh my god, Jesse, he’s not a threat. He’s just a guy. From my class. Who returned my book.”

“You were laughing,” Colby pointed out.

“So?”

“What was so funny?” Matt asked.

“None of your business!” I snapped.

“We’re just trying to look out for you,” Rain said defensively.

“No, you’re trying to suffocate me,” I shot back. “Get in the car. Now.”

“Lia, we’re only trying to make sure you’re safe,” Colby said, tilting his head.

“You’re making sure you’re annoying,” I said, crossing my arms. “In. The. Car. Or I swear I’ll call Simone to get me.”

“You wouldn’t,” Colby said, his brows lifting.

“Try me,” I said, pulling out my phone.

Rain groaned and slid back into the passenger seat. “She’s not bluffing.”

Matt muttered something under his breath but climbed back in without further comment.

Jesse stood there, still glaring at the guy’s retreating figure.

“Jesse,” I said, my voice sharp.

He hesitated, his jaw clenching, but finally stepped back into the car and slammed the door.

I got into the passenger seat and turned to face them. “This is the deal: no more hovering. No more interrogations. If you trust me, then act like it. If not, I’ll start getting rides with Simone permanently.”

Colby smirked. “You’re laying down the law today.”

“Do you want to keep testing me, Colby?”

“Noted,” he said, raising his hands in surrender.

Matt leaned back against the seat. “We’ll cool it.”

Rain muttered, “We weren’t trying to hover. We were just worried.”

“Yeah? Well, worry less,” I snapped. “You’re my mates, not my bodyguards.”

Jesse didn’t say anything but gave a curt nod, his expression unreadable.

“Good,” I said, slumping back in my seat. “Now let’s go. And if you think about following me around campus again, we’re going to have another conversation. And you’re not going to like it.”

“Understood,” Colby said, starting the car.

The air was tense in the car. I hadn’t meant to shout at them and make them so upset, but to be fair they had gotten me upset in the first place! Why hadn’t they understood that nothing bad was going to happen to me and nor was I going to leave them for some alpha?

These men are my mates and that’s all I care about right now.

“We’re sorry,” Rain blurted out halfway back home. I looked around at all of them, deciding it was worth forgiving them. Even Jesse looked like he was sorry with the faintest hint of guilt in his eyes.

He must’ve been sorry if he was looking visibly guilty. I gave every one of them a look, refusing to let any of them off the hook. They were going to pay for what they had done and... I was making them pay. By forcing them to feel guilt.

“It’s all right,” I assured Rain as gently as I could. “I forgive you guys but don’t do it again, okay?”

“We’ll probably do it again,” Matt told me, glancing through the rearview mirror. “Not to throw a wrench into your apology but that’s just likely how it’s going to be.”

“I know and then I’ll chew all of you out again,” I pointed out, glaring at every one of them.

Once again, things were looking to be bumpy, but why was I shocked that things were going this way? It was just how life was.

Brother’s Best Friends Are My Mates

Lia

After that awkward pick-up from college, the guys had been on their best behavior. I was pleased to see that they weren’t falling into bad behavior again. It would’ve been a shame, knowing that we had come so far.

But then things got complicated again. I was in the process of going off my suppressants and getting a new one. With the old ones still in my system, I was going to be all right for the time being but I needed the new ones.

It was all I could think about as I got closer and closer to the time I might start showing symptoms of my heat. What if I broke into heat at school? It wasn’t unheard of and still happens, but it is a rarity in our modern society.

Most times people were on suspensions successfully for years until they decided to go off them and not the day before then.

However, my medication had been discontinued, leading me to find a new one. I had waited, desperate to get the new medication they subscribed me but then it was late.

The first day it was late I was fine with it. Then the second day came and I started to panic. I happened to be at school, because where else would I be?

With a mumbled excuse, I left the class early and found a spot where I could be to myself. My first thought was to contact my mates but I worried about what they would say. They were alphas in the end. Not that I thought they would hurt me.

All four of them were on suspensions so me experiencing a heat would only affect them for so long or so strongly. I tried to hold back a whimper as a rush of heat overwhelmed me.

Why was it so damn hot in here?

I leaned back in the seat, trying to hide back another whimper.

SOS. L

What's going on? – S

My meds didn't come. – L

Wait, what? Your suppressant? – S

YES. – L

How long have you been off it? – S

This is day two. – L

Oh no. Are you feeling anything yet? – S

Simone, I feel like I'm sitting in an oven. My skin's on fire, and I'm sweating through my shirt. – L

And you're on campus? – S

Yes. In the middle of a packed building. – L

You need to go home. – S

I have two more classes today. – L

You're kidding, right? You're about to hit your heat, and you're worried about classes? – S

What am I supposed to do? Just walk out and tell my professor, "Sorry, I'm going to turn into a hormone bomb in five minutes"? – L

Better than collapsing in the middle of class when it kicks in. – S

I'll be fine. I can handle this. – L 1

You cannot handle this, Lia. Heats are nothing to play around with. – S

I've got water, snacks, and my hoodie. I'll stay in the back of the class and keep my head down. No one will notice. – L

Are you serious right now? That's not a plan. That's barely survival mode. – S

I don't have another option. – L

What about the clinic? Call them. – S

I already did. The meds won't arrive until tomorrow. – L

Tomorrow? Lia, that's too late. – S

Do you think I don't know that? – L

You need to leave. Now. – S

I told you, I can't just leave. If I suddenly walk out, people will start asking questions. Then the guys will start asking questions. – L

So what? Let them ask. They're your mates-they'll understand. – S

No, they'll freak out. They already hover over me like I'm made of glass. If they find out I'm about to hit my heat, they'll go full alpha mode. – L 1

Maybe that's not a sad thing. They'd help. – S

No, Simone. They'd smother me. You know how they are. – L

They're going to figure it out eventually. – S

Not if I can help it. I'll get through the rest of my classes, go home, and lock myself in my room. – L

That's a terrible plan. – S

It's the only plan I have. – L

Do you want me to get you? – S

No.- L

Lia, you're being stubborn. – S

I'm not being stubborn. I just need to get through today. – L

You're playing with fire. What if you can't hold it together? – S

Then I'll deal with it. – L

You're acting like this is no big deal. – S

Because if I let myself think about how bad this could get, I'll panic. – L

You're already panicking. – S

I'm managing. That's what matters right now. – L

Call me if it gets worse. I'm serious. – S

I will. Promise. – L

You'd better, Lia. If you collapse in class, I'll be the first one to say, "I told you so." – S.

Fair. Thanks, Simone. – L

Anytime. Stay safe. – S

It lasted about an hour before I had to go to the nurse's station. She took one look at me and shook her head in disbelief, a disapproving frown playing on her lips.

"I expect more from this younger generation. You have all this access to heat suppressants yet you forget to take them?" "Mine were discontinued."

She huffed. "That's not an excuse, You could've easily found a way to make sure you stayed on your meds, but you didn't." (1 This was college. I didn't expect to be chastised in college by the nurse. Suppose it could happen anywhere, but I didn't want to hear it when I was this close to experiencing my heat and very uncomfortable. 1

"Can you please just reach out to the people on my emergency list and contact them?" I ground out, glaring at her.

I wasn't even trying to show my displeasure toward her right now. None of it mattered. All that mattered was getting out of this school and getting back home.

When the guys heard of this they were going to rush over here all at once. They still hadn't started their new position on the team yet so there was time. I held back a whimper, not wanting that stupid nurse to see me so uncomfortable.

"Fine, but don't order me around. I don't work for you."

I glared at her. "I don't care when you do it. Just do it."

By now, I was getting angry. The hormones were running around inside me, making everything feel heightened. I rolled around on the bed, wishing there was some way to end this but there wasn't.

While the nurse did give me something to help with the pain and the hot flashes I was having, it didn't stop all of it.

Is this what heat was like? I hated it. Under no circumstances did I want to experience this. I wished I had found some way to get my meds and put an end to this suffering. It was driving me insane.

Distantly I thought I heard familiar voices. Wait, those scents? Weren't those my mates? I wondered how they had made it here as fast.

When I looked at my phone I realized more than just a few minutes had passed. It had been almost thirty minutes.

Blinking, I managed to work up the energy to roll over and saw that Rain was rushing towards me. I blinked a few times, a tired smile coming across my face.

"Hi," I whispered, hoping I didn't sound as bad as I appeared.

But I was able to hear my voice. I sounded terrible and looked terrible. My words didn't seem to help, making everyone even more worried.

Matt

I knew something was strange when we got a random message from the school saying we had to hurry up and get to the school because something was wrong with Lia. When we got there, I could smell what was going on with her.

She was going into heat.

The nurse explained the situation in the rudest way possible. She shoved a bunch of pamphlets at us, trying to give us orders but we knew what to do. We had all taken sex ed so it wasn't like we didn't understand what was happening!

"She's burning up," Rain whispered as Jesse picked her up without warning.

I felt a pang of jealousy, but I wasn't going to let myself be overcome by any of those negative emotions right now. Lia was suffering before me and I was going to get jealous? No, she would be angry if I did that and disappointed.

“Well, she is going into heat,” Colby muttered.

The four of us had put masks on to try to mask the sweet scent coming from Lia. It helped, but only so much.

“I think the better question is what the hell are we going to do?!” Rain shouted, drawing attention to us.

We were already attracting attention because of Jesse carrying a practically unconscious Lia in his arms, but now Rain had to go and make it worse. Leave it to him to cause everyone to stare at us.

“Rain, be quiet!” I hissed, giving him a look. “We’ll discuss it when we’re away from the school. Do you want to discuss it on campus?” Fresh chapters posted on FindN()vel.net

Besides, it would embarrass Lia. She was likely already embarrassed by what was happening... or would be when she found out. Once in the car, all of us looked at each other.

“There is only one thing to do,” Jesse said, blinking slowly. “We help her through her that. I don’t know why this has to be a serious discussion. What else would you even do in a situation?”

I groaned. “We need to make sure we have her consent-“

“Oh for fucks sake you have my consent!” she snapped, whimpering when she tried to sit up and couldn’t. “I feel like shit right now. You guys can’t imagine how much I want this to go away so if you can do something to help then please do it. I don’t care what you have to do.

The four of us shared a couple of surprised looks. Okay, so she was consenting and this was good. I’d also be lying if I didn’t admit to myself that I hadn’t thought of it before.

“We’ll discuss it when we get back to the house-” Colby started to say only to be cut off by Lia.

“No, this is going to happen. There is no discussing it. Besides, don’t the four of you want me?” she asked, in a small voice. She sounded hurt.

I scowled at her. “Of course we do.”

“Then no further discussion!”